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CITY RACISM EXPOSED



Rugby star spared but less famous face street abuse

By DEARBHLA LOOBY

MUNSTER flank forward Jim Williams declared this week that he has experienced no racism in Limerick—but the story for asylum-seekers living in the city is very different.

Williams told the Limerick Leader at the regional launch of Know Racism, the Government's anti-racism awareness programme, that he has been in Munster for the past six months and has had "no personal experience" of racism.

"I've never experienced racism in Limerick, in Munster or in Ireland," he declared.

But asylum-seekers in Limerick painted a very different picture—one of "crude insults" and "sarcastic jibes" from people all over the city.

One man from the Democratic Republic of Congo said he has encountered "much racism" on the streets of Limerick.

"At the beginning, 19 months ago, when I came here first, people were very resentful. On the street people shouted names and racist insults at me from their cars, such as 'monkey', 'gorilla' and 'get out, you don't belong'," he explained.

"In the pubs, and night clubs we were stopped, from going in and told no reason why."

And his friends who are seeking

asylum in Dublin, Cork and Galway have told him that his experience of racism in Limerick has been worse than theirs.

"According to them Limerick seems to be more racist than their cities. They have had bad experiences, but nothing like I've had."

He saw the racist graffiti on the Guinness Bridge near Corbally recently, which said "Niggers Out".

"This hurt me and others very much. I don't think we deserve that."

He said that the situation is improving for them, mainly since the anti-awareness campaign began in the last few months, and is "hopeful" that racism will disappear from Limerick.

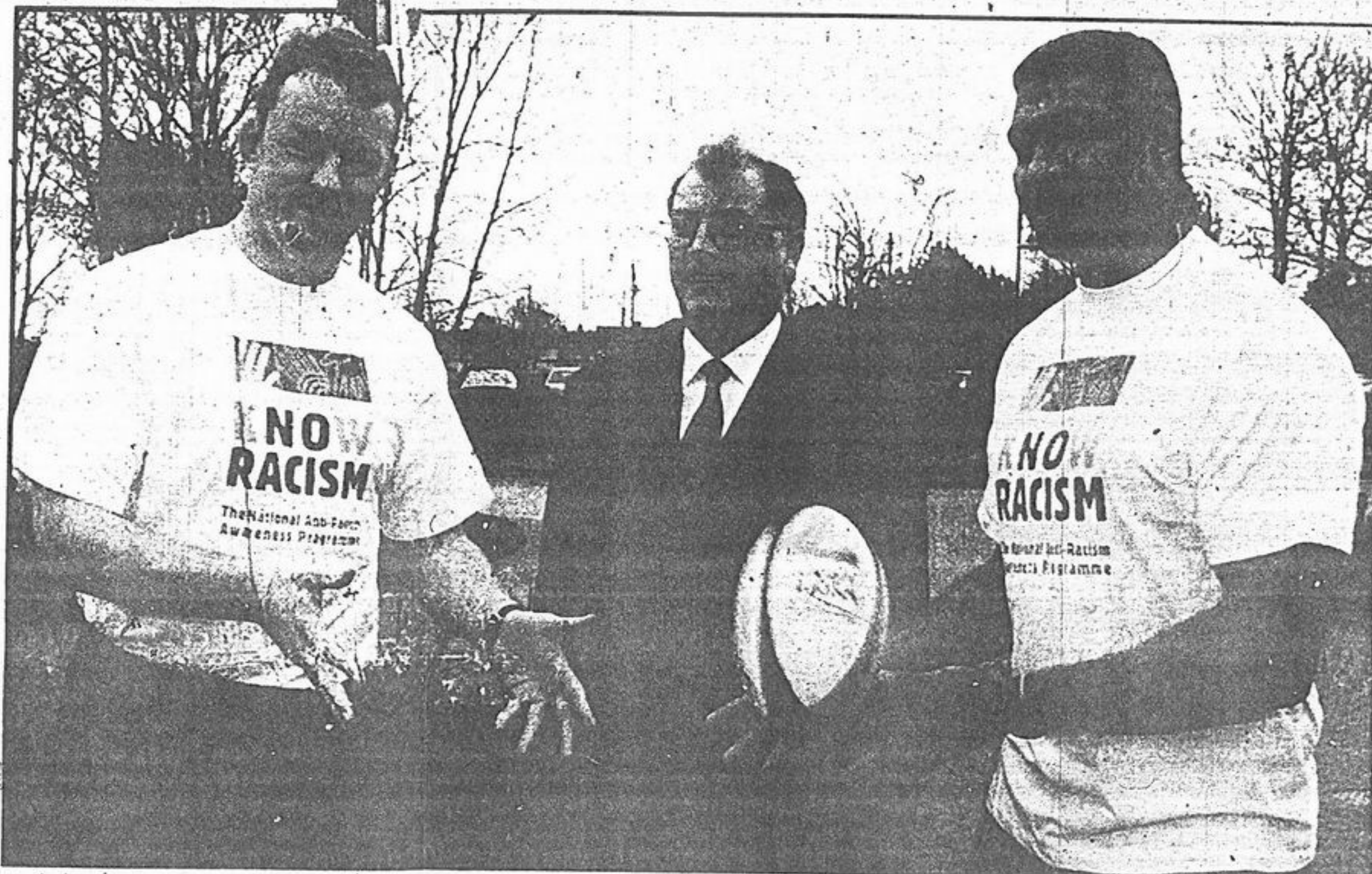
"I am hopeful that racism will be gone from Limerick someday, but the wait will be long."

But a refugee from Turkey, now living in Limerick, says he personally had no experience: "I've been lucky and never experience racism of any kind in Limerick. But I know some of my coloured friends have had quite a bad time."

"I've found Limerick people friendly, but that hasn't been everyone's experience," he said.

Cllr Diarmuid Scully, deputising as Mayor at the launch of Know Racism, said racism wasn't an issue when he was growing up in Limerick.

"But in the last couple of years it's become an issue," he added. "Speaking to people in my ward,



At the launch of the National Anti Racism Awareness Programme at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Munster's Mick Galwey and Jim Williams with the chairman of NARAP and former GAA president, Joe McDonagh

racism is the single biggest issue they bring up with me. People have issues about newcomers to our city, but their ideas are always based on

myths and not on experience."

Meanwhile Jim Williams confirmed that he has "never experienced" racism within the Munster

rugby squad.

"I'm very surprised that Peter Clohessy has been cited as being racist," he commented. "I heard

nothing racist from players on either side at the Castres match. I believe the incident of biting is just not on."

LAST 7 DAYS

More Massive Price

Prisoners condemn attacks on officers

By DEARBHLA LOOBY

PRISONERS in Limerick jail have condemned the recent spate of attacks on the homes of wardens from the prison.

Fr Pat Hogan, chaplain of Limerick Prison, told the Limerick Leader that the prisoners he has been speaking with do not

going on," Fr Hogan said. He continued: "They said they don't support it all and are worried that people are seeing it as a question of 'them' and 'us', when that isn't the case."

Fr Hogan said he is concerned that the good names of the prison officers involved is being

"Their good names should not be called into question because of this because they have done nothing wrong," he commented.

Fr Hogan said he had "no knowledge" of any difficulty between the prison officers involved and any of the prisoners. He added: "These are

City publican 'felt an arm around his neck... with a knife in it'

By LEADER REPORTER

A MARRIED man with 28 previous convictions has received a four-year prison sentence, with years suspended, for

Judge Sean O'Laoire heard that Molloy was working on a FAS scheme, but that on the day in question he was very drunk, having consumed a bottle of vodka.

ALL STOCK MUST GO!