

American business tycoon splashes out £250,000 to live out the ceremony of his dreams



Couple treat guests to a wedding to remember

by Tony Purcell

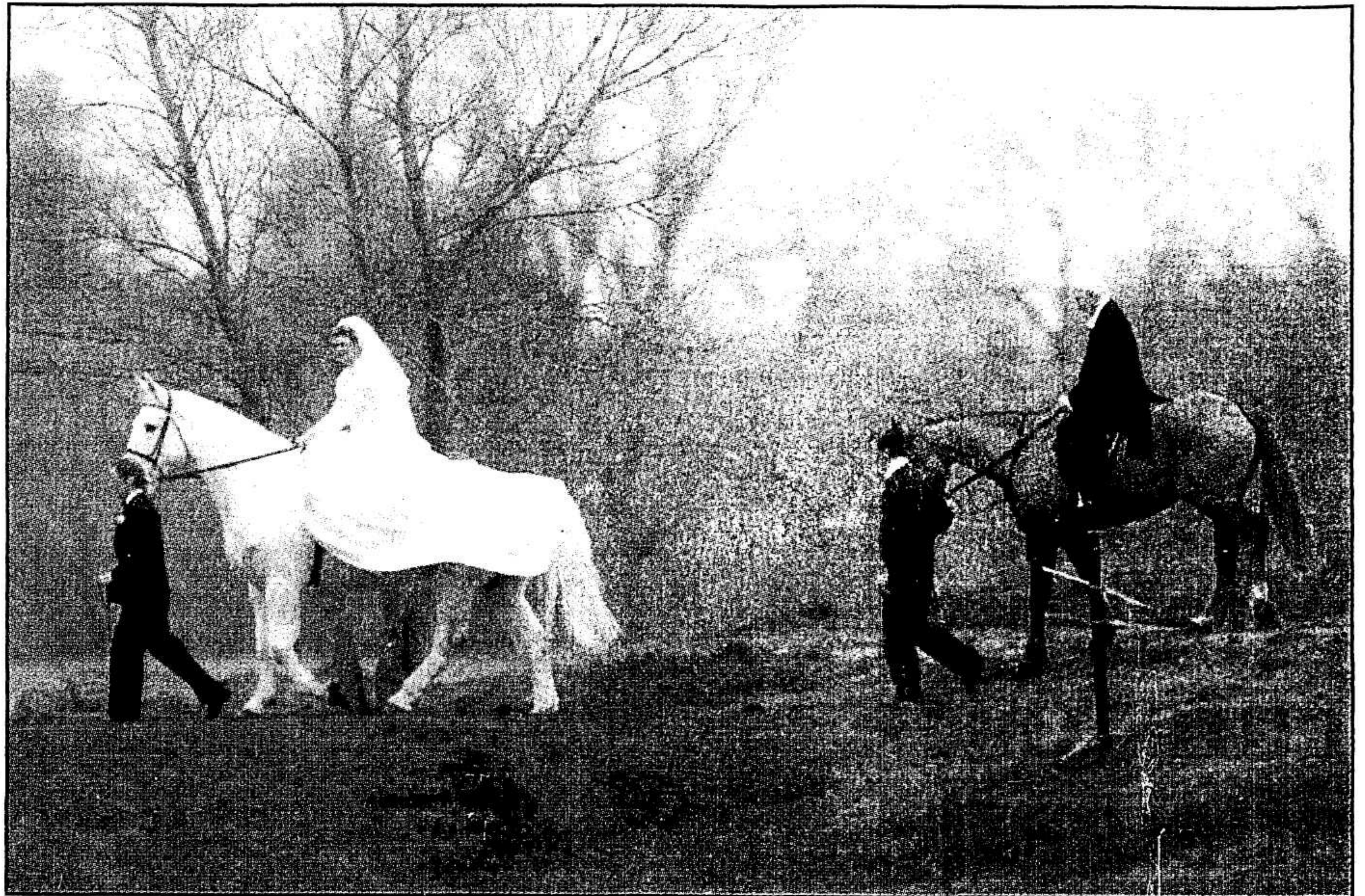
THE picturesque village of Adare, Co. Limerick, provided the ideal setting for a wedding befitting a king or queen at the weekend.

Irish American business tycoon, Jay Michael Cashman (45) from Boston, splashed out a reported £250,000 to tie the knot with his film producer sweetheart, Christy Jean Scott (25), in a glittering ceremony performed in the 15th century ruined Franciscan Abbey on Saturday.

It was also a historic occasion as it was the first wedding in the abbey located on the grounds of Adare Manor Golf Club in 500 years!

It was a dream wedding — one of the most spectacular ever held in Ireland — with absolutely everything — a glamorous bride and groom, best man and 12 bridesmaids in ivory coloured dresses along with flower girls; horse drawn carriages for the parents led by two pipers; the 200 guests who arrived in a chartered jet from America were carrying white umbrellas as they walked from the luxurious five-star Adare Manor Hotel to the Abbey and a beautiful bride arriving on a white mare with her father for a ceremony performed by Bishop Pat Buckley.

The couple were described by guests as "two of the most glamorous and exciting people one could wish to meet".



Bride Christy Jean Scott and her father Morgan Scott arrive on horseback for her wedding at the 15th century Franciscan Abbey at Adare Manor Golf Club, Co. Limerick; and (top left) groom Jay Michael Cashman and his bride with Bishop Pat Buckley, and members of the bridal party. Pictures: Kieran Clancy

The bride wore a specially designed ivory satin dress with Irish lace and a square neckline and chapel train.

During the hour-long ceremony held in a marquee set up within the abbey, the music and singing of hymns such as "How Great Thou Art" and "Because He Lives" was performed by local musicians and choir led by prominent harpist, Madeleine Meehan.

Bishop Buckley said that the ceremony had all the hallmarks of a typical Catholic wedding.

"Both Jay and Christy are very spiritual people and they wanted a spiritual wedding," said Bishop Buckley, a close friend of the couple.

"I have performed about 2,000 wed-

dings in the past 12 years, 200 a year. They are fully legal weddings in the eyes of the British or Irish faith and they are also full spiritual marriages in the eyes of God. They don't satisfy the dictates of Canon Law, but I am not worried about Canon Law," said the affable Bishop Buckley, who caused a storm when he was excommunicated from the church after he was consecrated a bishop without the Pope's permission.

Newly-weds Christy and Jay have been regular visitors to Adare and Bishop Buckley revealed that Christy will be back again to shoot a movie based on the cleric's best selling book "A Thorn in the Side".

After the ceremony the guests drank a glass of champagne as the newly-weds travelled back in a horse drawn carriage to the Adare Manor Hotel for the glittering reception.

Among the guests from various parts of America were the bride's parents, Morgan and Connie Scott from North Carolina and the parents of the groom, Rachael and Dick Nylan from Boston.

The groom, Jay Cashman, is a millionaire businessman who started as a labourer on a building site and amassed his fortune as a civil engineering contractor building roads, bridges and motorways in the Boston area.

Jay was also described by guests as the "best friend that anyone could ever

have — he started from scratch without a dime in his pocket and built up a huge business," He owns a helicopter and several limousines.

Jay and Christy plan to spend their honeymoon around Ireland.

Mr Stephen Quinn, Managing-Director of Adare Manor Hotel, said the wedding was the biggest and most spectacular ever held in Adare.

The wedding reception started off with champagne followed by a sumptuous eight-course meal including smoked salmon, sorbet, fillet mignon and dessert.

The entertainment was provided by tenor Finbar Wright and music by the Cork City Jazz Band.

Amnesty conference highlights US abuses

by Mark Gallagher

AMERICAN police brutality and the death penalty were highlighted at the 5th annual Amnesty Ireland Youth Conference in Trinity College at the weekend.

Amnesty International recently began a campaign to emphasise globally the problem of human rights abuses in the US. The campaign was launched in Ireland to coincide with the conference.

The organisation believed the topic was particularly pertinent as Oklahoma are to execute Sean Sellers this Thursday. Sellers, 29, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death when he was 16 years of age.

A primary concern Amnesty highlighted at the weekend was the US failure to sign the UN convention on the rights of a child. The majority of American states continue to try 16-year-olds as adults.

The 160 people who attended the conference signed a petition demanding clemency for Sean Sellers, which will be faxed to both the White House and the Oklahoma Governor's office.

A large American flag was also signed by everyone at the conference, with messages condemning abuses in the US.

This will also be sent to the White House. Among the speakers at the conference were

ex-New York police officer Frank Dunlop and Amnesty International's Security coordinator Micheal Crowley.

Dunlop spoke on the subject of police brutality, and offered a balanced view to the use of cattle prods and pepper spray by the American police force.

Following the talk, students were given the opportunity to question Dunlop on the subject matter.

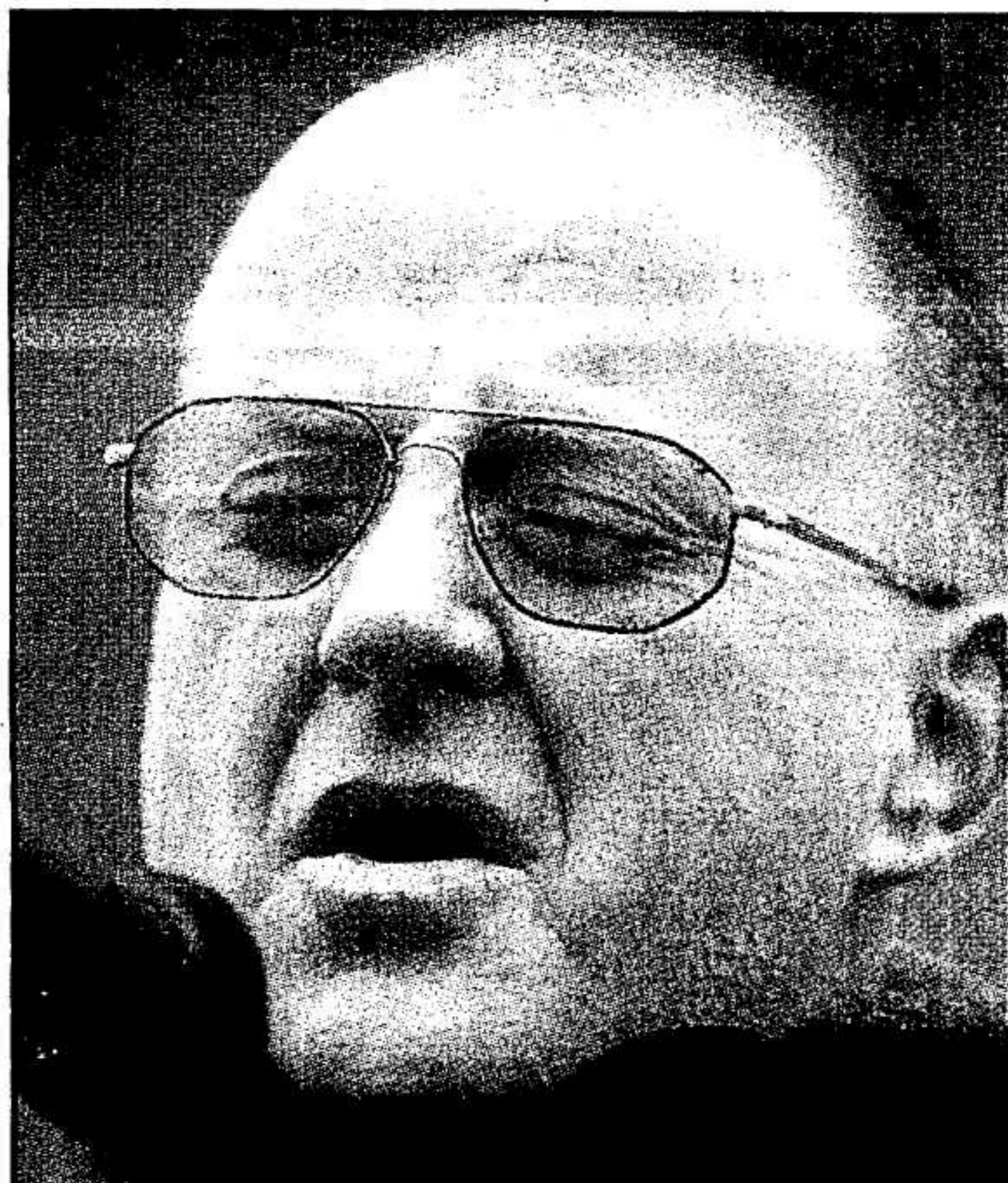
"The talk of Robert Dunlop's contextualised Amnesty's concerns and offered a challenge what Amnesty have been saying about police brutality in the States," Orla O'Sullivan of Amnesty said.

Micheal Crowley gave a talk on the continuing trade by a number of multinationals in the manufacture and distribution of arms to developing countries.

Amnesty were particularly pleased with the reaction this discussion generated.

Workshops were also held on the US arms trade, the death penalty in the US and a special workshop was given on the conditions of Irish prisons and the urgent reform needed by the Irish Penal Reform Trust.

Amnesty have over 9,000 members in Ireland and 150 schools and colleges are affiliated with their student and youth network, 30 of those colleges were represented at the conference.



Christy Moore giving a rare public performance at the Feile Bride peace conference in Kildare.

Locals concerned at paedophile's return

by Tom Gillespie

A CONVICTED paedophile, who was forced to leave Athlone following an attack on the premises where he had been giving computer lessons to young students, has returned to the house in east Mayo where he had been living before he was arrested by gardai four years ago.

Members of the local community at Sinolane, Kilmovee, near Kilkelly, have expressed concern at the return of 52-year-old George Bruce Thompson — who has served three years in jail for sexual offences — to the area.

Gardai have confirmed they are aware that Thompson is back in the two-storey house at Sinolane which he unsuccessfully tried to put on the market through a Castlebar-based auctioneer around the time of his arrest in 1995.

"We are aware of this man's presence, but he is not wanted for any offences at the moment," a garda spokesman explained.

At the time of his conviction and imprisonment, Thompson was told by Judge Kieran O'Connor: "you are obviously a very sick man and the court has a duty to protect the public."

Thompson, who has a history of sexual deviancy in Britain, was jailed for three years for sexually assaulting two young

brothers over an 18-month period. He also admitted sexual assaults on another boy on three occasions in 1994 and on a seven-year-old boy in May 1995.

Locals in the Kilmovee/Kilkelly area knew nothing about Thompson's background when he came to the area in 1995 and began offering computer tuition in his home to young people.

"He seemed a normal enough person, but the fact that he seemed to be providing accommodation for young boys, whom he said were from Dublin, at weekends did arouse some suspicion," one resident of the area commented in the past few days.

On his release from prison last year, Thompson went to Athlone, where he opened an Internet and computer training store.

He offered hourly rates for access to the Internet, and many secondary school students were among his customers for either group or private one-to-one tuition.

Following publication in a Sunday newspaper of details about Thompson's past, his Athlone premises were vandalised and he left the area in a hurry. He is now living in Mayo, with little contact with neighbours.

Increased garda activity has been noted in the Sinolane area since his return, but gardai emphasised that, although they are keeping an eye on the situation, he is not wanted for any offences at the moment.

Bottling up anger reduces the heart's ability to respond to stress

by John von Radowitz

PEOPLE who bottle up anger may make themselves ill by reducing their heart's ability to respond to stress, researchers have found.

Faced with everyday stressful events, a person's heart is supposed to vary the rate at which it beats. But people who suppress their emotions decrease their heart rate variability, according to a team of Swedish scientists.

This would make them more vulnerable to a range of diseases. Dr Myriam Horsten and colleagues at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm looked at 300 healthy women aged 30 to 65 taking part in a coronary risk study.

They were free of any symptoms of heart disease and had not been in hospital for any illness during the previous five years. Researchers found that those who tested high for social

isolation and an inability to discuss their anger showed unusually limited variability in their heart rates during normal daily activities.

The findings were published in the journal Psychosomatic Medicine.

Decreased heart rate variability is a feature of depression and has been shown to predict heart disease and hardening of the arteries.

It has also been linked with overall death rates.

13 investment firms appear on Central Bank black list

by Mark Gallagher

THE Central Bank has black-listed 13 investment firms for potential investors to avoid, as they are not registered with the regulatory body.

It is an offence for an investment firm to operate without Central Bank authorisation, but the Bank is virtually powerless to prosecute, as these firms operate from as far afield as the Virgin Islands and Panama.

The firms use cold-calls, using shareholder lists to identify potential clients and call them offering lucrative investments with large returns. To invest, customers are asked to send large sums to off-shore addresses.

Cold-calling from shareholder lists is illegal under Central Bank law and those who are called in this way should contact them immediately.

If a customer invests in these firms, they are eligible for compensation, as

they would be with an authorised investment firm.

The 13 firms are: Investment Program Management; Tasin&Co; Whale Securities; Morgan Vanderbilt Inc; Globe Capital Group; WH Carrington; Dow Templeton&Associates; Quantum Financial Group; First Federal Capital; Chateau Schreiber Financial Management and Trust SA; United Global Partners Ltd; Ametron Consultants Ltd; Pryce Weston Inc.

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