

**RIGNEY**  
D  
**DOLPHIN**  
Recruitment  
Tel: 051-879312  
Fax: 051-852152

# The Munster Express

**radius**  
TECHNOLOGIES  
Year 2000  
Computer  
Testing  
Tel: 051 843861  
Email: info@radius.ie

Waterford's Leading Newspaper Since 1859

Friday, 19th March, 1999

Price 90p (€1.14) incl. VAT. U.K. Delivery 95p

Early Edition



**Future looks bright for Glanbia**  
Page 3



**Elaine Fitzgerald makes Irish team for World Cross Country Championships**  
Page 28



**Waterford link with unique symphony tour**  
Page 32

**Munster Express**  
TO: Johnny & Kelly  
FROM: Noreen, Ross, Stephen, Adam and Clara.  
Happy St. Patrick's Day. Kiss the Shamrock for us.  
TO: Joyce and Anthony  
FROM: Wendy  
Greetings from London. I hope that St. Patrick's is a good one.

**Were you sent a St. Patrick's Day greeting from abroad?**  
see Life Today

**Win a bottle of Knockree Hills Irish Potteen**  
See page 7

## Cork criminal gang suspected of Dunmore Road garda assault

Report by Tom Young

A WELL known criminal gang from Cork is believed by investigating gardai to have been involved in the burglaries and car theft in Waterford city early on Monday which led to a young garda sustaining an ear wound while attempting to make an arrest.

Gda. Damien Rafter (29) was expected to be discharged from Waterford Regional Hospital on Tuesday after having twenty stitches to the injury, inflicted either by a knife or a screwdriver.

The gardai were called at 2.30 am to the scene of a burglary at Earls Court, off Dunmore Road. While on their way they were informed of a second burglary on the same estate. Shortly afterwards a car stolen from the

front of the first burgled house, sped past them.

Then a patrol van, also on its way to the scene, was rammed by the stolen vehicle, the three occupants of which made a run for it. They were pursued by the gardai but because they split up so too did the gardai and when Gda. Rafter trapped one of them in the garden of a Viewmount house he had no immediate

back-up. Another of the three came to his friend's rescue and, striking from behind, left the garda unconscious and with his ear badly cut.

All three of the gang escaped but one of them left a jacket behind and that could provide vital evidence for the gardai in their attempt to hunt them down and secure convictions.

## Budget pains at WRH

CEO seeks additional finance to cut waiting lists

By Tom Young

SERVICES at Waterford Regional Hospital, where medical emergencies are "all over the place", represent the painful downside to the maintenance of a balanced budget.

That complaint was voiced by Waterford County Councillor Gary O'Halloran at the March meeting of the South Eastern Health Board after CEO Mr. John Cooney reported a credit balance of £594,000 for the end of last year.

Mr. O'Halloran said it seemed there was no proper strategy for managing the regional hospital. He maintained a lack of sufficient funding was causing unnecessary human suffering and wondered how many lives had been shortened as a consequence. "I'd hate to be a medical card holder awaiting some specialist service,

knowing how many years it would be before I'd be seen", he commented.

The CEO conceded that there was congestion at the hospital. He said there were problems due to the arrival of large numbers of medical patients, to whom priority had to be given and they had overflowed into the ENT and eye units.

Proposals to remedy the situation were under consideration in the context of current waiting lists and he hoped the board would get additional resources to help alleviate the problem.

**84 years to clear waiting lists!**

On the subject of waiting lists, Mr. O'Halloran asked Mr. Cooney to confirm that it would take £80 million to clear them in the region. "We are getting less than a million a year for that purpose so at that rate it will take 84

years", he argued. Mr. Cooney said he didn't know where the £80m figure came from and he did not believe they required anything like that amount to sort out the situation. He had not costed it but could attempt to do so if the board wished, although it was extremely difficult to define what constituted a waiting list - he had established a group to define, in each speciality, how many people were left waiting for treatment because of a lack of resources.

**Legal fees**

Cllr. Billy Kyne took a different view to his councillor colleague on the issue of board accounting. He complimented "everybody concerned" in meeting the legal requirement of keeping within budget. He said they would be letting down the public if they did not do so.

But he queried an audit reference to expenditure of more than half a million pounds in legal fees. He wondered how many days' work that represented and if the board had any method of ensuring they were being fairly charged.

The CEO assured him he kept an eye on the reasonableness of the legal bills. Included, he said, was a bill for £170,000 in respect of a High Court case and such actions were always expensive.



Fifteen year old Claire Gallagher (centre), who was blinded in the Omagh bombing atrocity, accepted an international award on behalf of the people of Omagh at the 8th. Annual Special Forum for Peace organised by the St. Angela's Peace and Justice Group. The ceremony was held at the Ursuline Convent on Friday night last and, as Claire is a pianist, she was presented with a crystal piano specially commissioned from Waterford Crystal. On left is Honora Fleming from Omagh and also included is Eilis Strappe of the Peace and Justice Group. Photograph by Gerry O'Carroll.

## Austin Deasy will not seek re-election



The Fine Gael TD for Waterford, Austin Deasy, announced on Friday last that he would not be standing for re-election to the Dail at the next general election.

While no reason for his decision was given in his statement, Mr. Deasy did suffer a serious illness last

year and, though now restored to full health, it is thought he is bowing out of the grind of national politics to preserve his well being and to spend more time with his wife and family.

Aged 63, Mr. Deasy was a secondary school teacher before entering full time politics. As one of the most popular and respected politicians to ever represent the people of Waterford, he was a regular poll topper and inspired the confidence of rural and city voters alike. Mr. Deasy was first elected to the Dail in 1977 having spent the previous five years in the Seanad as a nominee of the former Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave.

An often outspoken and controversial figure, he was Minister for Agriculture from 1982 to 1987,

a difficult position in which he distinguished himself earning the respect of the farming bodies who were, at first, somewhat sceptical about his appointment. He left the Fine Gael front bench of his own accord in 1992 in order to speak his mind more freely on various issues.

Speaking at the Fine Gael Waterford city convention this week, Councillor Maurice Cummins paid tribute to Mr. Deasy for his dedicated work as a public representative for over 30 years. He said Mr. Deasy was fearless when it came to speaking out on issues that he passionately believed in and the next Dail would be a lot poorer for his absence.

See editorial on page 4. Also 'Tales of the Tellurians' by John O'Connor for comment and analysis.

**Personality Portrait**



**Natalie de Braam**

For many years, Natalie de Braam was a London based professional dancer. As well as performing in the West End, she travelled all over the world working with the top choreographers and stars of the 70s and 80s in television, stage and films.

She and her husband, Dorian, moved to Ireland with their family ten years ago and they now reside in South Kilkenny.

A registered teacher of the Royal Academy of Dancing, Natalie began teaching classical ballet in 1994 and, two years later, she set up the Waterford Dance Studio at the VEC Adult Education Centre where she teaches ballet. At present, she is rehearsing 'Coppelia' with the recently formed Waterford Junior Ballet.

Her reputation as a teacher continues to grow and, this summer, she will be a guest teacher and lecturer at a prestigious International Ballet Summer School in England before returning to prepare for the new September term at the VEC.

**Freddie Starr cries off**

The scheduled appearance by British comedy star, Freddie Starr, at the Forum Theatre, Waterford on this Friday, March 19th., has been cancelled. A spokesperson for the Forum said the entire tour had been cancelled due to poor ticket sales nationwide although the response in Waterford had been much better than Dublin.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. What is the opposite of the word nadir?
  2. What is the main ingredient of a soufflé?
  3. How long is an American presidential term?
- Answers on Page 20



That's my dad! Sean Walsh, President of the Waterford Lions Club, received the local Peace and Justice Award from his daughter, Deirdre, at the 8th. Annual Special Forum for Peace held in the Ursuline Convent on Friday last. Photograph by Gerry O'Carroll.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### St. Patrick's Day greetings from President McAleese

"Warmest St. Patrick's Day greetings for 1999. This, the last St. Patrick's Day of the 2nd Millennium, is a particularly special day for Ireland and the Irish family throughout the world. Today Ireland stands on the brink of an era of unprecedented cultural confidence, prosperity and peace.

"These are times when hope, hard-earned hope, abounds. So, on this day, we come together to celebrate with pride our heritage, our culture and our achievements. This truly is a day when we can share with others all that is best about Ireland and all that makes us proud to be Irish.

"We particularly celebrate the fact that, at last, after much pain, prayer and political effort, the people of this island now have within their grasp, the best opportunity for a lasting peace that we have ever known.

"I am pleased to join with Irish people everywhere in honouring St. Patrick, extending my very best wishes for a happy and enjoyable day."

Maire Mhic Ghiolla Iosa Uachtaran na hEireann

### Racecourse preparing for new and varied uses

The Waterford and Tramore Racecourse Co. Ltd. has been granted planning permission by Waterford Co. Council for a change of use of the Owners and Trainers Bar to a public bar at the Tramore Racecourse, Old Waterford Road, Tramore.

The racecourse company has also been granted planning permission for the occasional use of Tramore Racecourse for a market, trade show exhibitions, agricultural shows and point-to-point race meetings, in addition to the existing use as a racecourse.

The planning applications were made by Patrick Halley and Associates, St. Catherine's Hall, Catherine St., Waterford.

### EASTER REVISION COURSE MATHEMATICS

We are holding courses at all levels for Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate mathematics.

These courses will be group orientated and will be held from Easter Monday, 5th April to Friday 9th April and will continue afterwards one evening session a week until the end of May.

As we specialise in Mathematics, expert tuition is guaranteed.

For further details phone:

**Educational Developments**  
30 South Parade, Waterford.  
Tel: 051-874129



### It's Clinique Bonus Time.

Your special bonus at no extra charge with the purchase of any two or more Clinique products. "Fresh Picks." A brightly coloured, stash-the-basics bag filled with six of the most useful, most wanted Clinique make-up and skin care specialists. You get:

- Dramatically Different Moisturizing Lotion
- Lip-Shaping Pencil - Mahogany
- Take The Day Off Makeup Remover For Lids, Lashes and Lips
- Superst Cream Lipstick - Semi Sweet
- Non-Aerosol Hairspray
- Clinique Happy Perfume Spray For Lids, Lashes and Lips

Allergy Tested. 100% Fragrance Free. (with the exception of Clinique Happy products.)

www.clinique.com

Offer available until Saturday 3 April 1999.

One gift per customer, while stocks last.



And if that's not enough get your Bonus Plus. Spend £35.00 or more with Clinique and your bonus gets bigger to include a stylish, must-have tote. One tote per customer, while stocks last.

**MULLIGANS PHARMACY**  
City Square Shopping Centre, Waterford  
Tel: (051) 853247