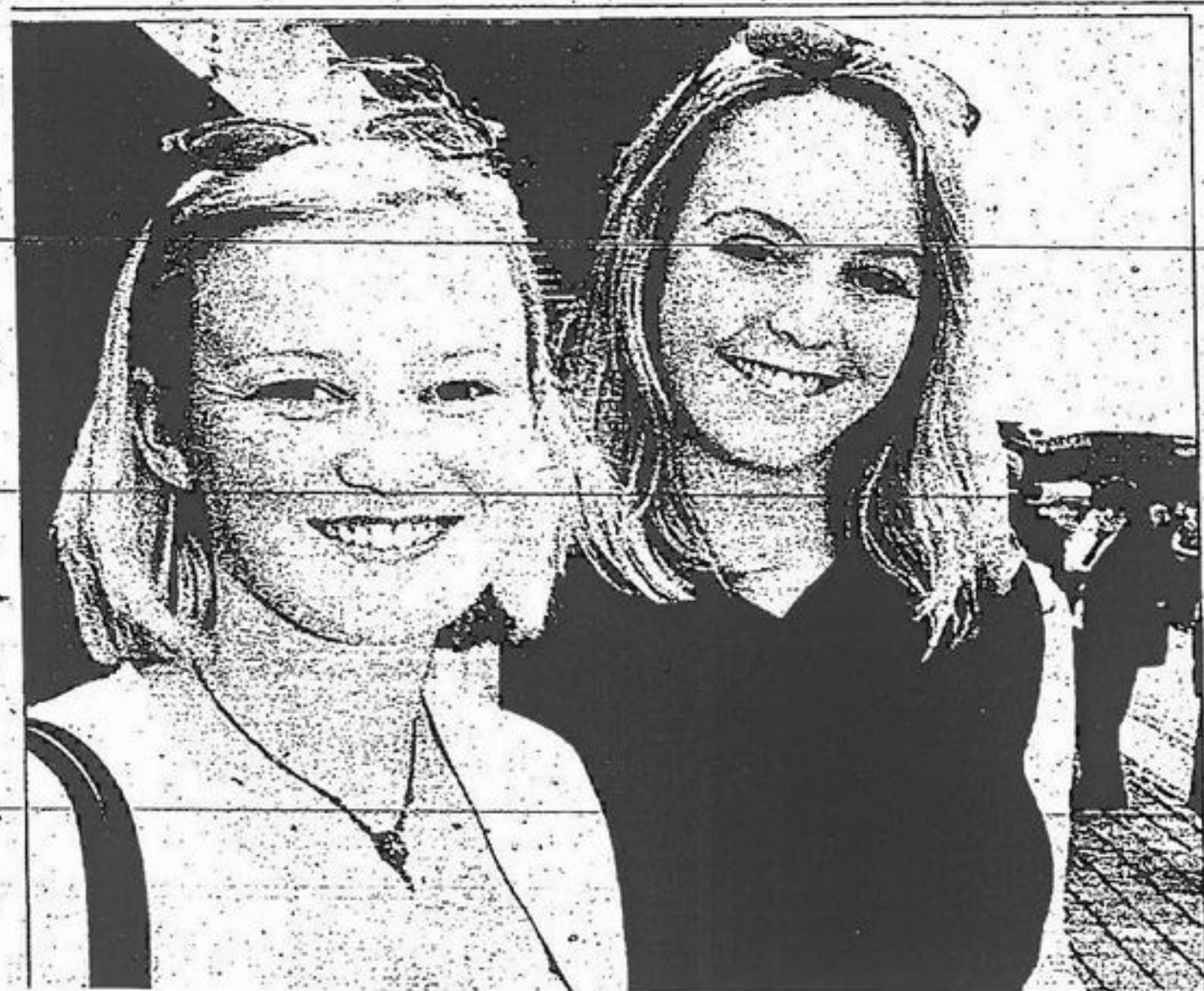


CASH FOR CHAIN CLAIM IS REFUTED



By **MIKE DORAN**

LIMERICK city manager Brendan Keating has denied that the Corporation forked out £1,500 for the return of the ceremonial chain taken from Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon's house in July.

Mr Keating said that the Corporation "strongly refutes any suggestion of monies being paid or even considered to be paid in circumstances of this nature."

Ald Michael Kelly told the Limerick Leader today: "Shortly after the chain was taken, people associated with the theft contacted me. I'm well aware of the circumstances of how the chain was tak-

en. These people contacted me and said that they would give it back for £1,500. Otherwise, they would melt it down.

"I didn't want to get involved in the actual transaction," Ald Kelly told the Limerick Leader, "but I let the relevant people know that the chain could be returned for a sum."

Yesterday's Sunday World newspaper claimed that the £1,500 was paid over but a garda spokesman said this morning: "As far as we're aware, the chain was posted back to Mr O'Hanlon. We are not aware of any payment being made."

The chain was taken from the councillor's house in Rhebogue on July 3. Cllr O'Hanlon could not be contacted this morning.

In the wake of the city manager's denial of the claim, there is intense speculation as to who paid for the return of the chain, if such a transaction took place.

Mystery surrounds city Lotto win