



RISK: Dusty the dolphin

Dolphin a threat to swimmers

By LYNNE KELLEHER

SWIMMERS have been told not to treat a solitary dolphin off the west coast as a playful pet.

A new poster campaign from the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) on Inis Oírr, on the Aran Islands, has been cautioning the public about getting too close to the 12ft bottlenose dolphin, widely known as Dusty but christened Sandy by the islanders. The mammal has had boisterous encounters with swimmers and injured people by ramming them, causing broken ribs and internal damage.

Harm

Welfare Officer with the IWDG Paul Kiernan said: "We have developed a concept of dolphins as being similar to pets. Just as you wouldn't go in with a tiger or an elephant, you shouldn't go in with a dolphin because the behaviour is unpredictable."

"If we interact in a way that it perceives as unacceptable it has the potential to cause significant harm."

"In the short term you interact with a dolphin and it's fantastic, but in the longer term you are changing its natural behaviour. The research on solitary dolphins shows a link to dolphin mortality related to human activity."

Life in the chaste lane

HOW DAWN WENT FROM LIVING THE PARTY LIFE TO BECOMING CELIBACY GURU

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

SHE WAS living the Sex and the City dream – then she took a vow of celibacy.

In her twenties, New York rock journalist Dawn Eden was sleeping around with drummers and songwriters and hanging out with groupies.

As a teenager she dated a porn magazine writer, but now, at 46, she's the world's number one chastity guru.

The author of international bestseller *The Thrill of the Chaste: Finding Fulfilment While Keeping Your Clothes On*, has attracted millions of followers and recently toured Europe.

The former agnostic, who was raised as a Jew and became a Catholic 10 years ago, was in Ireland this week to give free public talks in Dublin, Belfast and Waterford, where 78 people of all ages met her at a Café Theology event organised by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

She says in her book that she became a rock journalist "because I thought musicians were the sexiest creatures on earth" and lost her virginity at the age of 23 "to a man I found attractive but didn't love – just to get it out of the way".

Three years before, her rock-musician boyfriend had left her for a sexually experienced friend.

She explained: "What I took from that rejection was that I had to gain sexual experience if I wanted to have any chance of keeping a man [but] I only became more insecure."

"Unmarried men and women become caught in a vicious cycle."

Depression

"They feel lonely because they are not loved, so they lend their bodies to 'lovers' who do not love them. That was my life."

Dawn told the Waterford audience: "I found myself in dead-end relationships. I was suffering from suicidal depression."

But she has gone from "believing a man wouldn't love me unless I have sex with him" to "consecrating myself to Jesus, living chastely as a single woman. Before, I was living unchastely as a single woman."

Giving up the rock and roll lifestyle also helped her forgive her mother for not taking her seriously when she confided that she had been molested in her local synagogue.

"Her first response was: 'You let him do those things.' I was five years old."

She says her mother, who converted to Catholicism when Dawn was 16, also sent out conflicting messages about sexual behaviour.

She said: "My mother



PREACHING: Dawn gives talk in Waterford



ROCK AND ROLLER: Dawn with Brian Wilson

told me she hoped I would not have sex with a man unless I was in love with him – but she had men who would stay over and she was into various New Age practices such as [tantric] yoga."

Dawn told the *Sunday World* she is not against yoga.

"I don't think there's anything inherently wrong with doing the downward dog pose, but when you bring in the spiritual side it's sending up a prayer of intent other than to the God of Abraham and Jesus Christ."

"It's opening you up to things that are not Christian. *Hatha Yoga is okay, but Kundalini yoga is all about chakras and breaths of fire.*"

But she says mainstream culture is more to blame for promiscuity.

"The wider culture thinks sex is something for recreation. It encourages

people to contracept not only children but to sterilise their emotions. It encourages women to have sex like a man – I don't even believe that a man can have sex like a man if it means sterilising his emotions."

"The Church teaches that body and soul are in unity. God made us in His image – this is what makes us truly a human being."

While Dawn's mother is "supportive" of her choices, her brother, a doctor in Tel Aviv, and her sister, a Rabbi, were initially "uncomfortable" with Dawn's Catholicism.

Dawn decided to devote her life to studying theology when she was fired from her job as a sub-editor for the *New York Post* in 2005 – for changing a reporter's article to give it a pro-life slant. Most of the mainly female audience at Wednesday's talk did not want to be in-

terviewed or photographed. They ranged in age from late teens (a Pure in Heart group) to over 70, and most were middle-aged.

Later, Dawn told the *Sunday World*: "Dress is part of chastity... it's about seeing yourself and other human beings as not collections of body parts."

"If you wear things that cause people to look at your body parts rather than your face you are harming your community, but this does not mean you have to dress drably."

Help

She said she disagrees with extremists who "claim that Catholic women are supposed to follow the Blessed Virgin Mary's own fashion rules – they think you have to wear ankle-length skirts, wrist-length sleeves and a neckline two fingers' breadth from the throat".

After the talk, she sold and signed copies of her books and handed out prayer cards on behalf of Aid to the Church (an international organisation that gives help to persecuted Christians). Some people also donated to Aid to the Church.

There was a Fr Ted moment when Dawn described her visit to the city of Paisley in Scotland and some of the audience thought she meant the late Reverend Ian.

"I made a faux pas – I was the only person wearing Paisley. I love Paisley!" she said – hastily adding: "The city and the fabric."



W.I.D.: Dawn in party days

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