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New University Governing Authority Elected

by Eoin O'Brien

Uls first Governing Authority (GA) has finished its term of office and a new GA is about to fill its shoes. The term lasted five years and its inception coincided with the universities act of 1997 which ushered in a new era of democracy within the power structures of Universities. Democracy as no one interest group could have a majority on the authority. The GA meets monthly and has 34 members broken down as: 2 undergrad reps (Eoin & Gráinne), 1 postgrad rep(Jarlath), 3 ministers appointees, 3 reps of UL Foundation, 3 professors, 5 academic staff, 3 non academic staff, the presidents of UL & Mary I, the financial controller & registrars of UL, the cathaoirleach of Limerick county council, the cathaoirleach of Limerick city council, the mayor of Limerick, 3 local industry reps, 2 local arts & culture reps, 2 reps of graduates of UL & of course the chancellor of the University (Dr. Miriam Hederman O'Brien).

The GA is the supreme statutory body governing University affairs on all non academic issues. Academic issues are dealt with by Academic Council (AC - more about that later). The chancellor chairs proceedings which are usually deliberations over reports & recommendations from sub committees of the authority which



Christmas Days in the Stables, which raised €6510 for the Poor of Limerick charity.

cover campus development, finance, library, IT & Human Resources, nominating sub committee(they vet nominations for Chancellor & UL honorary doctorates). It is quite difficult to bring up a new item as i fit is contentious it will be deferred to the relevant committee. Having said that the student reps seem to be given some liberties in the GA ethiccate because of who they represent.

Most questions & comments are directed at management who are the president Rogger Downer, the financial controller John O' Conner & the registrar Kevin Ryan. The scud missiles could be coming from all

directions though as the management have their hands directly on the running of the college the are well able to field what's thrown at them. The chancellor as chair is the arbitrator and usually makes the proposals. The makeup is changing now and with this will bring the problems of the GA getting to know one another again.

Some controversy arose during the recent elections for graduates to the new GA. A student who graduated from ul in 1977 (then NIHE) with a diploma wanted to run but was told he wasn't eligible as only degree

continued on page 6

FUSU at UL

by Eoin O'Brien

FUSU came to UL on Friday last. FUSU is the Forum for University Students Unions and was started in UCC in 1995 at a time when most University students unions were not members of USI. It has never become an organisation with office, constitution, full time staff etc. and has mostly remained a bi monthly round table for USU's to exchange tips on how things work in their

colleges. The format usually involves arriving for a brief introductory meeting at the respective college at about 12:30am on a Friday afternoon and spending an hour chatting and arranging the agenda for the day. A lunch takes place at around 2pm by which time most people have arrived from the different parts of the country. After lunch the discussions take place until about 6pm when attendees retire to whatever the host college has planned.

FUSU in UI didn't quite happen like this and it's safe to say those won't forget it. In attendance were Tommy Reidy the SU prez from UCC whose sister is here in UL, Will Priestly, Gareth Makin & Annie Gatling the President, Deputy & Welfare officer of TCD SU, Shane Barrett president of Maynooth SU, Seán Scally president of DCUSU who was here two weeks previous for the 35's, Leona Byrne & Glenn Guilfoyle the president & welfare Officers from USGSU and *continued on backpage*

Win!!

50 Euro

An Focal is offering a 50 Euro prize for the best article in each edition. Email submissions to:

sucommunication@ul.ie

President - Eoin Ó Broin

Nollaig Shona dhiobh go léir,

Last week's Christmas Daze put a bit of life back into the students bars here on campus but in doing so it showed the consequences of a lifestyles where alcohol & its consumption take up such a part. A carousel of studying and drinking and drinking & studying leaves out a few vital ingredients needed for a balanced lifestyle. It also speaks volumes for the numerous clubs & societies that are under supported to such a degree. There is something going on in Ireland and in a lot of the English speaking World that has built up the party lifestyle to such proportions. Include cheap vodka and the result is there for all to see. O for a balanced lifestyle of cinema, theatre, hill walking, café's, techno, gigs, comedy, practising music, writing poetry, board games, books, cooking in, eating out, cycling and of course singing. Not sure if the pastime of turning over bins in Elm Park at 3am fits in with this though:

Its not entirely our fault though as the level of drinks advertising is insidious and in fairness it's what most Irish have grown up with in their respective home towns. So of course the issue is far bigger than UL as the recent Primetime TV show showed. A question for our times! Whether UL can lead by example though remains to be seen. After all UL's alcohol awareness committee which came up with UL's alcohol action plan last year will be reconvening this week. The ideas were class but the action plan has not been implemented except ironically by the bars on

campus and by clubs & societies. Anyway roll on RAG I mean Kolledge week and we will see if the balance can be found. If so the organising of a RAG TRAIN to Waterford, Cork or Tipp town could be considered but then maybe that's just asking for trouble?

By the time you read this I will be able to tell you if a bus lane will be ours or not! On the half day Wednesday the University have set up a task force on on Teaching Space due to my kicking up a fuss over the half day and other academics' concerns about the buildings department taking class room space for offices, the impossible situation for the scheduler and sight of empty classrooms around the place. On the Library opening hours we are still holding our breath but we should know before the year 2003:

The General affairs committee of class reps had a long meeting with Catherine Murphy head of Campbell Caterings UL operation and her deputy Colette Ryan last Wednesday which will be reported at Class Reps Council tonight. At the meeting Campbell's agreed to investigate paying basic wages in the Kilmurry Shop, providing tubs of tomato sauce as well as sachets at the tills, convene the UL Catering Committee, start a catering student user group, investigate the feasibility of a late night venue & an after hours sandwich vending machine. Ms. Murphy has headed the operation here for 12 years and has seen students unions come and go. What I am trying to say here is that she was



well prepared for the inevitable disbelief from our side of the table of €1.05 for a cup of Tea. Hhhhhmmmmmm.....

Services, the Medical Centre and the Co-op office but more about these later. We should rename them the old reliables. O where are the Universities priorities!

ULSU agreed to survey the residents of Kilmurry village re. the Shop there, find Vegan meal recipes, ask buildings about supplying 24 hour water fountains, take tour of Campbell's recycling facilities, ask P.C.C. about the implications of including a "no plastic" policy in Campbell's contract, survey satisfaction with the Campbell's student special and last but not least help Campbell's get some Carol singers for this week. Needless to say ULSU didn't charge Ms. Murphy or Ms. Ryan for the cup of Tea we gave them.

Other recurring issues seem to be the standard of service from Student

Slán agus ath bhlian faoi mhaise,
Eoin

Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

Dia Dhiabh go léir

This week I am feeling a little frustrated. I have been assessing what I have achieved in my 5 months in office. It is difficult really because you come into the jobs with plans and you then have to learn the ropes, who's who in college, who's doing what within the union itself. Most of the time it feels like we are responding to events as they arise and not making the agenda. Probably the thing I am most proud of is the fees protest march. As for other major achievements I really don't have any to report at the moment. Most of my time has been taken up with personal cases which I find hugely rewarding, but I have been doing some ground work on a number of issues and in the next couple of weeks, while students are busy with studying and holidays I hope to get a lot done, working with the other sabbatical officers.

So my two main pledges for the coming year is to tackle

1. The medical centre issue. I have done some preliminary comparisons to medical facilities in similar sized colleges and feel that

UL has some way to go. I will be getting together all the relevant information and bringing it to authorities in college.

2. The Grant Processing in Student services and that way in which the banks handle the grant cheques. At the moment there is one person dealing with grants in student services and this leads to delays on top of delays with the grant authorities especially at this time of year.

3. By the end of this year we hope to have a second hand union bookshop. Watch this space and noticeboards and the ULSU website for more details. I will keep you updated on my progress

In week 10 we had a lunchtime meeting of student parents. There was a pretty positive response and I hope to run these meetings fortnightly or monthly. On Friday 20th December around 6pm we will have a student parent Christmas party in the Postgrad Centre. All student parents and their kids are invited and we hope to have Santa Claus and some other Christmas treats.



The Outreach Society are having their Christmas get together in The Postgrad Centre on Wednesday 11th at 7pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies and I hope to see loads of members there. We'll discuss where the society is going and plans for the New Year. Also the Young Fine Gael have organised a sleep out in Limerick City on Thursday 12th December and Outreach are helping out along with some other societies so if you are in town give a little to help the poor and homeless of Limerick.

One final thing. Don't walk home alone! Use the free Nitelink Bus Service. It will be operating Mon-Fri from 7pm-11.30pm during the exam period after Christmas.
Nollaig Shona Dhiabh go léir

Gráinne

Education - Margaret Ryan

Hi everybody,

Wow, last week before Christmas. I'm kind of looking around me wondering where the time went. We're here five and a half months now, it's hard to believe, isn't it? And while ye're all out there enjoying Christmas Daze, we're still in here trying to think of things to put in our reports!

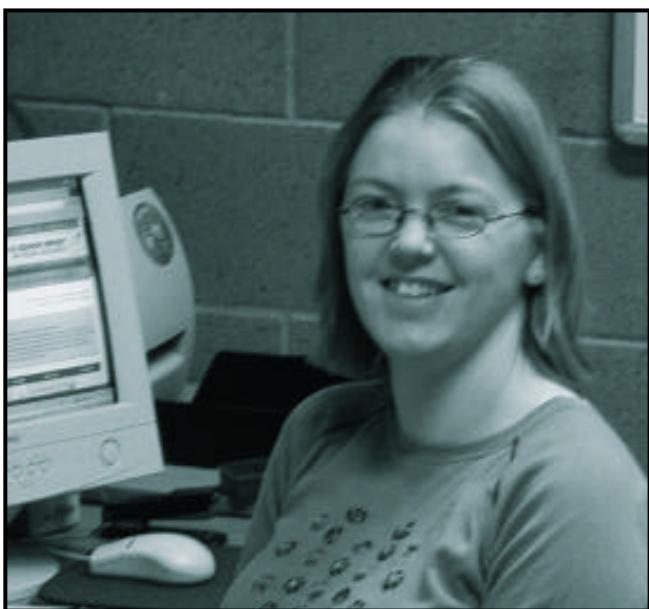
So, the next big thing you're going to have to deal with (apart from a turkey the size of a small house) is the exams. I know I talked about this in the last article, but no harm to say it again. Now, you know as much as I do about study skills at this stage, so I'll keep it short and sweet (like me).

First off, plan what you're going to do. Divide up each of your modules into the areas that you covered. Remember to factor in breaks - go for a walk, listen to the radio (but don't turn it up too loud - other people need

to study too), talk to your housemates, wash the dog, whatever works for you. There's absolutely no point at all in cramming, it just doesn't work. Get enough sleep - you know yourself, if you try to study when you're tired, nothing goes in and you just get frustrated. You're better off to hop back into the scratcher to sleep for another hour, and then have a go at it. And the last thing I'll say is best of luck in them.

Now for the scary bit. If you are proved to have been involved in academic cheating in this university, you may possibly be booted out. So don't. It's that simple. Just so you know.

So what have I been up to for the past few weeks? Well, last week I was at Academic Council, Orientation Week Working Group, Student Adviser Working Group and Steering Committee on Quality. This week,



I've been to Advisor Induction when you log in to sigma training, which is run by the (<http://sipr.sigmaplus.ul.ie/>) it's on the first page. Email them and make an appointment when the results come out. They'll be able to help you figure

Scholars CLUB

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MON DJ Eric Fitz
Champs League F/ball

TUES DJ John Kelly
Champs League F/ball
Murphys Comedy Club

WED DJ Eric Fitz
Champs League F/ball

FRI **End of Term Party**
Scholars Function Room

The Scholars Club would like to wish all our members a happy Christmas and looks forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Good luck in the exams!!

Did you know that you can book 'An Phluais' free of charge?
www.scholarsclub.ie



Thurs 14th Nov

Soul Clinic

Doors @ 12am Tickets: €10 Students: €9

Fri 15th Nov

The Jimmy Cake

Doors @ 12am Tickets: €9 Students: €7

Fri 22 Nov

Aslan

Undoubtedly the hardest working band in Ireland, no exceptions! These guys were on fire in the late 80's with their unique rock/pop sound featuring Christy Dignam's charismatic stage presence. Many years and changes followed, and now, older and wiser maybe, but never sounding dull, they set venues alight all over Ireland. It's still the original line-up with tons of new material as well as some of their old favourites. This gig will sell out - you have been warned!

Doors @9pm Tickets: €10

Sun 24 Nov

Alabama 3

Anyone of you who witnessed this sell out gig last year will no doubt be back to see them live in action again.

Doors @9pm Tickets: €23

Tickets available in advance from Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Dock Road, Limerick

061-314483 / info@dolanspub.com / www.dolanspub.com

out where you need to go from here. eat, drink and be merry, and I hope
Santy is good to you!

The exam papers are (as I write this) being scanned. It's very hard to get people that will do it for me, but they should be finished really soon.

And that's it until the New Year. So, have a fantastic Christmas everyone,

Communications - Paddy Buckley

Hi everyone,

First of all, Happy Christmas one and all, I hope ye all enjoyed Christmas Days last week, there was a big crowd around anyways, and kudo's to the Stables for raising 6500 for charity.

This weeks edition contains two surveys which have been conducted in recent weeks with regards to Food Prices in local shops, and the price of College Books. I'd like to thank John and Simon for doing a lot of the donkey work in putting these surveys together. A lot of questions have been asked about both of these issues in Class Reps Council recently, so I hope these will help to further the debate on both these matters.

Apart from that, I've updated a good bit of the website recently, so most of the information is fairly current. If anybody has any idea's on what other information should be on the website, please let me know.

I'm going to keep it short and sweet this week. Happy Christmas everyone and good luck in the exams!

Paddy



Small Ads

Looking for a house?
Looking for a housemate?
Want to sell something?
Want to buy something?

For inclusion in the An Focal small ads section, Email submissions (Max 30 words) & contact details to

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WANNA WRITE?

Articles, Questions, Comments, Queries
& Theories to

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Your Letter(s)

Depression

I don't really understand why I am writing this. Maybe it's out of boredom, maybe I've too much time on my hands or maybe I just want to acknowledge to myself and admit to others something about myself.

I'm a 4th year female student. I've always tried to be chirpy and giddy to those around me but inside I wanted to die.

I read an article in 'An Focal - Week 6' recently about depression. It was weird to see it in print. Also it was kind of comforting.

After a few troublesome years something snapped in me and I went to get help 4 months ago. I've since been on antidepressants. I'm still rather ashamed of that but I can honestly say things have changed for me. For the first month I didn't really notice a change. I guess I expected my whole world to change and I'd just be happy inside to meet my outside persona. That didn't happen, but something better happened instead. Over the weeks, I began to emerge with a more balanced outlook. My issues were still there but I was somehow able to stand back and not want to hurt myself because of it. I still worry, cry and get stressed but not to the extreme.

I feel kind of normal, whatever that is!

Nursing Timetables

Dear Editor

Further to your article in AN Focal on the schedule for the nursing programmes, the schedule for the 4 year BSc Nursing (General, Intellectual Disability & Mental Health) is currently being reviewed to enable the programmes to meet the minimum clinical placement hours recommended by An Bord Altranais (2646 hours) as part of fulfillment for registration. The programmes meet with the EU minimum requirements (2300 hours).

A second revised schedule will be submitted to Science Faculty Board, Academic Programme Review Committee for approval. It is intended that the revisions will meet the registration requirements of An Bord Altranais, student learning needs and validation processes of the University of Limerick with as minimum disruption to students as possible. As previously, students will be informed at the earliest opportunity of these proposed changes.

Regards
Nora Mulcahy
Director ,Centre for Nursing Studies

Small Ads

Accommodation

Accommodation Sharing

Glenside, Annacotty, new detached luxury Apartments
All Mod Cons
Ring: (087) 9074747

For Sale Contd

Foo Fighters Tickets

2 Foo Fighters Tickets for sale
27th November at the Point Theatre

Contact (087) 9646801

House for 2nd Semester

Room free to rent for next semester. College Court Drive, 5 mins from UL.

-62 euro a week.
-single room.
-all mod cons - vcr&tv,
microwave, washing machine,
electric shower, phone. -contact
087 9723132 or
0135623@student.ul.ie

Misc

Drummer Wanted

Ambitious band seeks enthusiastic and talented drummer.
Emphasis on original material
Excellent practise area with excellent equipment..
Influences include Radiohead, Pink Floyd, U2, Beach Boys, David Bowie, Coldplay and many more.

Contact Thomas (086) 3264121

Lift Wanted

Lift wanted,mornings,Mon-Fri,from Roxboro to UL.Willing to share petrol
costs.Ph.0861625975
Thanks,Ruth.

Books

Books For Sale

Sociology of Work by Grint for sale. Excellent condition.

Phone or text 0868106493

For Sale

Digital Fundamentals by

Thomas L Floyd, 25 euros

Fundamental Engineering

Mechanics by Peter Ogrdnik, 15 euros

Introduction to Turbo Pascal

and Software Design, 25 euros

Electronic Fundamentals:

Circuits, Devices and Applications by Floyd, 30 euros

Contact 0145335@student.ul.ie

For Sale

Bicycle For Sale

Raleigh Touring
Ladies Bars
Good Shape
Lock and Pump included
50 Euros. Form
Contact 061 339561

Things you can only say at Christmas: 2. Tying the legs together keeps the inside moist.

New University Governing Authority Elected (contd)

continued from frontpage

voters could stand or vote in the election. This caused quite a stir among members of the Alumni Association as they felt it was a form of discrimination against one of our own. It certainly is but under the Universities act only degree holders are eligible to vote... Items covered by the GA over the last few years have included sanctioning the campus expansion which will include the 4th and 5th student villages in Co. Clare & demanding extra funding for the Medical Centre and the students Union. The new GA will have a new

Chancellor, new ministers appointees had new reps from most of the interest groups all with their own reasons for being there. The first meeting will take place before Christmas and is sure to be a charged affair.

Academic council is made up of quite a different group of people. At least 40 academics from UL and another 5 or so from Mary I. Sub committees of AC includes the 6 faculty boards, the scheduling review committee, Academic Program Review committee, Freedom of Information

Committee, Discipline Committee & a quality review committee. AC ratify proposals for new courses & changes to existing modules. A major bone of contention has been whether to move the semester one exams before Christmas as is in UCG. UL had these before when we had to do 3 semesters. The arguments on both sides are thought provoking and are covered elsewhere in these pages. Management is represented at AC by the President Roger Downer, The registrar Kevin Ryan, the assistant Registrar Pat Cashell & the associate vice President academic

John O'Brien. A one line comparison between the two would be that AC have the brains & the arrogance that goes with that but not the power, while GAC has the Power but a very diverse collection of individuals who may not be well acquainted with one another. Management know just how to treat both cases

Global Young Leaders Summit - Australia June 2003

by Martin O'Brien



The Global Young Leaders Summit is a two week international leadership training programme for university students from around the world organised by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council of the US House of Congress. Next June students from all over the world (including me hopefully!!) will be having the travel experience of a lifetime while having the opportunity to distinguish themselves while grappling with the difficult issues confronting world leaders in the 21st century with both international experts and their peers.

The Summit will have two venues, Canberra and Sydney. In Canberra delegates will visit various national embassies and the Parliament House where they will meet with members of parliament to discuss the social, economic and political affairs of Australia and the world. There will also be an emphasis on cultural differences in leadership, as seen by exploring Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park.

An important theme that will be raised in the Summit is how to balance economic development and the environment, and no better places to do that than the Great Barrier Reef and the tropical rainforest of the Kuranda Range, both of which delegates to GYLS will have the opportunity of visiting.

All the sights and delights of Sydney will be done, Sydney Harbour bridge, Bondi Beach etc. Issues of globalisation and migration will also be discussed during the fortnight.

And why have you just read all this???? Because YOU might be in with a chance of attending GYLS

2003!!!

In the summer of 2000 I attended a conference of a similar nature organised by the same people in the United States. GYLC 2000 was for students in second level education. During that trip we visited Washington DC, New York and a short time in Philadelphia in between (check out the Philly cheese steaks if you ever eat in that part of the world!). We visited and heard speakers from the International Monetary Fund, the US State Department, the United Nations and the World Trade Centre. We also checked out all the places of interest in Washington DC and New York, the White House, Houses of Congress, all the famous memorials, the Holocaust Museum, Ellis Island, NASDAQ stock exchange etc. Students were also split up into groups of about twenty and were given a country to represent in various simulations of international organisations such as the UN security council, World Trade Organisation and the UN general assembly (which took place in the UN



Sydney, Australia

building in New York). I had the pleasure of representing Rwanda - by the end of the two weeks we had gotten nukes off the Russians, were planning world domination and would forever be known as the Rowdy Rwandans. I've just scratched the surface of what GYLC 2000 was all about, and GYLS 2003 in Australia is guaranteed to be even better!!

As an alumni of these conferences I have the opportunity of nominating one other student from my university to have the chance of attending GYLS 2003. The cost of the trip is pretty significant, but not surprising when what is being offered is taken into account. The cost of everything inside Australia including travel, food, hotel accommodation, tuition fees and all that stuff is US\$4289 (which conveniently is €4289 today also!). Flights to and from Australia from Ireland will be about €1200 - €1300, so the total cost will be (rounded to the nearest thousand - just to make it sound good) €6000 per person. Hefty, eh? I have been making enquiries as to how to get some funding from the university and there are other avenues to be checked out as regards fund raising.

If you are interested in attending, getting involved in a lightening fund raising campaign, having the trip of a lifetime, meeting great people from all over the world, as well as having something extraordinary to put on your CV all between the 15th and the 29th of June, get in touch with me asap! E-mail your CV and any relevant info to 0124958@student.ul.ie There is nothing definite about anything yet (I'm not even sure if I'll be able to attend) but the sooner the ball gets rolling the better.



Things you can only say at Christmas: 3. Smother the butter all over the breasts!

Labour Youth on Registration Fees

by Manus Bree

To all those who are calling for the reintroduction of third level fees including Sarah McDevitt Of UL Ogra Fianna Fail, the Current Minister for Education Noel Dempsey and An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern I would urge them to read the recent report by Clancy and Wall and its findings on participation rates in higher education. This report indicates why it was justified for the Labour Party Minister for Education to abolish college fees in 1996.

It states that between 1980 and 1992, before fees were abolished, the national participation rate increased from 20% to 36%. That the participation rate of the higher professional group increased from 59% to 85%, and that of the lowest socio-economic group from 3% to 12%. It clearly shows that the participation rates of two other groups, salaried employees and lower professional declined during the same period. For the salaried employees, PAYE taxpayers like office workers and sales representatives, their participation rate actually fell from 59% to 48%; While for the lower professional group, in other words teachers, nurses, journalists and public service workers, their participation rate fell from 47% to 44% in 1992.

These figures show that under the old system, the children of higher professional group i.e. farmer and business owning parents, were doing very well, while children from poorest groups were improving, but the children of two groups of parents,

often referred as the 'backbone of the country', nurses, teachers, ordinary PAYE employees, were making no progress. These parents were paying their taxes, could not exploit covenants like the higher professional and employer groups, and unlike the farmer group could not qualify for grants. One of the main reasons for abolishing fees was to redress the discrimination against these groups. There is clear evidence from Clancy and Wall's report that the abolition of fees is beginning to redress the relative disadvantage of the lower professional and salaried employee groups. As both these groups have increased their participation rates between 1992 and 1998.

It is obvious from this that the reintroduction of fees would definitely



Minister Noel Dempsey

worsen the opportunities of the children of nurses, teachers, office workers and all other low to middle income PAYE taxpayers.

Those calling for re-imposing of fees have claimed that their abolition has damaged the opportunities of disadvantaged groups. This claim has been rubbished by this report, which shows that between 1992 and 1998, two years after their abolition, the national participation rate increased from 36% to 46%, by about a quarter and the participation rate of the lowest socio-economic group almost doubled from 12% to 22%.

So those who claim that a free fees system damages disadvantaged groups, are not just ignoring the facts. The facts tell exactly the opposite. Furthermore there is no evidence whatsoever that the reintroduction of fees will improve equality of participation, as you can clearly see there is overwhelming evidence that it would have the opposite effect.

Claims by Sarah McDevitt that sections of the education budget dealing with disadvantaged students will not be cut have been proven wrong by the recent cutbacks. On the 12th September the minister for finance cut 6 million from the School Retention Initiative, 3.8 million from the Back to Education Initiative, 5 million from the Access Programme and 2 million from the second-level building Programme. These cuts directly hit programmes designed to counteract educational disadvantage.

Further suggestions by UL Ogra Fianna Fail that money saved from re-introducing college fees would be

put back into the system to aid disadvantage is non-sense. Fianna Fail has had nearly six years during our country's most prosperous period, to adjust the inequalities with in the education system and to tackle the real causes of lack of access, namely poverty and educational disadvantage, but have failed miserably. For example, this summer the Minister gave students just EUR3 per week increase in the grant while on the other hand took EUR9 per week back via the registration fees. Students were hit with this 70% hike in registration fees, despite the fact that Higher Education Authority only sought an increase of 7%.

Access to education, at all levels is a right, which the state should provide for all its citizens with the aid of the tax system and not a privilege for those with money, who will make sure that their children will get the best possible education. It is a false argument to suggest that, in order to stop the wealthy getting something for nothing out of the public purse, we must deny others. From an ideological point this is where the Labour Party and Fianna Fail/PDs differ, where the current argument between Boston and Berlin comes into play. The Labour Party believes that there are essential services that society must provide as of right, services which the market can't provide fairly and equitably, services which needed to be paid through by a fair tax system. One of these primary services includes equality of access to Education. For socialists education is a right, not a privilege! Unlike Ogra Fianna Fail, Labour Youth won't betray our fellow students.

Northern Lights turned pink

Well the lights were flashing and the music blaring in the club as Pink Training enjoyed its Saturday night out in Belfast - the poor population! After a packed day, what else was a crowd of Gay Irish Students to do? The weekend was full of bonding rituals, exchanging of numbers and promises of visits.....

For all those readers lost, pink Training is one of the biggest events in the Irish Gay Students Calendar. The weekend, organised by USI provides an opportunity for students to get together, share ideas and all in all have some good fun - Belfast style. Oh God, the poor hostel!! The event provided modules and

workshops of very important information on what it means to be gay in Ireland. For my part, it was my first time but not my last! Coming-out modules, sexual health, homosexuality and the law and society and of course, stereotyping were some of the informative talks. It made me aware of some very serious issues in a gay students life.

And fair play to the organisers and the workshop, for there was incredible organisation, atmosphere, safe and comfortable environment and above all, invaluable information - well done lads and thank you!! The event helped to bond the universities and institutes of technology from

Kerry to Donegal, Galway to Waterford. It provided a scope and awareness for students who may feel isolated or maybe want to expand beyond their own LGB's (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Society), provided the perfect opportunity for the societies and it's members to exchange ideas and experiences, and most importantly, a safe environment to do so.

Personally, coming from Limerick, it was great to hear stories and experiences of what it is to be gay in other parts of the country, but above all, to be amongst others of the same age, culture and position. I realised something very important, that I was

not alone, that it's ok, and that it's great to be gay....G.A.Y!! 163 people - all gay, and fair play to the poor heterosexuals who braved the pink experience, we're all proud of ye lads!!

Thank you Iain, thank you SU Limerick, thank you Pink Training . I am gay and I thank you

Rob

Things you can only say at Christmas: 4. If I don't undo my trousers, I'll burst!

The perception of the Irish abroad

by Anne Sheridan

As Big Jim would say would they ever catch themselves on?

Why is it that the Irish are portrayed so badly in the media abroad and at the same time seemingly loved so unconditionally?

Whatever TV channel you happen to turn on, whatever TV programme happens to be on, the one thing you can guarantee and predict with certainty, is that somewhere within the course of events there will appear an Irishman/woman, with the most affected Irish accent imaginable, think Darby O'Gill and the Little People and you're on the right track. To add further insult to injury he/she is bound to have humorous/mock-tragic characteristics, as well as acting out the low-life character of the soap, which every soap must have. Above all else the one unifying feature, which they share, is that their characters have no staying power; fundamentally they are transitory figures used to ease one plot into the next, with no real meaning or significance in their own right, but always in relation to someone else. But the question is, why is it that every rogue, rascal or romeo has to be Irish, why are we constantly and so automatically pigeonholed into a certain role and not allowed to develop three-dimensional characters like the rest of the cast? Allow me to illustrate my point.

Currently in Neighbours there is a young Northern Irish boy, an escapee who flees home due to mysterious events and ominous family relations. He is illiterate, and thus is taken under the guiding wing of an Aussie family who help him to learn to read. Of course, the one essential characteristic, which any Irishman has to have, is to be able to play the tin whistle, forget about how to read and write, there's Aussie Sheila's to serenade after all. And there he sits playing with his flute (the metal variety you understand), and when he's finished the passers-by clap in admiration for his rendition of The

Forty Shades of Green. Meanwhile, his objet de l'amour, another Holly Valance/Kylie look-alike stares at him in astonishment and gasps, "is there really 40 shades of green?" to which he replies wistfully "No, there's thousands, that's why it's so beautiful". By this stage I had just vomited up the remainders of the beans on toast I had for tea, so unfortunately the tale ends here. Now every time Neighbours appears on the TV I have to grapple hard not to throw the TV through the front window or alternatively run madly to the ESSO for 40 fags to bind my fraying nerves.

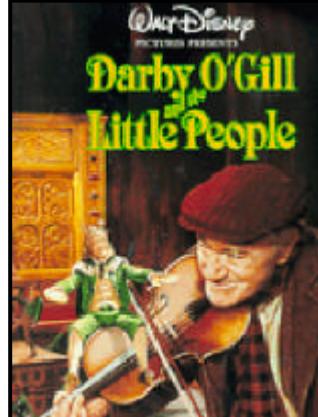
The Neighbours scenario has to be by far the worst, but there are far more devious culprits to put to justice -THE BRITISH!! In Coronation St., Jim MacDonald, Northerner #2, acted as a representative for our green isle. Jim appeared to be a sound enough likeable 'oul bloke, but it goes with the territory when the Irish are portrayed abroad there has to be one fatal flaw. But the British are a kind and generous race, (remember the Famine), so they gave Jim an abundance. To start with there was his notorious temper, then we learned he had just come out of prison and of course we must bear in mind that he endowed his wife Liz with a few shinners from time to time, and consequently he drove the good

son, Andy away.

In any soap where different nationalities are played out, it is inevitable that political overtones will seep in and the British/Irish example has to be one of the greatest bones of contention for the latter. Even though domestic abuse is inexcusable, it came as no surprise to learn that the sympathy fell with Liz, an English woman and not with her Northern Irish husband. There was no thought spared for the fact that she ran off with his physiotherapist once he became paralysed, for instance. What is surprising is that never do we see an Englishman portrayed badly in Irish soaps, it is always the other way around, which is curiously ironic in terms of our common history. Why is it that we are always portrayed as the villains and never the victims?

The examples are countless, both domestically and internationally. In The Simpson's, Grandpa Simpson is often heard proudly proclaiming about forcing the Irish out of Springfield. In Guy Ritchie's film Snatch, the leading man, played by Brad Pitt (no qualms so far!) is an Irish gypsy boxer with a speech impediment!! In a 1980's film Tommy Lee Jones played an Irish priest in New York, who had a reputation for being a bit "flirty", to put it mildly! And even in our own homegrown "drama" Fair City the villain is a Northern Irish (#3) notorious gambler and blackmailer. So if we are literally taking the mick out of ourselves, what's to stop the rest of the world from doing so too? We are quite simply placing ourselves as putty in their hands.

If we take the other side of the coin never for instance do we see the British making fun of themselves in British soaps (or else we're just laughing too hard to notice). James Bond is British after all and the fact that the current James Bond is played by an Irishman is interesting but in the end negligent, because it was Pierce Brosnan himself who was quoted as saying that he was ashamed of his Navan accent and



Is this how we are seen abroad?

tried desperately to appear more British once he went to Hollywood. Patriotism, it seems is dead and gone, with O'Leary in the grave and now more so than ever before.

One would imagine that with increasing spread of globalisation/cultural imperialism/Americanisation of society, we would be turning more towards our roots and not to "Friends" to reassert and reaffirm who we really are, for our own sake and our reputation internationally. Instead, we have become the most globalised country in the EU and the second most expensive. And still we are portrayed as an ignorant, thick, shamrock-chewing bunch of Paddy's!

Why is it that James Bond is British and not Irish (now there's an FYP for you)? Can you seriously imagine it if he were? How long do you think he'd last on the shaken not stirred concoctions, before going back on pints of Guinness, only to end up puking on top of Ursula Andress? Or worse still - falling unconsciously asleep from drink in the throes of passion? Never - utterly unimaginable!?

Yet inspite of all this, our counterparts have been so gracious as to list two of our Irishmen (Bob Geldof and Bono) as Great Britons!

The Irish, of all the nationalities on earth, we have to be the greatest example of the best friend and worst enemy scenario. If we are a danger to ourselves then its due in part, at least quite a sizeable part to the demon drink, which has caused our reputation abroad to be one as a nation of alcoholics. This we can't argue, there are statistics to prove it. Put quite simply we are only mocked because we are liked, unlike the British we had never any grand plans to rule the world, and so we don't pose a threat to anyone. It is often quoted that if alcohol had never been invented (bet the British invented it to keep us oppressed) the Irish could have ruled the world - just imagine what a wonderful world that would have been!

No Christmas cheer for education in budget

by Eoin O Broin

The budget presented by Minister McCreevy did not offer much to cheer about for the education sector. No extra funding was provided for Primary schools despite the accommodation crisis in the sector. In fact the government's solution seems to be to develop public private partnerships in the provision of Schools. The implications of this are startling. Remember the flagship PPP in Ireland is the Westlink tolled

Motorway around Dublin. The private partner takes all the revenue at the toll booth. Where will the private partner that builds a school get their revenue?

The recruitment freeze in the public sector also has stark implications for education. Fine Gael spokesperson on education, Olwyn Enright TD, said that this Minister is presiding over a crisis in the education system: many of our schools are in an appalling state of repair; huge numbers of children are being taught by

unqualified people; and he is unable to retain teachers in disadvantaged areas. This crisis is of Government making. Yet the Minister has the audacity to try to spin his way out of it and to make disadvantaged children feel like he is doing them a favour. Jan O'Sullivan Labour spokesperson said that this means no delivery, as promised, on special needs teachers, education welfare officers, guidance counsellors, speech therapists, educational psychologists.

Does the government have any choice? Joe Higgins of the Socialist Party thinks they do. He says that last year the minister reduced corporation tax from 20% to 16%, at an annual cost of €329 million. He also reduced employer's pay related social insurance contributions by €340 million in a year. The combination of these two figures amounted to €676 million last year. The further reduction in corporation tax announced in the budget means that an additional €305 million will be taken from the tax net and given to

Things you can only say at Christmas: 5. I've never seen a better spread!

No Christmas cheer for education in budget (contd)

the corporations. With the changes announced last year this means that every year from here on, just under €1 billion will be taken from the social fund, which should be allocated to services and to fund the needs of the majority.

The government's philosophy is certainly being influenced by the Independent Estimates Review Committee they set up earlier in the year. The three wise men charged with this have proposed the reintroduction of third level fees with an initial registration fee of €1000.



Charlie McCreevy

They have also proposed other revenue spinners such as water charges.

And lastly what of the grant. A campaign that hasn't raised its head because of concentration on the fees question. Again no provision for an increase in the maintenance grant has been announced in this budget. The problems with this are endless. For a start the level of unemployment assistance at €140 a week is calculated as the minimum needed to live on. Thus with a grant of €80 euros a week students receiving the

grant will invariably need loans or plenty of part time work to put themselves through college. This fact as much as any other shows how much the Minister is actually going to do for access to third level education.

The National Forum on Europe

by Jarlath Munnely

Elaine Byrne, member of University of Limerick Young Fine Gael, has been selected as an alternate member for the Fine Gael delegation to the Forum on Europe which meets to discuss the Convention on the Future of Europe. From the 57 members of the Forum, Elaine is the youngest member of the Forum, the only student at the Forum and one of the only six non-full time political representatives at the Forum. She is also the only representative on the Forum from Limerick. Other members of the Forum are An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste and the Leaders of the various political parties. Elaine has speaking rights at the Forum and at the last plenary session, made a submission on Subsidiarity and the Role of National

National Forum On Europe

Parliaments.

The Forum originally sat with respect to the Nice Treaty but now focuses on the Convention on the Future of Europe which hopes to conclude with a Constitutional Treaty late in 2003. It is envisaged that there will be an Irish Referendum on the Treaty before the 2004 Inter-Governmental Conference and the Irish Presidency of the EU in 2004. The National Forum on Europe website; www.forumoneurope.ie has links to all the relevant Convention documents and Position papers. It also contains the full transcript of the proceedings of the 23rd plenary session of the National Forum for

Europe. The Convention of the Future of Europe website; <http://European-convention.eu.int>.

It is hoped to report back, with the Editor's permission, to An Focal, a brief and regular synopsis on the workings of the Forum. An Focal would thus be the only on campus newspaper to do so, on a topic that will generate far greater substantial debate and controversy than the Nice Treaty.

UL YFG would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Loraine Munnely, secretary, on her selection by the National Youth Council of Ireland as one of the six Irish

representatives to 'Youropa--The Future of Europe' this weekend in Copenhagen, an initiative by the Danish Government. UL YFG would also like to wish member, Caroline Brennan, former organiser, best of luck as she represents us in Cracow Poland, at the Youth of the European People's Party seminar on 'The EU facing the challenges of the XXI century' this weekend also.

Submissions on future plenary sessions would be most welcomed and sincerely appreciated. To contact Elaine, email Elaine.byrne@ul.ie. Below is the timetable for future plenary sessions at the National Forum on Europe where it will focus on various dimensions of the Convention on the Future of Europe.

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Exam Stress, Hints and Tips

It's exam time again, for most college students. This can be a particularly stressful time. It is the fear of failure, the nervous anticipation and the self-doubt rather than the test itself that is stressful.

Fear of failure can lead to two reactions self doubt, thoughts of inadequacy, or the will to succeed. The trick is to use your nervous energy to motivate yourself rather than let it eat away at your self-confidence and self-esteem.

The other key strategy is to prepare or develop a plan that will enable you to learn all you need to know and keep your stress levels in check. Some people can actually feel really sick before exams they may be trying to live up to unrealistic expectations of their parents, peers, teachers, or siblings.

If you feel that you are under severe stress please talk to someone about this, never feel that you are alone. There are many organisations out there, which can help you. There are college counsellors that you can go and see. They can sit down and work out a revision timetable with you.

Stress is a physical strain on your body. It puts your body in a constant state of anxiety, which makes you nervous, edgy, and drains your energy reserves. You can help your body by

1) Eating the right kind of food

Some foods are simply more calming than others. Milk contains naturally occurring morphine-like substances, which help to calm you down. Mashed potato is a well-known comfort food and so are bread and baked beans. Lettuce and other raw vegetables are helpful to eat as a calmer. Chocolate has also a calming effect. It contains Theo bromine, which is a calming agent.

Some foods just wind you up. Sugar is the main culprit, it may give you an instant energy hit but that is at the cost of making you more edgy than you were before. Artificial sugar can contribute to stress and depression levels also so it is best to stick to natural foods as much as you can.

2) Allowing your body to get rid of its nervous energy

When we are suffering from stress our body acts as if it is under threat. It starts getting lots of energy to your muscles so that you can fight off the threat or run away. What happens then is the body stores up this energy, this is not healthy if it is not used up it will be stored as nervous energy. Your body wants to get rid of all this nervous energy so give your body what it wants and use up some of that energy in demanding physical exercise. Exercise will calm you down and it also increases the

blood flow around the body to your brain. This will help you think more clearly and to learn better. So even if you don't exercise in the normal run of things, when you are revising exercise is exactly what you need.

3) Avoiding making yourself worse

There are lots of ways you can make stress worse physically. If you are not eating or are fasting, this can stimulate a particularly active state in the body. It's an age-old survival mechanism, which is there to make you actively go out and seek food. This will help take away your concentration and make you feel more agitated. So it is best to eat regularly during exam time.

Caffeine acts directly on the nervous system and heightens emotional arousal. It is an extremely bad idea to fill your system up with this as you have enough arousal already with the thought of the exam. Try to drink less coffee and tea, in the period before and during exam. Try to drink milk, or camomile tea as both of these have a calming effect.

It is best to avoid alcohol until exams are over. This does have the effect of making you feel relaxed and making you forget about problems however that is exactly what you do not want to do when studying for an exam. You want to retain as much info as you can, so leave the alcohol for celebrations when the exams are over.

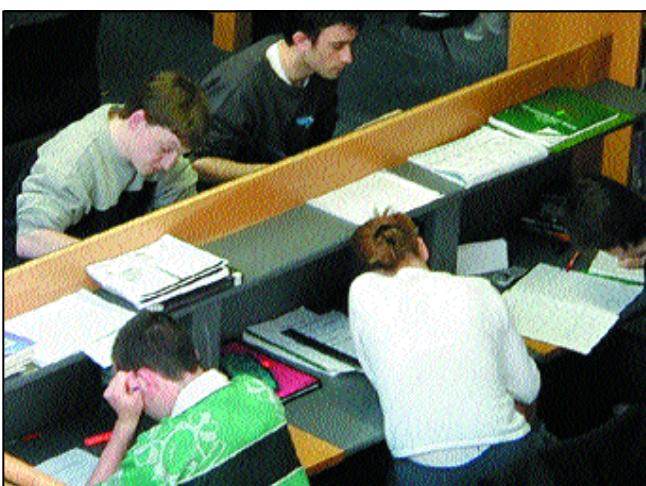
4) Helping your body to relax properly when you have finished studying

One of the effects of stress is that you never really relax. You are always worrying about the exam and feeling guilty for what you should be studying. So it is worth taking some positive steps to try to relax.

Aromatherapy involves using essential oils from plants. Try a couple of drops of lavender oil at night before you go to sleep to help



Exams can be a stressful time



The library during exams

you relax. Or put a few drops of lavender or geranium oil into your bath.

Go out into the fresh air, lots of people find just by being outside this has a calming effect. Half an hour outside can make a difference to how you sleep, and to how you feel generally.

If you live in the city you can try going swimming, or to the sauna or steam room they all have a relaxing effect on your body.

Please take time out for yourself self care is very important, by just doing any of these activities it will improve your concentration and your ability to study. It will leave you feeling much more relaxed.

Exam Tips

1) Preparation- make sure you have read all the paper, and that you are familiar with the layout and each section. Make sure you answer questions out of each section.

2) Stay calm- when exams start you should always read the question paper thoroughly before starting to answer. If there is any wording that you do not understand or if you feel that there is something missing please ask the invigilator for clarification as soon as possible.

3) Look at the distribution of marks- within a given section the marks for the questions may vary. Even if a question has parts that you cannot answer well, it might be worth attempting if the proportion of the marks associated with these parts is small, the marks you gain from the other parts may still allow you to do well. Use the marks scheme as a guide as to how long you need to spend at each question. Remember for any question there is always a short and long version for the answer.

4) Read all of the question- read all parts of the question before

you start to answer it, later parts may provide, directly or indirectly, helpful info that can effect how you approach earlier parts and you are less likely to repeat. Read any supporting info that the question provides as this is often a clue as to how to approach the question. Always answer the right number of parts of a question.

5) Answer the full number of questions -Always answer the full number of questions requested, as one omission can lead to substantial loss of marks.

6) If you get stuck, move on It is much easier to get the first 50 percent than the next 50 percent on any question. So do not waste time pondering, go on to the next question and if you have time at the end go back and finish the ones you were stuck on. It is more likely that your memory may be jogged, by answering other question

7) Answering tips- To get the best marks for an answer you should try to

a) cover all the key points relating to the topic of the question,
b) be accurate,
c) explain the logic behind your use of facts,
d) include examples,
e) try making use of any reading you have done on the topic,

f) make it clear that you understand the significance of the topic and its practical consequences, and
g) organise your answer logically and effectively. Get straight to the point and to the key facts and observations do not answer start with long intros.

Good luck and take care of your-self!

University Bookshop: An Investigation

by John Mulcahy

Recently many complaints have been made concerning the high price of books in the University Bookshop, as compared to elsewhere. An Focal has decided to undertake an independent investigation to examine these complaints.

The prices of a large selection of books have been compared between the University Bookshop, O'Mahony's Bookshop, Eason Bookshop and online bookseller amazon.co.uk. Although they do not usually stock university books, Eason's will order in any books and they are also available to order on their website, www.eason.ie.

It should be pointed out that the prices on Amazon are in sterling and so have been converted to €uro.

It must also be noted that both O'Mahony's and the University Bookshop are run by the same company.

The books selected for examination cover all colleges within the university. The books cover a price range between €22.10 (a business book) to €103.01 (a law book).

On investigating the prices, An Focal can confirm that in the majority of cases the University Bookshop/O'Mahony's Bookshop are in fact more expensive than their competitors.

In general the price difference between Eason's and the University Bookshop is around €1 - €2, but there are a few price extremes. The price difference between Amazon and these two establishments is slightly more erratic, but one must take location into account. As Amazon is based in the United Kingdom they can offer cheaper prices on English books but may not be as cheap in providing Irish books.

Ms. Marian O'Brien, Manager of the University Bookshop, stated that she believes that the shop offer a fair service to all its customers. She stated that the shop is a price taker and not a price maker, meaning that they have no choice but to accept the recommended retail price offered by the distributors. She said that the area of academic books is quite different to that of general books, in that the same discounts are not available within the academic market. She claimed that discounts offered to the Bookshop are passed onto students wherever possible. She cited an example of a 5% discount given by Pearson's, one of their largest suppliers, last year that was passed onto students.

Ms. O'Brien stated that another reason for price differences is the effect of sterling. Obviously this has a huge effect on books bought in from the UK. Therefore books bought on

different dates, may have different prices due to fluctuating exchange rates. She pointed out that in the Bookshop they would always put the cheapest copies to the front. While this is not an ideal situation, it's all that can be done.

Ms. O'Brien claimed that varying prices between the shops are mainly due to different delivery dates, again as a result of the effect of Sterling. She claimed that large price differences were probably mistakes, as she said neither themselves nor their competitors were out to fleece customers.

With regard to academic books, the more books a shop sells the better base they have for negotiating discounts with their suppliers,



O'Mahoneys Bookshop

explained Ms. O'Brien. However she pointed out that as distributors become larger and larger it is becoming increasing difficult to achieve this.

In general, according to Ms. O'Brien, book sales in the University Bookshop are up this year. She points out a few trends for this. Firstly there are more students on campus. These students seem to be buying more books. Finally she said that students seem to be buying books earlier in the semester, rather than at exam time.

Stationary prices are extremely competitive in the bookshop, Ms. O'Brien believes. She said that one company provides all four O'Mahony's shops with their stationary. As a result of this they have huge buying power in order to negotiate discounts.

Ms. O'Brien believes that the University Bookshop provides the students with a good facility. While they don't have the leeway to offer cheaper book prices, they try to make up for it by offering other services, such as free postage on books, and by making international phone calls to locate books. She stated that if anyone has any problems with prices, she has catalogues that can support them.

While this is all well and good, the fact remains that there are cheaper places to get the books. So shop around before you buy your college books, while it might be more hassle you'd be surprised what savings you might make.

Price Comparison Table

| Book | University Bookshop | O'Mahoneys | Eason's | Amazon | Cheapest | Most Expensive |
|---|---------------------|------------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Carroll, O'Gorman A, <i>Rosy Road: The Irish Economy since the 1920s</i> (Manchester University Press, 1997) | €24.10 | €24.10 | €22.12 | €22.12 | Eason's | O'Mahoneys / University Bookshop |
| HISCHICH, R.D., & PETERS, M.P., <i>Entrepreneurship: International Edition</i> , McGraw-Hill, 2002, 5th edition | €39.00 | €33.70 | €36.90 | €37.64 | O'Mahoneys | University Bookshop |
| "Modern Management Theory and Practice for Irish Students", Second edition (Tsielman, S., Moody, M. & Foley, E.) 2001 Gill and Macmillan (publishers) | €33.30 | €33.30 | €39.50 | €39.60 | O'Mahoneys | Amazon |
| Thomas, Andrew (2002) 'An introduction to financial accounting'. | €34.00 | €34.00 | €32.16 | €33.82 | Eason's | O'Mahoneys |
| Bigriggs, B., 1991. The Intel Microprocessors 30360/3032, 80386, 80386, 80386 and 80486. Architecture, programming and interfacing. | €63.95 | - | - | €64.96 | Amazon | University Bookshop |
| Ahern, Maureen (ed.), 1996. A Rosario Castillo-Sosa Reader. Austin: University of Texas Press | €44.13 | €38.00 | - | €39.54 | O'Mahoneys | University Bookshop |
| Elliott, B and J. Elliott (2002) <i>Financial Accounting and Reporting</i> , Prentice Hall, 6e. | €33.95 | €33.95 | €30.38 | €35.94 | Amazon | O'Mahoneys / University Bookshop |
| Integrated Marketing Communications, (2000) 1 st Edition David Fletcher & Amanda Broderick, Prentice Hall | €49.95 | €30.80 | €30.00 | €34.36 | Amazon | O'Mahoneys |
| O'Hagan, T.W. (ed.) The Economy of Ireland: Policy and Performance of a European Region. Gill and Macmillan, Dublin 2000 | €32.75 | €21.75 | €29.50 | €29.60 | O'Mahoneys / University Bookshop | Amazon |
| Davies, Michael, Textbook on medical law, 2 nd ed., 1998 | €37.68 | €27.70 | €36.33 | €31.68 | Amazon | O'Mahoneys |
| Paul, The Law of Contract 2 nd ed Roundell/Sweet and Maxwell (2000) | €63.00 | €63.00 | €102.77 | €103.01 | O'Mahoneys / University Bookshop | Amazon |
| Principles of Corporate Finance, Brealey and Myers, 6 th ed. | €63.05 | €31.95 | €31.64 | €37.03 | Amazon | O'Mahoneys |
| Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2000) Research Methods for Business Students (2 nd ed.), Harlow, Financial Times Prentice Hall. | €46.95 | €42.20 | €47.42 | €42.77 | O'Mahoneys | Eason's |
| Psychology: the science of behaviour, Neil R. Carlson, William Busch, G. Neil Martin | €40.95 | €42.60 | €39.51 | €36.43 | Amazon | O'Mahoneys |
| Craig, F., De Blaere, G., EU Law Test, Cases, and Materials, 2 nd ed., New York: Oxford University Press | €34.03 | €43.90 | €47.42 | €42.77 | Amazon | University Bookshop |
| Chubb, B. The Government and Politics of Ireland. Harlow: Longman, 1992 | €44.95 | €41.00 | €29.23 | €35.94 | Eason's | Amazon |

Things you can only say at Christmas: 8. It's a little dry, do you still want to eat it?

Price Comparison on Local Shops

by Simon Renardson

Many questions have cropped up about the Students' Union shop this year regarding a range of things. One particular was question that has been given a lot of attention is the price of goods. This was raised (I'm sure not for the first time) at the Class Representatives Council a few weeks ago.

In light of this question An Focal has conducted a survey of food prices around the campus, taking items from the basic student food groups such as the pizza group and the deodorant group (Ask no questions, receive no lies), from Superquinn, The Hurlers Esso shop, Spar and The Students' Union shop.

As you can see from the above table Superquinn are the cheapest of the four shops by a considerable amount, which is to be expected, as it is a supermarket. Superquinn manager, Niall Brougham, said, "I was delighted to hear that (we were cheaper), obviously we are in a very competitive market in Castletroy and price is a huge concern of ours. We do weekly price surveys on our competitor and we have a price guarantee in place that if you can find the same item for less anywhere else, we'll refund you twice the difference plus give you 100 Superclub points".



The Students' Union shop

The other three shops are more expensive in comparison. Spar are marginally more expensive than the Students' Union shop and the Esso service station. Spar's manager said "We can't compete with Superquinn" and that the reason for the slight difference in prices was because of

Price Comparison Table

| Item* | Superquinn | Esso | Spar | SU |
|---------------------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Goodfellas Deep Pan | €2.89 | €3.50 | €3.89 | €3.20 |
| Bread | €1.19 | €1.47 | €1.43 | €1.30 |
| 1lt Milk | €0.85 | €0.94 | €0.94 | €0.95 |
| Cornflakes (500g) | €2.02 | €1.97* | €2.69 | €2.50 |
| Deodorant | €3.81 | €4.50 | €4.55 | €4.10 |
| Coffee | €2.73 | €3.99 | €3.95 | €3.00 |
| Teabags | €1.45 | €1.51 | €1.69 | €1.65 |
| Pasta | €0.65 | €1.00 | €1.15 | €1.15 |
| Chocolate Bar | €0.54 | €0.55 | €0.65 | €0.55 |
| Cheese Singles | €1.27 | €1.55 | €1.55 | €1.30 |
| Sweet & Sour Sauce | €1.77 | €2.10 | €2.35 | €2.25 |
| Sausages | €1.09 | €1.10 | €1.14 | €1.20 |
| Soup | €0.88 | €1.15 | €1.10 | €0.90 |
| 2lt Coke | €1.61 | €2.10 | €2.19 | €1.85 |

*While every attempt was made to find the same product in all four shops, some prices may reflect similar products. Prices marked with an asterisk are a different size. Prices are as marked on the shelf.

the cost of staffing the shop until 11 o'clock at night.

Our own Students' Union shop is the cheapest of the three small shops in all but milk, teabags, pasta, sweet & sour sauce and sausages. In addition to this, the Students' Union shop is heavily involved in funding student activities on campus. Last year, €20,000 was donated by the shop towards the purchase of the

new buildings planned for across the river, business in the Drumroe shop will be worth the investment.

Overall Superquinn is obviously the best choice for your weekly

shopping, but the real answer we are looking for is that the Students' Union shop holds its own against most other shops in the area.



ATTENTION 2nd/3rd/4th YEARS

CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION 2003/04

There will be no need to queue on 03 December

Postgraduate Students

- Application forms will be available from 03 December 2002 until 25 January 2003 at the village reception offices.
- Rooms will be allocated by means of random selection (lottery).
- Successful applicants will receive details by 28 February 2003 and will be required to pay a booking deposit of €130 to secure the room.
- There will be a quota of rooms for all years.

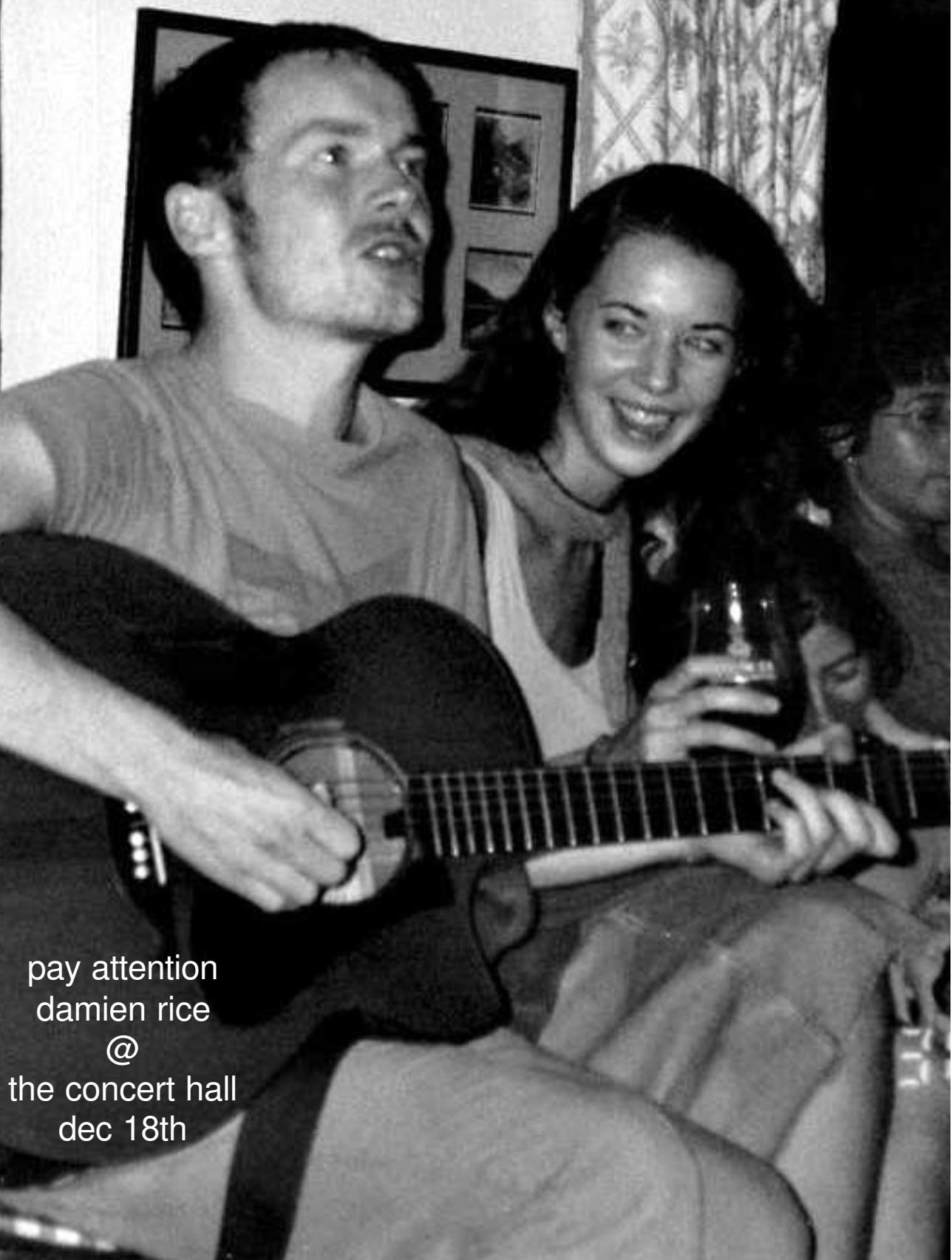
There will be no need to queue on 03 December

Postgraduate Students

- Application forms will be available on 03 December 2002 through until 04 July 2003 from the village receptions.
- Rooms will be allocated by means of random selection (lottery).
- Successful applicants will receive details by 18 July 2003 and will be required to pay a booking deposit of €130 to secure the room.
- The period of application is longer for postgraduate students to allow students from other universities the opportunity to apply for campus accommodation. It is normal for postgraduate students transferring to UL not to receive notification until the summer months.

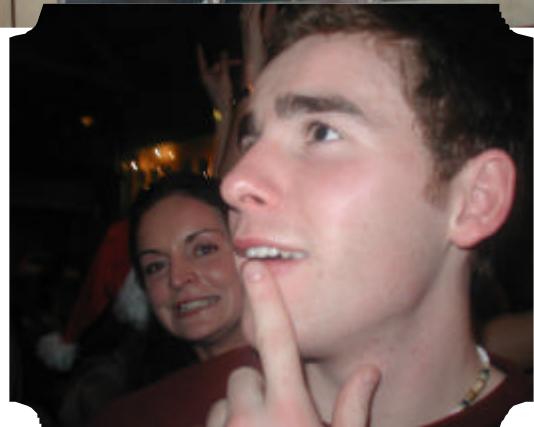
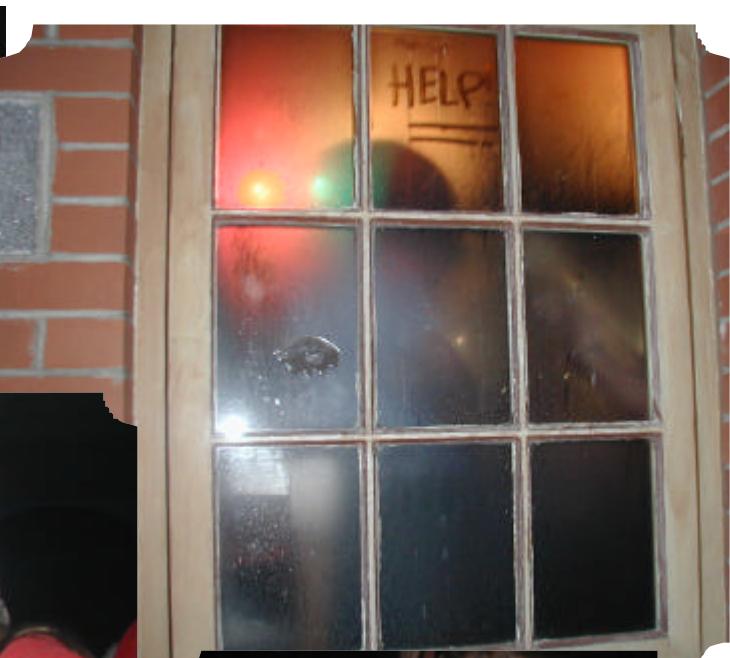
There will be no need to queue on 03 December

Things you can only say at Christmas: 9. Just wait your turn, you'll get some!



pay attention
damien rice
@
the concert hall
dec 18th

Week 10 & Week 11



Things you can only say at Christmas: 10. Don't play with your meat.

Week 10 & Week 11



The Stables Club

University Of Limerick

The Management & Staff of The Stables Club would like to thank all our members for your continued support over the semester.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Best of luck with your exam study!

Christmas Daze

The Stables Club Christmas Week was a resounding success! This year, due to your generous support, Gerry Daly on behalf of the Poor of Limerick will receive a donation of **€6510**

Thank you for your support.

T: (061) 330139 - F: (061) 330176 - E: info@stablesclub.com - W: www.stablesclub.com

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www.stablesclub.com for Xmas Daze photos

Week 12

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Monday | Coors light promotion Final |
| Tuesday | Music Society Open Mic |
| Tuesday | Karaoke Final |
| Wednesday | BAND - Free Beer |
| Thursday | BAND - TBC |
| Friday | DJ |

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Arena Sports Club

Your Sports Location!

www.arenasportsclub.com

WEEK 12

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | The Greatest Music |
| Tuesday | Trad Session - All Welcome |
| Wednesday | 'Open Mic' - Your opportunity to dazzle |
| Thursday | Jamming with the Folk Club |
| Friday | Music Night |
| Sunday | Jamming & Trad Session |

THE ARENA SPORTS CLUB

would like to thank our members for your custom and support this semester.

We hope that you have a pleasant Christmas Break, and would like to wish you luck for your exams.

Merry Christmas!

F: (061) 339641 | W: www.arenasportsclub.com

Things you can only say at Christmas: 11. Stuff it up between the legs as far as it will go.

Wednesday Week 12: Docs Niteclub

Tursday Week 12: The MARKET

FRIDAY WEEK 12: END OF TERM GIG - SCHOLARS FUNCTION ROOM

DECEMBER 18TH - DAMIEN RICE @ THE CONCERT HALL

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CONCERT HALL
OR VIST WWW.UCH.IE**



YOUR WEEKLY NIGHTS OUT

wed @ Docs

thurs @ The Market

tickets 7/7.50 euro

including buses

**ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENTS'
UNION RECEPTION FROM THE MONDAY OF
EACH WEEK @ 9AM**

Harder Generation

by Timmy Hennessy

Harder Generation

News

Rumours Presents "Lift-Off" @the_Underground:

My big news this time round is that I've been installed in the Underground (under Rumours bar, Thomas st.) as the new Thursday night resident.

What this means in English is that for 3 Thursdays of every month I'll be playing the club, with different guest djs warming up each week.

The music policy is uplifting trance and of course hard house. The opening night was last week and a top night was had by everyone.

Entry is free, doors open at 9:30 and everyone gets kicked out at 12:30, so you can wander off down to the other clubs in the city, or head home if you've had enough.

For more details, or if you are a dj and would like to play, email me on hardergeneration@eircom.net

This years tribute to the late great Tony De Vit has been released on tidy. "I Don't Care" is one of the most anticipated tracks of the year, and features Tony's original trade mix, and a stunning new BK mix. It is released on the 9th of December and

comes highly recommended.

Also released this month is a track done by a friend of mine in England. "The Venue" is Ashley Sinclair's first track to be released, and has been pressed by none other than Nukleuz, one of the biggest hard dance labels in the UK. Its out on December 16th.

December will be busy for Irelands largest label Babydoll, with a number of releases coming and the Baby Brother night going from strength to strength. Go to www.babydoll.ie for more details

Judge Jules makes a welcome (!?) return to Doc's on the 22nd of this month with the super-lust xmas party, with support from Dermot C & Eddie Halliwell.

Chart

Tony De Vit - I Don't Care (BK Mix) [Tidy]

Karim - Rockin Ronnie 1/ Port Douglas [Do Not Bend]

Chris C & The Doktor - Volante [Tidy White]

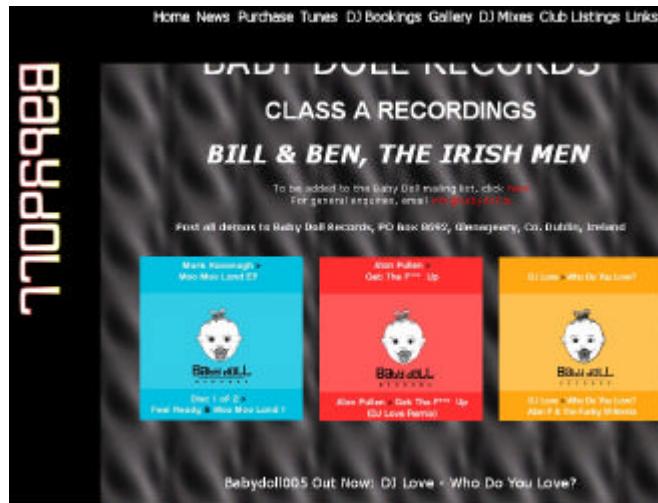
Pants & Corset - K-Hole [White]

Mark Grey - 99.9 (Paul Glazby Mix) [Vicious Circle]

Vinygroover & The Red Head - Move

Your Body (Olly P Mix) [Nukleuz]

Justin Bourne & Jay Pidgeon - Hardcore Noise [Short Circuit]



Mark Kavanagh - Moo Moo Land 1 Be Good! (and go to the (Overload) [Babydoll]

Raff & Jay Pidgeon - Killerbeez

[Fevah Trance]

4Motion vs 12" Thumpers - It's Over The Line [Tidy White]

That's all from me (for now) and as always I can be reached at hardergeneration@eircom.net

Review: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

by John Mulcahy

Before I even start this review there are a few things you should know. Firstly I'm a huge fan of the Harry Potter books. I wasn't overly impressed with the first film, The Philosophers Stone, it was a good film but it did the book no justice. Finally with regard to the books, The Chamber of Secrets is the weakest of all four books so far. Given all this I wasn't expecting that much from this film. Now that I've gotten that out of the way.....

For everyone whose been hiding under a rock for the last few years, Harry Potter is a wizard. The evil Lord Voldemort killed his parents when he was a baby, however he survived. He's grown up with his muggle (non-magic) relations. Harry's spent one year at Hogwarts School for Witches and Wizards. In that time he has, along with his sidekicks Ron and Hermione, saved the world from the evil Dark Lord, became the star player on the Gryffindor quidditch team, and just caused lots of trouble in general.

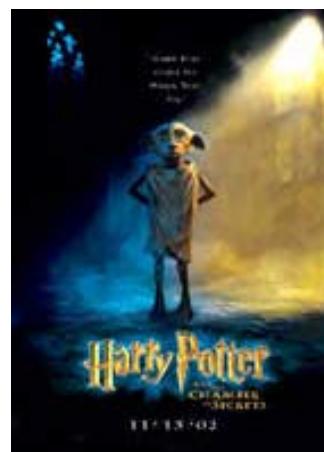
Now Harry faces into his second year at Hogwarts. He has been warned by a mysterious house-elf, Dobby, not to return as he faces grave danger. However thanks to Ron and his flying Ford Anglia he eventually gets back,

despite a few setbacks along the way. All the usual faces are at Hogwarts when he returns, including groundskeeper Hagrid, Professors Snape and Dumbledore, and Harry's archenemy Draco Malfoy. Harry isn't the only celebrity at the school this year, as the new 'Defence Against the Dark Arts' teacher is famous author Gilderoy Lockhart, whom all the girls love despite the fact that he seems completely hopeless at his job.

The film revolves around the fact that the Chamber of Secrets has been opened. This secret chamber was put in place by one of the schools founders (Slytherin) in order to purge the school of all those who are not from pureblood wizard families. The heir of Slytherin can only open the chamber. Mudbloods (people with muggle parents) are no longer safe at Hogwarts, and the future of the school is thrown into doubt. It's up to Harry, Ron and Hermione to find out who the heir and ensure the Chamber of Secrets is closed forever.

So is the film any good???

Rupert Grint who plays Ron is by far and away the star of the show. He provides a brilliant comic influence on what is otherwise quite a dark film. Emma Watson (Hermione) is also good, but her chance to shine will be in the next film with an increased



The film poster

role. Daniel Radcliffe, who plays Harry, puts in a good performance but doesn't shine on screen in the same way that Grint does.

Of the adults Alan Rickman, Maggie Smith and Robbie Coltrane all, yet again, put in their respective roles. Kenneth Branagh is brilliant as Lockhart. The film is also the last made by the late Limerick actor Richard Harris, who is excellent in the role of school principal Albus Dumbledore.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of

Secrets is much darker than the first instalment in of the series, and if you're scared of spiders you should think about giving this a miss. It is also much quicker and more exciting than the first. The quidditch match is excellent yet again, and the scene of Harry and Ron in the Ford Anglia is absolutely amazing.

Overall I was very impressed with the film. It was as good if not better than the book, and a much better movie than the Philosophers Stone. At 160 minutes it could be said that the film is too long, but you don't really notice. With the next installment in the series, the brilliant Prisoner of Azkaban, not due until the summer of 2004, the Chamber of Secrets has a lot of time to out-gross the first film. This will be some achievement as the Philosophers Stone has currently grossed \$965 million, and is the second highest grossing film of all time after Titanic.

Believe all the hype about this film. It's well worth going to see whether you've read the books or seen the first film. The quality of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets can't be faulted, and for now at least the magic is still working.

Things you can only say at Christmas: 12. Do you think you'll be able to handle all these people at once?

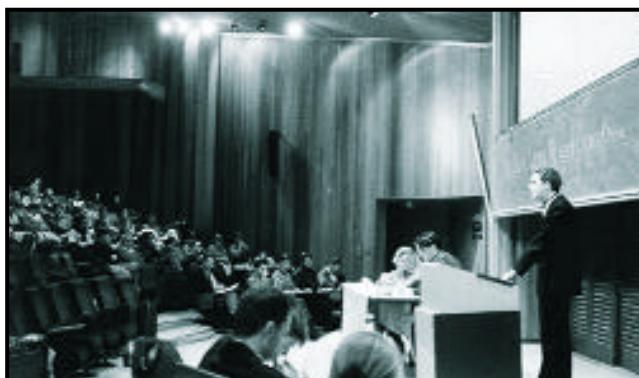
Clubs & Societies Events: Week 12

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT/SUN |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Games Society Role-Playing Games 19:45, EG006 including Dungeons & Dragons | Games Society Role-Playing Games 19:30, EGO06 including Vampire | Tennis Club Coaching, Tennis Courts 2-3 Beginners 3-4 Improved 4-5 Advanced Training 11-12:30 All Welcome | Karate Club 6:00 - 7:30 Training Gym in Old Sports Building | Softball Club Training Pitch 1, 2:00 | Tennis Club Training/Practices All Levels Saturday 11-12:30 |
| Drama Society Workshops 7:30, B1023 | UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building | Games Society Role-Playing Games 19:00, EG006 including Apocalypse | | | Softball Club Training Pitch 1, 2:00 |
| Environmental Soc Meeting, 7:00 Meeting Room 3 in the SU | Traditional Music Soc Trad Session in the Sports Bar, 9:30 - 12:00 | Chess Club Chess In The Canteen 7 - 9, Main Canteen | | | |
| | Karate Club 6:00 - 7:30 Training Gym in Old Sports Building | Softball Club Training Astroturf, 2:00 | | | |
| | | ESN Christmas Ball 8:00 Stables -> Royal George | | | |
| | | History Society Christmas Banquet 5:30 Bunratty Castle | | | |

Death of the Society

by Yvonne Deane

Good God gentlemen dig out those groovy festive calendars; Week 12 has once again snuck out of nowhere to bite us on the ass! Christmas Cheer is rampant spreading through the College like a wave of herpes dampened only by nasty project deadlines and that weird post-week 11 "morning after the week before" hangover. Where the hell did Semester One go? History will mark Semester One 2002 as the Semester that never got started. The Sport Centre has not received the massive influx of students promised by increased GYM memberships and reverent Week 1 resolutions. Clubs and Societies welcomed the huge interest displayed by all its new members in the early weeks who have now seemingly disappeared leaving us only with fond memories; and their membership fees (suckers!). The reported shocking low turnouts at student walks, protests and Union elections all point towards what I call the University of Limerick Universal Truth: those who want to go on crusades, get involved and do unnecessary voluntary stuff go to U.C.C or U.C.G where they can dress like Simon and Garfunkel, smoke hash, join societies, and study Arts (the herb evidently is our common link with these colleges!). Semester one was like all the other



UL Debating Union in action

Semester Ones, full of good but never realised intentions and empty folders. That said, in a red brick building near the foundation building trouble is brewing.... Yes, Library Staff and occasional frequenters alike are mystified by its sudden surge in popularity. Talk to any first year- it's the cool place to be. TRIVIA: did you know that you can rent up to six books at a time? There's such a vast range to choose from, even journals and the seats are soooo comfy! The sheer madness of it all- it makes those 02 students feel all funny inside just thinking about it. One shivers to predict the mayhem in

week 13 when finding seats. It seems the future for U.L students is one where Fourth Year-style work ethic begins after Orientation Week, halting only for designated piss ups and the February Break. For better or worse this college is getting more studious.

So whats going to happen to the college club and society? Surely their extra curricular, non-compulsory nature has them doomed from the start? This article is not; by the way Student Union recruitment propaganda (the author's failure to partake in any march, protest or

organised event renders her unqualified to write such a piece). It is however a subject worthy of consideration. Whilst this reasoning I admit has been shaped predominantly by T.V, colleges were traditionally buzzing centres of new ideology and activity. Corruption or injustice of any kind was greeted with student moral outrage. Whether it was Oxford Union members fighting for the inclusion of women in their society, American students calling for the cease of segregation, or frisky Irish women throwing condoms out of train windows; students were the leaders of new thought, the great men of tomorrow, the much feared opposition to the status quo. In colleges all over the world this activism seems to have achieved its ends, one can therefore only presume that that their respective clubs and societies benefited as a result. Let's face it; those who could be arsed to sit outside grey building on a cold night in silent protest would have thought nothing of playing a little chess every Wednesday. In stark contrast to this the U.L statistics on student activism seem pretty bleak. In recent years no more than 2,200 out of a 10,000 strong student body vote in Sabbatical elections. There are (an estimated) nine hundred actively involved clubs and society members. A paltry 800 students vote for the non-sabbatical elections. Why is it that we (myself included) who enrol in courses of

Death of the Society (contd)

study are technically students, but refuse to partake in all that goes with it? One could argue that our U.L passiveness is a mere symptom of a greater social movement. Dwindling party support, poor election turnout and the demise of Trade Union clout all demonstrate a move from mass participation towards Individualism. U.L was originally a technical college, frequented by the less pony working class who saw the college as a means of getting a job. Whilst the University status has been attained, has the practical outlook on clubs and societies remained? Your token politically active student of the 1960's was middle class, with arguably all the time in the world to march, graduate and land a cool job working for daddy. Is the "students as activists" tag a little patronising and outdated? Today vast numbers of young people go to college and the competition is intense, the crowded library laying testimony to the fact that increased college pressure renders huge

participation in any non-compulsory evident too much to ask for. Who knows why we are the way we are, either way it is unlikely that we will ever see the day that 100% of U.L students march up to the B1 canteen with their I.D cards and vote in an election, or busy themselves within a society.

This article is not however, the epitaph for the college society. As a wise drunken man once said behind the town hall disco on a Friday night, "it's not the size; it's how you use it". The great thing about U.L clubs and societies is that they tend to kick ass in intervarsities no matter how small they are. U.L student union activity is characterised by quality not quantity. Take the Debating Union for example, who's increasing array of victories places increasing strain on the already groaning trophy cabinet. Their presence in tough intervarsities such as those at Oxford and Cambridge are marked both by

excellent performances and complete disregard for formal attire. This little society along with many others in the college has quietly but effectively forged a name for itself on its International playing field. Did you know that U.L is home to one of the world's top twenty debaters? That only this year a U.L team broke to the semi-finals at the competitive U.C.D debate? The funny thing is the name of an exceptional U.L debater is probably recognised more at other colleges where the scene is bigger. Not being recognised in your own territory; a fate endured by Van Gogh, U.L debaters and Ronan Keating alike. The sheer injustice of it all (cue the violins). So everybody, have a happy Christmas, and when week 13 and 14 comes along, stay the hell away from the photocopiers and library seats and give the slackers a chance. If you feel like adding 'joining a club or society' to your Semester Two resolutions list (along with eating celery, flossing and

writing out your notes properly every night), then remember it's never too late to join. Whatever about "giving back" or getting involved, personal experience proves that active club participation makes the Co-op C.V seem like less of a wasteland? Venues and Times are available on websites and in this paper. Most importantly, if you can only join one, join the DebU. In the words of International Man of Mystery and philanthropist A. Powers;

"I'm not into cunning Linguists, but I am a Master Debater"
Ho! Ho! Ho!

Embargoed for Release upon receipt: Amnesty

by Ciara Cloake

Amnesty Group demonstration for International Human Rights Day. At the University of Limerick, in the Students Union courtyard Students will be locked into a cage to demonstrate against Human Rights abuses throughout the world. It is happening between two and six pm on Tuesday the 10th of December which is Human Rights day.

There will be a petition being signed to get the first Russian prisoner of conscience detained since the fall of the soviet union, Grigory Pasko, released in time for Christmas as well as information on the current Amnesty International campaigns, including the newly launched campaign on Russia.



Grigory Pasko

All the proceeds raised on the day will go directly to Amnesty International to help continue the fight for Human Rights.

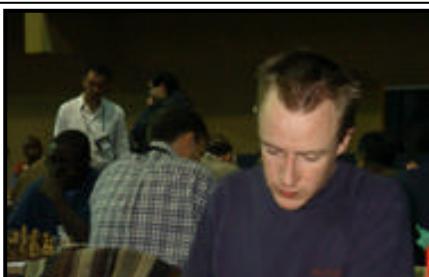
All are welcome to come along on the day.



UL Chess Player beats Grand Master

Last weekend a bunch of us set off to Kilkenny for a weekend of chess. Kilkenny would be the second biggest chess event of the year on the Irish calendar so we were expecting a good tournament. In this regard we were not disappointed. 250 people competed at this event this year, including the whole Irish team who competed in Bled at the Olympiad, GM Bogdan Lalic, GM Luke McShane and many more international players.

When we arrived in Kilkenny, we went to our hostel, which happened to be a Foulksrath castle. This place deserves mention as being a really nice place with the management giving very reasonable prices (best I've seen). We discovered after our first round on returning to the castle that some Trinity students were also there for the chess. This resulted in a mini blitz comp between the players from both clubs, which we were narrowly better. In the actual tournament, 2 of our players did extremely well. Olivier Peres got 4/6 including a draw with the top seed in the tournament and proceeded to get a grading prize for this. Declan Fish would have to be the most impressive of the UL Team at Kilkenny. In his 6 games (each last up till 3 & 1/2 hours max) he suffered only 1 loss to the winner of his section.



Leighton Williams

As is customary at these tournaments a blitz tournament where everyone gets to play against the best players takes place. Normally at these things, the GM, or IMs get placed in separate groups where they proceed to beat everyone, and then they play off against each other for the blitz prize. Most of our team fitted into this by being duly beaten,

Declan Fish however pulled off a big upset by beating Leighton Williams an international master.

This guy was the board 2 for Wales at the recent Olympiad and came very close to becoming a GM at this event (GM-grand master, highest grade in chess, only 1 in Ireland)

This was a great finish to a great chess tournament. Well done to all who went.

Munster league: The club is after the first 3 rounds on top of division 3 with 2 wins and a draw against the team who were favourites for promotion. The rest of the season will be about maintaining this lead now and getting promoted. Well done to Declan Fish for a 100% winning record in the League so far and to Diarmuid Mulvey who continues as ever to draw with whoever we get him to play against (whether they way higher rated or lower rated than him) :)

Well Done everyone else on team who all played well.

Things you can only say at Christmas:

13. I didn't expect everyone to come at the same time!

Drama Soc ends on a high

by Ella Daly

Dramasoc ends 2002 on a high with the highly successful "Insignificance" written by terry johnson and Directed by Adrain Crowe and Caomhne Kennedy the show stared Michael Keary, Aimee Kerrigan, Dave Corley, Rory Deegan and James Fitzgerald. The show played for three nights in our beloved Swift theatre and the audiences were great.

"Insignificance" also gave us the opportunity to try out our new Lights. the 11 CCT profiles have been acquired on loan for the year from St Marys College in Galway so a very big thank you to them. The University Club came to our rescue at the 11th hour by lending us Ed Walshes chair, perfect for compleating our mad professors lair. Thanks to Walter over in the White House for all his help.

Week 10 saw some other developments in Drama Soc circles as we received our first order of Drama Soc Hoodies. if you havent seen them they are the ones wondering around with "We Break

Legs" on their back in bright yellow letters The Drama Soc? Break a Leg? Gedditt? We also had the surprise return of drama soc's big daddy Tim McAuliffe who was much missed.

Plans for next semester include Dancing at Lunaghsa A mystery production some new writing and perhaps a musical. A fond farewell has to be said to Aimee Kerrigan our everpresent american study abroad student. Aimee stared in both of this semesters productions Regency Romance and Insignificance and also took part in Aida. She will be missed and we look forward to her return trip in the spring. Its all going so well i cant wait for next semester! End of year Thabnk yours are in order i think so here goes Paul Lee Patrica Moriarty My Committee The White House The Claeiners Music Soc Limerick Youth Theatre Stirling Productions Aileen Galvin and Henri Murphy in the concert hall Ruairi and Trish

and all my wonderful members!
See you all in january!



The cast of "Insignificance"

YFG National Conference 2002

by Barry Walsh

The University of Limerick Branch of Young Fine Gael reached the undisputed high point of the semester recently when we dug out our old 'blueshirts', dusted them down and donned them for the YFG National Conference, this year celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of YFG, held in the lavish surrounds of the Burlington Hotel, Dublin on Saturday November 16th last.

Many of the large group of UL members who attended were nursing serious hangovers following the 21st birthday revel of last year's Chairman John O' Grady which had been held the previous night, not least the man himself!! Therefore, a 7am start did not appeal to many. Nonetheless, those loyal to the Blue were up, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and ready for a long day of tough political wrangling and debate on the future of Young Fine Gael.

Able led by our two representatives on the YFG National Executive, David Garrahy and Jarlath Munnely, as well as Branch Chairman Robbie Carroll, we arrived at the Conference Centre in the Burlington early in the morning. We were greeted by the President of Young Fine Gael Gerry O' Connell. Gerry had visited UL just a week before the Conference, and was delighted to see such a large turnout from the UL Branch.

We got straight down to business, and got involved immediately in the debate of the various motions that were put to the Conference, chaired by one of our young new Senators, John Paul Phelan. Topics varied from Education to Finance, from Agriculture to Law and Order, and from Transport to Terrorism. Many of the motions proved highly



UL Young Fine Gael with Garrett Fitzgerald

controversial, particularly those concerning Northern Ireland, and many sharp words were exchanged for and against each of them. The UL branch played a huge role in this debate, with Jarlath Munnely proposing motions on Western Development and reform of the Capitation Grant system to fee-paying secondary schools, and David Garrahy proposing motions on investment in the railways and the possibility of making the Presidency of YFG a full-time paid position. James Hoare also spoke well, (and somewhat controversially!) on Northern Ireland and Installation Aid to young farmers. The arguments put forward by the UL branch were radical and forward thinking, and contributed greatly to the overall success of the debate.

James, along with Kevin Cashman also took part in the workshop on Finance. Kevin later addressed the Conference on this topic.

Great anticipation preceded the highlight of the afternoon which were the speeches of YFG President Gerry O' Connell, and Fine Gael

Leader Enda Kenny, which began at 3pm. Gerry gave a rousing speech, and his oratory skills would have invigorated even the most meek of the delegates present. He was hugely convincing on his belief that Fine Gael was now united and strong, and that the party, with a lot of hard work, will again be the towering political force that it once was. He contrasted Young Fine Gael sharply with other youth wings by lambasting the pathetic crèches that are Ogra Fianna Fáil, Labour Youth and the PD Youth as "the runt and hind-tit" of their shambolic senior parties. His speech was an inspiring call-to-arms, and was indicative of the optimistic mood of the Conference as a whole

Gerry then introduced Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny TD, who received a rapturous welcome from delegates. Enda delivered an inspiring address, stressing that it was the youth who were the bedrock of Fine Gael's future, and that every single member has to roll up their sleeves if the party is to begin to grow once more. He pledged to give a strong voice to the youth of the party in the future,

especially in the run-up to the Local Elections in 2004, where he hopes to present a larger number of young candidates to the electorate. The impressive address was followed by an in-depth Q&A session, chaired by Olwyn Enright TD, a recent visitor to UL.

The high point of the Conference was the Gala Anniversary Banquet, hosted by former Taoiseach and founder of Young Fine Gael Dr. Garret Fitzgerald. Garret gave a short yet sweet address to the dinner, stressing that YFG had been a great asset to the senior party since its foundation, and that it was up to the youth of Ireland to stand up and change society for the better. A video charting the history of YFG was also shown at the banquet. This excellent presentation was produced and compiled by UL's own Jarlath Munnely, who had the honour of dining next to Dr. Fitzgerald on the night. The rest of the evening was spent meeting with members of the FG parliamentary party, as well as our friends from branches around the country. After consuming a by no means inconsiderable amount of alcohol we departed for the surrounds of Annabel's Niteclub. Problems soon arose however, when the casual dress sense of the UL branch's PRO didn't do much to please the bouncers! The problem was soon solved, however, by the guile of certain members, and everyone had a great night.

The 2002 Conference was a huge success, and highlighted the huge sense of optimism pervading in Young Fine Gael at the moment. So the message is clear to all party-pooping Ogra Fianna Fáilers; the smoked-salmon socialists in Labour Youth; or any of the other left-wing loonies running around the place: Young Fine Gael are back with a

Things you can only say at Christmas: 14. You still have a little bit on your chin.

Soccer Reports

by Eoin Killackey

ULAA(C)'s season got back track when they overcame a spirited Hospital side in the Killonan grounds. The home side started the better creating numerous chances through great link-up play from Pauric Hickey and Karl Widger. Holding the lion's share of possession paid off by the half hour mark when Karl Widger slotted ULAA (C) into the lead. However, the visitors fought back for the remainder of the half piling the ULAA(C) defence under pressure from a series of set pieces, which resulted in an equaliser on the stroke of half time.

The home side stuck to their game plan in the 2nd half and pressed forward finding the net twice within 20 minutes of play, the goals coming from Karl Widger and Mark Campbell. Minutes later, Hospital managed to score again from another set piece, which set up a nervy finish to the match. The visitors pushed for the equalising goal but the ULAA (C) defence hung on through solid play from keeper Ricky Cosgrove and defenders Conor o'Donoghue and Tony Connolly. It finished 3-2 and a well deserved victory for ULAA(C).

Team: Ricky Cosgrove, Ronan Kelly, Tony Connolly, Conor O'Donoghue, Brendan Lynch, Mark Campbell, Jason Begley, Cyril Connolly, Pauric Hickey, Karl Widger, John Collins

Subs: Fintan Touhy, Oleg Piletsky, Tim Dunne

FRESHER ASTRO TURF LEAGUE REPORT

1ST Quarter-Final: Erasmus 6-0 Computers

An easy win for the 'razies. Angel Marques scored 3 and Yan de Varda scored the other 3.

2nd Quarter-Final: PE 1-1 Business 2

Great game with Brian O'Reilly scoring for PE and Shane O'Brien lobbing the keeper from 30 yards in the last minute to equalise. PE won 3-2 on spotters. However credit must be paid to the Business keeper, Niall Sheehan, who pulled off some great saves!!

3rd Quarter-Final: Law/Euro Studies 1-6 Engineering

An easy win for the Engineering team, with David Rielly, Kieran McDonagh (3) and Paddy Nunn (2) scoring for the engineers. However captain fantastic, Brian O'Gorman, scored a consolation goal for the Law team.

4th Quarter-Final: Business 1 vs Spare Team, was called off.

The 4th Quarter-Final and the two Semi-Finals will be played next Wednesday of Week 12, from 3:30p.m.- 6:00p.m.

ODDS ON TO WIN:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| PE | 2/1 |
| Erasmus | 3/1 |
| Bus 1 | 3/1 |
| Pare Team | 8/1 |
| Engineering | 5/1 |

Welcome to the lodge!!!

Just a couple of lines to tell you all what's going in your nite-club.

For all you first years, this is just the beginning of a great relationship.

As you all are aware , the Lodge sponsors U.L. Clubs & SoCs every mon nite , but you may not be aware that every year the lodge sponsors on average E10,000!!! This is deemed as a vital resource to new clubs with those 'cashflow problems'!

The Halloween Fancy Dress Party was a huge success at the lodge as you can see from the pictures included.

Keep a look out for the Back to School Party and TOGA Party pics in upcoming editions!!

Congratulations to:

Rachel O'Donovan

on winning the D.V.D Player Sponsored by **Heineken**.

Draw took place Wed 27th Nov '02!!!

I'd like to keep this short and sweet so.... Hope to see ye soon and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom !!!!

BEST OF LUCK IN THE UPCOMING EXAMS!!!

Cheers!!!

**PLEASE HAVE
CONSIDERATION FOR
YOUR NEIGHBOURS.
KINDLY GO HOME
QUIETLY!!!**

This is a reminder to all students that we have a social responsibility to be quiet on the way home!!

Lost and found!!!
Please call in between
6 & 8pm
Mon to Fri.

Any articles left for more than 30 days shall be donated to St. Vincent De Paul!!

Aeronautical Society Report

by Daniel Leahy

Hello all An Focál readers this has been quiet an exciting year so far, for us at the Aeronautical Society. We have been running an event every week since college began whether it was convincing people to stuff chocolate bars down their throats to try and not to laugh as another hapless beginner ploughs the Boeing 747-800 into the ocean after a very shaky take off in the flight simulator that we set up during Greek Week.

As I have already mentioned this semester has been one of the most successful ever for the Aeronautical society with an event every week and four on during Greek Week and we aren't even finished yet we still have a very important Christmas Raffle to run off and don't worry if Christmas daze really was a daze for you the winners will be contacted by e-mail. As well as that we will include a list of the winners and what place prize they got in our next article.

Though if you want a definition of busy watch us



Aero Soc Display

next year. The centenary of flight is next year and we will be spending a whole load of time getting for ready for it because on:

December 17, 1903 - The Wright Flyer lifts into the air at 10:35 am. The flight lasted only 12 seconds and covered a distance of just 121 feet (37 m). It is the first powered, manned, heavier-than-air, controlled flight.

This twelve-second flight has changed the face of

the world. That means from today the 5th of December we only have three hundred and seventy-six days to prepare.

Its going to be quiet an anniversary and we are going to commemorate it properly. Along with that massively important event we are going to do a lot of other events and trips all around the country. We already have been to Shannon A.T.C (Air Traffic Control) and Shannon Aerospace this semester so we have a few surprises up our sleeves for next semester. One thing is for sure we will be the envy of a lot of people out there and that is a promise. Anyway if you are interested in what we are doing you can check out our popular website on <http://www.csu.ul.ie/aerosoc/>

Its worth a look, BELIEVE ME!!! (Thanks Conor for doing such a great job on the website for us)

I think that's about it so I'll just finish up by wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

G-Soc go paintballing

After many false starts, the Games society finally managed to get themselves paintballing. Meeting bright and early at 9.15am outside the stables and the 18 would be warriors headed off to Combatzone for three hours of paintballing

Once the guns and original ammo had been dished out, the first game began.

Both teams attempted to take a flag from a small fort in the centre of the forest. This game eventually went to the Red team, who were propelled forward by Aero-socs' Ruth Bagnall constantly screaming of "move, move the f#@k up!"

Someone had forgotten to tell us she was a drill sergeant, Meanwhile after a good start the blue team found out the down side of trigger happy as half the team bowed out due to lack of ammo. But not before G-soc PRO Jim Foley lead a valiant solo-suicide charge. For no apparent reason.

Game two once again went to the red team, with Ruth's voice inspiring fear from her team mates whilst provoking laughter from the opposition. The art of ammo conservation once again flew over the heads of the blue team as the freshly purchased 200 rounds quickly ran out, leaving the blue team to slowly file from the playing field, undefeated, but decidedly poorer.

Game three brought victory to the blue team as both sides engaged in trench warfare as both sides took turns to attempt to capture the flag. Amidst this careful progression Keith Nolan and Connor O'Bryne decided to re-enact the matrix gunfights by diving at each other spraying fire everywhere, and missing in a spectacular fashion.

Connor eventually died when he told Keith that "your empty" For the record, Keith was not. The blue team stole the flag quickly in their turn as Jim Foley and Richard Keely sprinted



UL Games Society at Combat Zone

up the undefended left flank and killed the one poor man guarding the flag.

It would have been more spectacular has Jim not lost his shoe in the mud and charged forward with a mud encrusted sock

The final game was a bloody Fire-fight of epic proportions with the last blue man, Richard Keely taking the fight to the red team, whilst positioned near enough to the 'dead zone' so he could get ammo from his team-mates that had died with ammo un-spent

Jim's attempt to bluff his way to victory by screaming surrender at people while waving an empty gun in there faces was short lives as he ambushed the last remaining member of his own team, shortly before a marshal asked him to leave the game, adding that he was "making a scene".

Finally we headed back to main base, to clean up and pay for the large amount of ammo we'd purchased. Then it was back to UL

for victory food, and the swapping of war stories

This was the first in what we hope to be a series of trip, leading up to our eventual challenging and beating of Galway (yes we're arrogant, but that's us)

We'd like to thank Wayne Slattery and the crew at Combatzone for their generosity, patience and for shooting at us when we dug in and refused to move

Lord of cheese
-- PRO G-Soc (UL Games Society)



Saddle Up!

Things you can only say at Christmas: 16. You'll know it's ready when it pops up.

Kickboxing Report

by Timothy Murphy

Saturday the 23rd of November was the date for the second outing of the year for UL's kickboxers. This time the venue was the National basketball arena in Tallaght.

The event was the Eddie Ince Memorial Tournament, held in honour of one of the founding fathers of the sport in Ireland, who passed away last year.

A five person team sent out in the early hours of the morning from Limerick. The team included club instructors Ms. Debra Donovan and Mr. Tim Murphy, as well as three novices who were to experience their first taste of competition, Will Harte, Damien Laffen, and Shane Coakley.

Given their lack of experience, the results from the day were exceptional. All were competing in the same category. They were kept apart in the early rounds however when the semi finals came



around, 3 of the 4 remaining competitors were from UL.

This meant something had to give, and Will and

Shane were paired together. This turned out to be one of the best fights of the section with neither wanting to settle for third place. At the end of the fight the score board left Shane Coakley two points up so he advanced to the final.

In the other Semi, Damien narrowly lost out, which left him in joint third with Will.

This left only one fight left, the final. Shane's lack of experience worked against him in the first half of the fight and he found himself 4 points down. Being encouraged by his team mates and coaches he was not prepared to simply accept defeat and took the fight to his opponent. In a strong come back, he reduced the deficit to a single point but this was as close as he got, as time had elapsed. In the Black Belt sections, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Donovan continued with the same good form that has been with them bringing home a first and second place trophy respectively.

Classes continue on Tuesday and Thursday, 9.00-10.00 in the Old Sports Building.

Ladies Hockey Intervarsity Report

The Intervarsities started bright and early Tuesday morning, November 5th, with UL's women's match against UCC. Of course they were out for our blood after a 2-1 defeat in the Munster League, so it was always going to be a tough match. It started out as every UCC versus UL battle always does, with every team fighting for the ball as if it was the last pint!!! UL showed great spirit and determination and were unlucky to concede a goal. However the overall team performance was a promising start to what was bound to be an eventful tournament both on and off the pitch!!

Later that same day the next match was against Queens. With our limbs nicely warmed up, we were out for a win. Late in the first half UL showed great skill and teamwork passing accurately along midfield between Mairead Murphy(Capt), Caroline Hutchinson and Brid (killer). When the ball reached Jennifer O Leary it was always going to be dangerous as she used her pace to outwit the backs. She passed an excellent ball into Lindsey Keane who finished with a shot from the top of the circle, into the corner of the goal. It was great teamwork by all, proving ourselves worthy that we were contenders not to be reckoned with. (of course, everyone knew that anyway!).

With that win under our belt we grew in confidence and even went out that night with the other teams for one sociable DRINK!! - and I mean ONE (promise). We're not like those UCC hooligans at all!!!

The next day we knew we had to play our best as we were playing one of the tournament favourites: UCD. We



UL Ladies Hockey team in action

played, what must have been the best match of the season, they had a few attempts on goal, but thanks to Alison, Margaret Anne, Kate Rushe and Muireann McCarthy, along with quick footwork and impressive dives by Ciara Ronan, we could have been a goal down. However UL always looked threatening in UCD's half and it was no surprise to anyone when a goal came with just two minutes to go. Sneaky or What?? UCD didn't have any time to come back. It was due to yet again excellent work in midfield by the forwards that gave Lindsey Keane the chance to score her for the second time. It was a priceless team effort that wiped the

smiles off UCD's faces. Trinity were standing by watching in awe as the UL bunch of beauties dazzled them with their skills....and sexy legs!!

With the semi final in front of us we held back from going on the beer that night even though clearly "Killer" was trying to twist our arm and celebrate her bday in style. Tut tut...killer - shame on you!!

We went out brimming with confidence after our UCD win but unfortunately it just looked like one of those days. We went 1-0 down but with a well put together short corner bulletted in by Caroline it was 1-1 with

a minute to go. It went to golden goal and the nerves were felt by everyone on the pitch. However the Trinity S..ts put one in before us, so UL were left in bits after their loss.

However we had a great tournament and celebrated in style that night, especially Elaine.

Things you can only say at Christmas: 17. Just pull the end and wait for the bang.

U.L Softball team produce solid performance against Waterford I.T

by Anthony Kirpatrick

The University of Limerick Softball team continued their preparation for the upcoming Intervarsity tournament two weeks ago, with an interesting home tie against Waterford I.T. A team U.L in fact aided in the establishment of.

The turnout on the part of both teams was quite the opposite however, with the home team containing approximately twenty players, and the away team travelling with an all-star team of a whopping nine. But the games justly went ahead, with Waterford stealing two of our best players in the process!!

On the day, two matches were played against our Waterford counterparts. The first match was more or less considered a warm-up, with five Innings in total to play. Of course, we put all of our training sessions to good use right from the off: storming into an early lead, and also by defending reasonably better than usual. The casual/ cocky nature of some of our players was only self evident during this particular game, with people such as American pitcher Chris taking an absolute eternity to throw fly-balls to first base, and also by Colm repeatedly pointing to the outfield where he was going to put the next home run. This tactic didn't work at Doc's that night however. All in all though, the game was still comfortably won by 11-8 in U.L's favour.

Come game two however, Waterford were desperately seeking favours in order to prevent an absolute rampage of runs against them from our players. Like I stated before, not only did they steal two of our lads, but they also were pleading the base coaches to help them to stop any balls they might drop!! I of course secretly obliged the rather foxy blonde on the Waterford side while playing third base coach, by not only stopping one ball from leaving the field of play with my foot, but also by giving her my phone number, just for good measure of course.

But we also had our own problems. Our own version of Yankees player Roger Clemens in Emmet Byrne was having problems with his jinxed batting gloves. Not even a blessing from the bishop could UN jinx these things, and will more than likely be used as a scapegoat for our poor performance in the second match.

This final game began appallingly for the U.L side: by losing an enormous eight runs in just two Innings of play, and also by being held scoreless in one of these Innings. Things were appearing to get increasingly more difficult as the match went on, as our defensive game crumbled completely, and the over-brimming self-confidence we had in game one was nonexistent.

But as their pitcher became increasingly more in love with himself, the U.L team battled back, and mustered an extremely late rally. The team managed to pull back to



UL Softball Club

within one run of Waterford, but the damage had already been inflicted at the beginning: The final score being 14-13 in Waterford I.T favour.

I personally would like to pay tribute to the Waterford players, who in fact played exceptionally well for a newly established club. I also look forward to meeting them again next semester at the Intervarsity: not only to get revenge for the defeat, thus establishing our clear superiority here in Munster, but also to be third base coach for the foxy blonde Waterford girl again... I mean ah...for U.L of course!!

The University Softball Club has training on both Wednesday and Friday's at two 'o' clock, on the Astroturf and grass pitches respectively. Any newcomers would be extremely welcome to come along and sample this sport, which is growing ever increasingly popular throughout the world. No previous knowledge of the game is necessary.

The club can be contacted by e-mail, at the address 'softball@skynet.ie', or at our website, in which a link can be found on the clubs and societies page on www.ulsu.ul.ie.

Waterpolo Update

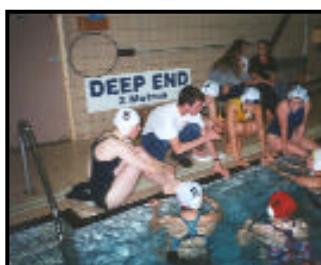
Mens National League Division 3 - Saturday 23rd November - Grove Pool, Belfast.

Grads 11 - 4 UL

On Saturday afternoon the UL Mens Water Polo Team took on the might of Grads in their home pool in Belfast City. UL got off to a poor start going down 2 goals in the first four minutes before Brian Murray could pull one goal back from 2 meters five minutes into the Game. UL then conceded 2 quick goals to Andrew McKendry

before Gwen Manogard scored an excellent long range effort right at the end of the quarter to make it 4-2 going into the second quarter. UL had a strong second quarter despite conceding 3 goals, with Captain Colm Fitzgerald and Brian McCaffery working tirelessly to keep Grads in their own half of the pool for much of the quarter.

Grads again started very strong in the 3rd quarter and forced UL Keeper Tom Sinnott into a number of saves, indeed Sinnott starting his first game for UL was kept busy all afternoon. Colin Hederman pulled another goal back for UL to leave the score 7 - 3. Tired legs then started to show as Grads scored 2 goals without reply at the end of the quarter. The 4th quarter got off to a good start as Grads made a number of changes introducing substitutes from their under-17 team. UL's Hederman capitalised and scored from seven meters after good link play with Murray and Fitzgerald. Mick Grogan now playing out of position at full



UL Team - Tom Sinnott, Colm Fitzgerald, Brian McCaffrey, Colin Hederman, Mick Grogan, Gwen Manogard, Brian Murray.

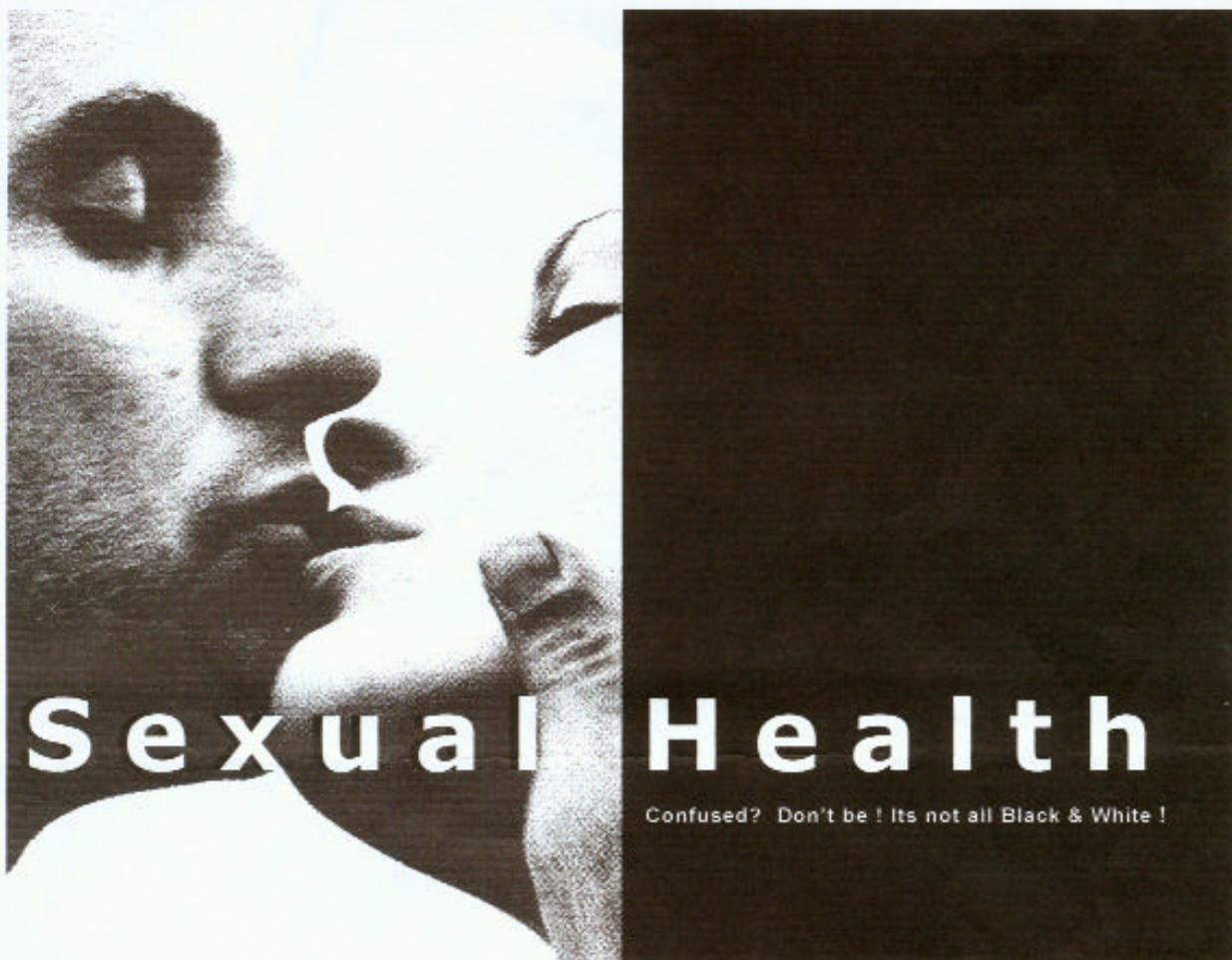
back was excluded for 20 seconds for a major foul on one of the Grads subs, Grads took full advantage of the extra man and scored.

This result leaves UL in mid-table of Division 3, UL entertain Blackrock of Galway on the 7th of December in the Arena Pool at 6pm. The UL Ladies Team have a game on the 7th also against the highly rated Sandycove. Both Teams will be training as always on Monday in the Arena from 10-11pm and Wednesday from 9-11pm, new team members with swimming or water polo experience welcome.



Things you can only say at Christmas: 18. That's the biggest bird I've ever had!

POSTER COMPETITION



Sexual Health

Confused? Don't be ! Its not all Black & White !

Design a Poster and Slogan Promoting Sexual Health

Submission 27th February

1st Prize 500 euro

6 x runner up 250 euro

application forms & further info contact: ciaran.o'hiarnan@ul.ie

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Formulating & Implementing a National Strategy

Campus News

by Valerie Gunning

UN BROUGHT IN TO INTERVENE OVER LIBRARY DESK DISPUTE:

United Nations peace envoys will tomorrow descend upon a troubled area of the first floor of the library where a dispute over desk occupation is threatening to spread, causing tensions to escalate. The prime library location has been claimed recently by both second year Limerick/Clare border native, Jean Kunt and third year Corkonian immigrant, Vincent 'Vinny' Langerhans, with no indication of a future settlement.

The troubles reportedly began back in Week 6 when Mr. Langerhans found that another student had taken his usual desk. "Like, at first it didn't matter coz there was space nearby, like", explained the environmental science student, "but when more people started coming to the library there was no room at all. "It's just mad like!" he added, "I'd sat at that desk for the last two years and now that b*tch is there all the time."

Mr. Langerhans' initial attempts at diplomacy were firmly rebuffed with seemingly no hope of reaching a compromise. "I tried to tell her that I always sat there but she just told me to 'sod off'." "B*tch", he again added.

The United Nations Secretary-General explained that he had no choice but to try and help the chaotic area. "If we don't try and solve the problems immediately then there are serious concerns that the problems could spread," he said. "We have already heard that third-year Séamus Tuohy, was 'really p**sed off dude' to find a relocated Mr. Langerhans sitting in his 'usual spot'."

The envoys will begin peace negotiations by attempting to bring the two protagonists together over chicken goujons and chips in the "neutral safe haven" of the Scholars Club.

The predicament of Mr. Langerhans has found support from An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. "De island of Ireland respects de ancient right of Mr. V. Langerhans to de table next to de radiator with de view of de clock. De actions of scoundrel humanities student, Miss J. Kunt, have no place in a civilised world and will use whatever diplomatic force to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome."

Mediators will tackle a race against time to settle the quarrel in an agreeable manner. There are concerns that relations might deteriorate further after reports that Mr. Langerhans could resort to direct and physical action such as supergluing himself to the seat and then stating "what's she gonna do about it, like?"

APPROACHING EXAMS TRIGGER SUDDEN INTEREST IN ANYTHING EXCEPT STUDY

According to close friends, P.E. third-year, Carrie Crowe has become obsessed with a wide range of non-revision-related activities as exam time draws nearer. Miss Crowe, previously known for her laid-back and carefree way of life, has developed a keen passion for pastimes including washing up, walking to the shops, watching chat shows, and reading books on the life of Henry VIII.

"I'd love to get some study done but I just don't have time at the moment," claimed Miss Crowe, speaking over a cappuccino that had taken 35 minutes to prepare. "Already today I've had to wash the dishes, clean my room, draw up a landscape plan for the garden, watch Sally Jessy Raphael, do a stock take of the fridge and complete the Irish Times crossword. I mean seriously, where does the time go?"

"It's painful to watch," admitted fellow housemate Darren O' Glynn. She must have watched about five minutes of Star Trek in her life, and now that it provides an escape from revision she's addicted. Yesterday I mentioned we might need some milk, and she walked all the way to the Parkway to get some, even though we live next to Superquinn. She was gone for three hours."

Fellow housemate Christina Joyce walked in to her friend's room last week to

find Miss Crowe sitting on her bed singing and gazing out the window. "As soon as I walked in she got up and pressed play on her hi-fi," remembers Miss Joyce. "I asked her if she was thinking about doing any study that day and she said 'definitely, as soon as this album finishes'. Well, it was the Complete Greatest Hits of Disney, and she has a CD changer so had all four disks ready to go. Later that day I found her reading one of my engineering books, I mean this has really got to stop."

"There's nothing to worry about," Miss Crowe assured 'An Focal'. "I've just got one or two loose ends to tie up and then I'll get right down to some serious study. Now if you'll excuse me, I don't want to miss the repeat of Emmerdale. I think there were some things I missed the first time I watched it, and it's at such an exciting stage at the moment."

STUDENTS' ROTA SYSTEM "CLOSE TO BREAKING POINT"

The bread purchasing system employed in 5683 Kilmurry Village has reached a critical stage. If results do not improve over the coming weeks, then there are fears that organized loaf purchasing may collapse; leading has been described as "sliced pan anarchy".

"It all seems to have gone wrong," admitted house resident Paul O' Reilly. "We drew a carefully planned and devised system, yet it all seems to have mysteriously crumbled." Every week a member of the house is given responsibility for purchasing a specific essential item with a rotational system ensuring fairness and equality. "This week it there was a bit of confusion and we all bought milk," stated Mr. O'Reilly pointing to a fridge filled with 8 one-litre cartons.

Not all housemates are ready to ignore the subsequent problems. "It's all very well for those who like cereal in the mornings", sneered another of the students, "but no one gives a damn about us who prefer the satisfying taste of toast. People should really make an effort to stick to the rota," adding that he was "fairly sure" it was his turn to buy the milk.

Should a substantial improvement in rota observance not be readily visible then the system may be abandoned. "It might be better that way," pondered one of the students, "then we can get what the hell we actually need instead of poncing around with some bloody rota." However, one student positions himself as a keen supporter of the existing system: "It would be bread carnage if the system goes down," he claimed. "The lads must try and keep it going. The very idea of disorganized product buying sends a shiver through my heart."

The milk surplus is not the first time the rota has run into difficulties. Prior problems include everyone forgetting to buy butter, and a shortage of toilet roll that resulted in an extensive hunt in the bathrooms of their fellow students houses.

Things you can only say at Christmas: 20. Wow, I didn't think I could handle all that and still want more!

EIGHT DAY TRIP TO CHINA FOR SHOPPING AND CHINESE NEW YEAR

departs Shannon Airport Sunday 26th January to Sunday 2nd February,2003.

Price:1099 Euro.

A very special 8 day trip to Beijing, China, from Shannon Airport via Heathrow, has been arranged by the University of Limerick Students Union, from the 26th Jan.to 2nd Feb.'03 to coincide with the start of the Chinese New year celebrations on 1st February,2003

The tour price of 1099 Euro includes return flights Shannon/Heathrow with Aer Lingus, and Heathrow/Beijing with Air China; Executive Coach transfers; 6 Nights 4 star Hotel accomodation with half board(breakfast and evening meal); Guided tours and entry fees on tours to The Great Wall of China, Peking Opera, The Forbidden City, and a unique visit to a Chinese Medical Centre and Clinic. Also included are all travel and security taxes, insurance, 24 hour Emergency service, and an imformation pack of most popular activities:

Not included : Chinese visa and tips (approx.Euro 35.total).

This holiday is open to the public, and is organised for the Students' Union by the top Irish group travel company, N.S.T.,Omni Park, Santry, Dublin.

Flight by Aer Lingus departs Shannon at 12.50 lunchtime on Sunday 26th January, Return landing at Shannon at 21.05 on Sunday night 2nd February. Booking forms are available from Paul O'Connor, ULSU, STUDENT CENTRE, University of Limerick, and must be completed and returned with cheque for E200 deposit payable to ULSU, before Monday 9th December. Final balance due by Friday 20th December.

This trip is the ideal Christmas present for those who are special to you.

Further information from Paul O'Connor at 061 234106; or E-mail paul.oconnor@ul.ie

STUDENTS' UNION GRAPHICS

PHOTOCOPYING FROM ONLY 6c
COLOUR COPYING ONLY €1.15 (also available on acetates)

FAXING SERVICE (Both sending and receiving)
TYPING SERVICE (Essays/C.V.s/FYPs/Tickets/Flyers)
HARD BINDING only €10.15
SOFT BINDING only €4.45
LAMINATING
PRINTOUTS

Call into the Students Union in the Student Centre for further information on any of the above services.

Did You Know?

You can receive mail in the Student Union if your ID No is on the front. You can then collect it at the reception in the Student Centre.

Any queries or problems, Please call into the Student Union - We are here to help YOU.

Your Stars

by Mystic Meg

Aries: (March 21—April 19)

The object of your affection seems oblivious to your romantic feelings. This is not surprising, as elephant seals have a limited capacity for empathy.

Taurus: (April 20—May 20)

Three-inch heels are coming back into style. Unfortunately for you, though, they're expected to be attached to shoes.

Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

This would be a good week to retake control of your life. Good, certainly, but not great.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

The stars advise you to remember: Sincerity is all well and good, but your suit and haircut are what the jury sees first.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

Get back to the basics of family this week. Have your mother feed, bathe, and change you.

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

There are no blemishes on your kind, compassionate Virgo soul, but that's more than offset by the ones on your face, hands, and renal system.

Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

Your religion was almost right: Those you vanquished in life are waiting for you in death, but not to serve you.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

You will turn in one of the most heroic and selfless performances of your career next Thursday, but since you're a used car salesman, the details are pretty boring.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

Your wife, like your jailers before her, still refuses to allow you to have belts or sharp-edged culinary utensils

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

Most people believe they're the star of their own story, but you're actually a supporting character in the story of that guy Dave in the design department.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

You will achieve a certain sort of renown for your brief stint as host of the Animal Planet program *The Crocodile Hunted*.

Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

You will, through no doing of your own, receive as much as 10 percent off on a major purchase.

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The Internet

continued from frontpage

Ross Higgins & Abey Cambell they Deputy & Education officers from UCD. The presidents of Queens & UU Mary Durkan (niece of Mark) and Jason McGowan were both invited but couldn't make it. Both of these SU's would traditionally have viewed FUSU as undermining USI & being merely talking shops so wouldn't have a lot of time for it.

The day began with by Gráinne bring the welfare offivers to see the new after school facility in Millford being opened by Michael McDowell. The rest discussed the setup for postgrad reps with Jarlat Munnely before breaking up among the different titles. Mags took Abey away to see



An Taoiseach, Bertie Aherne

the library while Paddy took Ross & Gareth away to talk about newspaper things and Eoin took the Presidents on a tour of the campus which included Drumroe, the Student Centre & the Arena. They were quite impressed with the whole campus setup here. Then luch for all in the White House before taking a bus up to the hastily demo at the opening of Homebase by taosieach Bertie Ahern.

The FUSU crowd mixed with the UL students there before moving closer to proceedings to angle for a meeting with the taosieach. THis was got though Bertie wouldn't let the media be privy to discussions. He didn't need to be worried as the discussions were a proverbial load of toss. I began "Bertie, before the nice treaty referendum you stated that fees were not on the agenda. Since

the referendum has been passed and now with the book of estimates has your position chaged?" - responce No but I the minister is undertaking a review and there are only 4% of the working class kids from my constuincy getting to collage and others are getting in scott free" and you've heard it all before. Séan Scally - "Taoiseacht - any comments on the refusal of Noel Dempsey to meet Studentes Unions up and down

the country" - Bertie" I don't think that could be the case. Look at me sure amn't I willing to talk to you - if you get together collectively for a meeting there should be no problem" - me - "Bertie is it really much of a burden on the exchequer to provide free fees considering it amounts to a coup of hundred million and the billions that are spent on roads" - Bertie "well it is , its a fortune - thankx lads, see yis now" - No furter comment necessary.

All the Fusurs and protestors got the public bus back to UL where the FUSU meeting began at 6pm. It finished at 9pm after quite a lot of areas being covered. Then to the Stables for a look, over to the

Scholors, into the Wok King for food at 11pm and then on to Yum Yum in the Glentworth Hotel for a late night chat about yes you guessed it SU affairs. USI was mentioned a bit. Trinity had just voted to stay inside the UCD had a disifiliation referendum the following week which was defeated. It was interesting the diverse views on the subjects from the various sabbats. their. The night finished in the B&B on O'Connel St. where most of them were staying and has been followed up with applauds on how much was packed into the one day.

Stables Club Charity Drive

Last week (11) The Stables Club held their Annual Christmas Week. Both Wednesday and Thursday, students paid an entrance fee at the door of the Stables Club, all of which was donated to charity.

Next week, Fr. Gerry Daly of the Redemptorists will be presented with a cheque for 6510 in aid of the Poor of Limerick. Well done UL students!



Official U.L. Night
@
THE MARKET
Nightclub
every Thursday

Pre club D.J. @ Mcdaids
around the corner from The Market
Special 2 euro concessions available