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Secondary principals stand over that exam

By EUGENE PHELAN

THE Limerick Association of Principals and Vice Principals this week strongly defended their decision to hold a common entrance examination next week for close on 2,000 primary students.

The test will be held in the 15 participating secondary schools in the city on Saturday March 20 next.

The association issued a statement because of the "recent negative pub-

licity concerning entrance assessments to the post primary schools."

In the statement, issued through Martin Wallace, vice-principal, St Enda's, they point out that in the past pupils did several assessments over five and six weeks.

"We were aware of how detrimental this was to the completion of the sixth class programme. The common application and assessment were designed to ease the transfer from primary to post primary education by reducing multiple applications and

assessments to a common system."

The association also point out that under the previous system, a number of pupils could obtain and accept places in three or four different schools, thereby depriving others of places until later in the year, and this was a source of great anxiety to the pupils concerned.

"It should be noted that, to date, there are more applicants than places available to suit parental choice and over this we have no control. This problem is compounded by the fact

that the School of Commerce changed from being a second level to a third level college," states Mr Wallace.

He says that it is in an effort to solve these problems that they as a group of concerned principals and vice-principals introduced the common application and single assessment.

"The present method, though not perfect, has satisfied the majority of applications and we would like to assure parents, students and their

teachers that every effort is being made to evaluate and improve the system," the statement concluded.

Mr Wallace told the Limerick Leader that the entrance examination was not the sole criterion for entrance and that "as far as possible" brothers or sisters of existing pupils would be catered for in the same schools.

The INTO are "totally against" the common entrance examination as are the Conference of Major Religious Superiors.



Freshening winds and increasing cloud will herald the threat of thundery showers, though the weekend will still be warm.

As the weather and a new and exciting arts festival which has just started. The festival involving five inner city schools is

story-telling, creative writing, modern dance, classical and contemporary music and variety of arts and crafts," explained Eileen

Street, St. Vincent's national school, Barrington Street, and Limerick School Project national school, Cecil Street.

Dock Road. Nothing was taken during a second break-in at Wolfe Tone Street.

until relatives had been informed. It is believed he collapsed at the side of the road.

Main Street, Castledermot County Kildare, was remanded in custody to May 17.

Mrs. Dorothy Grav Tipperary will give one her ever-popular demonstrations.

53.

City exam anxiety

Controversial common entrance test: results to be posted next week

By EUGENE PHELAN

THE agonising wait by 2,000 students who in March sat the controversial common entrance exam for secondary schools in Limerick city will be over next week, it was learned this Friday.

The Vice-Principals and Principals Association have confirmed that the results will be in the post next week, informing the successful and unsuccessful pupils who are seeking places in 15 schools.

And while the INTO say that about 200 students will end up with no school in the city to attend, Thomas Hardy, spokesman for the Principals, says that figure will be nearer 100.

"It is not a question of schools refusing pupils. It is a case of too many pupils looking for too few places," said Mr Hardy.

Students who sat the exam where asked to put in order of preference the school they wish to attend. The problem is that some schools are far more popular than others.

"The child who puts down nine or ten schools is almost guaranteed a place," said Mr Hardy.

However, many just put down two or three schools of their choice.

A total of 2,045 pupils sat the

common entrance exam. Some of these will, the INTO say, end up repeating sixth class, and others will go to schools in County Limerick.

INTO spokesman Joe Lyons said that they would know shortly after the results were issued how many students would be without schools.

"They have been biting their nails waiting for the results until March. There is no hint when they will be out," he told the Limerick Leader.

Later, Mr Hardy confirmed they would be posted out next week. He said that the Easter holidays and the fact that there was a lot of administrative work involved had delayed the results until next week.

The INTO say that schools are stating the entrance exam is only one of the criteria used to pick students.

"They (the schools) have their own individual criteria but they won't tell us what it is," complained Mr Lyons.

"So a child applies for a school and he does not know the criteria," he added.

Education Minister Niamh Breathnach has stated that she wants an end to common entrance examinations, a statement warmly welcomed by the INTO.

The Limerick School Principals said that they would once again review the situation next year, and would of course have to take into account any ministerial order which may be made.



The Ardscoil Mhuire team, from Corbally, who are national winners in the junior section of the NRB Challenging Images Schools Newspaper competition: Amy Sheedy, Ciara O'Sullivan, Emma McNamara and Jennifer McMahon. See page 11

Pupils weep for teacher

By ANTHONY GALVIN

IT WAS a sad day in Scoil Ide, Corbally, on Wednesday, when staff and students gathered for a farewell Mass for Mary Kennedy, a remedial teacher in the school.

Ms. Kennedy, nee Ryan, died a month ago after undergoing a kidney operation. A very popular teacher who had a winning way with the children, she will be sorely missed in the school.

Fifth and sixth year students sang at the special Mass, which was attended by Ms Kennedy's students.

Aged 35, Ms Kennedy was raised in Corbally, before her family moved to Ballykeeffe Estate. After qualifying as a teacher she began working in Scoil Ide, and took first and third classes.

Two years ago she began teaching the remedial class.

According to her colleagues she was very popular with the students, and had a great manner when dealing with children.

She was married to Mayoman Declan Kennedy, who runs his own business. They had two children, Niamh, aged nine months, and David, aged four years.

In her youth Ms Kennedy was interested in rowing,

● P2

INSIDE STORY



Marie Bartlett, this is your life

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Business

Gael Scoil runs into objections

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

OVER 300 objections to the location of a Gael Scoil at Sunville House, North Circular Road, former home of the late Donogh O'Malley, are to be lodged with the Corporation.

The objections are, according to local resi-



under consideration by the Corporation's planning department.

Anton O'Carroll, whose company owns Sunville House, and whose two younger children attend the Gael Scoil, pointed out that every effort would be made to minimise the traffic.

elsewhere to secure 26 jobs.

"I respect the right of every person to object and all I ask is that they present a balanced case," he said.

"Sunville is the home of the late Donogh O'Malley who introduced free education and I think it would only be a fitting tribute to his memory if the house was to be used for educational purposes," he added.

Objectors point out that there are already over 3,500 pupils attending five schools in the area which causes traffic delays of up to 30 minutes in the morn-

inundated with complaints of traffic delays in the area.

At the next meeting of Council, he intends calling for a full investigation into traffic management in the area.

GANG CATTLE

A New World

Councillor as chef

CITY Councillor John Ryan will put on a different hat on Thursday next—the white hat of a chef. He will be behind the stove for a French soiree in City Hall which has been organised

Limerick Chronicle

PRICE 30p

YEAR 226

54.

MUSIC

his first CD since coming to Limerick, and also had his first harp recital broadcast on Radio FM3.

"When the money became available through the Guinness sponsorship," said Mr Leddin, "Mr Lipman went to Paris and chose the instrument which we have today.

"It is made from armonite, which replaces the wook and consequently gives an increased reliability mechanically and geomtrically."

The harp is durable, the tuning is stable, and the strings do not break often.

SCHOOL PLACES ARE OUT TODAY

WELL over a hundred boys and girls in the city are reeling this afternoon from the disappointment

of not getting an offer of a secondary school place in the post.

129 boys and 34 girls were not offered a secondary school place for September when the results of the controversial common entrance exam were released today.

And the INTO have branded the debacle unnecessary and unfair on the students.

"Children are being branded as failures at the age of 12," said one angry teacher.

Already Cllr John Ryan has asked for a meeting with Minister Niamh Breathnach on the matter. She will be in Limerick on Friday.

The INTO will also be seeking a meeting with the Minister.

"We will be seeking a meeting as a matter of urgency. Too many children have been victims of this system of entrance exams," said Eileen Kennelly, Limerick City branch organiser of the INTO.

She said that the Minister had opposed entrance exams at the INTO Easter

NUMBER OF ROWS



Theresa

the City for her. I used it as a incentive to persuade here to come here," said Minister O'Dea.

"It was I who invited her here and now I am blamed over her refusal to accept the Freedom," he said last

Turn to page 2

Turn to page 2

behalf of the poor."

After the City Council Mayor Quinn attacked Junior Minister Willie O'Dea, stating that he had no authority to make a decision on the granting of the Freedom of the City "as he was not a member of Limerick City Council."

And Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon also attacked the Fianna Fail TD for not having the courtesy to contact

Spaights Hardware Dept. brought you Half Price Ladders and Saws.

Spaights Paint Dept. brought you the Big 40% Discount on Berger Whites.

NOW, SPAIGHTS ELECTRICAL DEPT.

Brings you a Double Half Price Offer. Yes

people turned out to greet cycling sensation David Hourigan as he drilled his way through the county in the leader's yellow jersey of the FBD Milk Ras.

bunchwell in control of a race that is expected to contain many surprises before it reaches the finish in Dublin on Sunday.

Wednesday's stage starting off in

Listowel.

David, a native of Moyross in Limerick city, caught the cycling bug in 1987 after Stephen Roche's summer of glory.

day and stage very well in in events as and Japan. David He

Angry parents' suicide warning

By ANTHONY GALVIN



John Fennelly, Moyross, speaking at the special meeting on the secondary school entry controversy at Costello's Tavern. (LL)

suicide. One child told his mother that if he killed himself he would take one person off the list, the meeting heard.

One father, who suffers from cancer, said he would split his family and bring his son to England in September if he couldn't be accommodated in a school in Limerick.

Secondary schools were

accused of creaming off the top students, and of rejecting students from "undesirable" addresses. They were also accused of taking in students from outside their catchment area, while ignoring boys and girls on their doorsteps who wanted a place.

The number of children not offered a place has gone

up by more than 30 this year, despite last year's vigorous campaign to solve the problem of too many applications for too few places.

Tony O'Gorman, principal of Corpus Christi primary school in Moyross, told the meeting it was tragic to see 12-year-old children reduced to tears by an uncaring bureaucracy.

"There is no justification why any child should be denied the secondary school of their choice," he said.

"The selection process in place at the moment means that certain schools are only taking A students. If it can happen that children from Killaloe and Newcastlewest can get into city schools, and children from the city can't, that shows that some schools are selecting only the best. The cream of the crop."

He lashed out at Villiers principal, Thomas Hardy, chairman of the Association of Principals and Vice-Principals of Secondary Schools. Mr Hardy had suggested on local radio that children who got no place in Limerick schools should consider boarding.

"This is dodge city talk," said the furious primary principal, accusing Mr Hardy of ignoring the fact that it was a problem of children, not just of numbers on a printout of results.

He revealed that 22 of his students out of 92 who sat the common entrance exam had failed to get a place in secondary school. Eight of those 22 had been rejected the previous year as well.

"If there is any Christian charity in this city, let's see it in action. Let's see the 15 secondary schools in the city apply that charity."

Tom Hehir, 180, Pineview Gardens, Moyross, said that he would be prepared to split his family and move to England if it was the only way of getting his son, Thomas, a place. Although he suffers from cancer and is on chemotherapy, Mr Hehir feels the situation has driven him to desperate measures.

"If I get no place for my child by September I am going to split the family and bring him to England and get him a school there. At this stage I am willing to do anything, even go on hunger strike, to get my son the education he has a right to," he said.

His wife, Bridie, revealed: "Thomas cried himself to sleep last night. How could they do that to a 12-year-old?"

Said Mr Hehir: "Twelve-year-old children are being put on the streets. In three years time they will have guns. People will be asking where the gangs came from. I'll tell you. Our children feel they've been rejected. It stinks."

"You'll find some 11 or 12-year-old will take an overdose because they couldn't get a place in a school," one mother tearfully warned.

Annette Byrnes, Carew

Park, said: "They are going to build a ring road outside my door. I don't want it there. I can't understand why a few thousand of the millions of pounds couldn't be taken to provide a few extra classrooms so that everyone could go to school."

"If the money isn't spent our children will be on the streets. Maybe that is their solution. To have our children on the streets where they will get killed, and that will reduce the numbers who have no place."

"I know one boy of 12 who said that if he committed suicide it would be one less on the list."

Her husband, Patrick, said the unemployed, and those from the "wrong" parts of the city, were being victimised. Their son, Patrick, has not got a place in a secondary school.

One boy, now approaching his 15th birthday, has been rejected for the second time, and now his parents are at their wits end as to how to cope. Without a secondary education their son is stifled in his future prospects.

"He'll be 15 in three weeks time, and this is his second time doing the entrance exam and getting no place. Last year he repeated primary school, but he only went to school for three hours a day, and only up to March."

"What will happen when he is 17, and he is looking for a job? How is he going to say that he has no secondary school? My son, and the other children who did not get a place last year, should have been the top priority."

"Last year he put down nine schools in his list of preferences, and he didn't get a reply from one of them. He might as well not have existed."

Another mother whose son has been rejected twice said: "If we can't get him a place somewhere this year he will be finished with education. You couldn't expect someone to start first year when they are 16."

At the public meeting a large committee, with representatives from the city primary schools, was established to head a vigorous campaign to force schools to accommodate their children, who are guaranteed, by the Constitution, an education until they are 16, but who are being denied that by the common entrance exam and the selection criteria of some of the 15 city secondary schools.

Their first step was this morning's mass gathering in Mary Immaculate College to try and put their case to Minister Niamh Bhreathnach. The parents hope to alleviate this year's crisis, and to force a different selection process which will mean that the crisis is not repeated next year.

ANGRY parents gathered this Friday morning in Mary Immaculate College to demand from Education Minister, Niamh Bhreathnach, a place in a secondary school for their children.

They are furious that 160 children have no school place following the results of the controversial common entrance exam. Several of the children were rejected by the 15 city secondary schools for the second year running, and some have allegedly threatened to commit suicide.

Parents said at a heated public meeting in Costello's Tavern on Wednesday night that their children had been branded as failures, and those who did not get places had even spoken of



at the open meeting of parents whose children did not get entry into second level.



First Communicant Declan

Declan, survivor, enjoys a big day

By TOM BROWNE

WAS a "particularly" it day for Declan Ryan Cronan Gardens, who among 56 boys and from St. Conaire's who made their First Communion in SS. and Paul Church, non.

or Declan, survival



Eileen Colgan, Dooradoyle (left) with Mary Wilson and Helen McCarthy, O'Connell Ave., at the Limerick Women's Federation dinner at the Castle Oaks House Hotel. (LL)



At the official opening of the new I.B.E.C. offices, Charlotte Quay, were (from left): Donie Keane, Sean Hanratty, Cllr. John Quinn, Mayor of Limerick, and John Dunne, director general, at the opening of the I.B.E.C. offices this week. (LL)

West FF

T E O F I N C

"Do RTE not consider Limerick, the third city, good enough?" he asked.

He said it amazed him how the station could omit Limerick from publicity going out worldwide.

The decision to omit Limerick from contest publicity, he said, added insult to injury given that Limerick had been a possible location for the contest.

SCHOOL

From page 1

congress, and the INTO had consistently opposed the Limerick system.

"The exam system is selective. Some schools are creaming off the best students. Not all schools are creaming off. Some are taking students from all strata, but not all the schools do this.

"The Association of Principals and Assistant Principals have said that other criteria besides the entrance exams are being used by secondary schools to select students, but they do not say what those criteria are.

"The children are loosing out. It's not good enough. There has to be a better way."

Thomas Hardy, principal of Villiers secondary school and PRO of the Limerick Association of Principals and Assistant Principals, said the entrance exam was not the problem. The problem was the amount of children sitting it.

"You cannot get a quart into a pint pot," he said.

"We have a system in place which cannot solve the problem of numbers, but which can regulate where students are going, and how the choice is made. We just can't cope with the numbers of students coming

in. "Most of the 15 schools in the city have increased their first year intake over the past three years, but the problem is complicated by the loss of the School of Commerce, which no longer takes second level students, and fact that some parents are not opting for certain schools.

MOTHER

From page 1

night.

He said that Mayor Quinn was using him as a scapegoat. "It is all

begrudgery and small mindedness because I invited her here. That is what it is all about...I would like to know say why it took so long for the City Council to discuss the matter."

Meanwhile Sister Shobha explained that 83-year-old Mother Teresa was "very fragile and easily got sick."

"She will never think for herself and it is important that she does not have too crowded a situation," she added.

Asked about the possibilities of Mother Teresa going on a open air bus, she said that the weather conditions in Ireland might not be suitable for such an operation, even in June.

to Limerick.

Businessman Richard Hurley who went to school with Brian Kidd in the London School of Economics will be meeting with the Manchester United Management team next month in an effort to bring them to Limerick.

Fr Joe Young of Limerick City and Richard Hurley will be going to Dublin on June 19 next to meet with the Manchester United management who will be attending, with the players at a special function in Dublin, to honour the 1968 European Winning team.

"If we are successful in getting them to come we will approach the Munster branch to get Thomond Park. We could make £50,000 for Limerick City, which would set them up," added Mr Hurley who is chairman of Limerick Fireplace.



Junior Health and Justice Minister
Nursery Times, 5 Mallow Street
(from left): Thomas and Joan
and Billy Russell.

MUNGRET-REGIONAL FC

Notice of AGM to be held in the club pavilion on Tuesday, June 1 at 8 p.m.
Nominations of motions should be submitted to the Hon. Secretary no later than Tuesday, May 18.

Signed Tim Mulcaire, Hon. Secretary. (ep)

AFFIC PROBLEMS ANGER RESIDEN

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Chief Superintendent requesting such a patrol. "Delays of up to 20 minutes are being experienced in the morning between 8.30 and 9.10," he claimed.

A delegation of North Circular Road residents attended the meeting and

requested some measures be taken to alleviate traffic build up in the area. One member of the delegation, called for the North Circular Road to be made one-way.

In view of the fact that 30 residents on the road are

without a footpath in front of their houses, other members raised the danger to pedestrians due to the amount of traffic using the road.

Cllr Leddin, chairman of the committee, pointing out that there are five schools in

the area, said the benefits of Shannon Bridge were negated for the residents of the area under the present arrangement.

"It is just not possible for motorists to get onto the roundabout at the Salesians or from there to get out onto

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PROGRESS IN PLACES ROW

By **EUGENE PHELAN**

A PROGRESS report from the Department of Education will be issued this Wednesday night, at a public meeting to discuss the fate of 163 city children left without secondary schools places following the common entrance examination.

The meeting will be held in the Youth Service Centre, Glentworth Street at 8pm.

"We will have a progress report from the Department

of Education and would encourage not only parents of the children concerned but parents of fifth year pupils as well. They could be affected this year," said Cllr John Ryan.

"You have to remember that one in twelve children were affected this year and the likelihood is that one in ten will be next year," he stated.

The parents have now formed an organisation titled PLACES - Parents looking for accommodation to continuing education in schools.

Cllr Ryan said that while the parents were heartened that Education Minister, Niamh Breathnach promised that all children would get "suitable accommodation" in secondary schools, they were now eagerly awaiting news of how she proposed to look after them.

CRIMELINE TO FEATURE BILLY QUAID DEATH

GARDAI investigating the "suspicious death" of former Garryowen FC president, Billy Quaid are anxious to hear from fishermen who were in the vicinity of Arthur's Quay on the night of April 29/30 last.

"We would like to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity or who passed through the Park. All callers will be treated with the strictest of confidence," said a Garda spokesman.

They are also very anxious to hear from the man who ran them on May 3 last at 11.05pm to contact them again at 414222.

The Gardai believe that

Mr Quaid was involved in a fracas before his death. One of the theories being followed by the Gardai is that Mr Quaid had a heart attack after being assaulted, and that about an hour later his body was put in the Shannon by some people who panicked.

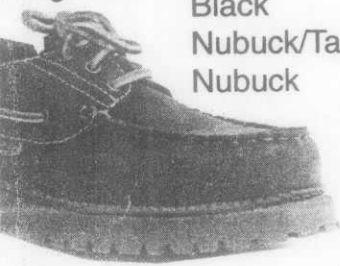
They have advised anyone involved, or with information to contact them now.

The Crimeline television programme will include a small feature on Mr Quaid's death on next Monday nights programme.

Billy Quaid's former home at Dooradoyle is up for sale.

Mens fashions

Styles £34.99
Black Nubuck/Taupe Nubuck



£36.99
Black Leather/Black Nubuck/Olive Nubuck

Break-in at pub

THIEVES who broke into a public house in Pallasgreen this morning made their getaway in a stolen car, which later crashed in Old Pallas.

The two thieves broke into O'Dwyer's public house in Pallasgreen, on the

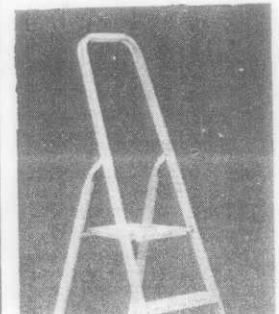
Weather

IT WILL become more showery as today progresses. The day will be cool and fresh, with moderate winds. Tonight showers will continue, and they will be widespread tomorrow.

Some of the showers will be of hail or thunder. It will be cool, with moderate breezes. But the outlook for



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Minister to meet school heads

By **DYMPHNA BRACKEN**

THE Minister for Education, Niamh Breathnach, is to meet representatives of the city's school principals in the coming week to discuss places for the 163 pupils left without a school following the assessment examination.

After a meeting with the Minister this Thursday, Deputy Jim Kemmy revealed that she would be inviting the principals to meet her in Dublin, next week.

"She is determined that places will be made available for all pupils," he con-

firmed.

Cllr John Ryan, who initiated the campaign on behalf of parents in the city, this Friday welcomed the Minister's strong commitment on the matter.

"I think we could not have a better Minister to take up this issue," he added.

However, given that there are only eight more working days before the summer school holidays, he pointed out that speed was of the essence in sorting out the problem.

He further suggested that the Minister should consider meeting with representatives of the parents following her meeting with the principals.

LEADERPROBE: P12

Schools

L. Leader

22-5-'93

be raised at Labour's Parliamentary Party meeting this week.

This was revealed last night by Cllr Frank Leddin, (Lab) who became embroiled in a "family row" with his brother Cllr Tim

Shannon.

"I did not interrupt you when you were speaking," Cllr Frank told his brother Tim, when explaining that Jim Kemmy was to raise the matter at this week's Labour Party meeting.

"We have had them before and we will have them again," said Cllr Frank, as everyone broke down in laughter.

He said that the Government had made no statement on the matter

lier described efforts by Tanaiste Dick Spring as outrageous and "smacking of nepotism" in trying to get £6 million of Structural Funds to have Farranfore airport extended.

"I would like a public comment from Jim Kemmy

Sanitary Services Committee. Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon who said that Shannon's status was once again under threat.

"It is time to start ringing the alarm bells again," said Cllr O'Hanlon, suggesting

matter there are too many jobs at risk...we will not let Shannon die," he added.

He called for a clear cut statement from the Government partners on Shannon and what effect the extension to Farranfore would have.

Man is 47 arrested after car chase

NE man was arrested and Gardaí are still looking for others following a high-speed car chase through the city early this morning.

Gardaí from both Oxboro and Henry Street were involved in the chase, and at one point a Garda car was rammed by the youths.

The drama began when a stolen car was spotted on Mulgrave Street at 2.25am. Gardaí immediately gave chase, and the stolen car was recovered for Corbally.

From there the chase went towards Castleconnell, where one of the Garda cars was involved in a collision with the stolen car, though no one was injured. The chase finally ended when the car crashed on Woodmill Road.

DON'T BLAME US TEACHERS

By JIMMY WOUFFE

AS Limerick secondary school principals met Department of Education officials in Dublin today, to try and get school places for 163 students, the principals spokesman said: "We don't have the

solution. We have to see what the department think."

Martin Wallace, of St Enda's, who is chairman of the Principals and Vice principals Association said that already the number of students without a place has been reduced by schools taking in extra students.

"There were 230 originally without places. Schools have increased class numbers. The recommended number per class is 30, and 24 in classes which have a practical input. The stretching of numbers has gone as far as it can go. In a situation like this everyone loses with classes which are too big in numbers. We are in a no win situation," said Mr Wallace.

He said they were getting the brunt of the blame as there was no other target.

He rejected claims that widespread "creaming" of bright students was taking place.

"There is far less now than five years ago. In the old system you could have 600 students sitting an entrance exam for one school and that school could then cream off the best," he said.

Mr Wallace said the placement situation had been exacerbated by the closure of the School of Commerce three years ago. This took 60 places out of the pool of first year places in city secondary schools.

This year about 1,800 students sought secondary school places. On paper there are enough places to go around, said Mr Wallace.

But some places are not acceptable to some parents.

The primary school "bulge" is causing particular problems in places such as Raheen, Caherdavin and



Parents and children protesting through Limerick this Monday evening over the lack of placements in Secondary Schools in the city. (LL)

Moyross.

Said Mr Wallace: "This population bulge is not distributed evenly around the city. Two areas became very built up about 14 years ago and now children from these areas are looking for secondary school places

with a higher demand on the Crescent Comprehensive and St Nessans. There were about 40 additional pupils this year repeating sixth class and this added to the situation. This population bulge will continue until 1995."

Mens Fashions

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inside



GREAT SPORT ALTOGETHER: P6



MASTERS OF MARTIAL

Confusion in schools

Mother says No to Limerick

By EUGENE PHELAN

MOTHER Teresa will not be coming to Limerick, when she visits to Ireland next week, and so will not be able to receive the Freedom of the City.

She broke some of her ribs in a fall in Rome two weeks ago and her visit to Ireland has been totally rescheduled.

"Limerick Corporation has been in daily contact with the national organisers of her visit to Ireland," explained deputy city manager Flan O'Neill.

"It is with deep regret that we have been informed that the Irish visit is curtailed and that Mother Teresa is unable to visit Limerick to accept the Freedom of the City," he added.

He discounted suggestions that the Mayor might go and meet Mother Teresa elsewhere, to accord her the honour, agreed by the 17 city councillors after several weeks' consideration.

Nora Bennis, one of

● P2

By JIMMY WOULFE

TWO city convent schools, which the Department of Education said were prepared to take 23 girls who had yet to find a secondary school place, contradicted that announcement this Friday, saying it was the first they had heard of such an arrangement.

This latest twist in the secondary school placement row sparked an angry response from Cllr John Ryan, who has been to the forefront in trying to tackle the problem.

"The department have built false hopes by their statement and these hopes have now been dashed," he said. "What is now needed is a clear and unambiguous statement from the Minister.

"If we don't have this we will have every Tom, Dick and Harry coming in on it. We need facts and the parents need letters giving places to their children, in their hands."

The principals at Ard Scoil Mhuire, Corbally, and Presentation Convent, Sexton Street, said the first they heard that their schools were prepared to take the 23 girls was in newspaper reports outling a statement from the Minister for Education.

Sr Eilish of Ard Scoil Mhuire said: "We are over-subscribed. Nobody contacted us and there was no prior consultation with the school and we

had not offered at all.

"I don't know who made this offer. We did offer places in the event of cancellations."

Sr Eilish said they would be prepared to consider taking in extra numbers if accommodation and an extra teacher were provided.

Sr Angela, principal at Presentation, said the releasing of the statement that they would take in the girls was unfair and she had contacted the Minister's office about the matter.

"We were not consulted at all and never asked to take in 23 extra children, and we never said we would take them," she said.

She added that they took in every girl who looked for a place in their school. She said it was up to parents to put the names of schools into the list which they got.

Sr Angela added that they had not turned away girls who had included their school on the list, even though it may have been down the list in order of preference.

Sr Angela described the statement saying they had agreed to take in the girls who had not received a place as "an untruth."

She added: "I am refuting it. We have had an open policy and never refused any child in the past. But the 23 never asked to be taken into our school. At this stage we have taken what we can cope with.

"The Department would have to give us an extra class and teacher if we were to take in more."

She said they had sought money to carry out building work, but were still waiting seven years on.

Pyjama fugitive

GARDAI were this Friday continuing to search for a suspect who escaped from their custody while receiving treatment in Limerick Regional Hospital.

The man ran away from Gardai when confronted in the city. He jumped into the Shannon. He was later rescued and taken to the hospital for treatment. When in the hospital he escaped in his pyjamas through a downstairs toilet window. He is still at large.

Limerick Weather

IT will be mostly dry in the Limerick region this Friday night. Saturday will start dry and bright though rain is expected later in the day.

On Sunday some heavier rain is expected.

Aerospace

WHILE the aircraft overhaul and maintenance business is in a state of turmoil world wide, Shannon Aerospace n will be working "on several planes next month," according to a spokesman.



One of the youngest children protesting on the street week because of the 163 children with no places schools: Liam Cahill, Pineview Gardens.

City cracks more crime

By EUGENE PHELAN

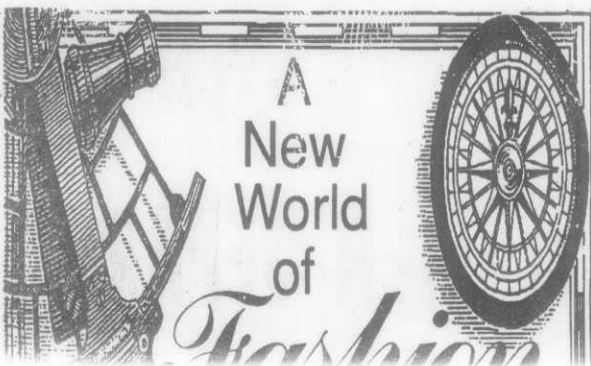
WITH unofficial figures showing crime in Limerick down six per cent for the first four months of the year,

Chief Superintendent Michael Fitzgerald believes greater co-operation between the force and the community is leading to better results.

Around 10 community Gardai based throughout the city are now "showing great benefits," he said.

There are no official crime statistics available for this year or last, but Government and G sources have confirmed last year crime about seven per cent down in the city. However, about first

is sor dealt v we an Dail," Mir he wa that t drugs rick."



44.

4. LIMERICK CHRONICLE, TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1993.

School places: new attack

By **PADDY MORONEY**

ANOTHER attack has been launched on the shortage of secondary school places in Limerick—this time by Tom O’Sullivan of the

central executive committee of the INTO.

Mr O’Sullivan, himself based in Limerick, told a branch meeting of the teachers’ organisation in Limerick, of the difficulties facing parents and pupils alike.

“In Limerick city, this year, parents and teachers

once again have to deal with the consequences of an oppressive and cruel selection system.

“Based on previous experience, we predicted in April that up to 200 children would be left without places at second level.

“We are now hearing of

inexplicable situations for many children—twins, one of whom got a place in a particular school and the other did not, children not getting a place in a school in which they already had a brother.

“The list goes on and on.”

He declared: “Selection of pupils by an entrance exam system is anti-educational and anti-social.

“All post primary schools should have an intake that

reflects the balance of educational ability that prevails in society generally.

“The abolition of entrance exams will not, however, solve all the problems associated with transfer to post-primary.

“A system that is seen to be open and fair to all needs to be put in place. Last year, this branch drew up a transfer system as an alternative to the entrance exam.

“It was presented to the post-primary principals and

vice-principals association.

“It was hoped that it could act as the basis for discussion. Regrettably, there has been no meaningful response from their side, and no indication of a willingness to discuss the real issues involved.

“I now call on them to enter negotiations with us so that we can once and for all end the heartache and misery which their continuing use of entrance exams is causing.”

Motor cycle and car in accident

A DISPUTE over an accident on Plassey Road during tea-time traffic last October 28, was judged at Limerick city court.

The accident involved a motor-bike and a car.

The car driver, Mr Azarak claimed that he had indicated his intention to turn right into College Court 100 feet before he

The driver of the motor-bike, Thomas Campion, 9 New Flats, Clare Street, who was pleading not guilty to the charge of dangerous driving, told the court that Mr Azarak had not indicated before he pulled out, and that they had crashed when he attempted to over-take him.

The court heard that traffic heading towards town

behind when her husband made the turn and that she had not seen the motorbike, nor heard it.

“He must have been travelling very fast,” she said.

Giving evidence, the front seat passenger, Declan McDonagh said that he heard the indicator before Mr Azarak turned right and that he had seen the motor-

Gerry Ring's Memorial Night



said he was saddened by the fact that the centre of the city which would be the main focal point for tourists and visitors was at times unsightly with papers and all sorts of litter.

"The Corporation sweep the streets in the early hours of every morning but by 10 or 11 o'clock the streets have again become unsightly," he claimed.

He was particularly critical of flat dwellers.

"It is irresponsible for flat dwellers to place their rubbish in plastic bags and leave them on the side of the street for collection by the refuse truck as these bags are often torn open by dogs and the contents blown all over the area," he claimed.

The city tiphead at the Longpavement will be available free of charge, this Saturday to cars and trailers for the purpose of depositing domestic refuse.

Recycling campaigns have been organised in city schools.

The programme of events also includes a clean-up of the riverfront at Charlotte Quay.

To support this effort the Revenue Commissioners at ICC House have sponsored a number of litter bins and presented a cheque for £100 as sponsorship for a garden competition.

Pupils from St Kieran's CBS are cleaning up Childers Road and the school surrounds at Galvone.

Clean-ups have also been organised in Moyross, St Saviour's parish, Watergate, O'Malley Park, Lee Estate, Kincora Park, South Circular Road, Glasgow Park and Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Ballinacurra Weston Youth Club are cleaning up their local ball alley.

Monday will be cloudier with a risk of light rain on coasts and winds freshening.

According to Jack O'Rourke, chairman of the county vintners,

being delisted by county publicans. This should have read Carlsberg



Jack Charlton ponders whether he will be able to write his autograph so many times as youngsters line-up to get his autograph at the opening of the Aisling Annacotty F.C new dressing rooms. See page 18. □ Picture: OWEN SOUTH (LL)

Schools solution?

By MAIRE CARMODY

A SOLUTION to the problem of the 163 Limerick pupils still without secondary school places will be discussed at a special meeting of the city VEC this Friday evening.

The Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreathnach, has offered to provide two pre-fabricated classrooms at St. Nessian's College

Cllr Frank Leddin, chairman of the VEC, told the Limerick Leader that he had no objection to the Minister's proposal provided that certain difficulties with regard to trade classes could be ironed out.

He pointed out that there were already 100 extra pupils in the school. He hoped that agreement would be reached on the Minister's proposal at this Friday's meeting without a vote.

Jim McCarthy, acting principal, will give a report to the meeting on the feasibility of Ms Breathnach's suggestion.

Cllr John Ryan said that he would be in favour of her proposal. "Every child deserves decent and adequate education suitable to their needs," he said.

Meanwhile, some children who had applied to St. Nessian's have been receiving refusal letters.

Former city councillor, Tim O'Driscoll, a member of the PLACES committee, said that while he was aware that the Minister offered two prefabs to St. Nessian's College, he was surprised at the timing of the letters that were just sent out to parents of pupils stating that there were no places in St. Nessian's.

Showing one such letter to the Limerick Leader, he said that it was the second time that this pupil had been refused.

The letter from St. Nessian's stated that there were

places available in the Municipal Technical Institute.

Mr McCarthy, acting principal of St Nessian's, was away for the day so could not respond to Mr O'Driscoll.

Mr O'Driscoll added that in all there were about 22 pupils out of the 163 students without a place in the Moyross area.

He added: "As a long-term solution I think the Minister should assure that a six classroom extension would be put on to St. Nessian's school, as there would be an average of 80 pupils from the Moyross area seeking places there each year."

Ms Bhreathnach has indicated that if there is a shortfall in accommodation, she will provide extra temporary accommodation.

She has already offered to provide two pre-fabricated classrooms at St Nessian's College. The Minister

has also pledged that no child in Limerick will be left without a post-primary place for September.


When the situation is resolved for next September, she intends to meet with the principals of the 15 schools involved to review what happened this year and plan for future years.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Department of Education said: "We are still in consultation with schools in the area."

The Irish National Teachers' Organisation opposes the entrance examinations to the post-primary schools because they label some children "failures" at the age of 12.

They also state that the examinations distort the primary school curriculum at senior class level. They add that the abolition of the entrance examinations will still require a fair system of transfer from primary to post-primary schools.

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3



Grimes, Limerick GAA, left, with Ger South, Carol Fuller, Parents and Friends of the Handicapped, and Joe Grimes Caherconlish. (LL)

went to the Mr Broderick's house and found no evidence of either.

Mr Broderick said that he had no intention to cause injury to anyone, adding "He (Garda Brown) has been on my back since I got out of prison."

Refusing Ted McCarthy's request to accept his client's reasons for possessing the articles, Judge Michael O'Reilly said that the defendant was guilty as charged. He remanded him in custody until June 24.

ving at 44mph in a 30mph zone at Millmount, Kilmallock, last November 17. A charge of not wearing a seat belt was taken into account.

Broke the speed limit

JOHN Spillane, Caherduff, Mainister, Croom was fined £30 at Adare Court for driving at 46mph in a 30mph zone at Rathkeale Road, Adare, last January 28.

each charge of driving drunk and disorderly, and common assault. The third was charged with being drunk and disorderly and causing criminal damage. The incident occurred on June 12 at Bedford Row.

The three pleaded guilty to the charges.

Garda Quinn said that the youths had provoked an assault on two innocent people. He added they were on holidays from Australia. He added that two of the youths had assaulted them and another put a brick through a wind screen of a

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Schools: minister tries again

By PADDY MOONEY

OVER 200 angry parents from Limerick th Thursday afternoon prodded outside Leinster House over the "school places" crux.

They had arrived by the coachload to demonstrate the heightened level of feeling in the city over the vexed issue.

They were just in time to cheer to the gate of the parliament building the 20 other parents who had marched all through the night from Limerick, in a marathon walk, as part of their protest.

After speeches, cheers and applause, they dispersed for Limerick.

They had hopes for a direct meeting with the Minister for Education herself, Niamh Bhreathnach, but she had pre-empted the demonstration by asking her Departmental officers to re-examine the situation in Limerick.

The Dublin demonstra-

tion marked the climax of several weeks of agitation and canvassing of support.

The 20 walkers came from all over Limerick, including Kileely, Meelick, Lee Estate in St Mary's Park, Moyross, Garryowen, O'Connell Avenue, and Southill. They were seen off by city councillor John Ryan.

Among them were 43-year-old cancer victim Tom Hehir, of Pineview Gardens, who has already threatened to go on hunger strike, if necessary, to secure a school place for his son, Thomas, who accompanied him.

They carried placards with the names of all 110 pupils without a secondary school place, and messages for the Minister, including the names of all the pupils, which were later handed in.

A fresh initiative by the Minister, announced by Labour Party chairman Deputy Jim Kemmy in time for the Dublin demonstration, has given a ray of



Pamela Walsh, Meelick, on the march to Dublin (LL)

hope to the anxious parents.

In a message to Deputy Kemmy, the Minister said that she had told her officials to "make further contact" with the secondary schools "to ensure that the children obtain places in second level schools".

She revealed: "I have told my officials to make it clear that if any extra resources are required to ensure places for these children, they will be made available."

However, there is one

dark cloud: she is, according to a public statement by her, only the day before, "not legally empowered to compel any of the schools

to accommodate the students" despite the fact that "all of the schools concerned are either totally or very substantially funded by the public".

There are 110 primary school pupils in Limerick who cannot get into secondary schools in the city. They have already rejected the many places still available at the city's Municipal Technical Institute—"The 'Tech' is not an option," declared parents' leader Dolores Kiely firmly.

The secondary school principals were this week accused by their primary school colleagues in Limerick, the national teachers, of "creaming off" the brightest pupils through their own entrance examination—the single one for the entire city.

Joe Lyons, media coordinator for the Limerick

INTO, accused the principals of allegedly selecting pupils "in a secretive manner".

If the classes in the secondary schools were "already too big for effective teaching", according to the principals, then so too were the classes in the primary schools, he pointed out, and many of the pupils—at least 20—who were failing to secure a place this year were already "repeat" applicants from the previous year.

He rejected, on behalf of the primary teachers, any suggestion from the principals that some of the children might not have reached a standard which would enable them to go on into secondary school.

But the secondary principals, through vice-chairman Tom Hardy, maintain that examination is still the fairest method of assessing a pupil: it avoids favouritism, they point out, while at the same time trying to give the pupils the

particular schools they have opted for.

Minister Bhreathnach, in her public stance this week, was "greatly concerned" that places should be made available to "all students, regardless of their socio-economic or intellectual ability".

Meanwhile, the problem confronting the Minister for Education, when the Limerick parents demand more places—and a face-to-face meeting—is that there are, on paper, many places available in Limerick—90 in "the Tech" alone—also financed by the taxpayer.

Meeting

OFFICIALS from the Department of Education met with parents involved in the secondary school placement row, at the Limerick Youth Centre this Thursday night. They told parents that the placement problem was a priority with the Department.

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"urgent calls only" rule,
then the dog could be put
down without the owner
getting a chance to reclaim
it.
This could cause very
great distress to elderly peo-
ple in particular.



Aisling O'Keefe and Susan O'Connor show the trophy which was presented to them by Mayor Quinn. They won the prize for their project on expediting the growth of slips, plantlets and seeds. They, with friends, have been working on the project since November last, under the guidance of Sr Ita.

LEADER BRIEFING

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Delay in Athens drug trial

THE trial of the Limerick man who is facing drugs charges in Greece, has been postponed. He has been transferred to an Athens hospital from prison, where his solicitor hopes evidence will be gathered to prove that the defendant is a drug addict. He has been charged with the possession and supply of cannabis and has been held in custody by Greek authorities since May of last year.

Senator Jan bangs Heads together

58

By Paul Wright

SENATOR Jan O'Sullivan has called for a positive response from Limerick's secondary schools principals to the Minister for Education's latest move to solve the problem of the shortage of places in the city's schools.
She said: "The minister has promised that extra

resources will be made available. The schools were rightly concerned that standards might suffer if classes have to be expanded with extra teachers and accommodation that shouldn't be necessary.
"What is needed now is a little bit of goodwill," added Senator O'Sullivan.
She urged the principals of schools in those parts of the city where children are still unplaced to sit down with the Department offi-

cials and work out the best possible solution.
Senator O'Sullivan added: "Whether publicly or privately managed, they have a responsibility and cannot at any time turn their backs on children who are the innocent victims of the shortage of places."
"The time is running out and parents must not face the summer without knowing where their children will go to school in September."

ICE SALE OF DISCONTINUED LINES

Clohessy raises school places problem in Dail

A HUNDRED children still without a secondary school place will be leaving primary school next week without knowing what their future holds, Deputy Peader Clohessy told the Dail.

Mr Clohessy has called on the Minister for Education Niamh Bhreathnach to solve this problem and put an end to the worries of the children and their parents.

"This is an appalling situation for these pupils and their parents, and is a source of great concern and anguish to them. It is most unfair, and I want the Minister to do everything necessary as a matter of urgency to resolve the problem

immediately," said Mr Clohessy.

Even though the number of pupils affected had dropped from 160 to 101 too much time has passed since the Minister promised that "no pupil would be left without a place in a second level school next September", stated Mr Clohessy.

"I want to say to the Minister that too much time has already elapsed—and we still have the problem," said the Progressive Democrat TD.

He added: "Starting secondary school is a difficult enough experience for children, but when they do know what school they will be attending, or if there will be a place at all for them, then it is most unac-

ceptable."

Mr Clohessy said that the Ms Bhreathnach should convene a meeting of all the secondary school principals in Limerick with the Chief Executive Officer of the Limerick VEC to work out a solution to the problem—not just for September but on a long-term basis so that the problem would not reoccur.

"The people of this country, including the people of Limerick are providing a total of £1.8 billion for education this year, and one of the basic returns on that public money must be the provision of places for every child going on to secondary education," said Mr Clohessy.

He added that the parents of these children had mounted a very effective campaign.

In a statement in response to Mr Clohessy, Minister Bhreathnach said that the accommodation situation in some of the post-primary schools was tight. She added that the situation had been complicated by some schools taking in pupils from outside Limerick city and by some parents' unwillingness to send their children to a school if was not their first preference.

Ms Bhreathnach added that some 100 children were still without places and that it was the main responsibility of the Department to

ensure that an adequate number of post-primary places existed in Limerick city to meet the demand.

She added that over the past year she had met with concerned parents and department officials had worked with both parents and the school authorities in Limerick city.

"It has been made clear to the Minister and the department that any extra resources are required to ensure places for these children will be made available," said the Minister.

Ms Bhreathnach added: "Negotiations with a number of school authorities in the city are ongoing with a view to resolving the problem."

Funeral of mother, son

By **ANTHONY GALVIN**

A HUGE crowd attended the double funeral at St Brigid's Church, Limerick, of a mother and son who

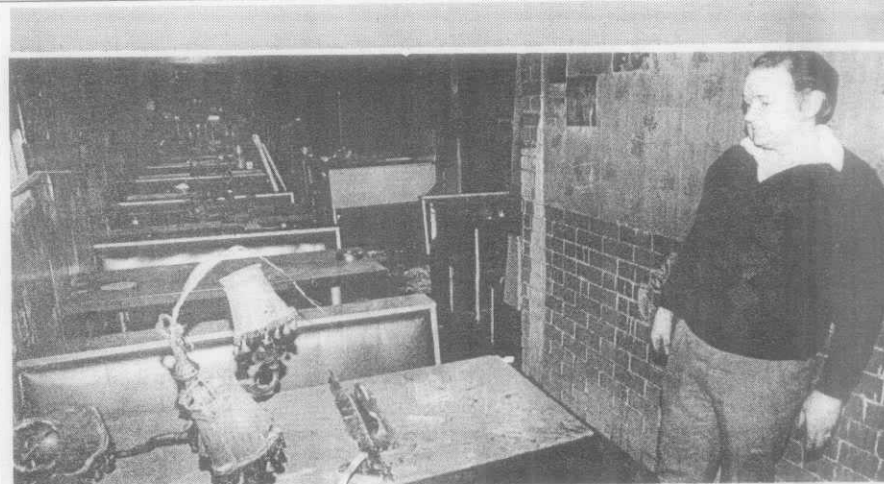
driven the first CIE bus into Limerick.

Just 12 hours after her death one of her two sons, Thomas, died in his home at 23 Bengal Terrace, Old Cork Road. He was aged 60, and had been ill for some time.

He is survived by his

son from Cross's Funeral Home to St Brigid's Church at 7pm on Wednesday, and a very large crowd attended.

On Thursday, at 12.30pm, there was a concelebrated Requiem Mass for both. Mary was



Proprietor Richard Coughlan surveys his Treaty Cafe, which was severely damaged by fire on Tuesday morning, and vows to reopen it. This is the second time flames have brought grief to Mr Coughlan—he

morning Mr Coughlan had put on a chip pan to heat up, then went out to the Novena. When he returned, he found the premises blazing. He was not covered by insurance.

His wife was injured in the 1978

Wedding

● FROM P1

in Dublin. The bride is one of seven sisters and one brother.

Darragh is the son of the late Hilda and Donogh O'Malley, who was Minister for Education. The family resides at North Circular Road.

He has one sister, Susan, who is a casting director in Hollywood.

Weather

WARM weather will continue in the Limerick area over the weekend.

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WEDNESDAY



59 School places new hope

By ANTHONY GALVIN

THE schools places problem may be over, following discussions between Department of Education officials and Limerick secondary schools.

At the moment 110 primary school leavers are without secondary school places, but that number could be dramatically reduced or wiped out if a workable solution is found.

It is believed that pressure has been put on Ard Scoil Rís to take in an extra class, and St Nessian's Community College will also take on more pupils. This was agreed at a meeting of the City VEC.

Other schools will also take in a few extra, and that should solve the problem for this year, officials hope.

The Department officials working on the problem are led by Eamonn Stack, who was, for 15 years, principal of St Nessian's Community College. He has held a number of meetings with

school principals and other interested parties, and reports of those meetings have fueled optimism.

"I feel that the problem is on the verge of being solved," said Democratic Left councillor John Ryan, one of the leading campaigners on behalf of the children without places.

"But I am not holding my breath," he added. "Our campaign will continue until every parent has a letter in their hand telling them that their child has a secondary school place.

"This time last year we

had 90 children looking for places. This year that has risen to 110. If we don't solve the problem now, it will be even worse next year."

He feels that parents need to be consulted about whatever solution is worked out, and that has not happened to any large extent.

"Before any solution is worked out the parents must be consulted. There has only been one meeting so far between parents and the Department of Education, and that meeting came at the request of the parents,"

said Cllr Ryan.

He added that parents were going to picket the Department of Education office in Limerick on Friday. This is at the Model School on O'Connell Avenue. The protest, which could involve 100 people or more, will begin at 4pm.

"We are protesting over the delay in solving this crisis. It has been 55 days of trauma and agony for children who have just finished primary school with no knowledge of what they will be doing in September. It is not good enough," he said.

Part of stolen Limerick collection found in North

PADDY MORONEY

IN A significant breakthrough in a mysterious robbery from Limerick Museum, 24 years ago, the police in the North have now recovered a number of valuable items taken from the collection.

It was revealed, today, that a bronze brooch along with a number of other valuables, had been recovered by the RUC.

A man, it is learned, has been arrested in Newtownards, in County

Funeral of Darragh

THE remains of five-year-old Darragh O'Regan, who was fatally injured in a traffic accident on the main

Big plan