

IRISH DAILY Mirror COMMENT

Park House, 191-197 North
Circular Road, Dublin 7.
Tel: 01 868 8600, Fax: 01 868 8626

Gun crime vow taking the Michael

THE murder of an innocent apprentice plumber has shocked a society well accustomed to gun crime.

Anthony Campbell was not a victim caught in the crossfire of criminals in a deadly feud.

He was brutally and deliberately murdered by ruthless vermin to eliminate him as a witness.

The assassins involved coldly and callously killed Mr Campbell before murdering their intended victim, crime boss Martin "Mario" Hyland.

The killings set a grisly new record as the most people to die by the gun in a year in the history of the state.

Mr McDowell said Mr Campbell was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

That certainly was the case but that is of little comfort to the murdered man's grieving family.

The Justice Minister is also in the wrong place at the wrong time - he has not only lost the war on gun crime, he has lost the confidence of the people.

A minister who claimed a gangland murder two years ago was the last sting of a dying wasp has no place in Government.

Mr McDowell must accept he has failed to protect the public and step down - and if he refuses to go the Taoiseach must force him from office.

Trust goes out the windows

IT'S tough enough buying a house without getting bamboozled by the people you hire to complete the deal.

Especially when the only expertise they display is how to line their own pockets.

The complexity of property transactions means that the help of qualified people is essential.

So you need somebody you can trust.

The governing bodies of estate agents and auctioneers keep most of them honest.

But the rogues who con their clients are smart enough to cover their tracks.

It's nice of the ones who have been caught red-handed to confess their sins and express their remorse.

But if laws have been broken there should be prosecutions.

Roche control

IT TAKES someone with razor sharp wit to out-filth smutty brothers Podge and Rodge.

But gorgeous model Andrea Roche managed to put them in their place.

That should earn her the title Babe of Ballyduna.



CROSSES TO BEAR: Daniel and Cliff plan Christmas release

ROCK 'N' Holy rollers

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

NEWS that Cliff Richard and Daniel O'Donnell are to release a Christmas song will have most of us taking the Lord's name in vain.

But, as sure as the stars are in the heavens, there's no doubt that religion and fame go together.

When celebs get too big for their egos, they turn to the ultimate VIP - the Man Above.

How else can we explain what happened to Shane Lynch? Finding Jesus led him out of temptation on Celebrity Love Island.

And the ultimate good girl has to be Dana, pictured right. Since she won the Eurovision, she's got herself involved in All Kinds Of Everything, including a Christian TV channel in the US, getting elected as an MEP and making two bids at the Irish Presidency.

We should have known what was coming when she sang for Pope John Paul II in 1979.

Another pal of the late Papa is Bono, below, who is always appealing for some Christian charity.

But with all his millions, he has obviously missed the bit about it being easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

He's in the ha'penny place com-

STARS ENJOY A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

pared to Mel Gibson. In a 20-year career, the blue-eyed wonder has gone from Mad Max to "Mad Mel".

The devout Catholic, right, recently made a lot of people very cross when, in a drunken rant, he blamed Jews for all the wars in the world.

Lately he has said the meaning of life is baked beans - which surprised those of us who thought he was more of a fruit-cake man.

But while Mel can blame the demon drink, clean-living Tom Cruise has no such excuse.

Scen-tology claims to free you of your inner beast, but

Tom has been acting like one since joining the weird cult.

His behaviour on Oprah has even coined a new phrase in the dictionary - jumping the couch.

At his wedding to Katie Holmes in Rome, a Scientology "adviser" was there at every table to make sure the guests (including Katie's Catholic parents) did not miss out on the religious aspect of the event.

Tom should learn from the experience of Madonna, who used to sing Papa Don't Preach.

She recently turned to Kabalah, a break-away Jewish sect.

But long before Madonna found religion, Bob Dylan and Axl Rose have been Knock Knockin On Heaven's door. And

Elvis drew inspiration for his singing style and lyrics growing up as a poor white in a neighbourhood full of black Gospel singers.

Gospel also inspired a bevy of babes including Toni Braxton, below centre, (whose sexy outfits scandalised her church choir), Whitney Houston and Tina Turner (who got kicked out of her choir for jazzing it up too much).

Devout Beyonce says her religion won't allow her to kiss another girl, even to sell a record. But she has no problem with showing off her heavenly body.

Of course, not all celebs need the man upstairs to get to the top. Some have achieved it with rather more allegiance to the Fellow Downstairs.

Ozzy Osbourne's career with Black Sabbath, as well as his drug, alcohol and bat abuse, have earned him the nickname Prince of Darkness.

But if Ozzy, below, thought that would protect him, he was sadly mistaken when, in December 2003, he needed emergency surgery after crashing his quad bike.

Proof, if it were needed, that if there's one thing deities don't like - it's mortal celebs getting too big for their boots.



geraldine.comiskey
@irishmirror.ie