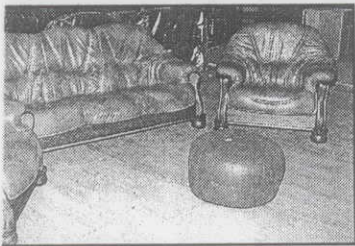


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Limerick author, Gerry Hannan: suing but admits to exploiting Frank McCourt's success

(LL)

City author admits to cashing in on McCourt success

By EUGENE PHELAN

ONE of Frank McCourt's greatest critics admitted this week that he was trying to use the Pulitzer Prize winner's success to sell his own book.

Tis' In Me Ass is the latest offering from Gerry Hannan who had a public slanging match with Mr McCourt on RTE's Late Late Show recently.

The book is due out this weekend. When Mr McCourt wrote Angela's Ashes, Mr Hannan countered with Ashes.

Now, Mr McCourt has come up with 'Tis, and Mr Hannan rebuff's with 'Tis' In Me Ass.

So is he trying to exploit the worldwide fame of McCourt?

"I want people to know that there are two sides to every story and in order to do that yes I am using the success of his books to sell my books," admitted Mr Hannan.

That is obvious to anyone who has read Angela's Ashes and Ashes. I am exploiting Frank McCourt, to give the correct story," he said.

"Frank McCourt has said in Angela Ashes that the happy childhood is hardly worth telling. I had a happy childhood and I think it is worth telling,"



Frank McCourt: latest book follows on success of Angela's Ashes (LL)

said Mr Hannan.

"It is about my childhood in Limerick in the 60s. If you read Frank McCourt's new book it is about people who went off to America.

"I say that the real heroes are the people who stayed behind and built up Limerick. My parents are a case in point," he said.

Mr Hannan, is a broadcaster on RLO and a bookshop owner, confirmed that "papers" had been sent out by his law team to Ellen McCourt over remarks she made about him on the Late Late Show.

"I intend suing. She went too far by saying I did not write my book Ashes," said Hannan.

Former hostage Waite for UL

By AIDAN CORR

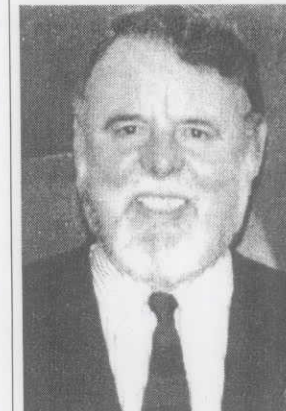
THE former Beirut hostage, Terry Waite, arrived in to Limerick this weekend.

Mr Waite is patron of the Warrington Male Voice Choir that will perform at the Irish Peace Institute Concert at the University of Limerick this Saturday.

Also taking part in this performance will be Limerick mezzo soprano, Shirley Keane, from Old Park Road, a Youth Peace Choir drawn from schools north and south and conducted by Dr Martin Barrett, as well as the Voices of Limerick choir.

Profits from the concert will go to the Lisnagry Parents and Friends Association and the Limerick Youth Service.

Mr Waite became world famous when he was one of a group taken captive by terrorists in Beirut. He



Terry Waite: in town this week for the Irish Peace Institute's concert at the University of Limerick Concert Hall.

remained in captivity for 1,763 days, the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement.

He was no newcomer to difficult situations. As advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, he negotiated with Colonel Gaddafi for the release of British hostages held in Libya in 1983 and earlier, in 1980, he negotiated the release of several hostages from Iran.

After his release from captivity in September, 1991, he wrote two best-selling books, Taken on Trust and Footfalls in Memory.

According to Dorothy Cantrell of the Irish Peace Institute this week, Saturday's concert will be a Limerick celebration of peace.

"The event comes at an historic time in the North when all sides appear to be striving hard for peace," Ms Cantrell said.

"This Saturday's concert is taking place at a very crucial time of peace on this island and we are hoping that it will be well supported."

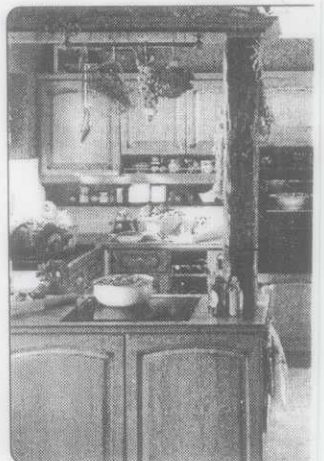
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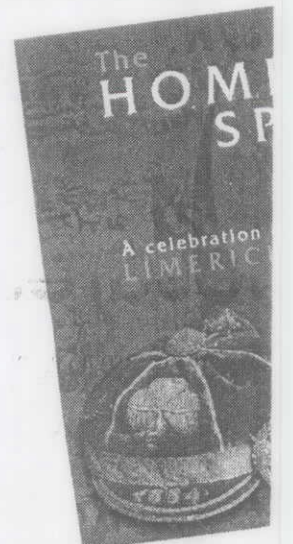
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