

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## GAY SLUR ON CANDIDATE

A LOCAL election candidate in Kilkenny has said that he refuses to be daunted by a series of homophobic attacks on his election posters.

At least seven separate posters of Fiamna Fáil Candidate Paddy McKee (25), were defaced with graphic homophobic slurs. Mr. McKee said: "I did not feel anger or hurt over the slurs, just disappointed."

## RACERS WILL HIT RECORD

A RECORD 12,000 will take part in the Barringtons Hospital Great Limerick Run today.

Race director John Cleary, who established the event five years ago, said: "We are on target to have a record 12,000 participants along with our ambitious aim to donate over €200,000 to the Special Olympics from the proceeds of the race."

## EXCLUSIVE JOYCE SAYS JOBS HAVE

# Last Grain

A GRANNY-OF-TEN spoke out this week against teenage yobs who have turned her home into a prison.

Joyce 'Bernie' Rehill (69), who is best known to *Sunday World* readers for her role as the 'Mammy' in country singer Michael English's new video, says life back home in Dublin is "hell", thanks to a bunch of thugs.

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

Bernie said she and her neighbours are under siege "every night" as the youngsters – some as young as 14 – are engaging in a campaign of intimidation and vandalism in a high-rise tower block in Ballymun, on the city's northside.

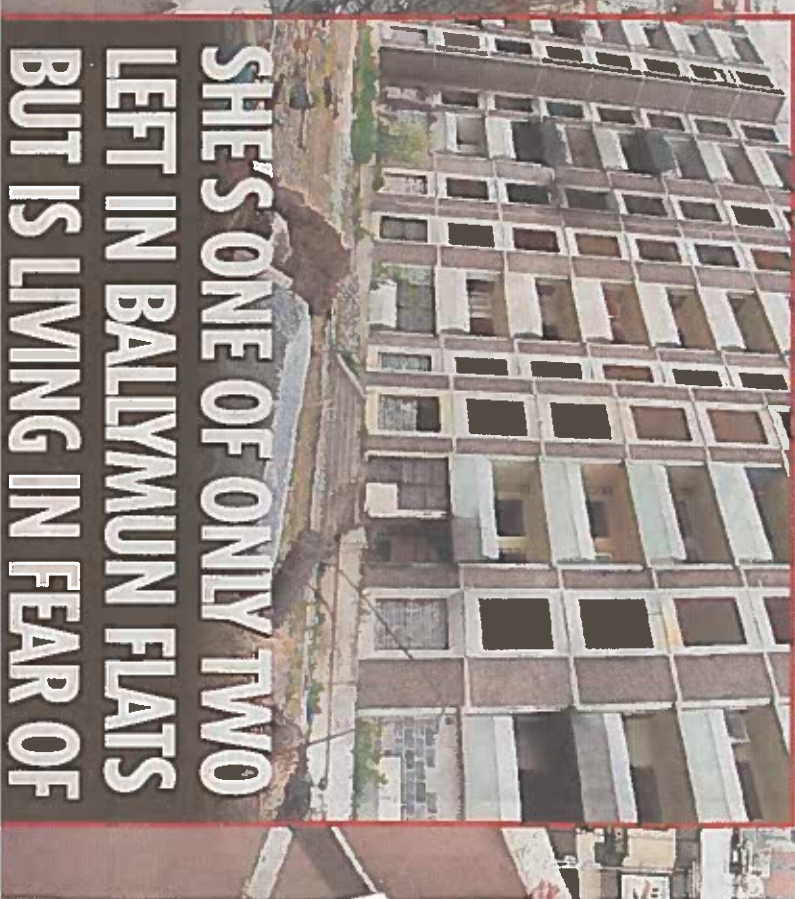
Last week a youth threw a knife at her while she was leaving her flat. "I was in shock. Thank God this young lad didn't stab me, but I feared for my life," Bernie told us.

The teens have thrown bricks at her windows, cut the telephone wires, daubed paint on her door and lit fires both outside and inside derelict flats. Vacant flats have been used for drinking parties.

The teens have even used defunct rubbish chutes and lift shafts as "climbing frames" to reach the top floors of the flats, Bernie said.

"Council workers have fixed metal barriers over individual apartment windows. Just this week, workers bricked up all but two crucial entrances to the towers," said Bernie. But vandals used crow-

If the worst happens, I know that Dogs Trust will care for him.



SHE'S ONE OF ONLY TWO LEFT IN BALLYMUN FLATS BUT IS LIVING IN FEAR OF