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Limerick Unemployed Centre,
33 Thomas Street

Issue No. 5, March 1988

FREE • FREE • FREE • FR

Sex Education

Tuesday Blue

THIS ISSUE • THIS ISSU

"WE HAVE TO LEAVE"

7 of every 10 young unemployed in Limerick will probably emigrate. 9 of those 10 see no prospect of a job in Ireland. These are the shock results of a survey conducted by the Limerick Unemployed Centre.

One 26 year old told us *"I can't see any future in this country. As far as I'm concerned, it's emigration or nothing. I'm hoping to get a visa for the states. If that fails, it's the boat to England"*. He has been unemployed, except for a few temporary and part-time jobs, since leaving school. *"I don't want to go"*, he said. *"I grew up in Limerick. My parents and friends are all here – except for the ones who've already gone"*.

Commenting on the survey, Willie O'Dea said that the results were *"horrific"*, but that he expects the situation to *"stabilise in two years"*. Jim Kemmy said that he was saddened by the results. *"People are disillusioned. They see no hope in a country where powerful private interests*

can evade their dues while the man in the street – PAYE worker or unemployed – is victimised."

Mr. John Ryan, Director of the Unemployed Centre, said that *"the results are shocking, but not surprising"*. He called on the government to make a massive investment in job creation as the only realistic response to a national scandal.

The survey was conducted outside the employment exchange in Cecil Street on a Thursday morning. 200 people were interviewed at random. Among the findings were the fact that over 60% of those interviewed had lost a relative to emigration, 71% of those under 30 were now seriously considering emigrating, and 90% didn't see any prospect of work.



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THE SAMARITANS

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THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH ...

Giving way to the new. It's a new year at the Hatch, and a new crew on board. Enquiries have been pouring in as to when the next issue was due. Well, this is it. Sorry about the delay, but the staff are all new to the job and settling in has taken a bit of time.

We'd like to express our appreciation to last year's staff who did such a great job in getting our paper up and running. It is a pity that, under the terms of the social employment scheme, they could not continue beyond a year. They did a magnificent job, particularly as they all had a number of other duties as well.

The new hatchlings hereby pledge to uphold their standards and carry the Hatch forward to better things. We're here to stay as the voice of the unemployed in Limerick, and we're going to be a very loud and insistent voice.

Hope you enjoy this first issue of '88.

GOOD FOOD – GREAT VALUE

The canteen in the centre is now in the capable hands of **Nicky Porretta**. So if you're in the mood for Italian style sandwiches, drop in. Lunch is served from 12.00 to 2.00 in the afternoon, and we're open from 10.00 to 4.00 Monday to Friday.

MENU

Monday: Steak and Kidney Pie with Chips and Peas	£1.20
Tuesday: Sausage, Chips and Beans	£1.20
Wednesday: Salad Burgers with Chips and Peas	£1.20
Thursday: Chicken with French Sauce and Mash	£1.20
Friday: Fish, Beans and Chips	£1.20

Sandwiches are 50p, Doughnuts or Scones 25p, Tea is 20p and Coffee 30p. Breakfast is served until 12.00 and you can have Scrambled Eggs and Toast for 50p or Toast and Marmalade for 20p.

DROP IN ANY TIME – ALL ARE WELCOME



The man from Frosinone welcomes you.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor – Des Langford
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TAKE NOTE

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

Limerick leads the Way

The Hatch 33 Awards for Achievement held in January was a great occasion and received a great deal of favourable comment. So impressed were some that the Galway Centre for the Unemployed are organising their own awards ceremony, modelled on the Limerick idea. And there is word in the wind of a possible **National Awards for Achievement**.

So congratulations to the organisers of the '87 Awards, and here's to next year's. Once again, Limerick has hatched a national first.

Did You Know That.....

- * The 11% increase in social welfare payments for the long term jobless works out to be a bare 7% increase for a married couple with 3 children.
- * When the corporation adjusts its rates upwards many married couples will be left with an effective increase of only 5%.
- * After the dole increases, people who voluntarily go on **SES** and **Teamwork** schemes will now be doing a lot of hard work for a few pennies, as their payments were cut last year.
- * Prior to the budget, an "anti-dole fraud" measure was quietly sneaked in which will effectively deprive an unemployed woman of maternity benefit.
- * If you want to claim long-term disability benefit you now need 260 stamps whereas you used to only need 208.
- * The maternity grant for women with no stamp is now abolished.
- * For information on any of the above, contact our advisors at the Unemployed Centre. Phone: 46056.

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Community Events

Moyross Family Resource Centre

During 1985/86 several groups involved in adult education and youth work were meeting in the convent in **Pineview Gardens, Moyross**. These groups saw the need for a centre in the area where groups could meet. Two of the Assumption sisters drew up a proposal for a family resource centre that would be run by the local people. Money became available from **Combat Poverty** and the **Dept. of Social Welfare** and a local committee was formed. This committee emerged from 22 local meetings held in Moyross in October 1987.

The group met weekly in the Mercy Convent, Cosgrave Park and on Wed. 3rd February the house at 70, Glenagross was handed over to the group. The house was subsequently decorated by Moyross Youth Club.

The committee see the house as a resource to the people of Moyross and a focal point for the development of Moyross.

The Centre consists of a sitting room, a kitchen for classes, a room for sewing and arts and crafts, a 'quiet' room and a caretaker's room. Due to its size, it has limited uses and is just a first step toward a larger centre for Moyross.

Any groups wishing to use the house should write to the secretary, **Jenny Nolan, 63 Glenagross Park**.

The official opening will take place on **Friday 15th April**. A social to celebrate the opening will take place in the **Glentworth Hotel** on Friday 15th April from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tickets are £3.00 each (2 for £5), available from committee members.

Second Class Treatment

The residents of **Delmege Park, Moyross**, have petitioned the corporation to provide an adequate telephone and bus service. **Mrs. Mary Prior**, one of the organisers of the petition, said: *"The situation in the area is ridiculous. There is only one pay phone in the area and that is in the local shop, which is closed after 9.00 in the evening. If an emergency happens after that, you must cross a muddy field to get into Woodview to use the pay-phone there"*.

The bus situation is equally odd. There are only four buses in the day that stop near Delmege Park. All other buses stop at Craeval Park, which is only a minute or so less driving for the bus, but quite a tiring walk for someone with a disability, with children, or an old age pensioner.

Mrs. Prior said: *"the petition was signed by every household in Delmege. There were no doubters. People feel very strongly about the bad service we have been given"*.

Summer Playscheme '88

Plans are already well underway in the city for the summer playschemes. Nine playschemes are planned catering for over 1,500 children aged between 5 & 13. These playschemes will be held in **Southill, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John's, St. Mary's, Corbally, Kileely, Ballynanty and Moyross**. People are needed to help with activities during the summer and to help with fundraising prior to the summer. If you are over 16 and would like to help, phone **Chris Sheridan** at 40988.

ART AND THE UNEMPLOYED

Students from the **Limerick Unemployed Centre's** art classes are again going to have their work exhibited. After the success of last year's **'Drawing on the Dole'** exhibition, the event is to be repeated from the 24th to the 31st of March. The venue for the collection of paintings and photographs is the **10 + Allsorts Gallery in Ellen Street**. Following this, the exhibition will be shown in the **Kileely, Moyross and Southill** areas.

One of the students, 26 year old **Yvonne Brennan** came to the classes with no previous experience of art. She has shown such exceptional talent that she now hopes to study art full-time at the **Limerick School of Art and Design**.

New classes should start in April, and it is also hoped to run an art summer school. Anyone interested should contact **Gabrielle Danaher** or **Aileen Maguire** at the Unemployed Centre.

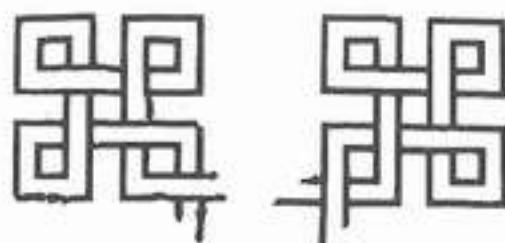
If anything is happening in your area that you wish to publicise, please write in.



BARRINGTONS - STILL IN THE BALANCE

SPEAKERS CORNER

Are you annoyed, angry, want to put the boot into a government Department? Then write a letter to **'Hatch 33'**, and we will publish it in our **'Speakers Corner'** column. We would like to hear your honest opinions about **'Hatch 33'**, and reactions to our articles. If you feel you can contribute any material (articles, photographs etc.) to **'Hatch 33'**, then drop in and have a chat with us.



U2 Auction

U2's management have sent the Unemployed Centre a parcel of letters, photographs, albums and a book. These items will be up for auction later to raise funds for the Centre.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX - BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

The Limerick Family Planning Clinic is providing a new service for young people. Y.E.S., the Youth Education Service was set up to answer questions and provide counselling for young people on sexual matters. They give realistic and personal answers to questions about contraception, pregnancy, the facts of life, sexually transmitted diseases, relationships and so on.

Although it's only finding it's feet, there is already an average of three enquiries a day. Cathy Chappell, an administrator of the clinic, said: "once the service is known about, we expect these numbers to rise dramatically". The clinic plan to extend their service to provide classes for parents and teachers in dealing with these questions.

If you are between 16 and 21, and are worried or just have questions to ask, the service can be contacted by phone at 312026 on Thursday evenings between 7 and 9, or you can drop in to the clinic on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons between 4 and 5 o'clock. Call in on your own or in a group, and a nurse will give all the help or advice needed in complete confidence.

A medical service especially for young people is offered on Saturdays between 2.30 and 4.30. A doctor will give any advice or treatment required. This is the only service that will be charged for, but the clinic offers a 25% discount on it's normal fee on production of evidence of age.

Finally, the clinic will provide speakers for youth clubs, schools, colleges or any interested group of young people to discuss topics of general or particular interest on request.

The service is well worth availing of, as it offers a chance to talk to a sympathetic and fully-informed person who can help, advise or just listen.



Clinic Administrator Ferga Grant discusses the Y.E.S.

German Classes

Interested in studying German? The Unemployed Centre have 15 places available in their classes for beginners. The classes will be held on Monday nights between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. starting the 11th April. For more information, contact Aileen or Gabrielle at the centre or phone 46056.



Well, lads, wasn't that a grand little Party we had...

"DON'T WORRY, LADS"

In the recent Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis, the Taoiseach reassured the nation once again that, regardless of appearances, he and his party have made a "SPECTACULAR SUCCESS" of putting our economy back on it's feet. Things are really a lot better than they might seem, sez an Taoiseach. This image of Gloom and Doom is all the fault of the unemployed and the begrudgers who insist in pointing out the realities of life. People, he sez, should be more responsible about saying things about Government Policy.

The government have to be cruel to be kind. The cuts hurt them more than they hurt us. They don't really want to ask us to tighten our belts, but the unthinkable alternative would be for them to tighten their's. Even if unemployment has risen a little, and even if a few of the poor kick the bucket prematurely because of health cuts, and even if our children are facing into an educational system on the verge of collapsing under impossible pressures, well sure, isn't it all to the good as long as our national prestige doesn't suffer from the lack of a helicopter to ferry the Great Men of Ireland from Dublin to their little shanties in Kerry.

The present government has undertaken a difficult and onerous task, and they will see it through with unflinching resolution, even if it costs them every last poor, unemployed, sick or disabled person in the country. They have set their hands to the wheel of the ship of state, and will steer it unerringly towards a brighter and better pension scheme for government ministers.

The Hatched Man

SUICIDAL ECONOMICS

Government policies have caused increased suicides. That is the message delivered in the annual report of the Limerick Samaritans.

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Director of the Limerick branch, said that "although it's hard to put an exact figure on suicide rates, the number of contacts made with us in 1987 was at least 5% up on the previous year". He went on to say that he had no doubt that a large part of that increase was directly due to the economic policies being pursued by the government.

The number of contacts made in 1987 rose to over 7,500 for the first time ever. "Many of the people who contact us have lived under severe financial pressure. They are desperately trying to pay their bills, or just to survive. The current problem of unemployment is directly linked to the increase in suicides".

The branch has around 140 active volunteers at the moment, and they reckon they'll need at least 50 more in 1988 to maintain the service. Mr. O'Neill said that the problems of loneliness and despair were growing and that many more people now would have a direct experience of the grief involved in suicide through family or friends than ever before.

1988 has been designated a year in which the Samaritans hope to publicise contact by post for people to whom a phone is not available - especially in the more rural areas of Limerick, Kerry and Tipperary.

CO-OPERATE OR DIE?

A number of businesses have gone to the wall in the past few years, leaving a great many people in the dole queues. One possible alternative those ex-employees had was to form a Co-op and run the business for themselves. The main reason they didn't was they didn't know how. How to organise a co-op, where to go for funds, what grant-aid is available, even what exactly a co-op is.

The good news is that the Unemployed Centre now has an adviser to deal with co-ops. Our bearded Canadian, Paul Dickson, is ready, willing and eager to deal with any queries or give advice to any budding co-operators out there. The man from British Columbia (south of the Yukon) spoke briefly to us.

"A co-op is usually a business which is owned by the people who are working in it, although the scope of co-operative enterprise is much wider. From co-operative housing through credit unions to baby sitting, any group of people with a common objective can cooperate to achieve it. And there are government grants and low-interest loans available for founding co-ops".

If you have an idea, or just want to ask questions, drop in. Paul will be delighted to help.

A RIGHT TO EDUCATION?

Dan has been unemployed for a number of years now. He is married, has a family, and hates being on the dole. He applied for and got places on a few AnCO courses in an effort to improve his employability. For the same reason, he started attending night classes at one of the schools in the city.

"I attended night classes for two years", he said. "I paid out quite a bit in the way of exam fees, books, and other expenses. The classes had to be by night. You can't attend classes by day and draw welfare."

After two years of slogging in and out to the classes in the Winter and early Spring weather, the first City and Guilds exam came up. All previous exams were house exams and took place in the evenings. The City and Guilds exams were sat in the afternoon on three separate days. One of the exams coincided with his signing-on time, so Dan went to the exchange to explain his situation. That's when his problems started.

The Runaround

First, they asked him to bring in a cert from the school stating on which days his exams were and between what hours. He provided that. Then he was asked for a signed statement to the effect that he was actually sitting those exams on those days. He went and got that, but when he arrived in to the offices they told him he need not have bothered - he could not claim for any day on which he sat an exam as he was not available for work. He said that if he was offered a job, he'd take it and forget the exams. No good, he was told. The supervisor had checked with Dublin, and they had ruled out any payment for those days.

So, for eight hours of exams, a married man was docked three days welfare. The community welfare officer made up the difference, but Dan had to make two extra trips across the city in a week in which he should have been studying.

"I have no complaint about the people in the Limerick exchange", says Dan. "They have always been sympathetic. What really annoys me is that the decision was taken in Dublin by people I don't even know. When I appealed the decision, I got back a letter through the Exchange asking for evidence that I had not attended any classes or seminars by day while I was on the course. I was told that Dublin don't like it when you question their decisions - if you bark at them, they like to bite back hard. I was making an honest effort to get off the dole and I got put down by some arrogant non-entity who didn't even communicate directly with me. This country is being ruined by little grey-faced monsters."



John Frawley has Dramatic Encounter with Monica Spencer.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE UNEMPLOYED

Limerick's first professional theatre company has selected some of its members from the ranks of the unemployed. Three of the cast of Island Theatre Company were formerly unemployed, and one of them, John Frawley, came from a Teamwork scheme jointly established by the Unemployed Centre and the Belltable Theatre. Another member of the cast gained his drama training from a course at the Unemployed Centre.

The company had their opening performance on Feb. 29th at the Belltable Arts Centre with George Bernard Shaw's comedy "Candida". The founder and director of the company, Limerickman Terry Devlin, told Hatch 33 "we hope to have six productions a year and intend to service the Mid-West region, taking in Nenagh, Ennis and Newcastle West.

Also involved in the company are Monica Spencer, Liam McCarthy, Mike Finn, and John Murphy.

by Ann Kenny

TUESDAY BLUE

Hen's teeth are rare. Caring health ministers are rarer. However, there are few things as infrequent as L.P.'s from Limerick rock groups. Thankfully then, a long barren spell will end in May with the release of Tuesday Blue's debut album on E.M.I. records.



The Album

Under the working title of 'Shibumi' (Japanese for 'Pursuit of Excellence'), the album was recorded in Switzerland with top producer **Dave Richards**. Richards, who has worked with the likes of **David Bowie** and **Echo and the Bunnymen**, got on like a house on fire with the band. Says giant Tuesday Blue bassist **Ralf Lindheim**.....

"Being a musician himself, Dave was immediately on the same wavelength as us. He was used to bands who used drum machines and stuff so I think we were like a breath of fresh air for him". The album has yet to be mixed but so far the band are thrilled with the results. "It's brilliant", says modest Ralf. Much of the album will be familiar to fans from the live shows with stage favourites like "Love Me Simple", "Tunnel Vision" and "Golden Girl" all present. "Tunnel Vision" is also likely to be released as a single.

Ralf reckons that the album will get a favourable response from the public and "we just hope it sells millions". He's not so confident however about how the British Music Press will react. "I've been noticing that anything Irish in Britain is given a particular slant in papers like the N.M.E. Personally, I won't be taking too much notice because that paper's gone to the dogs and it's lost all its credibility in the public eye". So far the band have kept a fairly low media profile but "when we're good and ready we'll talk to Hot Press and so on and I'm confident we'll get plenty of coverage".

The Gigs

Before the album is released in May the band hope to do some live shows around the country with a couple of gigs in Limerick. Previous shows have verged on the theatrical with kimono-clad singer **Mike Ryan** throwing various oriental shapes whilst surrounded by burning incense. Ralf assures us that the next shows will be significantly different from past efforts with a couple of new songs thrown in.

On the subject of live shows Ralf feels it's a pity that Dublin bands are usually assured of packed houses in Limerick while young local bands are treated with an almost uniform apathy by the gig-going majority. "It's a pity the people who organise

these gigs don't search harder for local talent because what they are effectively doing is killing the local music scene". The recent tragic death of Savoy promoter **Brendan Murray** has in Ralf's words "dealt a cruel blow to Limerick's music. It'll be a long time before people realise just how important Brendan was to the local scene".

The Philosophy

The band tend to give an impression of being "serious musos" yes. Ralf makes no apology for this. "The days when a bunch of lads messin' around could get anywhere are gone. In 1988 it's vital to be professional".

If you've never seen Tuesday Blue perform you must be wondering by now what the hell they sound like. Ralf offers the following explanation. "While there's no one outstanding influence in our work we are constantly being influenced by all sorts of music and all sorts of situations. Just to be conscious is to be influenced so we take in a little bit of everything".

At the moment then things are looking good for Limerick's foremost rock group. If you can, try to get along to one of their gigs in the Spring and, if you can't afford to buy the album, tape it off a friend. But don't get caught!

Kevin Barry

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SPORT

Profile



GLENAGROSS PARK – An up and coming Club

Glenagross Park A.F.C. made their entry to the Limerick schoolboy football scene in 1983. They have now become one of the leading clubs in under-age football in the city. In the short period of time since their foundation, they have been U/10 'A' league champions for **3 of the 4** seasons they have been in competition. They recently won the U/13 'A' cup for the **second successive year**, and also took the U/12 'B' cup and the U/10 'A' cup last term. Their under 10 'A' team made a super treble last season when they won the Caherdavin Shield, the league and the cup.

The club have been in the shake-up for honours in most grades they have entered since their foundation, and are continuing their proud record this term. Their U/14 team are confident of representing Limerick in the National cup, and the U/13 'A' team and U/14 teams are in very strong contention for league honours. The club fields 7 teams this season, which is very good going considering they started a short 4 seasons ago with one under 10 team.

Expert Coaching

The main reason for the growth of Glenagross A.F.C. has been the expert work done by club supremo, **Dick O'Brien**, in coaching the boys. Dick was the driving force behind many successful Pike Rovers teams in the past. He now lives in Moyross and is giving his wealth of experience to this young club. His influence can be seen in all their activities.

Ex-army man, **Michael O'Callaghan** works with the boys as well and both he and Dick give a great deal of time to the club. **Helen O'Brien**, Dick's daughter, is secretary to the club and is one of the most efficient secretaries in schoolboy ranks.

The club's P.R.O. is **Tony Lynch** who does great work. Others who have contributed to the club's success are Kevin McCarthy, Gerry O'Brien, Paul Kiely, Sean Flanagan, Martin Ray, Tony and Geraldine Collopy and, finally, the inter-firm sports star Jim Calvert of L.G.O.

Praise from Manchester

The club have been trend setters off the field also. They have been three times to Manchester, twice on Easter week-ends and most recently for a shopping weekend in December. They have been guests of the Mayor of Manchester, who made contact with Ald. Jim Kemmy, T.D., to compliment him on the club's behaviour during their visits. Their most recent trip, which included 38 boys with parents, was a great success.

The club would like to thank the public for their response to their flag-days. With the support of the parents and the public, **Glenagross A.F.C.** will continue to grow and ensure that a vital need will always be catered for in the community, and that the youth will be cared for in an ever growing area.



5-A-Side Football

We are looking for anybody interested in playing a 5-a-side football league for the Unemployed of the City. If you are interested, contact **Richard Wallace** at the **Unemployed Centre**, Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 5.30.

Games will be played at Corbally Complex between 3.00 and 4.00 every Tuesday. Come along and enjoy the game.

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