

FREE • FREE • FREE • FR

The Groove

WIN A colour T.V.

news..music ..sport..

HATCH

33

Limerick Unemployed Centre 33.Thomas St.

JOBSEARCH ITS A CONJOB!

"I am mad as hell that I was forced to go on to the Jobsearch Scheme", says Aileen Maguire of Gouldavoher Estate.

Aileen, a 28 year old unemployed person, still resents the fact that she had to attend a Jobsearch course at AnCo, Raheen on 27th May of this year.

Although Aileen feels that there are some positive aspects to the Scheme, the negative aspects far outweigh them.

"The most positive aspect of Jobsearch was the sense of solidarity with the other unemployed people on the course because everyone was in the same boat", Aileen told us at the Unemployed Centre this week.

She says "As a four week crash course in job seeking skills it is a good course for those who need skills such as writing letters and C.V.'s, interview techniques etc".

COMPULSORY NATURE

However the compulsory nature of Jobsearch makes Aileen wonder if its main motive is just to strike people off the live register, bring unemployment figures down and cut down on Social Welfare payments rather than get people jobs or onto AnCo courses.

The Government says that 150,000 unemployed people will be interviewed for Jobsearch by Christmas, but according to Aileen, "the only people who are going to benefit is An Post, because 150,000 people will be chasing non-existent jobs".

Continued on Page 2.



Dead Slow! - That's the track record of successive Governments on job creation in Ireland.

Limerick Family Planning Clinic Ltd.

4 MALLOW STREET,
LIMERICK.
Telephone 0611 312026

80, South Quay,
Newcastle West,
Co. Limerick



- All Methods of Contraception (including male sterilisation, & referral for female sterilisation)
- Mail order Service For Condoms
- On the Spot Pregnancy Testing.
- Counselling on Sexual Problems
- Cancer-Screening Service, including smear-testing & Breast Examination.
- Information, advice & testing for V.D. and AIDS
- Courses on Womens health including PMT & the Menopause.
- From Sept. '87 Pre-marriage courses, marriage & parenting courses, and marriage guidance Counselling.

• ALL SERVICES ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Welcoming Address
by
Jim Wallace
(President Limerick's Trade Council)

Newspapers are by far the oldest of what are called the "Media" nowadays, but too many of them fail to live up to Arthur Miller's definition of a "GOOD" newspaper as "a nation talking to itself". Even the best of Ireland's newspapers do not reflect the reality of life for those without a paying job; the worst present a seriously distorted version of that reality.

This paper therefore, will attempt to be "the unemployed talking to themselves" and be a good newspaper in the process. Free of the commercial pressures that have turned so many papers into advertising supplements, it will provide true facts and reasoned commentary to those it serves. It will be impartial in the sense that it will grind no axe for any Party. It will be neutral between Left and Right, but not for a moment neutral between Right and Wrong.

For these reasons, I welcome the first issue with feelings compounded in equal parts of pride and pleasure. Pride that I should be asked to extend that welcome on behalf of the Trade Union movement. Pleasure because I have always subscribed to the notion of Thomas Jefferson, that a country with newspapers and no government, is infinitely preferable to a country with a government and no newspapers. I welcome this newspaper, and wish it long life and success in its endeavours.

JOBSEARCH - "IT'S A CONJOB!"
continued..

"The compulsory nature of Jobsearch undermines civil liberties and democracy in Ireland", Aileen stated. Aileen believes that the people responsible for the Jobsearch Programme are completely aware of this lack of freedom but are not prepared to admit it.

MAJOR DEFECTS

"I would not be as mad as hell", stated Aileen, "if these officials honestly admitted that Jobsearch has major defects and is in need of urgent review".

"As Jobsearch stands it makes people think that they can get jobs but they will be let down later because there are so few jobs around. Jobsearch is a con job".

Helena Close
Dave Lee

ON THE MARCH...



Limerick protest against health cuts. Staff and supporters of Limerick Unemployed Centre at protest march against the Government's health cuts. 1,100 people took part in the demonstration on June 24th.

ARE YOU A LONE PARENT?

Gingerbread, the national organisation for lone parents meet every Thursday night at 8.30 p.m. in the Unemployed Centre. The Gingerbread group organise social evenings and outings for the children. So come along, you're more than welcome!

Help Hatch 33

We will be bringing out another issue of this paper in September.

Any unemployed person wishing to get involved in any way should contact:

**Helena Close or Dave Lee
Limerick Unemployed Centre,
33 Thomas Street,
Limerick.
Tel. (061) 46056**

DID YOU KNOW?

* If you are Unemployed you may be entitled to a rent or mortgage subsidy. You must apply to your local Community Officer in your local Health Centre. For further information come and see our advisor.

TAKE NOTE

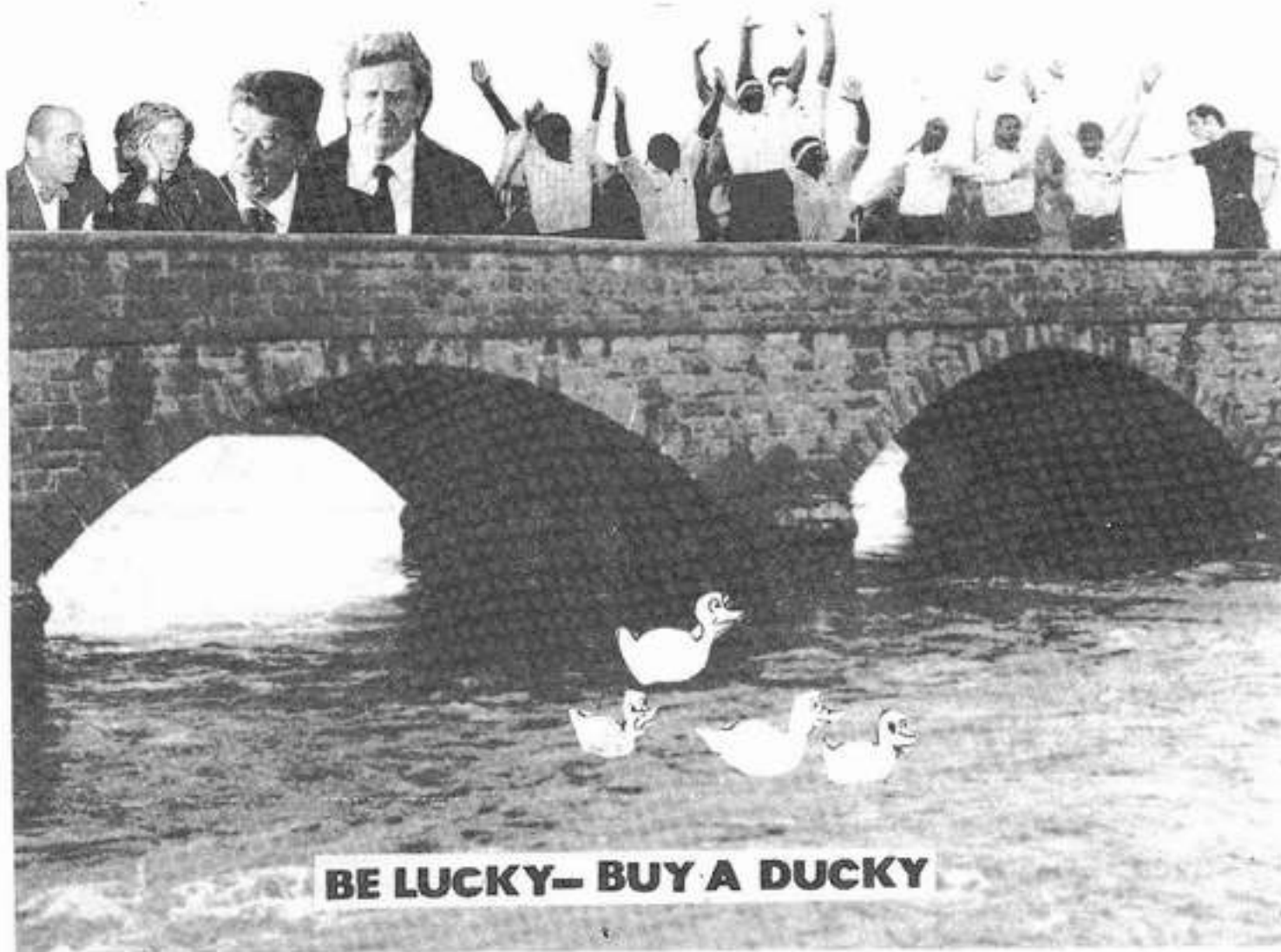
Signed articles in 'Hatch 33' represent the views of the writers and may not represent the official view of the Limerick Unemployed Centre.

Contact:
Rita Considine
Tel: (061) 44479

FOR ALL YOUR DOGS NEEDS
EXPERT GROOMING FOR ALL BREEDS
THE VERY BEST IN DOG FEEDS.

THOMOND SHOPPING CENTRE,
ROXBORO RD,
LIMERICK.

DOGGIE TAXI AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY.



This could be your lucky day!! **Limerick Unemployment Centre**, are holding their first Duck Derby. Proceeds from the race will help finance the many services we offer in the Unemployed Centre. This is your centre and every penny will be used to your benefit. Also there are fabulous prizes to be won.

How do you enter? Dead simple, just buy a ticket for one pound and your numbered duck will race on the Shannon River. The race starts on **Thomond Bridge at 3 o'clock on Saturday July 18th**. The first duck past the winning post at **Sarsfield Bridge** will win a fabulous colour portable T.V.

Loads of runner up prizes including a microwave oven are also on offer. Larger ducks for businesses can be bought for £5.

Prizes for the business ducks are:-

- (1) A large advertising space in the Limerick Post.
- (2) 5,000 leaflets designed and distributed free.

Tickets available at:-

Limerick Unemployed Centre,
33, Thomas Street.

Weekdays: 10-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

Also Crescent Shopping Centre.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday – 10th, 11th, & 12th July.

We wish to thank our sponsors:

New Limerick Gas

Limerick Post

Burgerland

Shannonside Audio Video

Ryans Furniture

Wilo Pumps

Dawn Dairies

Riordans Travel

Framework

Prontaprint

Jack Sheehan (Butcher).

LIMERICK UNEMPLOYED CENTRE

Education

The Limerick Unemployed Centre has been opened since January '87. Employing 20 people on a part-time basis The Centre is run by The Limerick Council of Trade Unions. There are 10 such Centres across the country and form part of the Trade Unions response to the problems facing unemployed people.

The Limerick Centre has 3 objectives:-

- (i) to provide information and advise.
- (ii) to establish recreational activities
- (iii) to provide educational opportunities.

Since January over 3,500 people have called to The Centre. Every week our advisors are available to help with problems from Social Welfare to Housing. We also offer a wide range of classes. So why not drop in any day. We'd like to hear from you.

John Ryan,
Director.



Friendly faces at 33, Thomas Street. Left to Right: Phyllis and Dolores who run our Canteen and Joan one of our Receptionists.

Advisory Service

The Limerick Unemployed Centre offers a free confidential advisory service. Hatch 33 spoke to Olive Brannon, one of four advisors working in the centre, and asked her about the type of problems she has dealt with to date.

When the Centre opened last January Olive says that "there were hundreds of enquiries concerning the Equality in Social Welfare Directive issued last November. "It seemed to cause a lot of confusion as people didn't understand what was happening". The problems seem to differ every few months and in recent weeks Jobsearch has become the issue of the day. Olive has dealt with a variety of problems apart from Social Welfare enquiries. "Lone parents use the advisory service frequently, and lately we have a number of enquiries concerning "emigration".

Olive informed us that special thanks must be given to Michael McDonnell, Information officer in the Employment Exchange as he "has been a tremendous help to us in unravelling the Social Welfare System. Mr. Willie O'Dea, T.D. and his secretary, Olive McNamara must also be acknowledged for their invaluable support and advice".

One of the main aims of the Centre when it opened in February was to provide classes free of charge for the unemployed.

Due to a massive response from the public, within weeks we had classes running every morning of the week.

The Return to Study, Social Studies and History classes have now come to an end until September. However, the Basic English and Maths will continue right through until the end of July. The Art and Photography classes proved so successful that as well as starting a second beginners class at the end of May, we had sufficient people interested to continue with advanced classes for those students who completed the first Course. This interest was generated by the fact that at the end of Course One the students were able to exhibit their work in the Belltable Arts Centre.

Also three Art Summer Schools, each lasting one week, have recently been held in the Art College.

If you are unemployed and interested in attending classes at the Centre, please do not hesitate to contact either Mary Cronin or Dave Lee. Do come along. No qualifications are necessary.

Identity Card

Do you want to get into soccer and rugby matches at reduced prices? You can if you get an Identity Card, free of charge from Limerick Unemployed Centre.

The I.D. card also entitles unemployed people discount in many local shops and cheap rates for swimming pools, gyms, etc.

So if you're unemployed, and want to save money, drop into 33, Thomas Street, and ask for our Identity Card.

BUS ÉIREANN *expressway*
& PROVINCIAL BUS

THE BOOMERANG IS BACK

(UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

Once again we introduce the Midweek Boomerang bargains. For no more than the price of the single fare (Minimum Adult Fare £1.70) the Boomerang ticket can take you there and back. You can catch a Midweek Boomerang return on any Expressway or Provincial bus on

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY. Your Boomerang return is valid for two weeks. So you can travel any TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY and return on the TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY of the same week or the following week.

SAMPLE BOOMERANG FARES

Limerick- Waterford ...	£10.50
Limerick- Athlone ...	£10.50
Limerick- Cork ...	£ 8.60
Limerick- Galway ...	£ 9.20

Try it once and like a Boomerang you'll come back for more
Ask at your local CIE Office for details. 061-48777

SAVE
UP TO A
THIRD

Framework for Success

One of our achievements has been to help two young unemployed people to set up their own business.

Ann Kelly from Janesboro and **Seán Noonan** from Weston had been trying for a year to set up a picture framing business but had met with little success.

Although they had skills and enthusiasm, being young and unemployed they didn't have influential contacts or much money to make phone calls etc. Then last April they came into the **Limerick Unemployed Centre** and things soon changed for the better. **Sandra Pentecost**, our Promotions Officer, pulled out all the stops to help Seán and Ann set up their business. Sandra helped arrange meetings with **Shannon Development**,

Manpower and other bodies and looked for grant aid. The big breakthrough came when a private trust provided money for the project. Seán and Ann themselves obtained a **Credit Union** loan. With this financial backing they got picture framing equipment at cost price. Premises were obtained at **Shannon Development's Workspace** in Michael Street.

June 8th called for great celebration for everyone involved with Seán and Ann and their new venture. 'Framework' was officially opened by **Mr. Jim Wallace**, President of Limerick Trades Council. All this had been achieved in only six weeks. Recently Ann told **Hatch 33** that, "business is great, we are very busy. But for the Unemployed Centre we wouldn't have opened so quickly". "Everybody in the Unemployed Centre was helping and supporting us. It was great!" If you want pictures framed at a reasonable rate go to 'Framework' Unit 9, **Workspace, Michael Street**. There is a 10% Discount from 'Framework' for holders of the **Unemployed I.D. Card**.

WHAT IS JOBSEARCH?

Dave Lee
Helena Close

Are you unemployed for more than six months? If so, you are likely to be called for a Jobsearch interview before Christmas. What is Jobsearch? How will it effect you! – we sent our research team to investigate.

JOBSEARCH is a four week course in job seeking skills and it is compulsory to attend both the interview with Manpower and the course itself. People who refuse to attend will be cut off the dole. This was confirmed to us by **Brian Merriman** the Department of Social Welfare Press Officer, who informed us that the course was "absolutely compulsory". He also told us that there have been very good attendance rates so far. Hardly surprising!

ANCO DEDICATION

We also spoke to two Jobsearch tutors in Raheen. We were very impressed with their dedication and positive attitude in attempting to make the course work. The course, which lasts four weeks, is a good crash course in learning job-seeking skills. The course is designed to build up the self-confidence of unemployed people and to encourage them to look for jobs or places or existing AnCo courses or Manpower Schemes.

PROBLEMS

However, in the course of our research, we have identified a number of problems associated with the Jobsearch programme.

1. Given the compulsory nature of Jobsearch we wonder if the Government are genuinely trying to help the unemployed or is it, as numerous critics of the scheme allege, a glorified and expensive dole fraud investigation?

While a small minority may abuse the welfare system, the Government appears to be accusing 150,000 unemployed people of fraud. The Government have claimed that they have insufficient personnel and resources to collect from businesses and farmers the millions owed in VAT, land tax and health contributions. Isn't it amazing that successive Governments ignore this massive fraud but can find the resources to investigate the unemployed – the *poorest* section of our society? What worries our research team is that the compulsory aspect of Jobsearch could be the thin end of the wedge for the introduction of, as the Cork Examiner editorial of June 16th. puts it *official tyranny*".

2. Everybody knows jobs are scarce. What is the point therefore in developing job seeking skills for the unemployed when we live in a country that suffers chronic unemployment? This appears to be further confirmation that the real motive behind Jobsearch is to investigate minor welfare fraud, therefore reducing the numbers on the live register. Lets call a spade a spade.

3. Lone parents or parents whose spouses work must pay somebody to mind their children, while they attend the Jobsearch course. While we understand that people on the live register should be available for work, we hold that it isn't right that that they have to pay babysitters out of their small welfare payments. To avoid this economic hardship it would make sense to provide creche facilities at AnCo centres.

We know of at least one person in Limerick who has been cut off the dole for this very reason.

4. State bodies such as Manpower, AnCo and the Department of Social Welfare are extremely overworked as it stands. Now they are forced to take on the added responsibility of Jobsearch, as a result of which, surely, their present workload is bound to suffer.

COMMENTS

And what do the unemployed think of Jobsearch? We talked to **Claire Kelly** of Mulgrave Street, who has finished the Jobsearch course and though she had great praise for the AnCo tutors, she felt ultimately that "It was a waste of time and just a way of catching people that are working, the main thing behind Jobsearch is to get people off the live register". Claire was just one of many people who had come to the same conclusion.

Nor do Limerick Trade Unionists have much confidence in Jobsearch. **Jim Wallace**, President of Limerick Trades Council had this to say:-

Jobsearch: A programme created by the un-enlightened, to force the unemployed to search for the non-existent. My opinion of the JOBSEARCH Program is summed up in that definition. It is NOT, in ANY way, a serious attempt to deal with the reality of un-employed as it affects people. It IS, in EVERY way, a serious attempt to reduce the official un-employment figures without creating any new jobs.



'Talking Heads'



THE GROOVE - support Bowie at Slane '87. Pic. Kevin Clancy - Press 22.



Scoop Interview: THE GROOVE BAND OF '87

Playing support to a top act like David Bowie is no mean achievement for Limerick band, The Groove. Neither is the fact that they won two major competitions in recent months. In an exclusive interview with 'Hatch 33', Paul, Bryan and Brendan talked about unemployment, music and the lack of tea and coffee!

In April of this year, 'The Groove won the prestigious Borderline/HMV/EMI Band of '87 competition. They were the only non-Dublin band among six finalists. The lads were thrilled to win the competition but feel that because they weren't a Dublin band, the exposure that should have resulted was extremely limited. Although all the National Press were in the Borderline studio when the winners were announced, only one paper carried a story the following week! This is typical of the National Press, including the music press and as Paul says, "the standard of music in Limerick is as good, if not better than anywhere else in Ireland, bands like Toucandance and 16 Tons of Jive are very talented. Or take Private World, they would do well if they were given a break".

UNEMPLOYMENT

But being involved in a band is expensive business. Out of The Groove's five members, four are unemployed. There is no profit as yet, and any money that is made must go straight back into the band to cover the huge expenses of hiring vans and quality p.a. systems.

Three of the bands members, Paul, Bryan and Charlie have availed of the Educational Opportunities Scheme; a return to study for people on the dole. They are very enthusiastic about the course and hope that it will be continued for the next academic year. Paul says, "it is a great opportunity for the unemployed and for people who have missed out on their education". Brendan has been unemployed since Christmas and must sign off the dole for every gig he plays. He feels this is

unfair as the band make no money, and in fact are still in debt after making a demo tape last year. He is trying to create employment for himself, and if the band do well he hopes to sign off the dole. But at the moment he badly needs his few bob!

VENUES

Lack of funds poses a problem for most Limerick bands. Practice halls are difficult to find and can be expensive. But The Groove are lucky in this respect. A local councillor, Ger Fahy together with Malachy Cosgrave, co-owner of the Mill Tavern, Dock Road, have given the lads a practice venue free of charge because most of the band are unemployed. Venues for live gigs in Limerick also pose problems for the bands. There is no good venue around. The Savoy's new location for live music is not suitable. It is small and restrictive, both to play music and to dance in. The Groove are essentially a dance band and would welcome the opening of a new live music venue in Limerick.

SINGLE RELEASE

The Groove first single has just been released on the EMI label. EMI have shown great interest in the band, and they were the only band who EMI reps came to see live during the Borderline competition. The single, called "Blue Blue Monday" will be distributed nationally and if it does well in Ireland it will be marketed internationally. So come on Limerick, lets support The Groove - you have no excuse because if you have an Unemployed Centre I.D. Card, you can get a 10% discount on the single in Clancy's and also Tony's record shop in the O'Connell Mall. Lets make "Blue Blue Monday" a hit single. Given the enthusiasm and talent of this band, their future looks far from blue.



SPORT Profiles



JUNIOR FOOTBALL PROFILES BY TONY COLBERT

WESTON VILLA

My first choice in the series of profiles is **Weston Villa**. The Villa have been competing in local football for many years now. Their honours include Third Division League Champions in 1973. And what a great side they had that season! (In **B. Cosgrove, S. Cusack, F. Timmors, P. Heffernan, M. O'Neill, T. Jordan, B. Power, P. Aherne, M. Timmors, P. Bennis, M. Cosgrove** and **J. Constable**).

SUCCESSFUL SEASON

In the 1980/81 season the Villa won promotion to the first division and the following season won promotion to the premier division being pipped for the championship on both occasions by near neighbours **Prospect United**.

The following seasons saw the Villa going back down to the first division and I must say it was sad to see so many of that great side move on to other clubs. This was no fault of **Stevie Quaine** and Co. for they had done all in their power to keep that side together. In 1984 the Villa B side reached the final of the Keane Cup and were hot favourites to lift the Trophy but on the day they didn't play up to scratch and were beaten by **Moyross** 2 goals to nil.

A.G.M.

The Villa held their A.G.M. recently and surprise of the day was the resignation of **Stevie Quaine** as Manager of the A-Team. **Stevie** of course has given tremendous service to the club, down through the years and I hope he will be back next season. A source close to the club told me recently that **Stevie** wanted to take a break from the scene this year. Into **Stevie's** shoes steps **Connie Finnan** with **Pat Hanlon** as his assistant, both these lads were members of that great side of '81/82 and I am sure with a bit of support can build a side that will go on to win promotion to the premier division yet again. **Mr. Kevin O'Dwyer** was elected co-ordinator of the Schoolboy's and what better man to get the job. I am told he has over 100 youngsters signed at present, and I am sure we will see a couple of trophies going up **Weston's** way before the end of the Schoolboy season. **Mr. Pat (Golla) Heffernan** was appointed Manager of the Minor Team with **Brian O'Grady** as his assistant.

So its all systems go for the coming season and I would like to wish **Weston Villa** all the best. Before I end I would like to thank **Mr. Pat Heffernan** and **Mr. Kevin O'Dwyer** for providing photo's and the History of the Club for this article.

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT

The Villa's greatest achievement was when they topped the premier division in the '83/84 season, under the management of **Kevin O'Dwyer** and **Mick Meskell**.

MOST LOYAL PLAYER

The Villa's most loyal player is **Pa McCoy** who joined the club in 1974 and is still playing. He was selected on the Irish Minor panel and also on the Oscar Traynor panel. **Pa** has captained **The Villa** for many years.



UNEMPLOYED 5-A-SIDE A SUCCESS

Over 30 unemployed people took part in a 5-a-side tournament recently. The tournament was run by the **Limerick Unemployed Centre** and was held in the Sports Complex, Corbally. The organisers of the tournament said they were disappointed in the response they got from the local clubs. In fact only one club took part and they went on to win the tournament. The club was **Prospect United**. They were presented with trophies sponsored by **Mr. Gerry Kirby** of **City Centre Trophies**. The runners up received medals, sponsored by **Mr. J.J. Kenneally**. The referee for the tournament was **Mr. Tom Power**, he received a special plaque for his services which was sponsored by **Mr. E. Tuite**. The competition itself was a great success with a lot of talent being shown. We hope to be starting a 5-a-side league shortly and anyone who is interested should contact us.

CLUBS PLEASE NOTE

To secretaries of all local clubs. If you would like to see a profile on your club, please contact me at the **Unemployment Centre, 33, Thomas Street. Telephone: 46056**

I.D.A.T.U

The **IRISH DISTRIBUTIVE and ADMINISTRATIVE TRADE UNION** has become a High Profile Union with dynamic and effective leadership, willing and able to protect workers' jobs and capable of fighting for better wages and improved conditions of employment. It has a policy of supporting unemployed people by encouraging them in the setting up of Co-operatives and in other initiatives that could create jobs.

I.D.A.T.U. represents workers; full-time and part-time; in shops, supermarkets, offices of all descriptions, factories, etc.

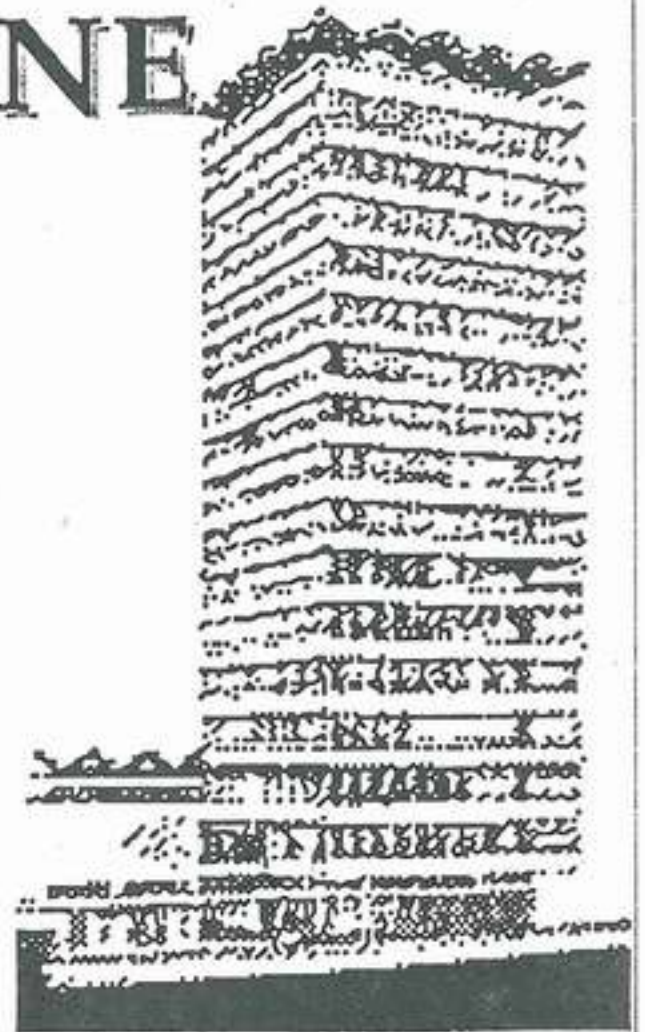
Are you an individual worker, or a group of workers, looking for a Trade Union to represent your interests effectively and with commitment?

If you are, contact (061) 314648.



IN THE FRONTLINE
OF THE FIGHT
FOR JOBS AND
FAIR PAY...

THE ITGWU



Irish Transport & General Workers' Union,
Liberty Hall, Dublin 1. Phone: (01-)749731.
Connolly Hall, 91, O'Connell Street, Limerick.

 **GOLDEN VALE** Milk
FREE
GOLDEN GIVEAWAY
GOLDEN GETAWAY

Collect GOLDEN VALE Milk Tokens for our
FREE GIFTS
5 FREE HOLIDAYS to DISNEYWORLD Florida
to be won

 **LIMERICK BLOOD
TRANSFUSION SERVICE**

EVERY 90 DAYS YOU CAN DONATE BLOOD
"SHARE LIFE"
"GIVE BLOOD"

By donating Blood you are truly
giving the "GIFT OF LIFE".

Check local Press for Clinics
advertised in your area.

THE LIMERICK BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE