

## Designer Award

□ THE SDI Graduate Designer Award panel of judges visited the Diploma/Degree shows at five colleges throughout the country to examine the work on exhibition of sixty-six graduating students of Product Design.

The judges' decision on the Graduate Designer of the year 1987 was unanimously in favour of Siobhan Ryan, a graduate of Limerick School of Art & Design who received a National Diploma in Design (Ceramics) with Credit, and who, in the opinion of the judges, was "the designer with the most promise whose work demonstrates fluency, self-confidence and determination to carry out, in three dimensions, her own unique ideas."

The 1987 Award being in the category of Product Design presented the judges with task the of "selecting the most outstanding designer... the designer we believe has the best potential, the one we expect to be hearing about and seeing a lot of in the future" from graduating students in five colleges and from six specialist areas: Carlow RTC (Industrial Design), College of Marketing and Design (Furniture), Limerick School of Art and Design (Ceramics), National College of Art and Design (Industrial Design and Craft Design — ceramics, glass, jewellery, metals) and the University of Ulster's Faculty of Art and Design/Department of Applied and Decorative Art — silversmithing and jewellery, ceramics).

In the judges' selection process, the field was narrowed down to "one or two designers from each course. Hot contenders for the Award this year included Suzanne Andersen (Ceramics) from Limerick SAD and Pamela Wilson and Jill Ferguson (both Silversmithing and Jewellery) from Belfast, all of whom produced excellent work. In the end, though, our final unanimous choice of the designer with the most promise is Siobhan Ryan."

## Belltable

□ DENISE Black and the Kray Sisters will appear at the Belltable on October 15-17 (8 p.m.). Denise Black and the Kray Sisters are a strange, exotic combination: pop fans will enjoy the tough, driving and refreshingly contemporary songs, whilst theatre-goers will also respond to their powerful and startling presentation which is extremely funny.

Since the group began 2½ years ago, tours, revues and telly appearances (ITV's Saturday Live etc.) have brought them an audience all over the country.

Denise Black, Laura Davis and Michele De Pass have superb, smouldering voices. When they sing together the effect is breathtaking. They are also great performers.

They have now added a new band — Bruce Douglas (brilliant US guitarist and bass player), Sandra Michael (unique New Zealand percussionist), Paul Sand (keyboards wizard, fiddler and as always the group's songwriter) — and presto — you've got a devastating live experience that's absolutely guaranteed to knock you out.

This show is a musical spectacular. On an ideas level it explores the spirit of the 80's through the themes of love and cash. Musically it draws on both the individual backgrounds of the group (their different races and nationalities) and their tremendous individual skills.

As a show it is a celebration — in words, music, harmonies, humour, dance and improvisation — drawing in performers and audiences alike — by one of the country's most respected and

# Nigel (from Ennis Rd.) off to Glenroe

By LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK ACTOR Nigel Mercier, who is currently making a name for himself in the theatre world, is bound for "Glenroe".

Although born in London, Nigel moved to Limerick with his parents, Nuala and David, when he was only six months old. And up until four years ago he lived at Shannonville on the Ennis Road.

Nigel will play the part of Des Brennan in the popular television series. He takes over from Liam Stack who plays the lead in the Smithwicks ad.

## First face change

And while it is common for the American "soaps" to introduce new faces for familiar figures, this is the first time it has occurred on the set of Glenroe. RTE have obviously decided that this character will remain in the series for some time to come.

Nigel, who recently starred in Neil Donnelly's highly-acclaimed play, "The Silver Dollar Boys", at the Belltable Arts Centre, will make his first appearance in Glenroe on Sunday, November 1. He is scheduled to appear in six episodes of the current series.

No stranger to TV, Nigel has



Going places: Nigel Mercier.

appeared in a number of productions, including RTE's prison series, "Inside," "Letters to Theo" and "Megamix".

Educated at St. Munchin's College, his introduction to drama came when he joined the Miriam Darcy School of Speech and Drama.

## Quarry Players

A former member of the Quarry Players, he took part in several

productions with this group, including "Confusions", "The Master", "Harvey" and "The Last Victim". For his role in "The Last Victim", which was directed by Jim Keyes, he received the best actor award at the South Galway Drama Festival in 1982.

Nigel is a co-founder of the Limerick Youth Theatre with Seamus O'Brien. In 1983, Nigel moved to Dublin to study at the Oscar Theatre School of Acting. He spent 18 months there. His tutors were Alan Stanford, Chloe Gibson, Kevin McHugh and Vincent O'Neill.

From July '84 to July '85 he was employed by the Project Acting Company.

## At Abbey Theatre

During the past four years Nigel has taken part in many and varied productions including "The Cherry Orchard" in the Abbey Theatre; "The Bear" at the Peacock Theatre; "Our Town" with the Oscar Theatre Company; "No Regrets — The Edith Piaf Story" with the Olympia Theatre, and "Borstal Boy" with the Gaiety Theatre.

Due to rehearsals and the fact that he is also production manager at the Project Arts Centre for the Dublin Theatre Festival, Nigel was unavailable for interview this week.

## City Info Centre facing cutback?

By LEADER REPORTER

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED organiser of the Limerick Community Information Centre, Ms. Ann O'Malley, has warned that the local service which has helped over 2,800 in the past 12 months may be the next area to suffer from Government cutbacks.

"Is the death knell sounding for the 80 Community Information Centres in our country? Certainly the demise of the National Social Services Board will ensure this," said the local organiser.

She has taken over from Ms. Marie O'Connor, the recently appointed PRO for Fine Gael in East Limerick, who explained: "Because of my political profile I have resigned as organiser. It is important that the information centres are seen as non-political and impartial."

The local centre, who receive £450 each year, fear that if the National Services Board is axed they will lose all the impartial information, training and updating they get from the board.

The volunteers at the centre help people with numerous problems, with social welfare dominating the list. They also help old people fill in tax forms.

Community Information Cen-

## Thomond College

THOMOND STARTED off the year with a bang, but the arrival of 200 freshers was only part of the excitement! Two free kegs of Harp in "The Hurlers" (thanks to Tadgh Donovan of Guinness Group Sales), accompanied by Noel McLoughlin at his best, ensured that all first years were properly initiated into the social life of Thomond College! The freshers orientation schedule finished with free tea, coffee and snacks, and a pseudo-clubs-and-societies day — the first of its kind in Thomond. The basketball and soccer leagues, run for first years by the clubs, were well attended, both players and spectators enjoying some fantastic displays from some of the many international players in first year.

Wednesday night saw the return of most other students in the College, and again Tadgh from Guinness Group Sales rose to the occasion in welcoming them back from Europe, England and the United States.

On the 'Entertainments' front, an 'Ents. Committee' is presently being set up, some of the Unions' aims being to use the ideas of first years in the entertainments for the coming year, and to expand and develop the usual canteen slot on Fridays. Right now — it's looking good.

Among the developments over the summer have been the introduction of video machines, and a second photocopy. The Executive are also examining drawings for development of the Union office, which presently houses the

## STUDENT NOTES

dress.

Advance Tickets can be got at N.I.H.E. Students Union. Further details from Ber Angley or Ian Dinan (061) 333644 Ext. 2324 or 2325 or Telex 26959 NIHE EI or Vax 330316.

Monday, October 12th: This is the first heat of our talent competition. Students from both Thomond and N.I.H.E. are invited to participate. There will be five heats with one act being chosen each night to go forward to the final on 16th November. Substantial prizes are being offered. This will be held in the Stables Club every Monday night, starting at nine.

Tuesday, October 13th: Noel McLoughlin plays the Hurlers Bar. This starts at about 9 p.m. and admission is free.

Wednesday, October 14th: A group of traditional musicians from N.I.H.E. and Thomond will play a session in Nancy Blake's. This starts at 9 p.m. and again admission is free.

Thursday, October 15th: A good night is planned for the Stables Club bar, starting at 9 p.m. sharp. First to take the stage will be Jon Kenny, the ever popular comedian/singer. He will be followed by a disco. After this will come The Oliver Brothers, who were extremely well received by those who braved the rain to come to our student aid gig. Admission here is £3 for the first 100 and £3.50 for the remainder.

On the sporting front, there is nothing major except for Wednesday, 14th. This is the N.I.H.E. vs.

Centre, 11.30 p.m., free.  
12 October: Talent Competition, Stables Club, 9 p.m., free.  
13 October: Noel McLoughlin, The Hurlers, 9 p.m., free. Soul Disco, Student Centre, 11.30 p.m., £1.50.  
14 October: Trad Session, Nancy Blake's, 9 p.m., free.  
15 October: Jon Kenny & The Oliver Bros., Stables Club, 9 sharp, 1st 100, £3; £3.50.  
17 October: Late Film, Student Centre, 11.30 p.m., free.  
19 October: Talent Competition, Stables Club, 9 p.m., free.  
20 October: Chem / Bio Society Disco, Student Centre, 11.30 p.m., £2.00. Noel McLoughlin, The Hurlers, 9 p.m., free.  
21 October: Shantitown, The Stables Club, 9 p.m., free. Trad Session, Nancy Blake's, 9 p.m., free.  
22 October: Paul Cleary & The Partisans, Stables Club, 10 p.m., 1st 100, £3; £3.50.  
24 October: Late Film, Student Centre, 11.30 p.m., free.  
26 October: Talent Competition, Stables Club, 9 p.m., free.  
27 October: Noel McLoughlin, The Hurlers, 9 p.m., free.  
28 October: Trad Session, Nancy Blake's, 9 p.m., free.  
29 October: Hallowe'en Ball — Aslar, Pulling Faces, Fleadh Cowboys, Discos, Entire Savoy Complex, 9 p.m., 1st 100, £4; £5.  
31 October: Late Film, Student Centre, 11.30 p.m., free.  
2 November: Talent Competition, Stables Club, 9 p.m., free.  
3 November: Noel McLoughlin, The Hurlers, 9 p.m., free. Alternative Disco, Student Centre, 11.30 p.m., £1.50.  
4 November: Trad Session, Nancy Blake's, 9 p.m., free.  
5 November: Disco, Glentworth Hotel 11 p.m., £1.50