



Jogging the N7 West.

## MUSIC BITZ



Cry Before Dawn.

● **CRY BEFORE DAWN** — Crimes of Conscience — This Irish band who hail from Wexford have been receiving much media hype and around the time they released their debut single, "Gone Forever", which features on the album, were the centre of nearly as much attention and air-play as their much more famous compatriots U2 and at the moment with U2 hysteria in full flow one wonders how that could have been possible.

The single "Gone Forever" was a taste of the much awaited album and now that it has arrived you wonder what all the fuss was about. I don't really know what to say about the album — it's not really bad, but, there is definitely something missing.

The four members of the band are obviously very good musicians and, indeed, on the album, play quite a few different instruments, such as uilleann pipes and whistles, they just don't seem to have got that full sound which one comes to expect from a

modern day, well produced album.

The current single, "The Seed that's been Sown", is by far the best track on the album and if it is released in Britain as was their debut single is good enough to crack the charts. The problem is the follow-up — the other songs are bordering on being very mediocre.

I think that if they had included some brass arrangements or prominent backing keyboard some of the songs wouldn't have sounded so empty.

The tracks which stood out were the two singles, "Gone Forever" and "The Seed that's been Sown"; "Flags" and "Girl in the Ghetto".

This album will be taken to heart by their growing number of Irish fans but will hardly win over any new ones and with its weak almost cabaret like arrangement and production should please the elderly ear and not the young record buying public who they should be aiming for. —S.F.



Paul Johnson.

● **PAUL JOHNSON: Paul Johnson** — This is a soul/pop album that holds no major surprises for the listener other than being a very solid and enjoyable record which, even though involving Junior, a close friend and recognised artist, as producer, doesn't fall into the hi-energy category, à la Five Star, etc., as one would have expected. It is much more in the late night listening variety with the tempo all through never reaching that frenzied dance floor beat which warrants the most amazing exertion just to keep in time.

It is a good mixture of the slow and middle of the road type soul/pop which you come to expect from young aspiring black soul artists and which was made so popular by such stars as Marvin Gaye, with whom Paul has been favourably compared.

Some of the tracks which really stood out were "New Love", "Burnin'", "Fear of Falling", "Heaven is 10 Zillion Light Years Away", which has a very strong gospel backing choir; "Are We Strong Enough", which was the most danceable, and the best song for me was "When Loves Comes Falling".

All the songs featured lovely keyboard and guitar work and the album had a very rich sound all through.

Paul appeared, through his involvement with Junior, on the Red Wedge Tour, which raised funds and promoted the ideals of the English Labour Party and which also featured such established acts as The Style Council, The Smiths and Billy Bragg.

Paul has a superb vocal range and also the ability to control and use it to its full potential. His roots lie in gospel but he has adapted his talents to make an, at times, very enthralling soul cum light pop album. The record is very well produced and is very easy on the ear. Not a bad effort. —S.F.

## Tuesday Blue charity gig

**TUESDAY** Blue played a charity gig, to a packed theatre, at the Belltable Arts Centre, last night in aid of the Limerick Youth Service.

They remain one of Limerick's great prospects and one wonders when they are going to go to work on their now long awaited debut album.

The enthusiasm of the crowd and imaginative lighting coupled with the sometimes frantic movements of a very energetic front man Mike Ryan created a tremendous atmosphere.

Songs like "I Believe", "Love Me Simple", "Don't Go Away" and "Tunnel Vision" rang around the theatre and filled every vacant inch of space such was the power of their performance.

The support act was a choir called One World which featured a large choral section accompanied by a guitar, bongos and occasional flute. They got the audience really involved with songs such as "Rivers of Babylon" by Boney M and "One Love" by Bob Marley.

# REDUNDANCY PACKAGE SLAMMED BY HARRINGTON

**MERICK** city councillor **Harrington** has decried the Government's redundancy package deemed to shed 10,000 jobs in the Public Service as a "heinous attack" on employment in this country.

"There is absolutely no indication that these job losses will be compensated for by comparable job creation in the private sector," he argues.

He said that the lump sum payments will be attractive to many public service workers, especially those on low pay scales.

"However they are of little value if alternative employment isn't found. Workers considering this redundancy offer should think very seriously before giving up permanent jobs for very short term gain," he warned.

### MORAL ASPECT

Cllr. **Harrington** also questioned the moral aspect of the whole idea. "Speaking as a health worker I feel that these are not just our jobs. They are so our children's jobs. Do we really have the right to jettison these jobs and condemn our young people to the migrant ship? When these jobs go we won't see them gain."

Cllr. **Harrington** concluded with a warning that less public service jobs means a reduction in services to the public, in health and other areas.

"The staff in the public service is scarcely adequate at the moment. Rather than

employment the Government should seek to fund the existing jobs and services

through a taxation system that would raise sufficient funds from those who are dodging

the payment of taxation and allocated this money to fund social services," he stated.



While on a visit to Plassey Technological Park, the Minister for Defence, Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., visited the Shannon Development sponsored Innovation Centre where he was taken on a tour of Reagecon Ltd., a company based at the Centre which manufactures medical diagnostic kits and reagents. The Minister was pictured at the Centre with, on left, Mr. Tom Carroll, executive director, Innovation Centre; Ms. Virginia Freeman, chemist; and Mr. John Bowers, managing director, Reagecon Ltd.