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THIRD SECTION

Limerick answers Clarion call!

By DIARBHLA LOOBY

LIMERICK'S tallest building and Ireland's tallest hotel will open its doors in July.

The €25m, 17-storey high Clarion Hotel at Steamboat Quay is currently interviewing to fill over 80 jobs at the hotel.

The Clarion Hotel Limerick is part of Choice Hotels Ireland which has 24 properties under the Clarion, Quality and Comfort brands.

Galwayman Sean Lally has taken over the reins as managing partner at the Clarion Hotel.

Sean is a former hotel management graduate from Galway Institute of Technology, and has worked in Frankfurt, Heathrow and Croydon.

The 17-storey oval shaped building, standing at just over 200 feet, is the tallest hotel in Ireland and the second largest building in the country.

The Clarion Hotel will have 110 bedrooms and serviced suites as well as a penthouse on the top floor, all with breathtaking views of Limerick.

"The bedrooms will be of a contemporary design, and will have individually controlled air conditioning and heating units, an interactive television which will allow guests to set their own wake-up calls, view their bill, or simply complete an express check-out from

the comfort of their own bedroom. Pay movies, PlayStation, and e-mail facilities are also available through the television. ISDN lines and private fax facilities as well as voicemail and a security key card system, are all features of the bedrooms at the Clarion," he said.

And it doesn't stop there. Duvets are made from Egyptian cotton with Oxford-style pillowslips, and the beds will be semi-orthopaedic.

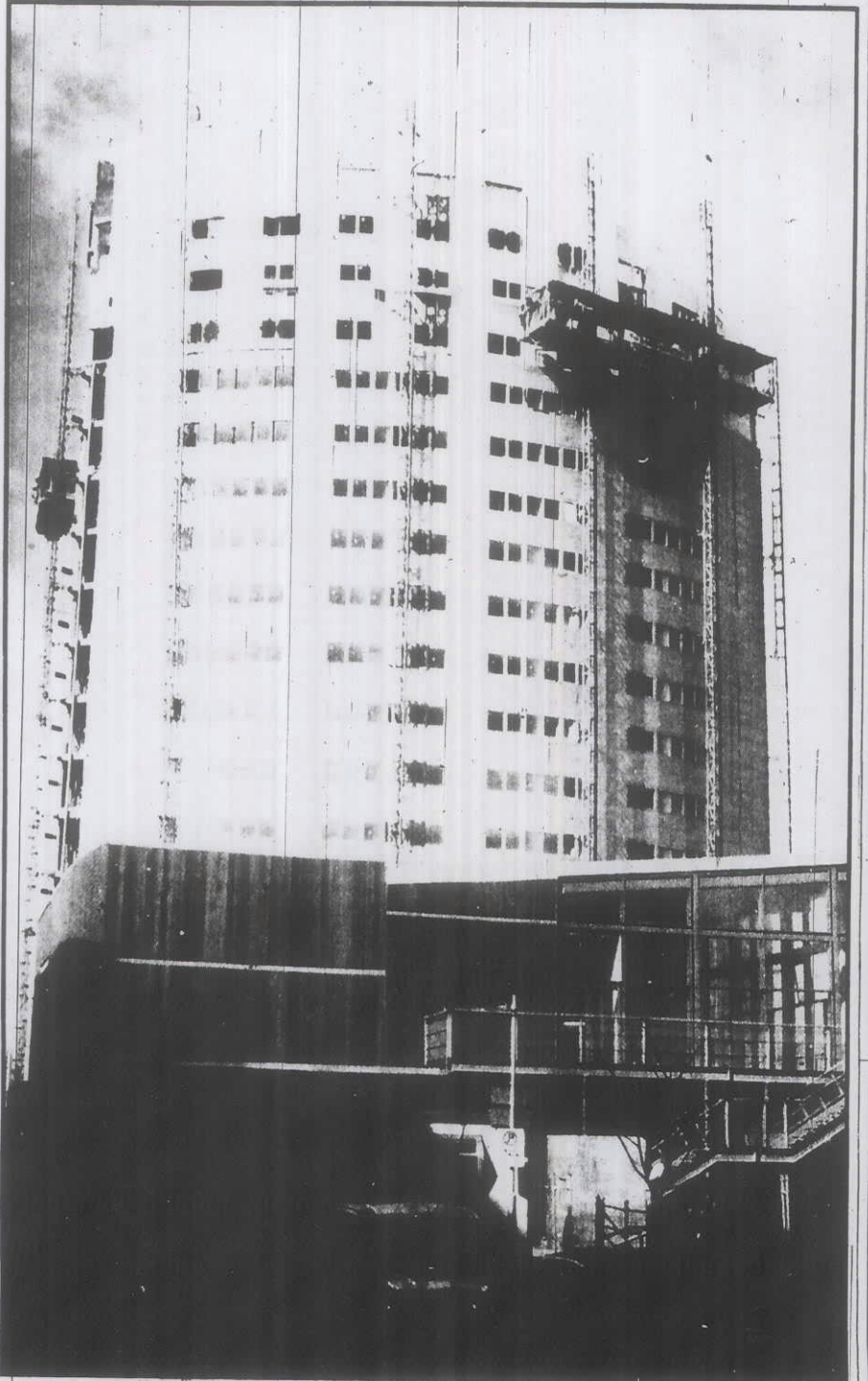
The hotel also promises to offer the best of good food standards.

"Good food beautifully presented is the mantra at the Sinergie Restaurant. Modern European dishes with an Asian twist will be served in a glass walled restaurant with views over the River Shannon," Mr Lally said.

The Kudos Bar will have its own entrance from Steamboat Quay at ground level and again the focus is on the Shannon with its glass walled frontage. The Kudos bar will serve authentic Malaysian and Thai food using fresh ingredients prepared by an authentic Malaysian chef," said Mr Lally.

A business centre and a number of dedicated meeting rooms will also be available, as well as a club lounge for residents.

It will also offer The SanoVitae health and fitness club on the first floor, with a 12-metre swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi and gym.



Clarion Hotel manager Sean Lally: has worked in Frankfurt, Heathrow and Croydon

Limerick's new Clarion Hotel: the tallest hotel in Ireland will open its doors on Steamboat Quay in July