



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

www.ul.ie/~ulsu

TERM 1 WEEK 2



**UL Physics Soc
Take On The
Eclipse**

Features Pgs. 10+11



**An Focal talks
to Bernard
Quinn of
Balkan Aid**

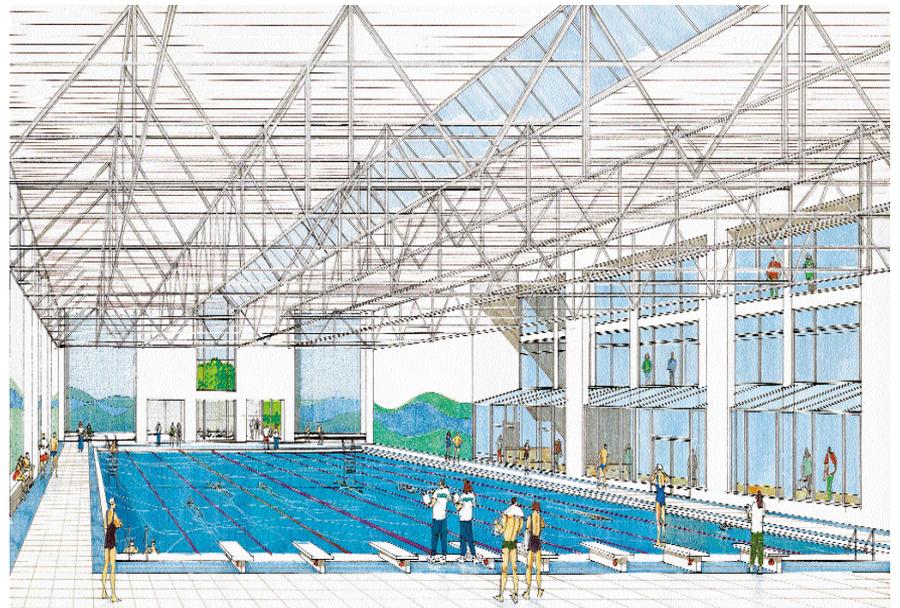
Features Pgs. 8+9



**K-Klass Rock
The Gallery @
VIVID**

Ents + Reviews Pg.

UL Gets The Country's First 50m Pool.



ON WEDNESDAY 14th JULY the Minister for Sport and Tourism, Jim McDaid, announced in Plassey House that the University of Limerick has been chosen as the site for the country's first 50 metre swimming pool. This pool shall be Phase 2 of the £11 million Sports Centre already under construction. A unique feature to be incorporated into the new pool will be a raisable base. This allows the pool to have a shallow end when it is in general student/staff/public use, and a uniform depth throughout the pool when elite swimmers are training in it. The pool will be joined directly onto the dry sports centre so that all facilities will be integrated into one

another. The new dry sports area will have new facilities such as a weight and cardiovascular training room as well as an elite training room. Four full size basketball courts are to be located within the centre, all side by side, and dividable by sliding curtain sections. This new sports arena area will be up to six times bigger than the current sports hall in the sports building. Above this hall, one floor up and around the side walls, will be a 3 lane jogging track and located behind the four basketball courts will be an 80M sprint track. The entire

building will be three stories high and from each of these levels there are viewing areas down into the pool. Construction of the 50m pool started at the beginning of August. The dry sports phase should be open for use in February/March 2000 with the pool coming online in September 2000.

See quotes and opinions on page 6

UL Student Involved in Controversial Mural



A UL student who lived on Belfast's Lr. Ormeau Road for six weeks during the summer was involved in the painting of a controversial mural.

Muiris O'Sullivan, a first year postgraduate student, and a member of the UL Sinn Fein Society, had trav-

elled to Belfast to experience living and working there. While there, he and a group of freinds decided to paint a mural on the gable end of a house on Artana St., which had been.....

contd on pg 3

An Focal Undergoes Development And Looks For Writers

AN FOCAL, THE UNIVERSITY of Limerick Student Newspaper, has taken it's first steps in a development plan which aims to involve more people in the running and-putting together of the paper, and improve it's overall layout and output.

A plan has been drawn up over the summer, having looked at a number of other publications, which would see An Focal adopt the structure and layout of a newspaper. This means that the paper will now include a news sec-

tion, a features section, an entertainments and reviews section and a sports section, as well as other attractions, including editorials, opinions, competitions and crosswords.

An Focal is looking for people interested in working for the paper, in whatever capacity they wish, be it writing, photography, or attending fortnightly discussions on the progress of the paper to date. Anyone interested in getting involved in the paper should call to Dave in the SU offices or e-mail him at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie.

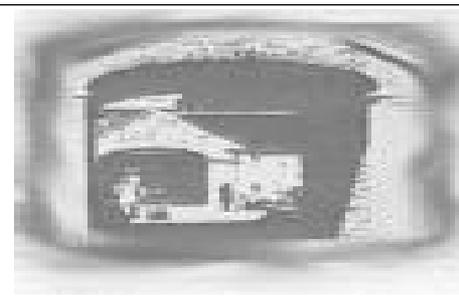
Alternatively, you can go to S206, in the Schumann building on Tuesday next, 12th of October, where a short seminar on writing and photography will take place. The fortnightly meetings will be held on the evening of the release of each new issue, to discuss ideas which can be worked on for the following issue. The time and location of meetings will be advertised on the front page of each issue.

see pg.3 for details of development plan

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to. This issue, we haven't seen you in ages, so we've loads to tell you about.



Just to remind you, Pat's the Pres, Dee Dee's the mental Welfare Officer, and Dayvo's the CEO. We'll start with Pat's bit

hey hey and welcome, or welcome back whichever the case maybe.

My name's Pat McCarthy and I'm the President of the Students' Union for the coming year. Dave, DeeDee, and myself have been working throughout the summer to make your college life more enjoyable and worthwhile, so here's a quick rundown on what I've been up to. The new Student Centre should be open the week after next and I've been working with the college and Dave and DeeDee in finalising the plans to make sure that you get value for the money you are paying. I've developed a brand new website for the Students' Union which contains information about who we are, how the Union works and what's going on each week.

Two of the big things on the website are firstly *An Focal* which will be also available in web format for you to glance through and secondly, exam papers. Currently there are four Departments on the web page and another two to go up in the next week. It's a slow process trying to get them up but we hope to have the majority of them up before Christmas. So check out the website for up-to-date information on what's going on around college (www.ul.ie/~ulsu). If you have any problems with anything then please call in and we'll do our best to sort it out.
Pat



Alright, good to have yis back again. I was beginning to think yis all fell for that working lark.

It's been a pretty mental summer around here, even though yis weren't around. Nobody told me we'd be this busy when i was running around houses in the freezing cold looking for votes. But, it's been great fun. Loads of people seem to want to bring us out since we got this job. Even Bus Eireann brought us to Bunnratty for a bit of grub, God bless 'em. But apart from the odd night out here and there, it's been all go, go, go.

All, three of us have been working on a number of things together over the summer. The exam papers was more or less the main one. Pat was putting together a bit of a web page for us, so we looked around for a few of the papers, with some of the lads on the summer scheme doing a lot of the donkey work (thanks folks), so we've got a fair few of them up on the web, with more to come. The idea is that,

when it comes around to exam tim, you can log on to your computer, go to the exam paper section on the home page, have a look for the codes you want, and print out the paper. We're hoping that it'll take some of the slog out of getting hold of those all important samples, but it's a bit taxing, so bear with us.

The other main things that i was getting my head around over the summer were the publications that had to be looked after. The main one was the First Year Handbook, which i started pretty early, but still had to put a rush on at the end, 'cause advertisers just don't want to give us their adds until the very last day. Then there was the Clubs and



hello Everyone. Welcome back to this ever growing campus of ours.

As you can see it wasn't only us hard working sabbaticals that had a busy summer. I hope you all had a fantastic few months and are now raring to get into yet another year full of work, rest and play!! For those of you that don't know me I'm DeeDee Hosty your Welfare Officer for the coming year. For now my office is situated in the Student Union in the Stables Courtyard however the Students Union will be moving into their new offices in the new Student Centre on October 18th.

What can I do for you? If you have any problems with anything from accommodation to academics, or perhaps your love life is as disastrous as my own – whatever – I'll do my best to give any advice or information I can. It is the only office with comfy chairs so if you fancy a chat please feel free to come and see me at any time.

The summer flew past but in that time we have seen the first University of Limerick Creche near its completion. This impressive, state of the art facility is situated on the campus between the Library and the new Informatics building. Unfortunately the 50% of places allocated to students have been filled but if anyone would like to join the waiting list or get information on Creche facilities in the area drop in anytime. Once again the Creche Bursary is available to students call in for details.....

The safety issue is a very important one every year and I am pleased to say that the NITELINK is back in operation from Week 2. It will run Mon-Thurs. inclusive, it is free so I hope all of you will use this service to its full potential. Students who do chose to



walk home please do so in groups – never alone. Timetables for the Nitelink service are available from the Students Union now.

There are many different issues I hope to highlight throughout my term of office, including the whole abortion debate and also the ever increasing problem of bullying. Watch this page and the noticeboards for more details! If you have any ideas or are interested in getting involved in Welfare Issues please let me know – all help will be greatly received!

Tara McCabe last year founded the very successful society Outreach, which involved tremendous dedication on her part and on the part of the students involved. This society will continue this year the first meeting will take place on Monday 11th October, watch the noticeboards for more details.

Financial Aid is available on Tuesday ONLY (except in emergencies) 11.00am – 1.00.

So there you have it the first Welfare Page of the Semester!! Any ideas, questions and indeed complaints can also be sent to me via the following e-mail: depresident@ulsu.iol.ie.

Have a great year, I hope to meet you all at some stage.

DeeDee

Socs Administration Handbook + the Ents Preview. The three of us also took a look at *An Focal*, along with some help from a few more people knocking around who we'd reckon would know a thing or two about a thing or two. That ended up in a development plan for the paper which you can read all about just on your right hand side there. After that, we also spent some time on making a few contacts to get this plan in motion, from sponsors to cinemas and concert venues. Hopefully you'll

see some of the benefits in this here paper.

There were also loads of other little problems that various people had, and i found out over the summer that even the smallest problem takes at least ten phone calls to sort out, and therefor way more time than you'd think.

There were also loads of meetings, training programmes, taxi rides, you get the picture.....

dayvo

UL Student's Controversial Mural

contd. from pg 1

abandoned during the troubles. Having sought and received permission to begin the mural from both Sean Hayes, the local Sinn Fein councilor, and Gerard Rice, Chairperson of the Residents' Group, they set about collecting painting materials from the local residents.

The mural features a silhouette of Joe McCann, a republican socialist killed by British soldiers. He is painted kneeling, and holding a carbine rifle. The idea of the mural was taken from a book called 'Drawing Support', which features murals from a number of communities in the North. The mural shows the words 'Republican South Belfast', as well as the 'Starry Plough', a flag used by James Connolly's Citizens Army, and which has been adopted

by the Republican Socialist Party today.

Unionist politicians were upset by the tone of the mural, which was featured on the front page of the Gaurdian newspaper on the 12th of July, and called for it to be painted over, while some of the residents were also concerned about the affect that it might have. Mr. O'Sullivan said that "murals have tended to become more politically accepted", and said that, despite the controversy, he "stands by it". "Controversy is a good thing", he said. "The news is so saturated with stories about the North that it is very easy to tune out and forget about it. The people of the Ormeau are under seige and have suffered as much as those on the Garvaghy Road. It's a good thing when people are talking."

Car Parking Problems Escalate For Students

Over the summer, a decision made at Governing Authority last year was enforced.

At that meeting, it was decided that certain car parks should be reserved for staff. This car parks are the ones located closest to the college buildings, namely at the Schroedinger Building, the Lonsdale Building and across from the AIB. To be entitled to park in these car parks, a parking sticker is required and must be placed on the front windscreen. Staff and rearch postgrads are entitled to these stickers.

Students and visitors to the college are now entitled to park in the car parks at the East Gate and the Foundation Building car park, as well as the car park along side the Stables. Parking any where other than these



designated car parks means running the risk of receiving a 'no parking here sticker' or eight.

There have been problems and complaints about the use of the stickers. Many people feel that the stickers are being used as a physical deterrent rather than an information notice to inform of illegal parking. It is felt that this situation should also be looked more at practically, along with the situation with the lack of car parking spaces.

AN FOCAL

Development Plan Is Devised For An Focal

Over the summer, the Students Union has looked at the paper it produces and decided to make some changes that it regards as essential to both make the paper more relevant and representative of the student body, and improve the overall presentation of the paper to ensure that its development can continue, and involve more and more students in forthcoming years.

Over recent years, An Focal has lacked the presentation and structure of a college news paper. The current editorial team has looked at its current format, and that of national, local and other college publications around the country, and has decided to revamp the ideas and attitude behind An Focal. There are a number of aspects to this redevelopment. Its success, however, depends on the response of students to the request that they become involved in the college paper, at whatever level, or regularity they wish.

The following are some of the steps being undertaken in this redevelopment plan.

1. Having looked at other examples of publications around the country, it has been decided to adopt a broad sheet layout, but remain with the tabloid size. This was decided upon having looked at the options and resources available. If proress is made this year, it would be envisaged

that the paper could move up to broad sheet size in the future.

2. Having looked at the structure of the publication for the last few years, it has been decided to redesign it, bringing it in line with a newspaper. The publication will now contain news pages, entertainment and reviews pages, sports pages, features, opinions, fortnightly comments, letters page, crossword and other attractions, all structured in a regular fashion.

3. In the past, the publication has featured articles solely from the college. The publication will this year cover a much broader range of topics from more areas of the college, as well as from the locality and the city. The articles will be both written and presented in a more newsworthy fashion.

4. A team of reporters and photographers has begun to be established for the year, with further recruitment pending. This team will attend a seminar on the 12th of October, at which we will have two guest speakers; Laura Ryan from the Limerick Leader, and Allan Meaghar, a past writer with the University Examiner, U.C.C.'s college newspaper. Having this team in place will serve to increase the contributions to the paper, as well as to broaden the scope of topics being covered. It will also put a good foundation in place for the future.

5. This year will see the holding of regular meetings about the progress that the paper is making. This will contribute to the further development of the paper by bringing interested students together to discuss the

progress of the paper, solutions to problems that may occur, and generate new ideas both for articles and features.

6. Attempts are being made to give something back to those who contribute to the paper. This means, for example, that those writing for the paper in the entertainments and reviews section will receive entry to the films, plays or concerts that they are reviewing, or that those writing news, features or sports and events articles will receive the expenses they incur during the research of that article.

7. The paper is currently running on a break-even basis, having recovered from running on a loss the previous year. This year we hope to pay writer's expenses from a central An Focal fund. This fund will be contributed to in two ways. We are currently working on increasing our advertising form the current £600 per issue to a target of £1,000 per issue. The second way would be to acquire support in the form of sponsorship from a major publication. We have been in contact with a potential sponsor, who has expressed a large interest in becoming involved, and will have news of that potential sponsorship over the next few days.

This initiative gives the paper the potential to become more representative of the student body by covering a broader range of topics. It also allows more people to become involved in its production, and to gain the valuable experience of working with a newspaper. It is an ambitious initiative, which needs the practical support of the students to bring it to fruition. A further benefit will be that, by including in the paper all the positive things that are happening in the college, and circulatinbg it around the city, it will improve the image that the University and its students have.



Stables Gets A Welcome New Look.

The stables has re-opened its doors after a summer spent in the redesigned 'especially for the occasion' student centre (that's the old student centre, by the way). The general opinion is that it's kind of bright, but looks great all the same. The shape of the new bar means that there's a lot more room to get your shout in for whatever it is you want to quench your thirst, and I'm sure that the bar staff are very pleased with the amount of room they have behind it compared to what they were working in before. The big screen situated towards the end of the bar is just what the doctor ordered as regards Monday night football, and the new stage is a great focal point for any acts that are plying their trade up there, with the new sound system helping as well. All in all, it's an improvement, and one that most people seem to be happy with.

They have also announced their line up of weekly nights for the first term at least. Monday night sees the return of Monday night football, on the new big screen, as mentioned earlier. Tuesday night should be an interesting one, with the introduction of a new boogie, soul and jive

night, with the sounds of the 60's and 70's pumping on your stereo. Wednesday night is traditional music, or Karaoke, depending on which week you're there, while Thursday night is live bands on the new stage. With a happy hour thrown in on Friday evenings, from 5-7pm, it looks like things are back to normal, no matter how orange the walls are.

John Flattery, The Stable's Student Rep had this to say about the whole thing:

" WHATS NEW AT THE STABLES ?..."
"Everything and nothing ", how is this I hear you cry . The answer is plain to see. The bar has been made over and looks splendid ; dead trendy infact , more space, more comfort , easier bar access , a food operation that stands out on its own , a big screen to see all those vital games not to mention the most advanced cooling system in the land and all at a price that you, the student, can afford . So whats the same if all these changes have been made ? . The same understanding of you, special individuals that are students, exists, the same quality of service and concern for your well being . Not a bad package all in all . The important thing in all of



Brendan looks content behind the new 'bright' bar

this is to remember that the stables club is your club so, use it enjoy yourself in it but please dont abuse it. With this in mind a few new guidelines have to be followed : Please refrain from putting up posters anywhere other than the designated noticeboards that will be put in place . Posters should be no more than A4 size and "no bunting ", is allowed to be hung . In general lets try and treat the bar with a bit of respect . Additionally as I have already said we care about your opinion . I, John Paul Flattery, am the stables representative again this year and welcome your input, in fact it makes my job easier .

So, if you have any queries , sug-

gestions or complaints for that matter, feel free to come and see me in the bar on Wednesday nights or Thursdays at lunch times between 13.00 and 14.30 hrs. If you don't already know who I am you will find me seated in the stage area near the juke box on Thursdays or at the gate on Wednesday nights .

All that's really left to do is to welcome all you newcomers and all of the rest of you - together we look forward to a great year full of "craic" , good music and nights to remember!

John P. Flattery
Stables Club Liason Officer

An Focal is looking for

WRITERS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS,
CARTOONISTS,
VOICES AND OPINIONS.
AND MORE

If you're interested, call in to Dave in the Union Offices in the courtyard, or come to a short seminar about newspapers in S206 on Tuesday, Week 3 @ 6.30pm.

No experience necessary, all are welcome

Lisa B. Keen Beanbags

Every one an Original
Hand Painted and Stencilled Interiors
and Clothing Specialist in BeanBags,
Soft Furnishings & Painted Furniture.
Beanbags Galore

Unit 2, The Milk Market, Limerick.
Phone 061-215800 or 087-2376590



UL Ladies Basketball Club Joins National League

The University of Limerick ladies basketball club are the most successful sports club ever in the college.

Winning the intervarsities eight out of the past nine years, and the All-Ireland college league almost every year for the past twenty six years, this makes them the most consistent ladies basketball team at college level in Ireland.

Internationally they have also been successful winning a prestige tournament in Paris in 1993, last year in May at the Tantalus International Tournament in Eindhoven Holland they were placed third missing out on a final place by one point.

Now with the merger of the very promising "Limerick National League Club" UL ladies basketball is destined for an ever greater future. There will be four teams in all competing in four different competitions. At the highest level the new expanded UL club will compete in "ESB National League" which receives national t.v. and press coverage. An additional team will compete in the "Regional League", the college team will continue to compete in the "Intervarsities" competition and there will be an U-19 team to compete in the "Sprite National Cup."

Tony Keane from the Irish Basketball Association said that "it is a very exciting development for Irish basketball in that we have the perfect marriage here between the local club and the University, both coming together and entering a national league team. There is no reason why the combination of these two aspects will not produce a good enough basketball team to challenge existing basketball teams in the country. I would be very disappointed if they're not figuring in top fours and cup finals at an early stage."

We asked Dave Mahedy, the University of Limerick Sports Manager, how the merger came about.

"It came together because an awful lot of our present and graduates are playing with Limerick National League team, and we have no competitive outlet for our own girls, who were winning the intervarsity year after year, but they weren't getting really competitive games, it was one weekend and that was it. So, half of them were playing anyway, and another quarter were graduates, so I thought it's an ideal merger to bring them together. They can play at the highest level and they can still play in the intervarsities, so it's a win-win situation, rather than any one losing



The UL Ladies Basketball team, pictured outside the Whitehouse on the announcement of the merger

out. Hopefully now we can get everybody playing at whatever level they're at."

The home venue will be the University of Limerick Sports Building. The first home game will be on Oct. 2nd and tip off will be at 7pm, we welcome your support. Next season all games will be played in the new sports building currently under construction, this we believe to be the best and most modern facility in Ireland.

Eimear Kyne, one of the girls who will benefit from this initiative, said she's looking forward to playing in both the intervarsities and the National League. "We're hoping to win the varsities again this year, and hopefully we'll perform well in the National League."

see pg. for feature on UL clubs joining leagues

Naughtons

OIL



Annacotty, Castletroy, Limerick.

Students Special Offer

2p Off per Litre on every Oil Order

**Student Discount Always Available
Same-Day Delivery**

CALL

061-331122

Students Attacked in Elm Park

Three attacks on students occurred in the week everyone returned to college. There have also been reports of a number of break-ins around the housing estates.

On Monday of Week 1, two attacks occurred on students in the Elm Park area. The first occurred in the laneway between Elm Park and the Hurlers, when a male student walking alone was hit by another male, and then coaxed to retaliate by a second. He didn't recognise either as students. After running in the direction of Oaklawns, the man stopped, thinking that he was not being chased by the two attackers. Two people then ran at him, wearing masks made popular by the horror flick, 'Scream'. Because they were wearing these masks, he could not be sure if it was the same two people as he had encountered earlier.

A second attack took place on Monday night in the laneway between Elm Park and Milford Grange. A male and female student were walking through the lane, when they came across a

group of male students. Comments were passed by a member of the group, who then knocked the male student to the ground. The female student came between them, and was also struck. A number of the group of students restrained their friend and they left the scene. The male student involved in the incident has since been located and questioned by Gardai.

Tuesday night saw a further incident, where a girl was attacked between the Esso on the Dulin Road, and the Hurlers. She was not sure what her attacker looked like, but was relatively sure that he was not a student. During the attack, she received knocks and cuts to the face. In defending herself against the attack, she also struck her attacker, and left him with a facial injury which may be helpful in identifying him.

There have also been reports of houses being broken into, one in Oaklawns, where a window was left open. Nothing of any value was taken, but the house ransacked, and there was some damage done to property.

Roger Downer Welcomes Announcement of 50m Pool

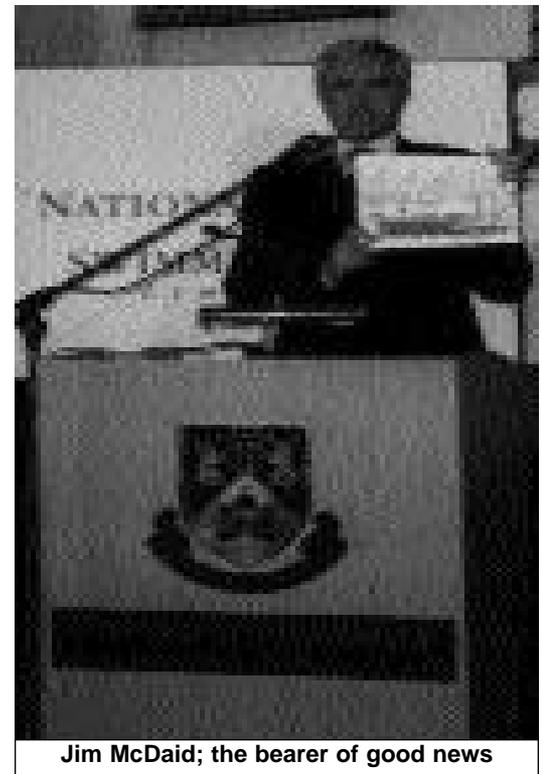
At a ceremony on the UL campus Dr. James McDaid, T.D., Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation announced today's Government decision to locate Ireland's first 50m swimming pool at the University of Limerick.

Speaking on the occasion of the announcement, UL President, Professor Roger GH Downer said "The announcement that Ireland's first 50m pool is to be built at the University of Limerick is welcome news for the University, the city and the region. Building on Limerick's long sporting tradition, the pool will be part of the state-of-the-art sports centre which is currently under construction at the UL campus and which will provide one of the finest facilities of its kind in Europe. The importance of sports as a vehicle for positive social, cultural, economic and political change is often underestimated. Therefore, I am delighted that the present Government, through Minister McDaid as Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation has recognised its potential. This new facility together with the expertise of National Coaching and Training Centre will play a pivotal role in ensuring that Ireland's elite athletes enjoy world class coach-

ing and training facilities. In addition, it will enable UL to further expand its teaching and research programmes in Sports Science. We, at UL, look forward to participating fully with all groups to ensure optimal benefits will accrue."

Professor Noel Whelan, Vice President, UL appreciated the far-reaching reforms which the Minister has initiated in the field of sport since coming into office, including the establishment on a statutory basis of the Irish Sports Council under the Chairmanship of Mr. Pat O'Neill and the leadership of Mr. John Treacy, Chief Executive."

Mr. John O'Connor, Director, Finance and Physical Development stated that the UL project had been the subject of a comprehensive and in-depth assessment as part of the national competition process for the awarding of the 50m swimming pool project. He said "We had the benefit of leading specialist consultants from North America to collaborate with our Irish design team and the resultant proposal involves an innovative design concept which will minimise the capital costs and provide for a cost efficient operating system. Credit must be given to the officials of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation for their professional and rigorous



Jim McDaid; the bearer of good news

analysis of the many excellent proposals received and the creative manner in which this important national initiative has been progressed."

The construction of the 50m swimming pool began in August and is targeted for completion in September 2000.

Scaoil On The Net

Scaoil Amach É, the weekly online student newspaper for the University of Limerick is published each Tuesday at 12.00.

A brand new concept, Scaoil Amach É hopes to appeal to the entire campus community with a mix of news and current affairs, competitions, sports, clubs & Soc. and on occasion

maybe even a bit of humorous satire. Plus our "Pub Spy" reviews of local drinking establishments!

Scaoil Amach É which originated as a news sheet at the end of last year, is managed, written and promoted entirely by students. We hope you enjoy it. If you wish to get involved with this project email the Editor@ niall.dunphy@ul.ie
Scaoil Amach É:



New University Environmental Committee

On July 5th 1999, the President of the University, Dr. Roger Downer inaugurated the first University of Limerick Environmental Committee.

10 committee members from the university staff and students were appointed from a list of volunteers, which had previously expressed their interest in the committee.

At the committee's inaugural meeting Dr. Downer expressed why it was important that such a committee be established. He

pointed out the university's responsibility in setting an example in the regional, national and international community, as well as instilling a sense of responsibility for the environment in its students and staff. Preserving the unique grounds on which UL is situated is also a key reason for having such a committee. Over the summer months, the committee met on a number of occasions. The committee is now drawing up its workplan and will shortly be commencing an environmental

survey. This is by no means an easy task, and once started we hope to monitor the continuous progress made in its implementation.

The committee will be making their findings available over the Internet in due time.

The committee is looking for your support in trying to make this campus a greener, safer, cleaner, more environmentally friendly place to be!

Contact Nancy.L.serra - no@ul.ie - secretary if you have any questions.

Student Centre to open on Oct 18th.

The new Student Centre is due to open on the 18th October and is currently getting the finishing touches applied. In just over a week, students will be able to avail of the many facilities that lie within this magnificent building. There are new clubs and societies meet-

ing rooms and office, a fantastic new radio station, a large common room, games room, function room, new bar, Students' Union and Alumni offices, and retail units, all facing out onto a great new courtyard. This centre was conceived almost four years

ago by the Students' Union 95/96 and students agreed to pay £30 each year to 50% finance the construction of the building. Since then, it has been designed, laid out, and constructed into what you see today...The Student Centre.

The war in Kosovo raised a lot of debate both in the college and around the country.

From the Frontline

Towards the end of last term, a group of UL students came together and organised a number of fundraisers for the Kosovan Aid charity, Balkan Aid. We spoke to their headman, Bernard O'Brien, about the work they've done there.

How did the Ireland Balkan Humanitarian Aid come about?

We set up the organisation in 1993 as a result of the ongoing war and the terrible atrocities that were taking place in Bosnia, the terrible suffering inflicted by the Serb regime, the Serb paramilitaries and Slobodon Milosovic all through the Bosnian conflict. They were responsible for terrible atrocities all over Bosnia, but I suppose the fact that this was happening on our backdoor, and it was Europe, it wasn't that far away. If it was Africa, you know, we could say, ah there" nothing we can do. But I mean, this was actually happening in Europe, genocide was taking place, and it was a war against civilians. It wasn't a war, army fighting army, you know. We decided as a group that we would have to help.

The natural development then was when the problem started in Kosovo, to address that as well?

Yeah, well for approximately five years we'd been travelling to Bosnia with humanitarian aid, and the war dragged on for a number of years. The Kosovan conflict, which actually began in 1991, when Milosovic stripped Kosovo of its



A body slumped in an armchair in a house in Peche

autonomy. Kosovo's a small province about the size of Munster, with about a half a million people, but 90% of the population are ethnic Albanian. Up to 1989, they were autonomous, you know, so they had their own government when Milosovic came to power, he stripped them of everything, denied them access to schools, hospitals, universities.

So, there was no relationship between the Serbs and Kosovans before that?

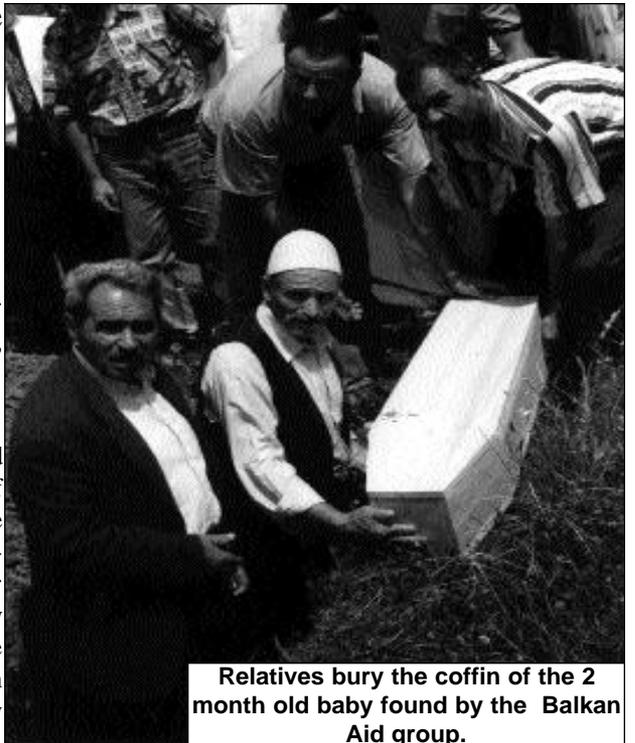
Not really, no. Historically, Kosovo, was part of Albania, if you go back far enough, but I think it was in 1912 when the situation changed, Kosovo was seperated from Albania. Milosovic wanted an ethnically pure Serbia, and it was in 1989 the war atarted and Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, and

Kosovo were denied basic rights for ten years. When children werefound in private schools in their own homes, the Serb paramilitaries, the police would throw canisters ofnerve gas into the houses where they were meeting and they were beaten up in the street, girls were raped, and this is going on for ten years. All sorts of violations of human rights took place, but it wasn't until just over a year ago when the KLA, the Kosovo Liberation Army, was formed, and the Serbs started clamping down and killing in villages and towns.

So, at what stage did you gain access to Kosovo, and how did you do it?

Well about a year ago, we tried for over four months to gain access through Serbia, because it would have been the easiest route. In September '98, we tried to organise a truckload of aid for Kosovo, so we applied to the Serbian embassy and the Yugoslav embassy, and we were turned down. From September to December we'd been turned down. So, we decided to go through a different route, to go through Albania. We were warned at the time not to go through Albania, but we decided that it was the only way hat we could get to the Kosovo refugees. We took the truck to Albania in March, and we got to Terana, and stayed there with refugees, and offloaded our supplies to them. We decided to return again, but the problems had escalated in Kosovo in the meantime. The Serbs were ethnically cleansing Kosovo, the NATO air strikes happened just after we left Albania, so the Serbs adopted a 'scorch policy' where they'd burn village after village, and town after

town, and they wanted to cleanse Kosovo of all Albanians, so the police weremas-sacrificing all over Kosovo. When I say police, a lot of these police were brought in from Serbia. They were actually criminals that were released from prisons and given uniforms and given instructions to kill and to rape. Even though they went in there as policemen, a lot of them were criminals in police uniforms.



Relatives bury the coffin of the 2 month old baby found by the Balkan Aid group.

Around the time of the NATO action, there was a lot of support for it, and a lot of voices against it as well. Having seen the situation first hand, do you think that NATO were right in the action that they took?

Oh, I think they were perfectley right. The only thing that we were sorry about was that they didn't send in the ground troops, that it was the bombing campaign. They were so many othere implications involved sending in ground troops. Nobody wants to be bringing back body bags. In Bosnia, it was the UN that were in control, and after he genocide that took place there, where the UN allowed the Serbs take control and they massacred 7,000 people, the Kosovans didn't want the same situation to happen, and they knew that if the UN went in there which the Serbs would have allowed, they knew that the same thing would have happened there. So even though NATO bombed some of the Kosovan convoys by accident, the people were still happy that NATO were there, that they were doing something. The only thing that Mkilosovic understood was force. For ten years, they had tried to negotiate peacefully with Milosovic for justice and nothing happened. When NATO started bombing, the Kosovan people were 100% behind NATO, even though the Serbs retaliated, and there were a lot of atrocities committed, the Kosovan people still supported the NATO bombings. The war finished within three months of when the bombin g started, so it justified what they were doing.

I know you make of a lot trips to Kosovo, what are you working on at the moment over there?

Well, when we stayed in Peche, we provided a lot of shelter and food for people. We were ferrying people to what was left of the hospital, for medical treatment. A lot of people were suffering from stomach ailments because there was contaminated water, and the air was contaminated because of all the dead bodies. I mean, we could smell death in the air, even

Saving Symbol: paramilitaries passed the houses of Kosovan Serbs



at night, we got so used to the smell of death, we could pinpoint where the bodies were buried. There was hundreds of bodies littered in the region, and first of all we were providing shelter, but one morning while we were in Peche, a NATO jeep pulled into our base camp, and they were investiigating a massacre which took place just outside of town, and because we had an ambulance we were asked to try and recover these bodies and move them to the hospital morgue. When we went to the site, there was four people massacred, and we moved those bodies to the city morgue,

and our help was requested from NATO, human rights workers and the KLA to move the bodies from then on. So for six weeks before we left, we'd been recovering bodies and taking them to the city morgue. In that time, we moved about forty bodies, ranging from a two month old baby to a sixty five year old woman. There are many more bodies littered around the countryside, but we concentrate on the rivers and the towns. A French organisation recover the bodies from the wells.

You're also working on the recovery of a number of missing women.

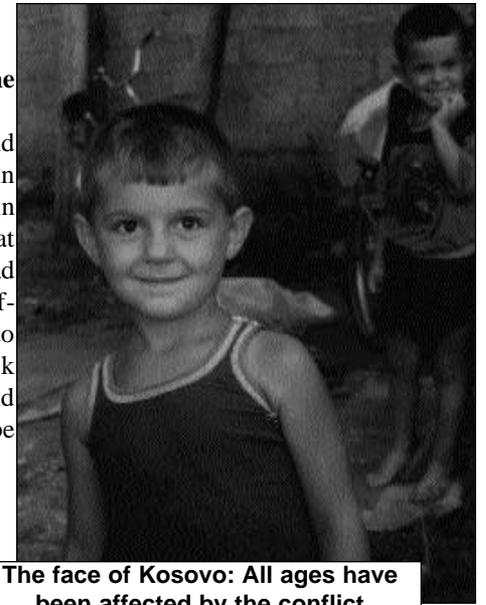
Yes, we're very concerned about Peche. The city has a population of 100,000 people, and during the Serb occupation, the paramilitary police abducted 300 women and brought them to a hotel which they used as a rape centre. We know that they killed 80 girls, and there are 220 unaccounted for. Now, we heard stories of how they abused girls, how they paraded them naked in the town, and other stories, but people just don't want to talk about that because it's very hard on them. People were coming to us every day looking for their daughters and for information to there whereabouts, whether they're dead or alive. Now, we heard stories that busloads of girls were taken to Serbia when the NATO bombing had stopped. We know that there are girls in Serbia, and we know some of these girls' whereabouts. We're trying to raise public awareness of their disappearance at the moment, because the emphasis at the moment is on the men. We're trying to organise a concert in Peche to highlight their disappearance and for information as to their

whereabouts so they can be reunited with their families, but if that happens they'll need counseling as well.

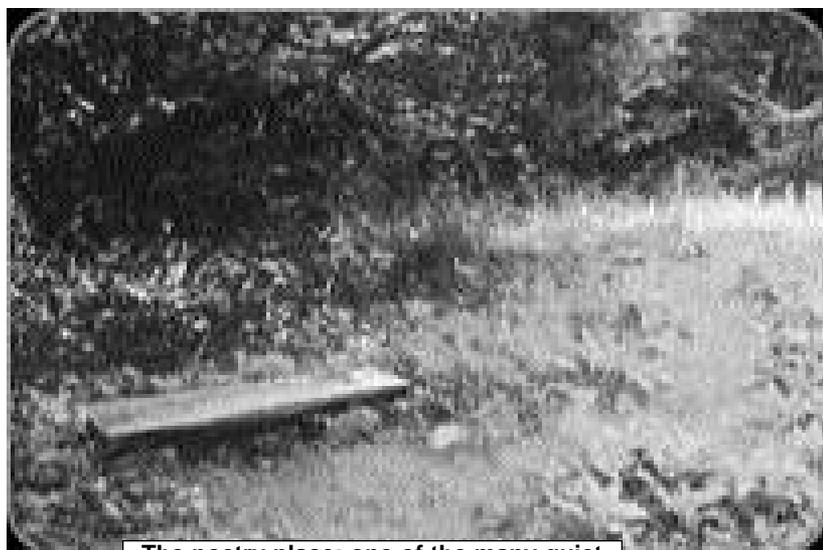
How many people are involved in the Balkan Aid Group?

We're a Limerick based charity, and there's about fifty committee people in the organisation at the moment and in Kosovo, we've one person in Peche at the moment. When we left, we had eleven people there, but they left at different stages and returned back to Ireland. We've two more going back tomorrow with a truckload of aid and we have more volunteers that will be joining us at a later stage.

A fundraising committee is being put together. Contact Claire Cox or Muiris O'Sullivan.



The face of Kosovo: All ages have been affected by the conflict



The poetry place: one of the many quiet spots in Liss Ard

What is it about the Liss Ard music festival, now in its third year running, at the intimate venue of Liss Ard estate in West Cork?

Is it just an over-hyped, over-priced event pandering to the 'rich and trendy', or does it dig deeper than that? Since its birth in Autumn 1997, the Liss Ard festival has already induced classic moments in rock folklore. Aside from rare performances, music lovers need only attend the 'Parting Glass' (an informal jamming session happening every night and continues in to the small hours) to feel part of the Liss Ard experience. The main luminaries of Liss Ard: Nick Cave, Patti Smith and The Frames, have contributed so ardently to such performances that their music is now as much a part of Liss Ard as the great oak trees rooted firmly in the surrounding woodland. For those lacking funds large enough to finance a full event ticket (£250 for 10 days), £25 concert- and £50 day-tickets are available. The concert-ticket only allows access to the headlining concert that night, while the day-ticket grants full access to all performances from 12 noon until the Parting Glass has finally ground to a halt (typically 4am, although marathon sessions until 5am have been reported, courtesy of Glen Hansard). The day starts with a guided walk of the estate to

A Look at the Liss Ardists.

Every summer for the last three years, some of the best musicians Ireland and the world has to offer, have gathered in Liss Ard, Co. Cork, for a celebration of music and nature. Patrick Molitor takes a look at what makes this festival so different.

view the developments to the woodlands and lake (funded with money raised by the festival). Liss Ard is an Irish-registered charity aiming to preserve the original estate while developing it as an exciting landscaping project. The highlight of this walk

was The Sky garden, featuring 'The Crater' - a manmade grass-lined oval depression hollowed discreetly into the hillside. This creation captures daylight in a way that can't justly be described in words and this shrine of light has to be one of the best places on earth to view future eclipses from. The Sky Garden itself will eventually contain two more light-features like The Crater, specifically designed for the Liss Ard landscape to allow us observe natural light in varying forms.

A lake and numerous ponds scatter the grounds, and wandering visitors shouldn't be surprised to stumble upon a reflective artist playing an acoustic set or reciting poetry under a majestic oak or by a murmuring brook.

Liss Ard is not an intensely-promoted festival, numbers are strictly limited and the tickets issued are priced to deter bus-loads of punters. These are reasons why the festival may flounder in the future. David Gray (1997 performer) refused to play the festival again due to its exclusive nature. The Frames have expressed concern at recent Dublin shows for fans unable to afford tickets for the West Cork festival. Has some of the magic of Liss Ard disappeared? In 1999, for the first time, ticketholders have strictly no access to the vicinity of Liss Ard House. The marquees are now located in a field away from the house, creating a mini festival site as opposed to artistic performances in the woodlands being 'the Voice of the Garden' (a pop-

ular promotional catch-phrase amongst the organisers). Indeed, in previous years, the sessions all took place in much more intimate settings in the surrounding woodland. i.e. at The Crater or the Standing Stones, or Parting Glass sessions down by the lake (this year, on a balmy night, it was held in a small marquee).

One binding strand between all the Liss Ard festivals has been the endless circle of rumours of artists anticipated to turn up. Performing artists waive their fees, so the programme of events tends to be relaxed, and ticket-holders are never sure Liss Ard must rank as one of the most intimate international music gatherings. There exists only one hospitality tent (for artists and punters alike) so do not be surprised to find yourself sharing a pint with a musician from the John Cale entourage or discussing hospitality catering with The Frames. The atmosphere is relaxed and good-natured. Crowds are small and friendly. The type of artist ranges from traditional to folk to high-profile rock icons.

Always keep an open mind when going to this event, you never know who you might stumble into while walking through the forest late of an evening. The only advice offered is experience Liss Ard at your next opportunity before it outgrows itself.

To find out more about Lissard and to listen to audio excerpts including the Michael Stipe/Patti Smith duet visit the website:
www.Lissard.com

The Apologist, Sept. '99

look out for the review of the '99 festival in the next issue

ECLIPSE TAKES UL PHYSICS SOCIETY ALL THE WAY TO FRANCE

Wednesday, July 11th was the last eclipse on mainland Europe until the year 2081. Not many of us will be around for the next one, so the UL Physics Soc took the opportunity to go and have a look at an incredible phenomenon, as well as visit a local hostelry or two.

Paul Griffin and Paul McElligott tell us about both bits.

The Science Bit (keep it simple, Griff)



The Earth goes around the sun, and the moon goes around the Earth.

Pretty much everyone knows that. An eclipse occurs when the Earth is in the shadow cast

by the moon when it comes between the Earth and the sun. That in a nutshell is what a solar eclipse is. But at every new moon, the moon should be between the sun and Earth, so why then is there not a solar eclipse at every new moon?

The moon goes around the Earth at a different angle to the plane in which the Earth goes around the sun. Sometimes the moon is below the Earth and the sun, and sometimes it is above them. Below and above here are not very good words, but if you imagine the Earth orbiting the sun on a flat surface the idea should come across. It is only when the Earth, sun and moon are level, or are on the same plane, that an eclipse can occur, and this applies to both solar and lunar eclipses. It is not enough that all three are on the same plane; they must, as was said above, line up exactly.

The sun is 400 times bigger than the moon, but strangely, it is also 400 times further away from the Earth than the moon is. This means that the sun and the moon appear to be the same size in the sky. Because of the shapes of the orbits, one sometimes appears slightly bigger than the other. So during some eclipses, the moon does not fully block the sun. So another condition for a total solar eclipse is that the moon appears to be at least the same size as the sun. It is the combination of all these conditions that makes a total solar eclipse such a rare event. In fact, for any given place on the planet, a total solar eclipse occurs on average just once every 370 years. The next total solar eclipse visible anywhere on mainland Europe will be in 2081.

Most people in Ireland were disappointed with what they saw of the eclipse, even if it was not cloudy. This was because Ireland did not lie in the path of totality of the eclipse. Imagine you are in a dark room with a torch. Shine the torch on the wall, and place your hand close to the wall. What you see is quite a sharp shadow of your hand. As you move your hand away from the wall, the outline of the shadow becomes less dark and less defined. This area is known as the penumbra. Also the very dark area, called the umbra, becomes smaller. This is because some light from the torch is reaching the outside areas, and the further away you move your hand, the more areas that receive light from the torch, and

the more light these areas receive. This is what happens in a solar eclipse; just replace the torch with the sun, your hand with the moon, and the wall with the Earth. It is only in a very small area that no light reaches the Earth from the surface of the sun. And due to the fact that the Earth is revolving and that the moon is moving around the Earth, the umbra speeds across the Earth at over 1000 miles per hour. The area that experiences totality, or sees the umbra, is known as the path of totality. For the August 11th eclipse, the path of totality was just 120 miles wide. Unfortunately, this passed just south of Ireland, so people at home could just see that partial eclipse, with light reaching here from only a sliver of the sun's surface.

When totality does occur, the moon does not block out all the light from the sun. While we cannot see the sun's surface, we can now see the sun's atmosphere, which is usually hidden from sight, except for during a total solar eclipse. This is really called the sun's corona, and it was to photograph this that the University of Limerick Physics Society went all the way to Reims in the northeast of France.

Back in October 1998, while we had been trawling the web looking up stuff (on physics and eclipses if you must know) we came across a web page by a guy called Fred Espenak, who works for NASA. The page was on the solar eclipse and had links to a solar observation group known as the JOSO Project. From here we got onto the TECONet project. (Yet another pleasantly sounding acronym from physicists. Why is it that we can come up with TECONet, JOSO, LASER, CERN, NASA, all perfectly pronounceable, while humanities folk think up WUYHZRT or words of a similar ilk?) The aim of the Trans-European Coronal Observing Network (if you must know) was to have amateur astronomers all along the path of totality taking polarised photographs of the corona. Essentially each group takes photographs with a polarising filter fixed in position and then changes the orientation of the polariser by 60°. These basic steps are repeated for different exposure times throughout totality. A polariser is basically a filter that only allows organised light to pass through. When we twisted the polariser by 60° we were changing the way in which the light passed through was organised. We then would have three scientifically different pictures of the same thing. Then to use the words of the head of this project, Fred Clette:

"The light modulation produced by the analyser in each point of the corona allows extracting the Stokes parameters of linear polarisation: total intensity, degree and direction of polarisation. These are then used as the input values for the

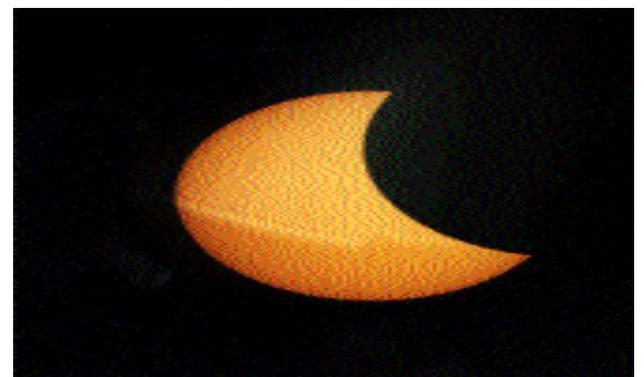
inversion process outlined above, which leads to electron densities via a mathematical model incorporating the geometry of Thomson diffusion."

To us this means, that by looking at the different pictures, information could be got on certain elements in the corona, in this case specifically calcium. Many e-mails and one slightly annoyed Belgian later, this is what we had planned to do in Reims somewhere between 12:24:36 p.m. and 12:26:35 p.m. on 11th August.

In the lead up stages to the eclipse, it would be necessary to provide protection to viewers and to equipment. We know that a telescope magnifies objects, but it also focuses all this light and energy on to some very sensitive optical equipment. Mylar was what we used as general filters. We ordered our own sheets of Mylar, to keep costs down and also so that we could make filters for all optical equipment. Funny story behind all this, involving sleeping bags, but what we made was a neutral density 5 filter, which means it blocked 99.999% of the light. Two different types were used, which is why some of our photos came back with blue tinges, and others looked orange. The black-and-white pictures came back black-and-white.

Our main photographic equipment was a 3" reflector telescope attached to a fully automatic camera. The telescope was fixed on to a special mounting attached to a motorised tripod which would track the sun across the sky, from the time of set up to the actual totality. Just as totality began our polariser was aligned with the sun's polar axis and a photograph with an exposure time of 1/15 second was taken. The polariser was then turned through 60°, another photo taken, and again turned through another 60°. This procedure was repeated for exposure times of 1/12 second and 1/8 second.

What all that means is that we got the photos that both ourselves and NASA had hoped we would get, and saw an amazing thing happen in the process. It was well worth the trip, and thanks to all our sponsors and to everyone else who made this trip possible.





The 'Not Really' Science Bit (I don't think you've any choice but to keep it simple, McEil.)

The UL Physics Society, Eclipse Journal.

Sunday 8th August, Day One.

We Departed for Rosslare at five past five in the morning. The bus journey was uneventful really, mostly people slept, played Tetris (kudos to Paul Griffin) or argued over whose turn it was going to play Tetris, (which was mainly the large male called Dave O'Donovan). The journey took twenty-four hours, that's enough time to watch three action packed Lethal Weapon movies, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, Braveheart (kudos to Francis Gibbons the little guerrier that he is) and Pulp Fiction. (Cf. Day Two.) Alternatively you could write a thesis (Hugh). Day 1, Fran didn't score.

Monday 9th August, Day Two.

We arrived at the "Centre International de Sejour" hostel in Riems at around five in the morning. The Receptionists name was Jacque (really) We slept for a while and went to explore the town (the Pubs), to experience the culture (Baguettes Croissants etc). We found a wonderful French restaurant where one could order the famous French dish, the "Royal with Cheese" (cf. Day One.). We found an Irish Bar "Le Pacific" (This must be the Hawaiian island called Ireland, unless there's a Lough Pacific along the Shannon that I've never heard of?) It was about as Irish as the Irish Soccer team (Foreign game!). On the way home after sampling some more anthropological studies of the local culture and mating rituals (The chicks were smashing baby) we found the Kilberry, yet another attempt by the Irish to take over the world, again it said Irish about as convincingly as an American tourist in lime green trousers and a T-shirt saying "Kiss me I'm going through an Identity crisis", but Joe and Casey seemed to like it strangely enough. Day 2. Fran didn't score.



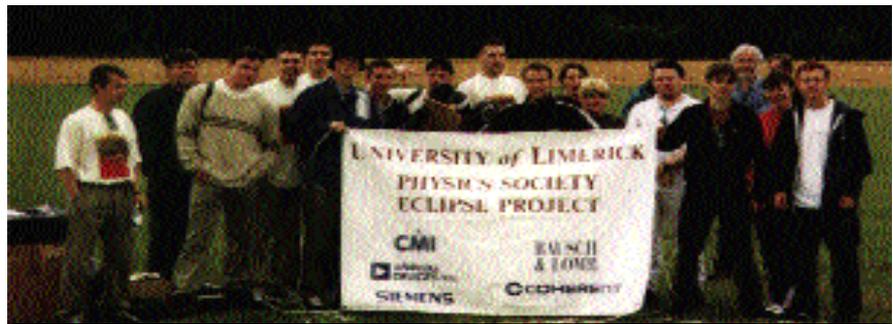
The postgrads get the picture

Tuesday 10th August, Day Three.

Dr. George McClelland and Phil Samways arrive after flying over to Paris they helped us set up the telescope in the park opposite the Hostel trying to focus it on the sun which has disappeared unfortunately the best we could do is leave it with Phil and George to take the scope in the car to try and find a gap in the clouds, and we had to compromise by focusing it on a distant hill that served its purpose. We were however approached by French radio and Claire Cox put that A1 in honours French to the test. That night was spent rigging the telescope and it's four-man crew. We ate a meal together of spaghetti and mince (horse-flesh, we reckon. Most of us got very little sleep as the clouds were low and adrenalin was high. Day 3. Fran didn't score

Wednesday 11th August, Day Four.

AAAAAAAAAARRRRRGHHHH!!!! D-day. Derek McNulty the bus driver woke us up at a quarter to six in the morning. There were three layers of cloud covering the sun. All we could do was stick to the original plan and pray for the sun to find a way of shining through. We were on the road by eight. We travelled to Soissons, 100km away, to get away from the streetlights that would be triggered by the darkness. Our final chosen site was a model aircraft landing strip. The weather showed no signs of improving but there were small gaps and eventually Hugh started screaming and pointing at a thick cloud covered silvery crescent in the sky. So amidst cheering and leering we donned our rather essential fashion accessories, those black polymers eclipse viewers (Trendy or what?). The object of our experiment was to photograph this diamond ring in the sky, but the weather was to decide that our contribution to the project was to be delayed until the next total solar eclipse. Then in a blink the lights came on and totality was over and the screaming died down, the clouds cleared up and we took some nice close ups (relatively close up) of the partial phases and each other. After it was all over we made it home (barely). The celebrations were loud and a special mention has to go to Stella Artois and Kronenburg 1666, as well as the hundred or so English physicists in the hostel who put up with our howls of that Kerry ballad "Some say the devil is dead". Day 4. Fran didn't score



MAD PHYSICS LUNATICS!!! (say in best french accent please)

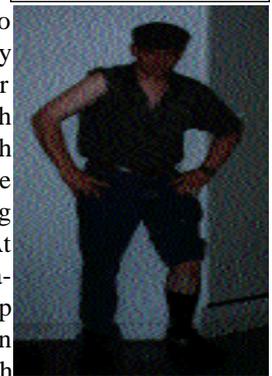
Thursday 12th August, Day five

The English left before most of us had detoxified. The rest of the day is spent relaxing in the town, shopping, playing soccer and pointing and laughing at Barry Fitz's new hat (who thinks the death of Tupac Shakur left an opening in the rat pack). The celebrations continue, Casey gets it on with a fifty year old (woman, I hope?) Casey and Griff make friends with a French legionnaire who takes them back to his pub and gives them drink until seven in the morning. After being stopped by the French gendarme on suspicion of being English. Day 5. Fran didn't score.

Friday 13th August, Day Six.

Some People head to Paris, others to a military museum, Griff however wakes up on Safari with our friend from the French foreign Legion in The Alsace. He was missing for twenty-four hours. At the hostel the only explanation we could come up with was that he had been kidnapped by two Swedish blonds named Sven and Lars, and was having the sort of conversation that starts when somebody says "bring out the gimp". However he turned up with little more than a bad smell and a good story. Day 6. Fran didn't score.

The heat got to one or two of the group!



Saturday 14th August, Day Seven.

The Bus Journey Back is as mundane as the first except Dayvo has had enough Tetris to send him to his "quiet place" when he hears that signature tune and the bleep, bleep that drove us all mad. Nothing left but to thank all our sponsors, Clubs and Socs. Dr. Roger Downer (They should name the new bar the Roger Drowner in your honour) Analog Devices, Bausch & Lomb, CMI, Siemens, Eircell and finally Coherent Ealing Day 7. Fran went home in tears

If you think you like what the Physics Soc. do, join us. For more information visit our web site <http://physics.csn.ul.ie> or e-mail me Paul McElligott at 9737553@student.ul.ie





**SIGNPOSTS TO THE WEB:
YOUR GUIDE TO SEARCH
ENGINES.**

A search engine is the single most important tool when surfing the web.

The first thing any good web surfer should know is the main difference between the search engines on the Internet. There are two main categories of search engine available. One group such as Yahoo, Lycos and Infoseek are web directories, which will give you all the web sites, related to the category that you are searching. The second and more important group are the search engines themselves. These sites give you all the sites with your keywords in them. By far the best of these is Altavista (www.altavista.com) which has the most comprehensive search facilities available and is the easiest to use.

Of course when talking about search engines we should start with the granddaddy of them all Yahoo (www.yahoo.com). Though I personally despise the site, it does merit a mention as it paved the way for all the other search engines on the Internet. Of course Yahoo has now evolved into a multi-billion dollar industry including hosting sites and e-mail directories but it is still one of the biggest search engines on the Internet with over 100,000 hits per month.

For anybody who does a lot of research or just likes to browse the web a lot, there are two sites which are in a class of their own.

The first site is Copernic (www.copernic.com). This site is dedicated to hardcore researchers. Instead of searching web pages online it downloads a program called Copernic 99 which allows you to search for things while offline (rather like accessing your e-mail



A fortnightly look at the Internet with Fergus Keely

with Outlook Express). What sets this site above all others is that it simultaneously searches 10 different search engines at the same time. It also allows you to specify how many results to take from each search engine and to store completed searches, as well as giving you a possibility rating on each site (i.e. the chances that the site chosen is the site you are looking for). The program can be started by clicking on its icon on the desktop, going to the start menu or clicking the search button in Internet Explorer if you are online.

The second site is www.slashdot.org. This site is dedicated to science and computer related news but it features one of the best search engines on the web, particularly if you are doing a science or computer based subject. This search engine was designed and set up by applied physics graduates and PhDs from Harvard, MIT and Yale. Anyone interested in the science behind the search engine can find a detailed analysis of it on the site but brush up on your Boolean algebra and logic gates first.

One of a number of increasingly popular search engines on the web is www.askjeeves.com. This site is for anyone who doesn't have the time, patience or brain capacity to limit their search to a few keywords. If, for example, you want to know why the sky is blue, then you simply type in: Why is the sky blue? and Jeeves will come up with all the websites related to that question. Askjeeves is really a piece of work because it combines a search engine and a web directory giving you the best of both worlds. The results by the way are surprisingly accurate. Anyone with a Dell PC will find another version of the Jeeves program called "Ask Dudley" on the Dell website (www.dell.com).

Internal search engines (i.e. those in sites not completely devoted to searching the web) are a great novelty on the Internet as finding a good one is a real treat. There are some extremely good ones

floating around the web if you can spare the time and some of these really deserve a mention.

The first of these is the search engine run by Line One (www.lineone.net). Since Line One is an ISP (Internet Service Provider) it hosts lots of different sites some of which have links to other sites so it serves as a concise web search. Its results are truly outstanding.

In general news sites tend to have better search facilities than most other sites because of their wide range of content and also their close links to other news sites. One of the best of these search engines can be found at www.about.com. The site itself is massive but the search engine is truly outstanding. A word of warning though, this engine is a web directory and some search results may be a little off the mark.

Another site similar to the About site is the Hitbox site (www.hitbox.com). This is one of a new breed of lifestyle sites. A site which started life as a news site, Hitbox now has little news and prefers to focus on areas which people find more interesting (i.e. cooking, motoring, sports etc.). One of its new features however is a marvellous search engine thanks to its diverse nature. Like Copernic 99 this site gives you a probability that the site listed is the one that you are looking for. It also rates the site on content and style.

For a list of links to other search engines check the search engine page on UL's home site at www.ul.ie/World/SearchEnginesAZ.html.

Next week I'll have a look at ISP's (Internet Service Providers) free and otherwise and I'll also review the three new ISP's on the market Indigo's Go Free and Esat's Surf Free and Surf No Limits. Finally anyone with computer or web related problems or with any comments they'd like to share can e-mail me at fk1121@oceanfree.net and I'll do my best to help.

3 Ellen Street
Hot Bites and Cool Beats until 4am

If "Kurova" means "Prostitute" in Latvian

...what do you think we serve?

Sun - Wed 11am - 1am; Thurs - Sat 11am - 4am

Human Development A Conference For Third Level Students

Human Security Freedom from Fear Freedom from Want

- Are you interested in global issues such as Human Rights, Development and justice?

- Would you like to help create awareness of world issues and promote change through campaigns?

- Do you like discussions, debates, organising activities or designing campaign materials?

- Would you like to meet other people with similar interests?

- Are you a member of a college group such as a One World or Human Rights society? Interested in setting up a group like this? Or looking to join something new?

Last Autumn Trocaire held a conference in Limerick for students from One World Societies and other college groups. We met each other, learnt lots, and planned a successful year of campaigns and activities. This year the venue is UCC, the weekend is 30/31st October and the conference will be even better with speakers from countries such as Zambia, Columbia and East Timor, workshops on issues such as Ethical shopping, Land ownership and the Arms trade and sessions on how to run campaigns and influence the media.

The aim of this weekend is to allow students to gather information, network and take up campaigns on human rights and sustainable development.

The Theme.

All human beings should have freedom from fear and freedom from want.

Freedom From Fear - political saecurity. Political Violence; military dictatorship; displacement of people and attacks on human rights activists - this has been the reality in Colombia, Burma, East Timor and elsewhere. What is the role of Ireland, the International Community, the UN and the arms trade?

Freedom From Want

Foreign Debt, access to land and control over seeds and genetic resources - these are among the 'frontline issues' which threaten the right of the poor in developing countries to an adequate living.

Get your society involve, or come on your own or with your friends-Cork hospitality and a great weekend guaranteed.

For bookings, more info, leaflets and posters, contact Caoimhe De Barry or Elaine Baker:

Trocaire Campaigns Office

169 Booterstown Avenue

Blackrock

Co. Dublin

Tel: (01) 2172772

Fax: (01) 2836022

E-mail: campaigns@trocaire.ie

For more info, visit the web-site www.trocaire.org/conf

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

Has your life been affected by

Alcoholism

Violence

Gambling

Or

Any other addiction or dysfunctional behaviour.

If so

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

When: every Friday Night

Where: Bishops Place,
Nicholas Street, Limerick.

Time: 8.30p.m

Language Opportunities Pilot Programme

Do you want to learn a new language in 1999/2000? Or perhaps to improve your existing foreign language skills? The Language Opportunities Pilot Programme could be for you!

This year the University is launching a one-year pilot programme which will provide students who wish to learn languages, in addition to their normal University learning load, with evening classes.

. French . Gaeilge . German . Japanese . Spanish
. 40 hours class contact over 20 weeks

.Course fee: As the University is providing a 50% subsidy for tuition, the course fee will be just £100 including, class material

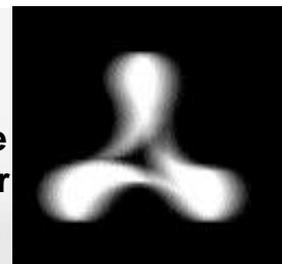
Closing date for this semester: Friday 8 October 10am

Why not find out more? Leaflets available from:

The Language Centre (AM050)
The Language Resource Area (A1077)
Dominique Le Meur (B3046)

K-Klass Rock The Gallery

On Wednesday last, 29th of September, ULSU Ents presented the first night of its dance club, VIVID @ the Gallery + the first night of the Ents Card. Tom Keenan + Edel Gallagher were there to do some groovy dancing, talk to the DJ and get the views of the punters.



On Wednesday last, the tickets were bought and the buses were filled for the Cream night at The Gallery. Happy revellers were chatting and anticipating the night ahead.

The newly renovated Gallery was adorned with the recognisable Cream logo, impressive lighting and visual effects in every possible place and it provided the perfect venue for K-Klass and support DJ's.

We arrived to a fairly disappointing turnout at first, but with support coming from UL DJ Deci Houlihan, the dancefloor began to slowly but surely fill up. By the time K-Klass, who have a Cream residency in the Kitchen in Dublin, took to the stage the atmosphere was definitely beginning to heat up. Paul Roberts, minus fellow DJ Russ, whose wife has just had a baby (Ah, even DJ's have can have monogamous relationships!) took on a solo task but succeeded in keeping the crowd dancing all night. What the crowd thought depended on their tastes, if you enjoyed Tall Paul during Rag week, this would be for you. The DJ's playlist was fairly commercial including mixes of Paul Van Dyke, Paul Oakenfold and David Morales, but it pleased the crowd as it catered for a wide range of tastes. If you would not usually go for a club night like this here's what a few of the newly converted crowd said:

"Excellent. Absolutely brilliant. The best night in a long time"

Siobhain Moore, 1st year, Galway.

"I hadn't been to a Cream night before. I wouldn't be totally into the dance scene but thought it was very good. It was a night not to be missed."

Julie, Galway.

"After going tonight, I would strongly recommend the four other Vivid events to everyone"

Thomas Feerey.

The general feelin' among the crowd was that the music and atmosphere were great and they are well set on returning for the other Vivid events even though the turnout wasn't as big as had been hoped.

The Ents Crew has to be commended on providing and supervising free transport to and especially from the event. As Thomas Feerey commented:

"It's the worst thing in the world when you come out of a club and you're wrecked after dancing all night and you think 'Where's the taxi? I was at Homelands (in Meath wa-heyyy!, Edel) and had to stay in a Garda station (we didn't ask) because I couldn't get home. It was easier for girls I met from Liverpool to go home than it was for me to get to Galway."

After the gig, we had a chance to chat to K-Klass member Paul Roberts, and Cream promoter Alan Greene.

First of all, Paul said that he was glad to have had the chance to play in Limerick and was delighted at the large turnout (?). He admitted that he was at first, sceptical at playing on a Wednesday night to a student crowd but was ultimately impressed with the club's atmosphere. For a one-time telephone engineer from Chester, he said that he is now glad to be doing something he enjoys. He remembers that when K-Klass started out, the number of people making house music in Britain could be counted on one hand. He says New Order were the first band that inspired him to become a DJ. The advice he has for aspiring DJs is: "Don't try to be Paul Oakenfold, Paul Van Dyke etc; Try and be yourself. Try to do your own thing. Buy records that you feel and that you like and try and do something different."

A question on everyone's mind that night was what was the deal with the naff haircut? Paul admitted he hadn't gotten a haircut since 1998, being so nice I referred him to me home address

to get a free haircut off me ma (tommy).

Like his mate, Russ, Paul is also proud father of a five month old son called Corin and is looking forward to heading home to his family.

We also had a word with Cream promoter Alan Greene. At the moment he is busy promoting the Cream Arrivals/Departures compilations mixed by Roger Sanchez and Seb Fontaine. Another priority is the Millenium Celebrations with events being organised in the club itself, Liverpool Pier Head, Brixton Academy and Cardiff Ice Rink. Each event will hold over 4000 people.

Also coming up on October 9th is the Cream 7th birthday party. As Alan puts it, it's going to be "three rooms with the best of the UK's DJs"

We asked who had he met through his work. The answer? EVERYONE. (the lucky f***. For example, he went on tour with Carl Cox for 3 months). He collects records but does not DJ himself. His favourite music is deep house. One of his ambitions is to release his own record label in the next few years. He already has a name chosen, but unfortunately we couldn't beat it out of him.

He has travelled to Belfast and Dublin, but this was the first time Cream has come to Limerick. We asked was there a difference between the English and Irish crowd?

"There's no difference. They're both up for a good time and that's the main thing." Alan has spent four years working for Cream and seven years in total in the industry. He told us that he studied a degree in CHEMISTRY and Business studies in Dundee University which is nothing really related to dance music. Paul butts in saying "Well it sort of is." Muffled laughter and a shout of "No, no, no I deny everything officer" brought a quick end to our interview, with a final question.

"Would you like to say 'hi' to your ma or your da?"

Certainly not. I'm the black sheep of the family!"

Upcoming VIVID Nights:

October 27th ; Soul Clinic, with Stevie G and guests.

The club taking Dublin by storm in the new Hot Press HQ venue makes its first trip outside Dublin to show the Limerick crowd what they're all about.

November 24th ; Mo-Wax presents James Lavelle.

The owner of England's Mo-wax label comes to Limerick fresh from his appearance at the recent Homelands festival for his first show in this part of the country.

December 15th ; Massive Attack's Mushroom.

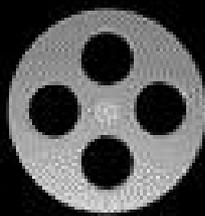
One of the most famous dance acts around have taken to going solo + doing the odd DJ set, and we've got arguably the best of the three for VIVID @ Christmas.

January 20th ; Cream present T.B.C.

After the success of the first VIVID night with this bunch along for the ride, we can't wait to have them back in January for a huge bash at the end of the exams.

Look out for the weekly VIVID nights in the new Function Room within the next few weeks featuring the best in Irish and UL DJs





The Reel Thing

Each issue, we'll take a look at some of the films available on both the big and little screen, to make sure that you're not wasting valuable time watching films like 'the Avengers'

Unmissable ****

Excellent ****

Watchable ***

Below Average **

No Thank You *

Drop Dead Gorgeous ****

Directed by

Michael Patrick Jann

Starring

Kirsty Alley, Ellen Barkin ,

Kirsten Dunst and Denise

Richards



The "Sarah Rose Miss Teen Princess" beauty pageant does not sound like the best subject matter for a good flick but in this case it works. Combine a really good , mostly female cast, with some really good irreverent scripting and you've got Drop Dead Gorgeous. It's lowest common denominator stuff but hey I'm a lowest common denominator guy so I totally enjoyed it !!!!!

So what's it about ? It's a mockumentary based around a beauty pageant in Mount Rose, Minnesota (real Red Neck Country, the American equivalent of Tubber). The organiser (Kirsty Alley) is a former winner whose daughter, Denise Richards, just happens to be a contestant ,a pretty determined one at that ,whose idea of competing is to gradually eliminate the other contestants ,hence explosions shootings and the like are common in Little Ole Mount Rose. Her main competition , having eliminated a few others , is Amber Atkins (Kirsten Dunst) a girl from the wrong side of the tracks ,white trash to be precise, whose mother Ellen Barkin steals the show with by spending the entire film with a beer can in her hand (all will be revealed when you see the movie).

So Drop Dead Gorgeous - My advice is go see it ,its completely irreverent, totally politically incorrect , and plain good fun an ideal way to get over the depression of being back at lectures and an ideal antidote to your parents having made you sit through the Brose of Tralee last month.

KP

Analyze This ****

directed by

Harold Ramis

starring

Robert De Niro, Billy

Crystal, Lisa Kudrow,

Chazz Palminteri.



Harold Ramis remains one of the most under-rated mainstream comedy directors of the past two decades. With Caddyshack, the original National Lampoon's Vacation and Groundhog Day (still, pound for pound, the finest comedy of the '90s) under his belt, he's still best remembered as the one with the glasses in Ghostbusters. Analyse This consolidates that position, allowing Messrs De Niro and Crystal their finest comedy turns this decade. Plotwise, it could be best pitched as The Sopranos: The Movie (this went into production before that smash series aired, however) - Heavyweight mobster Paul Vitti (erm, guess who) starts to suffer troublesome panic attacks after an attempted hit on his life; psychiatrist Ben Sobol (figure it out) finds his wedding plans seriously disturbed when the worked-up wise guy decides that there's only one shrink for him. As they say - much hilarity ensues. Kapish? It's a one-gag premise, alright, but one that Ramis engagingly stretches to a consistently witty and spot-on 104 minutes (most comedies are too long: discuss). The key to his success is an on-form cast (especially familiar movie mobster Joe Viterilli as Vitti's amiable right hand man) and a three-dimensional approach to his protagonists. De Niro's Vitti could've been a one-note riff on the man's Greatest Gangster Hits - no pun intended - instead, he puts in the hours (as opposed to the majority of his recent faceless take-the-money-and-grimace turns) crafting a memorable comic creation, one that genuinely ranks alongside 1988's classic Midnight Run. Which, round these parts, is praise indeed. He also for the first time in many, many years adds to the lexicon of great Bobby catchphrases - you gotta be there. Crystal is equally fine; after My Giant, Father's Day and Forget Paris, this is a much-needed return to big-screen funny form (at least with the Oscar-hosting, we knew he could still be funny). All in all, a rare beast - a big- star, wacky-ass funny-from-start-to-finish Hollywood comedy that you'd really, really have to try hard not to enjoy. You mook.

Derek O'Connor

'Analyze This' review and all photos courtesy of www.muse.com

The General's Daughter ***

Directed by

Simon West (ConAir)

Starring

John Travolta, Madeline Stowe , James Woods , Timothy Hutton , James Cromwell



This is one of those movies that even though it was good and did manage to hold your attention for the entire length , you know it could be better. Despite my humble opinion it has still been a smash at the American box office already taking in over 125 million dollars and is also doing good business on this side of the Atlantic.

It marks the return to form of Mr. Travolta who puts in a good performance alongside the very underrated Madeline Stowe. Travolta seems to get himself involved in some real doozies ie. Phenomenon , Michael, Civil Action etc but then every now and again he redeems himself with a good performance and here he does it again despite the film. Stowe also impresses and you wonder why she seems to be so under-utilised in terms of Hollywood output. Despite their performances, the film itself does however lack something. You get the feeling that there is a good story but that they've avoided telling it. Travolta and Stowe play the part of special investigators on a military base investigating the death of you've guessed it "AGenerals Daughter". The daughter has a real murky past and a shaky relationship with her father who is a on the verge of leaving the retirement and going into politics, hence he wants as little bad publicity from his daughters rape and murder as possible. There are some twists and turns but most are very predictable.

So its not exactly a waste of money but there are better options for that night ou at the flicks.

KP

Now Hear This.....

We'll review the albums + singles that you might like to spend your grant on

The Frames Dance The Devil

The Frames third album is surely their best to date. Always an amazing band to see live, they have in the past struggled to put that passion and energy on to disc, suffering from producers who worked too hard, or songs that were on the go too long before a record company had the vision to pick them up.

This album is a totally different story, with the songs leaving behind that feeling of being put through the corporate machine, bar one or two, and holding on to that feeling of a band putting on a compact disc, the music that they have grown into through eight years of playing together. Not that this was the album that the Frames had in mind. They had recorded the album in France, and returned to the record company a happy group. The record company weren't quite so happy, however, and felt that the overall record was too dark, and was over the heads of the majority of the public. This is where producer Trevor Horn stepped in, and had a go at a few of the tracks, most notably 'God Bless Mom'. This is where the difference was really noticeable because the version recorded by the band in France was released on 'The Magic Hand' e.p., and released by the band on their own Plateau label. The difference

when Trevor gets his hands on it is immeasurable, opening it up to a much wider potential audience. As Glen says, he makes records for his mates and Frames fans. The record company make records for everyone else.

The record starts with the aptly titled 'Perfect Opening Line', which builds to an angry chorus before quietening and slowing to a calm finish which leads perfectly into my favourite track on the album, 'Seven Day Mile'. This is a song written for Binzer, the drummer who'd been with the band from the start, but left in the early stages of the recording sessions in France. Again, a slow, quiet opening leads to an affecting chorus, after which the violin is used to great effect to bring it back down to calmness and acceptance. From here the record moves through some of the most individual and interesting music an Irish band has produced in years. From the simple sounds of 'Plateau' and 'Star Star', to the country feel of the Kool And The Gang sampling 'Rent Day Blues', to the back-to-basics rock of 'Stars are Underground', the Frames cover a huge canvas of influences, styles and loves.

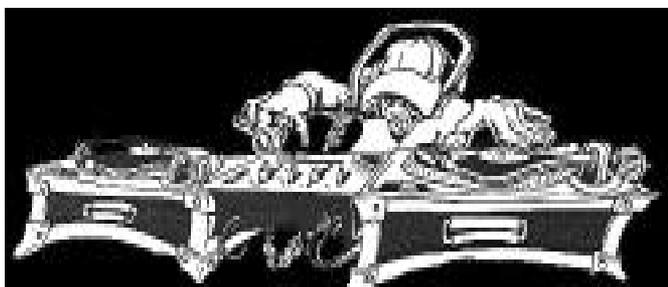
'Halocaine' is an amazing piece of music, using a Public Enemy sample and distorted vocals to bring a further angle to the bands already skewed take on things. 'Neath the

Beaches' is the only track that doesn't seem to fit in on the album, sounding a

little bare with just Glen's voice and acoustic guitar, having listened to an album of genius arrangements of instruments and various additions to further enhance the sound. Although it's a beautiful song, its simplicity is a little out of place on an album which is full of layers and turns. It is all the more out of place when followed by the title track, and closing track on the album, Dance the Devil. This track is like a record of all recent influences, with touches of Will Oldham, Mogwai and Nick Cave all contributing to the obvious dEUS influence. Bring them all together the way the Frames do, adding their own style, and Glen's voice and lyrics, and you've got a powerful combination.

This is a must have album for anyone who regards themselves a music fan, and could be the album that finally brings the Frames the recognition that any one who has seen them play live agrees they deserve.

Here's hoping.



Matronix.... The best of 1985-1999

Kurtis Matronix first appeared in the mid-80's producing a mass of tunes founded on hip-hop. In a unique style of hip-hop and pop combined with rap, Matronix infected the pop world with tracks such as "Bassline" and "Needle to the groove".

Stimulating stuff – but strictly for pop or rap addicts or the "needle in a haystack" few who will take to the combining of both.

The early '90's suffered the hits "Got to have your love" and "Take your time". With bland lyrics, poor vocals and indistinct tracks the early '90's is where this music should have been laid to rest.

"Mad" and "Push your hands up" are the unsuccessful attempts of updating the style of music. The "rejuvenation" consists of adding a stronger beat and a few swear words for good measure (bound to appeal to brainwashed adolescents alone!).

The tracks on this album become extremely repetitive despite altering beats. Lyrics become tackier as the album progresses, and the innocent listener becomes bored. If you are curious to listen to this blend of hip-hop and rap, my advice is to buy the single.

Aoife Leahy.

classic corner

Each Issue, Brendan Gregory will take a look at a classic album from the 70's, 80's or 90's.

This issue.....

Fleetwood Mac – Rumours

Last month I bought a batch of second hand vinyl from a flea market.

Tucked away discreetly between the Led Zeppelins and Neil Young's was this masterpiece. It quickly assumed a position as chief belt drive exhauster on my primitive vinyl deck. After reading all the reviews and having seen it frequently included in top 100 records of the century in numerous publications, I too have been converted. This album is quite simply a classic. Listen to Stevie Nick's breathy original version of 'Dreams', easily stripping the Corrs of what little credibility they ever had. Listen to the pumping, funky bass and drums courtesy of John McVie and Mick Fleetwood, check out Lindsay Buckingham's ludicrous afro on the back cover not to mention the highly ridiculous and suggestive front cover.

The band was almost destroyed during the creation of this album in 1975, caught amid a borrhage of debauched drug use and relationship breakdowns between Nicks and Buckingham and the two McVies. At one



point during recording sessions, John McVie hooked up a bottle of whisky and a tube cello-taped to his arm in a mock up of a drip. The grim reality and seriousness of this comical gesture was all too apparent.

Highlights on this album include the aforementioned 'Dreams', 'Go your own way' and 'The Chain', a scathing vengeful account of the broken relationships.

"If you don't love me now/
you will never love me again/
I can still hear you saying/
you would never break the chain."

The quality of music on this album is unrivalled. Arguably the band's best album, they never quite regained their peak. 'Rumours' can be regarded as their musical zenith and will entertain both musicphobes and casual listeners alike.

Brendan Gregory

Walking the Boards

Limerick has one of the best theatres in the country in the Belltable. We'll have a look at what is going on in there in each issue.

This week, **Ella Daly**, a member of Limerick Youth Theatre, talks to 'Pigtowns' Mike Finn.

Happy as a Pig in Shit

On a wet and miserable Saturday I had the pleasure of talking to Limericks biggest Pig.

For those of you that spent the summer in your respective home towns or abroad let me explain, the pig I speak of is Mike Finnwriter and star of what is arguably Limerick Theatres biggest success story.

Pigtown was what Mike himself as a 'nostalgic look back' at Limerick at the end of the millennium. However for anyone of the 5,000 people who saw the show during its 6 week run at our own Belltable Arts Centre it was a trip down memory lane like no other, taking in a hundred years of 'Pigtonian' history. It moved through topics as varied as domestic violence and the Limerick soviet all tied together in Mike Finn's unique writing style.

Mike Finn is a native of Pigtown and his love of Limerick becomes obvious in his work, not only Island Theatre (of which he is a founding member) but also with Limerick Youth Theatre and the Umbrella Project. His work and that of Island has in the last couple of years taken on a decidedly local slant. Pigtown is the example that immediately comes to mind, but let us not forget 'Borrowed Robes' the story related to the 1904 program's set against a backdrop of priestly celibacy. Or indeed 'A Bottle of Smoke' the disturbing tale of a young



Members of the beautiful cast of 'Pigtown'

Tipperary girl burnt to death for witchcraft at the turn of the century. Mike lives and works in the city indeed St Munchins Church where rehearsals are carried on sites in the heart of old Limerick at the apex of the Shannon, King Johns Castle and Kings Island. It is also one of Mikes old haunts where as a boy he "read the headstones and tried to imagine the lives of the people buried there". He also speaks with amusement of the irony of Islands success while in this particular church. He takes pleasure in overcoming the curse of St. Munchin whereby 'all foreigners will prosper while locals suffered' uttered on a site of Islands home.

He also speaks with relish of the future. The current tour of Borrowed Robes, a possible tour of 'Pigtown' as well as two new projects. A version of Gilberts 'the Engaged' set predictably in Limerick and a new pantomime in Limerick. The pantomime for the Belltable through seemingly the junior of the two productions shows once again the person behind the face of Mike Finn.

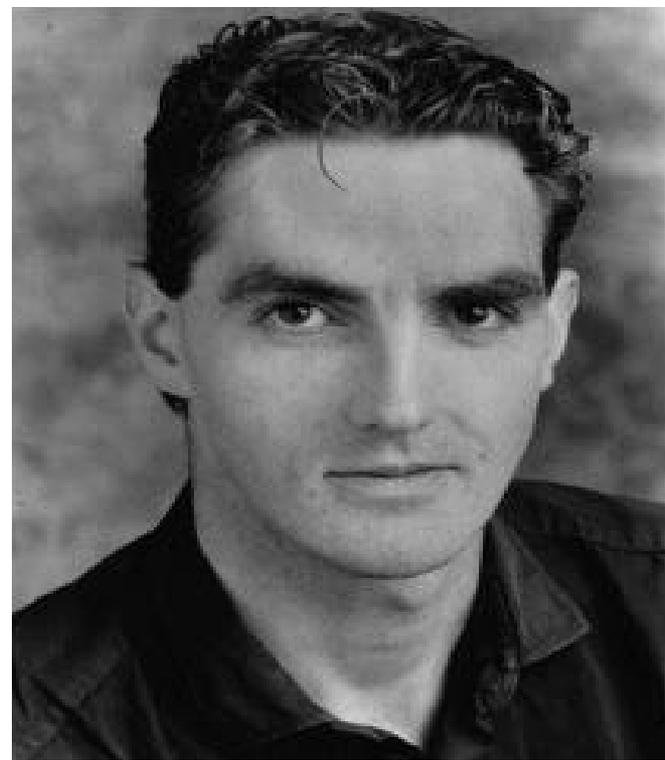
The man who believes all 'true art is a learning process'. While speaking to him I asked how come all of his work including Pigtown and a short play written by him for Limerick Youth Theatre named "Stories" contained a central truth and a moral. His reply was 'Art is a learning process, you must feel you are a better person for having read a book of poems or seen a play for it have been Art'.

Mike reveals a lot of himself in conversation; everything from his uncertainty about what he wants to do "when he grows up" to his pride in his native city. His belief that Limerick has a lot to be proud of shines through as does his conviction that in order to appreciate the good stuff you must highlight the bad stuff as well.

This was the ethos of Pigtown, a play that in no way echoed Frank McCourts bleak portrayal of Limerick in Angelas Ashes, while avoiding creating a surreally merry image of the city. Having seen the play myself I can report the scene concerning domestic violence was just as moving as the scene concerning Young Munster's victory over the All Blacks.

When asked was it difficult to strike the balance when writing Pigtown Mike with his usual modesty praised the plays director Terry Devlin for keeping him on the right track in early draughts.

Spending an hour in the company of Mike Finn was a pleasure, spending two was even more so. I hope I have illuminated somehow the mystery that he is. I look forward to seeing Mike Finns pantomime and wish Island every success in the future.



Limericks Mike Finn; the man in the spotlight

Coming Up At The Belltable

Belltable Film club enters 33rd season

Commencing Sunday 26th September

Lights, camera, action! This Sunday sees the return of the ever-popular FILM CLUB to the Belltable Arts Centre. Since beginning seventeen years ago, the Sunday night screenings have earned a devoted following from film buffs who want more than the standard Hollywood fare offered by local cinemas. The club has screened hundreds of contemporary films by some of the best World and European film makers, including classics such as LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE, HEAVENLY CREATURES, FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE, KOLYA, CRASH and LOOKING FOR RICHARD.

Belltable Listings Information

Theatre

Monday 4th-Saturday 9th October

Presented by Yew Tree Theatre and Island Theatre

Company

ALONE IT STANDS'

Written and directed by John Breen

8pm

Tickets £8 Concession £6

ART

Friday 8th - Saturday 27th October

FRIEZE

A solo Exhibition of mixed media

By

Collette Nolan

9am-6pm Monday - Saturday

Admission to the Gallery is free

FILM

Sunday 10th October

'GODS AND MONSTERS'

UK 1997/BILL CONDON

8pm Season Ticket £26 (concession £20) Guest Tickets £5 plus nightly admission £3

UL Clubs Move Into The National And Local Leagues

Recently, UL Clubs have started to expand and join the local leagues in a search for more games and tougher competition.

The week after the UL Ladies Basketball Club announced their merger with the Limerick National League Ladies Basketball team, **Mick Touhy** takes a look at the reasons why they and other clubs have done so.

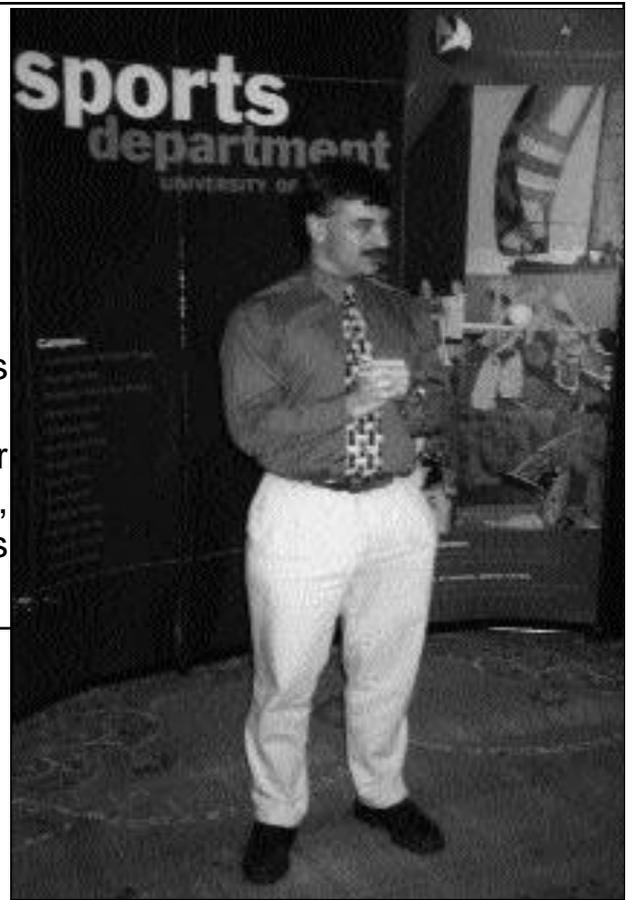
There's a growing phenomenon in the world of sports in UL and that's UL clubs joining outside leagues.

By outside, I mean competitions other than those with other colleges. Before now, the UL Ladies Hockey teams were the only club involved in external competition, with teams in both the Munster Senior and Minor leagues. Now the UL Basketball Club, UL Soccer Club, and the UL Mens Hockey Club are all getting involved.

So what prompted this move? I spoke to Noreen O'Connell, of the UL Basketball Club, who explained that the foremost reason they had for branching into other competitions was the increased options and opportunities to play that it gave their members. Up until now trials were held at the start of the year for one team. So there were always a lot of disappointed people; people that were good enough to play, there just wasn't a place for them. Then even those

that made the team were only competing in the inter-varsities, which was one weekend in a whole year of training. Now the club will have a college team, an Under-19 team, a regional league team, a local team and a freshers team. So there'll be opportunities for more players to play more games, which is why they joined the club in the first place.

Martin Hayes, of the UL Soccer Club, had a similar story to tell. At their AGM at the end of last year, it was decided (by the students) to develop the club by joining outside leagues. So this year the club is in Division 2A of the local league and is also competing in the Munster Junior Cup and the FAI Junior Cup. The decision was taken in an effort to develop the club and its teams so they could get more people playing, and fully exploit UL's potential as a soccer power. As well as the outside leagues, the club has organized a Heineken Super League (kindly sponsored by Heineken!!) which



Dave Mahedy speaks at the launch of the UL National League Basketball Club

they'll be promoting in the canteen this week. This league will be held on the astro-turf and is to be set up so that any team that joins will be guaranteed at least nine games. If you're interested, the Club will be in the canteen this week, and training for the other league teams will be on the astro-turf on Fridays at 3:30pm. Anyone who thinks they can do more than talk a good game is welcome, but be warned, if you make the team you'll have to get out of bed on Sunday morning to play the matches.

As regards the hockey team, we spoke to club secretary Garvin Barry about the progress that they've been making. "It's been an uphill battle or the last three years but all the hard work has come to fruition." The difficulty in having a mens hockey team in Limerick was highlighted this week with the folding of Limerick's oldest club, LPYMA, who had been in existence for 99 years. However, Garvin maintains that "in order to have a successful hockey club and nurture the game here in UL, we need to look after our younger players. The team has also signed a sponsorship deal with the Irish Times, which will go a long way to helping the teams success.

All in all, it seems if you're interested in getting some game time, then these are the clubs to join. It'll be interesting to see how they get on, hopefully they'll do us proud, and we'll see more clubs in the college follow their example.



The '98/'99 Collingwood panel that competed in the Munster Cup and the FAI Junior Cup

A Welcome For All The Rowers

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK ROWING CLUB.

After a long and lazy summer UL rowing club welcomes back all its members to college and gives a special welcome to the eighty new members that have joined this year. The 1999-2000 season promises to be a very special and rewarding one with great interest and enthusiasm being shown by members new and old. Training for all levels has already begun and if you are in any doubt regarding training times look at the ULRC notice board beside the bank of Ireland pass machine in the canteen. Most crewmembers can be found every evening in the gym at six-o clock. They are (mostly) very friendly and obliging people and will be more than happy to help you. Well done to all the new crew members who were on the water last weekend you didn't let the terrible conditions dampen your spirits, don't worry we promise fine weather for next weekends waterwork. This week training for novices will again be

Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm sharp and rowing planned for the weekend. As most members will be aware the UL novice mens eight are currently training for the Head of The Charles Regatta in Boston which will take place on the 24th and 25th of October. This is the second year UL have sent a crew to Boston. Some of the intermediate men will also be rowing in a mixed intermediate eight. A big thank you to all members who helped with the entries and sponsorship. The event will help to raise the profile of ULRC and also give crewmembers a well-deserved weekend in Boston. That is all the news at the moment as the season gets into full swing ULRC results, gossip and the occasional agony aunt column will appear here. Once again welcome back to rowing. LASH IT OUT.
James Finucane (pro) e-mail irishjames@hotmail.com

.....+ One For All The Postgrads

FROM THE PSA

WELCOME POST-GRADS

Hi and welcome to "fourth level education", my name is Niall Dunphy and I have the dubious pleasure of being the President of the Postgraduate Students' Association.



The Postgrad Association is the representative organisation for graduate students in UL and last year had some 1600 members on the Plassey campus. For full details of how the Association operates and contact names for your faculty reps., (+ photos, news, links etc.) do check out our website @ <http://www.ul.ie/~psa>. The other important role of the PSA is to arrange social events for our members. These events range from political debates to Pitch & Putt to BBQs to Formal balls and everything in between, we generally have an event at least once a month.

To keep in touch with the PSA regarding both the social side of things and other developments please sign up to our emailing list on our website or by emailing ul.postgrads-subscribe@listbot.com

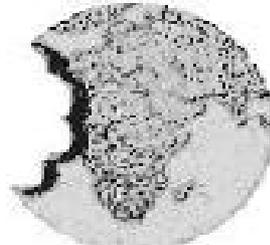
The final thing I shall talk about is to inform you about our AGM which will be held at the end of this month. Please attend and get involved with the Association - further information will be mailed to the list and posters placed around the campus.

Slán,
Niall

Enviro Soc. have a message



Whether I am aware of it,
Whether I care about it,
Whether I know about it,
Even if I don't want to know about it,
Whether I am affected by it,
Whether I am interested in it,
Even if I don't believe it,



The physical environment is being changed and damaged at an alarming rate. Some of these changes are necessary; they always have been but the balance between necessary change and exploitation of the ecological system is destroying life on this planet. The motives for this exploitation are profit and greed. Nobody needs a new mahogany cabinet. Nobody needs a new fur coat. Even with the massive population at the moment there are solutions to the food shortages, which don't require the destruction of forests or the draining of wetlands. Five percent of the world's population owns ninety percent of the wealth. Eighty percent of the world's cancer victims are in the western world. Why is this? The food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe are all being polluted. Who asked you if they could spray your food with carcinogenic sprays? This IS the way it is but the future does not have to be a continuation

of this. Conservation, use of renewable energy resources, organic farming, recycling & sustainable development are the tools to save the planet and improve the health of everyone on the planet. What can you do about this? The first thing is to examine the consequences of your actions. Where does plastic go? Who made the things I am buying? Were they exploited? Is fossil fuel burning really a problem? Find out. Get involved! Start making a positive difference. To keep informed join Earthwatch and do searches on the Internet* for environmental issues. Look out for your green society on Freshers day. Think globally act locally!

"Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it.....
..... Whatever he does to the web he does to himself "
Chief Seattle, 1854

This year the environmental society will be

Campaigning for:	More use of recycled paper, Less use of plastic cutlery & cups, More waste paper bins, Better public transport & cycling lanes
Organising:	Guest Speakers on Recycling Genetic Engineering
Guest Speakers from:	Action Groups Limerick County Council Organic food & craft fairs Shannon clean - up
Attending:	Sustainable Earth Conferences Open organic farming weekends

Plus

.....any actions, petitions, awareness raising programs, parties and weekends away we feel are necessary. But the more people join up the more we do. Do you feel compelled to start making a change or even just find out more? If so come along to our meetings every Monday, 7:30pm in the main canteen. First event this year is talk by Mary Fogarty, head of environmental section with Limerick County Council on October 27th at 7:00pm. She will present the environmental plan for the next few years for the mid-west region. Q & A session afterwards. Free Beer ????? T.B.D.

A Few Announcements

Fianna Fail AGM

Con Colbert Cumann
UL Fianna Fáil
A.G.M.

Chaired by Alderman. Peter Power
Monday 11th October (Week 3)
@ 7.30 p.m.
Venue - c1054
All members should attend.



UL Debating Union Proudly Presents.....

„Different Shades of Green%
A debate on Republicanism/Nationalism in Ireland

Speakers:
Fianna Fáil- Seamus Doran
Fine Gael- Cllr. Diarmuid Scully
I.R.S.P- Gary Adams/Cathal McGovern
Republican Sinn Féin- Ruairí (Óg) Ó Bradraigh
S.D.L.P- John Fee (Northern Assembly)
Sinn Féin- Francie Molloy (Northern Assembly)

Jean Monnet Theatre
Tuesday 19th of October

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



CELTIC SUPPORTERS CLUB
LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES
STILL LEFT FOR CELTIC v
KILMARNOCK
OCT 29th - 31st

IMPORTANT MEETING
THURSDAY WK 2 @ 7p.m.
CANTEEN

NEW & NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

There's a new Club!... Handball/Racketball

What are these sports I hear you say?
Racketball: It's like tennis, but it's actually fun.
Handball: It's the only sport approved by NASA.
So if you want to have fun and maybe become certified by NASA then join our all new club!!

Meeting takes place on Tuesday 12th October at 8 o'clock in A1053.

All are welcome from beginners upwards. All years are welcome from Freshers to Postgrads!!!

Patrick Nolan – 9926704.

Live Wired Returns to the Stables

After the great success of Monday nights last year, the Radio Soc + the Music Soc come together again to bring you:

**Live Wired
Acoustic Sessions.**

the place - stables bar
the time - 10pm monday
the idea - bring your guitar and your mates, get up on stage and give us a song.