



(left), P.R.O. of the Limerick Women's Organisations with Ann O'Malley, president.

special interest to persons involved in voluntary helping groups, professionals who deal with victims of marriage breakdown, and persons concerned with the new Marital Separation Act."

"We in the federation feel this will be most informative and interesting for many people in the community, male and female", said Ms. Ann O'Malley, president of the federation.

Catholic brains leaving Church in the lurch, says Bishop

THE BISHOP of Limerick, Most Rev Dr Jeremiah Newman has called on Catholic intellectuals to throw their weight behind the faith, and help to counter the "jargon" of growing secularism.

Dr Newman, speaking at ceremonies to start the new academic year at Mary Immaculate College of Education, said that he had become painfully aware of the present state of the Church "overridden nearly everywhere by liberal secularism and left largely in the lurch intellectually by those who could effectively support it."

He said that it was sad to see this growing secularism, "promoted mainly by a minority, mostly non-Catholic, non-practising Catholics or lukewarm Catholics" having the degree of success it had.

Catholic intellectuals, he went on, could play a crucial part and he called on them to take on the secularists.

And the Bishop, making an exception of Mary Immaculate College, said that a philosophy "of bits and pieces" is being expounded in some colleges "where Catholic convictions should be strong" and he described as a "weak version of Liberation Theology and discredited neo-Marxist analysis" two books on Catholic Social Doctrine he had recently read.

who cares anyway! Surely it's the music that counts!

The album gets goin' with the highly original debut single "Song For Whoever". It features some superb piano playing throughout and has a most unusual chorus featuring

A few little bits on some Irish 45s

Here are just a few lines on some rather good Irish singles around at the moment.

THE FAT LADY SINGS

"Arclight!"
"Behind Your Back"

O.K., what can I say about "Arclight"? Surely this must be one of the Irish singles of the year! Well in my opinion it definitely is!!!

It starts off slow with some nice keyboards 'n' guitars accompanying a very compe-

the fat lady sings



tent sounding lead vocal. It then speeds up (drums 'n' all) and goes into a really catchy chorus. It also has a really unusual but very nice heavy snare drum whacking away throughout what is a totally great track. Don't take my word for it — go and buy yourself a copy and then I'm sure, if you don't already think so or if you haven't already heard it, you will agree with me!

"Behind Your Back" is the B-side and is another very fine song. It again features that huge sounding snare and has some lovely subdued harmonica also included.

A fabulous effort overall!

THE WORD

"Love's Strange Ways!"
"Never So Good"

"Love's Strange Ways" is a really fine track from this very promising band. It features a lovely bass-line and has the very solid drumming of Ronan O'Hanlon who is also responsible for writing the bands songs. The singer did go a bit



over-the-top with his Prince-type vocals. There's a nice bit of brass also included.

"Never So Good", the B-side, is a bit of a disappointment. It sounds too raw in comparison to the sleek production of its flip-side. The song, I would imagine, was written quite some time ago as even the chorus sounds a bit dated.

The excellence of the A-side though more than makes up for the slightly 'dodgy' B-side.

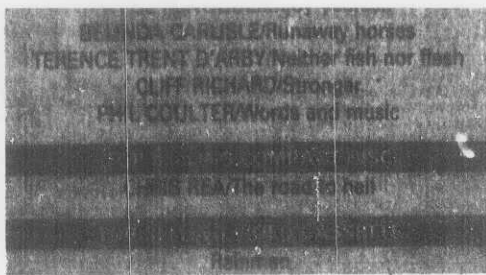
nice scratchy rhythm guitar and unusual lead guitar included. Good stuff.

Side one comes to a finish with "Straight In At 37". This is a very different sounding track and has both a very clean sounding and a very unusual keyboard-type bass-line. It again features the wonderful backing vocals of Brianna and another very catchy (almost par for the course) chorus!

Side two gets up and runnin' with the current single from the album "You Keep It All In". This is a really marvellous track and features Miss Corrigan on vocals. It was a huge success for the band and, in my opinion, deservedly so! It's an extremely catchy track with a really bouncy bass-line and some lovely understated brass.

"Woman In The Wall" starts with some very mellow keyboards 'n' vocals and is a totally superb song. It is one of my favourites included and is as melodic a track as you will hear from any band at the moment. It's got a slightly African feel to it and finishes with a nice instrumental bit.

"Oh Blackpool" is, I suppose you could say, the Housemartins revisited! This jolly, lively and totally danceable track is just the same as



the lads were producing two or three years ago. There's a lovely bass-line and keyboard bit included! A very sociable effort indeed!

"Love Is . . ." is another of the slower tracks and features some lovely collective vocals and some very nice brass. In comparison to some of the other efforts it is just average, I suppose.

The album comes to a finish with "I Love You (But You're Boring)". This song, with its noise of passing cars, birds 'n' things and extremely raw sounding acoustic guitar sound like it was recorded outside — probably on a ditch by a roadside! It's a bit strange and Beatles-ish but it's a nice little ballad and is very well sung. An unusual, but good,

finish.

Even though while listening to this album I frequently thought of the Housemartins this was, nevertheless, a really good and original sounding effort. With the very distinctive vocals of Paul Heaton so prominent the tendency will be to make comparisons but, thankfully, the overall sound is sufficiently different so as to make the comparisons almost count for nothing.

It had some really nice songs which were given a very uncluttered and almost 'live' feel through the recording and production technique used.

It will surely produce at least two more (if not three or four) very successful singles and is definitely well worth a listen.

A Touch Of Oliver raisin' the Flag

A Touch Of Oliver — the latest in a long line of very promising (exciting even!) Limerick rock bands — played what I can only describe as a quite memorable gig at the Flag Cafe, Broad Street, Limerick, last Saturday afternoon.

The four lads, all natives of our fair city, are — Diarmuid O'Sullivan, vocals; Hugh Mulqueen, guitar; Brian Corr, bass, and Willie on drums.

Their set, which was almost completely original, was full of really lively and marvellously energetic songs. The gig, I believe, was one of their first and the youngish crowd which packed the Flag seemed to be totally into what was goin' on.

Right from the off the lads had the complete attention of the audience and the wonderful "Listen" with its slow start was a real bouncy effort that is well worth mentioning. "More Or Less Green" (about 'naivety' as opposed to the current political 'green' bandwagon issue) was another fine effort and their super but unexpected cover of the extremely famous song from Sesame Street, "Who Are The People In Your Neighbourhood", showed the light-hearted and adventurous nature of the band.

Towards the end of the gig they embarked on their most seriously intense effort which was simply called "The Blues Song". As you can guess this was a good ol' blues number which, again, is definitely worthy of mention.

They are, as Limerick bands go, fairly young but this was certainly not evident in the songwriting and overall performance of Diarmuid O'Sullivan. He named among his influences R.E.M., The Doors, New Model Army and a lot of things '60s and '70s.

Willie, on drums, must surely be influenced by the wonderful Echo And The Bunnymen. His use of the



A Touch Of Oliver (clockwise, from front left): Diarmuid O'Sullivan, vocals; Brian Corr, bass; Hugh Mulqueen, guitar, and Willie, drums.

snare drum was very reminiscent of the Bunnymen style. Never a bad complaint!

Brian Corr and Hugh Mulqueen both played with marvellous energy and their synchronised 'bouncin' about the shop' could only but be admired.

They were very complimentary, when I spoke with them, of the facilities which Xeric Studios provide for Limerick bands — the lads rehearse in the Edward Street complex. They are also planning to use Xeric for the recording of a demo-tape which they hope will be completed around Christmas of this year.

They described their music as a mixture of the best of '60s 'n' '70s with a touch of punk. I think they were doing themselves a slight disservice with this description. The music, for me at any rate, was

superbly bouncy, energetic and very modern and was played with just enough raw aggression that would surely whip any kind of lively crowd into a frenzy.

Their ambition, by the way, is to keep enjoying their music — be it in the Flag Cafe or in (as they put it) Madison Square Gardens, the latter (with no offence to the Flag) would be a far better proposition I'm sure. Good luck to 'em — you should hear a lot more about A Touch Of Oliver!

FLAG CAFE

The Flag Cafe is a really nice intimate little place and they serve tea, coffee and all kinds of vegetarian food. They've had The Hitchers, Tear Collectors, Crossroads and They Do It With Mirrors play the venue to date and they hope to continue having live music there.

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ORTER

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