

The biggest-selling Local Community Newspaper

THE ECHO IS NOT
CONNECTED WITH ANY
POLITICAL PARTY.

Ballymun Echo

February / March Issue 2001

20p

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Published by Ballymunner's for Ballymunner's ----- Editor Barney Hartnett

The Labour Party

sells out on Rubbish Collections -

What's new ?? 12/1/2001

The Labour Party has once again dis-graced itself again by some of their Councillors voting for the RUBBISH COLLECTION CHARGES.

Some voted for and others voted against it. And this is the bloody Party that is going to offer itself as an alternative to the corrupt Policies of Fianna Fail in the next Election.!!!

GET REAL LABOUR.

Without Labour's support these proposals would not happen at all. The Minister for the Environment true to his Fianna Fail colours, threatened to abolish the City Council if they did not play ball. IT'S A JOKE. Dubliner's go out to vote at election time and if the Government does not like what the Councillors vote for they are threatened with the sack.

SOME DEMOCRACY!!!

The Labour Party, the very Party founded by Connolly and Larkin have sold out the Working Class people. The very People they are supposed to be representing!

Matt Larkin of NATO in a conversation with the Ballymun Echo has assured us that he will fight these charges. To those Councillors who voted for the charges --- we say you were wrong. And the ones from all Political Party's who did not even show up to vote one way or the other --- that is scurrilous. At least those who voted for the charges though wrong, had the courage of their convictions.

Continued on Page two

Scandalous !!!

Read inside --- **TESCO**
Acting the Teapot with their
Ballymun Customers -----

From Page one

The Echo spoke to Tony Gregory about the Rubbish Charges and he is of the opinion that there has been a deal done between all Political Party's. They all agreed that some of their people would be missing and so the vote would be passed. Tony also made the point as to why Councillors did not agree to a Roll-call vote. The only person to agree to the Roll-call vote put forward by Tony Gregory was Finian McGrath an Independent Councillor.

The people have been conned again. Some Councillors who voted against the Charges did so in the full knowledge that the plot would work and the vote carried in favour of the Charges. The only man to play a fair and honest roll in the this whole sordid affair was Tony Gregory.

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Scandalous !!!

Read inside.

Tesco acting the Teapot with it's customers in Ballymun.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I read your Paper regularly and I always look forward to reading the Des Bonass Column and AbbottsView. Some months ago Des in an article urged your readers to join a Union and their Local Community Organisations. He said people should fight back. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats are totally corrupt and have no answers to the problems of the working class people. Labour is no different and so it's hard to know what to do.

I believe that the Echo is right to urge the people to stand up and Fight Back. The Echo is as it states on it's front page not affiliated to any political party and so when the Echo or Des Bonass says something it's taken more seriously by your readers.

The so-called Celtic Tiger is on the way out. Recent reports in the daily 'papers says that the IDA believes Ireland will lose at least 8000 jobs in manufacturing alone this year. Yes the Echo is quite right with it's slogan 'Fight Back.' Keep up the good work.

PS - I am not a member or supporter of any Political Party.

Liam Burke,
Ballymun D11.
(Full address with Editor)

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News from the **Ballymun Job Centre**

Happy new year to all the clients of the Ballymun Job Centre. Just to let you know that during the coming year we will as usual be running a number of training programmes which might interest you, so if you have an interest in Computers, Catering, or Forklift Driving, to mention but a few. So if you find yourself out of a job or want to upgrade your skills, or change career direction we would advise you to drop into the Job Centre. There will be a series of open weeks taking place at the Job Centre to let you know of all the services and to give you an opportunity to meet the staff. Check out the new Training Brochure and the new Ballymun Job Centre Calendar 2001 for full details.

If you are looking for a job the Job Centre will facilitate you as it has a selection of new jobs on a daily basis, all you have to do is register with us first and a new curriculum vitae will be available to you immediately. If you need to brush up on your interview skills we have a new Jobs Club with access to computers, telephones, newspapers and fax machine for your use.

The Job Centre is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm through lunch, so we look forward to meeting you and trust that 2001 will be a better and brighter year for you.

Rank and File Trade Union Conference

Social Partnership:

Claiming Back Our Unions

Saturday, 10th February 2001

Teachers Club, Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Millenium Clothing

Firstly we would like to wish all our Customers

A Very Happy New Year



The Management and Staff of Millenium Clothing (*The Jacket Shop*) would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all of our Customers. We have been open for eight months now and we thank you all for your custom and support in the eight months. Millenium Clothing will be open for business as usual in the coming months and hopefully please god the coming years.

Our sale is on at present and we have some ***Fantastic Offers*** available.

So remember, if you want **Quality Clothing at Bargain Prices** you cannot beat

Millenium Clothing

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

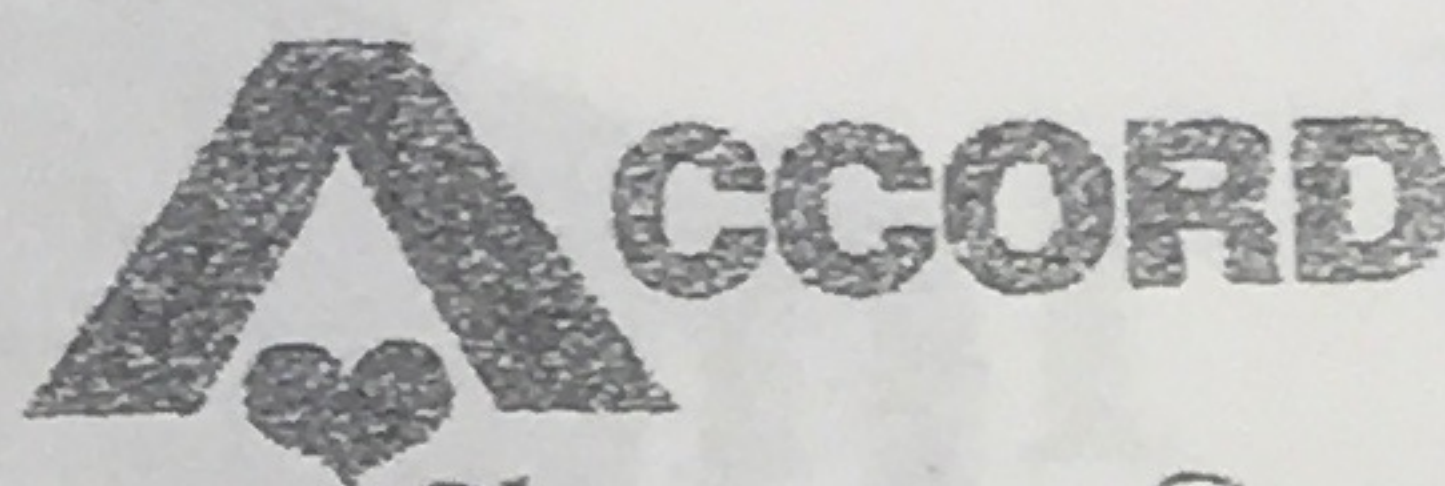
**Are you going through
a difficult time?**

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Accord offers marriage and
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A fully-trained counsellor
is there:

- to listen to you in complete confidence.
- to help you find your solutions to your problems

For an appointment or further information
Ring 862 1508 or call to see us at



Unit 23 Ballymun Shopping Centre, Dublin 11.

There is no charge for counselling, but donations are welcome

CHECKERS CABS

You tried the rest --- Now try the Best

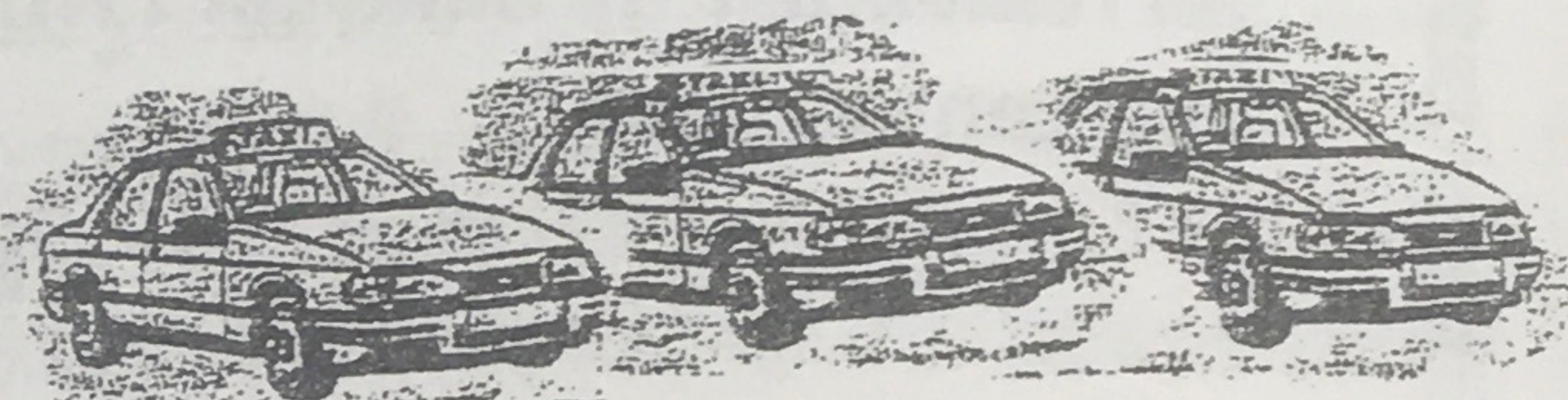
Our new Walk-in Shop is opposite the

Ilac Centre in Parnell Street ---

The only Cab Company operating from Ballymun

Fixed Prices from the Shop

Local	£2.50	City Centre	£5.50	Airport	£7.00
Finglas	£4.00	Coolock	£5.50		
Jets	£7.50	Cabra	£5.50		



All prices are from A TO B ----- 1 to 4 People

Village House of Furniture

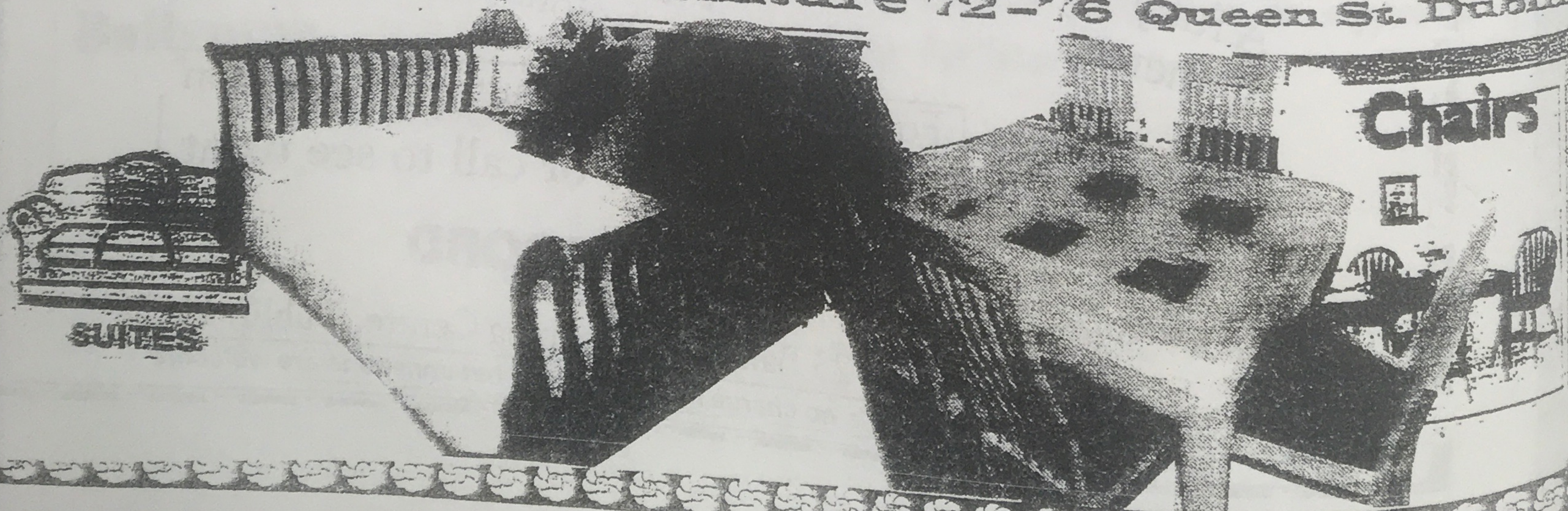
Cloth Suites - Leather Suites

Oddments - Pine Beds - Coffee Tables

All Bedroom Furniture - TV Units

And lots lots more - Come Early for Bargains

Village House of Furniture 72-76 Queen St. Dublin

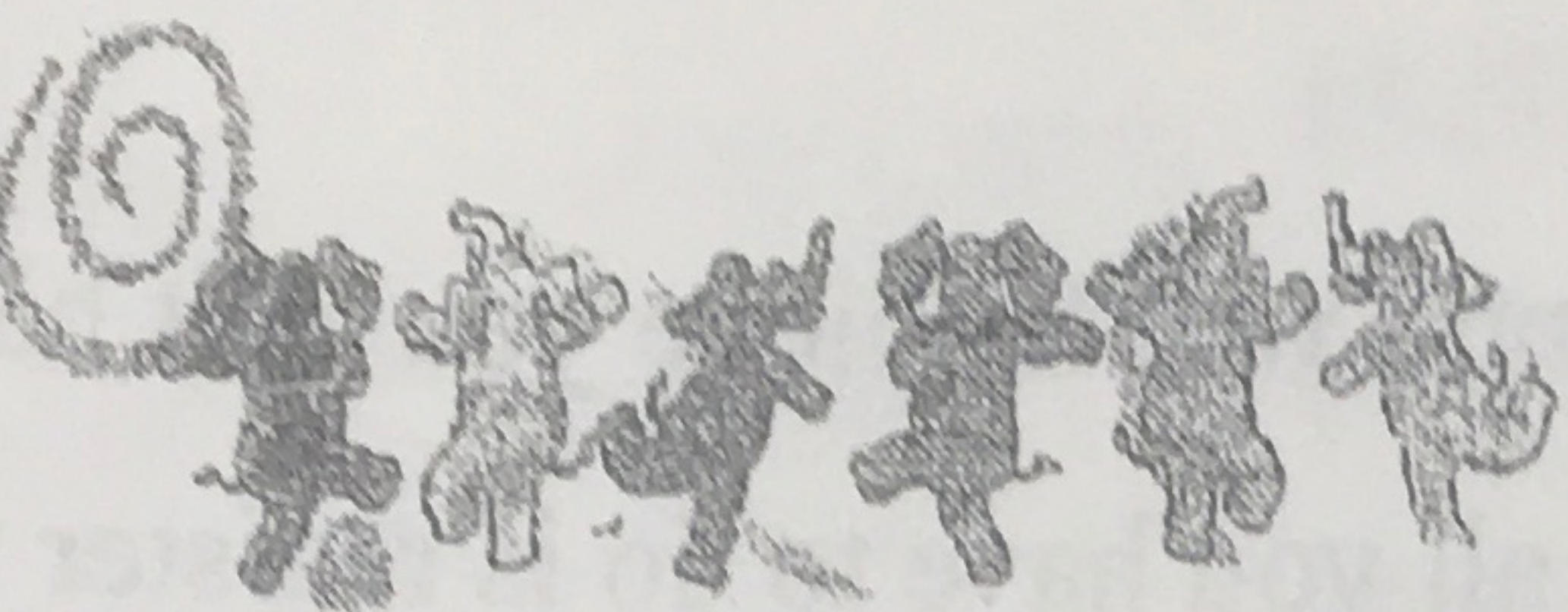


The Towers

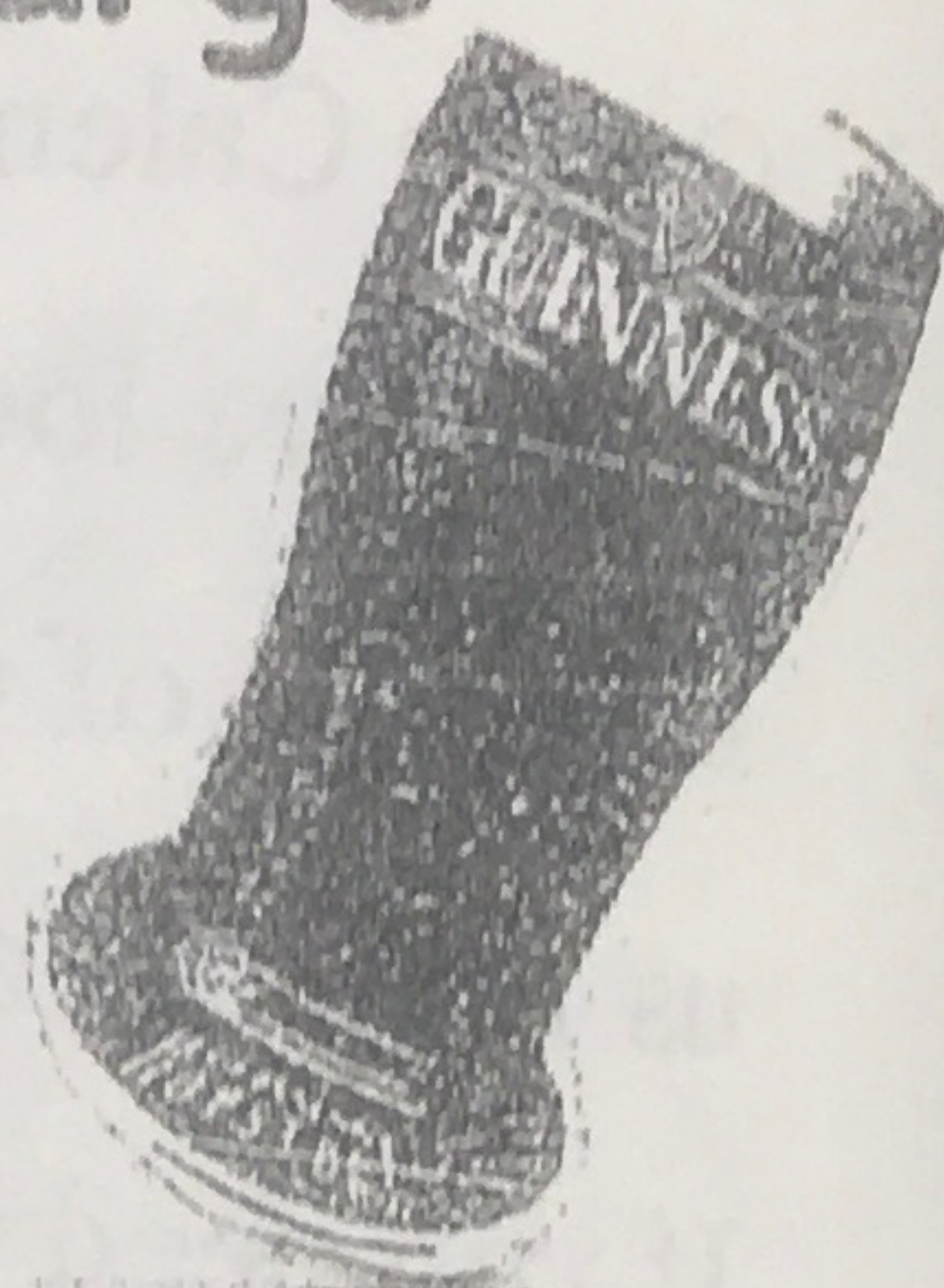
For the Best Drinks in
comfortable surroundings

Function rooms available for

Fundraising - 21st's - Quiznights
No Charge



Foxy's Music Bar



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in Swords and Capel Street.

or they go straight to our agent

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in the Ballymun Shopping Centre

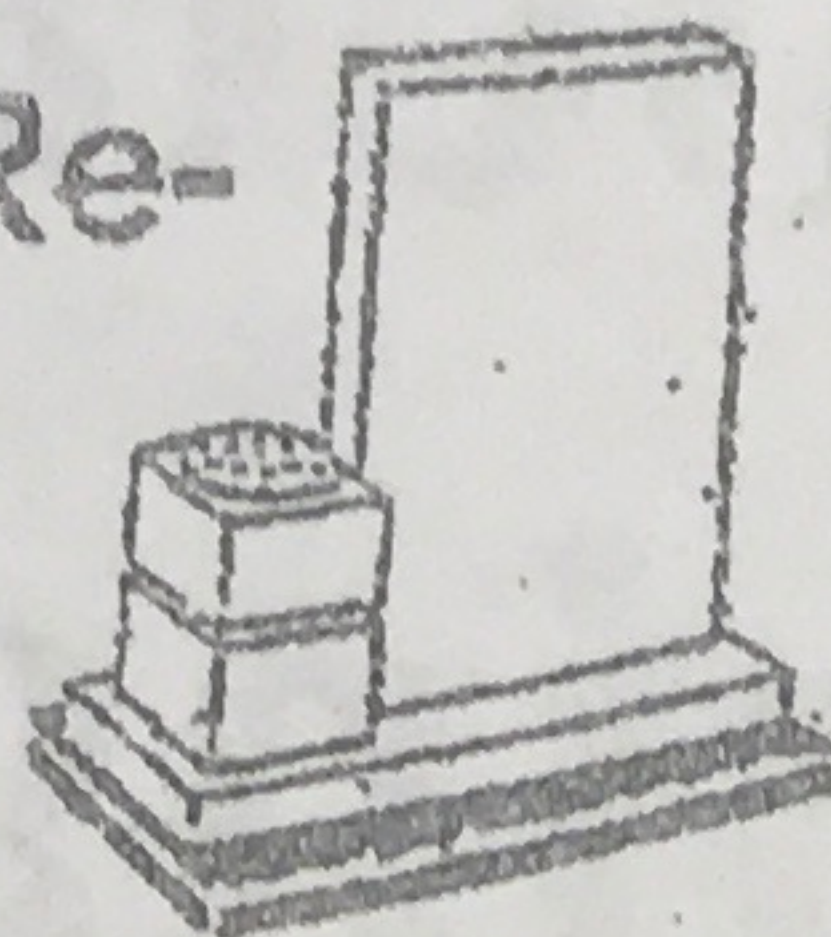
Call in now and see our wide range of monuments on show



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and Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm
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Tesco --- Get Your Act Together

By Barney Hartnett

8/1/2001

The Ballymun branch of Tesco's really got into the spirit of Christmas when they introduced a charge of £5 for the use of a trolley during Christmes week.

The Echo is of the opinion that a charge of £5 was in order if the Trolley's were being taken out of the stores to the carparks. But to charge this money for a trolley that was never going to leave the store does not make any sense.

Tesco has also got the Ballymun customer's backs up by insisting that each customer who gets groceries and intends to pay with a Social Welfare Cheque must spend a third of any amount over £100. I spoke to the Manager about this affair and he said he'd look into the charge on the Trolleys. He said that he does not have any authority to change the policy regarding the Social Welfare Cheques.

This he told me is a matter for the Head Office.

The Manager of Tesco's in Ballymun is a nice guy to talk to but the attitude of Tesco to the Ballymun shoppers must change. The last Manager John Thomas who lived in the Poppintree area and he got to know the people of the area the way an outsider can never get to know them. There seemed to be a lot less problems when he was Manager there.

Eugene the happy-go-lucky Security man was also a Ballymun resident and not many Trolleys went astray when he was there. He got to know every man woman and child in the Area. Now whether or not the answer to the present problems would be to employ Ballymun people as Local Managers is another question but I'm sure it would go a long long way to solving them.

But solve these problems they must as the *Ballymun People* have a way and a history of *Fighting Back..* They are fed up with the present attitude of **Tesco** Head Office who by the way should give more authority to their Local Managers.

There is no way that a Manager sitting on his hands out in Dun Laoghaire can make decisions concerning Ballymun!
Enough said.

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The Penthouse Ballymun

Upstairs Lounge now Open

Music and Pool Bar
4 Nights a week

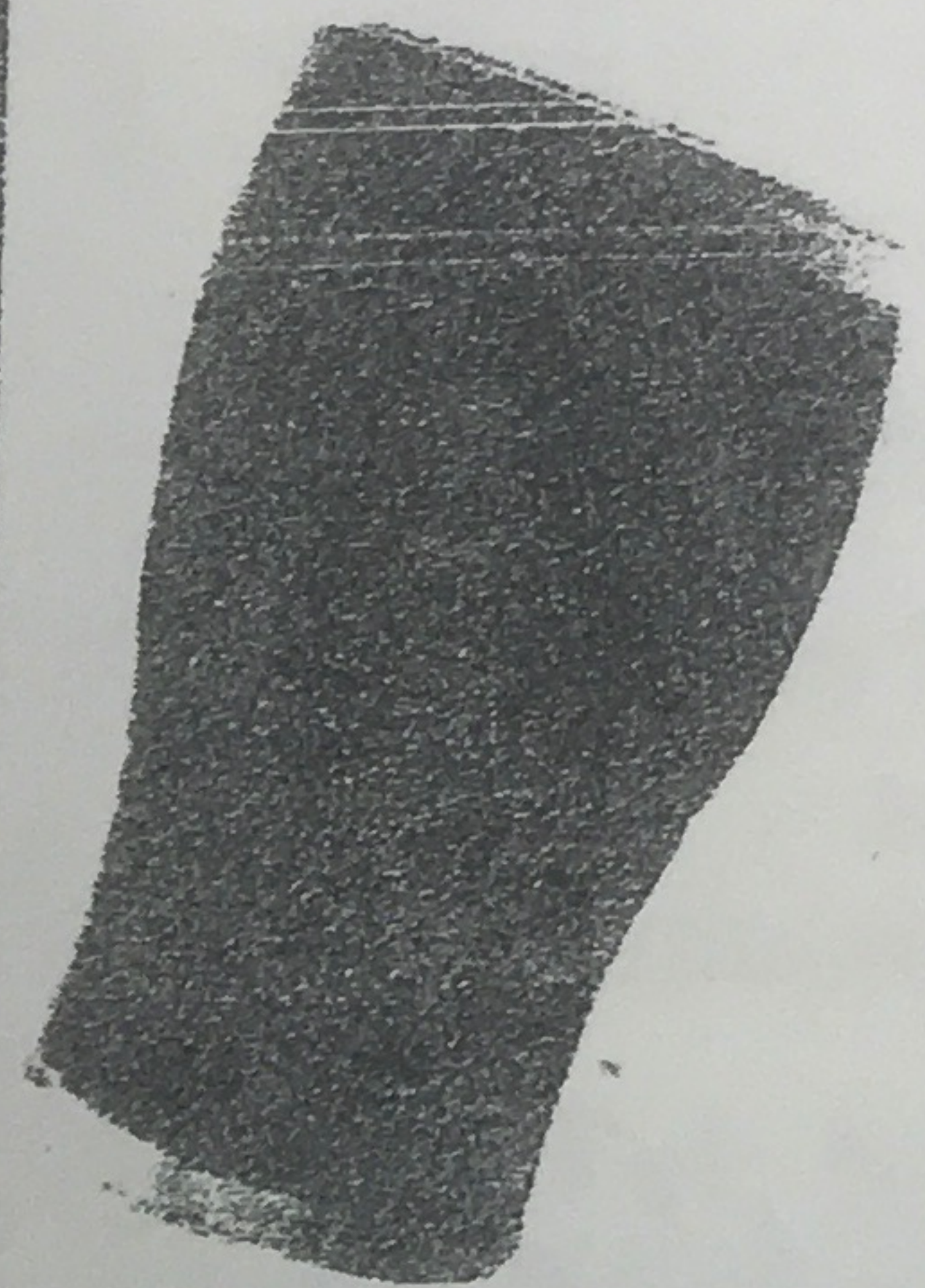
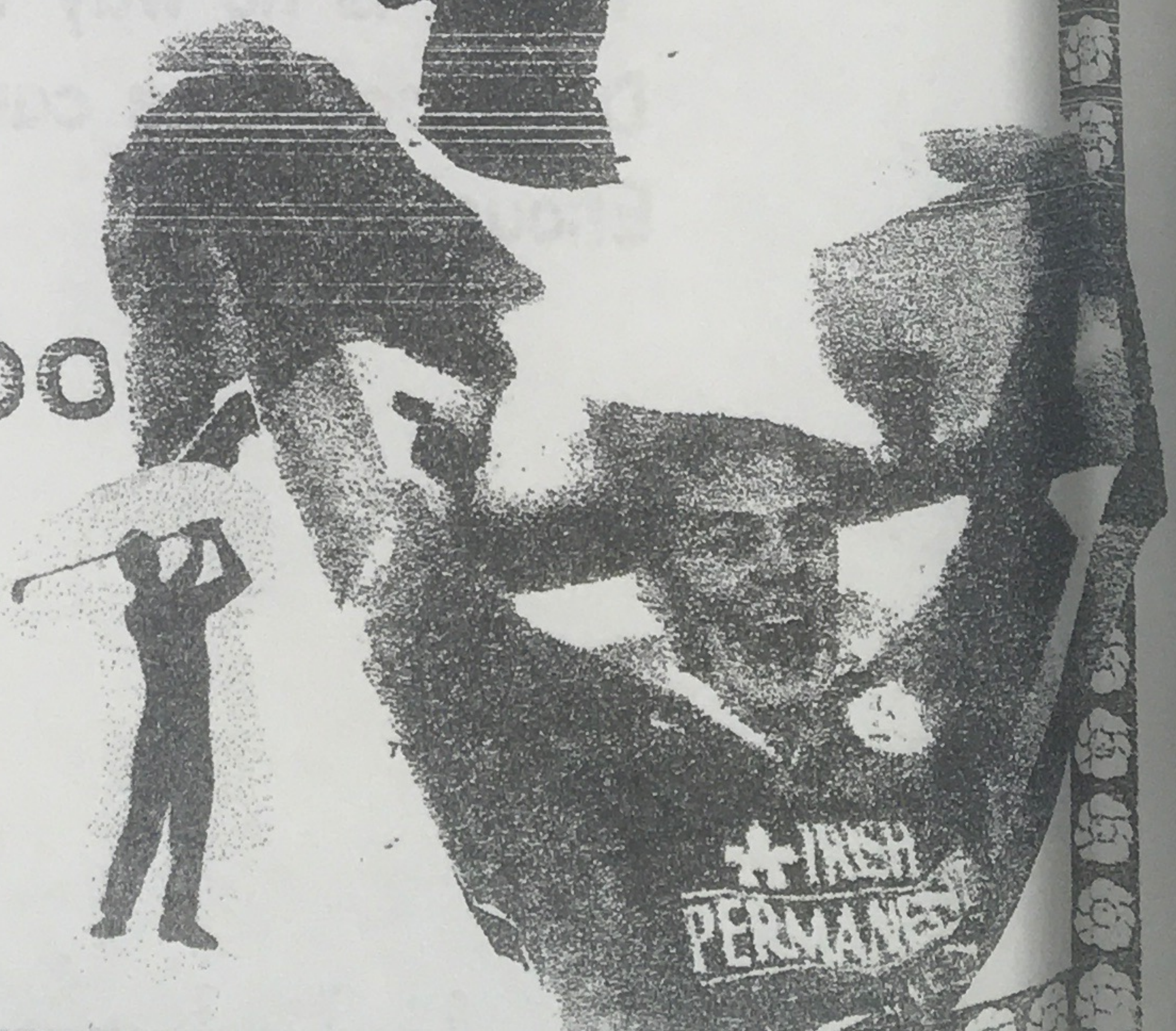
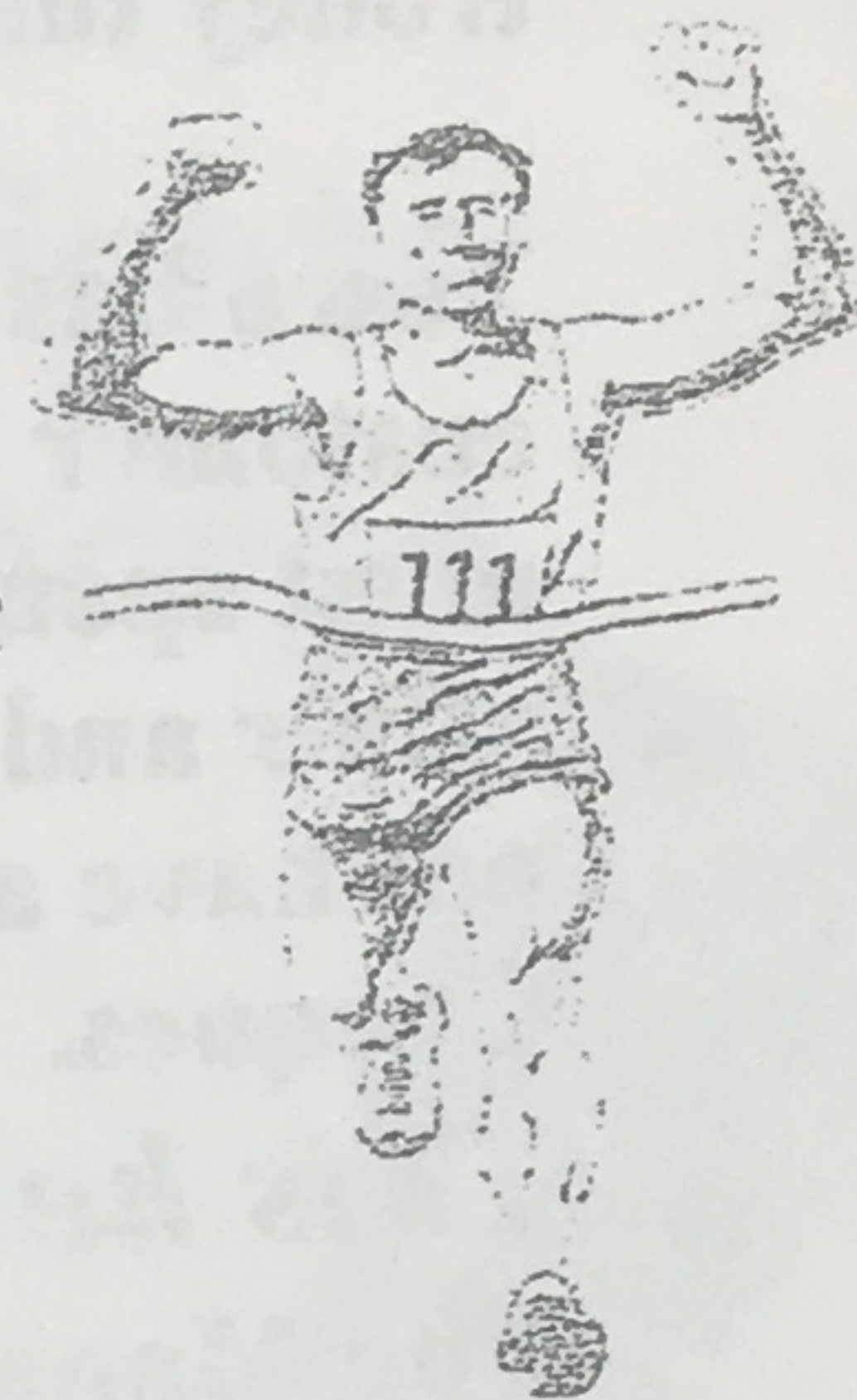
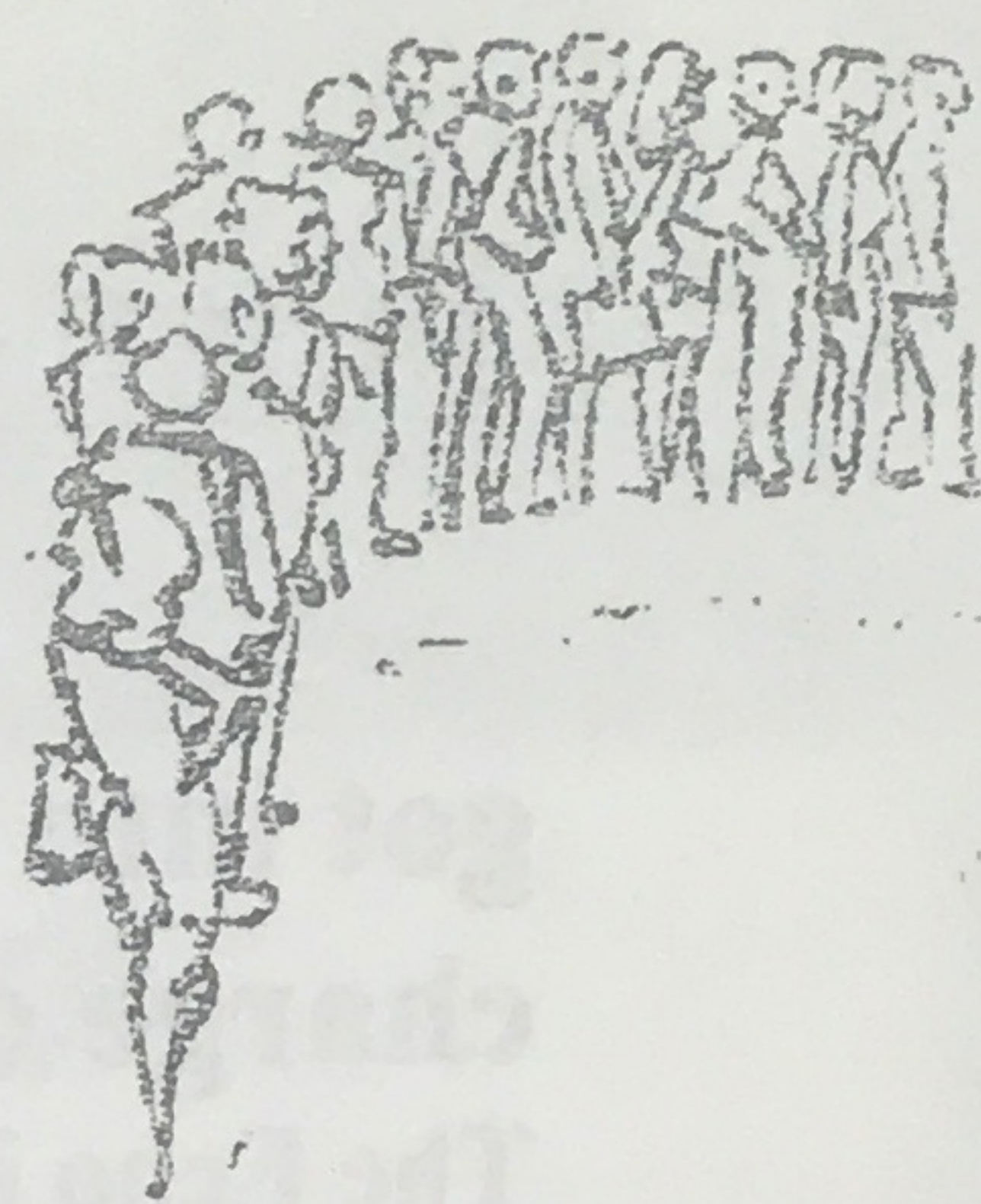
Sky Sports available for all the
big Sporting Events

All on the Big Screen

oooOOOooo

Penthouse Off Licence
Offers *great value* and
friendly service

oooOOOooo



SLOW-COACH CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE BOOTED OUT

The Workers' Party has called on Dublin Corporation to reassume responsibility for the refurbishment of all local authority homes in the city and to stop using private contractors for this work.

Dublin North West Workers' Party spokesman, Seán Ó Cionnaith said that the Corporation, and by extension the taxpayers, are getting very bad value for money from at least one contractor who holds a contract to refurbish "buy back houses", meaning homes which have been sold back to the local authority, which then refurbishes the house in preparation for new tenants.

"Many of these houses are in excellent condition and require very little refurbishment, yet this contractor comes in and guts the house, usually taking months to refurbish it to the state where it can be returned to the Corporation for re-tenanting. It would be far better and a lot cheaper if the Corporation's own maintenance division did this work and people could be sure that high quality materials and workmanship would be used".

"These private contractors are creaming it and are apparently employed ad infinitum. They seem to be accountable to nobody and their lackadaisical attitude is appalling. It is time to hand the job back to the Corporation and to reinstate the Direct Labour Units for this type of work", said Mr. Ó Cionnaith.

Editors Comment

For years now the Ballymun Echo has been calling for the Dublin Corporation to employ Direct Labour.

Private Contractors have made fortunes out of Maintenance or should it be the *lack of Maintenance* of the lifts. Now that the Workers Party has taken up this issue we hope they will remain active on it.

RUBBISH COLLECTION CHARGES

**If any of our readers would like to get involved in
fight against the**

Rubbish Collection Charges

Please contact Joe Higgins TD at Tele 6183038

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Sponsors

**The Echo gratefully acknowledges sponsorship from
Canada Life. Without our sponsors help we could not cover
our costs. Sponsors play a major role in keeping The Echo
going and we thank them again for that.**

Raise your glass's to inflation

By Barney Hartnett

Raise your glass's to more inflation and higher wages. I was more than a little bit surprised to read this piece of advice in the Sunday Business Post 17/12/2000.

The Article written by top Economist David McWilliams tells us that we are being ripped off despite the wage increase which was announced to try and keep the PPF together. Irish workers are selling themselves far too cheaply compared to their continental neighbours. Mr McWilliams says that profits are far too high and wages are too low. Employers are getting a free lunch he says.

In his article he explains that inflation is not too high and that it is in fact too low. He says that the only way to inject fairness into the system is to allow wages to rise steadily over the coming years.

Instead of proper wage hikes today, Irish Workers are being cajoled into borrowing today in anticipation of steady wage increases tomorrow. This is what happened in the USA before the crash. Wages lagged behind profits and workers satisfied their urge to consume through easy access to credit by instalment purchases. This is a dangerous route to be taking and we are taking this route. Irish Workers are simply devouring their own future. At least if you blow wages you have already earned, you are not up to your eyes in debt come leaner times.

Higher inflation will not bring us back to the bad 1970's as many allege. Nothing could be further from the truth. The world has changed and our views should change with it.

Inflation is a healthy sign of Economic growth and vibrancy and possibly the only route open to us that does not lead up a debtor's cul-de-sac.

I am no Economist but I do know that Mr McWilliams is dead right when he argues for higher wages. But of course everybody knows that we are being ripped off.. The Echo has been saying this for years. We keep urging the Trade Union Activists to press and fight for a minimum wage of £350 per week. It is about time we heard more about higher wages from the Unions and less talk of cosy little PPF arrangements.

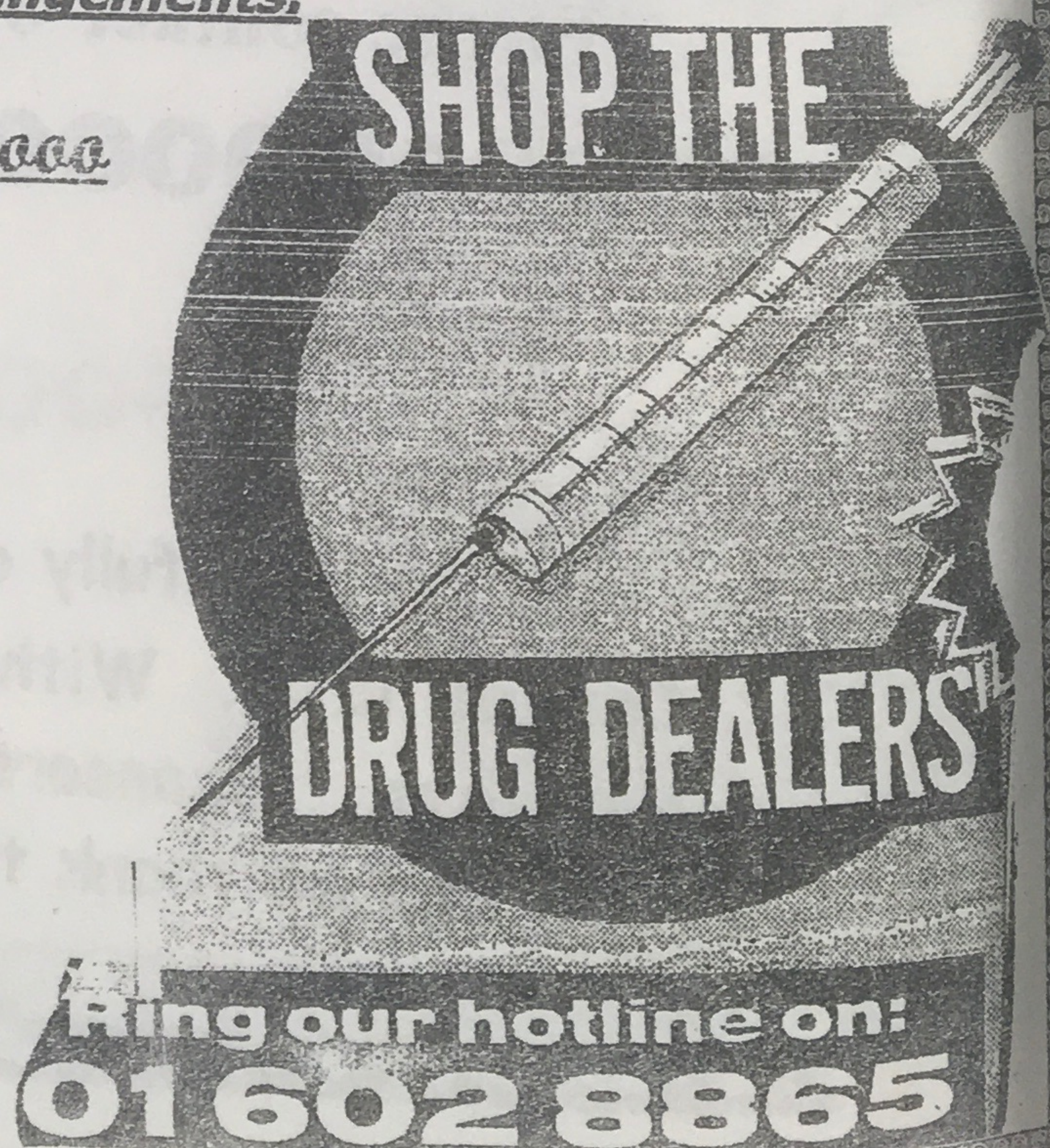
oooooooooooo **BALLYMUN JOKER**

A man rushed into the doctor's surgery, looking very agitated.

'It's my wife, Doctor!' he gasped. 'There's something very wrong with her. Her face seems to have seized up, and she can't speak!'

'Hmm. . . It could be lockjaw,' replied the doctor.

'Could it really? . . . In that case, doctor, if you happen to be in our neighbourhood during the new few weeks, perhaps you could drop in and have a look at her. . . '



SHOP THE

DRUG DEALERS

Ring our hotline on:
01 602 8865

Irish born singer/songwriter and record producer **Francie Conway** is presently living in Dublin, Ireland, after spending years living in Amsterdam, Geneve and London.

Francie has recorded and produced many records working with some of the top musicians in Continental Europe, Britain and Ireland.

Songwriting Workshop

Francie Conway the world renowned Singer/Songwriter/Producer has just kick-started a **Songwriters Workshop for the up and coming Artists of Ballymun.**



Ballymun

We believe which the the eye of aspirations adapting to achieve people, wh perhaps!



Our intention is not to wear the 'disadvantaged' tag on our sleeves, indeed, there is more to Ballymun, and similar urban towns throughout the globe, than meets the eye.

While the project is primarily formed around capturing these songs on CD, there are a number of other elements that we believe can, and should happen simultaneously in order to take advantage of the opportunities that the project brings for the creators, producers and the artists involved. I.e. CD, Industry Workshops, Website, Observation Documentary, Showcase Performance.

We have given ourselves an identity for the sole purpose of calling for material from Ballymun-related songwriters. That identity is **Wrapit Records**. While this project is very much an independent, once off project for the creators, there is the longer-term vision that will be determined by the success, momentum built up as a result of this venture. That vision would be to establish an independent label, a social enterprise, which will benefit the songwriters and future artists in Ballymun, providing the platform for their talent as writers/performers to take off.

Through posters and invitations writers/artists were asked to submit material to **Wrapit Records** before the end of October. We have a good response with 15 writer/artists and over 40 songs in the pot. The profile of the people submitting ranges from young garage bands to more mature individuals (40+).

The successful writers/artists will be offered the opportunity to have their material recorded on a compilation CD that hopefully reflects life for the individuals. To increase the capability of the writer/artist to engage in the project, and to get something more out of the CD than just the projection of their work, the creators also intend to provide a series of industry workshops. These workshops will build the writer's/artist's knowledge of the music industry as a whole, improve their technical ability and to enhance their performance skills and stagecraft.

Having completed the recording stage by January 2001, **Wrapit Records** intends to embark on a promotion campaign to highlight the story behind the CD. Only on external interest will we release the product. To complete the project, the artists, or a number of the artists, will be engaged in a live performance in a well-known venue in the City Centre in late Spring 2001, with the potential to come back home to Ballymun for continued performances.

We believe this project offers an opportunity to also document the process through which the creators and the writers/artists will engage. The journey, observed through the eye of a camera, will tell a story of individual lives, stereotyped profiles, hopes, aspirations, disappointments, talent, creativity in the face of diversity, great change, adapting to change, excitements, anxiety, learning, frustration, celebrations, sadness, achievement, difference, sameness, uniqueness, despair, belief in one's self, one's people, when opportunity knocks - how do we take to it? The real commitments perhaps!

I wish Francie and all those taking part lots of success on this wonderful project. With Francie at the helm I'm sure it will be a huge success and we can all look forward to some Artists from Ballymun hitting the big time soon.

Willie Abbott



Ballymun Credit Union Ltd.

Affiliated to the I.L.C.U.

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Registered number 421 C.U.

- *Opening Hours;*

• <i>Monday</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Evening 7:00pm 8:00pm (credit committee)</i>
• <i>Tuesday</i>	<i>10:00am 1:00pm</i>	<i>Evening 7:00pm 8:00pm (credit control)</i>
• <i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10:00am 2:00pm</i>	
• <i>Thursday</i>	<i>10:00am 2:00pm</i>	<i>Evening 6:00pm 8:30pm</i>
• <i>Friday</i>	<i>10:00am 5:00pm</i>	
• <i>Saturday</i>	<i>10:00am 3:00pm</i>	

New Members *always welcome*



1991 – 2000

Progress on Jobs Front Continues!

In November 2000 the number of people signing on in Ballymun dropped to 1205

In January 1996, when the Local Employment Service started, it was 2625.

It is now approaching 1100, a drop of nearly 1500 people in 5 years.
Congratulations to all concerned.

The Partnership looks forward to working with Ballymun Job Centre, FAS, Social Welfare, CERT and many local groups during its next Action Plan. We aim to bring unemployment in Ballymun down to the national average.

The Men's Centre --- Shangan Road

There was a great turnout for the Men's Centre Christmas Dinner. It was just great to see so many old faces we hadn't seen for awhile and some new faces too whom we welcome to the Men's Centre. The Dinner was held in the Slipper (Wheldon's) and the food as they say was *simply delicious*. Great to renew old acquaintances and to see Tom Byrne in particular looking so fresh and well after his little setback in health. Tom is coming along fine and we all wish him well.

All the 'old heads' were there enjoying themselves including Willie Meredith, Tom Byrne, Johnny Hill, Eugene, Willie(The Wire) Abbott, Paddy Simmonds, Paul Kane, Les and Des and all the Management team. And of course the tireless man himself Christy Flemming. The huge successful night was all down to Christy and the Management team and they deserve great credit for a wonderful evening. The craic was up around the nineties for the whole night and stories and yarns were told and retold.

Men discussed all kinds of things from Deserted Fathers to Unmarried Fathers to Maintenance and Divorce and Health matters. We discussed the idea of men getting the Children's Allowance. 'Do you think there's a chance of us getting it?' they asked me in unison. I being the knowledgeable person as usual said I'd check it out. And I would like to tell them that yes they will get the Childrendrens Allowance but they have to be patient. They will get it after a period .

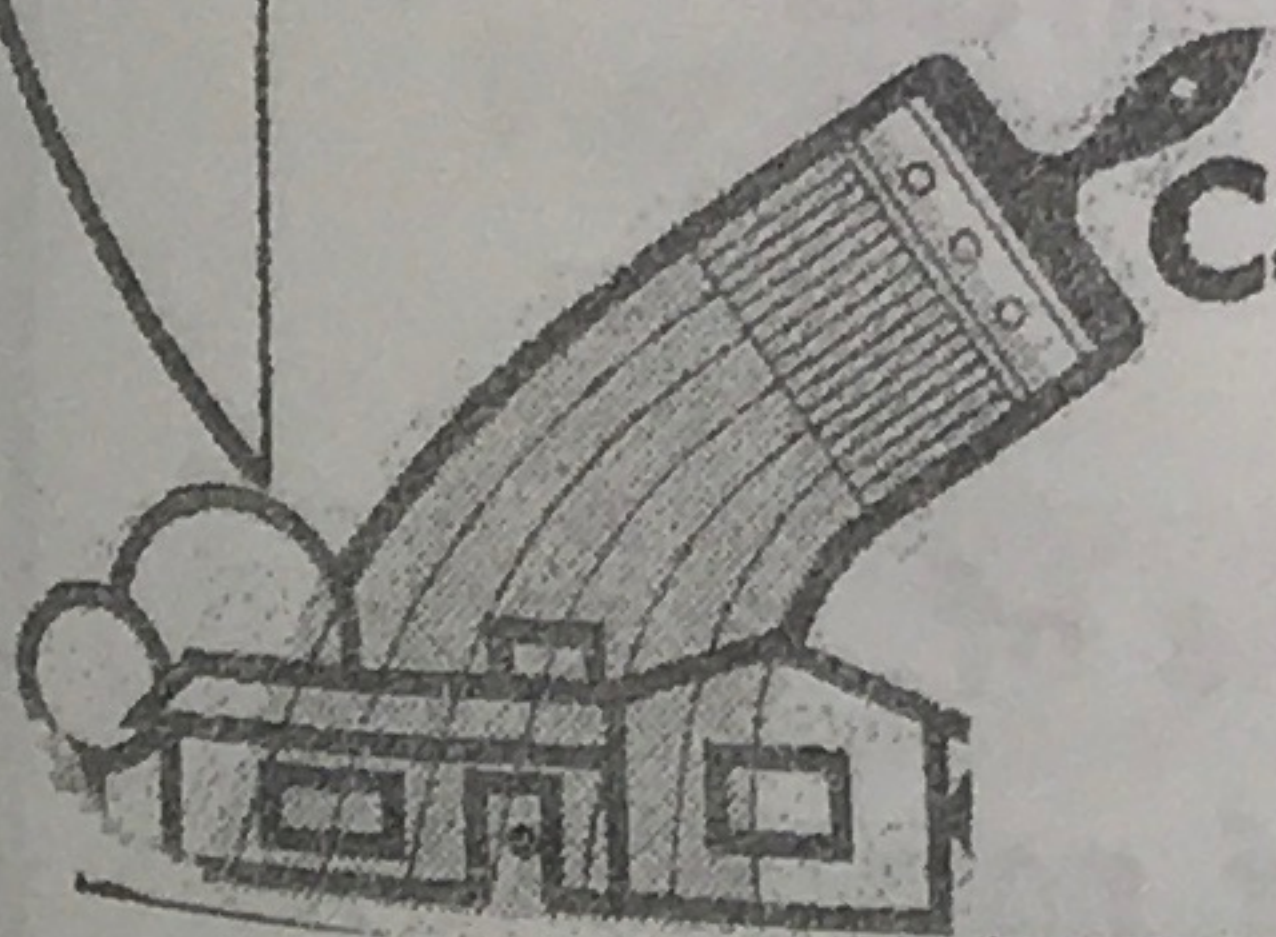
Willie Abbott

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Owen Molloy

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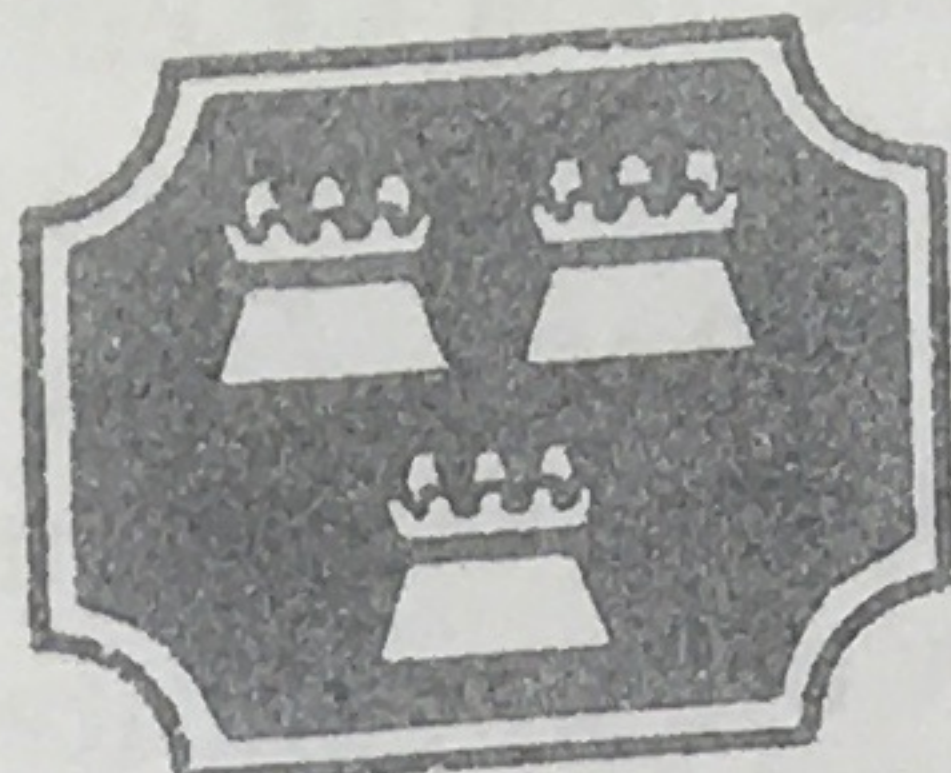
A Close Shave

A man is in a barbers' shop getting a shave and a manicure. He says to the Manicurist, "How about going out to dinner with me tonight" ? "I cant" she answers, "I'm married" "Tell your husband" Says the customer, "That you have to work tonight", "You tell him" says the manicurist", "he's shaving you !"

Dublin Corporation

Ballymun Regional Office

Units D,E, F,
Ballymun Town Centre,
Dublin 11.



Bárdas Átha Cliath

Oifig Reigiunach Bhaile Munna

Aonaid D, E. F,
Lar - Bhaile Bhaile Munna
Baile Átha Cliath 11.

Dublin Corporation Ballymun Regional Office wish
a *Very Happy New Year* to all our customers.

Opening Hours

9.30 am to 1 pm
2.15 pm to 4.30 pm

Late hours Thursday only 6 pm to 7.45 pm

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

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Councillor *Eamon O'Brien* of Labour has proposed to a recent meeting of the Board of the BRL that the following names of deceased Ballymun Activists should be honoured by having Streets and perhaps Areas named after them.

Some worthy names put forward included **Con Rainey, Frank Kelly, Agnes Cox and John Woods.**

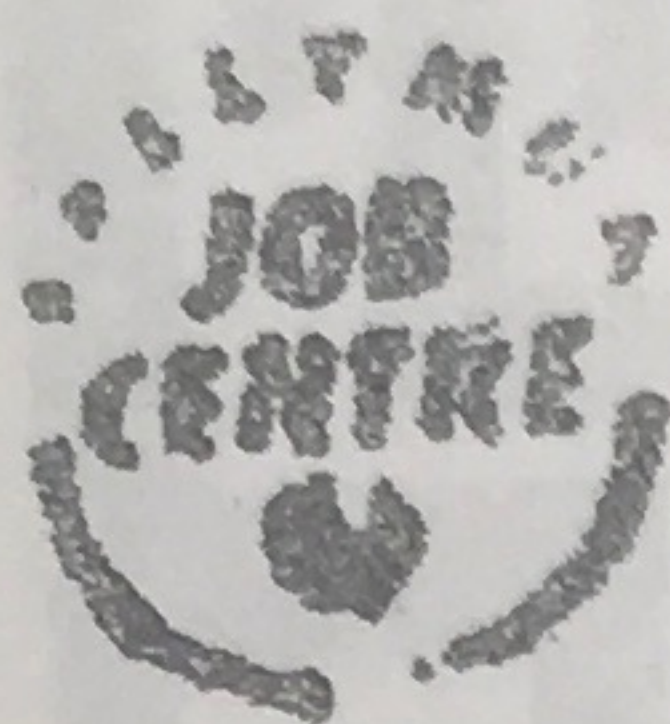
Eamon's proposal was unanimously accepted for further reference. The Echo fully supports this excellent proposal by the only Ballymun - based Public Representative.

We also call on our readers to send in names of Deceased Ballymun Activists of their choice who they feel should be remembered in this way by having Streets and Areas named after them in *The New Ballymun.*

Editor's note --The Echo would ask Eamon to include the name of the late Pat Mooney on this proposed list of names.

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COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



*Building a Brighter Future
With Work*

Looking for a Job?
Thinking of starting a Business?

Need a CV typed?

Are you worried about what to do in
an Interview?

The Ballymun Centre
Is the place to go and all these
Services are *Free!*

Unit 36
Ballymun Shopping Centre

Ballymun Community Enterprise

Clothes Alterations

*A New supply of Second-hand clothes
has arrived.*

Men's - Women's - and Children's

We also have some

Household Furniture

Some Reconditioned

and New Suites

Hours ; 10am --- 2.30pm

Wed, Thurs and Friday.

(Also on Children's Allowance Day)

Basement Clarke Tower

Dr Bill Tormey

Independent

The Ballymun
Watchdog

For Real Change Tele. 8427585



NOTICE

*All Local activists are invited to write
for the Ballymun Echo.
No more than 400 words please.*

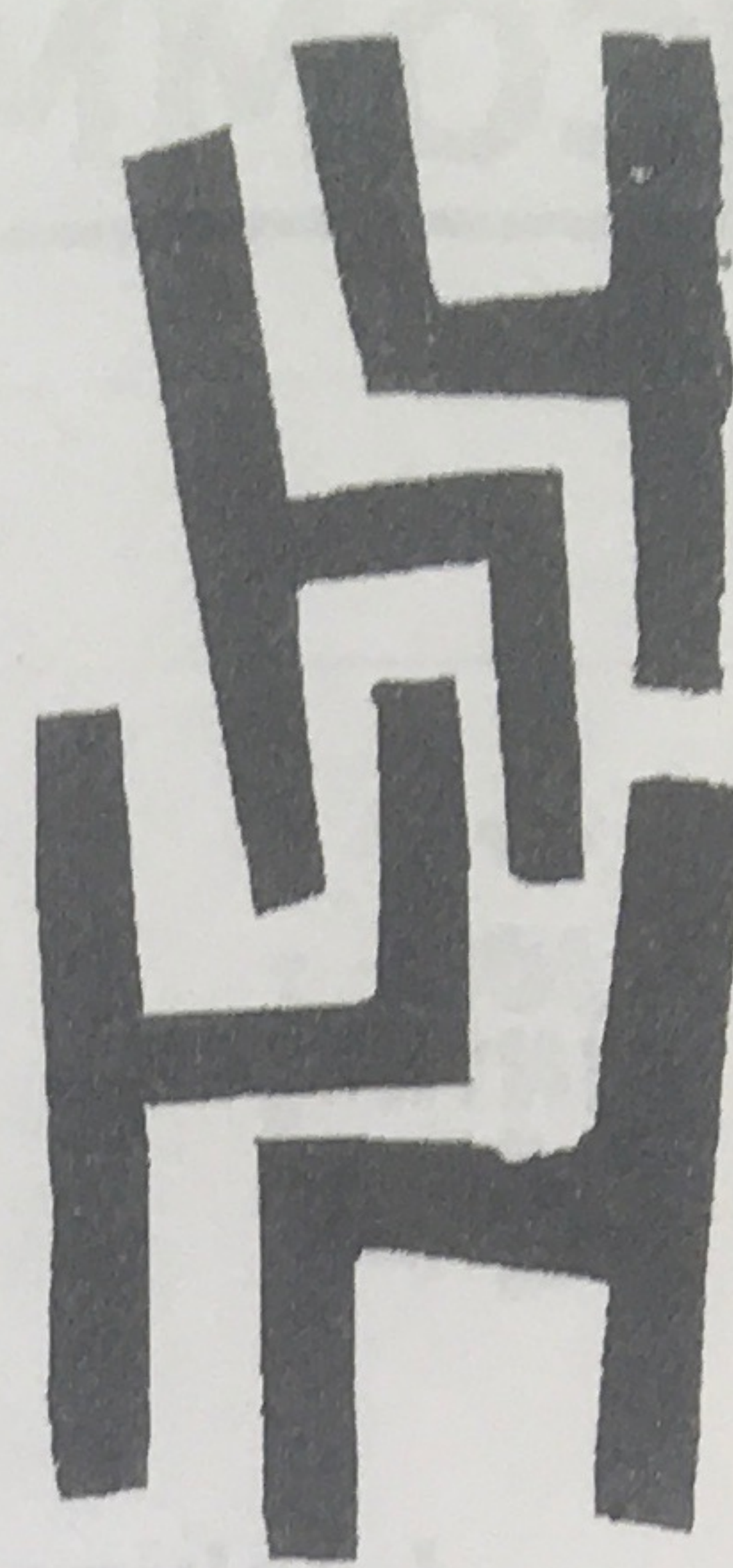
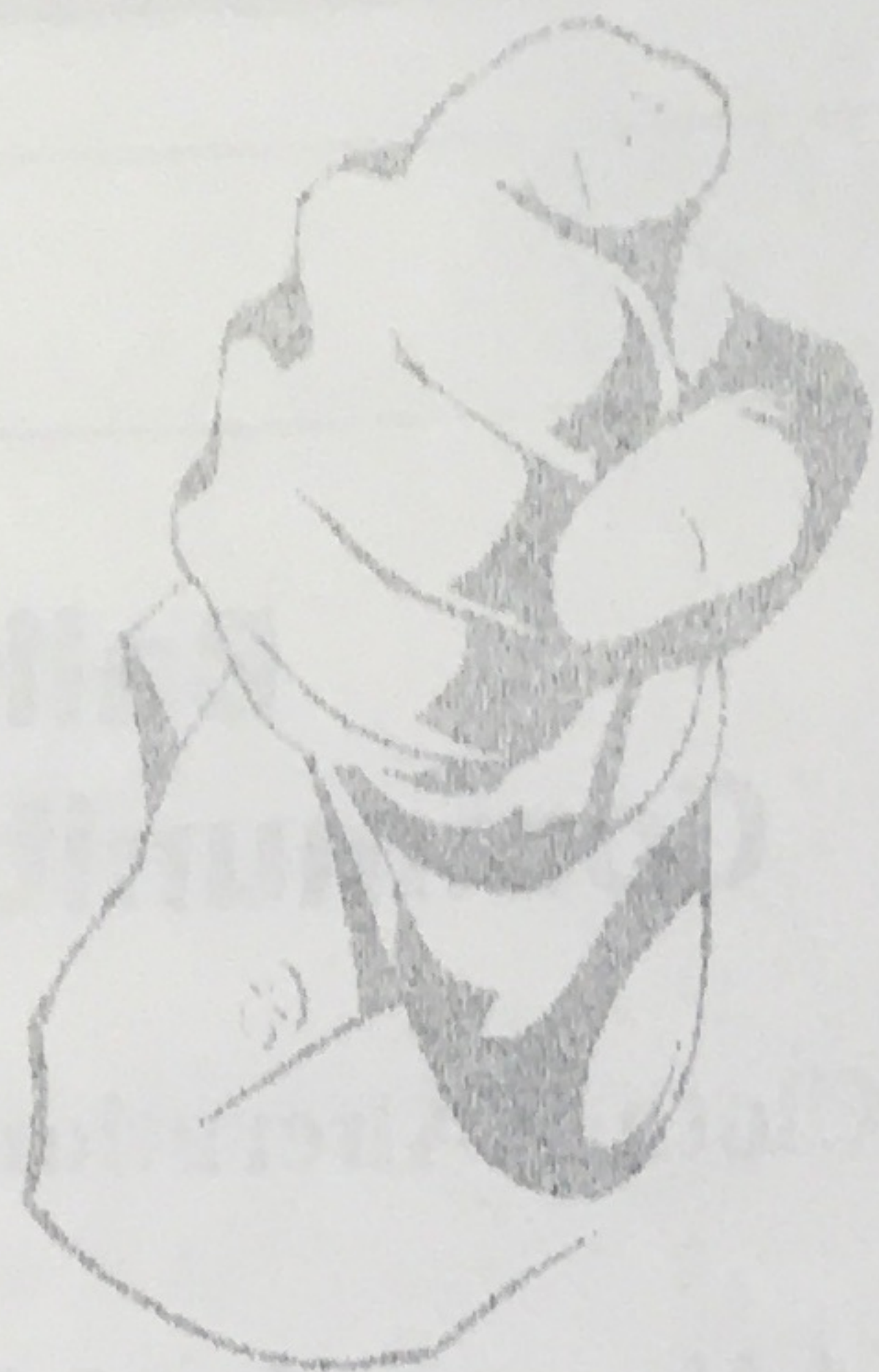
*Note; Signed articles do not necessarily
reflect the views of the
Ballymun Echo.*

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involved with applying for Divorce Personally ? Then allow me help you obtain
your Irish Divorce within 6 months for a Fee of only £ 600. (This is payable
in two instalments of £ 300.)**

Call Jane on Mobile 0872207148

Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre Wants...

YOU!!



Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre

To avail of our Advantage Card

The Advantage card entitles you to:

- Special Discounts
- Advance Information on all Programming
- Annual Event Organised Especially for Advantage Card Holders
- Invitations to Launches, Receptions & Private Views
- Advantage Card Holders can:
Nominate & Elect 2 CardHolders to the Board of BACRC

Yearly Family Membership (2 Adults, 4 Children)	– £20.00
Yearly Individual Membership	- £12.00

JOIN NOW & RECEIVE 6 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP

Membership valid from now – December 2002 (Offer ends January 31st 2001)

Please complete this form in block capitals & return with a cheque/postal order made payable to: Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre

Individual £12 ☐ Family £20 ☐

Name/Names:

Address:

Contact No:

Please return to: Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre, c/o Ballymun Partnership,
North Mall, Ballymun Town Centre, Dublin 11.
For further information please contact Maria Schweppe 883 5991/ 842 3612 or email
mschweppe@bacrc.ie

Ballymun Arts and Community Resource Centre

The Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre is a facility 30 years overdue. It began with a community's dream & came about through the dedication & commitment of a core group of people. The result is the building that has shot up from the ground over the past couple of months at the Ballymun roundabout (beside Thomas McDonagh Tower).

The building programme was launched on April 13th 2000 by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern with the "turning of the sod" ceremony. The centre itself will open in summer 2001, with an even bigger launch planned for the autumn.

BACRC is a 6.5 million pound project that incorporates a 260 seater theatre, a second performance space, a conference facility, a recording studio, a crèche, a bar, training rooms, community offices, need we say more.

BACRC is engaging and has engaged in schemes & projects that will make sure that everyone & anyone can be involved in some shape or form in the Centre.

Projects include the "Otherworld" celebrations (Halloween event) which last year encompassed a parade (in which children from local youth clubs made masks & large images to carry in the parade of "beasties"), a fireworks display, a huge bonfire and other events. People from all over Ballymun became involved from building the bonfire to stewarding.

Through our Advantage Card & Community Affiliation schemes individuals & groups can nominate & elect people to our Operational Board (which will look after the day to day running of the centre). Community Affiliation costs just £5 for lifetime voting rights. Information can be obtained at 883 5991.

The Advantage Card entitles individuals & families to: Special discounts on events; advance information on all programming; an annual event organised especially for Advantage Cardholders; invitations to launches, receptions & private views. Members are also entitled to nominate & elect two people to the Operational Board on an annual basis. All this for the mere cost of £12 for individuals & £20 for families (2 adults & four children). For further information see our advertisement.

In February BACRC will run "Foundations". This project will allow people from the area to come along to the site of BACRC and bury a memento of their time living in Ballymun in the foundations of the centre. Sounds like a very well known Brookside plot if you ask me! The memento should be on paper; it could be a wish, a memory you have from living in Ballymun, a photograph or even your favourite joke. Then it will be dropped into the foundations of the theatre and set in concrete to disintegrate into the foundations and become part of the building for eternity. The mementos will be catalogued.

Keep your eyes peeled & your ears to the ground for further information on the Ballymun Arts & Community Resource Centre, although you can hardly miss it, it's happening right before your very eyes!

Fighting Racism is Not a Crime

On 28th March 2000 a group of eleven anti-racists occupied the Taoiseach's constituency office, in protest at proposed draconian measures against asylum seekers. The government was planning to introduce prison ships (so-called 'flotels'), forcible fingerprinting and the introduction of police from abroad to catch people fleeing injustice in their own countries. Bertie Ahern had praised the Australian system of dealing with asylum seekers, where people are held in detention centres.

Although the protest was entirely peaceful, the eleven were arrested and two women were stripsearched in Fitzgibbon St. Garda Station. The eleven have since been charged under the Public Order Act and face the possibility of prison sentences. The use of such laws to clamp down on legitimate political protest is a disturbing attack on civil liberties. Previously, trade unionists and other protestors have been threatened with similar sanctions. Occupations have been used by other groups as a form of protest many times in the past. For example, when members of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) occupied the offices of the EU Commission for 10 days in July, the Taoiseach met with the IFA leadership on several occasions during the occupation and gave a 'compensation package' costing £60m. It is clear that the Public Order Act is selectively applied.

The accused anti-racists are guilty of no crime. The real crime is the racism of the state. In recent years the government has deported many people who have come to Ireland to escape political and economic persecution. Refugees have faced racist harassment from gardai and other state officials. Politicians have repeatedly tried to scapegoat refugees for social problems in an attempt to hide their own responsibility for the lack of investment in housing and social services.

Racism is the real crime: fighting against it is not a crime. We ask people to support the anti-racists, who are guilty of nothing but standing up to that crime.

"I support the eleven anti-racists charged in connection with the occupation of the Taoiseach's constituency office. I call for the charges against them to be dropped."

Name: _____

Address: _____

Return to: Residents Against Racism, c/o Comhlamh,
10 Upper Camden St., Dublin 2

E-mail messages of support to: dublin_11@hotmail.com

Fight Back ; The Ballymun Echo calls on all Trade Union Activists to fight for a £130 a week minimum dole. A £230 a week for all Pensioners and a minimum basic wage of £350 per week.

People must fight back now. We are all fed up with their cuts in Education, their Health cuts and low wages,

We must all fight back* +----- *Fight back now

**The Ballymun Echo says No to PPF arrangements
No Racism --- No Deportations**

Letter to

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Letter to the Editor,

8th December, 2000.

Where have all the public representatives gone?

Sir,

Are public representatives deserting the Ballymun area? One of Dublin North West's four TDs, Mr. De Rossa, has legged it to Europe (although he still draws a Dáil salary and is supposed to represent the people of this constituency in that institution). Now we have another public representative, Deirdre Heney, who was elected a local councillor just 18 months ago, leaving us. Cllr. Heney recently circulated a newsletter in which she announced she will stand in the next general election - in Dublin North Central. What about the area that elected her?

This electoral area is fast beginning to resemble one of the "rotten boroughs" of the 18th Century where absentee public representatives pay an occasional visit (i.e. at election time). We won't get another chance to elect local councillors until 2004 and as Bertie Ahern continually tells us it is likely to be 2002 before we get a chance to elect new TDs. Perhaps we should seek a commitment from all candidates at the next election that they won't do a runner once the election is over.

Would the last one out please switch off the lights, please.

Yours sincerely,

Anita Byrne

Anita Byrne

Poppintree,
Dublin 11.

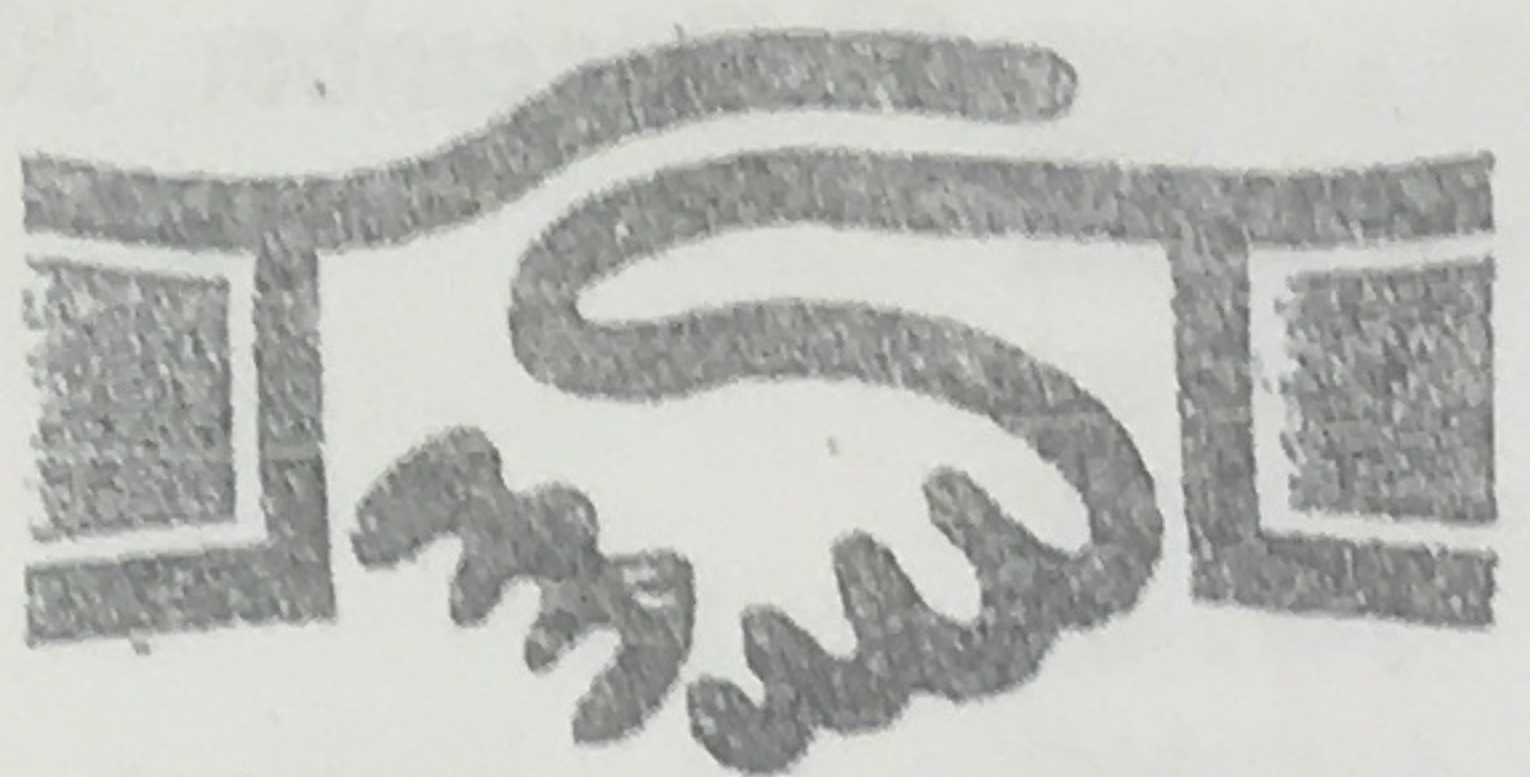
Pat Kelly.

+

Ballymun
has lost a
Dedicated

Activist with the recent passing away of
Pat Kelly. I was privileged to know Pat.
She was a very gentle lady who was active
In a number of Community Organisations

Pat will be sadly
missed by her Family
and very large circle of
friends and her neighbours.
I am not very good at writing this
sort of thing. At a time like this words
do not come easy to me. So I will just say
slán Pat and Farewell ----- Barney Hartnett.



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Thursday	10.30am -- 12.30pm 7pm -- 8pm
Friday	10.30am -- 12.30pm

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Financial Information Service

1st Tuesday of every month --- 7 pm to 8 pm

Free Legal Advice

Every Thursday 7pm -- 8pm at
The Library - Ballymun Road - Ph 8421890

Know Your Rights January 2001

Question

In the Budget last year the Free Schemes were extended to all people over the age of 75. Have there been any improvements for the over 70s in the latest Budget?

Answer

Following last year's Budget, since October 2000 all people aged 75 or over living in the State can qualify for the Free Electricity or Gas Allowance, the Free TV Licence and the Free Telephone Rental regardless of their means and who lives with them.

It has now been announced in Budget 2001 that from May 2001 people aged 70 or over could qualify for these Free Schemes as well, regardless of their circumstances.

In addition, from 1st July 2001 all people aged 70 or over will be entitled to a Medical Card.

Further information is available from the Citizens Information Centre below.

This column has been compiled by Ballymun Citizens Information Centre which provides a Free and Confidential service to the public

Telephone 8421890

The Paul Kinsella Column

I am absolutely appalled and outraged at the absolutely appalling tragedy of the young tearaway boy Martin aged 15. This is yet again yet another shocking and damning indictment of this Government's total contempt for and total neglect of our young people, especially those young people who are troubled and/or deprived both socially/economically and emotionally. This is yet another in a long litany of such cases that have cropped up over the last few years. The only so-called 'response' that this brain dead Government have 'come up with' is their equally brain dead and extremely reactionary response of building a record number of prison cells both for juvenile offenders and for adult prisoners. All the very best tried and tested authoritative international research has shown that far from reducing crime levels that prisons are "The universities of crime"! How many kids go into prison for relatively minor offences such as shoplifting and begging for example and have come as hardened criminals and/or hard drug addicts. As the old saying states: "He went inside for shoplifting and came out an experienced blagger (Armed robber)"! Also of very grave concern is the growing number of teenage girls both coming before the courts and also being incarcerated in prison. Of course there are some people who must be imprisoned for society's and community's sake. But as Sarah Molloy the solicitor for Martin aged 15 states: "I don't think he is a child who should be in a high secure unit. He has a loving family. There is only one warrant in existence for him." Which brings me to the absolutely disgraceful treatment of Martin who I might remind you is only 15 years old at the hands of the Gardai. Of course Martin will have to answer for his alleged crimes before the courts. However to incarcerate the young lad for two nights in Irishtown Garda Station was an absolute disgrace and smacks of the "Use A sledgehammer to crack a nut" approach. It was most certainly an extremely heavy handed reaction and is yet another sign of the growing totalitarianism and authoritarianism in Ireland at the moment. For God's sake this young lad needs help not punishment! Martin most certainly comes from a very deprived background indeed. His father is wheelchair bound for

God's sake! His mother who is rearing a large family as well is simply unable to help Martin (15). Do you know what is probably the most annoying thing about this Government's total neglect of and total contempt for the weakest, most vulnerable and deprived in our society? That is come the next General Election, which cannot come soon enough and the sooner the better, is that you will get idiots who will vote 1,2,3 Fianna Fail and in the thankfully rapidly diminishing number of constituencies where the so-called Progressive Democrats still have a very small presence number 4 or 1 Progressive Democrat. This is despite the fact that they have presided over this whole screwed up, rotting, stinking system. Not that the so-called opposition in the form of Fine Gael and the so-called Labour Party are any better! I believe that if the people have any decency whatsoever they should say: "To hell with the lot of you'se"! In other words "A plague on all your houses"! People should vote for the small parties and true genuine independents such as Seamus Healey and Tony Gregory.

Ballymun Regeneration

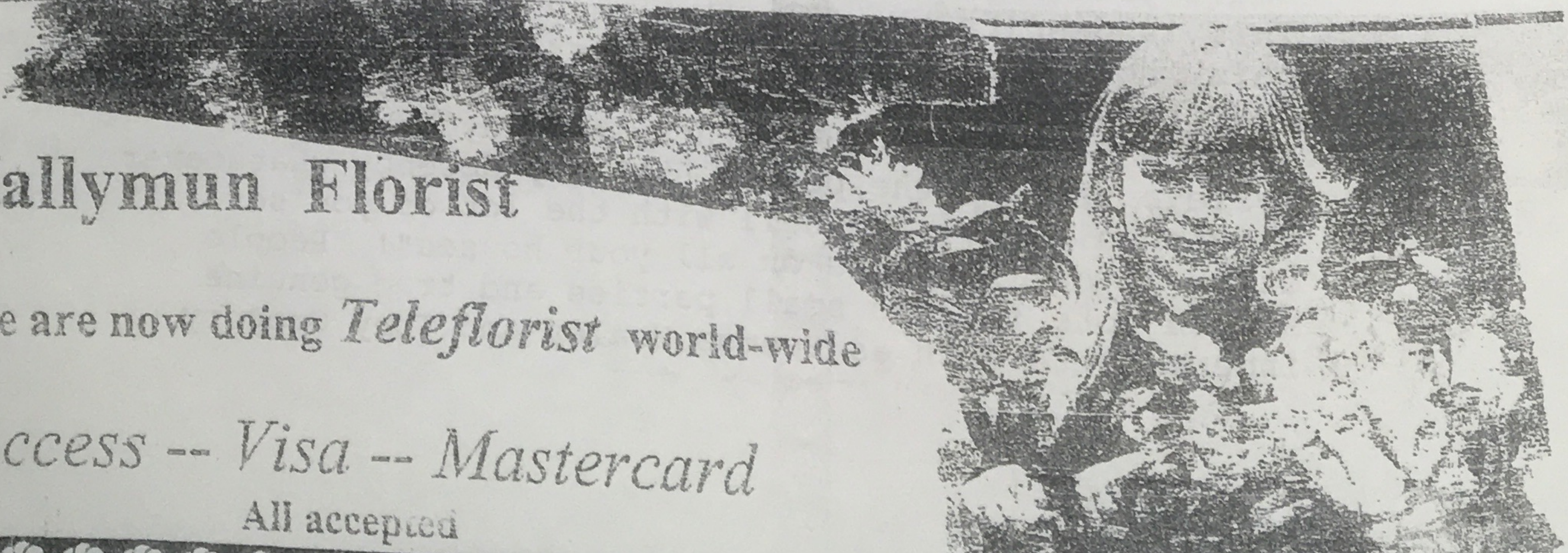
BALLYMUN REGENERATION LTD HAS CARRIED OUT FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND EXCEEDED BOTH IRISH AND EU LEGISLATION DEMANDS

Dublin, Monday 18th December 2000: Ballymun Regeneration Ltd has exceeded both EU and Irish legislation in relation to the preparation of Environmental Assessment Statements for individual elements of the regeneration of Ballymun. Since 1988 BRL has carried out a Strategic Appraisal of the Masterplan, as well as four separate Environmental Impact Statements for individual elements of the project. Any procedural deficiencies that may have existed at the time of the complaint by Patricia McKenna MEP, to the EU Commission have long since been rectified.

The letter from the EU Commission, notifying the Irish Government of its concerns concerning the procedural requirement of the Impact Assessment Directive, regarding a planning application for 13 separate housing schemes in Phase 1 of the regeneration, states explicitly that "the Commission intends no criticism of the Ballymun regeneration scheme as such." The letter continues "On the contrary, the objectives pursued by the scheme – the rehabilitation of a depressed urban area – are fully in line with Community policy. Moreover, the information available to the Commission indicates that a high degree of care and expertise has been applied to the preparation of the scheme." Elsewhere in the letter, the Commission "takes positive note of the fact that, in those applications referred to it by way of appeal, the Irish Planning Appeals Board appears to have given appropriate effect to the Impact Assessment Directive."

The Irish Government is to submit its observations on the contents of the letter from the EU, within two months.

"We're delighted that the first Phase of new housing is now being built in Ballymun and that the first residents will be moving in next summer", says Clarán Murray, Managing Director, Ballymun Regeneration. "Events have overtaken the procedural technicality mentioned in the EU letter to the Irish government. Any technical deficiencies have been remedied since the complaint was made and this confirmation has been given to the Government for their communications with the EU."

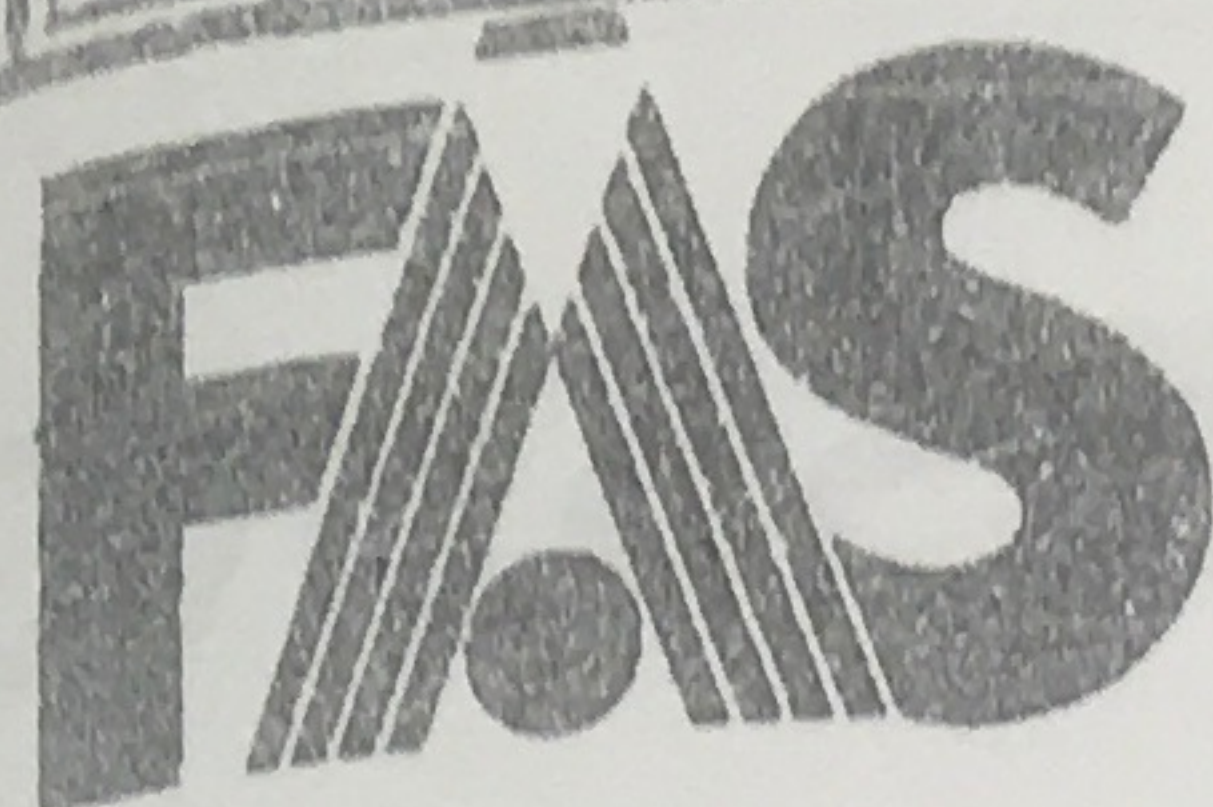


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Gary Jons

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Gary Jons --- CentrePoint

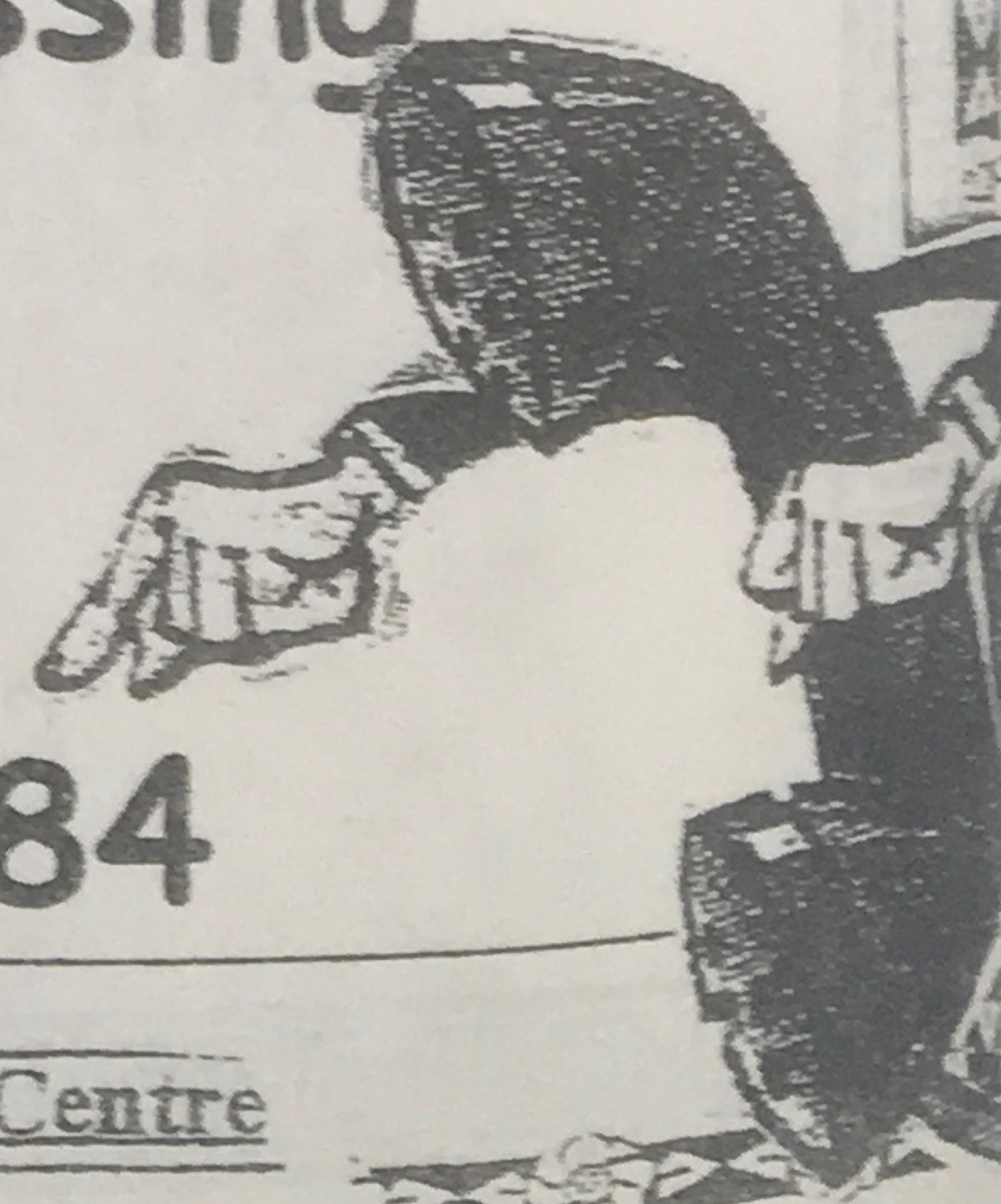
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