



# LIMERICK LEADER

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INSIDE IN COLOUR

## Parish Pride Festival

30p

### First the blue-flu, now the sick-flu is about to strike

By IAIN DEMPSEY

FOLLOWING the gardai's blue-flu last year the sick-flu will strike the city next Monday.

This is when hostel supervisors attached to psychiatric services in Limerick are staying at home in protest.

The reason for this

action is due to the Mid-Western Health Board's attitude to their working conditions.

Over 20 workers will stay away from work in protest.

But the board has appealed to the workers to reconsider their unofficial action.

A spokesman for the workers commented: "All medium support hostel supervisors are

taking next Monday, July 17, as a sick-flu day. These supervisors are on duty from 4.30pm to 9am the following day and only get paid for eight hours. They sleep in overnight, are on call and get no sleep-in allowance or disturbance money. The Health Board refuses to recognise this.

"We work nine days every two weeks and we

work 16-and-a-half hour days. We've had enough. Some of the supervisors live in these psychiatric hostels and have to deal with everything—if patients get sick at night or if there's a fire, for example. It can't continue."

A statement from the Health Board in response to the unofficial action states: "The

Mid-Western Health Board has been notified of this unofficial action by medium support hostel supervisors with the Limerick Mental Health services. The board is disappointed to learn of this unofficial action because discussions are currently taking place with the union representing these workers.

"The board has offered to go to the

Labour Relations Commission, however, the hostel supervisors have declined this offer.

"The board is committed to resolving these workers' grievances and is appealing to the hostel supervisors to reconsider their proposed unofficial action and to avail of the normal industrial relations machinery."

## £10m IS RAISED BY J P'S CLASSIC

By EUGENE PHELAN

TRACEY Stewart, wife of tragic golfer Payne Stewart, gave her seal of approval early this morning as £1.4 million was paid for a painting of her late husband.

The painting of the former US Open champion was just one of a number of items that made over £8 million at a charity auction in Adare which was part of the J P McManus Invitational Pro-Am.

Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara looked on in amazement as wealthy friends of J P did their best to outbid each other before also paying £1.4 million for a round of golf with the two players at Isleworth Country Club in Florida.

J P McManus was himself overwhelmed with the generosity of his chums.

There was a poignant moment as he told how he met Payne Stewart and how he inspired him to run the tournaments.

"I met Payne over a few drinks late one night. He asked if I was doing it and I

said I don't know. It was such a success last time I was afraid to try it again.

"He said: 'It sounds a lot of fun. If you think about it include me in.' It was a great inspiration to go ahead and try and stage another tournament," said J P, who received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Tiger Woods, Mark O'Meara, Stuart Appleby, Robert Allenby, Stuart Appleby and Rocca Mediate told J P before last night's dinner that they would not be accepting any prizemoney and it was to go to the local charities.

It looks now as if well over £10 million will be raised for the charities in total.

A Peter Curling painting titled, Istabraq a True Champion, went for £1.1 million while a Tipperary crystal piece signed by sporting and business personalities went for £1.4 million.



The portrait of Payne Stewart that raised £1.4 million at the J P McManus charity auction in Adare early this morning.

### City band Novocaine may be music's next big thing

By ALAN JACQUES

TONIGHT'S the night for up and coming Limerick band Novocaine who have created quite a stir after just one public performance.

The band played their first live show at the Esat Digifone Headstart Competition in Dolan's Ware-

house recently, where they were chosen to play in the finals in Dublin at the end of this month.

Ger O'Donnell, Paul O'Connor and Fergal O'Neill formed Novocaine only three months ago and already there is a lot of interest from major record companies on the strength of their first show.

"We got together and

wrote some songs, then we heard about the Esat Digifone band competition and decided to send in a tape. Now we are in the final in Dublin in a couple of weeks," said lead singer Ger.

"Things have happened very fast for us but we are not that surprised because we believe in the music," he said.

Novocaine's brand of

retro-funk has excited many of the top record labels who are searching for the next big thing. And the Limerick band's music has already been compared to The Jacksons and Stevie Wonder.

After their powerful performance in Dolan's Warehouse they have had to organise another gig to showcase their music for record companies who are

interested in signing them. Not since The Cranberries signed to Island Records 10 years ago has there been such commotion over a local group.

"We write catchy, funky pop songs and we believe our music is good enough to go all the way. It's great because we are all friends and making music is what we love doing, so we have

a bit of a laugh as well," said guitarist Paul.

Novocaine will perform for the cream of the music business tonight at Dolan's Warehouse in what promises to be a great show. DJ's Skinny Boy Jazz and Shane Slatery fill the support slots so come early. Doors open at 8.30pm and admission is free.

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