

the IRISH NEWS

Pro fide et patria

Edition number: 40,212

The Irish News, founded 1891, and Belfast Morning News, founded 1855, is published by The Irish News Ltd., 113-117 Donegall Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 2GE. Telephone: 028 90 322226; fax 028 90 337505. It is also available on the internet at <http://www.irishnews.com>

Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper

Rearrest UDA members now

THE latest loyalist feud claimed another young life yesterday. Jonathan Stewart's murder is added to a growing list of horrific crimes committed by people connected to the UDA.

And even before this latest young victim is laid to rest we will hear the platitudes of people "close to" those involved in this cycle of violence.

They will be on television, the radio and in newspapers talking in grand terms about their various organisations, about how they really represent the community and attempting to put some sort of veneer of acceptability on their actions.

There is nothing they can say that makes these murders and attempted murders in any way acceptable. Reported attempts at "mediation" have obviously failed because people are still being murdered and injured.

So if these people are determined to carry on with their vicious internecine campaign then perhaps it is time the authorities took stronger action to bring this scandalous situation under control.

PSNI chief constable Hugh Orde promised a crackdown on loyalist paramilitary groups and his men have had some notable successes in capturing arms and taking dangerous individuals out of the community.

But is it not time that people connected to the UDA who were released on licence under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement were rearrested?

It may not stop this murderous feud immediately. There is speculation that new, younger members of the UDA are being used to carry out these shootings and bombings.

But it is clear that some very familiar names are implicated in what has been happening. If they were taken out of circulation it would send a strong message that the authorities are determined to stop this cycle of killing.

One thing is for sure. Doing nothing is not an option. It creates an impression that some of these people are in some way above the rule of law.

That is a situation which, unless addressed, has wider, more dangerous implications for us all.

Play it safe at the shops

THERE is a tendency to feel safe when in the middle of a large city centre crowd. Unfortunately that secure atmosphere is becoming something of an illusion.

Over the past couple of days at least two people have been attacked in Belfast city centre and had mobile phones and other belongings stolen.

As the sales go on in the shops the city streets will continue to throng with shoppers.

It is important that those people are vigilant and do not present themselves as easy targets for opportunistic thieves.

While it would be wrong to exaggerate the threat posed by such parasites it would also be foolish to ignore them altogether.

A little bit of extra care might mean the difference between getting a bargain and being mugged.

Quote of the day

If you could go for one person per thousand citizens there would be no refugee problem in the world at all. Let's share the burden so that we have less in the UK and more spread over the world
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers offers his solution to the refugee problem

The government has lost the moral plot altogether. There cannot be any 'middle way' about hunting sentient creatures as sport. You can no more license hunting with dogs than you can license rape or child abuse or torture
Professor Andrew Linzey, an animal theologian at Oxford University, speaks out against blood sports

Looking back, it's fantastic to become world champion, having always dreamed about it
Co Down-born world equestrian champion Dermot Lennon speaking yesterday after he was presented with a belated Christmas present in the form of a specially commissioned painting from his old school St Colman's in Newry, in honour of his achievements



Politicos waste yet another year

THREE days to go before we say goodbye to another of those years that the locust hath eaten in the land of no. A year wasted by the politicians, sent by the people to do a job, but they could not give up their old ways and walked out, leaving us to the tender mercies of strangers sent over by PM Tony Blair, sick and fed up with the antics of a dramatis personae who day by day begin to look more like Blotki's cartoon characters. Trimble, the majority unionist leader diminished to a wee man, dumbed down by his cavorting down the marble stairs of Stormont and his stupid sound bites about our neighbours down south. He is menaced from the backstairs by Paisley, the Ayatollah of bigotry, yelling through clenched teeth "no never, never, never!!", while these irresponsibles keep the farcical Stormont soap opera alive. Secretary of State Paul Murphy listens patiently to the hysterical yap-yap about spies under the bed, copying out details from *Who's Who?* and the latest spook speak from Bogota, drug capital of South America. Here the trial of the three Republican odd characters, who turned up there a year ago with false passports, threatens to go on forever as adjournment follows adjournment. A propaganda trial which keeps a by-now bored media wondering why they are waiting. Most hilarious was the armed police raid on the Sinn Fein offices at Stormont and the lugubrious departure clutching a single file snatched from a drawer. It transpired that Hugh Orde, the new police chief, was not told by the Special Branch bloke who ordered it in time for Mr Trimble's latest hop, skip and jump into what could end in oblivion. Donaldson, another minor cartoon character, decided this week that it was time to make a determined bid for the unionist leadership and surprised us all by posing on RTE as a more responsible unionist spokesman, flatly rejecting Trimble's recent denunciation of the Republic and the Catholic Church. A bid to impress the

JAMES KELLY



British and Irish governments so that when Trimble packs it in he is the man to take over the reins at Stormont? No doubt Paul Murphy has reported this demarche back to Prime Minister Blair.

Donaldson, another minor cartoon character, decided this week that it was time to make a determined bid for the unionist leadership and surprised us by posing on RTE as a more responsible unionist spokesman, flatly rejecting Trimble's recent denunciation of the Republic and the Catholic Church

Mr Murphy, meantime, is confident that the Good Friday Agreement will come up trumps in spite of all the pitfalls - and there have been many - mostly from the loyalist side, and we have only to reflect on the disgrace of Ardoyne. The crucifixion, still unsolved after months, not to forget the sickening thuggery of the UDA still rampant and still viciously sectarian and feuding among themselves. How will they react to the new legislation threatening to seize their ill-gotten gains from drugs, protection money smuggling and other criminal activities? Has the slush money been transferred already to foreign destinations? The police would need to move quickly if they are to emulate the successes achieved by their counterparts in the Republic.

I was amused to hear that among those people who flew to Lapland to meet Father Christmas - better known to the kids as Santa Claus - was a portly, tattooed character by the name of Johnny Adair. Reports say the reindeers neighed - or whatever reindeers do - and the huskies howled as the fat man from the Shankill blotted out the midnight sun. Santa Claus was warned to hide those Babe Ruth baseball bats marked 'presents for America' where they use them for hitting balls for a 'home run'. Now even up on the Arctic Circle they know that in Neverneverland the bats are used for a different purpose. Sad to think that America's favourite sport should be besmirched by the brutes who use baseball bats for the evil purpose of so-called punishment beatings. The politicians who prolong the peace process and all its attendant evils have a lot to answer for. Are the two governments aware of the undercurrent of criticism of the decision to pay Trimble and the other would-be wreckers of the peace process two-thirds of their salaries for reneging on their responsibilities to their electors? A different result might have injected more urgency into bringing this long impasse to an end.

On This Day/December 28 1932

By Eamon Phoenix

Sudden death of a true 'friend of Serbia'

NEWS has been received by relatives in Belfast of the death of Miss Annie McGlade who passed away in the Yugoslav Hospital, Belgrade, a few days ago. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Mr Bernard McGlade who was associated with the brothers McGlade who are so prominently identified with the licensed trade in Belfast. She was a niece of the late Mr James McGlade of Cromac Square. The late Miss McGlade had a most distinguished career as a journalist and traveller. Previous to the Great War she was secretary to the British Ambassador in China, but as soon as hostilities broke out she gave her services free to the Hobart Hospital and was associated with nurse Flora Fan. Most of her war services were in the Balkans and she has been described by the Yugoslav papers as 'the friend of the Serbian people'.

Following a retreat from Albania she founded a hospital at Corfu. Throughout the whole of the war Miss McGlade devoted her services to the Serbian army. When the Armistice was declared in 1918 she returned to China where she spent a number of years, but owing to failing health she returned to the country she had served for so many years and there ended her days. The Yugoslav press paid eloquent tributes to her memory. One of her sisters was the late Sister Antonio of the Convent of Mercy, Newry and another was the late Sister Rose of the Carmelite Order in Switzerland.

A socialist for Falls

To The Editor

Dear Sir, - I see by the public press that the Socialist Party has nominated Mr William

McMullan as the candidate for Falls. It should be pointed out that this gentleman and another named Tommy Geehan were the delegates sent to the Russian Soviet. When they came back a glowing account was given of the government of that Godless country.

The nomination of any of these men to represent a Christian community is an insult to the people, especially in the case of Falls Ward, one of the two wards allocated for Catholic representation. The nomination of a socialist for Falls Ward is a challenge to all true members of the Holy Church who believe in the Pope's message that no good socialist can be a good Catholic.

Now is the time for Catholic action. This is a fight for faith and fatherland.

Michael McLoughlin,
 Stanfield Street, Belfast