

By MIKE DWANE

GARDAI are seeking a man in relation to a vicious assault in Castletroy in the early hours of Saturday morning which left a 17-year-old girl with a broken nose and requiring stitches after being slashed with a glass.

A second man, also aged in his late teens and from West Clare, was also injured during the incident although he was not seriously injured in the assault.

The attack occurred at around 2.30am on a lane near Kilmurry Graveyard.

No arrests have been made as of this Monday morning and anybody with information on this incident is asked to contact Henry Street Garda Station at 061 212 400.

Separately, gardai were called to the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel at around 3.30am on Saturday morning after a man and a woman became involved in a drunken row with security staff.

Gardai had to use pepper spray to

effect arrests and it is understood the male lashed out and struck one of the arresting officers.

Both the male and the female, aged in their 30s and from the Prospect area, were arrested and detained overnight.

They appeared before Judge Aeneas McCarthy at a special sitting of Limerick District Court on Saturday afternoon charged with public order offences.

They applied for and were granted bail.

Meanwhile, Limerick Marine

Search and Rescue had to dredge rescue swimmers to free a stuck "waist deep" in mud in canal at Rhebogues on Saturday morning. The drama began at 6am when the man in question called the emergency service with his own mobile phone, saying that he was trapped.

It is understood he may have stuck for around half an hour. Gardai and Limerick Fire Service also attended the rescue operation at the Canal Bank on Saturday morning. "It was lucky he had

Rail links Limerick and Galway after a 34-year absence

By NICK RABBITTS

LIMERICK and Galway have this morning linked by rail for the first time in more than 30 years as transport Minister Noel Dempsey officially reopened part of the Western Rail corridor.

Minister Dempsey joined Irish Rail chairman Dr John Lynch, and a number of public representatives at Colbert station to open the new service, which will operate on previously disused lines.

Although the line will not be open for public use until tomorrow, this morning's maiden journey, which commenced at 09.20, represents the first time the line - which will serve Sixmilebridge,

Ennis, Gort and Athenry enroute to Galway - has been used in full for passenger services since the mid-1970s, a break of 34 years.

Speaking at Colbert station, Minister Dempsey said it is "a truly historic day for the West of Ireland," adding: "It is the longest section of track to be re-opened in the entire country and it is also the first inter-city line to be re-opened."

He also paid tribute to the groups and individuals who have lobbied for the rail line's reopening, adding: "Your support for projects such as the Western Rail Corridor is crucial."

There will be five return journeys daily

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Train driver Tony Ryan signals the relaunch of the Limerick to Galway rail service after 34 years

OUR KAMA TOP OF WC

■ 'I won it for Limerick,' says new Mr World

By MIKE DWANE

IT'S official - the world's sexiest and most stylish man is from Limerick. Thomondgate's Kamal Ibrahim - a style columnist for our sister newspaper the Limerick Chronicle - was named Mr World 2010 in Korea over the weekend, an event watched by many millions of TV viewers around the world.

The competition, which is run by the Miss World Organisation, searches for a "modern day James Bond" and the judging panel in Incheon had eyes only for tall, dark and handsome Kamal, who emerged the victor from 73 contestants after a gruelling three-week contest.

In being crowned Mr World, Kamal has walked away with a cash prize of \$50,000 and the prospect of lucrative modelling contracts into the future.

Kamal is currently on his way back to Thomondgate and, speaking to the Limerick Leader from Dublin this Monday after just a few hours' sleep, Kamal said: "I won it for Limerick and for Ireland."

"I was so proud to be from Limerick and Ireland. The com-



Limerick's Kamal Ibrahim, centre, is crowned Mr World Korea. Judges were looking for 'a modern-day James Bond'

petition was so close all the way through and I just couldn't believe it. I went over there with the idea that if I could make the Top 15, it would be great, and I was delighted to make it that far. "The guy from Northern Ireland made it into the Top 15 as well so that was great for both of us. Then they announced I had made the Top 5, which was

better again. But to it just blew me away called out my name gobsmeared," said

Apart from mo Celia Holman L Compton Modelling 24-year-old has won the Trinity club.

"Myself and all

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■ Rebranded RAG week at UL has a po

By ANNE SHERIDAN

WHAT A difference a year makes - Charity Week at the University of Limerick has passed off peacefully, with much reduced levels of anti-social behaviour being reported this year.

Formerly known as RAG week - or Raising and Giving week - it was rebranded to encourage students to focus on the charity aspect of the week.

A number of arrests were made last year, leading the university president, Don Barry, to condemn the actions of a minority of the campus' 11,000-strong student body.

Students' union president Ruan Dillon McLoughlin said the union weren't approached by gardai regarding any arrests as of last Friday, the final day of events, and complaints from residents have also dropped dramatically this year.

"The week itself went



Good clean fun: Pictured taking part in the music at the University of Limerick were Justine Cheroc Kelleher and Jen O'Loughlin

off really well. There was great student involvement, and a lot of students who couldn't give financially [to the selected charities] chose to give their time and volunteer," said Mr Dillon McLoughlin.

The students' union organised student patrols in the neighbouring

Castletroy estates for safety of students walking home late at night and a special phone number was also provided residents and student they witnessed any suspicious activity or anti-social behaviour.

The student patrol then stepped in before gardai were called to

LIMERICK City Gallery of Art will host a Family Easter Crafts Day on Thursday 8 April, 11.30am - 1pm and 2-3.30pm.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Sustainable Futures will also hold a Easter crafts workshop using recycled waste materials. Bring in Easter egg boxes, foil, egg boxes, and other reusable materials to create new objects. Everyone is wel-

Limerick's Kamal is on top of the world

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They are trying to find a younger, modern version of James Bond, somebody who has a good range of skills and who can pass fitness challenges," explained Kamal.

To emerge the victor, Kamal had to prove himself at everything from martial arts and training with the Korean marines to dancing and cooking.

It almost didn't happen for Kamal when just four weeks prior to leaving for Korea, his original sponsor "left me hanging" and

didn't come up with the cost of flying Kamal over there.

But Ken O'Connell, of the Old Quarter pub, stepped in and paid the air fare.

Kamal will now have to get used to world travel in his ambassador's role as Mr World 2010.

His first trip will be to the UK later this week and he is excited at the possibility of a trip to the World Cup in South Africa later this year.

Kamal's Limerick fans are told to watch out for Mr World on Sky TV in the coming weeks.

Galway rail service goes back on track

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from Limerick - 06:00, 09:35, 11:55, 14:15 and 18:05 - while the train will return from Galway at 06:40, 09:45, 12:10, 14:30, and 17:25.

However, there has been criticism of the new service, as the journey to Galway takes more than 30 minutes extra by rail then it does by road. Additionally, estimates have shown just 320 passengers each day will use the new line - with Irish Rail expecting to lose €2.4m a year running the service, as just 100,000 commuters make the switch from road to rail in its first five years of operation.

Labour councillor Joe Leddin, a member of the local transport committee, has admitted he is

disappointed the new rail link does not include a stop in Moyross, or a spur to Shannon Airport from Sixmilecross.

"There is massive potential for rail in this region. The Mid-Western Area Strategic Plan is being carried out at the moment by city hall. Consultants are working on where Limerick needs to be over the next 20 years and rail obviously has a huge part to play," he said.

However, Cllr Leddin dismissed criticism of the new line, saying: "I firmly believe once you put a service in place, then people will use it. When the Limerick to Ennis line opened, the same questions were asked. But now it is one of Iarnród Éireann's most profitable routes."

Ballinacurra bus lane p railroaded through, vo

By NICK RABBITTS

LIMERICK City Council's transport department has said it will begin consulting residents over proposals for bus lanes from the Ballykeefe roundabout into the city early in April.

The government has earmarked €2.4m for the plan - which could see parking spaces on O'Connell Avenue out to the county boundary eliminated in favour of bus lanes.

But councillors have already expressed their opposition to the plans - which they had already rejected at council in October 2008 following a motion by Fine Gael councillor Pat Kennedy. Councillors say residents are worried about the loss of parking spaces, an extended walk to their homes, and the dangers associated to crossing the roads.

Limerick city south councillor Joe Leddin, Labour, has said he will "not allow this plan to be railroaded in if the community against it."

He has called on the Department of Transport to put money forward to provide alternative solutions if plans for bus lanes are pushed through.

"If the Department of Transport through City Hall is



Cllr Joe Leddin, and right, the bus lane to the county boundary in Raheen

determined to introduce bus lanes, there is a significant section of the Ballinacurra Road which has real assets. There is a laneway to the back of houses from Lifford Avenue. If they are looking to get the residents on board, they need to upgrade the nearby laneways, put in lighting, and install security gates which would give people the option to bring cars in through the rear.

"At the moment Lifford Avenue is an overgrown scrub. It may accommodate some people. But it is not good enough that someone can come from work, and cannot get a car parking space because of a bus lane, and may have to park half a mile away. It's a genuine con-



cern we council Cllr Le by Limer is suffici residents has asked which m

"Until remain s before ca public m sessions residents Transp Dempsey today to Limerick

DEATHS

MORAN, Limerick, 25th March, 2010, (peacefully), at his residence, 2 St. Senans Street, St. Mary's Park, Francie (Barrell) late of Pavilion Stores and The Squirrel Hypermarket, son of the late Willie and Mary Moran. Very deeply regretted by his loving wife Joy, daughters Mary and Sharon, sons Willie, Christopher, Aidan, David and Ross, sisters, sons in law, daughters in law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers in law, sisters in law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. May he Rest In Peace. Reposing in Cross's Funeral Home this Tuesday from 5.30pm with removal at 7pm to St. Mary's Church arriving at 7.30pm. Requiem Mass Wednesday at 11am with burial afterwards to Mount St. Laurence (ext) cemetery.