

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY



# PHOBLACHT

## Republican News

Sraith Nua Im! 5 Uimhir 24 Deardain Meitheamh 16 Thursday June 16th 1983 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

## Annual Wolfe Tone commemoration **BODENSTOWN**

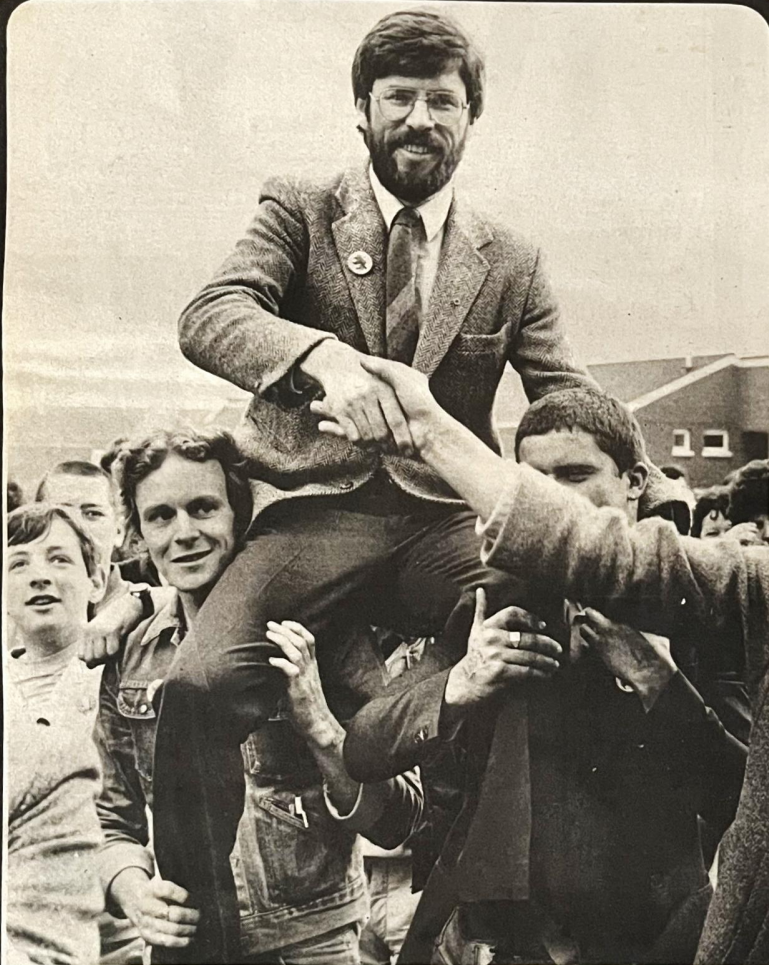
2.30pm Sunday 19th June  
Sallins, County Kildare  
For details of Bodenstown buses see Page 11

Speaker:  
Gerry Adams

**EVE OF BODENSTOWN  
REPUBLICAN  
REUNION DINNER**

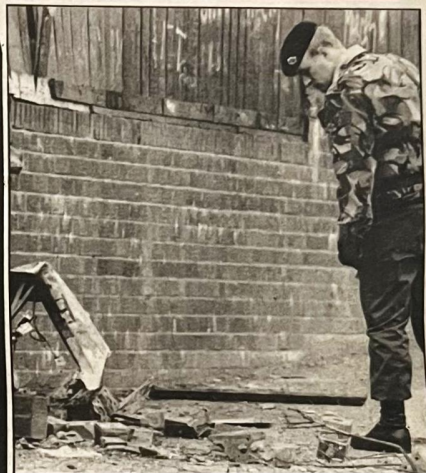
Saturday 18th June

The Spa Hotel  
LUCAN  
County Dublin



# ELECTION REPORTS, RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

**SEE  
INSIDE**



## WAR NEWS

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## Britain's nuclear dumping ground

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# OPINION

## On target

IN ENTERING the Westminster election contest, Sinn Fein set itself a number of objectives: primarily to maximise its vote from the 64,191 in October's Assembly elections — and a target of 90,000 was set; to extend the political base of its support for future organisation; and to show with even greater clarity than before that the SDLP's claim to be the voice of the nationalist people is indeed an empty one.

If seats were won in the process, so much the better. The election campaign itself proved the extent to which there is potential for organisational improvement throughout the North. The election results, in terms of votes, exceeded the target set by over 12,000 and improved the October total by a massive 60%. One seat was won and one missed by the slenderest of margins.

The SDLP, amazingly confident, right up to polling day, of taking four seats, were stopped in their tracks and only took one. The damage to their morale was reflected in the bitterness of their post-election comments.

The SDLP, it would appear, has reached the ceiling of its support and its ageing vote must be contrasted with the young supporters of Sinn Fein. Moreover, the dissatisfaction of SDLP voters can only increase as that party fails to deliver on John Hume's 'New Ireland', and Sinn Fein will attract this support too.

Sinn Fein now represents 42% of the nationalist voters and the gap between it and the SDLP, which is narrowing dramatically, could yet be closed by the time of the EEC elections next year.

As it is, the present republican vote, translated into local government terms in 1985, will give Sinn Fein the balance of power of between 15 and 20 of the North's 26 district councils.

Just how stupid then is the position James Prior has put himself in by not recognising the Sinn Fein vote. And the Free State establishment also keeps its head buried firmly in the sand, refusing to face the new political realities in the North.

Such is the confusion of that establishment — joined indeed by the Catholic Hierarchy — that, after weeks of pre-election preaching that a vote for Sinn Fein can only be interpreted as a vote for the IRA, both Coalition minister Peter Barry, for the one, and Bishop Cahal Daly, for the other, have since been desperately declaring the opposite.

Republicans and their supporters, on the other hand, see with clarity that a vote for Sinn Fein is an act of resistance to British rule which is neither exclusive of, nor inclusive of, that other act of resistance — the armed struggle.

But it is in the twenty-six counties that the growing stature of Sinn Fein as a political force must be translated into mobilisation of further support. Hampered as it is by Section 31 and other tactical disadvantages, Sinn Fein can and must capitalise on its dramatic Northern progress if a truly free united country is to be achieved.

The improvement of Sinn Fein in recent months in the North has much of its foundation in the daily hard slog of constituency work which has not only shown the people what Sinn Fein has to offer, but also made republicans face up to their responsibilities in this area.

There is no reason why that hard work should stop at the border, it can be just as effective throughout the whole country. It is up to republicans themselves whether future successes are achieved or not.

## War News... War News... War News



● British soldiers clear the debris following the IRA booby-trap attack in Belfast which killed one Brit

A BRITISH soldier, from the 1st Battalion, Light Infantry, was killed by a booby-trap bomb blast last Friday, June 10th, in Glenalina Road, Ballymurphy, in West Belfast.

The bomb, cleverly concealed in a lamp-post, was detonated as the soldier, one of a seven-man joint British army/RUC patrol, crouched behind the lamp-post for cover.

In claiming responsibility for the attack, the Belfast Brigade of the IRA said in a supplied statement that "a 15lb bomb was used with a command detonator" and that "as long as armed British soldiers patrol the streets of Ireland enforcing British rule they must expect Irish people to resist their presence."

Following this attack the IRA active service unit returned safely to base, their action being complemented later in the day as Sinn Fein successes blew further holes in the British occupation of the six counties.

### SOUTH DOWN INCENDIARIES

Demonstrating both the "IRA's ground strength" and its ability to "hit targets over a wide area", the South Down Brigade of the IRA attacked commercial premises in Newry, Rostrevor and Warrenpoint early on Monday last, June 13th.

Eleven blast incendiaries were used in attacks on a number of garages and a golf club in the area.

## Brit killed in Belfast blast

The first three exploded outside the showroom of Cars Ltd garage on the Warrenpoint Road in Newry, causing damage to the showroom and a number of cars.

Ten minutes later another three devices exploded this time in the changing-rooms of Warrenpoint golf club.

Incendiaries left at Kehoe's garage in Patrick Street, Newry, failed to explode and were subsequently defused, but at Campbell's garage in Rostrevor, two did explode shortly before 3am. Here, as elsewhere, there had been a warning and there were no injuries, other than to the morale of British forces in the area.

### BELFAST CENTRE BLASTED

In a highly publicised and devastating attack on commercial life in the city centre on Monday night, June 13th, the IRA's Belfast

Brigade succeeded in undermining, yet again, the 'security zone' which surrounds the area. Several incendiary devices exploded causing severe damage to major stores, in Castle Lane, Evans and Grafton's.

This well-planned attack, which will cost the British exchequer hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation payments, was carried out by a 10-strong IRA active service unit which, having managed to by-pass the constant surveillance by the British army and RUC in the city centre, assembled the blast incendiaries inside the security zone, and then separated into groups to plant the bombs.

High winds fanned the flames of the fire caused by the explosions which occurred shortly before 11pm. Warnings had been given and there were no injuries to civilians.



● One of the shops destroyed in Monday's IRA infiltration of the Belfast city centre 'security zone'



## BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

"In the 1985 local council elections in the six counties Sinn Fein will finally overtake the SDLP and nationalist politics will undergo their most radical and significant change since 1918."



# Concocted statement exposed

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

AN UNUSUAL insight into Special Branch interrogation methods was given in the Dublin Special Court this week when the case against a young Tallaght woman dramatically collapsed.

Charges of taking part in a £98,000 raid on Tallaght Post Office in August

1982 against 21-year-old Amanda McShane were dropped when it was revealed that a 'highly irregular document', purporting to implicate her in the raid, had been found by her solicitor in the interview room long before she finally made any admissions.

The document, found in Crumlin garda barracks by McShane's solicitor, Ann Rowland, was a statement written in the first person and admitting involvement. It had been written by one

of the interrogating Special Branchmen, Martin O'Connor. Amanda McShane had refused to sign it.

## ATTENTION

Ann Rowland had brought this to the attention of senior gardai who had attempted to cover their embarrassment by sending O'Connor back to the Bridewell.

Amanda McShane did eventually sign an incriminating statement after

46 hours of heavy interrogation.

No mention of the original statement was made in the prosecution book of evidence and it appeared that the gardai were hoping the matter would not be raised.

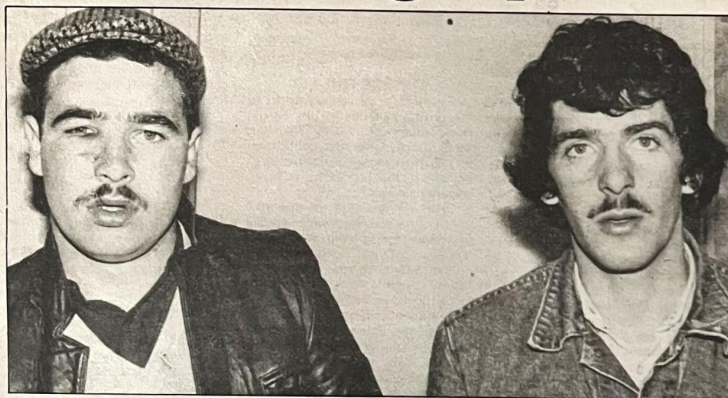
However, following the revelations by defence counsel, the overwhelming implication that the second statement was obtained by the same method as the first attempt caused an early withdrawal of the case.



● Amanda McShane leaving court after being charged in August 1982

# New Lodge youths assaulted

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG



● Michael McCloskey (left) and Paddy McEvoy, two of the youths assaulted by the RUC

FOUR men from the New Lodge Road area of North Belfast were attacked and badly beaten by the RUC on Tuesday night, June 14th, as they returned home from a party. The four, Michael McCloskey (18), Paddy McEvoy (22), Paddy Smith (19) and Fra Lavery (18), were entering a local chip shop around 1am when an RUC landrover pulled up and ordered them to stand up against the wall and demanded their names, addresses and dates of birth.

"As soon as they heard where we were from they started to mess us about," said Michael McCloskey. "When Paddy McEvoy wouldn't give them his date of birth they punched him in the face and drew their batons."

Michael McCloskey was grabbed by the throat and when he tried to release himself he was punched in the eye and kicked to the ground. Paddy Smith was punched on the nose which began bleeding and all four men were dragged over to the landrovers and again beaten as they were flung inside.

In Queen Street RUC Barracks

Paddy McEvoy was taken into a cell and assaulted again by the RUC because he refused to take his shoes off and Michael McCloskey was also punched.

Fra Lavery, who luckily escaped the full brunt of the RUC onslaught, was released from Queen Street, but the other three were transferred to Musgrave Street Barracks where they were examined by an unsympathetic RUC doctor and then sent back to Queen Street for fingerprints and more red tape.

At around 5.30am, all three were released after being charged with assaulting the RUC.

# An dlí agus an duine

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

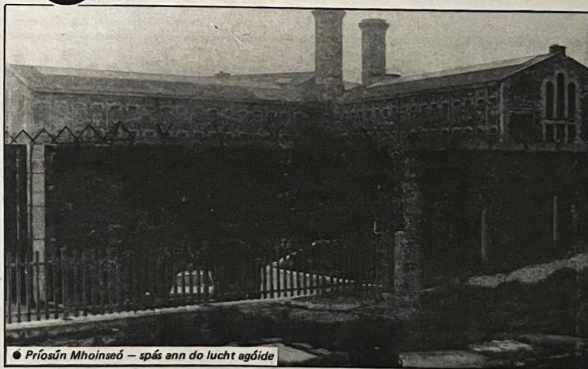
IN ÉIRINN na linne seo is ionann an dlí agus gléas i lámha na saibhir chun na boicht a choimeád faoi chois. Is soiléir gur beag an baint atá ag an dlí leis an ceart. Má bhí dabht ar bith faoi seo, léiríonn na cásanna seo a leanas a bhí le léamh ar an *Irish Times* an staid go cruinn.

Sa Chúirt Chuarda i mBaile Átha Cliath órdáíodh do bhean, dhá bhliain is trí scór an teach ina raibh sí ina conai le cúig bhliain is tríocha an teach a fhágáil. I bhfianaise dúirt an bhean go raibh sí ag obair mar fáiltéoir do dhochtúir darbh ainm Cremin go dtí go bhfuair sé bás i mí na Nollag anuraidh.

Cúig phúnt déag sa tseachtain a bhí mar pháigh aici agus bhí uirthi éirí gach maidin ag a sé a chlog. Ní raibh lá ar bith sa tseachtain saor aici. Glacadh léi mar bhall den gclann agus bhí sí an-chompórdach sa teach.

## AIRGEAD

D'iarr sí ar an dochtúir tráth, cad a tharlódh di nuair a bhfaigheadh sé bás?



● Príosún Mholnseo — spás ann do lucht agóide

Dúirt sé léi narbh baol di, go dtabharfadh sé aire mhaith di agus nach mbeadh uirthi dul ag obair go deo arís. Tar éis don bhean seo a bheith dílis don gclann le blianta fada

bhíodar chun í a chaitheamh amach.

Tá ceacht mhaith anseo dóibh siúd a deir nach bhfuil aon ghá acu le ceardchumann. Is soiléir nach mbeadh an bhean seo

sa staid ina bhfuil sí dá mbeadh cosaint cheardchumann aici. Ní féidir brath ar chairdeas nuair a bhíonn airgead i gceist.

Agus an Chúirt Chuarda, bhuel d'óirdeigh an Giúistís Ó Hanrahan di an teach a fhágáil laistigh d'aon mhí amháin cé go ndúirt dlíodóir go raibh teipthe uirthi áit cónaithe sásúil d'fháil don bhean seo. Cen ceart a bhaineann leis an sochrú seo? Leanadh an dlí go beacht ach is soiléir gur deineadh éagóir ar an mbean seo.

## PRÍOSÚN

Bhí léargas eile againn ar an dlí nuair a fógraíodh le déanaí go raibh daoine le cur i bpríosún de bharr páirt a ghlacadh i bhfeachtas in éadan cíos talún a íoc. Níl ceart ar bith ag baint le cíos talún. Córas éagóirach is ea é. Aontaíonn beagnach gach dream leis an tuairim sin.

Mar sin féin tugadh órdaithe dos na póilíní daoine a chur i bpríosún de bharr nár foc siad an cíos seo. Is cóir do ghach duine tacú leis na daoine a chuirfeair i bpríosún de bharr an cíos éagóirach seo.

I gcás eile léiríodh go bhfuil pionós mór le fáil sa méid beag a ghoid. Fuair an Giúistís Ó hUadhaigh go raibh fear óg seacht mbliana déag d'aois ciontach i robáil nuachtáin. Céad púnt a luach agus níor úsáideadh fóiréigean ar bith sa chás. Ghearr an giúistís naoi mí i bpríosún ar an bhfear óg.

Is soiléir gur an urraim don saibhreas atá an dlí bunaithe. Is beag den chirt atá le fáil laistigh den chóras sin.



# Britain's nuclear dumping ground



● The Greenpeace ship, Cedarlea (above), and Greenpeace director Pete Wilkinson (inset)

BY JACK MADDEN

GREENPEACE director Pete Wilkinson has described as "very encouraging" the response of Irish people to the visit by the environmental group to Dublin earlier this week. About 500 people gathered to greet the Greenpeace ship, Cedarlea, when it docked on Monday last, and during its two-day stay the ship was visited by hundreds of supporters, almost 50 of whom volunteered to join the crew.

The various campaigns organised by Greenpeace, which was founded in 1971, oppose whaling, the slaughter of seals and the nuclear industry and have attracted wide-

spread media coverage because of their persistent, and often dangerous, protest tactics. These tactics have included steering a dinghy under two-ton barrels of radioactive

waste to stop them being dumped at sea, or steering into the path of a harpoon gun to save a whale.

## SPARTAN

Months at sea and a Spartan life-style bear testimony to the commitment of Greenpeace members.

Their liberal, middle-class and intellectual members attract a liberal, middle-class and intellectual audience, however, and this has led to bitter confrontations with fishermen and workers who feel their li-

hoods are being threatened by the activities of the group. This failure to relate to ordinary people is a major weakness of Greenpeace, as well as other environmental groups. One crew member of the Cedarlea commented that he doubted if they had ever convinced a single trawlerman that whaling or the slaughter of seals is wrong.

The visit to Dublin aimed to highlight the dangers posed by the Windscale nuclear plant in the north-west of England and the

dumping of nuclear waste in the Irish Sea and the risk of contamination which this poses. This contamination threatens the future of fish-stocks in the region, for Ireland as much as Britain, and Greenpeace hope, perhaps unrealistically, that the Free State Minister for the Environment, Ruairi Quinn, will put pressure on the British government to stop the dumping.

## CALLS IGNORED

Margaret Thatcher's government has ignored repeated calls by international bodies, including the EEC, to halt the dumping of nuclear waste.

"Such a halt would be an admission that they have been wrong and would prevent them dumping even more highly radioactive material in the future," says Pete Wilkinson.

Following the apparent abandonment of plans by the Dublin government to build a nuclear generator at Carnsore, the result of economic decline and a vigorous campaign against the plan, they can now safely oppose dumping at sea by the nuclear powers and Quinn's positive response to Greenpeace suggests that he may take such a line.

Greenpeace does not have an Irish-based section because, says Wilkinson, "Expansion is planned only when necessary for campaigning or political reasons." Support, however, has come from organisations such as the Dublin Clean Seas Alliance and the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and it is likely that an Irish section will be established in the future.

# Toxic dump danger

BY JACK MADDEN

TOXIC dumping has caused increased concern in recent years as a major health risk. Following public protests a number of dumps have been shut down, in Ringaskiddy, County Cork; Kill, County Kildare; and, most recently, Finglas, Dublin. On Tuesday night last, an anti-toxic group met in Clondalkin to formulate a campaign against proposals to open a new site at Baldonnel, County Kildare.

Coalition ministers Dick Spring and Ruairi Quinn have already stated that they would have to be convinced 'very forcibly' before they would consider closing the site which they are determined will become the major dumping ground for toxic waste in Ireland. This despite its proximity to huge housing areas in west County Dublin.

The determination to establish Baldonnel as the site of the dump is likely to be strong, given the recent reverses in other areas



● Residents and community activists are increasingly worried about the dangers of toxic waste

and the fear of the Free State government that if this plan is abandoned it will make it virtually impossible to find any other site. This was said by Ruairi Quinn at a meeting with the anti-toxic group and demonstrates the government's inability to admit that they were wrong in the past.

Toxic dumping became a problem within

the last 20 years as the Industrial Development Authority introduced industries, from America in particular, which had run into problems with environmental legislation in their own countries. In bringing in these toxic-type industries little thought was given to disposal and manufacturers have been able to do pretty much as they pleased.

The anti-toxic groups point out that a great deal of toxic waste can be broken down into harmless constituent parts and demand that toxic industries should be obliged to treat waste at the source of production.

"The attitude of Ruairi Quinn towards the Greenpeace delegation, on the issue of nuclear dumping in the Irish Sea, is strange," said one delegate at the Clondalkin meeting, "in the light of his obvious indifference to the pumping of toxic fluids into the same sea, through the Ringsend sewerage system."

It was generally agreed by those at the meeting that a vigorous campaign was needed and a member of the Finglas anti-toxic group pointed out that during their three-year campaign they had lobbied local representatives, blocked streets and the entrance to the dump and had occupied the Dublin County Council offices in O'Connell Street. These tactics and the use of leaflets and a local news-sheet unit, it seems, become a feature of the Clondalkin campaign also.

# Artane anger at outdated Acts

BY JOHN DURKAN

RELATIVES of the 48 young Dublin people who died in the Stardust fire in Artane on February 14th 1981 are justifiably angry at the decision in Dublin District Court that the fire was started maliciously and subsequent speculation that the owner of the Stardust club, Eamonn Butterly, would receive more in compensation than all the bereaved families combined. Worse still, the realisation that his compensation would be paid out of public monies, enabling him to expand his business. His £3 million damages claim against Dublin Corporation is now the subject of out-of-court negotiations.

This case has raised, yet again, a peculiarity in Free State law, inherited from a colonial past when the imperial parliament, in an attempt to stem agrarian agitation and protect British-based insurance companies, decided that in Ireland these companies would be exempt from paying costs in cases of 'malicious damage'.

These costs would instead be borne by the native Irish through local authorities who would raise the money from ratepayers. Since the abolition of domestic rates, the

commercial ratepayers have seldom produced enough revenue to cover even everyday running costs and to finance compensation claims local authorities have turned to central government for financial aid. It is, therefore, the taxpayers who will be forced to compensate Eamonn Butterly.

Free State legislation in this area, which is embodied in the Civil Liability Act (1961) and the Malicious Injuries Act (1981), is firmly rooted in earlier legislation such as the Grand Juries Presentments (Ire-



● Grief-stricken relatives of the Stardust victims arrive at the morgue to identify the bodies

land) Act (1836), which enabled property owners to apply to the Grand Jury of the County for reimbursement raised locally when claiming damages to their 'property'.

This Act was extended when in 1848 the Corn Markets (Ireland) Act extended the area of compensation to include grain stores which had become a target for the starving peasantry who roamed the

countieside during the Famine.

The 1853 Malicious Injuries (Ireland) Act made the various local authorities liable for damages in the event of robbery. A recent illustration of this followed the disappearance of the racehorse Shergar and the announcement that the local authority, Kildare County Council, may be liable for as much as £20 million!

Other recent cases when these laws have been used against various communities and the taxpayers followed the bombing attacks by loyalists in twenty-six county towns and cities and the destruction of holiday homes and castles owned by British citizens during the hunger-strike in 1981.

The continued application of such laws illustrates the property-orientated bias of successive Dublin governments despite the fact that in other countries such property owners are obliged to insure themselves against possible damage.



# Huge vote for freedom

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

ON THURSDAY, June 9th, 102,701 nationalists defied Margaret Thatcher, the Free State establishment, the unionists, sections of the Catholic Hierarchy and the media, and voted for Sinn Fein in a massive show of support for the party's uncompromising leadership. Gerry Adams was elected Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, a historic breakthrough in a constituency which traditionally used to return constitutional nationalists such as Joe Devlin or Gerry Fitt.

Of course, many republican hearts sank when it was announced on Friday, June 10th, that the new MP for Mid-Ulster was the arch-bigot from the DUP, the Rev William McCrea, beating Danny Morrison by a mere 78 votes after a recount, and that in Fermanagh/South Tyrone, Bobby Sands' historic seat had fallen into the hands of former UDR major Ken Maginnis. But Sinn Fein's main objectives, of maximising the republican vote and of extending its political base, have been reached beyond expectations. The initial target of 90,000 votes was exceeded by over 12,000, and the Sinn Fein organisation has grown in size and effectiveness in the process, having gained new members, many of them young, in areas where Sinn Fein had been weak or dormant.

The fact that after only nine months of involvement in six-county elections, Sinn Fein has managed to command over 100,000 votes, 13.4% of the total vote, came as a clear answer to all those who had predicted its defeat. 42% of the nationalist population in the six counties voted Sinn Fein, and that 42% will not be dismissed as easily as all those who through the years dutifully voted for the SDLP.

The SDLP's share of the vote has fallen from 18.8% to 17.9%, and within the nationalist community from 65% to 57%. The fact that the SDLP managed to win only one seat was a shattering blow to them as they were predicting, along with the media, four Westminster seats to maintain the party's public profile and credibility as a constitutional party.

In the four Belfast constituencies, Sinn Fein out-pollled the SDLP by just over 3,000 votes. In Mid-Ulster the SDLP were more than 4,000 behind Sinn Fein, and in Fermanagh/South Tyrone the SDLP lagged behind by 11,000.

However, it remains that the middle-class SDLP vote has held, even in areas like Fermanagh/South Tyrone where it was clear to SDLP voters that they were actually handing the seat to the Official Unionists — no 'tactical voting' for middle-class nationalists.

While unionists systematically voted for the unionist candidate best placed to beat Sinn Fein, and even voted for Gerry Fitt in West Belfast, the nationalist vote was clearly polarised, and as a result four of the six 'nationalist' constituencies fell to unionists.

The SDLP, having arrogantly spurned a Sinn Fein offer of talks on the nationalist seats as the campaign began, had only themselves to blame.

## WEST BELFAST

WITH 16,379 votes to his credit, Gerry Adams had a comfortable win in the West Belfast constituency, defeating the SDLP candidate, Joe Hendron, by 5,445 votes and ousting sitting MP Gerry Fitt from the seat. In view of his unpopularity amongst nationalists, it is clear that a large section of Fitt's 10,326 votes came from loyalists. Contrary to his claim that he had succeeded in "uniting the Protestant and Catholic working-class", this vote merely demonstrates that even a Catholic can win loyalist support if he is sufficiently pro-British.

The absence of an Alliance candidate in this constituency, and their calls for supporters to vote SDLP, indicates Hendron's vote was artificially high at 10,934.

## FOYLE

JOHN HUME's high personal profile, coupled with intensive media and church support, helped win the SDLP their success in the Foyle constituency, winning 24,071 votes and a seat.

Sinn Fein, fighting in this redrawn constituency which has lost the staunchly republican vote around Dungiven, managed to in-



● Not impressed: Danny Morrison looks on with some amusement at William McCrea's post-election crooning at the Mid-Ulster count

crease its vote from 8,763 in the Assembly elections to 10,607 in this election. Despite this 21% increase, Sinn Fein spokespersons admitted that they had hoped to do even better.

## FERMANAGH/SOUTH TYRONE

ALTHOUGH increasing the Sinn Fein vote by 4,229 since the Assembly election, Owen Carron, with 20,954 votes, was unable to retain his seat due to what he described as "the vote-splitting intervention of the SDLP." Rosemary Flanagan surprisingly maintained SDLP support, winning 9,923 votes and allowing former UDR major Ken Maginnis to take the seat.

## MID-ULSTER

A NAIL-BITING contest in this constituency ended with Danny Morrison of Sinn Fein being narrowly defeated by DUP candidate Rev William McCrea. Only 78 votes separated the two in a race which saw SDLP candidate Denis Haughey coming a poor third with only 12,044 votes as against 16,096 for Morrison. This massive improvement in the Sinn Fein vote has been ascribed to a well-oiled election machine led by the indefatigable Sean Begley. Following the election, Morrison comm-

ented: "The SDLP split the nationalist vote and handed Mid-Ulster to the loyalist fanatic William McCrea whose acceptance speech bodes ill for the nationalist people."

## NEWRY AND AR

SINN FEIN candidate Allister polled extremely well, winning 9,928 votes. T a strong republican po



● Thumbs up: Martin McGuinness acknowledges the cheers of his supporters and the 21% increase in Sinn Fein's vote in Foyle



● Going strong: Jim McAllister (second from left) and supporters are happy with the sound base built in the Newry and Armagh areas



in the area. A bitterly disappointed SDLP candidate, Seamus Mallon, failed to take the seat despite the intervention of many Free State politicians on his behalf.

Jim McAllister remains the sole elected nationalist representative in the area.

#### SOUTH DOWN

EDDIE McGRADY of the SDLP failed to win this seat following the desertion of DUP votes to Enoch Powell of the OUP. Paddy Fitzsimmons of Sinn Féin achieved the success he had hoped for, increasing the republican vote to 4,074, despite the loss of Newry to the Newry and Armagh constituency.

#### NORTH ANTRIM

CONTESTING the seat for the first time, Sinn Féin candidate Pearse McMahon won 2,860 votes coming mainly from the Portlengone, Dunloy and Loughiel areas. This vote has given grounds for encouragement that further support can be built in these areas. The SDLP vote (6,193) was boosted by the fact that Alliance was not standing.

#### SOUTH ANTRIM

ANOTHER new area for Sinn Féin was South Antrim in which they managed to significantly diminish the SDLP share of the vote, with Sean Lavery winning 1,624 votes compared to 3,377 votes for Alban Maginness of the SDLP.

#### EAST DERRY

A SOLID achievement was made by Sinn Féin standard-bearer John Davey who polled a remarkable 7,073 votes in this new constituency which includes most of County Derry, part of which had been included in Mid-Ulster before this election. These votes are an indication of sizeable support and augur well for 1985's local elections.

#### UPPER BANN

PART of the old Armagh seat, this new constituency gave 4,110 votes to Sinn Féin candidate Brendan Curran, representing an increase of about 1,000 votes on that won by J.B. O'Hagan in the 1982 Assembly elections.

#### LAGAN VALLEY

HERE, Sinn Féin's Richard McAuley captured 2,603 votes compared to the SDLP's 2,603. This is being viewed as an encouraging start in a constituency where many republicans have yet to be registered and hopes are high that a solid political organisation can be built before the 1985 local elections.

#### NORTH BELFAST

THE 5,541 votes won by Joe Austin represents the highest republican vote ever to be obtained in that constituency, especially in working-class areas such as New Lodge where the vast majority of voters supported Sinn Féin. Middle-class voters from the Antrim Road and Shore Road boosted the SDLP performance but even so their vote dropped by about 2,000 since 1979, while Sinn Féin has increased its support by 33% since October last.

#### EAST AND SOUTH BELFAST

THE SMALL nationalist enclaves of Short Strand in East Belfast and the Markets in South Belfast registered 682 and 1,107 Sinn Féin votes for Denis Donaldson and Sean McKnight respectively. A systematic approach to registration and continued constituency work will, no doubt, produce a significant increase in support the next time round.



● Victory: Jubilant nationalists celebrate the historic election triumph of Sinn Féin MP Gerry Adams (inset) outside the Republican Press Centre on Belfast's Falls Road

## History in the making.

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of Joe Austin's impressive, increased poll in North Belfast during last Friday's count in Belfast's City Hall, spilt out into the corridors and sent ripples of discontent among anti-republicans who, with gaunt white faces and tightened lips, awaited in begrudged anticipation for the predicted successful result of Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams in West Belfast.

Reporters and film crews buzzed around, sniffing for snippets of information and, rather amusingly, supporters of rival political parties sat near to each other and exchanged the odd nod and wink. Security guards and armed RUC men walked authoritatively up and down the corridors, keeping a watchful eye on the Sinn Féin camp while outside a large group of republican supporters had begun to gather from around 10.30am.

All that morning optimistic rumours abounded as to what would be the extent of Sinn Féin's success throughout the North and as the hours wore on after 12 noon — the media-predicted hour when things would begin to happen inside City Hall — butterflys churned in practically every stomach and expectations were raised as the minutes ticked by.

As the results of South Belfast were declared — and Sinn Féin's Sean McKnight succeeded in biting a sizeable chunk out of the SDLP and Workers' Party vote — tension and excitement mounted as the final countdown for West Belfast commenced shortly before 2pm.

#### UNION JACKS

The atmosphere in the narrow corridors outside the spacious Banquetting Hall reached fever-pitch as a large crowd, mainly loyalist, pressed together and jostled for position to await the appearance of their respective candidates. Union

Jacks were waved vehemently, coupled with shouts of "God save the Queen" as DUP man George Haffey and OUP candidate Thomas Passmore made their way inside for the declaration.

But predictably, at the first glimpse the loyalists got of Gerry Adams, verbal hostility turned to violent expression as several Sinn Féin personnel surrounding Adams were thumped on the head with Union Jacks and fists alike.

The RUC surged forward and shouts of abuse from the loyalists and support from Adams' supporters echoed for minutes afterwards in the corridors as the heavy oak doors finally closed behind them. "Adams, Gerard," announced the deputy presiding officer. "16,379."

Outside the City Hall, the historic news spread like wildfire among Sinn Féin's jubilant supporters and prolonged shouts of joy drowned out the heavy noise of traffic and irritated further the large force of RUC who unsuccessfully ordered them to stand back.

Meanwhile, back in the City Hall, Adams, after thanking everyone who had worked on his behalf, pledged that "Sinn Féin will represent, to the best of our ability, all the people of West Belfast" and once again strongly reiterated Sinn Féin's position of commitment to a full British withdrawal.

When he re-appeared in the corridor, he was met again by loyalists who booed and screamed abuse and for several minutes utter pandemonium broke out as Sinn Féin personnel, flanked by the RUC, were roughly commandeered up the corridor past the loyalists and into the main hallway.

#### JUBILANT

Adams finally emerged from the City Hall and was given a jubilant welcome by elated supporters outside with shouts of "Easy, easy, Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin, Sinn Féin" greeting him as a long line of cars sounding horns, followed Adams' car along Adelaide Street and round into King Street.

Alongside the cavalcade ran scores of athletic youth, women and children keeping up as best they could. In Castle Street he was raised shoulder-high by the youth, and people, young and old, cheered, cried and clapped his back. And all along the Falls, past Divis Flats where a Tricolour flew, cars and taxis sounded their horns and people joined in the victory march up to the Republican Press Centre at Seavastopol Street.

Bin lids, traditionally a warning of the enemy's presence, were instead rattled in triumph by women as again local people raised Adams onto their shoulders. Addressing the crowd from an upstairs window, it took several attempts by Adams to make himself heard before the singing, whistling and clapping died down. But even throughout his short speech he was affectionately heckled by the people whom he told:

"I didn't win the election, you people won the election, every one of the 16-odd thousand who voted Sinn Féin; all the people who worked for the past three weeks; all the prisoners' families who have suffered over the years; all the widows of the republican Volunteers; and of all the people who have died — they won the election today."

#### COUNCIL

He went on to remind people that Sinn Féin would soon be fighting another election for a local council seat in Area 'D' on June 29th for which he asked for their continuing support and work, and to loud cheers he then brought forward Alex Maskey, his former running partner in the Assembly elections who will be contesting the seat.

That night in West Belfast a victory car cavalcade toured the nationalist areas in acknowledgement of the staunch support from all those who had voted Sinn Féin, not only in Belfast, but in towns and villages throughout the North where the name of Sinn Féin will no longer be ignored.



## Clare ceremony

THE TENTH anniversary of the death of Martin Whyte was commemorated at Toowaghra, County Clare, on Sunday, June 12th, at 12 noon.

The ceremonies were chaired by Mattie Shannon and included wreath-layings by Martin Callaghan, on behalf of Clare Sinn Féin, and Paddy McNamara, on behalf of the local Máirtín de Fáilte Sinn Féin cumann. A lament was played by a member of the Clonbonny Pipe Band.

The oration was given by Sinn Féin president Ruairi O Bradaigh.

## Michael Gaughan remembered



THE NINTH anniversary of the death on hunger-strike of IRA Volunteer Michael Gaughan was marked on Sunday, June 5th, by a picket on Parkhurst Prison, the jail where he died in 1974.

Members of Birmingham and London Sinn Féin took part along with supporters from Irish solidarity groups. They also picketed the other Isle of Wight top-security prison, Albany, where republican prisoners recently took part in a roof-top protest.

## Monaghan sales

MONAGHAN Sinn Féin has formed a new sub-committee in the town to handle the distribution and sale of republican publications, including *AP/RN*, in the area.

Since its formation it has attracted a number of young people who wish to help Sinn Féin in the practical work of making material generally available.

Without a Sinn Féin office or shop in the town for some six months, the local cumann was anxious to develop a new system for selling republican literature, posters, badges, tee-shirts and records. And the new method has given the cumann the best sales figures in Ireland for this material.

At regular meetings, different housing estates and areas in the town are allocated for sample marketing and orders are taken. Delivery usually takes place the following week. The group has been particularly successful where *AP/RN* is concerned, and sales in Monaghan town and district have risen dramatically.

On Saturday night last, Willie Greennan, manager of Republican Publications in Belfast, which produces and distributes much of the ancillary publicity material, attended a meeting of the Monaghan group at which future development was discussed.

"I hope," he said, "that all Sinn Féin cumann will follow the example you have given and I feel confident that Republican Publications is about to experience a renewed interest in its work."

## North Armagh comhairle ceantair

AT the re-formation of the North Armagh Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair held recently the following officers were elected: chairperson: Brendan Curran; secretary: Sheena Campbell; treasurer: Michael McKeown; and PRO: Liam Haddock.

The Patrick McKenna Sinn Féin cumann was formed in Knockatallon, County Monaghan, recently and the officer board of the new cumann is: chairperson: Hugh Moyn; secretary: Bernadette Boyle; vice-secretary: Mary McKenna; joint treasurers: John and Frank McQuaid; and PRO: James McElwain.

# ..Mála poist...Mála poist..

## Media cover-up

A Chara,

Fourteen years after the British army was sent en masse into the North of Ireland — ostensibly 'to keep the peace' — the American public is still largely unaware of their role, that of perpetuating British rule by oppression.

Why is the reaction to the murder of Irish children with plastic bullets, the house search, police and army brutality, and the horrid prison conditions, one of almost total indifference?

The answer lies in the British government's ability to suppress the truth.

The British media usually censors itself; and in the few instances where it has attempted to tackle sensitive subjects concerning the North of Ireland, it has been met with official political pressure to back off.

The news reports fed to the American public are a carefully-worked combination of distortions, lies and half-truths.

The conflict is portrayed as 'religious'; the 'Catholic' IRA as 'terrorists'; and the British army's role as that of 'peacekeeper'. The British cover-up of the truth is aided and abetted by the Irish and American governments, and by the silence and inaction of the Irish Catholic Hierarchy.

Through *Guth an Phobail* (The Voice of the People) we hope to provide accurate information and analysis of the issues that affect us. Our newsletter is aimed especially at those in the twenty-six counties and in the USA who are being fed the British propaganda line.

*Guth an Phobail* is an attempt to give voice to the much-ignored views and perspectives of the people in the North of Ireland who struggle for justice and freedom. Through this newsletter we aim to:

1. Provide accurate information about the violation of basic human rights and the effects of British colonial rule in Ireland.
2. Raise awareness about the real issues that affect people's lives and shape opinion in Ireland.
3. Counter British propaganda which misrepresents the issue as 'terrorism' and a sectarian war between Catholics and Protestants.
4. Build bridges with groups concerned about our plight and to offer credible direction to those who will help us.

A Chara,

Lest there are people who think that the spectre of the Nicky Kelly case will now go away and trouble their consciences no longer, please allow us some space to clarify the present situation.

Nicky Kelly's decision to end his 38-day fast was a more difficult one for him than it would have been to continue. He did so in order to allow for fresh moves on his behalf and in the belief that his name will yet be vindicated.

Many will have sighed in relief at the courageous decision by a man who, do not forget, has since 1976 suffered the traumas of arrest, detention, two long trials followed by enforced exile, in his opinion, judicial and official red tape, not to mention his continued imprisonment.

For the media, the sensational urgency of the hunger-strike has disappeared, but its obligation to truth and honesty must ensure that the case continues to be reported and who

5. Put the struggle in Ireland in its proper context with the international movement against the violation of human rights, and with other national liberation struggles for social, economic and political justice.

A sample copy of the newsletter can be obtained from the address below.

Seosamh Mac an Bheatha & Mary Nelis,  
*Guth an Phobail*,  
PO Box 200,  
Throgs Neck Station,  
Bronx, NY 10465, USA.

## Flynn under fire

A Chara,

I was a bit surprised, to say the least, to see a review about Mannix Flynn's book, *Nothing to Say*, in last week's *An Phoblacht/Republican News*.

Whilst I don't object to the book being reviewed, people should be aware of Flynn's anti-republican and anti-political prisoner stance.

# RELEASE NICKY KELLY



● The hunger-strike's over, but the campaign goes on

better to provide the angles than those who were hitherto reluctant to speak out, for the onus is fairly and squarely on

their shoulders now.

The pending civil and European cases may take a long time and cannot be an excuse for



● MANNIX FLYNN

Of course, he is entitled to his views, but the fact is that he made such an outburst on RTE radio at the end of May in which, apart from calling on the Free State government to take on the IRA, he made out that political prisoners were receiving food parcels and were treated like royalty.

Needless to say there was no one from Sinn Féin there to counteract the lies, and with Pat Kenny in charge the rest of the panel was made up of anti-republicans so Flynn had plenty of help.

Mannix Flynn has done well out of his case of being sent to prison, and fair play to him, but I feel he has been swallowed up by the so-called intellectual liberal trends and become the

working-class pet of RTE people to the extent of spouting their political propaganda.

I'd like to be proven wrong about Mannix Flynn but after hearing him myself on the radio it would take some convincing.

Mick Quinlan,  
Baile Atha Cliath.

## Tallaght job centre

A Chara,

The recent work-to-rule by the gardai and the refusal by the postmen to deliver unemployment certificates shows again the need for an adequate unemployment exchange/job centre here in Tallaght, County Dublin.

Sinn Féin called for such a centre over five months ago and to support that call we have collected more than 1,800 signatures to a petition on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7th and 8th.

The Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Welfare has stated that the

acquisition of the new premises on the Old Bawn Road is being pursued as a matter of urgency, but is likely to take 12 months. More red tape. This building was completed over seven months ago.

We are calling for a building where people can sign on and inquire about employment inside, out of unpredictable weathers. Surely a person in authority can inspect any of the buildings vacated by recent employers, e.g. Electron, with the view to converting them to a job centre.

We would also like to express our understanding of the problem that faces the postmen with the workload that has developed because of the unemployment situation, but feel that rather than resort to action that affects the unemployed, they should address their protest to the authorities who are responsible.

We would suggest that, as a temporary measure, payments be made from the Friday to facilitate the families of the unemployed and spread the workload of the post office clerks.

Peter Cunningham,  
PRO,  
Wolfe Tone Sinn Féin cumann,  
36 Old Bawn Avenue,  
Tallaght,  
County Dublin.

# DUBLIN TO HONOUR NELSON MANDELA

# A prisoner of apartheid

BY JACK MADDOEN

DUBLIN Corporation will pay an untidy, if welcome, honour to the 'spirit of freedom' on Sunday, June 26th, when they host a special tribute to the veteran leader of the African National Congress (ANC), 65-year-old Nelson Mandela, a prisoner of the South African regime since 1962.

This tribute will take the form of an open-air festival which will be held in Dublin's Merrion Square and will include entertainment from Paddy Moloney and Sean Potts of the Chieftains, Paddy Glackin, Seamus Heaney and Bill Meek.

An address by Kadar Asmal, chairperson of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, will outline Mandela's contribution to the liberation

struggle in South Africa and his role as 'a living symbol of the oppressed people of South Africa.'

As a founder member and general secretary of the Youth League of the ANC and later as Volunteer-in-Chief of the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign during which over 8,000 people were jailed for resisting apartheid, Mandela suffered regular imprisonment.

Eventually recognising the need for armed resistance to apartheid, he helped to organise the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). Arrested on conspiracy to overthrow the state, he and seven

others were sentenced to life imprisonment on June 12th 1964.

The campaign to have Mandela released was launched in 1980 and has spread worldwide. Recognised as the symbol of all political prisoners in South Africa he was moved last year from the infamous Robben Island Jail to Pollsmoor Prison in Pretoria where he has been deprived of many of the rights which he and his colleagues fought for on Robben Island, and he is now suffering renewed harassment.

His record as a revolutionary and his support for violence as a means to overthrow the apartheid regime in South Africa makes it all the more incredible that Mandela should be honoured by a body such as Dublin Corporation, who could hardly be regarded as champions of freedom.

But then again, faraway revolutions are generally OK. It's the home-produced variety that deserves condemnation.



● MANDELA



# Jim'll fix it

## BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

THE REVELATION that 'Jim'll Fix It' Mitchell, the Coalition Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, has been indulging in a bit of forgery to help out his Ballyfermot constituents, may have put Sean Doherty's driver onto the inside pages of the Dublin newspapers, but it will come as no surprise to his fellow 'criminals' in the area.

During Mitchell's reign as Minister for Justice in the 1982 Coalition government, probation officers attached to Mountjoy Prison were on the verge of industrial action because every prisoner with a Ballyfermot address who arrived at the jail was being freed 'on parole' a few days later on the minister's orders. (An impossibility now for Nicky Kelly, of course.)

Mitchell also had the miraculous power of causing the disappearance of his brother's blood sample — after the latter had been stopped for suspected drunken driving — just by lifting the telephone.

And then there is the much more interesting question of why, during that Coalition period in office the garda drug squad were ordered off Dublin's leading drug-dealing family, members of which were very friendly indeed with more than one Coalition minister...

★ ★ ★

On the rare occasions when political correspondents have to substitute real analysis of republicanism for the usual vitriol, which is welcomed by their editors, then is their incredible ignorance exposed to full view.

For example, on Saturday morning, June 11th, the *Irish Independent's* political correspondent, Chris Glennon, was writing:

"Although Sinn Féin lost sitting MPs Danny Morrison and Owen Carron..."

And Paddy Reynolds, Northern editor of the *Irish Press*, was informing Sunday Press readers about "Gerry Adams, now the absentee MP at Westminster for East Belfast."

★ ★ ★

The intrusion of Fianna Fáil politicians into the Newry and Armagh constituency to aid Haughey favourite Seamus Mallon in his Westminster bid not only flopped but is judged to have back-fired.

An ungrateful Jas. F. is now privately blaming his Southern benefactors for his failure, even though they suffered considerable indignities on his behalf from caustic Armagh tongues.

Former Fianna Fáil minister John Wilson was even thrown out of the Crossmaglen polling station by the presiding officer, who informed him he had no right to be there.

Mallon may also be regretting having toured the constituency for the week prior to election day in a very flashy, Southern-registered white Merc coupe (280 KZA), loaned to him by his Dublin friends.

There was no mercurial success for the SDLP deputy-leader who has this year lost his seat in the Dublin senate, being disqualified from the Belfast Assembly and missed the Westminster parliament.

If it wasn't for the Forum, Seamus Mallon could have been condemned to work for a living.

★ ★ ★

The RUC soccer team, which I mentioned a couple of weeks ago as being on its way to Canada, has run into severe embarrassment.

Apparently they were looking forward to a few quiet friendly games against the local Mounties, but instead have had their matches



● It's not too often that we carry advertisements for capitalist financial institutions, but these American bill-boards advertising Individual Retirement Accounts are irresistible

picketed by an ad-hoc group of Canadians who have been successful in directing media attention onto the kind of kicking which the touring terrorists indulge in back home.

★ ★ ★

A full-time UDR soldier, Stuart Aaron Conly, of Woodlawn Heights, Richhill, County Armagh, and a British army cadet, Gary Fox, of Bellevue Terrace, Richhill, were in court this week on arson charges.

The dynamic duo had admitted setting fire to huts at an Enterprise Ulster building site in Richhill, causing £2,500 worth of damage.

Fox had told the RUC:

"I took part in the burning of the huts because they're all Fenians who work there."

Had Conly received a prison sentence he would have had to leave the UDR, so he was let off by the court. Fox is working for a gold Duke of Edinburgh award and hopes to join the UDR, so he walked free as well.

But Judge Robin Rowland was not totally lenient. He told the two arsonists that they were "a disgrace to their families."

★ ★ ★

Also described as 'a disgrace' — this time by a Lisburn magistrate — was UDR soldier Charles Henry Russborough.

He came off duty, got drunk and punched

a man whom he met in a Dunmurray chip shop and recognised as someone he had previously stopped.

He too was allowed to return to duty, having been fined £50.

★ ★ ★

Not so fortunate were father and son Cyril and Kenneth Dawn, of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, who appeared in a court in England this week — also on arson charges.

Between them they formed the 'Orange Action Committee' and carried out minor fire-bombings in Liverpool in protest at the visit of the Pope last year.

Their campaign culminated in an attack in which they dropped a petrol-bomb from an overhead bridge on top of a coach travelling along the M56.

They believed it was *en route* to the Papal Mass in Liverpool that day, but in fact was carrying holiday-makers to North Wales. Luckily there were no injuries.

For their crimes, exacerbated no doubt by their incompetence, they received five years in jail each.

★ ★ ★

Q. Why has Danny Morrison thrown out his collection of old records?

A. Because they were all 78s.



## WHAT'S ON

### IRISH NIGHT

Featuring Clan Dew  
Friday 17th June  
Kavanagh's Hide-out  
KILKILKEEN  
County Monaghan  
Admission £2  
Organised by Sinn Féin

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY  
AT WOLFE TONE'S BIRTHPLACE  
3pm Saturday 18th June  
Wolfe Tone Street  
DUBLIN  
Organised by Sinn Féin

IRISH SOLIDARITY DAYSCHOOL  
10am to 5pm Sunday 19th June  
Crosswinds Community Centre  
Tollcross  
EDINBURGH  
Speakers, exhibition, video, workshop  
& plenary — creche available  
Admission £1.50 (waged), 75p (unwaged)

PICKET OF INQUEST ON  
EAMONN BYRNE  
(Shot dead by gardai at Dublin Docks)  
1.30pm Monday 20th June  
Coroner's Court  
Store Street  
DUBLIN

THE MEDIA & THE AMENDMENT  
PUBLIC MEETING  
8pm Wednesday 22nd June  
ATGWU HALL  
Marlbrough Street  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the Campaign for Freedom  
in the Press & Broadcasting

CARTY/CROWLEY/LOUGHRAN  
ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL  
(10th Anniversary)  
Featuring The Irish Brigade  
8.30pm Friday 24th June  
The Kells Room  
Donnelly's Lounge  
William Street  
DUNGANNON  
Admission £1

IRISH SOCIAL NIGHT  
Featuring Joe McShane & Foggy Dew  
9pm Friday 24th June  
Blue Anchor Inn  
BELLURGAN  
County Louth  
Admission £1  
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach  
Bus from Dundalk calls at O'Neill's  
shop 8.15pm; Muirehnavmore, Church  
Street 8.25pm; and Clann na nGael's  
8.35pm

CARTY/CROWLEY/LOUGHRAN  
COMMEMORATION  
(10th Anniversary)  
Saturday 25th June  
Edendork Cemetery  
EDENDORK  
County Tyrone

MEDIA WORKSHOP  
Saturday & Sunday  
June 25th & 26th  
15 Cable Street  
DERRY

Workshops on photography, posterlay-out  
silk-screen printing, duplicating &  
preparation of press releases and articles  
Telephone Derry 6826 for details

CHRISTY MOORE CONCERT  
(In aid of prisoners' dependants)  
9pm Sunday 26th June  
County Arms Hotel  
BIRR  
County Offaly  
Admission £3.50  
Organised by Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN SOCIAL  
Featuring local artists  
9pm Friday 1st July  
County Hotel  
WEXFORD  
Bar extension  
Tickets, at £5 each, are obtainable from  
Tony Wade, 74 The Faythe, or Peter  
Redmond, 9 Mount George, Wexford

FEILE ORIEL MUINEACHAN  
(Monaghan's festival of traditional Irish  
music, song and dance in Oriel's most  
progressive town including 'The Fiddler  
of Oriel', Ireland's foremost traditional  
fiddle competition — over £300 in  
prize money)  
Saturday & Sunday  
9th & 10th July  
MONAGHAN TOWN  
Details from Monaghan 82209 or 81480

BOBBY SANDS  
COMMEMORATION RALLY  
2pm Sunday 10th July  
MULLAGHMORE  
County Sligo  
Speakers include Owen Carron, Neil  
Blaney, John Joe McGill, Daclan  
Bree, Tommy Higgins & Larry Mc-  
Gowan



TV

# Marathon mania

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

NINE THOUSAND women aged from 14 to 70 ran in the first Irish Women's Marathon last Sunday in Dublin. Why the commentators insisted on referring deprecatingly to a 'mini' marathon, I don't understand.

A six-mile race, a lot of it uphill, looked fairly maxi to those of us who collapse red-faced and gasping after running for a bus.

Just to make us feel worse, RTE followed its coverage of the marathon with a report from America where a 74-year-old grandmother, Bess James, has had a 10-mile marathon named after her. She ran in it herself.

"I didn't win," she said. "There was a bunch of people in front of me but there was a bigger bunch behind me."

She wasn't even puffed. There is a lot of pressure on us all at the moment to get fit. Every channel has its own series exhorting viewers

ever, be a jogger!

## SANITATION

There are always people who think they know what's best for the rest of us.

The *History Around You* series in the schools' programmes last Wednesday week was a history of Victorian sanitation. A sewer tour, in fact.

Now a film of sewers, washhouses and so on might not seem like the sort of programme to bring an instant glaze to the eyes, but it was fascinating.

The Victorian upper classes first of all forced the working classes to live in appalling slums without running water or toilets, without even light in most cases.

Diseases flourished in these conditions so the rich Victorian philanthropists decided the poor would have to be regularly washed. Bath-houses were built, sewers constructed, and the



Winners of the first Irish Women's Marathon: Carey May (2nd place), Katy Schiller (1st) and Margaret Kelly (3rd)

poor told that cleanliness was next to Godliness.

The public swimming baths in industrial English towns were primarily intended to clean their users. The Victorians didn't really intend the poor to enjoy

themselves - and it was many a year before that precious water came out of a tap in a worker's home.

I have a nagging fear that the fitness phenomenon is the modern version of that clean-

liness next to Godliness campaign and is somehow tied up in an Orwellian conspiracy with Margaret Thatcher's 'return to Victorian values'.

Next year, 1984, marathons may well be compulsory.

# So this is democracy

WHILE many in Ireland lay tucked up in bed last Thursday night preparing for the excitement of Friday's election count in the North, AP/RN's Eddie Stack remained wide awake in the small hours witnessing 'democracy in action' across the water.

Remote control in hand, he monitored with increasing stupefaction, the labour pains of the 'mother of parliaments', and below reports on a truly moving experience.

BY EDDIE STACK

AS ELECTION night dawned (if night can dawn) only one question throbbed in the mind of the tension-fraught viewer. Would he still be awake to watch *Bullit* with Steve McQueen at 4 o'clock in the morning?

At the BBC the set resembled the bridge of the Starship Enterprise. Swathed in plush yellow carpets the background hummed and bleeped with monitors, computer read-outs and digital displays. David Dimbleby was Captain Kirk, Peter Snow was Mr Spock. Mission: to foretell the future.

At ITN Alastair Burnet had something to tell us:

"Polls can say one thing, but it's the actual results that count."

The earth shook below my feet. This was true.

ITN had also invested in technology. There above Ghana the stratosphere stood silent witness to the ITV satellite, beaming us pictures of David Steel's house in Scotland. This added some excitement to the night. If the satellite was built by a Russian it might possibly fall to earth and hit someone important.

Compared to this, RTE was small beer.

The legendary British West Brit Journalist, Bruce Arnold, was invited in to explain to the ignorant Irish masses why Maggie was a good thing.

"She's stuck to her guns," said sluicely Bruce, his lips awash with spittles of admiration. "Our country could do with a bit of her..."

Quick, back to BBC.

10.30pm and not a result in sight. ITN has no results either. The polls say Maggie will win but as Alastair Burnet reminds us:

"Polls can say one thing, but it's the actual results that count."

Do we have a result in Reigate? No, not yet. Back to David Dimbleby.

"We are waiting for the results," he tells us.

Still no action.

For ITN Alastair tells us: "We'll be talking to anyone who's anyone."

The camera zooms in on an empty chair.

A politician looms into sight.

It is Michael Foot heading towards the polling station in his unpronounceable Welsh constituency. Tired and broken, his face is splintered into a thousand sorrows reflecting the deep anguish of a man who knows his time has come and gone. Despite all his efforts the '80s will be Conservative.

The results start coming in. Three Tory seats to nil.

"On this result we predict a Tory vote of 42%," says Alastair Burnet. "But remember, polls can say one thing, but it's the actual results that count."

Suddenly we are in Hillhead in Glasgow. It is the constituency of that die-hard middle-of-the-road man Roy Jenkins, the 'formidable' leader of those famous mule-breakers, the SDP.

## TURNCOAT

So formidable is Roy, or Woy, as he calls himself, that they have made massive boundary changes to accommodate him, in the process leaving in several thousand horrible nasty members of the working class.

In the counting hall Woy is faced with a hundred Labour supporters baying for his blood.

"Get back to Brussels you turncoat bastard!" they scream at him, drowning the hall in waves of deafening noise.

Woy smiles wanly. These working-class people are causing wather a woy. Woy doesn't like a wuckus. The result is wead out and Woy is saved from oblivion. He must still

be regarded as a politician of the first...er...rank.

The Labour supporters are now calling for a lynching: "A very lively atmosphere here in Hillhead," says the commentator, sweat bouncing off his microphone.

12.30am and a sea of blue marks is beginning to cover the map of England.

Dr David Owen is on in his Plymouth constituency. Now let's see if his Falklands flag-waving last summer has paid off. The people of Plymouth, flag-wavers all, give him a big majority. Owen turns round to kiss a pair of teeth and a wig. It is his wife.

## WAYSIDE

One by one the legends of the Labour left fall by the wayside. Out goes Joan Lestor. And out goes the biggest prize of all: the former Anthony Wedgewood Benn. Always in danger, Benn had been scuppered by a big SDP vote in his new boundryfied constituency. The cheer that greeted his defeat from the City of London was recorded on the Richter scale.

On ITN Alastair Burnet's big screen flashed the joyous news: "Benn out." At long last, profit could sleep safely in its bank at night.

With considerable dignity Benn drew up to the microphone:

"First of all, we must thank the Charists and Suffragettes to whom each election is a testament of their struggle."

A telling point in Britain which had just seen an election dominated by the thought that democracy was the most precious jewel in the Tory crown; a democracy thankfully protected by the Tory media so that people did not abuse their



Alastair Burnet: "Polls can say one thing, but it's the actual results that count."

democracy by voting against the chosen party of capital.

The boundary changes also did a lot to safeguard democracy. It took an average of 40,000 votes to get a Tory elected, but over 60,000 to get a Labourite in. No Labour big-wig wheeled before the camera could find it in him to make this point. So used to fudging and squirming around they could not find in themselves the will to make points in their own self-interest.

Sunny Jim Callaghan knows how to play the system, however. His professional foul on nuclear weapons may have made a nonsense of the Labour manifesto but it had saved his bacon in his Cardiff constituency.

As the votes were counted out for the Freedom from World Domination candidate, Sunny Jim smiled at the thought of sitting around Westminster doing nothing much for the next five years, except perhaps sharing a bottle of whiskey with his old mate Denis.

Now that the whole week of elections is over I have found a new way to send myself to sleep at night. I simply try and count all the jobs John Hume has before passing out into blissful slumber.

Healey and discussing the good old days of public sector cuts and bank loans from the IMF.

## BATMAN

3am and where is the hero of the hour?

Mrs Thatcher, her eyes ablaze with the vision of five more years of class warfare ahead, is hurtling towards the count in her Finchley constituency. There she faces a threat from Screaming Lord Sutch and the Law and Order Gotham City candidate - according to my notes, Batman's old constituency.

The threat passes. Back in her car we see her hurtling back through town towards the Tory HQ. A sign flashes up on the screen: "Live from Mrs Thatcher's car." We are greeted with a view of her neckline just where the pancake make-up meets the double chin. On and on drives the car.

Back at headquarters they are waiting for the Ladeslane. By golly, Mrs Wrigglesworth Farley Caley and Mr Bunbun Stanthorpe Benson and Hedges Ellsworth are going to be terribly naughty tonight.

Still the car drives on and on, Hope springs to the breast. Perhaps Mark Thatcher is driving and they will never be seen again. No such luck. Thatcher slides out of the car into the adoring crowd with her snivelling husband in tow.

"Give her one tonight, Denis," shouts someone from the mob. Thatcher disappears. The democratic process is complete. It is 3.45 in the morning.

Now that the whole week of elections is over I have found a new way to send myself to sleep at night. I simply try and count all the jobs John Hume has before passing out into blissful slumber.

# Bad news is good news

BY JOE McVEIGH

AN INTERESTING single from Belfast outfit Hit Parade rolled through the letter-box the other day. There are four songs: *Here's What You Find in Any Prison*, *More Faces*, the title track, *Bad News*, and *H-Block*, together with yards of sleeve notes in the form of articles on rubber bullets, media clap-trap, and the H-Blocks.

Like most political records, the words are better than the melodies, but there is plenty of imagination, power and humour in the four songs.

*Here's What You Find in Any Prison* opens with the gentle strains of *Theme from Harry's Game* being drowned by a synthesised helicopter and a loud aggressive beat. The vocals are like a chant and it's good to hear a genuine, unposed accent

among the electronics: "What do you find in the state's own prison?"

"Those who fight against the system, The working class fill it to the door,

"No rich, no Brits, just the poor."

The phrase 'just the poor' is repeated randomly at the end; touches like this, plus sound effects and snatches of taped voi-

ces (including a few guest vocals from Margaret Thatcher) make up for the lack of melody.

*More Faces*, for example, starts with telephone sounds and the voice, "This is the police confidential telephone. Please speak after the tone," the tone becoming a quivering synthesiser, introducing the trusty drum machine.

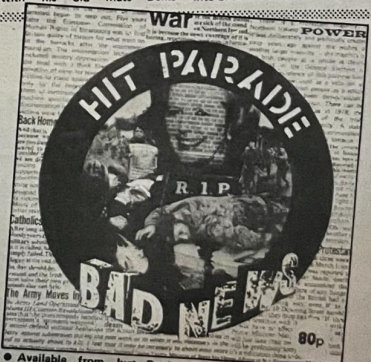
*Bad News* is about the rubbish and propaganda on TV. It starts with a suspiciously stoned voice giggling, "We watch the TV some nights," and the brilliant lyric:

"We watch the TV every night, Jesus! What a load of

shit." *H-Block* is a stark relentless reminder of the hunger-strikes, with tape snippets driving home the message of the lyrics. It ends with Thatcher intoning blandly, "I understand the tragedy of Northern Ireland. People say we've been inflexible - we haven't." "We haven't, we haven't," picks up the echo and repeats ad nauseum.

A lot of work went into this production - the rhythms, effects and tape collages. It is brash, real, energetic and even comes with its own joke scratched on the vinyl:

"Why are jokes about the Irish so stupid? So that the British can understand them." Well worth the spin at Stg80p.



Available from Just Books, 7 Wintertown Street, Belfast. Price Stg80p plus postage.





## Bodenstown buses

**DROGHEDA BUS**  
11am Bull Ring  
Tickets £3

**DUBLIN BUSES**  
11.45am Finglas Village  
12 noon Annesley Bridge  
North Strand  
Bookings at 5 Blessington Street or local AP/RN sellers

12 noon St Catherine's Church  
Thomas Street  
Picking up at Liberties/Inchicore/  
Clondalkin  
Bookings at AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square

12.15pm Kilmore Road  
Ballyfermot  
12.30pm Art Gallery  
Parnell Square  
Bookings at 5 Blessington Street

12.30pm St Patrick's Church  
Ringend  
Book with local AP/RN sellers

1pm Killenard Pub  
Tallaght  
Tickets £2.50 (waged), £2 (unwaged)

**DUN LAOGHAIRE BUS**  
11am Rambler's Rest Pub  
Ballybrack  
11.30am St Michael's Church  
Dun Laoghaire  
12 noon Blackrock Church  
Ticket £3  
Bookings with Cathleen (phone 726932)

**KERRY BUSES**  
8.30am Brandon Car Park, Tralee  
Picking up at Ardfer/Causeway/Balduff/  
Lisselton Cross/Listowel & Tarbert  
Tickets £7 available from Maurice  
Dowling or Liam Cotter

**LURGAN BUS**  
Bookings at Sinn Féin office,  
North Street, Lurgan,  
or Sinn Féin members  
Tickets £4

**MONAGHAN BUSES**  
10.30am Main Street, Castleblayney  
Picking up at Inniskeen at 11am  
10.30am The Diamond, Clones  
10.30am Knockattol Church  
10.30am Church Square, Monaghan town

**WEXFORD BUSES**  
10am St Peter's Square  
Wexford  
11am New Ross  
11.30am Enniscorthy  
Tickets £4 available from  
Tony Wade or Peter Redmond, Wexford  
Pat Walsh or Mick Keane, New Ross  
John O'Byrne or Sean Doyle, Enniscorthy

# Irish Lesson

33

d'imigh mé (dimig may) — I went  
(sway)

tháinig mé (hawing may) — I came  
ríth mé (ríh may) — I ran  
shíuil mé (hyoo-il may) — I walked  
thit mé (hit may) — I fell  
isteach (ishti) — into, in  
amach (lumch) — out, to, out  
go dtí (guh dee) — towards  
abhaile (lwoolyeh) — home  
Corcaigh (kurkig) — Cork  
Gaillimh (Gollyiv) — Galway

D'imigh tú amach — You went out.  
Tháinig sé isteach — He came out.  
Ríth sí go dtí Corcaigh — She ran to

**PRONUNCIATION**  
THE pronunciation given in brackets is  
as near as possible to the sound.

CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE.  
D and T before A O and U are thick,  
spoken with the tongue pressed against  
the upper front teeth.

DH and GH are like a G far back in  
the throat — almost a gargle.

Cork.  
Shíuil mé go dtí an Ghaillimh — I walked  
to Galway.  
Thit tú isteach sa phairc — You fell into  
the field.  
Tháinig sí isteach go dtí an chistin — She  
came into the kitchen.

D'imigh mé go dtí Corcaigh anuair —  
I went off to Cork last year.

**PHRASES**

- 1 — Thit an log ar an lag air (hit un  
lug err an log err) — It was the last  
straw for him.
- 2 — 'Sé do bheatha abhaile (shay duh  
vahuu uwoolyeh) — You're welcome  
home.
- 3 — Tháinig mé ar mhálaire aigne  
(hawing may err woler agunh) — I  
changed my mind (I came on a  
change of mind).
- 4 — Ríth se lena anam (ríb shay luh  
nuh onum) — He ran for his life.

## Memories

**JORDAN, Francis, (8th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Francis Jordan, Oglagh na hÉireann, South Armagh, who died in action on June 4th 1975. "Wherever death may surprise us, it will be welcome provided that this, our battle cry, reaches some receptive ear that another hand stretches out to take up weapons and that other men come forward to join our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine guns and new cries of battle and victory." Never forgotten by the officers and families of the Francis Jordan unit, Na Flanna Éireann, South Armagh.

**McELVANNA, Peadar, (4th Anniversary).** Oglagh na hÉireann, Armagh City, remember with pride Vol Peadar McElvanna who was shot dead while on active service on June 9th 1979. "Lay him away on the hillside, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold." Godaig go díol, chomhfid.

**McELVANNA, Peadar, (4th Anniversary).** The republican POWs from Armagh city in jails in Ireland and England remember with pride Vol Peadar McElvanna, Oglagh na hÉireann, South Armagh, who died in action on June 9th 1979. Fuair sé bás ar aoidh ar son na Saoirse.

**McELVANNA, Peadar, (4th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Peadar McElvanna, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead while on active service on June 9th 1979. "The fools, the fools, the fools, they have left us our Frank and Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Never forgotten by the republican ex-prisoners, Armagh city.

**McELVANNA, Peadar, (4th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Peadar McElvanna, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead while on active service on June 9th 1979. "The fools, the fools, the fools, they have left us our Frank and Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Never forgotten by the republican ex-prisoners, Armagh city.

## SYMPATHY

**HALPENNY, ROONEY, Dun Dealgan.** An Cumann Cabhrach extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Michael Joseph St Brigid's Terrace, Dundalk, who died on June 10th. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam. Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mrs Mary Rooney, Clannagh Cross, who died recently. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam.

**McKEOWN, The republicans, POWs, Long Kesh,** extend their deepest sympathy to Laurence McKee and family on the death of the beloved mother, Margaret, who died suddenly at home in Randalstown on Wednesday, June 8th. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for her.

**McKEOWN, The McCann/Grant and Joe McDonnell, Sinn Féin cumainn,** Toombridge and Antrim towns, extend their deepest sympathy to the McKee family on the sad loss of their mother, Margaret.

**TURLEY, "And if you die and I am left, my darling, let not your dying thoughts be all for me, but breathe a prayer to God for our dear Ireland and she shall hear and surely set me free. And I shall take your place in my hand my dear, strike a blow, that weal or blow might be, to help the cause to which your heart is nearest and you shall sleep in peace until I come to the day when I shall see you shall never die. Soireas! Sadly missed by his sister Mary and brother-in-law Pat McNicol." New Ross. I shall be proud, Dan, where you died and you to continue what you left unfinished.**

**TURLEY, Deepest sympathy to the family of my dear friend, Dan, who died on June 9th 1983. May heaven keep the men who sleep from the ranks of the old brigade." A Muire na nGael éan idir a anam. Mass offered. O PGI.**

**WEEVER, Mayo Sinn Féin comhairle** extend their deepest sympathy to the family of the late Luke Weever.

## GREETINGS

**BLAKE, Stephen; CLARKE, Tony; NORREY, Paul; O'NEILL, Eddie, (Albany).** Greetings to the four roof-top heroes, Stevie, Steve, Billy, and Tony Clarke, Paul Norrey and Eddie O'Neill, Cheers, lads. From Raymond and all the republican POWs in Long Kesh.

**CLARKE, Terry, (H-Block).** Happy birthday, Big Terry. Next year a free man. Also love and sympathy to Ronnie McCartney and to his comrades in English, American and Free State jails. Mo ghrá, UTP. From Róisin, Oregon, USA, xxx

**CUNNINGHAM, Anthony; GILLESPIE, Anns; HOLMES, Paul (Long Lartin, Styal & Leeds).** All the very best on your birthdays. From Mary, Raymond and Patrick McLaughlin.

**HOLMES, Paul; McFADDEN, Con, (Leeds & Long Lartin).** Birthday greetings and best wishes. Paul and Con, from Winkinstown An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin.

**HOLMES, Paul; McFADDEN, Con, (Leeds & Long Lartin).** Happy birthday, Paul and Con. We're thinking of you. From the Sinn Féin POW Dept, Dublin.

**LEAHY, Pat, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday, Pat. We'll have a pint for you, next year we'll have one together. From Carol and Pat.

**LEAHY, Pat, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday and best wishes. It won't be long now, Pat. See you soon. From Tom and Kathleen.

**LEAHY, Pat, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday and best wishes. We'll have a good do next year, Pat. From Austin and Angela, Dolores and Tom; Laura and Liam; Renie and Danny; Tommy and Gerry; and Bernie and Buddy.

**LEAHY, Pat, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday and best wishes, Pat. From me, da and all the family.

**LEAHY, Pat; SLOAN, Tony, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday, the best wishes. Pat and Tony. From the Sinn Féin POW Dept, Dublin.

**McNALLY, Dermot, (H-Block).** Belated birthday greetings. Dermot. Love from Cathy and Seamus.

**McNALLY, Dermot, (H-Block).** Birthday greetings. Dermot. Love from Ann, Moore, Gerry, (H-Block). Congratulations, Gerry, to you and Alison on your

**engagement.** Best wishes from Seamus and Cathy.

**SLOAN, Tony, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday and anniversary, Tony. Thinking of you always. Love from Marian, Sarah and Anthony.

**SLOAN, Tony, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday, Tony. From mum, dad and all at Westview Pass.

**SLOAN, Tony, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday, Tony. I hope your beard grows. Lots of love from your favourite sister, Linda.

**SLOAN, Tony, (Portlaoise).** Happy birthday, Tony and best wishes to you and Marian on your wedding anniversary. Love from the Cunningham family.

**O'BRIEN, Fitz, (Crumlin Road).** Happy birthday to the young 22nd. Don't be taking too much beer or you will never be able to climb back over the wall. God bless. Love from mum and dad, UTP.

**O'BRIEN, Fitz, (Crumlin Road).** Congratulations on your 22nd birthday. May your next be spent in freedom. From your brothers Terry and Colin (OB).

**O'BRIEN, Fitz, (Crumlin Road).** Happy 22nd birthday. Hope your next will be spent in freedom. God bless. From your brother Adrian and Noel.

**O'BRIEN, Fitz, (Crumlin Road).** Happy birthday on this your 22nd. Hope you get home soon. From your lovely sister and brother-in-law Marie and John. Also from your loving sister Helen and brother-in-law Peter.

**O'BRIEN, Fitz, (Crumlin Road).** Congratulations on your 22nd birthday. Always thinking of you. From your loving sister Anita. UTP.

**O'BRIEN, Fitz, (Crumlin Road).** Happy birthday, flower. May your next be spent in freedom. I'll have a pint on you. From your loving sister Winnie Nieces Sinead and Orla and nephew Mark.

## Draw results

**An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin**  
May Draw  
£100: 368; £50: 141; £25: 203;  
£10: 53, 288; £5: 40, 54, 176, 193,  
303 & 370.  
Ballyfermot/Inchicore Sinn Féin, Dublin  
May Draw  
£100: No. 93; £50: 7; £25: 88; £5: 81,  
204, 205, 279.  
Belfast Sinn Féin  
1st: E. Flannigan, Westrock Drive; 2nd: V. McCarthy, Marlborough Avenue; 3rd: P. McNulty, Beechmount Pass.  
Dundalk POW 200 Draw  
£100: No. 90, McCann grandchild; £50: 379, Mrs Clarke; £25: 398, Mollie Rogan; £10: 201, Anne Byrne; 239, Paddy Finnegan; 36, Paul Burke; 87, Paddy McCarthy; 18, Mrs Connolly; 19, Lagan Valley Sinn Féin 200 Club  
£100: M. O'Neill, c/o Hitchin Post;

**S. Down Sinn Féin Weekly Draw**  
May 8th, £100: G. Sloan, Restovore; £50: J. McCarthy, Restovore; £25: J. J. McAvoy, Killcock; £10: G. Davey, Annullagh.  
May 8th, £100: B. Milligan, Castlemeane; £20: P. Fitzpatrick, Killcock; £20: S. Hayes, Restovore; £10: R. S. O'Connell, Downpatrick; £10: K. McPolin, Hilltown.  
May 23rd, £100: E. Fitzpatrick, Killcock; £20: P. Brannigan, Killcock; £20: U. Fennell, Downpatrick; £10: K. McPolin, Hilltown.  
May 30th, £100: S. Murnin, Hilltown; £20: P. Brannigan, Hilltown; £20: S. McCarthy, Longstone; £10: P. Cooper, Restovore.

**S. Tyrone Sinn Féin Building Fund**  
Week 11  
£100: A. Alana Dillon, Coalisland; £30: Gerard Stenger, Dungannon; £20: Mary Miller, Eglis.



# The battle of Ballynahinch

BY PETER O'ROURKE

**HENRY MUNRO, a linen draper and prominent United Irishman, was born in Lisburn, County Antrim, in 1768.**

A Presbyterian, he was an ardent advocate of Catholic emancipation and to forward this object he joined the Society of the United Irishmen in 1795. He had been a Volunteer and always had a taste for military studies. At the outbreak of the 1798 Rising he was chosen to command the United Irishmen in County Down and seized the town of Ballynahinch where he established his headquarters.

"A mixed and motley multitude met the eye," an eye-witness wrote of the Irish forces assembled at Ballynahinch. "They wore no uniforms yet they pre-

ferred the Ballynahinch took place on June 13th when about 16,000 British troops under General Nugent attacked the town. Although heavily outnumbered, the United Irishmen fought courageously, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy before being eventually overpowered.

**COURT-MARTIAL**  
Shortly afterwards, Munro was captured, tried by court-martial and executed at Lisburn, opposite his own door and in front of his wife and infant daughter. His head was cut off, fixed on a pike and exhibited in the market place.

Henry Munro, at the early age of 30, perished upon the scaffold on June 16th 1798.



# Intimidation at the polls

BY JANE PLUNKETT

**THE 102,701 people who voted for Sinn Féin candidates on June 9th did so defiantly, refusing to be intimidated by the harassment conducted throughout the day by members of the crown forces, aided and abetted in many areas by SDLP and Workers' Party polling agents who insisted that the RUC arrest many innocent nationalist voters for alleged personation.**

In many areas of the six counties, the crown forces were much in evidence. Inside the polling stations, heavily armed RUC men kept up a constant intimidatory presence.

Outside, many nationalists had to pass lines of RUC men and British soldiers as they went to cast their votes. On the streets of nationalist West Belfast, with the scent of a Sinn Féin victory in the air, the almost festive atmosphere — as adults streamed excitedly into the polling stations and hordes of children clamoured for Sinn Féin stickers and badges — was broken several times each hour by the sinister appearance of the RUC and British army, who would descend from their landrovers and surround the entrance to the polling station, finally departing only to be replaced minutes later by another patrol.

## RELENTLESS

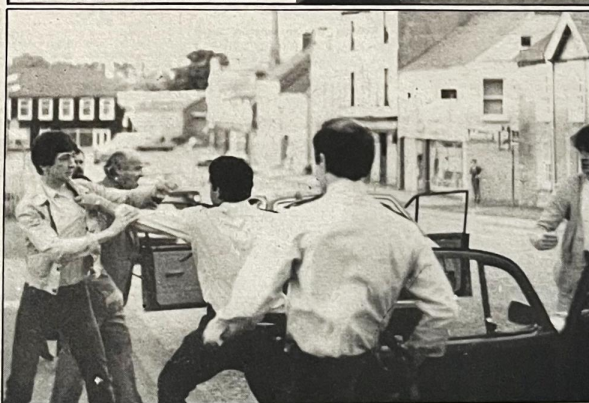
In nationalist areas of Lurgan and Portadown, in the Upper Bann constituency, the UDR was particularly active. Throughout the day, SDLP cars were waved, unhindered, through roadblocks, while UDR soldiers regularly stopped poster-bedecked Sinn Féin vehicles carrying voters to the polling stations, and took car registration numbers and drivers' names.

In North Belfast, as in other areas, the crown forces frequently stopped Sinn Féin drivers, numbers of whom were charged with minor vehicle offences.

Sinn Féin's East Derry candidate, John Davey, and one of his election workers were detained for 30 minutes by the RUC while driving through Feeny. And in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone constituency, Owen Carron was detained for 30 minutes at a UDR roadblock between Aughnacloy and Caledon. Shortly afterwards, at Caledon, his car was stopped for a further half-hour, this time by the RUC.

At around 7pm on Thursday evening, Carron's Lisnakea election headquarters in the strongly nationalist Donagh estate was raided by about 50 RUC men, some armed with plastic bullet guns, who broke down

● (Above) The RUC try to break up Sinn Féin supporters outside Derry's Guildhall on June 9th; (Below) Election workers in South Antrim, like many throughout the North, get a taste of the RUC's respect for the 'democratic process'



the doors of the portakabin with batons to gain entry. The RUC men tore up election registers, batoning those who objected. When local women left their houses, the RUC men hastily withdrew, taking several electoral registers and other election material with them, but making no arrests.

The RUC's sectarian bigotry had rebounded on them that morning after East Derry Sinn Féin candidate John Davey demanded the removal of a Union Jack flown illegally at the door of the polling station in nationalist Bellaghy. The Deputy Returning Officer for the East Derry constituency, a Mr Dewart of Ballymena, initially refused to take any action, but eventually capitulated and began to take down the flag himself.

At this point, three RUC men, apparently thinking that Dewart was a Sinn Féin worker, seized the Deputy Returning Officer for the said constituency and brought him to his knees, all three clearly unimpressed by his frantic cries of 'I'm in charge! I'm in charge!' Only after 20 minutes did the RUC men finally agree to remove the Union Jack.

Throughout the day, voters in many constituencies faced a massive intimidation campaign instigated by the SDLP and the Workers' Party. In West Belfast, the SDLP made no effort to leaflet people on their way to the polls, but instead, with the Workers' Party, concentrated their efforts inside the polling halls. As SDLP candidate Joe Hendron boasted that day: 'My election workers are stopping people left, right and centre, challenging them and having them arrested.'

## ARRESTS

In some polling stations this extensive and disruptive blanket challenging of voters drew protests from electoral officials. The principal targets were working-class nationalists, particularly young people, whom both parties apparently expected would vote for Sinn Féin. As a result of these tactics, at least 30 West Belfast people were arrested while legitimately voting.

In Roslea, County Fermanagh, an SDLP polling agent insisted that the RUC arrest 25-year-old Eileen McCabe, a well-known Fermanagh Herald reporter, for alleged per-

sonation, even after she had produced her press card, driving licence and library tickets as proof of her identity.

In North Belfast, five Sinn Féin voters were arrested and plan to take legal action, while in the Foyle constituency, in the republican Creggan estate alone, SDLP polling agents working for John Hume had three people arrested who were claiming their own votes.

One man who featured prominently in the 'personation' scare was Joseph Linton of Gransha Park, West Belfast, a photograph of whom being arrested at St Teresa's polling booth appeared in both the *Irish News* and *Sunday News*.

Linton answered RUC detectives' questions but was nevertheless held for nearly 12 hours until the polls closed. He was unable to cast his vote and is to appear in court on June 23rd, but himself intends to sue for wrongful arrest.

## QUESTIONING

Other innocent people were released from custody and finally allowed to vote only after they had undergone extensive questioning by the RUC about their work, relatives, and neighbours and, in many cases, had allowed their fingerprints and photographs to be taken.

Despite concerted intimidation from so many sources, at 10pm, as the polls closed, election workers were confident that nationalists had turned out in strength to vote for Sinn Féin.

The harassment was not over, however. Monday saw the start of a predicted RUC backlash. At 6.30 that morning, two Upper Bann Sinn Féin election workers, Sam Marshall and Laurence Stevenson, were arrested from their homes in Lurgan and detained under Section 11 of the Emergency Provisions Act. A large force of RUC raided and ransacked the Derrybeg home of one of Jim McAllister's election workers, P.J. Blair, who was detained in Gough Barracks, also under a three-day order. The previous Wednesday, June 8th, Blair had been arrested while out poster and detained for an hour in Newry RUC Barracks.