

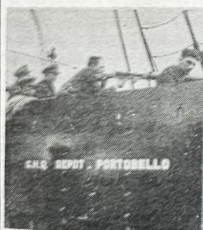


Gathering of the Clans

4



Tragedies of Kerry



10/11



Edentubber



17

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

50p

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND
WALES 55p

Scrúth Nua Iml 20 Uimhir 46

Déardaoin 13 Samhain 1997

SPLIT STORIES SLAMMED

**IRA talks to
An Phoblacht**
— PAGE 9

35 said to have quit IRA in south Armagh

By Suzanne Breen
in Belfast

racism and non-violence were "un-

Thirty-five members of the 1

Other sources said "Enough, enough."

Act 1

magi

Peace talks row sparks rift in Sinn Féin

By TOM BRADY and JEROME REILLY

SINN FÉIN has hit out at "mischievous elements in the media" who are trying to manufacture a split in the party. Speaking on Wednesday Gerry Kelly, Sinn Féin negotiator and representative for North Belfast, said:

"There are mischievous elements in the media and some people working in the background who are trying to add fuel to start the fire which will destroy the peace process. The very legitimate concerns that people are raising are increased by the lack of any

real movement in the talks."

He also said he knew "of nothing that would give substance to today's story that there have been resignations from the South Armagh area".

Kelly emphasised "the need to replace the old security agenda, which is still being

ty-five members of the 1

Other sources said "Enough, enough."

Act 1

magi

An IRA spokesperson has told *An Phoblacht* that: "Those who are set on promoting division or a split within the IRA will themselves be disappointed to learn that the IRA remains intact, united and committed."

pursued by elements within the British establishment, with confidence building measures. These include the release of all political prisoners, an end to harassment and the

withdrawal of British troops. There is a need to begin a process of demilitarisation, particularly the dismantlement of British military fortifications throughout the Six Counties."

Dúirt Siad...



In France, the goal — forcing employers to honour commitments made a year ago, raise salaries and decrease working hours — was seen to justify the extreme means. The Jospin government openly sided with the truckers. Mr Jean Claude Gayssot, the Communist Transport Minister, warmed his hands around a camp fire with trade union activists at a Le Mans barricade.

Lara Marlowe on the French truckers' victory, *Irish Times*, Saturday 8 November.

The bedrock upon which the nationalist community has endured 75 years of bigotry and injustice.

Sinn Féin Chairperson, Mitchel McLaughlin on the Six-County judicial system, *Irish News*, Saturday 8 November.

There is quite simply a massive military presence in South Armagh, the like of which does not exist anywhere else in Ireland or Britain or anywhere else in Western Europe.

The SDLP's Séamus Mallon, *Irish News*, Saturday 8 November.

Would it be too much to ask of these bridge saboteurs to have the decency and dignity to respect the wishes of the majority by laying down their poison pens and calling a ceasefire in their mean-spirited campaign against their fellow citizens north of the border.

Letter to the *Irish Times*, Saturday 8 November, on some sections of the 'neo-loyalist' media in the South.

If the talks are going to move up a gear, that's OK. But if there's a flat on the car, it won't make any difference. We think the unionists are the flat tyre.

Senior republican source on the Stormont talks, *Ireland on Sunday*, 9 November.

Just as in the assembly, they have been abusive, obstructive, name-calling and generally behaving like comerboys.

Tim Pat Coogan on the unionists in the Stormont talks, *Ireland on Sunday*, 9 November.

There can be no rest until the harsh gap between the comfortable and the struggling has been bridged.

Mary McAleese at her inauguration, *Irish Times*, Wednesday 12 November.

Unless there is a swift change of attitude then the talks will flounder on the rock of nationalist intransigence.

Peter Weir of the UUP talks team at Stormont.

Either to continue to prop up Sinn Féin, or to try to agree a constructive relationship with their fellow countrymen in Northern Ireland.

Peter Weir again on the SDLP.

BACK ISSUES

Frank Stagg's body laid to rest

IN THE DARK HOURS of last Sunday morning, in the rainswept Leigue Cemetery, Ballina, County Mayo, Volunteer Frank Stagg was honourably laid to rest, with republican comrades finally handling the remains of his body.

An IRA salute was fired over the Republican Plot where Frank's last wish "to be buried next to my republican colleagues and my comrade Michael Gaughan" was fulfilled. His mother Mrs Stagg said: "I am glad to have lived to see the day when Frank could finally rest in peace."

Frank Stagg died whilst on hunger strike for almost 50 days in Wakefield Prison, England, at about 6am on Thursday 12 February 1976. Twenty-one months ago the ghouls of the then ruling Free State coalition hijacked his body by diverting the plane carrying his remains to Dublin. At Shannon Airport an army helicopter carried off the coffin to Mayo, and at Leigue cemetery it was unhappily interred in an ordinary grave. Members of Frank's family, including his mother, boycotted this calculated desecration and the Republican Movement paid its own respects on Sunday 22 February, pledging that Frank's last wishes would be fulfilled.

Republican News, Saturday 12 November 1977.

Editor's Desk

An interesting comment slipped from the mouth of Mo Mowlam when she went to the Belfast Forum last Friday. During a little argy-bargy with the DUP she was asked about her attitude to Sinn Féin (along the lines of "why are you talking to these people who grill babies for breakfast?").

Mowlam's reply was: "We will treat them as human beings while they are trying to work for peace in the talks process."

Note the "while". That of course means that Mo will treat Sinn Féiners as less than human if she thinks they aren't trying to work for peace in the talks process. Is this yet another Labour shift towards Thatcherite policies?

Editor's Desk

On Tuesday, during the presidential inauguration, I wondered how much Sinn Féin had actually "colonised" Mary McAleese's election campaign. It wasn't that the schoolkids in Dublin Castle greeted the Sinn Féin leaders like pop stars. It was when I overheard a young child in O'Connell Street in Dublin referring to the new president as "Mary McAdams".

Editor's Desk

Congratulations to Gerry 'Blute' McDonnell. The former Blanketman, H-



Block escaper and current lifer was out on parole on Tuesday to get married to Christine. Here he is in his wedding suit outside our Belfast office, looking mighty pleased.

Editor's Desk

Fortnight magazine's editorial line (which marries aloof intellectualism and middle-class angst) this month seemed to pin its colours to a very dubious mast. Two articles make the case for changing the definition of "consent" so that it refers to the unionists, rather than to the population of the Six Counties. In other words there will be no change in the constitutional status until a majority of unionists say so. Oh yeah, that makes sense — if you're a unionist.

It is a position which has been quietly argued within unionism for a while now and is designed to allay their fears of any change whatsoever. It is a last desperate clinging to supremacy in a world which is changing all around them. It is interesting that *Fortnight* now seems to be lining up with the most reactionary policy of all.

Editor's Desk

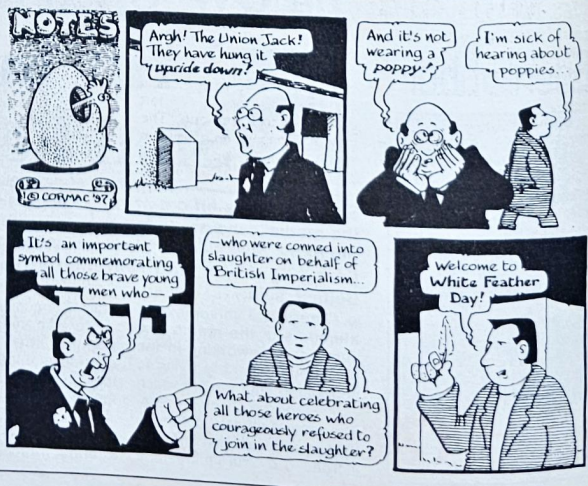
From Australia comes a report that a Royal Australian Navy sailor built a helicopter in his backyard from parts stolen out of navy stores. This impressive feat was possible because of the rampant theft, drug abuse and fraud in the

Australian Navy which began, according to an investigation, when the navy hired police from England in the 1970s.

Editor's Desk

I would like to meet Horace Woolington — if he exists. Horace, you may recall, is the *Daily Telegraph's* number one letter writer from Ireland. His latest offering is a dig at Mary McAleese for not wearing a poppy. He says that she won't make a gesture to the Irishmen who died in British uniform but next year she will "adorn many platforms" recalling the 1798 rebellion, "thus endorsing all the nationalist hysteria which this commemoration will unleash". No word of the unity of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter — no wonder Horace gets his letters printed in the *Daily Telegraph*.

Editor's Desk, *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Phone 8733611 or 8733839. Fax 8733074



A YOUNG Coalisland woman was stopped and seriously assaulted by the RUC as she returned from shops in Dungannon on Friday 7 November.

The Coalisland woman was initially followed out of Mullahoghnor, Dungannon by a single RUC car, when a second RUC car turned up. One car drove in front of her and one behind her, forcing her to stop.

She was asked for and gave her licence and details of movements. But as the RUC

RUC beat up Coalisland woman

went to search her car they pulled her mobile phone out of her hand told her to get out of the car. On searching the boot the all-male RUC gang made insulting remarks about her and her partner.

They continued asking her questions that she had answered and threatened her with arrest if she didn't reply.

The woman was arrested and

her arm was forced up her back as she was forced by two RUC men into the back of a car. In the car she was searched and her car keys were wrenched from her hands. During the struggle she brushed against an RUC man, and he screamed at her, "that's police assault, you bitch you".

The woman was held in Dungannon RUC Barracks and when she requested medical

attention, she was told that she was free to go and to wait in the barracks yard if she wanted a doctor.

At South Tyrone Hospital X-rays were taken and she was treated for cuts and bruises to her chest, arm, legs, legs and neck. A solicitor has been instructed and the local Sinn Féin advice centre contacted.

Meanwhile three members of

the Sinn Féin cumann in Blackwater town were arrested in dawn raids on their homes on Wednesday 5 November by the RUC. While one was released after 12 hours the other two were held for longer at Gough Barracks. Sinn Féin Councillor Francis Molloy said: "These arrests are the latest example of ongoing harassment of nationalists and republicans by the RUC, coming at a time when I am receiving increased complaints of acts of intimidation by crown forces."

Chained to UTV

SINN FÉIN Youth staged a protest last Sunday afternoon at the headquarters of UTV in Belfast. A number of youths chained themselves to the front door of the building while a larger group held a picket.

The protest was against the increasing levels of RUC harassment of young nationalists, and the poor coverage of the harassment in the mainstream media.

A group of 20 youths gathered outside the building intending to occupy the lobby of the television studio. However, as they approached the front door security guards blocked the entrance. The protestors made a sudden dash to chain themselves to the front door.

After negotiations with UTV security, the protest went ahead for an hour and then the youths voluntarily unchained themselves, packed up and went home.

Sinn Féin Youth activist Eoin O Broin said: "Despite continual protests the behaviour of the RUC is getting worse as the weeks go by."

"We have an IRA cessation, we have Stormont talks, but what we don't have is safe harassment-free streets. Petty harassment, informer



Sinn Féin Youth members chained to the front doors of UTV last Sunday

recruitment, physical and verbal abuse — all of this is a

daily reality for nationalist youths. If the peace process is

to be successful this has to stop."

Saoirse protest

BY ANNIE MARIE FAUL

OVER 500 people attended a Saoirse picket in Coalisland on Saturday 8 November. The picket was organised in conjunction with the Gathering of the Clans (see page 4) and during the protest a number of relatives chained themselves to a barrier at Coalisland RUC Barracks.

Speaking at the protest, local Sinn Féin Councillor Francie Molloy said: "So long as there are

prisoners in jail for their political beliefs then we are all prisoners." He asked, "why should prisoners have to lie in jail whilst the unionists refuse to negotiate?"

The picket was also addressed by Martin Meehan, chairperson of Saoirse. He thanked the protestors for remembering the prisoners and urged everyone present to go to Omagh on 7 December for the next major Saoirse rally.

RUC admits collusion with drug dealers

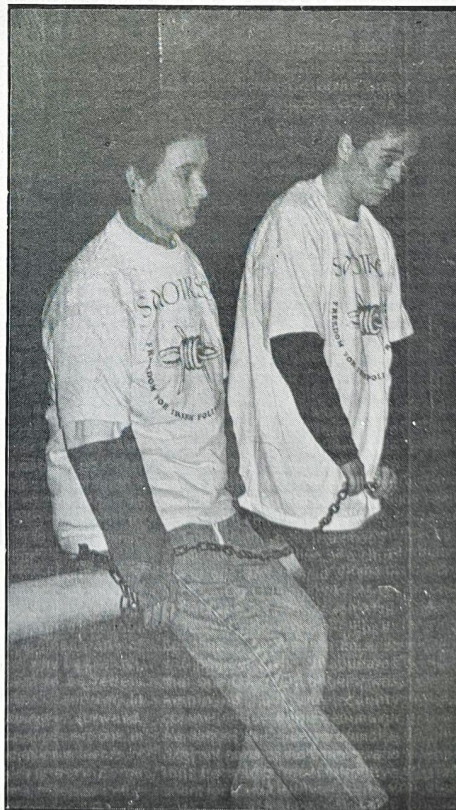
AN RUC drug squad chief has admitted that RUC Special Branch collude and protect drug dealers if they are acting as informers.

Kevin Sheehy, an RUC Detective Superintendent in charge of the Drug Squad, said that the search for security information always had priority over the battle against drugs and there had been occasions when drug squad operations had been scuttled on the orders of the RUC Special Branch.

The RUC chief's comments were made during an anti-drugs conference in Donegal last year. Sheehy was speaking privately to Independent Councillor PJ Blake from Letterkenny. "Superintendent Sheehy made these remarks to several of us and we were all shocked at the time. He stated it quite matter of factly," Blake said he and his

colleagues had felt unable to publicise the RUC officer's remarks at the time, but following recent drug seizures in Donegal, the councillor felt compelled to speak out. "The bulk of Donegal's drug problem stems from the North," said Blake, "which is not really surprising given the attitude of the RUC."

Sinn Féin's Six-County Chairperson Gerry O'hEara said the admission by the RUC that it turns a blind eye to drug activity in the Six Counties highlights the RUC's inability to provide an effective policing service. "Kevin Sheehy's comments confirm what Sinn Féin has long stated, this sectarian force's primary role is not the provision of a policing service, but the infiltration and demoralisation of the nationalist community," he said.



Saoirse protestors chained to a barrier at the RUC barracks in Coalisland last Saturday

SINN FÉIN MEMBERS HELD

THREE members of Sinn Féin were stopped and held by the RUC on two separate occasions last weekend. On 1 November as they travelled to Newry to attend a Saoirse demonstration the RUC stopped and held them for 25 minutes during which time the men were searched and P checked.

The following day the trio were held at the Clough Road at its junction with the road to Ballykinlar British Army Base and detained for 40 minutes.

All three were again P checked and body searched. The first two were allowed back into the car while the third man, Garret O Fachtna, was held on his own and aggressively searched.

"The RUC man asked me if I had any guns or bombs then told me he had 'a gun at home, a legally-held gun'. Then as he finished he said 'I'll see you at the dance'. I asked him if he was threatening me, but at this stage another four or five of the patrol had gathered around us and he shoved me out of the way as he walked off."

Those stopped said that they believe that being stopped and held at the stretch of road was threatening in itself as it is an area notorious for loyalists. The body of young James Morgan was found near that spot in July.

McHugh brutalised again

IRISH republican POW Brian McHugh has been subjected to a reign of brutality in England's Belmarsh Prison for the past eight months. In that time he has been strip-searched 96 times. In the latest in a long series of vindictive attacks by prison staff McHugh was handcuffed, beaten then dragged along the ground before being left in an Old Bailey cell where he is currently on trial. He had to be treated by a doctor and was unable to attend the court that day.

The latest attack occurred on Monday 3 November when a prison officer who has been particularly vindictive towards McHugh and who has been refusing him phone calls tried to handcuff him after the first strip-search on the way to court. Claiming McHugh's handcuffs were too loose he put an insert in and tried for two minutes to force them closed. He then took them off to try a different angle. McHugh said that if he was not going to cuff him in the same way as every other prisoner does then he could put him back in his cell.

At this point six prison officers wrestled McHugh to the ground and kicked and punched him. They carried him to a cubicle in the van. He was left with his hands cuffed behind his back for the journey to court. On arrival he was dragged from the van, his wrists badly swollen and bleeding at this stage, and thrown face down in the cells underneath the Old Bailey.

As a result of McHugh's injuries his solicitor demanded a doctor attend him. He was unable to appear in court that morning.

In the evening when he asked to go up, the prison officers again produced handcuffs, which were too small, in order to handcuff him up the stairs but he was unable to wear them because of the pain of the tight metal on the raw, swollen skin.

The judge later ordered that he should be cuffed in the same way that he had been in the first two weeks of the trial.

PRISON CAMPAIGNS URGED TO EXPAND

BY ROBERT McCLENAGHAN AND LAURA FRIEL

DESPITE AN IRA cessation and political talks, the reality for families of Irish political prisoners in English jails remains as it has been, according to Caroline McEvoy of the Committee for the Transfer of Irish Prisoners.

Speaking at the annual Gathering of the Clans McEvoy described that reality as: "Children unable to see their parents, relatives unable to make the journey, petty harassment, beatings, strip-searches, repeated moves from jail to jail and 23-hour lock up."

She acknowledged some positive developments: "The transfer of Liam McCotter, Danny McNamee and Seán McNulty, the easing of restrictions for those prisoners on temporary transfer and the declassification of some prisoners held in England." The saddest event, said McEvoy, to have occurred since last year's Gathering was the untimely death of Paddy Kelly, "murdered by medical neglect".

The seventh Gathering of the Clans was held on Saturday 8 November in Derrytresk, East Tyrone. This annual event brings together families, friends and campaigners of Irish POWs in jails in England past and present. Relatives of prisoners on remand can talk to the "veterans" who have been travelling to England for prison visits for over 20 years. The gathering has also become a significant political focus, where campaign progress and strategy can be evaluated and developed. There are currently 25 Irish political prisoners in jails in England.

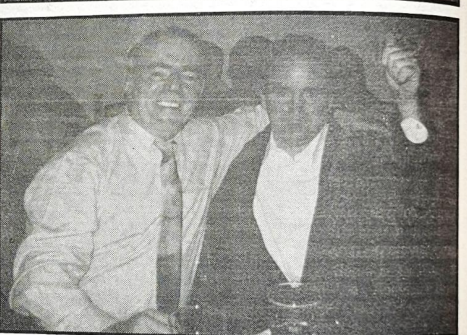
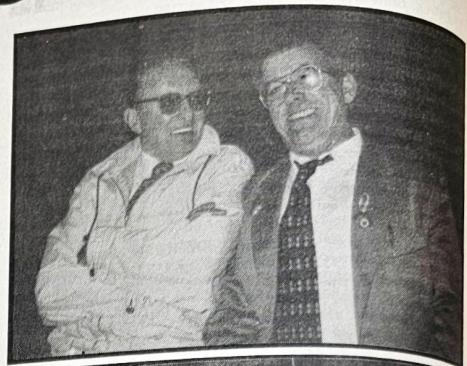
Eamon Nolan of the 26 County-based Repatriation Committee, said the Dublin government's ratification of the European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons had moved the campaign on but "the committee has spent the last year challenging bureaucratic delays" impeding transfers to the 26 Counties. "Hopefully repatriation will become the norm and the committee can then move onto the next issue — the release of transferred prisoners," Nolan

said. Nuala Kelly of the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) said media speculation about "imminent" transfers was misleading. The issue was not resolved and campaigners should "push hard" if transfers were to be secured. The main obstacle, said Kelly, remained the British Home Office and its Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

Relatives of remand prisoners currently being held in the notorious Special Secure Units (SSU) in Belmarsh Prison, highlighted the conditions. Maura Connolly and Rita McHugh addressed the conference from the floor. Both women described the "reign of terror" being conducted against remand prisoners, by Belmarsh wardens. Sentenced prisoner Pat Martin from Belfast has recently been moved from Long Lartin to an SSU in Belmarsh.

"The lights are left on all night and the doors are banged every hour to deprive the men of any sleep. They are constantly strip-searched and often beaten. Brian McHugh has been strip-searched 96 times in the last 8 months," said Rita.

Sinn Féin Vice President Pat Doherty described his party's relationship to the prisoners: "We are part of them and they are with us all the time." Doherty argued that a range of strategies from political lobbying to street protests, properly co-ordinated was the key to forcing movement from the British government who lacked the political will to move on the issue of prisoners. Gerry Kelly, ex-POW and Sinn Féin negotiator, said his negotiating position was only as strong as the people protesting on the streets. "We need to fight on every front," said Kelly. "We are not dealing with humanitarians in the British government. I can't say this is



Some of those who attended the Gathering of the Clans: ex-POWs Eamon Dunphy and Joe McKinny (top); Louise McManus (Secretary of the Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Committee) and Francis McNamee (middle); and ex-POWs Martin Brady and Patrick Hackett (bottom)

going to be the last Gathering of the Clans, I hope so, but we may be back next year. We are the

people who can make change. We need to work towards that end."

POW issue highlighted in Belgium

BRITAIN'S Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), Emergency Powers Act, the detention of Roisin McAiskey, conspiracy charges in Britain, the role of lawyers and arrest procedures, the 22-year men in England, the death of Paddy Kelly, length of sentences, conditions of imprisonment including the SSUs, transfer and repatriation, the 40-year men in Portlaoise, extradition and fundamental legal principles regarding prisoners were all discussed at a press conference in the International Press Centre in Brussels on

Monday 3 November.

The press conference was called to launch a report by Flemish Human Rights lawyer Piet De Pauw, supported by the Lawyers Group of Amnesty International, Flanders and was attended by a delegation representing Irish political prisoners.

Over the past year de Pauw conducted an investigation into conditions under which Irish republican prisoners were being held, the violations of human rights and the rights to a proper and fair defence.



Left to Right: Norbert Van Overloop, lawyer; Bernie Farrell, Sinn Féin; Danny Van Den Bossche, Socialist Party, Belgium; Ann O'Sullivan, Sinn Féin; Guido Schoeters, Chairperson Flemish Amnesty International; Edel Kelly, wife of Patrick Kelly who is held in Belmarsh SSU; Nelly Maes, Member of Flemish Parliament, outside Flemish parliament

MYSTERIOUS DEATH FUELS LOYALIST TENSIONS

BY LAURA FRIEL

THE STRANGE DEATH OF loyalist killer, Robert 'RJ' Kerr, occurred this week as tension between rival loyalist death squads continues to increase.

The body of 54-year-old Kerr, a notorious sectarian killer and member of a covert SAS death squad, was found beside a burnt-out cabin cruiser on the Warrenpoint Road in Newry in the early hours of last Saturday morning. Kerr died when the boat, which had been abandoned on waste ground since Friday evening, mysteriously exploded.

Three months ago Kerr and his girlfriend escaped death when their Portadown home was fire bombed. Kerr had been threatened by Billy Wright's Loyalist Volunteer Force after he denounced the rival loyalist gang as drug dealers.

A founding member of the UDA in Portadown, Kerr was linked to a series of vicious sectarian murders, some involving torture. Amongst his known victims were Joey Weir and Felix Hughes, both

Catholics from Portadown murdered in 1972, Pascal Mulholland from Portadown (1975), who survived, Catholic pharmacist William Strathearn in Ahoghill (1977) and Martin McIntyre from Lurgan (1989). Strathearn was lured to his death by Kerr, another loyalist known as 'The Jackal' and two RUC officers. One of the RUC officers, Harryville protestor Billy McCaughey, was later convicted of the murder.

Kerr was also involved in the murder of IRA Volunteer John Francis Green in Monaghan in 1975. Kerr and 'The Jackal' were members of a covert death squad run by the British Army, one of Kitson's 'pseudo gangs'. The Green killing was central to the collusion controversy for many years. Former British Army officer Fred Holroyd said he had been shown a photograph of the IRA

Volunteer, taken moments after the killing, by Robert Niarac. Niarac was a member of the British SAS linked to covert loyalist assassination squads. He was executed by the IRA in 1977. Kerr recently confirmed Niarac's involvement in the Green killing. Niarac was also implicated in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings and the Miami Showband massacre.

Kerr was associated with a number of key criminals and drug dealers both North and South. His criminal connections included recently murdered Newry drug dealer Patrick Farrell and Dublin's Martin Cahill, shot dead in 1994. The recent killing of Glen Greer is believed to be the result of a drug-related feud between the UVF and UDA. Greer was killed on 26 October when a booby-trap bomb exploded under his car.

Recent drug seizures have exposed the extent of loyalist drug dealing. Last month £250,000 worth of cannabis destined for loyalist death squads was discovered in the

Lucan area of Dublin. A further £300,000 worth of LSD was seized on the outskirts of Newry and £4,500 worth of ecstasy tablets discovered in the loyalist Glenvara Estate in Lisburn.

Meanwhile, the badly beaten body of 22-year-old Raymond McCord was discovered in Ballyduff quarry, County Antrim, on Sunday morning. McCord, a former member of the British RAF, was identified by his fingerprints. The father of the victim, who has been involved in a bitter feud with leading members of the UDA in South East Antrim, insists his son's death is part of a UDA vendetta against his family. The dead man was on remand to appear at Belfast Magistrates Court next month on drug-related charges.

In Derry a bar owner and six men have been ordered to leave the city as feuding between rival loyalist gangs continues to escalate. The bar owner in the city's Waterside, 'favoured' by the PUP/UVF faction, received a threatening letter containing a bullet from North West Antrim UVF, a cover name for the UDA.

The threat follows a serious outbreak of violence between loyalist gangs in Derry two weeks ago. Ten people were injured when over 150 loyalists rioted at Duke's nightclub and another public house in the Waterside area. There was rioting also the weekend Bangor loyalist Glen Greer was killed.

A former UFF gunman jailed for shooting Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams, pleaded guilty to assaulting a member of the RUC after last year's Lundy Parade in Derry. John Gregg and three other members of the loyalist Cloughfern Young Conquerors Band admitted eight assault charges during a row over the band's UVF banner and UDA flag. In Belfast the UVF and UDA held separate Remembrance Day parades as tension mounts between loyalists in the city. Last week a leading PUP member was beaten outside a cleansing depot in West Belfast while a week earlier a prominent member of the UDA was fired on in a car on the West Circular Road.

TD "alarmed" at conditions for Irish prisoners

"I CAME away alarmed and dismayed at their conditions." This was how Cavan/Monaghan Sinn Féin TD Caoimhghín O Caoláin reacted to the plight of three Irish prisoners currently on remand in jails in California. The TD visited Kevin Barry Artt, Terry Kirby and Pól Brennan last weekend and on his return to

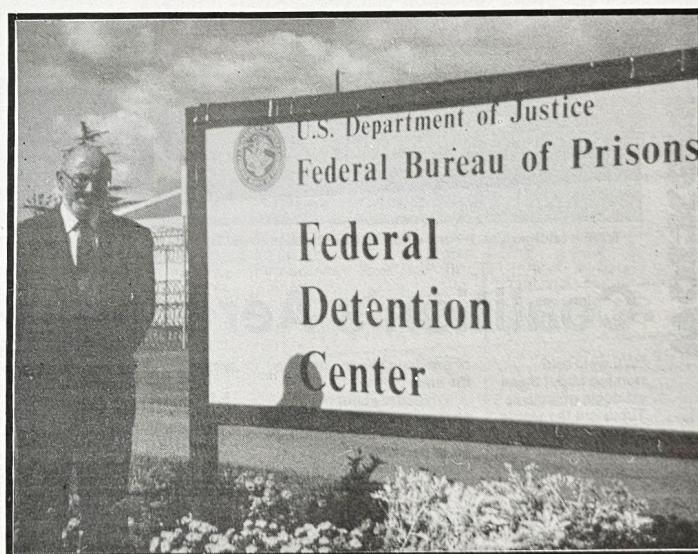
Ireland on Monday called for urgent action on their cases.

O Caoláin said that in Oakland County Jail he found Kevin Barry Artt completely isolated. "The prison authorities insisted that we could have only a closed visit with a perspex screen between us. Even under the draconian prison regime in England such conditions no longer apply" said O Caoláin. He met Terry Kirby and Pól Brennan in Pleasonton Federal Penitentiary and said that the prison authorities were pursuing an "isolation strategy".

"These three men should be allowed association with one another and open visits with their families. I will be lobbying both the US authorities and the government here for immediate amelioration of their prison conditions pending their speedy release. It is totally unjust on the part of both the British and US governments to pursue these extradition proceedings."

(The three men were denied bail on 27 November in their appeals against extradition to the Six Counties where they escaped from the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in September 1983.)

San Francisco witnessed three standing ovations for O Caoláin last Saturday night after he called for an end for partition, a break with the "colonial legacy" of the British rule and disbandment of the RUC. Addressing a packed audience at the National Convention of the Irish American Unity Conference, the Sinn Féin TD stressed Sinn Féin's desire for



Caoimhghín O Caoláin outside Pleasonton Federal Penitentiary where Pól Brennan and Terry Kirby are held

meaningful dialogue at the peace table.

"Let no one lower their expectations of what can be achieved through these talks. There can be no turning back now."

The longest and loudest applause came after O Caoláin paid tribute to the H-Block Three. Kevin Barry Artt, Pól Brennan and Terry Kirby.

BULLET THREAT TO YOUTH

AN 18-year-old FROM Crumlin village outside Belfast fears for his life after a live bullet was posted through his door.

The young Catholic man who wishes to remain anonymous received a hand-delivered jiffy bag containing a letter from the UVF and the 9mm bullet on 22 October.

"The letter said I'd better get out and accused me of anti-social behaviour, but I know it is sectarian," the youth told *An Phoblacht*. The young man is now living with relatives in the Andersonstown area of Belfast and said that he has no intention of going back to Crumlin. His mother has stayed in the house with her other three children despite a number of phone calls telling her she had better get out. The young man reported the incident to the RUC and handed over the jiffy bag and its contents.

PUBLIC MEETING

TOWARDS A UNITED IRELAND

8pm Thursday 20 November,

ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin
Speakers: Mitchel McLaughlin (National Chairperson, SF) and Seán Crowe (Dublin SF). Chair: Des Bonass (Dublin Council of Trade Unions)

Dunnes workers "refuse to be walked on"

UNIONS AT DUNNES STORES announced this week that they will ballot their 6,000 members on taking limited industrial action between now and Christmas. The ballot of MANDATE, SIPTU and MPGWU workers begins next Monday. It was prompted by the refusal of Dunnes management to accept Labour Court judgements made last August which require management to pay special staff overtime rates for Sunday working during the busy Christmas period.

The Labour Court recommended that Dunnes workers hired before October 1994 would get a package worth triple the basic rate for Sunday working. The payments would be made in the form of overtime rates and paid time off. Dunnes

workers hired after October 1994 when this now annual dispute started will get double the basic rate for working on Sundays. Dunnes had originally attempted to make Sunday working obligatory and pay no overtime for that day.

MANDATE national official Maurice Sheehan told An Phoblacht: "We wanted to show the company that we refuse to

be walked on. We are sorry for the difficulties this places shoppers in during the run up to Christmas but the blame for this dispute lies at the door of the company."

The ballot will take some

Maurice Sheehan also stressed to *An Phoblacht* that they are still ready to discuss the Sunday issue with Dunnes management. It seems that four years on Dunnes are still failing to learn the basics of

We wanted to show the company that we refuse to be walked on. We are sorry for the difficulties this places shoppers in

weeks to complete and Dunnes unions have yet to decide on what form of limited industrial action to take. It is highly likely though that such action could be in the form of limited one-day stoppages. MANDATE's

industrial relations. More ironic is that their current ad campaign proclaims "the difference is we're Irish". The real difference is that their main competitors all pay a Christmas Sunday rate.



What's another year? For the fourth Christmas in a row Dunnes are denying workers a fair wage

Coalition's Aer Lingus sell out

"WE were told nothing about these strategic objectives". These are the words of Paul O'Sullivan, secretary of SIPTU's

civil aviation branch at Dublin Airport. Workers at Aer Lingus and its maintenance subsidiary are facing — like their public-sector colleagues at Telecom before them — the prospect of privatisation.

Aer Lingus management is actively seeking what they call a "strategic alliance" for the airline, while management at TEAM Aer Lingus is seeking buyers for a majority share of the facility built with massive funding from taxpayers' money. Now that the TEAM facility is set to become profitable it is to be sold off to the private sector, the losses

of previous years paid off by the state.

Whatever about the prospects of selling off TEAM the prospect of a partial sell-off of part of Aer Lingus is daunting. There is a range of possible bidders, but leading the pack for a slice of the Irish airline is British Airways.

The industrial relations record of British Airways is appalling. Already this year management engineered one strike as part of its attempts to de-uniformise the British Airways workforce. Union officials and members working at the airline have been victimised by management who have tried to force workers to accept individual contracts.

British Airways workers were sent letters telling them

Now that the TEAM facility is set to become profitable it is to be sold off to the private sector

how management would help them break the strike, sneaking them past pickets and housing them in hotels in Heathrow Airport. Now the same management is being considered as partners for Aer Lingus.

The SIPTU workers at Aer

Lingus are angry at management's lack of consultation and are seeking a meeting with Public Enterprise Minister Mary O'Rourke. Ultimately the Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrat government is responsible for the Aer Lingus jobs.

In the last four years £175 million of state aid has been put into the company. If the coalition is prepared to sell off what is essentially the taxpayer's investment in the national airline it doesn't bode well for the range of other privatisation plans currently under consideration. The government must face up to the fact that sell-offs of state companies are in fact a sell out. Privatisation is not progress.

Bosses wage hike

Just when you thought it was safe to forget about just how big the gap is between the bosses and their wage slaves, the bosses, a private consultancy group, bounce back with their latest survey on Executive Salaries and Fringe Benefits in Ireland. It makes fascinating reading.

Inbucon surveyed 2,214 executives and found that salaries increased by an average of 6.25% during the 12 months between July 1996 and July '97. Inflation during the same time period was 1.4%. Compare this with Central Statistics Office figures which show that average wage increases enjoyed by ordinary workers were less than half the increases enjoyed by their managers during the same period.

Salaries in the top 25% of executives averaged around £88,000. When fringe cash benefits are included this figure jumps to £110,000. The privileges of this executive elite do not end here. There are the bonus schemes enjoyed by executives, which averaged almost 60% of their basic salaries. Add to this the free medical insurance being provided for 54.8% of managing directors, the life assurance for 77.4%, the subsidised lunches for 31.2% and the telephone allowance for 48.4%.

Finally it should come as no surprise to hear that a Mercedes is the favourite choice of car for Irish managing directors followed by a Saab.

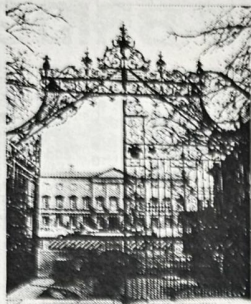
Corner cutting in the Celtic Tiger

The fallout from the downside of the Celtic Tiger building boom was shown this week when a High Court judge in Dublin ordered the closure of an apartment block building site in the city.

The High Court order came after a construction worker was killed in an accident at the Zoe Developments site. James Masterson was the third person to die on a Zoe site since 1991. Justice Kelly said the company had shown "shocking heedlessness" and that the company had an appalling safety record.

Zoe is the not the only building company to have site accidents. However, the allegation that safety regulations are being ignored in a period where the building sector is enjoying a prolonged boom is damning. There is never any excuse for ignoring safety regulations and endangering the lives of workers, but when huge profits are being made selling the apartments constructed by these builders, reckless and deadly corner cutting by their employers is shameful.

Dialann Sráid Chill Dara



KILDARE STREET DIARY

BY MICHEAL Mac DONNCHA

Our TD Caoimhghin O Caoláin had a question down for the Taoiseach on Wednesday which provoked a short discussion in the House on the peace process — one of the very few since the talks began.

Caoimhghin asked Bertie Ahern if he planned to visit the negotiations at Stormont and for his assessment of the current state of the talks. Ahern acknowledged that he would be travelling north, that the talks were at a difficult stage and that confidence-building needed to be addressed.

In response Deputy O Caoláin said: "I am glad he has confirmed that he will be visiting the negotiations. This is very important in asserting the common ownership of the talks by all the parties and both governments." Referring to lack of progress in the peace process Deputy O Caoláin said: "Would he agree that the lack of progress at the Stormont talks is a cause of grave concern, in particular that the failure of the UUP to engage constructively in the negotiations is preventing forward movement? "We have a position now where Mr Paisley and his allies, including a former member of this House and government Minister Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, are trying to wreck the talks from outside, while the UUP is, in effect, engaged in sabotage from the inside.

"Would the Taoiseach agree also that the issues of prisoners and of demilitarisation remains totally neglected by the British government? In South Armagh, British military fortifications have actually been extended during these negotiations. I would point to the position of those Irish political prisoners in England who have served 22 years and who have neither been transferred here nor received a release date. This is particularly glaring in the midst of a peace process and is a growing cause of alarm to all the many hundreds of relatives of political prisoners who are despairing of the prospect of release at this time.

"Will the Taoiseach emphasise in his contacts with the British government these vital issues of confidence-building and equality, as well as the central need for real progress at the talks?"

While these supplementary questions were answered in fairly vague terms by Bertie Ahern there was a definite sense that the talks are stalled; even John Bruton asked for Ahern to ensure that the pace of the talks be intensified.

There is a debate here this week on the recent report of European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. This report shows the high level of addiction among young people in Ireland. We have the youngest profile in Europe of people seeking help for addiction — and as Sinn Féin activists know too well, many of the addicts are waiting in vain with fatally long waiting lists for treatment. It is ironic that a special debate on drugs is held in Leinster House on the basis of a report from an EU agency based in Lisbon. (A report incidentally which was not made available to TDs by the government but had to be photocopied in the Oireachtas Library on request.)

If successive governments had been listening to local communities within walking distance of Leinster House five, ten or 15 years ago then there would not only have been debates, but legislative action here every week to combat the menace of drug abuse.

But there was no action and it was not until courageous communities were forced to take to the streets that any attention was given to the crisis. The epidemic of heroin addiction has been claiming young lives for over 15 years now and it has not abated. Communities among whom members of Sinn Féin are working in Dublin will tell you of children as young as 12 and 13 smoking heroin. That is the reality of drug abuse in 1997.

The government estimates were published on Wednesday. This is the prelude to the budget which is due on 3 December. RTE reported that the publication would "indicate what level of tax cuts the government will introduce". One-track minds such as those of RTE economists see in the present healthy public finances only one thing — the prospect of lower taxes for the better off in our society. Tax cutting policies have always disproportionately benefited the wealthy. In the run up to the budget we will be arguing for increased government spending on health and education, for an equality agenda to share the benefits of the Celtic Tiger economy. Tax changes should centre on increasing allowances, thus benefiting the lower paid. No doubt the PDs are trying to make their mark by pushing Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy to come up with a tax giveaway budget; but most government deputies will know that as far as the vast majority of tax-paying citizens are concerned the provision of better public services and better infrastructure is more important than short-term tax breaks.

CELTIC TIGER IGNORES HOMELESS

THREE GENERATIONS of the Glyn family share a two bedroom flat in Canon Mooney Gardens, Ringsend, Dublin.

Vicky, aged 24, want somewhere to live to bring up her 16-month-old daughter, Kayleigh. Instead, she has to share a bedroom with her daughter, brothers Ian (23) and Graham (15), and sister, Stephanie (10). Her parents, Cathleen and Paul share another bedroom.

As a single parent, Vicky wants to live near her family. Unfortunately, the Dublin Corporation claim they cannot house her anywhere in either Ringsend or Irishtown. Vicky has been on the housing list for two years and has been waiting three months for a medical certificate to be processed by the Housing Department of Dublin Corporation.

Sinn Féin representative, Daithi Doolan has been dealing with the family's case since November of last year. "Three generations, seven people, two bedrooms. This would not be tolerated if it were in the private sector. Instead, this is local authority housing, 1997 style, in Dublin," he said.

The Dublin Docklands Development Authority are currently drawing up the final plans for the area.

The irony is not lost on Vicky Glyn. "Every day I see the building of hotels and apartments. I am aware there is a multi-million pound development project for the Docklands area. I live in the Docklands area, and yet

nowhere in this do I see a plan to building homes for people like me or my family."

Across the inner city, communities are forced to live with the scourge of drugs and unemployment while the government boasts of the benefits from Ireland's Celtic Tiger economy. Families like Vicky's have long since learned not to believe such myths.

Daithi Doolan, insists that it is essential that the interests and concerns of local communities play an integral role in any local development.

"Construction and development must benefit the local community, not exclude families like the Glyns.

"It is time for urban renewal to accommodate the needs of local communities, with regard to housing and recreational facilities".



Local Sinn Féin representative Daithi Doolan (left) with members of the Glyn family: Vicky, Kayleigh, Cathleen, Ian and Graham

INCOME SUPPORT

WELFARE RIGHTS

BY ANN MARIE WILLIS

Before the introduction of JSA most people who had no means of support received Income Support. However, if you are fit for work, have no means of support and were in receipt of Income Support you then had to apply for Income Based JSA.

Most people receive Income Support as a top-up benefit. For example, if you are in receipt of Invalid Care Allowance and the amount is less than the law says you need to live on then Income Support will make up the difference, but you must apply for the benefit. If, while on Income Based JSA, you become unfit for work you will receive Income Support, but first you must fill in an Incapacity Benefit form, an Income Support form and, if you want help with your rent, rates or mortgage, a Housing Benefit form.

Income Support can also be called a gateway benefit because it may open up the

way to other benefits. While on Income Support you will be able to apply for Community Care grants or Budgeting loans. However, you may not automatically receive these as they will be processed by your local DSS. You will receive, where it applies, free dental treatment, National Health glasses (or lenses if you wish to pay for the frames yourself). If you have school children you can apply for free school meals and uniforms when they reach Secondary Education level. These are only a few of the extra benefits of Income Support.

If you are entitled to Income Support and have a partner then either of you can claim. If either you or your

partner are aged under 60 and have been ill for a total of at least 365 days, or 196 days terminally ill, the sick person should claim. If you are or have become a single parent and have no means of support you will receive Income Support.

As I have stated earlier, and as with all benefits, the onus is on you to apply for benefit. So don't delay, apply today. If you are not entitled to Income Support then you will be informed of this. However, if you are, you could be losing out.

■ You can write to Ann Marie for welfare rights advice in the Six Counties at: Sinn Féin Advice Centre, 2 Nicholson's Court, Newry, County Down.

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel: 8733611/8733839. Fax: 8733074
535 Falls Road, Belfast BT 11 9AA. Tel: 600279. Fax: 600207
e mail: apm@irnet.com
website: http://irnet.com/apm

Same old newspaper story

THIS WEEK a number of journalists have quite deliberately tried to talk up resignations from Sinn Féin and the IRA into a split. Basing their stories on anonymous sources backed up by dubious, unattributed (indeed, mostly unattributable) quotes it is clear that their agenda is to cause confusion among republicans.

There is nothing new in this. Throughout this struggle, the same tactics have been used many times — and usually by the same journalists. It is to the credit of republicans that they are not swayed by this misinformation. This struggle has been too good a teacher for activists not to have learned that lesson.

It is a pity that when journalists should be highlighting the real obstacles to peace in Ireland they are mischief-making in the way they have always done. There is clearly a need to decommission mindsets in some of Ireland's newspaper offices.

These stories have appeared when the Ulster Unionists have quite deliberately been stalling the talks at Stormont by refusing to engage with other participants. Their childish antics have been noted by all other participants at Stormont with a mixture of embarrassment and frustration.

While the unionists have been deliberately obstructive at Stormont, the British government continues to be wedded to a security agenda. The securocrats are still in the ascendancy, still believing that this is a security, not a political, problem. Harassment, informer recruitment and the strengthening of military bases continue unabated. The British government will soon have to face up to the fact that their forces are still carrying on a war. That is clear on the ground in nationalist areas.

These are the serious issues which threaten the peace process. Those journalists (some of whom claim radical credentials when 'off-duty') who peddle spurious IRA split stories would do well to highlight the real dangers to the peace process.

GARDAI MUST LEARN TO BUILD BRIDGES

BY SEAN Mac BRADAIGH

MARY McALEESE was inaugurated as President of Ireland to much pomp and ceremony at Dublin castle on Tuesday. A theme which featured strongly in her address was Irish success. She spoke of the confidence of the Irish nation in latter years. The inauguration was an Irish feel-good occasion and we all need a bit of that now and again.

I got home on Tuesday evening to my flat, a 20-minute walk from Dublin Castle, to find a rather disturbing phone message on my answering machine. It was from a neighbour, a single-mother in her 20s who sounded distraught and was ringing to tell me that her flat was being raided by the Gardaí, that she was being arrested and could I please do something to help her?

The messages had been left at around 9am that morning. It was by now 6pm and the woman had still not returned to her flat. I found that her five-year-old son was being looked after by neighbours and believed that his Mammy had 'gone to the shops'. Something in his eyes told me that he didn't really believe this. I asked the neighbours why the young woman had been arrested. They didn't know. I naively asked whether anyone had contacted a solicitor on her behalf. They hadn't.

I rang the Garda Barracks, asked if she was still being held and was told that she was about to be released. 'We believe she has a young son who she is a bit anxious to get home to,' the anonymous man in the detective's office said in a very matter-of-fact way.

I waited in the neighbours' house as we attempted to speak in code in front of the children about the woman's arrest, so as not to alarm her young son. Eventually she arrived in the door. Her face was a sickly white, and etched upon it was the ordeal she had endured over seven hours that day. Sweet tea and cigarettes were produced, the children told to play in another room as the adults waited to hear what this dark drama had all been about.

Plain-clothes Gardaí had

beaten down the woman's front door early that morning brandishing a search warrant and claimed to be looking for firearms. They pulled the place apart and found nothing. They then arrested the woman and brought her to a Garda Barracks several miles away for several hours questioning. Over seven hours she was interrogated in two different Garda Barracks at opposite sides of Dublin city and strip-searched twice.

The Garda detectives said she was arrested because her address had been used to hire a car which was subsequently found in suspicious circumstances. The car may have been used in a robbery in which firearms had been produced.

A young woman was separated from her child for the whole day, had her home turned upside down, was subjected to two humiliating and degrading strip-searches, was insulted, abused, and had her entire life probed by a cabal of suited quibblers because somebody, somewhere had used her address.

How was this young woman to know that somebody would use her address for criminal purposes? How was she to stop such a thing happening? Since when do criminals hire cars for criminal purposes using their own addresses?

People's addresses are used all the time by other people for nefarious purposes. People's names are hijacked every day in this way — to hire cars, mobile phones, to rent equipment. Credit cards are stolen and used to buy goods. Stolen passports and driving licences are regularly used and abused by criminals but this does not normally result in the unwitting personation victim

having their house raided and being subjected to a frightening day-long interrogation. Neither would this have happened to my unfortunate neighbour if her address had been in another, more affluent, part of Dublin. But she lived in a flats complex in North Inner City Dublin. That was the difference.

As far as the gardaí are concerned, people in areas such as Dublin's North Inner City don't have any rights. The tragedy is that they can get away with such notions because most ordinary people don't know their rights. This is why the woman's neighbours had not contacted a solicitor. This is why the woman is now reluctant to make any complaint to the Garda Complaints Board about what happened to her. She fears that this will result in further harassment.

Nobody is saying that the Gardaí should not carry out their investigations. Just that they do it properly and even-handedly. Surely the proper procedure in such an investigation would have been for the Gardaí to call to my neighbour, inform her that her address was used in such circumstances and ask if she knew anyone who might be responsible for doing this. That is exactly what the Gardaí would have done if the woman lived in a leafy middle-class suburb.

Garda Commissioner Pat Byrne attended Mary McAleese's inauguration on the day my neighbour was terrorised by members of his force. He would have heard her speak a lot about bridge-building. Building bridges is the theme of her presidency. The Gardaí are one group in this state who have an awful lot of catching up to do when it comes to building bridges. A bridge the Gardaí have consistently failed to build despite the best efforts of community workers in recent years is the one that really counts — a bridge between the force and the community they are meant to serve and protect.

■ Mary Nelis is in the United States.

MARY McALEESE does not walk on water. Throughout her election campaign she trod on ice. Thin ice, but ice.

Two things froze her path: the fear and hostility towards 'the northerner' that is still encouraged south of the border, and the resentment that a Fianna Fáil and Catholic Church apologist could replace Mary Robinson as the symbol of where-we-are-at-now-and-where-we-want-to-go.

Where Mary McAleese has not melted that ice, she has cut through it with sure precision and exposed the surface beneath. Once again, through a presidential election, the nation is in unsafe waters, whether it likes it or not.

McAleese has so far shown she wants to represent an Ireland which ignores the border in order to diminish

Time to get real, Mary

BY MEADHBH GALLAGHER

its standing and which is comfortable with religious allegiance to whatever creed.

The fact that Ireland doesn't yet exist hasn't stopped her march. There she was at her inauguration, insisting everyone join her 'at the edge'.

But there may be reasons other than her supreme self-confidence for why she thinks she can take us all there.

For while she carries us all to the brink, McAleese is clearly at the same time conveying all the core values of the Irish state constitution which no Fianna Fáil nor Catholic Church

supporter would want to walk away from.

No risks there, Mary.

It's early days yet, for sure. But already this writer is tiring of Mary's talk of the tiger and of the packaging of her inauguration as the 'genuine coming of age of this Republic', to quote RTE's Brian Farrell.

A bit more realism shouldn't be too much to ask for from a state putrid with economic, political and social scandals while yet in its infancy.

Ah, but don't knock it.

But if this nation's great leap forward is to just the other side of the ECU coin,

what's the point in going?

Cynicism will get me nowhere, I know. But forgive me if I'm cynical that as the president includes refugee Somali woman Fatima Mahamad Aadan amongst her specially-invited guests at her inauguration, the majority of the 26 Counties look set to happily sign up next year to a Euro superstate founded on blatant racism and exclusion.

And while the president praises Irish emigrants and seeks to celebrate with them their Irishness, immigrants coming here have their right to be here questioned, while black Irish people are stopped at ports and along the border by Irish state officials and police.

If we're to go over the edge let's have a look at where the edge is, where it will take us, who's going there with us and where they're at now.

Media reports "greatly exaggerated" — IRA

AN PHOBLAHT has learned that media speculation and reports about the degree of resignations from the IRA have been greatly exaggerated.

Reports claiming a former chief of staff has resigned from the organisation because he was unhappy with the present strategy are untrue. A very small number of people have left the army over a period of a few weeks, but these resignees are people who are closely associated with each other. A report in the *Irish Times* on Wednesday that there were mass resignations from the IRA in South Armagh has been dismissed as fanciful.

Any impact on the IRA of a small number of resignations should be viewed in the context of years of struggle, an IRA source told *An Phoblacht*. During a sustained period of struggle it is perhaps inevitable that individual personnel will change for a number of reasons at different times. Some people may leave for personal or political reasons and many more have been imprisoned. Hundreds of IRA Volunteers have been captured and jailed by the British without undermining the army's ability to sustain itself. Taken in this context a few resignations are not significant, the source maintained. The IRA as an organisation remains intact.

Resignations were regrettable, said the source, expressing disappointment that some of those who left made their action known publicly and, albeit unwittingly, have fed into the agenda of those who wish to split the organisation. Those who are set on promoting division or a split within the IRA will themselves be disappointed to learn that the IRA remains intact, united and committed, said our source.

Meanwhile, commenting on the recent spate of resignations from Sinn Féin, Party President Gerry Adams told *An Phoblacht* that "these things are now in the past. We are in a



Irish Independent

Vol. 106 No. 266

Friday, November 7, 1997

C

Price 85p

Peace talks row sparks rift in Sinn Féin



Republican Movement fact

Sinn Féin rocked as members walk out

By Colin O'Connell and Stephen McCaffrey

and caused the party's leadership to... (text continues)

Spokesman for other dissidents claims group is backing challenge to leadership

35 said to have quit IRA in south Armagh

THE SUNDAY TIMES

No. 9,237

WEEKEND 12

WEEKEND 10

PAGE 1

Gardai discount claims of major split in IRA after members quit positions

Adams foils attempted IRA mutiny



Republicans refused to comment over IRA 'split'

phase of struggle which is designed to bring about maximum change. That throws up difficulties, but these are challenging times for everyone, including Irish republicans". Asked about resignations from the IRA Adams stressed that, "whatever is happening within the IRA it has shown itself to be a cohesive body. It has certain credibility and therefore when it gives its view of events I believe that the wider world has to listen. I think the IRA is bigger than any individuals

or number of individuals." Adams emphasised the need for people to take ownership of the peace process, pointing out that it would be disastrous if we slipped back into conflict, "not because one or two people resigned from the IRA but because those who run the security/repression in this statelet get their way or the unionist veto is successfully applied".

Sinn Féin National Chairperson Mitchel McLaughlin, in Louth on

Sunday at the 40th anniversary of the deaths at Edentubber of five IRA Volunteers, said Sinn Féin is a vibrant, united and developing party. Speaking within days of the resignations of nine County Louth Sinn Féin members, he said: "I can assure everyone that Sinn Féin is a progressive, united and cohesive political force, confident enough that we can allow those who differ with our analysis to have their say and then move forward without rancour."

Journalists first to know about SF resignations

ON Thursday 6 November there was to be a Louth Comhairle Ceantair meeting in Dundalk. This was a scheduled Sinn Féin meeting to discuss ongoing work including the Edentubber commemoration. On the morning of the meeting, Malachy Foots, Sinn Féin PRO for Louth, received a phone call from Jim Cusack, Security Correspondent of the *Irish Times*. He wanted a comment from Malachy about a phone call he had received from a member of Sinn Féin saying that there was a

meeting planned for that night and that a number of Sinn Féin members would be resigning.

Foots initially viewed it as Jim Cusack being "mischievous" (he is a regular purveyor of anti-republican stories), but there followed a number of calls from other media outlets and it soon became apparent that an orchestrated lobby of the media was taking place.

The meeting was scheduled for 8pm. As Sinn Féin members arrived they were met by a BBC camera crew and a BBC radio journalist. Around 25 people attended the Comhairle

Ceantair meeting — the majority of them delegates from their cumainn. Also in attendance were two members of the Ard Chomhairle, Joe Cahill and Joan O'Connor.

The meeting opened with the minutes of the previous meeting and the expectation was that it would continue with its planned business, including an update on the current political situation. But before this discussion took place a number of people stated their intention to resign from the party. Following an expression of their views they left the meeting. These announcements

and the walkout were greeted by both shock and sadness by the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to attempt to discuss the political issues which those who had resigned had raised when the number of other people in attendance announced their intention to resign. In total nine people resigned at the meeting — four of them members of the officer board of the Comhairle Ceantair.

Following the meeting the following statement was released by Malachy Foots: "I regret the decision of a small

number of Sinn Féin members, at a meeting in Dundalk this evening, to resign from the party. The overwhelming majority of those in attendance at the meeting this evening reaffirmed their confidence both in the leadership of Sinn Féin and in the peace process. This reflects the feeling of party members throughout the country. They called on Sinn Féin activists throughout Louth to concentrate their efforts on working together to ensure the success of the peace process."

TRAGEDIES

BY AENGUS O SNODAIGH

REMEMBERING THE PAST

"Around Kerry, in the autumn and winter of 1922 and the spring of 1923, an ominous wall of silence was drawn. The rumours that came through were so terrible that they were scarcely believed. Those rumours were less terrible than the truth."

—*Tragedies of Kerry*, by Doherty McArdle

MUCH OF THE STORY of what happened in Kerry in those years remains due to the efforts of Doherty McArdle, author of *The Irish Republic*, who broke the silence which surrounded official and unofficial state murders in Kerry in publishing her pamphlet *Tragedies of Kerry* in 1924. It is still a much sought after publication with many editions selling out within days of publishing.

Mirroring the tactics of Britain's Black and Tans in the previous two years the new state undertook to terrorise the republican people of Kerry into submission (very few Kerry Volunteers of the Tan War period went with the Free State). For having the gall to challenge the legitimacy and the authority of the new state many men in County Kerry and in other areas around Ireland were to pay with their lives.

Rather than try to tackle Kerry republicans head-on the Free State soldiers, in a classic military manoeuvre, succeeded in landing 500 soldiers in Fenit behind the republican positions, thus encircling them on 2 August 1922. More landed a week later. Even though it was Liam Lynch's view on 17 September that "the development of the campaign has been more rapid and satisfactory in Kerry than anywhere else", and the fact that the IRA would succeed on several occasions in putting several hundred Volunteers in the field, the future did not augur well.

As other republican positions fell around the country, the IRA was fighting a rearguard action, heavily outnumbered, starved of funds, weaponry and equipment and in the main living on the run. The safe houses they used previously and the people they depended on in the past were known to their former comrades who were trying to get them in their sights. It was only a matter of time before they had to withdraw from the field in the face of an army which was well-paid, equipped by the British and with orders from Michael Collins, Richard Mulcahy, Arthur Griffith and Kevin O'Higgins to spare nobody and to be as ruthless as required. The Free State soldiers involved in unofficial executions only mirrored the state policy of official execution, only they didn't bother going through the pretence of court cases.

With all the talk of apologies for Bloody Sunday, the Famine, the government in Dublin should be mindful that not only has there never been an apology given for the state's execution of 77 prisoners in a period of six months, but there has never been an official admission that the state's soldiers were involved in summary executions across the country for the

duration of what is now known as the Civil War.

In Kerry, the barbarity began 25 days after the Fenit landing. Seán Moriarty and James Healy were captured and marched through Tralee to Balloonagh Convent where both were shot. Healy survived, but Moriarty was riddled.

Seventeen-year-old Bertie Murphy was next to die. He had been captured with a rifle in his possession. For five days they used him as a shield to try to avoid attack from his IRA comrades and forced him to dismantle barricades in the area in case they were booby-trapped. On 19 September while under guard in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, word came in of an IRA ambush. Bertie was thrown down the steps of the hotel and shot dead by an officer. Officially he died in an ambush in Brennan's Glen.

Following the failure of republicans to recapture Killorglin the prisoners were to be transferred to Tralee. Enroute all the prisoners except one, Jack Galvin, were forced to remove felled trees from the road. When they returned to the trucks he was missing. Next day his body was found behind a tree in Ballyseedy Wood where the trucks had halted.

John Lawlor was unlucky to be captured wounded during an engagement in Ballyheigue. He was shot dead and dumped at the church gate on the morning of 31 October.

On 2 November Michael O'Sullivan and Denny Connor held a party of 40 Free State soldiers under Captain 'Tiny' Lyons at bay for two hours outside Headford, before being wounded. Connor succeeded in making good his escape. Unarmed and wounded, O'Sullivan was executed.

On 11 November Patrick Lynch of Moyrick was unarmed when he was shot dead at his house. At Currahane Sands beyond Ardert a drunken raiding party succeeded in capturing Eugene Fitzgerald at his aunt's house. On the journey to Tralee Jail his left leg was broken and crushed to a pulp and he was shot through the side in an attempt to get him to reveal the whereabouts of the local IRA column. He died from his wounds a few days later on 16 January 1923.

Under the hay in Mrs Lyons' barn in the same area was where Michael Sinnott (18) and James O'Connor (19) had their dug-out. On 13 February a local lad and two others were arrested and beaten to inform on the

IN THE SOUTHWEST OF
AGO AT THE END OF
CAMPAIGN OF TERROR
FLEDGLING FREE STATE
IN OPPOSITION TO ITS
THE ACTS COMMITTED
NEW ARMY AGAINST
CASES FORMER COMRADES
AGAINST THE CONVE

whereabouts of the two in the dug-out. The young lad, Greer, broke and agreed to show the locations. The two Volunteers were riddled as they slept in their dug-out. Thomas O'Sullivan of Ballineanig was summarily executed while wounded on 18 February.

HORRIFIC

But for an accident what actually happened at Ballyseedy Cross, County Kerry, 75 years ago next year might never be known. Officially nine IRA prisoners were blown up by mines attached to barricades on the Killorglin Road. The truth was more horrific and the deaths at Ballyseedy Cross on 7 March came to symbolise the excesses of the new state.

The events of those dark days in Kerry can be summed up by the statement of the commander of the Free Staters in January 1923, Paddy



A rare photo of Fionnuiú Volunteers, some of whom were killed at Ballyseedy, Cahirciveen and Clashmealcon Caves; (back) Danny O'Connell, Stephen Fuller, Willie Hartnett and Timothy Twomey; (front) Tony Brosnan, John McElligott, Dan Shea, Aero Lyons, J Sheehy, Peter O'Sullivan and Paddy Mahoney

Daly: "N
kid glow
them".
Nine
John D
Twome
Connal
Buckley
en from
conclu
ie execu
the IRA
Lieuten
captain
nagosh
against
ed by
Mount
had be
their i
John
Febru
his sp
Micha
local
James
and f
RIC
over
in 19
John
were
Febru
mull
tion"
arm's
about
mer
man
the
cans
fired
trial
the
from
where
T
lorn
also
the
Hel
the
sol
gre
the
un
bo

ES OF KERRY

**THE EAST CORNER OF IRELAND 75 YEARS
END OF 1922 AND THROUGH 1923 A
TERROR WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE
FREE STATE AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE
OPPOSED TO ITS FOUNDING. THE SAVAGERY OF
COMMITTED BY SOLDIERS OF THE STATE'S
AGAINST MEN WHO WERE IN MANY
OF THEIR COMRADES WAS BARBARIC AND
OF CONVENTIONS OF ANY TYPE OF WAR**

Bridge in Killarney four prisoners from the Great Southern Hotel Barracks were blown-up and machine-gunned; another, Tadhg Coffey, succeeded in escaping. The dead were Stephen Buckley of Rathdri-nagh, Dan Donoghue of Lacca, Tim Murphy of Rathbreen and Jer Donoghue. Another man, the tailor in the barracks who had befriended the prisoners, Sugrue, was executed by the soldiers when they returned to the barracks.

Five days later, Dan Shea, John Sugrue, Willie Riordan, Eugene Dwyer and Mike Courtney, who had been arrested while attending a wake were brought from Bahaghs Workhouse Barracks, Cahirciveen and blown up by soldiers of Collins' Dublin Guards, who were responsible for many of the atrocities in the Kerry area.

One Free State officer, Lieutenant McCarthy, later gave an account of what occurred and resigned from the army. He said:

"There was no attempt to escape, as the prisoners were shot first and then put over a mine and blown up. It was a Free State mine, laid by themselves. It is a murder gang that is going around trying to keep on the war."

On 11 March Frank Grady was shot dead while under escort by Captain 'Tiny' Lyons. Two days later Séamus Taylor of Glencar who had been captured in his mother's house, was brought to Ballyseedy Wood after a day's 'interrogation' and riddled. On 15 March, the day after Grady and Taylor were buried, John Keavins of Beaufort was wounded while buying



IRA Volunteers in the south of Ireland posing for a propaganda photo during the early days of the Civil War

cigarettes and died later being refused proper medical aid which had been proffered. Another Beaufort man, Jeremiah Casey was found dead having been lured to the barracks on some pretext.

Bob McCarthy of Monaree was buried in the Workhouse in Tralee the day after he was captured and brutalised on 25 March. Two days later James Walsh of Currow was another victim of roadside execution at the cross of Glountrane. The next night Jack Fleming, who had been captured earlier, was taken from Ballymullen Barracks where he died. Two other unarmed Volunteers were gunned down after surrendering in

the Derry na Feena area on 6 April, George Nagle and Conway O'Connor. On 13 April John Linnane was shot in the face when emerging from a dug-out which was being searched by Free Staters. On the 24th Daniel Murphy was taken to a field near his home in Knocknagoshel and executed.

The story of Aero Lyons and his five comrades and how they stood siege for three nights and days in Clashmealcon Caves captures the determination of Kerry republicans and the barbarity of the Free State forces. Surrounded in Drumfort's Cave, named after a Fenian who hid there in 1867, seven Volunteers held off a huge Free State contingent. Two of the Volunteers, Tommy McGrath and Patrick O'Shea died when they fell into the sea as they were trying to get reinforcements.

Trapped in the cave the other Volunteers braved a barrage of fire bombs, grenades and rifle fire as well as the Atlantic wind and the raging sea which was threatening to engulf their cave, before emerging to negotiate terms. A rope lowered to bring up 'Aero' Lyons was severed as he reached the cliff edge. When he hit the rocks below he was riddled by the soldiers. The remaining four were taken up and three, Jim McNery, Rudge Hathaway and Edward Greaney were executed seven days after Aero died. The remaining one, Jimmy McGrath, who had been tortured before leading the soldiers to the caves was let go.

Kerry republicans paid a heavy price for standing with the Republic against the barbarism of the Free State 75 years ago. Their deaths and the way they died shall not be forgotten, but remembered to show the extremes which the fledgling state would stoop to prop up herself and the determination of republicans to resist its illegal rule and to defend the ideals of the Republic.

he had been thrown clear. His name appeared on one of the nine coffins containing what remains the soldier scraped up and which the Free State released to the relatives. Such was the furore when they opened the coffins and they saw the mutilated remains of their loved ones that the Free State authorities issued the following proclamation on 21 March:

"Prisoners who die in military custody in the Kerry Command shall be interred by the troops in the area in which the death has taken place."

Stephen Fuller succeeded in getting to the IRA dug-out behind May Dálaigh's house at Cnocán and his account was given to the newspapers by John Joe Sheehy. Fuller's family were hounded for decades afterwards; he was never forgiven for surviving or for telling the truth.

BLOWN-UP

On the same day at Countess



The Lady Wicklow enroute to Fenit, County Kerry, with 500 Free State soldiers on board. They took the opportunity to engage in firing practice which they later put to use against republicans in County Kerry

Daly: "Nobody asked me to take my kid gloves to Kerry and I didn't take them".

Nine prisoners, Stephen Fuller, John Daly, George Shea, Timothy Twomey, Patrick Hartnett, James Connell, John O'Connor, Patrick Buckley and James Walsh, were taken from Tralee to be killed. It was concluded afterwards that the barbaric execution was a form of reprisal for the IRA's blowing up of a torturer Lieutenant O'Connor along with two captains and two privates at Knocknagoshel earlier in March. Reprisals against republican prisoners, instituted by the Free State government in Mountjoy Jail on 8 December 1922 had become a systematic practice in their jails in the next few months.

John Daly was captured on 4 February and beaten so badly that his spine was irreparably damaged. Michael Connell was arrested at a local dance in the middle of February. James Walsh was a local IRA leader and Patrick Buckley was a former RIC man who handed the barracks over to the local IRA before the Truce in 1921. George Shea, Tim Twomey, John Shanahan and Stephen Fuller were captured in a dug-out on 21 February and interrogated in Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee. 'Interrogation' involved being blind-folded, arms tied to the side and beaten about the head and back with a hammer by David Neligan, one of the many of Collins' Squad drafted into the area to exact revenge on republicans. When this failed, shots were fired close to their heads. Before their 'trial' Fuller was shown nine coffins in the barracks. Shanahan collapsed from his injuries and this saved him when his comrades were taken out.

The nine prisoners were put on a lorry with a heavy escort and driven along the Castleisland Road until they reached a log across the road. Here they were strapped to a mine at the log and this was detonated by the soldiers before they threw a few grenades and fired at the remains of the dead.

Miraculously one man survived uninjured, though his clothes were burnt off him. His comrades had borne the brunt of the explosion and

Strangling the Celtic Tiger

A Chairde,

I wish that I was in Charlie McCreevey's position right now. I am listening to a harrowing account of conditions in St Ita's School for the mentally ill in Portrane on *Tonight with Vincent Browne* on Radio One. It is hard to take all the guff about our miracle economy when I hear of the cruel lack of resources that these most innocent of our children have to suffer. "Cherishing all the children of the nation equally" my arse.

I have just returned from a meeting of the Parents (read Fundraising) Committee of my children's school where I learned that the deficit for this year will reach over £45,000 — £30,000 of which is needed to pay teachers of basic subjects like Maths, Science and Technology. Almost every day we hear of multinational companies saying that the most important factor in locating here is (was?) a well-educated labour force. The government's short-sighted policy of failing to properly fund our schools risks strangling the Celtic Tiger.

I would earnestly appeal to the Minister for Finance to heed the sound advice of the Conference of Religious in Ireland (who have direct experience of dealing with the victims of the growing poverty gap, unlike many of the "expert" pundits) to direct the surplus resources at his disposal to the disadvantaged and to the education of our future workforce, rather than into more tax-cuts for those of us who are already well-off. Otherwise we will end up with a "society" riven with widening divisions between rich and poor and their inevitable results: more crime; more drug abuse; more money wasted on more jails and more police, yet more fear and insecurity among all our people.

(Dr) Seán Marlow,
Dublin 11.

Political prisoners in US

A Chairde,

Regarding a recent letter in *An Phoblacht* by an African-American expressing solidarity with Irish political prisoners. I would like to write a few lines expressing solidarity with and drawing attention to the plight of America's own political prisoners, of whom there are over 400, some on death row.

Just a few examples: Chris Plummer was sentenced to 15 to 23 years in jail for his alleged part in a raid against a Nazi house in Texas. Chris has just been transferred to a new jail and has already been assaulted and believes he will be killed as the ever thoughtful prison authorities have placed him with Nazi prisoners.

Since 1982 Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row framed for the killing of a cop. Mumia's real crime was to be an ex-Black Panther, supporter of radical group 'Move' and constant opponent of injustice.

At the moment awaiting execution in Alabama is a 13-year-old falsely-convicted,

An Phoblacht/Republican News welcomes readers' letters. Letters in Irish or English should be kept short (no more than 200 words) and typed or handwritten clearly, double-spaced and on one side of the paper only. Name and address should be supplied for verification, but these will not be published if we are so requested.

Mála Poist

Cuireann An Phoblacht/Republican News fáilte roimh litreacha ónár léitheoirí. Scríobh i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla. Is fearr litreacha gearra (200 focal ar a méid) clóscríofa nó lámhscríofa go soláir ar thaobh amháin den leathanach. Cuir ainm agus seoladh leis ach ní fhoilseoidimid iad seo más é do thóil.



Keep distance from McAleese

A Chairde,

It is important now that Sinn Féin has helped elect Mary McAleese, albeit without a formal endorsement, that we now create some clear blue water between herself and ourselves.

Mary McAleese, for all the attempts by her anti-national enemies to portray her as a "Provo fellow traveller" is nothing of the sort. Whilst tactically it was correct for republicans to back her (not as a number one vote, I would argue) it is vital that we are not tainted by association with this very flawed character.

Her record is one of careerism to the exclusion of any efforts to aid either the civil rights struggle or any subsequent struggle. People like her benefit from the work of others in fighting, but simply do not get their hands dirty.

Her most distinguishing political characteristics are those of support for the Catholic Hierarchy and Fianna Fáil's conservative nationalism. Amongst her first

statements on election were to denounce republicans and our struggle. This is not a new theme for her. She is quoted in *The Examiner* (4 November) as supporting an end to the GAA ban on British terrorists from membership, categorising it as sectarian. That statement was made six months ago.

The likes of Mary McAleese will always betray the working class in pursuit of her own interests and those of her class. We must now distance ourselves from her lest we are tainted by her foul politics. Her victory was a defeat for the reactionary anti-national and pro-unionist elements in the South and this I welcome. But it was no great victory for republicans, just another defensive act.

By the way, am I free as a Sinn Féin member to express a preference for an election candidate of any party on air without Sinn Féin first taking a decision on it?

James McBarron,
Cork.

mentally-retarded boy named Michael Barnes. Letters to and protests at the American Embassy/Consulate could help.

Terry Clancy,
Belfast.

Calling all radicals

A Chairde,

In Queen's University and elsewhere notices are appearing which outline the winter programme of open meetings being held by the New Ireland Group on certain Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 midday at the Ulster Peoples' College in Adelaide Park.

Having attended such meetings in the past it was disappointing to miss the open discussion on the Orange

Institution in Ireland which this innovative group has already hosted in this series.

Possibly because of lack of resources these discussions are not widely advertised, thus excluding people who might otherwise wish to participate in them. As the next one (Saturday 15 November) will be led by Quintin Oliver on the topic, 'Quangoland' I am writing to encourage radically-minded citizens to attend so that they may vent their feelings and express their ideas concerning the appalling democratic deficit in Northern Ireland.

Quintin Oliver is chairperson of the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and has also served with distinction on Mary Robinson's Council of State in the Irish Republic.

Fortunately the New Ireland

Group usually writes up a summary of points made and changes urged as a result of their open discussions so that, in time, these may reach not only power brokers but also those who strive to promote radical social change in Ireland. I hope to be there, the question is, however, will your readers join me?

Philip Dugdale
Belfast

Shaved for Ireland

A Chairde,

On 1 December, to co-incide with the start of Prisoners' Month, a function has been organised by Dublin Central, Tallaght and Coolock Sinn Féin Cumann. This event will be called "Plucked for the Prisoners" and will involve eight republicans getting their

heads shaved. All sponsorship money received by those involved will be forwarded to the POW Department. Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Long Kesh are also taking part in this event by getting their heads shaved and providing spot prizes for the POW benefit draw.

The event will take place in Barry's Hotel (off Frederick Street, Dublin) at 8pm (doors close 11pm). MCs for the evening will be Councillor Christy Burke and Eamonn Nolan.

There will be a ballad session and a bar extension. Táille is £5 and we ask republicans to sponsor those getting their heads shaved by buying POW draw tickets and function tickets which are available in the Sinn Féin bookshop, Parnell Square.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

John Murtagh, NIC SF,
Seán Crowe, Tallaght SF,
Andy Kavanagh, Coolock SF.

Cairde Shinn Féin

A Chairde,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform readers of *An Phoblacht* that the latest issue of the Chairde Shinn Féin newsletter, *CSF News*, is now available.

Membership of CSF is open to everyone who wishes to support Sinn Féin in a practical way and costs only £20 per year. Anyone wishing to receive a newsletter should contact Joe Reilly, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Joe Reilly,
Director CSF.

Why no Woodward-style campaign for Hamill case?

A Chairde,

For what it's worth, I would like to offer my sympathy and support to the family of murdered Portadown Catholic Mr Robert Hamill. This unfortunate man was brutally attacked when returning home with a cousin and two women. Why is there no outcry in the country about this grave injustice?

Why is there not a campaign in the media like the Louise Woodward case? No pickets, no white flags, no ribbons.

Is it any wonder the northern minority feel alienated? Where is the leadership from the ICTU? Their silence on Harryville was deafening. The Hamill family should have the support of everyone. There's no time for sitting on the fence.

Finian McGrath,
Dublin 9.

A Chairde,

If Louise Woodward had been an Irish *au pair* in England in a similar situation, would there have been a campaign to secure her release?

Leaving aside the rights and wrongs of this particular case, I think it is important to note it as yet another example of hypocrisy in British attitudes towards prisoners. Isn't it sickening that the British people remain largely oblivious to their torture of Róisín McAlisley while protesting so strongly about Louise Woodward?

Terry McAleenan,
Dublin.

Connolly Association conference warns against complacency

THIS YEAR'S annual conference of the Connolly Association will re-affirm the organisation's belief in the benefits of a united Ireland and discuss the possibility of an interim settlement as the most likely outcome of the current peace process.

The conference, which will be held on Saturday 15 November in London, will open with a public meeting at 11.30 am

addressed by Kevin McCorry of the Belfast-based Campaign for Democracy and the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington, and chair of the Britain and Ireland Human Rights Centre, John McDonnell. The theme of the meeting will be the talks process and the respect for a negotiated

settlement to the crisis in the Six Counties.

The business section of the conference, which is open only to CA members and invited guests, will discuss the organisation's response to the latest developments in the peace process, including the IRA ceasefire, the inclusion of Sinn Féin in multi-party talks by the British government and moves towards the implementation of a range of confidence-building measures.

Connolly Association General Secretary Enda Finlay said: "Whilst we welcome the measures taken by the new Labour government since the May election, which have gone some way to facilitate constructive negotiations towards a settlement to the Irish crisis, we believe that much more still needs to be done."

"There is simply no room for complacency. The repeal of emergency legislation,

demilitarisation, policing, employment discrimination and disputed killings are all important areas which must be addressed if we are not to run into some of the same difficulties which dogged the last abortive phase of the peace process under the Tory government of John Major. The Connolly Association will continue to campaign for the dismantling of in-built structures of discrimination and inequality in the North."

CHARTER FOR CHANGE

A NEW GROUP, Cearta, will be launching their charter this week in an initiative designed to "stimulate debate and encourage ownership of the peace process".

The peace process has to be bigger than the talks process, said Ciarán Kearney, a spokesperson for the group. "The Cearta initiative is just one idea intended to make the peace process more dynamic and encourage greater participation," he said. "Irish people living in the North of Ireland are entitled to the same full national and democratic rights of Irish citizenship as Irish people living elsewhere in Ireland," states the charter. "All people living in the North of Ireland are entitled to receive full parity of esteem and equality of treatment with one another. Delivering these fundamental rights is a prerequisite to, and is not dependent upon, any negotiated settlement."

The steering group, which will be promoting the charter in a series of local meetings, is made up of a broad cross section of people within the nationalist community: community workers, residents groups, professional and business people as well as people with experience in campaigning for human rights.

"Although the denial of national, democratic and human rights has mainly penalised the nationalist population, partition has also denied unionists the opportunity for reconciliation with the rest of the people of Ireland, within shared political structures based on agreement and a common civic identity," says the charter. "This is not a statement of exclusive rights and upholds the Human and civil rights of all people equally."

RUC supports Whitewell 'Berlin Wall'

NATIONALIST residents in North Belfast are furious that the RUC is backing plans for a wall to be built for several hundred yards behind Serpentine Gardens.

The construction of this 'peaceline' has been the subject of debate within the community from last July during the height of the Drumcree period of Orange violence.

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Danny Lavery supports the residents' plea for no fence or

wall to be put up. "The decision to build this wall at the behest of loyalists has been approved by the RUC and is presently on someone's desk at the Northern Ireland Office," Lavery said.

Nationalists in the area say that physical barriers have not secured peace in other areas of the city over the past 27 years and at times provide a shield for loyalists to launch attacks on nationalist homes. Home owners say property prices will fall if a wall is erected.

One resident told *An Phoblacht* that if a wall goes up it will reinforce unionist plans to limit the number of nationalist residents living in the area because "it will block any movement of nationalists out of Whitewell and into the neighbouring White City which has numerous empty houses. This wall will end up creating a ghetto here. We do not want to see this area become sectarian," he said. "Last weekend there was another barrage of stones

RUC lie about bus incident

A MINIBUS carrying 12 nursery children from Naiscoil Breandán on Belfast's Shaw's Road was stopped and held by an armed RUC patrol in Poleglass as it dropped the children off. The bus containing children whose ages range from three and four was detained for 20 minutes.

The RUC denied the incident occurred saying they had no record of the minibus being stopped. However *An Phoblacht* spoke to the driver of the bus who rubbished the RUC claim and showed us the RUC order telling him to produce his insurance at Woodbourne RUC Barracks. Poleglass Sinn Féin Councillor Ita Grey reacted angrily to the "incomprehensible" incident, saying the "action was deliberate and clearly directed at schoolchildren learning Irish".

She pointed out that the incident occurred as Gerry Adams was meeting British Security Minister Adam Ingram to discuss harassment by crown forces.

Pollution case adjourned

THE prosecution of Procter and Gamble by the Environmental Protection Agency on charges of polluting the water supply in Nenagh, County Tipperary has been adjourned until 6 February 1998 following doubts about the validity of appointments of District Court clerks. This follows a ruling of the High Court that such appointments should be made personally by the Minister for Justice.

In August 1996 *An Phoblacht* reported that residents of the

Tipperary town had been unable to drink water from the mains for over two weeks, causing massive disruption to the town and forcing the Urban District Council to make alternative provision for the supply of drinking water. A subsequent report by the EPA, while finding a case against Procter and Gamble, strongly recommended that Shannon Development, who own the industrial estate where Procter and Gamble is located, also be

prosecuted by the relevant local authority.

The Urban District Council and North Tipperary County Council both told *An Phoblacht* that the other authority would be responsible for any such prosecution. However, Nenagh Town Clerk Tony McCormack told *An Phoblacht* this week that the UDC was still considering a civil prosecution against Procter and Gamble to recover damages for the cost of the alternative water supply.

JOIN
SINN
FÉIN

SINN FEIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied Six Counties, the reunification of our country and the establishment of a 32-County democratic socialist republic.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin fill in the form below and send it to Sinn Féin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Name

Address

Tel..... Age

Sinn
Féin

The comeback kid

TV REVIEW

And so, like a bad penny, he skulks back. The O'Coileáin boy himself. And you thought, hoped even, that you'd seen the back of me. A freakish mix of ego and illness have combined against my legion of detractors (I've still got the mis-spelled fan mail). I was recently blackmailed into making a comeback in the *Irish People*, which had the effect of stroking my inflated impression of myself and my abilities, which are never too deflated at any time. Combine this with an unexpected childhood illness, which nicely nobbled the present incumbent of this space, and the poor befuddled editor was left with little choice but to let me loose again.

Unfortunately, I'm just back from my holliers. Unfortunately firstly because I'm back and it's cold and miserable, and secondly because I've seen precious little television, and that is what this vast white space stretching off into the far distance is supposed to be all about.

The English television

schedule is filled with Louise Woodward, the most famous nanny I'd never want to have minding my children, and a salutary exercise in the wonders of impartial journalism, while over on RTE the presidential inauguration is all very nice, but does not exactly light my candle. Sport and soaps are usually my last resort in times of crisis, but Celtic fans are back sulking in the trenches, nobody wants to hear about my own beloved Chelsea, all that's left of the Grand Prix scene is the pickings of controversy. There's not even a decent golf tournament on to bore you all with.

The soaps are little better, I'm afraid. *Fair City* is in a bit of a trough. The drug dealers seem to be on holidays, and the 'I stepped out and she stepped in again' marriage business has run its course. That also seems to be the case in *Coronation Street*, which has been all too angst-ridden of late. In recent years *Brookside* has tried hard for shock value, and has an impressive record of taboo subjects to its

name, from wife battering to batterer burying, incest and euthanasia. It has run out of steam somewhat of late and is embarking on a bizarre surrogacy plot to try to regain momentum. The only real bright spot on its horizon, though, is the return of standby bad guy Barry Grant. A spot of good old-fashioned gangsterism appears to be looming. There might be a bit of life in Liverpool yet.

Outside of that, *Deals on Wheels* (Channel 4, Tuesdays, 8pm) is worth a look. The presenters are informative on what to look out for when buying second-hand cars and the people trying to sell their cars are uniformly entertaining. There was one guy trying to sell a banger who turned down a higher offer than he eventually accepted because the buyer dented his pride by checking the car out too much. Another seller started bringing her price down before the buyer had even come in with an offer. They could learn a lot by visiting a horse fair.

Léargas (Network 2, Tuesday, 11 November, 7.30pm) RTE's above



Fair City is in a bit of a trough

average bilingual documentary series, travelled to the Scottish Highlands to report on the hopes of locals for the new Scottish parliament. A virtually feudal system of landholding is still in existence in the Highlands, where most of the land rests in the hands of landlords, the Queen of England and other land grabbers. A Sheikh Mohammed is one newer landowner, controlling 42,000 acres, much of which is closed to locals. Examples of this feudal

system endured by the 'peasantry' can include having to consult the local landlord should they want to change the colour of their house. Landlords even control access to the sea in this playground for the wealthy.

Adjacent to the Isle of Skye, a private bridge has been built and as a result local ferries have lost all business and many tourists are turning back as the price of crossing is exorbitant. Karl Marx once recorded that the Highlands were the worst

example in the world of the victory of landlordism over locals. *Léargas* showed clearly that this system is still thriving. Locals are now hoping that Home Rule will make a difference. Hmmmm!

Anyway, normal service will be resumed next week when Seán O'Donaille will report exclusively on the situation in Albania. In the meantime, remember my golden rule: the remote control is your best friend and a great substitute for having a life.

BY LIAM O COILEAIN

Dungiven's talent wins through



SPORTSVIEW

A big day out for the clubs and provinces last week. The Railway Cup seems to be sinking further and further into hurling oblivion, with only a few hundred souls turning out to witness Munster beat Leinster on Sunday in Ballinasloe to claim their third successive title. Munster had previously beaten Connacht on Saturday while Leinster beat Ulster in an entertaining game.

Another big weekend for club football and hurling. Dublin's Erin's Isle scraped by Offaly's Edenderry at Parnell Park in the Leinster Football Quarter-Finals, with Clane of Kildare beating Moate of Westmeath.

In the Ulster Senior Football Final Dungiven from Derry beat Tyrone's Errigal Ciarán by three points before 10,000 people in Clones. Dungiven's inter-county players played their part in

a comfortable well-balanced performance, enough for the Oak Leaf men to progress to the All-Ireland semi-finals. Last year's runners-up Knockmore from Mayo joined earlier casualties and last year's winners Crossmaglen after being beaten by Galway's Corrin in Tuam.

Wins for Clarecastle in the Clare Senior Hurling decider and a surprise victory for Ballygunner of Waterford over Limerick's Sarsfields in the Munster Club Hurling replay. In Cork Beara bridged a 30-year gap to capture the Cork Senior Football title from Castlehaven.

NO JOY AT THE 'REICHSTAG'

Well, at Ibrox the first Old Firm Derby of the season finished 1-0 for Rangers. King Hun himself Richard Gough scored. The English clown Gascoigne was the star for the Huns. On the Celtic side there was no evidence of the team of the past two months. The only consolation for the Bhoys was the defence, who managed to keep Negri from scoring in the league for the first time this season, with Reiper and Stubbs (before going off) giving credible performances. Frenchman



Errigal Ciarán's Emmet McGinley pushes by Geoffrey McGonigle of Dungiven in Clones last Sunday

Stephane Mahe's sending off eight minutes from time provided another black spot for the Celts. Nothing

more to say bar there are still three Old Firm games left and Celtic will win all three (fingers crossed).

Hearts still remain top of the Premiership after a 2-0 win and their 100th derby win in all over

neighbours Hibernian in Edinburgh.

In the League of Ireland Bohs played out a dull 0-0 draw against UCD, who deserved their point, on Friday night. After eleven games the Bohs have only lost one game. They have however seven draws, and will have to start winning again if they are to be considered serious contenders for the championship. St Pat's remain in control after beating Kilkenny City 2-0. Reigning champions Derry City recorded their third successive victory, beating Drogheda United and knocking in four in the process. The northwest derby involving Sligo Rovers and Finn Harps finished 2-2 after Jonathan Speak saved Finn Harps with a late goal in the 88th minute. Nice to see the boys from Cork do well and beat Shamrock Rovers 3-1 in their own back yard (oops, they haven't got one!).

And room for just a quick word on Ireland's match against Belgium on Saturday. Although wishing them all the best they have an uphill battle and losing Dinny Irwin doesn't help. I don't think they'll make it and I don't think they are good enough anyway.

BY CIARAN HEAPHEY



BOOK REVIEW
City of the Tribes
by Walter Macken
Published by Brandon
Price £12.99

Discovery of new texts by deceased authors is becoming such a frequent occurrence in the literary industry that it is now a

Scribe of the tribes

definable trend. Already this year we have seen 'new' versions of classics by T E Lawrence and James Joyce.

Now enter another literary find — a new collection of short stories by Walter Macken published for the first time under the title *City of the Tribes*. The stories owe their publication to Steve MacDonogh who, when still at Brandon, received type-scripts of over 30 stories written in

the 1940s by Macken.

The stories' themes and content are all hewn from the real Galway of the day that Macken lived and worked in.

MacDonogh has edited 18 of the 30 stories for publication. There were two versions of some stories and some were incomplete.

The end result is an admirable collection of very readable accessible tales that give a fascinating snap shot of

Galway, *City of the Tribes*, as the title suggests.

If like many Irish children you sped through Macken's historical trilogy *Seek the Fair Land*, *The Silent People* and *The Scorching Wind* you will as adults enjoy this new collection.

The strength and binding tie between all these stories is a dual one. At one level is the rapid development and portrayal of a core character in each story. Then at a second

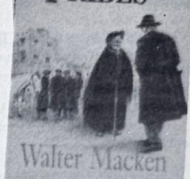
level these characters are pitted against a range of obstacles and dilemmas.

Here you find the strength of Macken's writing in that he can make the everyday monotony of human activity whether it be the weather, shopping, a street fair or even a funeral into a complex panorama of humanity where a deeper understanding of who we really are is always lurking. This collection then is one to read during those quiet moments at the end of the day

BY NEIL FORDE

CITY
OF THE
TRIBES

CITY
OF THE
TRIBES



Two Ministers and a revolutionary brother



BOOK REVIEWS
Power and Prospects
Class Warfare
By Noam Chomsky
Published by Pluto Press
Price £9.99 each

Five years ago I and over 1,000 others crowded into two lecture halls in University College Dublin to hear a lecture followed by a question-and-answer session with the prolific political writer and linguist Noam Chomsky.

We packed two lecture halls because so many people turned up to hear him speak that there had to be a video link to the second hall. Chomsky spoke for over an hour with almost no

notes. His topics covered the emergence of the US led New World Order, the ongoing manipulation of the mass media and the terrible experience of the people of East Timor.

As the lecture ended, and the crowds thronged the college concourse I was momentarily shuffling behind a now former Minister for Arts and Culture and then again momentarily a former Taoiseach. The Taoiseach had been quite silent

during the question-and-answer session. However now he was muttering to his companion: "He was quite wrong on the central issues you know." I never heard the response of his companion, being distracted by the powerful urge to give the former Taoiseach the very necessary kick up the backside.

Afterwards I was struck by the comparison between Chomsky and his detractor. In many ways they were both similar people, university academics who were also deeply involved in the political life of their respective societies. Both were also political writers.

There the similarities

ended. Noam Chomsky towered above his detractor. Chomsky is a prolific writer whose contribution to an understanding of the economic and political forces that shape the world we live in today is unrivalled. He is a Connolly, a Thomas Davis.

Two new publications by Chomsky provide an excellent introduction to his work. The first is not really a book written by Chomsky, rather a set of interviews conducted by David Barsamian. Titled *Class Warfare* it is very readable introduction to the work, philosophy and personality of Chomsky.

For those looking for a bit more meat there is

second new book titled *Power and Prospects*. It covers a diverse range of topics through its chapters including pieces on language, writers and intellectual responsibility, democracy and the New World Order, the Middle East peace accords and the role of the UN and others in East Timor.

Maybe you should start on the last chapter which deals with East Timor and sets out clearly and concisely the role of the UN, the USA, Britain and others in actively denying the Timorese people their right to self-determination. Then you can decide who was wrong on the central issues.

BY NEIL FORDE



Rock n' Roll Paddy

He's back. The king of the balladeers, Shane MacGowan, is back with another new album. Starting off with the raucous *Paddy Rolling Home* and Reggae styled *B&I Ferry* and finishing up with *I Was Born Under a Wandering Star*, as usual the songs and lyrical quality are top class; the man just can't write bad material.

After coming to prominence with the Pogues in the mid-'80s he gave most traditionalists a kick up the arse with his punk-influenced ballads. The same style still abounds in his latest work

CD REVIEW
The Crock of Gold
Shane MacGowan
and the Popes
ZTT Records
Price £14.95

and sounds anything but stale.

The man might drink a fair bit, but makes a lot of sense. We are treated to songs about truck drivers, céilidh cowboys, drinking and more drinking. A song about ex-INLA chief Dominic McGlinchey is given the *Man from Mullingar* treatment in *Paddy Public Enemy No 1*.

The ballads like *Lonesome Highway* are also here and with songs and such lyrics as: "With a nick nack paddy wack give the dog a bone, send the stupid bastards home, the nation's gonna rise again" (a song presumably about the Brits) and: "When I've done my patriotic chore and burnt London to the ground, I'll go back to Nenagh and get pissed every night in town. Like the old folks say, you can't keep a good man down," he's on to a winner.

You can have Mary McAleese, Shane should have been president. Fantastic stuff.

BY CIARAN HEAPHEY

OUT NOW!

An Phoblacht
REPUBLICAN NEWS



DIALANN
1998
DIARY

ONLY £3.50

■ The 1998 *An Phoblacht* Diary is out now and available from our office in Dublin. With only a limited number printed we ask you to order early to avoid disappointment.

BULK ORDER RATES AVAILABLE RING: 8733611/8733839

Imeachtaí

☐ **DERRY PROTESTS:** Calling for the demilitarisation and disbandment of the RUC. 7pm Friday 14 November, Rosemount Barracks, **DERRY**

☐ **PLAY/DRAMA:** *Just a Prisoner's Wife*, award-winning drama from Justus and Dubbel Joint. 8.30 pm Friday 14 November, Crumlin Star, Balholme Drive, Ardoyne, **BELFAST**, County Antrim. Tickets £3

☐ **SAOIRSE WHITE-LINE PICKET:** 2pm Saturday 15 November, the Whitewell and Shore Road, **BELFAST**, County Antrim

☐ **WELCOME-HOME FUNCTION:** For Barry Murray and Mícheál Mac Giolla Ghunna. Friday 14 November, **DONAGH**, County Fermanagh.

☐ **SAOIRSE PROTEST:** 2pm Saturday 15 November, Patrick's Bridge, **CORK**

☐ **PLAY:** *The Crime of Castlereagh*, adopted from the writings of Bobby Sands. Performed by ex-POWs, Long Kesh. 7.30pm Saturday 15 November, Town Hall, **NEWRY**, County Down. Táille £5

☐ **PUBLIC MEETING:** Peace Process: A Trade Union View. 2pm Saturday 15 November, Teachers' Club, Parnell Square, **DUBLIN**. Speakers: Jim Gibney (SF), Billy Hutchinson (PUP), Monica McWilliams (WG) and Brian Campfield (Belfast Trades Council) and Des Bonass (Dublin Trades Council). A joint initiative by the Dublin and Belfast Trades Councils. All welcome

☐ **PUBLIC LECTURE:** Annual Volunteer Michael McVerry Memorial Lecture (24th Ann). Saturday 15 November, Lite 'n Easy, **CULLYHANNA**, County Armagh. Prominent speaker. Adm £3

☐ **SAOIRSE PICKET:** For the release of all political prisoners. 1pm Saturday 15 November, Market Square, **DUNDALK**, County Louth

☐ **CONFERENCE:** Annual Connolly Association conference. 11am-5pm Saturday 15 November, Britannia Street Conference and Meeting Centre, Off Gray's Inn Road, **LONDON**, England. Function to follow at the Calthorpe Arms, Gray's Inn Road. 8pm til late. Music by Tom Lynch. Tickets available from Four Provinces Bookshop, £5/3

☐ **REPATRIATION PICKET:** 1.30-3.30pm Saturday 15 November, **BLANCHARDSTOWN VILLAGE**, County Dublin. Organised by Sinn Féin. All welcome

☐ **VOLUNTEER COMMEMORATION:** 24th anniversary of the death of Volunteer Michael McVerry. Assemble 10.45am Sunday 16 November, The Square, **CULLYHANNA**, County Armagh, and march to chapel for 11.30am Mass. Commemoration after Mass. Prominent member of the Republican Movement will be in attendance

☐ **1798 DUBLIN LECTURE SERIES (November '97):** *Spies and Informers* by Prof Tom Bartlett (UCD). 8pm Tuesday 18 November, Raheny Library, Howth Road; *Lord Edward Fitzgerald* by Kevin Whelan (Notre Dame). 6.45pm Wednesday 19 November, Ballymun Library, Ballymun Road; *United Irishmen and Botany Bay* by Ruán O'Donnell (Drumcondra). 3pm Sunday 23 November, Kilmahain Jail, Inchicore Road; *Lord Edward Fitzgerald* by Kevin Whelan. 7pm Thursday 27 November, Deansgrange Library, Clonkeen Drive. Enquiries to Tommy Graham on 4535730/8308827

☐ **PUBLIC MEETING:** Towards a United Ireland. 8pm Thursday 20 November, ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey Street, **DUBLIN**. Speakers: Mitchel McLaughlin (National Chairperson, SF) and Seán Crowe (Dublin SF). Chair: Des Bonass (Dublin Council of Trade Unions)

☐ **VOLUNTEER COMMEMORATION:** 77th Annual Volunteer Eddie Carmody commemoration. Assemble 8.30pm Friday 21 November, **BALLYLONGFORD**, County Kerry. Speaker Martin Ferris

☐ **FUNCTION:** Featuring the fabulous Irish Brigade. 9pm Friday 21 November, Blake's Tavern, **BLANCHARDSTOWN**, County Dublin. Organised by Dublin Sinn Féin

☐ **ANTI-EXTRADITION MARCH:** Assemble 2.30pm Saturday 22 November, Bus Station, **LETTERKENNY**, County Donegal for national mobilisation. For details phone Fergal Gillen on 074-27149

☐ **ELECTION CONVENTION:** For East Limerick By-election. 3pm Sunday 23 November, Gaelic League Hall, Thomas Street, **LIMERICK CITY**, County Limerick. All welcome

(continued on page 17)

InDíl Chuimhne

BLACK, Patricia; BRADY, Paddy; BURNS, Seán; CARBERRY, Stan; McDade, James; McKerr, Gervase; McVerry, Michael; ROONEY, John; RYAN, Frankie; TOMAN, Eugene. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Patricia Black (died 15 November 1991), Seán Burns (died 11 November 1982), Stan Carberry (died 13 November 1972), James McDade (died 14 November 1974), Gervase McKerr (died 11 November 1982), Michael McVerry (died 15 November 1973), John Rooney (died 15 November 1974), Frankie Ryan (died 15 November 1991), Eugene Toman (died 11 November 1982) and Sinn Féin member Paddy Brady (died 16 November 1984). "We believe in constitutional action in normal times; we believe in revolutionary action in exceptional times. These are exceptional times." — James Connolly. Always remembered with love and pride by their many friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

BURNS, Seán; McKerr, Gervase (15th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Seán Burns and Gervase McKerr, murdered by the RUC on 11 November 1982. While Ireland holds these graves Ireland unfree shall never be at peace. Always remembered by the Toman family.

CARROLL, Adrian (4th Ann). In remembrance of Adrian, murdered by UDR/PAF on 8 November 1993. Remembered always by his mother.

CARROLL, Adrian (4th Ann). In memory of my brother Adrian, murdered by UDR/PAF on 8 November 1993. Always remembered never forgotten by his brother Tommy Carroll.

McCARTHY, deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of PJ McCarthy, Fenit County Kerry on his recent death. From North Kerry Sinn Féin.

McGUIGAN, Mary (1st Ann). In loving memory of our dear friend Mary McGuigan, who died on 10 November 1996. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for her. Always remembered by her friends Angela Raymond and Tippy.

McKERR, Gervase (15th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Gervase McKerr executed by the RUC on 11 November 1982 and Eleanor who died 31 October 1996. Always remembered by their sons Johnathan and David.

McKERR, Gervase (15th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Gervase McKerr executed by the RUC on 11 November 1982 and his wife Eleanor who died 31 October 1996. Always loved and sadly missed by Cristin. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for them.

McKERR, Gervase; TOMAN,

Eugene; BURNS, Seán (15th Ann). In proud memory of Volunteers Gervase McKerr, Eugene Toman and Seán Burns murdered by the RUC on 11 November 1982. Always remembered by Upper Ban Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

McVERRY, Michael (24th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Michael McVerry, South Armagh Brigade, Irish Republican Army. From the McCreesh/McCabe Sinn Féin Cumann, Mullaghbawn/Silverbridge.

TOMAN, Eugene (15th Ann). Always remembered by brother Hugh, Mena and Family.

TOMAN, Eugene (15th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Eugene Toman murdered by the RUC on 11 November 1982. "Whatever I have done I have done as a soldier of Ireland in what I believed to be my country's interest." — Seán Heuston. Always remembered by his mother, late father, brothers and sisters and family circle. RIP.

TOMAN, Eugene; BURNS, Seán (15th Ann). In loving memory of Volunteers Eugene Toman and Seán Burns executed by the RUC on 11 November 1982. To live on in the hearts of those left behind is not to have died. Always remembered by Martin, Cristin, Roisin, Orlagh, Pádraig, Johnathan and David.

Comhbhrón

DUGGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Duggan on the death of Maura Duggan. From Sinn Féin and the Republican Movement, Limerick.

DUGGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Duggan on the death of her mother. From Richard and Jenny Shapland.

DUGGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Duggan on the death of her mother. From Kieran O'Dwyer and Coireall Mac Curtain.

DUGGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Duggan on the death of her mother. From Malachy and Bernie McCreesh.

KELLY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Kelly family (Strabane and Burnenduff) on the death of Patrick. Go ndeana Dia trócaire air. From Páckie's friends in Strabane Sinn Féin, West Tyrone Sinn Féin and Glenelly Sinn Féin.

KENNA. Deepest sympathy is extended to Martina Kenna on the death of her mother. From D.

McCANN. Deepest sympathy to Malachy and Jenny on the death of Jenny's mother. RIP. From Sinn Féin, Bunrana.

MURPHY. Deepest sympathy to the Murphy family Chicago on the sad death of Alex (senior). You will be missed dearly old comrade. From Síle D.

MURPHY. Deepest sympathy to the Murphy family at home and in

the USA on the tragic death of Alex (senior). A tireless worker for Irish POWs and the Republican Movement. No job too great or small, always the helping hand, a bed, a roof and of course Kitty's cooking. From all comrades at the American desk.

O'CONNOR. Deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives and comrades and friends of the late Tom O'Connor, Castlemaine, County Kerry. From Bill O'Shea and Tom Costello.

SHANAHAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Shanahan family Tarbert, County Kerry and to the Sillery family Dublin on the death of Patrick Shanahan. From Bill O'Shea.

Beannachtaí

BRAWLEY. Wishing you all the best, Tam, and take care. From Eckl and friends of Ireland, Berlin, Germany.

MAGUIRE. Happy birthday wishes Dermot on the 8 November from wife Lena and son Declan; From Jackie, Conor and son Diarmuid; From Kelly and John and Aine and Deirbhle; From Brian and Geraldine Patrick and Mairead; From Dermot and Sharon; From Bridie, Pat, Debbie, Danny and Janice.

Cuimhní Breithlae

LUNDY. Birthday memories of my dear husband Alan, who was murdered by a loyalist death squad and whose 44th birthday occurs on 11 November. Padre Pio pray for him RIP. A silent tear falls gently which others do not see, for a kind and loving husband who meant the world to me. A photograph to treasure is all I have to touch of a husband I love with all my heart and miss so very much. Sadly missed by your loving wife Margaret. XXXXXXXXXX. Birthday memories of our dear daddy Alan who was murdered by a loyalist death squad and whose 44th birthday occurs on 11 November. Padre Pio pray for him RIP. They say the journey's beautiful from the old world to the new, someday we'll make that journey daddy, that will lead us straight to you. There is a bridge of memories from here to heaven above, it keeps us very close to you it's called the bridge of love. Upright, honest, kind and true, he did not deserve what he went through. If he had spoken before he died, these are words he would have said, these are the words he would have sighed. Weep not for me, courage take, love each other for my sake. Guard him dear Jesus don't leave him alone, love him in heaven like we did at home. Sadly missed by your loving children Alan, Daniel, Clare, Claran and Elizabeth XXXXXXXXXX.

Draw Results

JOE McDONNELL SF CUMANN LOTTO RESULTS, BLANCHARDSTOWN

Thursday 6 November. Nos: 6,16,20. No winner. 5 x Turkeys winners: 1st: Peter O'Shaughnessy; 2nd: John, c/o Ray; 3rd: Maire Rock; 4th: Del Dunne; 5th: Tommy Hartigan. Next week's jackpot £900.

SOUTH DERRY SF LOTTO

10 November. Nos: 3,8,13,19. B Convery, Draperstown; J Kerr, Draperstown; N Donnelly, c/o Kilrea; S McKenna, Maghera; P McKeegan, c/o Dungiven. Jackpot £1,350.

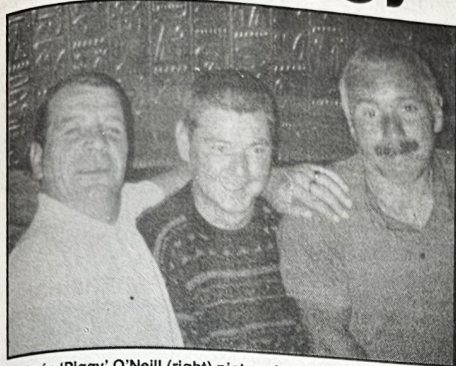
NEWRY MEMORIAL LOTTO DRAW

Nos: 8,14,21,22. One jackpot winner, J O'Hare, ticket 1782, £800. Next draw 17 November 1997. Jackpot £500.

NOTICES DEADLINE

The deadline for notices is 5pm on Monday before publication. In order to be included notices must be received by post, phone or fax at our Dublin or Belfast offices before the deadline.

Seán 'Piggy' O'Neill



Seán 'Piggy' O'Neill (right) pictured with two friends

SPEAKING at the graveside of his former comrade Seán 'Piggy' O'Neill, veteran Ardoyne republican Martin Meehan paid tribute to one of Belfast's fiercest guerrilla fighters who died so tragically last month at the age of 44.

"It was an absolute honour to be asked to remember the life of Piggy," said Meehan. It was the life of a man, so feared by the British Army that at the height of Belfast's gunbattles in the early 1970s they organised a shoot-to-kill operation to remove Seán O'Neill from his own streets. In an ambush Piggy was shot and seriously wounded by British Marine Commandos in the New Lodge Road area. His wounds were taken care of in the 26 Counties and he returned north to resume active service.

"A fearless comrade, a character, a kind and giving

and in particular to his son Seán, I would ask you to remember not just one of the bravest of soldiers but also the kind and warm person we all knew.

"I remember one incident. Piggy would — and did — face an army, but he had one real fear, believe it or not, and that was of mice! The Brits were raiding houses looking for him and the woman of a house told him he could take shelter up the coal-hole. So with the streets and entries covered with Brits Piggy moved towards the hide, only to be warned there were mice there. Well, that was enough for Piggy. He decided to take his chances with the Brits rather than the mice. He took to his heels, running out and over the back wall. It was typical of Piggy's nature and character that he ran past the Brits before they knew who he was. Piggy got away but later his comrades pulled his leg about this fierce street fighter running from a mouse.

"We in the Republican Movement will always remember Piggy with a deep pride and honour, but along with sadness Piggy will also be remembered with laughter. We must thank him for the many sacrifices he made for his people and his country. Piggy, on behalf of the Republican Movement, we salute you dear comrade and soldier.

"Look down upon us and pray for your remaining comrades. We will never forget you."

EDENTUBBER MARTYRS

IN THE LARGEST turnout at an Edentubber Martyrs' Commemoration for many years, 1,000 republicans marched in bright sunshine to the Edentubber Memorial at the border north of Dundalk last Sunday.

Wreaths from many branches of the Republican Movement were laid and the main oration was read by Sinn Féin National Chairperson Mitchel McLaughlin.

In praising the Edentubber Martyrs he said that they "and the hundreds of men and women Volunteers who have since given their lives for Irish freedom have paved the way for the achievement of the dream of the United Irishmen".

He told the crowd that "this generation has the greatest opportunity since partition to finally achieve genuine national self-determination. But if we are to be successful then we must resist those in the media and political establishment who would have us lower our expectations."

Referring to the resignations from Louth Sinn Féin he said: "I regret both the resignations and the media hype surrounding them. I can assure everyone that Sinn Féin is a progressive, united and cohesive political force, confident enough that we can allow those who may differ with our analysis to have their say and then move forward without rancour."

McLaughlin directed his most critical comments at David Trimble.

"He can scuttle in and out and he can run around the Stormont Buildings but he can't hide. Eventually he will have to stop his messing about and face up to the reality of negotiation with Sinn Féin. David, we are not going away you know!" he said to applause.

"The unity, vibrancy and continual growth of Sinn Féin frightens David Trimble. He is so afraid of our ability to articulate the logic of our analysis that he

cannot yet find the courage to debate face to face. But change will happen anyway. It is already underway and the confidence within republicanism and nationalism is a general reflection of that reality.

"David Trimble's pronouncements over the past few days about the stability of the IRA cessation and his glee at a small number of resignations from Sinn Féin is in stark contrast to his deafening silence when the entire CLMC resigned and then killed one of their own members. He was so scared to upset his allies in the loyalist paramilitary parties that he refused to comment. There seems to be no bounds to David Trimble's hypocrisy."



Mitchel McLaughlin with relatives of the Edentubber Martyrs at Sunday's commemoration

Imeachtaí

(continued from page 16)

☐ **MARCH AND RALLY:** *Take Down the Spy Post*, 3pm, Sunday 23 November, Teach Meabha, New Lodge Road, BELFAST, County Antrim. From Ardoyne assemble at 2pm Ardoyne Avenue

☐ **PUBLIC LECTURE:** Annual O'Hanlon Memorial Lecture: *South Ulster in the age of the United Irishmen*, 4pm Sunday 23 November, Hillgrove Hotel, MONAGHAN. Presented by local historian Brian McDonald. All welcome

☐ **GREAT HUNGER PARADE:** Assemble 12 noon Sunday 23 November, and leaving from Town Hall, LIVERPOOL, England, and proceed to the Pier Head on the River Mersey to cast a wreath in memory of all who died. James Larkin RFB in attendance. Organised by the Liverpool Irish Forum, Box 110, Liverpool, L69 8DP

☐ **LÉACHT STAIRE** 7.30 Céadaoin 26 Samhain *Baile Atha Cliath agus 1798 le Denis Carroll*; Bord na Gaeilge, 7 Céarnóg Mhuirfean, BAILE ATHA CLIATH. Tuilleadh eolas o Aengus O Snodaigh 6763222

☐ **PUBLIC MEETING:** *Towards a United Ireland*, 8.30pm Thursday 27 November, Headfort Arms Hotel, KELLS, County Meath. Speaker: Caoimhghin O Caoiláin. Organised by Kells Sinn Féin. All welcome

☐ **PUBLIC MEETING:** Against the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 7-9pm Thursday 27 November, Islington Library, LONDON, England. Benefit function on same night in Victoria pub, Holloway Road. Music by Banna Strand. Táille £3/2

☐ **SF FUNCTION:** 9pm Friday 28 November, Widow Scallan's, Pearse Street, DUBLIN. Táille £3. Organised by the Mairéad Farrell Sinn Féin Cumann

☐ **PLAY:** *The Crime of Castlereagh*, adopted from the writings of Bobby Sands. Performed by ex-POWs, Long Kesh. 9pm Friday 28 November, Scarna Inn, EMMYVALE, County Monaghan. Táille £5. Tickets available from Bobby Sands Advice Centre and SF office, Monaghan

☐ **LATIN AMERICA SOLIDARITY EVENTS:** Swell, Happy City Samba School and DJ Don R. 9pm Friday 14 November, The Funnel, City Quay, DUBLIN. Adm: £5/4; Christmas Party: 7.30pm Saturday 29 November, 38 Gardiner Street. Music by Xacra. Adm: £5/4. For further info contact Oisín or Collette in LASC on 01-6760435

☐ **POW PICKET:** 1-3pm Saturday 29 November, Portlaoise Prison, PORTLAOISE, County Laois. For more information contact POW Dept

☐ **SAOIRSE CONFERENCE:** 3-6pm Sunday 30 November, Felons' Club, Falls Road, BELFAST, County Antrim. Speaker Gerry Adams; MOBILISATION: Sunday 14 December, ENNISKILLEN, County Fermanagh

☐ **FUNCTION:** In honour of veteran republican Jim Myther. 9pm Sunday 30 November, Murphy Flood's Hotel, ENNISKORTHY, County Wexford. Music by Borderline. Táille £2

☐ **VOLUNTEERS COMMEMORATION:** Volunteers Jeremiah and Cornelius Delaney (77th Ann) and Volunteer Seán O'Donoghue (75th Ann). Assemble 2pm Sunday 30 November, Blackpool Bridge, CORK CITY, County Cork and march to monument on Dublin Hill. Speaker: Martin Ferris

☐ **POW BENEFIT FUNCTION:** Sponsored head-shaving event and ballad session featuring Clann Rí and disco. Monday 1 December, Barry's Hotel, (off Frederick St) DUBLIN. All welcome

☐ **SAOIRSE DEMONSTRATION:** Sunday 7 December, Assemble, Gortin Road at St Enda's GAA Club and march to Omagh Courthouse, OMAGH, County Tyrone. Speakers include Sinn Féin Vice President Pat Doherty, Sinn Féin negotiator Gerry Kelly and Saoirse Chairperson Martin Meehan

☐ **FUASCAILT PICKET:** For the transfer of all Irish POWs to Ireland pending their release. 12 noon to 1.30pm Sunday 7 December, Downing Street, LONDON, England

☐ **LEACHT STAIRE** 7.30 Céadaoin 10 Nollaig *Bailiúchán '98 san Ard-Mhusaem le Michael Kenny*; Bord na Gaeilge, 7 Céarnóg Mhuirfean, BAILE ATHA CLIATH. Tuilleadh eolas o Aengus O Snodaigh 6763222

☐ **CORK SAOIRSE:** Meets regularly on alternate Monday and Tuesday nights in the Ahern/Crowley Hall, Barrack Street at 8pm. Next meeting on 18 November. All welcome

☐ **BALLAD SINGER** seeks musician/musicians to form ballad group for republican functions. Contact Derek at Dublin 8475966 (evenings)

☐ **LONG KESH CHRISTMAS BOOK APPEAL:** Republican POWs in Long Kesh would appreciate any donations of books or money to buy books as we strive to restock the libraries in the three republican blocks. Books on all aspects of contemporary Irish society, Irish history and international affairs are of particular interest. Any books or donations please forward to POW Dept before Christmas. Go raibh Míle Maith Agaibh



Putting on the style

LE EOGHAN Mac CORMAIC

Tá an saol ag athrú, nach bhfuil? Ina dhírbheathaisnéise scríobh Seán O'Casey faoi eachtra a tharla leis, tamaillín i ndiaidh Chogadh na gCarad. Chuimhnigh an Cathasach go raibh sé ag siúl ar Shráid Uí Chonaill lá mháin nuair a stop hacnaí in aice leis agus thuirling iarchomradaí leis den charr. *Iarchomradaí*. Nó d'imigh an t-iarchomradaí airithe seo leis an tSaorstát nuair a tháinig an scoilt i ndiaidh an Chonartha. Agus ba bheag an meas a bhí ag O'Casey ar ardnósanna an duine áirithe seo.

'A Sheáin', ar seisean, 'Is féidir leat cabhair a thabhairt domh, nó is duine cultúrtha thú. Tá fadhb agam.'

D'iarr An Cathasach uaidh céard i an fhadhb agus lean an fear eile ar aghaidh.

'Tá mé i ndiaidh cuireadh a fháil do *soirée* sa Vice-Regal Lodge' arsa sé, 'agus tá mé trína chéile faoin protocol ceart ar ócáidí mar seo'.

'Caidé go díreach atá cearr?' a d'fhiafraigh O'Casey, 'agus cad chuige a shíleann tú gur féidir liom cuidiú leat'.

'Bhuel, mar a dúirt mé, is duine cultúrtha agus liteartha thú. Tuigean tú na rudai seo. Agus sí an fhadhb atá agam ná, an mbainim mo *Top Hat* diom sula n-éirim as an cóiste ar mo bhealach isteach, agus é a iompar liom imo lámh nó, an fear dom an *Top Hat* a chaitheadh go dtí go bhfuil mé ag dul isteach an doras agus é a thabhairt don doirseoir ag an phointe sin'.

Ceist mhaith, ar ndóigh. Caidé a dhéanfá le do *Top Hat* féin, 'sin é an cheist. Nuair a bunaíodh an stat seo, Stat na 26 Chondae, bhí an-speis ag na boic

mhóra ar phrotocol. Go deimhin, bhí siad ag leanúint go géar ar módhanna oibre na Sasana i ngnéithe foirmeálta an stait agus ar ndóigh cheap siad go mbeadh orthu sin a dhéanamh faoi dhuilgas an Chonartha. Bhí pairlimint dá chuid féin ag an stait, ach bhí cos na Breataine ann fós sa Phairc agus bheadh ar chuaipteoirí don Vice-Regal Lodge an protocol cui a shásamh ansin. Agus, ar ndóigh, bhí go leor Éireannaigh a chreid gurbh i 'saoirse' ná cead acu modhanna na Sasana a leanúint, agus a bheith gléasta i seaicéidinnéir, i gcóta fáinleogé, i nguna foirmeálta, agus ag caitheadh *Top Hat* nó tiara.

Ar ndóigh, nuair atá daoine gléasta i *stuffed shirts*, feidhmíonn siad mar *stuffed shirts*. Bhí glúnta sa tír seo a thug níos mó aird ar fhoirmeáltais ná ar ghníomh agus cruthaíodh aicme de Sheáiníní, a rinne aithris ar Shasana agus de réir a chéile a smaoin níos mó de Shasana ná d'Éire.

Foirmeáltais. Ba mhinic a d'éirigh sé a cheann gránna thar na blianta. Chuimhníonn

daoine, is cinnte, ar charbhat Tony Gregory agus na fadhbanna a bhí aige nuair a toghadh é don chéad uair i dTeach Laighinn. Cuimhneoidh daoine chomh maith ar chás Phól Uí Foighil, nuair a diultáíodh cead dó dul isteach Teach Laighinn toisc go raibh sé ag caitheadh cóta báinín, rud a bhí ródhúchasach, róchoitianta, róthuathach.

Bhí an iomarca béime sa stat seo ar phrotocol, agus protocol a bhí, leoga, ina iarsma de riall Shasana.

Ach ar ais do Sheán O'Casey. Smaoin sé ar feadh bomaite ar an cheist agus ansin d'fhreagair sé a iarchomradaí.

'Cuir ceist' arsa sé, 'ar cheann den seachtar fear is seachtó'.

'An seachtar fear is seachtó' Cé hiaid? arsa an Stataire.

'An seachtar fear is seachtó a dhunmharaigh sibh le linn Cogadh na gCarad ionas gurbh fheidir leat an *Top Hats* sin a chaitheadh'.

Thug mé fa' deara nach raibh idir *Top Hats* ná éadaigh foirmeálta ar bith le feiceáil ag instealladh Mháire Nic Giolla losa Dé Máirt, agus smaoin mé ar scéal Uí Chathasaigh. B'fhéidir go raibh dioma orthu siúd a cuireadh spéis i ngléasadh suas agus i bhfoirmeáltais d'ócáidí móra go raibh an searú thart, ach ní raibh dioma orm. Tá céim bheag chun tosaigh ag an stat, céim ar aghaidh ón seáineachas, céim i dtreo daonlathais.

Clár Wolfe Tone an clár don 21ú haois

Is iomaí miotas a bhí i gcúrsaíocht ó thráth go céile faoin Éirí Amach 1798. Ceann acu a bhíodh faiseanta tráth gur éirí amach seicteach a bhí i bhfeachtas Loch Garman gan mórán baint aige le cuspóirí na nÉireannach Aontaithe. Ní riabh bunús leis sin riamh. Go deimhin, is léir dúinn anois a láidre agus a eagraithe a bhí na hÉireannaigh Aontaithe i gContae Loch Garman i 1798 agus gur i ngeall air sin a tharla an t-Éirí amach san áit inar tharla.

Is eol dúinn freisin mar ar sheas Caitlicigh agus Protastúnaigh le chéile an tráth sin mar shaoránaigh phoblachtacha san oirdheisceart agus in oirthear Uladh araon. Sa dá limistéar bhí na reabhóidithe ina ndaonlathaithe radacacha comhfiosacha chomh maith le bheith ina scarúnaíthe.

Uaireanta baineann frithphoblachtaigh, nár léigh abairt dá chuid, úsáid as ainm Wolfe Tone. Faoi mar a tharlaíonn tá eolas cruinn fágtha ag Tone ina dhialann maidir lena chuspóirí agus lena mheon. Chuir sé roimhe poblacht dhaonlathach a bhunú in Éirinn a bheadh deighilt scun scan ó Shasana. Níor chuir sé fiacail ann faoi sin ná faoi shaoltacht na sochái a shantaigh sé: "to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter."

Tabhair faoi deara an focal "substitute." Ní comhnaidhm éiciúiméineach atá i geist ach comhlathas saolta de shaoránaigh Éireannacha. Dhá chéad bliain níos déanaí is é clár na nÉireannach Aontaithe an iocshláinte atá de dhíth ón bpobal Éireannach ar thairseach na 21ú haois.

Miotas atá fós coitianta gur bhain 1798 go huile agus go hiomlán le saol an Bhéarla. Go deimhin tá leagan den scéal le cloisteáil i dTríantán Dhomhnach Broc a deir go raibh na Gaeilgeoirí ar thaobh na Corónach agus na Béarlóirí ar thaobh an Éirí Amach. Dearsheafóid é sin: bhí idir Ghaeilgeoirí agus Bhéarlóirí ar an dá thaobh mar a bhí ag gach tréimhe den choimhlint go dtí an lá inniu. Bhí sé sin amhlaidh i Loch Garman i 1798 bhíodh is gurbh é an Béarla a bhí in uachtar sa chontae. Deir tuairisc chomhaimseartha:

"On Monday the Fourth of July [1798] an ominous cloud seemed to hang over Ross. This evening, about half an hour after four o'clock, I saw a small party of peasants a little way before me, and found them to be rebels armed with pikes... and two of them, stepping forward, interrogated me together, one in English and the other in Irish."

(James Alexander: Some account ... of the rebellion in the County of Wexford. Ba as



Mainistir Eimhin, Co Chill Dara, do Alexander agus bhí Gaeilge ar a thoil aige.)

Dar le Seán de Fréine bhí rann druileála ag na hÉireannaigh Aontaithe mar seo leanas:

"Cuir cos do phice le barr do spáige;

Tomhas as sin go dtí do bhásta;

Tabhair truslóg ar aghaidh, agus déan sáthadh;

Léim ar gcúl, agus bhí ar do gharda."

O 1798 a thagann amhrán mór na nDéise, "Slíabh na mBan," chugainn agus tá go leor amhrán agus rannata a bhaineann leis an tréimhe againn ó chumadóirí éagsúla ach is é Micheál Óg Ó Longáin file 1798 par excellence. Tá cáil ar a amhrán, "Maidin Luan Cinisce" "Grá mo chroí na Laighneigh Is iad d'adhaín an tine bheo!"

Ní eolas forleathan ar a chuid dánta eile ach tá siad ar fáil in Micheál Óg Ó Longáin le Rónán Ó Connachda (*Coiscéim* 1994). Ní fear pinn amháin a bhí sa Longánach. Maireann a thuirisc sna páipéir stait; "It appeared that one Long [Ó Longáin] was employed by the county committee [de na hÉireannaigh Aontaithe] in Corke to organise different parts of the country, and that he was a most effective agent for them."

Ní beag an moladh é.

LE COLM DE FAOITE

US may use new 'super bomb' in Iraq

THE sorry tale of Operation Provide Comfort says just about everything we need to know about current US actions in Iraq.

The operation, you may recall, was established in the aftermath of the Gulf War — the one that liberated Kuwait from despotic Iraqi rule and then handed it straight back to the dynastic and despotic rule of the filthy-rich Al Sabah family.

Briefly, Operation Provide Comfort began in April 1991. Under its auspices a huge swathe of northern Iraq became a no-go area for the Iraqi military.

Ostensibly, its establishment was an attempt to 'protect' the long-suffering Kurdish people of the region, from Saddam Hussein's murderous army. Compliance was ensured by US-led air force patrols.

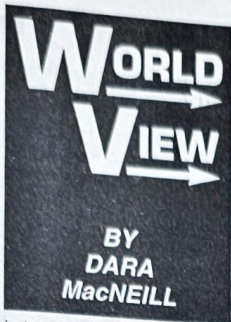
Unfortunately, those ever vigilant top guns were strangely absent whenever the murderous forces of another country — Turkey — chose to enter the so-called no-go area.

In March 1995, for example, Turkey launched a wholesale invasion of the region. The invasion was directed at the Kurds. Involving up to 35,000 troops, it was Turkey's biggest ever military offensive, even outstripping their 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

US news reports at the time informed us that, in response, the US-led air force had 'halted its routine flights in the area, which are designed to protect Iraqi Kurds'.

In May of this year, the Turks were at it again. This time the invading force comprised an estimated 50,000 men, along with the usual accoutrements of wholesale destruction. Again, their target was Kurdish rebels. Washington expressed its understanding of Turkey's 'right to self-defence'.

Imagine the (manufactured) international outrage had Iraq brazenly violated an internationally established and monitored 'safe haven', in order to terrorise a people fighting for their



independence. Imagine the streams of condemnation, the plethora of UN resolutions.

But Turkey is a valued ally of the West (much as Saddam Hussein once was). Thus it has *carte blanche* to blatantly ignore and violate international law and rights.

Turkey, after all, is ruled by a regime that is at least the equal — in the depravity stakes — of that which operates out of Baghdad. The country's 'security forces' have a reputation for brutality and murder which is second to none in the region, their long and violent suppression of the Kurdish people being the most notorious example. And there is compelling evidence of the involvement of key members of Turkey's ruling elite in the very lucrative heroin trade.

Saddam Hussein may well have chemical and biological weapons hidden away. That would be par for the course. But are we to believe that his is the only regime which possesses such weapons of mass destruction?

The US-led international campaign against Iraq is simply part of that country's strategy of 'containment'. Indeed, the West gladly profited from the ten-year long Iran-Iraq war (by selling weapons to both sides), happy in the belief that the conflict would bleed both countries dry. That in



US F14 Tomcats on an aircraft carrier in the Gulf — are they preparing to test new bomb?

turn was supposed to remove their threat to the region's valuable oil supplies.

Equally, the UN (US) argues that it is Iraq's non-compliance with the international body's resolutions that has precipitated the current crisis.

If non-compliance with UN resolutions is to become the newest criteria for threatened military action, then perhaps US carriers should be directing their guns at Tel Aviv. After all, Israel has ignored and violated virtually every single UN resolution — relating to the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and settlement building — of which it has been the subject.

Another treasured Western ally, Indonesia, boasts a similar record of non-compliance.

But if abhorrent weaponry is to be the target of an international campaign of eradication, the 'great' powers would be better served eradicating some of the stockpiles in their own backyards.

Despite being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the US military continues its passionate embrace of nuclear weaponry.

Earlier this year, they revealed the existence of their new 'wonder bomb'. Officially named the B-61, this device is a modified hydrogen bomb that has the capacity to burrow some 50 feet into the earth before exploding.

ten to 15-miles long and a mile wide." In other words, it could maim and kill thousands. And most would be civilians.

The bomb is said to be especially favoured among personnel in the US Department of Energy and the Pentagon — those charged with locating new, cheap sources of energy for US industry, and those charged with keeping access to those supplies open, respectively.

In an interview three years ago, radical journalist John Pilger pointed out that the focus of the US military was now being directed at its task for the 21st Century; namely to ensure the continued supply of resources from the Third World, whilst also ensuring that the great majority of the world's population don't get their grubby hands on all that oil.

Thus, it is no surprise to learn that a US government official informed the media that the new B-61 bomb had been developed specifically to deal with so-called 'rogue states', such as Iraq: "It's a new 'rogue state' weapon," he said of the B-61.

Can we expect a debut in the days and weeks to come?

According to the *New York Times*, the resultant explosion could "produce third-degree burns a mile away" and spread a wave of "lethal radiation stretching from

US again ignores UN opposition to Cuban blockade

IT APPEARS certain that the US government is about to ignore the democratic will of the United Nations. And not for the first time. More like the sixth successive occasion since 1992.

In early November, the UN's Cuban delegation tabled a motion at the General Assembly calling for an end to the continued, illegal US blockade of their country. In 1992, that same motion was passed, albeit with 71 abstentions. The vote was 50 for, and three against.

By 1994, the vote in favour had risen to 101. The vote against the Cuban motion, however, remained static. Last year, the vote in favour had risen again, to 137.

This year, a full 143 of the world's nations demanded before the UN General

Assembly that the US end its blockade. That, I would hazard, is about as clear an expression of the 'international will' as you're likely to hear.

Ireland, Canada, France and Britain were among those condemning the US blockade.

For their part, the US could only muster three votes. One of those belonged to itself and the second to Israel. Over the years, this spectacular block vote has never once been broken up. Israel always votes with the US.

Occasionally, the duo manage to attract the interest of other world luminaries. In the past, Albania and Paraguay have come to the rescue of Washington. This year, the blushes of the Free World were spared by tiny Uzbekistan.

Sinn Féin Private Members National Draw Results Week 4

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1st Prize £300.: | Ticket no 125146; Co. Derry. |
| 2nd Prize £200: | Ticket no 17316; Derry City. |
| 3rd prize £150: | Ticket no 21604; Jill Griffith, Co. Donegal. |
| 4th Prize £100: | Ticket no 01415; Thomas Joyce, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. |
| 5th Prize £50: | Ticket no 07346; Co. Down. |
| 6th Prize £50: | Ticket no 21254; James Delaney, Shannon, Co. Clare. |
| 7th Prize £50: | Ticket no 27450; Co. Tyrone. |
| 8th Prize £50: | Ticket no 18592; Co. Down. |
| 9th Prize £50: | Ticket no 23607; John Hetherington, Co. Laois. |
| 10th Prize £50: | Ticket no 33223; Co. Armagh. |
| 11th Prize £50: | Ticket no 23185; Seanie Turley, Dundalk, Co. Louth. |
| 12th Prize £50: | Ticket no 12123; Belfast. |
| 13th Prize £50: | Ticket no 33502; Fred McDonagh, Navan, Co. Meath. |
| 14th Prize £50: | Ticket no 14170; Co. Derry. |
| 15th Prize £50: | Ticket no 20255; Noel Hawthorne, Ballyvolane, Co. Cork. |
| 16th Prize £50: | Ticket no 28041; D. Kehir, London. |

Cairde Shinn Féin

Cairde Shinn Féin (CSF) is a support organisation for Sinn Féin. Membership is open to people in Ireland and overseas. The annual fee is £20 and members receive a regular newsletter which keeps you up to date on political events. Join today. Play your part in building a lasting peace in Ireland.

Send your cheque/postal order to Joe Reilly, CSF 44 Parnell Sq, Dublin 1 Ireland

Name: _____ Credit Card Facilities available

Address: _____ Card No: _____

_____ Exp Date: _____

Tel / E. Mail: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____

Receipt only issued on request

Young people must organise ourselves — Sinn Féin Youth

FIRST YOUTH CONFERENCE AND WINTER SCHOOL

YOUNG PEOPLE from across the 32 Counties attended the first ever Sinn Féin Youth Winter School and Conference earlier this month in Conway Mill, West Belfast. The event was part of Sinn Féin Youth's ongoing programme of work aimed at bringing more young people into the Republican Movement.

The backbone of the winter school was a series of all-day workshops in skills such as mural printing, banner and stencil making, press and publicity skills and computer aided design. Facilitated by professional artists and teachers in each field, delegates got a flavour of each activity by working hands-on, making banners for their local areas, producing posters for forthcoming pickets and protests, developing interview skills and seeing mural painting in action.

By the end of the week Conway Mill was flooded with Sinn Féin Youth banners set for Derry and Armagh, Ardoyne and Carrickmore, not to mention Antrim, Tyrone and Down.

There were also a series of daily discussions in political topics, facilitated by community workers and Sinn Féin activists. The peace process was discussed with City Councillor Tom Hartley and Belfast activist Dennis Donaldson. Other topics dealt with included *Women in Politics* with Lisburn Councillor Sue Ramsey, *The Environment* led by activists Terry Enright and Terry Goldsmith, *Drug Use and Misuse*, and *Anti-Social Behaviour, Militant Street Politics and Demilitarisation*.

On Wednesday there was a screening of Ken Loach's Spanish Civil War classic, *Land and Freedom* accompanied by a number of short documentaries looking at aspects of community festivals and the Basque Youth Movement. On Thursday night veteran Sinn Féin

Youth Organiser Leontia McKenna told *An Phoblacht* that already SFY can see many improvements and mistakes in the organisation and planning, "but it's a start and a good one at that".

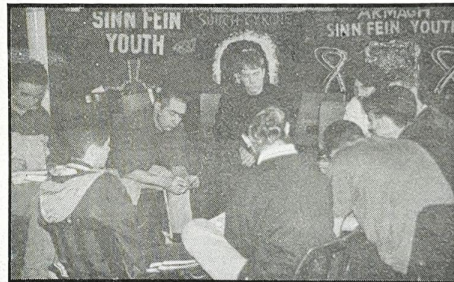
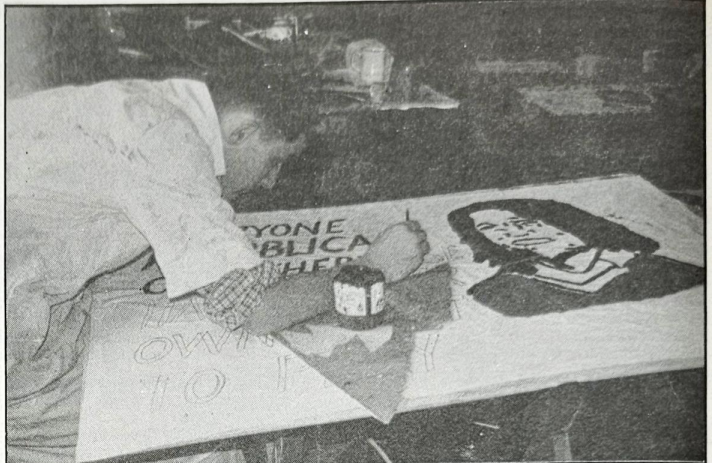
"In general people seem happy with how the days are going, and despite a little waiting around a lot of good work is being done. What we are seeing here is the beginning of a type of education which is crucial to the Republican Movement in general and Sinn Féin in particular. By combining practical hands-on activity with political discussion and good fun, it is easier for us as young people to enjoy the workshops and discussions, as well as control the way it all takes place. It's a real alternative to tradition classroom education."

CONFERENCE

The Winter School was followed by Sinn Féin Youth's first Youth Conference, also held in Conway Mill on Saturday 1 November. Fifty young people from Cork, Sligo, Dublin, Monaghan, Belfast, Derry, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Tyrone and Antrim came together to discuss their concerns and how to tackle them effectively.

The format of the conference ensured no top tables or leadership speakers, just a group of young people discussing as equals. As was hoped, what followed was a day of lively, informative and educational debate.

The peace process, drugs, anti-



Workshops and banner making at the Sinn Féin Youth Winter School and Conference

divergence of opinions and open disagreement, delegates were united in calling for the voice of young republicans to be heard, and there were repeated calls for the leadership to deliver on promises of consulting young people, promises which have yet to be kept.

Speaking at the conference youth activist Eoin O Broin emphasised the need for young people "to break out of the mentality of letting others do the organising. We need to organise ourselves, get up off our backsides and make our own voices heard. The responsibility is ours, if it doesn't happen we have only ourselves to blame. There are many ways of achieving this, working in community groups, in *An Phoblacht*, on the street, at committee meetings, wherever we choose. Our tactics must be varied, to suit the situation and needs of young people, whether that be traditional political practices or more militant approaches. But the bottom line is that we must make our voices heard, not wait for others to listen."

O Broin continued: "Equally important, the leadership whether at a local or national level must realise that the time when young people can be told what to do is over. If this youth movement is to grow, we must be treated as equals within the broader Republican Movement, something which at present sadly is not happening."

Delegates at the conference agreed that a follow-on conference will be held before December to continue the discussions, with the intention of drafting a discussion document of youth issues which will be circulated among as broad a section of young people as possible. Details will be announced in *An Phoblacht* over the coming weeks.

social behaviour, the environment and building a republican youth

movement were among the topics covered in workshops, and the delegates brought a new and fresh perspective to each item discussed.

After lunch, at an open session, lively debate followed particularly around the current negotiations and peace process as well as how to engage with anti-social behaviour.

The urgent need for street mobilisations was discussed as delegates highlighted the importance of adding to Sinn Féin's negotiating strength by putting pressure on the unionists and British government in every possible way. Pickets, protests, marches, occupations and more militant forms of protest were discussed.

The need to move away from criminalising young people was mentioned by several delegates. As was the need for a more socially-aware response to each problem. As one delegate put it, "social problems are the result of other things which are happening on our streets. We need social solutions where everyone who has responsibility plays their part".

The question of the environment was also discussed. Delegates noted that Sinn Féin has a tendency to pay lip-service to the environment without matching its words with action.

While there was often

SUBSCRIBE TO An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Our e-mail address is:
aprn@irinet.com
You can also access our highly praised website at:
<http://irinet.com/aprn>

Ireland.....	£35
England, Scotland, Wales.....	Stg£40
Europe Surface.....	Stg£45
Europe Airmail.....	Stg£65
USA.....	US\$100
Canada.....	Can\$120
Australia.....	Aus\$120
Elsewhere.....	Stg£65/US\$110

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

I enclose cheque, postal order, etc for £

Please debit my credit card for:

1 year ☐ 6 mths ☐ (length of subscription)

Card No:

Exp. Date: Month..... Year.....