



SLAVE TRADE



With some of the low wages offered these days you'd be better off staying on the dole!

More and more people are being paid next to nothing by employers who are taking advantage of high unemployment.

The slave traders know that work is scarce and they can get away with paying as low as £50 or £60 a

week on the basis that "you should be glad you have a job at all".

These miserable wages are scandalous and shouldn't be tolerated, but because of the shortage of employment, politicians and the general public turn a blind eye.

SLAVE TRADE

We went to FAS offices in O'Connell St. to see what Limerick employers were offering to job-seekers and found a horrifying

selection of low paid jobs.

STRONG PERSON WANTED

The most ridiculous was for a £ 30 a week "apprentice" panel beater to work in a garage. According to the ad a strong person was wanted to work a 9-6 day, 5 day week and there was "training available".

But you can double your wages to £60 a week if you work as a factory operative or as a sales assistant in a cake shop.

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For those lucky enough to live in Patrickswell, there's a fantastic job going for kitchen/bar assistants. For a 45 hour week you'll end up with £50.

Worse still, for nearly half the jobs advertised the wages are described as "negotiable" - this can mean that whoever asks for the lowest wage is taken on.

CULPRITS

We spoke to Paddy Kiely of the SIPTU trade union who told us that many non-unionized businesses in Limerick are exploiting workers.

The main culprits are hotels, restaurants, shops, fast food chains and pubs. In one well-known city centre shop the staff only earn £1 an hour. But the owners are caring people, the assistants receive a bonus of 1% commission on sales.

Besides paying low wages, employers ignore holiday entitlements and expect staff to work extra hours and weekends without overtime.

In shops and restaurants which are open late, employees sometimes have to work 12-14 hours a day.

Times are good for the

slave traders of Limerick. High unemployment gives them the green light to hold down wages and ride rough-shod over workers rights.

7 - ELEVEN

The seriousness of the problem was highlighted recently when the IDATU union condemned the new 7 - Eleven stores.

7 -Eleven is a multi-national franchise company which operates 24 hour shops in Dublin and employees can be sacked without notice for a whole number of offenses.

The shop assistants have virtually no rights and the disciplinary code of the 7 - Eleven contract makes army

life look like a picnic.

It won't be long before shops like 7 - Eleven are opened up in Limerick

SCANDAL

The scandal of low pay is getting worse.

Today a massive 28% of the workforce earn less than £130 a week gross; the minimum amount required to keep a family clothed and fed.

Poverty is not confined to the unemployed, the 'lucky' ones with jobs can be even worse off.

RUTH O'DRISCOLL

DAVE LEE

P.A.U.L.

A new body is being set up in Limerick to help the EC identify and tackle the causes of poverty.

People Against Unemployment in Limerick brings together a number of Community and Statutory bodies.

The scheme will run over 4 years and will have an annual budget of £400,000. The EC has established 28 such projects two of which are in Ireland; one in Connemara, and the other in Limerick.

TRAINING

The new body hopes to provide channels for co-operation between organizations such as FAS, Shannon Development and the Corporation in order to make them more effective in dealing with unemployment.

However, before any action can be taken, an in-depth survey of the unemployment situation in Limerick is to be carried out.

The results of this survey should be available by December.

The Committee hopes that P.A.U.L. will establish a process which might eventually lead to a solution to poverty and unemployment.

WAR DECLARED

War has been declared against low pay shops by the Limerick branch of IDATU.

Brian Higgins, the local organizer of the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union, last week lashed out at penny-pinching employers:

"We intend to tackle and eliminate the sweatshops in Limerick".

"IDATU is giving high priority to this urgent task but workers can't fight employers on their own, they MUST join a union".

Brian told Hatch 33 that anyone interested in joining IDATU or looking for information about their entitlements should call in to 89 O'Connell St. (Tel: 314648)

ANGER

Anger is building up in the Irish Trade Union movement about the scandal of low pay.

The ICTU is leading a determined campaign for a national minimum wage to protect vulnerable workers.

If you have to take a low paid job it's very much in your interest to join a union.

VANISHING ACTS

Unemployment is down by 8,800! Isn't the government marvelous!

The Great Reynoldo has done it again, with the aid of his gorgeous assistant, Beautiful Bertie.



He has astounded millions by making 8,800 people vanish into thin air before our very eyes.

How was this great feat

achieved? - Simple.

3,500 long term unemployed, over the age of 60 were taken off the live register while summer jobs and emigration helped to get rid of the rest.

MAGNIFICENT

Haughey the magnificent is also dabbling in the magical arts and making people disappear - as he began his presidential speech at the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis, the hall was only half full.

The Fianna Fail wizards are now working on the spell which will make the PDs vanish, or at the very least turn them into toads.



The Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union represents workers - full time and part time - in shops, supermarkets, offices of all descriptions and factories.

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 Brian Higgins (Divisional Organiser) at 89 O'Connell St, Limerick. Tel: 061 - 314648

BRAIN-EATING BEASTS FROM OUTER SPACE

Limerick has been invaded by alien creatures from outer space.

It is almost too late to stop the onslaught of this dread enemy.

These aliens have been infiltrating our city for a number of years and the takeover is almost complete.

Hatch 33 uncovered this evil plot after our editor himself had a close encounter with one of the vicious little beasts.

Still shaken from the traumatic experience, our Editor told us the horrifying details.

ZAPPED

"I was sitting in my bath picking my toe nails when I had a sudden urge to scratch my head. Imagine my horror when I felt something slimy and gooey crawling up the back of my skull!

"I flung the Thing to the floor and stunned it by zapping it with a wet sock.



"Upon inspection I discov-

ered that the creature was a bit like a fat slug" (See accompanying drawing)

"It lifted a droopy eyelid and looked up at me with a bored expression so I grabbed my reporters notebook and immediately began to interview it.

"It just closed its eye again and yawned.

"My journalistic pride hurt by its indifference, I became a little more assertive.

"With the assistance of a hot soldering iron the alien overcame its shyness and revealed to me an evil and sinister conspiracy.

PARASITES

"The little monster, and many thousands like him, are Apathy Bugs which feed on human brains.

"As his brain tissue is gobbled, the victim starts to lose interest in what is going on around him and to accept everything without question.

"These nasty creatures, who come from another galaxy, have devised a wicked plot to apathize Ireland and then use it as a base to conquer the world.

So far the apathy bug has been spectacularly successful and many people have succumbed without anyone noticing.

MUNCHED

Victims react in a variety of ways after having their brains munched and it is not always easy to detect.

However, the most common symptoms are:

- Thinking that idealism is dead.
- Passive acceptance of poverty, unemployment and emigration.
- Discontented but unwilling to try and change anything.

"Some people have actually expressed doubt about my amazing discovery," the editor told us "but how else can they explain away the plague of apathy which has been sweeping the country for the past 5 years?"

BEWARE OF BRAIN GOBBLERS!!!!!!

Return Of The Reindeer Age

by JOHN O'REGAN

The Reindeer Age was the first period of cave painting, back in 1500 B.C..

Now the Reindeer Age is with us again, this time in the form of a compilation album featuring 16

local bands, all but one come from Limerick City.

The album, which was recorded at Xeric studios in Edward St., is unique because it is the first ever compilation album of Limerick rock bands.

UNIQUE

The acts featured on the album include many bands who have formed the backbone of the Limerick Rock scene, including the O'Malleys, Toucandance and Tuesday Blue.

Young contenders The Hitchers (winners of the School Band '90) and They Do It With Mirrors make appearances along with The Drive. Big John and the Bootleggin Band, The Separators, Utopian Puppets, Up the Downstairs and Private World.

The cassette version also features Mike O'Mahony and Preacher's Story. The Surrealists, who come from Ennis, are the only 'outsiders'.

The styles vary from pop/rock to alternative sounds via blues/country and heavy metal so there's something here to suit everybody.

TUESDAY BLUE

Three of the bands included, Tuesday Blue, Up the Downstairs and Private World, have split up since The Reindeer Age was

recorded.

In particular the loss of Tuesday Blue is a big disappointment to Limerick Rock fans because they had shown potential to be a great band and had already made an impact on the Dublin scene.

Their only album "SHIBUMI" made history as the first album released internationally by a Limerick band since "Honest Injun" by Grannie's Intentions in 1969.

The Reindeer Age has been very well received, both by music fans and critics. Is it going to be just an isolated project, or is it the start of a new and exciting age for music in Limerick?



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WE WILL LISTEN TO YOU

In distress? Lonely? Despairing? Suicidal?
Just like to talk to someone?

PHONE LIMERICK 061-42111

(day or night)

Call 9.00 am - 10.00 pm or write in confidence to:

**PAT BROWNE, 25 UPPER CECIL
STREET, LIMERICK**

THE SAMARITANS

25 Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.

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Please note: Signed articles do not necessarily represent the
views of the Limerick Centre for the Unemployed.

**In the frontline of the fight for jobs and higher living
standards ...**

SIPTU -

soon to establish a Solidarity Scheme to assist members and the
unemployed - and to promote the development of co-operative enterprise.

**SIPTU SERVICES
INDUSTRIAL
PROFESSIONAL
TECHNICAL
UNION**



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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