

LIMERICK LEADER

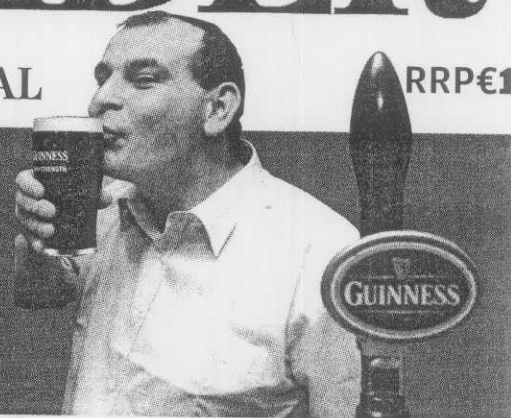
Wednesday, January 14, 2009 www.limerickleader.ie

BECAUSE LIFE IS LOCAL

RRP€1

It's business as usual

Southill shebeen fined a mere €63.49 at District Court **Page 2**



The lengthening queue at the social welfare offices in Dominic Street

Limerick jobless tally up by 70pc

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE number of people out of work in Limerick has risen by nearly 6,000 in the past 12 months to 14,030 – an increase of 70 per cent – with 1,100 people signing on last month alone.

In the city, 10,075 men and women were on the Live Register at the end of December, a rise of 3,952 over December 2007's figure of 6,123.

And the number of unemployed people in the city is expected to rise again this month after more temporary workers were let go in Dell.

Another 450 Dell staff are expected to lose their jobs in April with the remainder of the 1,900 to be laid off over the next 12 months. Further job cuts are also anticipated at suppliers reliant on the computer giant.

Social welfare offices in Limerick have had to employ additional staff in recent months to deal with the demand for jobseekers payments.

Minister of State Peter Power said he visited these offices with the Minister for Social and Family Affairs Mary Hanafin last week to ensure that the people signing on are treated with "dignity and respect."

But Labour deputy Jan O'Sullivan has expressed concern about the backlog in payments and said people cannot afford to wait two months to receive benefit allowances.

"It's only going to get worse and what we need is a very strong influence in the Mid-West from the IDA," said Deputy O'Sullivan.

Minister Power said the job losses in Limerick were unfortunate and "mirror the trends across the rest of the county."

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TANAISTE'S DELL VISIT RUBBISHED

■ Coughlan's reaction to Dell loss 'tardy and unacceptable', says Noonan

By GERARD FITZGIBBON

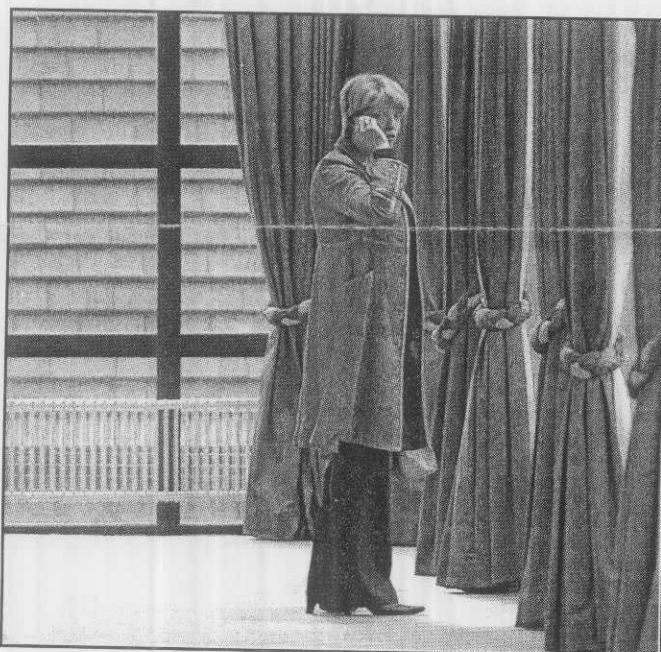
TANAISTE and Enterprise Minister Mary Coughlan's visit to Limerick one week after Dell announced 1900 job cuts at its Raheen facility has been branded as "irrelevant".

Fine Gael Deputy Michael Noonan said that the Tanaiste's meeting with 15 Dell workers and mayors from across the Mid-West region yesterday will do very little to address the fallout of Dell's decision to cease manufacturing in Limerick.

"I think the Tanaiste has been behind the pace from the start. She was tardy in when she decided to visit Michael Dell, and she's been tardy in coming to Limerick to speak on this issue.

"My perception and I'm sure the perception of the Dell workers is that this visit is simply irrelevant."

Speaking during her visit,



Ms Coughlan said that the process of assembling a regional task force to deal with the aftermath of the Dell job cuts is ongoing, and that she has approached one "particular gentleman" to fill the post of chairman.

However, Deputy Noonan criticised the Government's progress in setting up the task force, stating that measures should have been in place from the day the job losses were confirmed: "The speed of this process is unacceptable, and it gives you very little faith that the task force is going to have much of an effect once it is formed," he said.

Deputy Kieran O'Donnell

Alone she stands: Tanaiste Mary Coughlan takes a call at the Castletroy Park Hotel where she met with local councillors to discuss the Dell job losses (LL)

criticised the Tanaiste for failing to appreciate "the magnitude of this situation", believing that Government delays are heightening uncertainty throughout the Mid West:

"Four hundred workers are going to be out of work in the next three months alone. She needs to realise the magnitude of this situation. This situation requires a proactive, multi-agency response. What we have instead is crisis management coming in fits and starts from the Tanaiste. Every day that goes by, more and more people are faced with uncertainty. There is a vacuum here, and the Tanaiste should specify a date this task force is going to be up and running."

Deputy O'Donnell also called for individual needs assessments and protection for Dell staff who are going to be out of work, particularly those in danger of losing their homes.

Court grants licence to exotic dancing nightclub

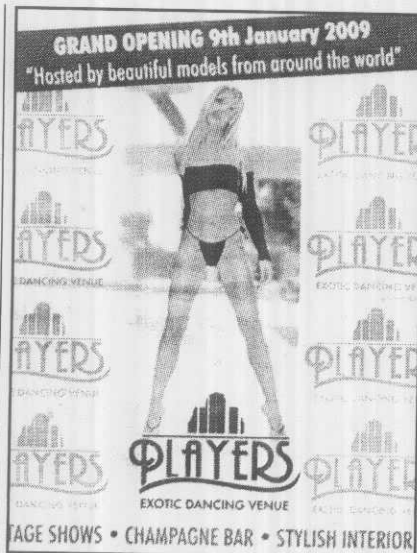
By PETULA MARTYN

A NEW city centre nightclub has been granted a dance licence at Limerick District Court despite garda concerns that the club was advertised as an exotic dancing venue.

The advertisement promoting the "grand opening" of Players nightclub on Thomas Street, and featuring a scantily clad woman, was shown to Judge Tom O'Donnell in court.

Inspector Luke Conlon expressed concern that patrons of the nightclub would not be allowed to dance and that the applicant was applying for the licence to facilitate exotic dancing only. Director of Moonlight Entertainment Limited, Danny Kenney, said there would be stage shows where dancers would perform and added that "there is a facility for the public where they can dance".

The advertisement, which stated



that the opening would be "hosted by beautiful models from around the world", was designed by a Galway advertising firm, the court was told.

"It's just an ad, your Honour," Mr Kenney said.

Solicitor, William O'Donnell, on behalf of the applicant, said: "I would submit that pubs and nightclubs have incentives such as happy hours as ways of attracting customers."

There was laughter in the courtroom when Judge O'Donnell pointed out that there was "quite a difference" between happy hours and exotic dancing.

The court was told that Mr Kenney runs a premises in Galway, and has five years experience in the pub industry and 20 years experience in the nightclub industry.

Judge O'Donnell said he was satisfied that the public liability insurance was in place and granted the dance licence subject to the conditions of a fire officer.

The judge also granted the transfer of a pub licence for the premises at 30/31 Thomas Street after Mr Kenney undertook to abide by the licensing laws.

The court was told that Mr Kenney intends applying for a full licence on February 12. Judge O'Donnell said if the gardai have any evidence to back up their concerns they could bring it before the court on that date.

The advert for the exotic dancing nightclub in Thomas Street

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