

## ARE YOU A VICTIM OR DO YOU KNOW A VICTIM OF RESIDENTIAL ABUSE IN IRELAND WHO HAS NOT MADE AN APPLICATION TO THE REDRESS BOARD?

The closing date for Applications was the 15th December, 2005 however under Section 8 of the Residential Institutions Redress Act you may be entitled to bring a **LATE APPLICATION**, if you have not already made an application.

Any person (Male/Female) or spouse/children of a deceased person, who suffered abuse or ill treatment in the Republic of Ireland while resident in an Industrial School, Reformatory, Orphanage, Childrens Hospital, Childrens Homes may be entitled to an Award under the Redress Scheme.

For Further Information contact:

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# All-Ireland for Cathy

There are only a limited number of All-Ireland winners in any given area; even the footballers from the Kingdom treasure their Sam Maguire! Last Saturday in the University of Limerick Concert Hall, the Knockcroghery Pioneer centre added to their list of recipients, when Cathy Dervan won the Réadóiri Senior Solo Singing competition.

The full bus, and the extra car loads, who travelled down to Limerick, went to support Cathy, and also the cast members of the Junior Novelty Act, twins, Mark, 'The Bull' and Susan, 'Twink', Coyle, Cathal 'Bertie' Galvin, Donal 'Do you like the Glasses?' Egan, Niamh 'I'm Going to be Famous' Walsh, Aislinn 'Minister for Health' Farrell and Thomas 'Louis Walsh' Hurley, as they performed their 'Government Factor'. Despite an excellent per-



Cathy Dervan

formance, the group narrowly lost out to the eventual winners from Ulster.

Cathy was singing in the senior Solo Singing competition. She sang the Collin Raye favourite 'Love Me', a song of feeling and

emotion, which left many a teary eye in the audience. When the MC announced that the competitor was from Roscommon, the resulting cheer caused him to question whether there was anyone left at home. Accompanying herself on the guitar, Cathy performed superbly, and against stern opposition. When the decision was announced just before 9 pm it was greeted with euphoria and jubilation, so much so that the MC had to repeat the next two results as no-one could hear him above the din!

The bus journey home flew, to the accompaniment of laughter, singing and the occasional good-natured slugging. The customary congratulatory and "welcome home" bonfire brought added friends and well-wishers outside on a cold night – very early morning, depending on your

perspective – and the crowd was addressed by Councillor Paddy Kilduff, a proud family friend and staunch Pioneer and fellow local Councillor Laurence Fallon, who also served his time travelling to Pioneer Réadóiri competitions.

Could it be that five is Cathy's lucky number? She is the fifth act from the Knockcroghery Pioneer centre to win an All-Ireland title, following Junior Novelty Act success five years ago, and three previous solo singing titles; and this was her fifth attempt to win an All-Ireland, having taken part in both the Junior Novelty Act and the Modern Music Group twice before. She has also taken the lead role in the Transition Year school musical, playing Donna in 'Mama Mia', so her interest and pedigree in competitions of this sort are first rate. Well done Cathy, treasure your All-Ireland.

## Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to: **Roscommon People**

Abbey Street, Roscommon Town.  
Fax: (090) 66 34303 or email: news@roscommonpeople.ie

# Leyden's 'political spin'

*Kilbegnet,  
Creggs,  
Co. Roscommon*

*Dear Sir,*

Does Terry Leyden honestly believe that I do not recognise 'political spin' when I see it? (Senator Leyden responds, Roscommon People, 26/02/10). Of course he is not going to admit to having an ulterior motive for his comments that linked

Senator Alex White (did I mention he is my brother-in-law) with RTE and by extension to the Dáil seat vacated by Inglorious George Lee several weeks ago.

Politicians as we all know, are adept at manipulating statements or offering what seem like very plausible defences to their daily rants and raves. I don't expect Terry Leyden to be ex-

ception in this regard. It is my opinion (and my opinion only) that he was being politically mischievous at the very least, and tactically crude at the worst, when he made those comments attributed to him on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 suggesting that he hoped Senator White had taken leave of absence from RTE and so on.

As a Fianna Fail politician, of course he is go-

ing to have to go on the offensive if his party wishes to regain what was normally viewed BG (Before George) as a fairly straightforward seat under the late Seamus Brennan. Anyone with any interest or knowledge in Irish politics will tell you the fight for any type of elected seat begins and ends with posturing to the media while trying to outmanoeuvre the

potential adversaries you will face. Terry has every right to be cunning in this regard, but come on, let's call a spade a spade.

The problem with Fianna Fail politicians these days is, that they tell you it is a sunny day outside, you better be sure to pack an umbrella with you.

*Is mise,  
John Corcoran.*

# Head shops: What about personal responsibility?

*Dear Sir,*

At the age of 72, I thought I'd heard/read/seen it all before – that is until I encountered The Roscommon People lead story of 26/2/10 – 'I thought my son was dead!' To this auld wan, it would seem that the main issue here is not the existence of the Head Shop, but the failure of a parent to instill in her offspring the understanding that they have to, nay must!, take some personal responsibility for their own actions. For crying out loud, the guy is 32! He ingests a product labelled 'not for human consumption', and both he and his mother are surprised at the outcome? I am, of course, making here the gracious presumption that this 32-years-old headcase (pun intended) can read....

As a society, we are besmirched by those who refuse to take responsibility for their actions. Bankers, developers (a euphemism if ever there was one...), The Roman Catholic Church and its Bishops, politicians at both local and national levels, boy-racers, teenage pregnancy....our present so-called government, which makes 'The Three Stooges' look like graduates of MENSA.

I have never sniffed/snuffed/snorted or shot. But if some jerk wants to do so, LET HIM/HER DO IT!! Am I my brother's keeper? No, no, a thousand times...NO!!!

Of those Head Shop protestors storming the moral high ground, their myopic/hypocritical stance is demeaned by the fact that within sniffing/snuffing/snorting/shooting distance of their plinth are some half a dozen establishments that, like the Head Shop, are selling a legal drug. It's called alcohol, and they're called pubs (in fact, one is right next door to the Head Shop). Do I see any of these moral crusaders protesting outside the pubs, and yet, when was the last time one read about a guy coming home and beating up his wife and children after having one too many at a Head Shop?

Get real, people. Ireland is rampant with vicious and murderous crime, most of which is bred out of the legislated illegality of drugs. What will not be recognised by the Drugs War ostriches is that drugs would not exist were it not for the fact that wanting/waiting for them there is a huge, eager, compliant market. It's all about that old capitalist

maxim, the law of supply and demand! To this tired old git, there are but two ways to deal with the drugs trade. Either relentlessly and unswervingly hunt down and shoot dead every dealer and his/her every customer, or, you legalise drugs! Now, the former probably is impossible; but the latter isn't! By legalising drugs, they can be controlled and, like alcohol and tobacco, they can be taxed! Once legalised, what have the gangs to purvey (not that they wouldn't find another source of income...)? Which, in turn, would free up Garda resources? Taxation, personal responsibility and less spent on enforcement? Ergo, more money in State coffers, QED. Which means there might be enough do-ray-me to give a 32-years-old reading lessons...?

My Parish Priest would be horrified at what I have written here; he is a truly wonderful man.

My full name and address is with the Editor, but in deference to my P.P., I use here a pseudonym.

*Yours sincerely,  
Timothy O'Leary.*

# Solemn Novena

IN

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