

Terry and Paul in good news story for City

By AINE FITZGERALD

LIMERICK must rise above the negative press it has received in recent times and promote its positive attributes, according to veteran broadcaster Terry Wogan who visited the city at the weekend when he was presented with a Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Speaking to the awaiting media at the annual Person of the Year Awards 2006 held in the Clarion Hotel, the king of the airwaves called for more positive media coverage of Limerick and he spoke of his hurt and annoyance at the bad image that is portrayed of the city he lived in for 15 years.

"Limerick can rise above that kind of thing. It's one of those things—give a dog a bad name. It's easy to write about Limerick but why not write about the good things. Write about the University. Write about the expanding economy. Write about how trade is drawn here. Write about the prosperity. Let's have more positive stories about Limerick. It does hurt me. It does annoy me, yes," confessed the veteran broadcaster who continues to garner the attention of 8 million listeners on his UK radio show.

Presenting the Elm Road native with his special award at the gala event was An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern who raised a few chuckles in the audience when he momentarily forgot Junior Minister Tim O'Malley's first name.

The slip-of-the-tongue took place as the Taoiseach began addressing the audi-



Transatlantic rower Paul Gleeson, who was named Person of the Year 2006, and Sir Terry Wogan, who was presented with a Special Lifetime Achievement Award at the Person of the Year Awards Ceremony 2006 which was held at the Clarion Hotel

ence of local dignitaries and special guests.

"To my colleagues Willie O'Dea and Tom O'Malley. It's a great pleasure and an honour to be here," said Mr Ahern.

The main focus of the

night however, was on the 12 Person of the Year nominees who were applauded by all in attendance for their remarkable strength of character and leadership qualities.

The overall Person of the

Year award went to transatlantic rower Paul Gleeson for his inspirational show of determination in rowing 2,500 miles across the Atlantic from the Canary Islands to Antigua in the winter of

2005.

Speaking of his transatlantic experience which he undertook with his girlfriend Tori Holmes, Paul who is from Castletroy said: "We got so many messages from the people of

Limerick and it genuinely really, really did help us to keep going in some very tough times. So from me and on behalf of Tori, I just want to say thank you to the people of Limerick for supporting us."

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