

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Eileen Boyce

"It's life Jim... but not as we know it..." and thus heralded the arrival of the Geographical Society Committee for 1889/90. The new all female committee; Eileen Boyce (Auditor), Mary Quinlan (Vice-Auditor), Martina Dineen (Secretary) and Ann Dunlea (Treasurer) attributed their positions to natural good taste on the part of the electorate. Pat Leahy blamed it on the Suffragette movement! Nonetheless, the committee was here to stay... and leave its mark - with a vengeance.

October saw the first official event of the new Geog. Soc. underway - The 'Freshers' cheese and wine reception. When everybody had recovered from the cheese (?) the society played host to the first society lectures of Dr. Frank Barry P.E.G., U.C.D. and Dr. Tom McCarthy, Economics Dept., U.C.C. The end of October saw the class Reps. elected: Marie O'Neill, Sandra Buckley, Eimear Ní Laoire and Priscilla Dwyer. The female plot thickens. Michael Tierney was appointed postgraduate representative.

November saw the arrival of the second society speaker. This time it was the turn of Professor Russell King, T.C.D. Hot on the heels of this, the Society held the annual Geog. Soc. weekend away... this year Barley Cove was to be honoured with our presence. With postgraduates Anne Sinnott and Dave Storey leading the intrepid explorers, anything could happen... and frequently did!! (All enquiries to Dave and Anne).

December arrived and while the weather was getting colder the Society was getting hotter, Jim Woolridge from Earthwatch was the next Society speaker. The eagerly awaited mixed soccer tournament got underway with the postgrads. gaining an early lead. Dr. Barry Brunt (staff coordinator) organised the third year Christmas party which was a great success. We believe some third years are still on the missing list!

January saw the first advertisements for the upcoming Geography Ball. Tickets were printed, announcements made and highly creative (?!!) posters displayed. Preparations for the event of the year were underway! Dr. Mary Cawley, U.C.G. was this month's Society speaker. The soccer tournament reached fever pitch, with Paul O'Brien's and postgrad. teams reaching the final. The hot favourites, the committee team, were narrowly defeated (10-0) in the semifinals. Of course their star player Dr. Robert J. Devoy was unavailable for this match and many have cited this as the reason for the committee team's defeat.

February saw two joint Society/Departmental lectures. The first of these was by Professor Pierre Le Rhun (Nantes) on "The T.G.V. and Territorial Planning in France", the latter by Professor Grima (Toronto) on "Sustainable Development". At last the final of the soccer tournament had arrived with both teams undergoing last minute fitness tests. It was a tough battle with postgrads. as the eventual victors. The postgrad. team of Dave Storey, Ray O'Connor, Sandra Creaner, Anne Sinnott and Denis Linehan had once again retained the "Pat Leahy Memorial Trophy" with the leading scorer of the competition being Simon O'Hara with 20 goals (16 O.G.'s). February 22nd saw the culmination of weeks of hard work and preparation in the 1990 Geography Ball. With all the tickets sold out, the omen for success was tangible. The staff present included Professor William Smyth and Dr. Barry Brunt. Speakers included Eileen Boyce, Dave Rush and Professor Smyth. After the meal and speeches, the band stuck up and geographical inertia was a thing of the past. The casualties in the aftermath were high but those who survived lived to tell of the enjoyment had by all.

March has seen another joint Society/Departmental lecture. This time Professor Paul Claval (Paris IV) being the department's invited guest.

The Society has had a very enjoyable year in office and it is impossible for me as auditor to thank all those who have given the Society so much of their advice and help. However, certain people do stand out who clearly need to be mentioned. The Society would like to thank Dr. Barry Brunt for the great support he has given

this year's Society, and the postgrads. of the department, especially Dave Rush, Dave Storey and Kieran Donoghue. Thanks also to Darius Bartlett for the enthusiasm with which he has greeted all Society events. As auditor of the Society and as a student of the Geography Department, I would like to salute the two people who have made my stay in the department a more enjoyable one - Anne Phelan and Anne Donovan - Thank you.

On behalf of the Society all that remains is to thank the department for its support over the past year and to wish the incoming committee all the best in their endeavours to keep the Geographical Society firmly on the map.