

U.C.C. GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, 1987-88

Michael Nagle

It was a hot humid night as I made my way to the Geog.Soc. A.G.M. in April, 1987. Six-shooter in hand, Ben Dee, outgoing auditor was run out of town. Such was my ideology and youthful enthusiasm that I took the grand reins of power and aimed to transform the Society. The committee for the year was as follows:

Auditor: Michael Nagle
Vice-Auditor: Anne-Marie Forrest
Secretary: Niamh Barrett
Treasurer: Michael Power

Our academic meetings began with Dr. Alaraji from Iraq summarising the extent of the Iran/Iraq war to a packed assembly, with many sitting on the floor. It was a great start and set a pattern we were to maintain throughout the year in our meetings; a good speaker addressing a contemporary theme. Other lecturers included:

Mary O'Donnell (Earthwatch) "Ireland in a Nuclear Environment"
Tom O'Connor (Met.Office) "Ireland's Weather"
Comdt.Paddy Flynn "Bombs,bullets and landscapes"
Michael Gough (Dublin Corp.) "Planning in Ireland"

We also involved ourselves in a number of joint ventures with the Department, such as a lecture by Dr. John de Courcy Ireland on "Maritime Ireland".

Some of our more notable successes took place in the social arena. On November 21st, our first adventure brought us to Clonlara, Co.Clare on our Fieldtrip. It transpired to be an eventful weekend with the odd casualty along the way. The moral of the story was 'Bring your Hospital Services Card' on Geog.Soc.Fieldtrips and try not to fall out of the top bunk. We returned to Cork, having visited our sick in Barrington's Hospital, Limerick.

Also in November, a Joint Geog.Soc./Archaeological Society Disco was held in "Sparks" nightclub. A great time was had by all. This was to be repeated at a second Disco at the same venue in March. Despite these successes, there is a need for the Society to be more imaginative in its activities. An attempt at this during the year was a 5-a-side indoor mixed soccer competition.

Of course the highlight of the year was the Geography Ball held in Jury's Hotel on February 11th. One hundred and ninety-two people attended; a very good response, given the competing and much-hyped Strauss Ball. A huge postering campaign helped sell the "Ball".

A Joint Geog.Soc./Archaeological Society week-end trip to Cape Clear took place in March. For £10, participants enjoyed three nights of magnificent food, and well, not so magnificent accommodation. An elite unit of the Geog.Soc. special services parachuted into Queens University campus in Belfast and infiltrated the Irish Geographical Societies Congress, 1988. A very interesting and informative weekend, indeed.

The Inter-schools debating competition, debating geographical themes, took-off under the guidance of Anne-Marie Forrest, with a record number of entries. Niamh Barrett secured sponsorship for the event which is still on-going.

Our trusty treasurer Michael Power procured some £1,450 for our year's endeavours by exploiting the many special funds available. Likewise, a special thank you to our class reps.who attended meetings and gladly assisted when necessary.

Finally, we held our A.G.M. on April 22nd, 1988 and gave birth to a beautiful, bouncing new committee as follows:

Auditor:	Patrick Coleman
Vice-Auditor:	Davina McLoughlin
Secretary:	Maura Buckley
Treasurer:	Paul O'Brien

I would like to express my personal gratitude for all I learned as an individual through organising events, making mistakes and still getting away with them. I wish next year's committee every success.