



Nudes gather in Drumshambo

IT'S time to grin and bare it in Drumshambo this weekend as it hosts Ireland's first naturist conference.

Today sees the opening of the four-day 34th International Naturist Congress - and the first world gathering of nudists in Ireland - at the Lough Allen Hotel in the Leitrim town. Organisers have told delegates 'nudity will be allowed' at the hotel during the event.

Irish Naturist Association president Pat Gallagher said Fáilte Ireland see it as a tourist opportunity.

He said: 'There is potential for tourism in naturism. We will have people coming in from Brazil, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Australia and all across Europe.'

Joan doctor's 'fatal decision'

JOAN Rivers died because her doctor intervened in a routine medical procedure to perform a biopsy on her vocal cords, it is claimed.



The comedian, 81, went to the centre in New York to find out what was wrong with her voice which she told friends was 'raspy'. During surgery, 'something' was spotted on her vocal cords and her doctor asked to borrow medical instruments, it was said.

The biopsy allegedly made Ms Rivers's airways constrict, leading to a heart attack. She died last Thursday. The clinic is being investigated. It has refused to comment.

Victims 'should have say in parole'

VICTIMS of crime could be entitled to sit on the parole board under new proposals being considered by Frances Fitzgerald.

The Justice Minister said she is keen to ensure those who have been targeted by criminals are treated with respect and dignity as she launched the Parole Board Annual Report for 2013.

The EU introduced a directive on victim rights in 2012 which must be implemented by 2015. It includes measures for information, services and compensation for victims.

Legislation is required before it can be introduced here with Ms Fitzgerald saying she is keen for people to have a say when a criminal is being assessed for release.

Nana making a comeback at 80

SHE retired from the music industry with a global farewell tour six years ago.



But Nana Mouskouri is returning to the stage - to mark her 80th birthday.

The Greek star, who has sold more than 300million records, said she had been serious about retiring in 2008 but, the financial crisis faced by Greece made her want to bring hope and peace to her fans. 'I was trying to find an excuse to come back for a while, so my 80th birthday was my reason,' she told the BBC.

Ms Mouskouri, pictured, will play Dublin's National Concert Hall on September 27.

Is this right way to stay happy?

PEOPLE with conservative views are happier than their more liberal-minded friends and neighbours, research suggests.

Those with politics that lean to the right had higher wellbeing - even when their preferred political party is in opposition.

They benefit from the belief that problems are of a person's own making - which help them better deal with the status quo.

The findings come from a US study that examined data involving more than a million people from 16 European countries.

Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn, of Rutgers University in New Jersey, said: 'Conservatives living in liberal countries are most likely to report the highest wellbeing.'

Please find my family a home for Christmas

Girl, 12, issues a heartfelt plea to President Higgins

By Eamon Donoghue

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl has pleaded with President Higgins to find a house for her family before Christmas as she's currently sharing a B&B single room with her family of six.

The young Dublin girl put her plea on paper, and handed it to the President - as her family continue to await local authority housing after 19 months.

The girl's mother, 'Geraldine' said that she and her five children have been homeless for nine months, and they are all currently sharing a room together in an inner city B&B in the capital.

The children whose ages range from four to 17, and their mother, share two double beds and two single beds. Two of the younger children share a bed with their mother.

The girl's letter reads: 'Mr President I'm asking for your help to help my family. Christmas is coming and I would like to be in a house to call friends over, little things like that mean a lot when you're a child.'

Dear Mr President
I want to ask you for your help
I live in a bedroom with my mom
Two Brothers and two sisters that's six
of us in a bedroom we can't be
a family not like this my mom is
trying really hard and no one seems
to be helping her nine months and
we're still here

Spelling it out: An extract from the girl's letter to the President

Speaking on RTÉ Radio's Seán O'Rourke show yesterday, the girl's mother explained: 'I really don't want to be in this room for Christmas. When I thought of homelessness, I thought that you were drunk or alcoholic, but now I'm in that position I can see that you can just lose your house over the simplest of things.'

Geraldine was forced to leave her west Dublin housing authority apartment due to the extent of

drug-use and violence which was taking place outside her door. The woman moved to the Midlands where she rented a house on rental allowance. But after the house incurred some serious storm damage which made it unliveable she was returned to the capital.

While she waits for a house, Geraldine has lived with her family in a B&B for the past nine months, where she pays €26 per week. 'I get up at six every morning and

we all have to leave. We can use the kitchen but there can be up to three or four families in the kitchen at the one time.

'At first when we moved there the kids came in crying every night. I was reassuring them that "this is a fun time, just think of it as we're sleeping in a hotel". I was trying to make it good for them.

'But they can't have friends over and they can't go out and play, they can't be kids. There are no visitors allowed - that's the hardest part when you are feeling low and you need someone to talk to.'

According to Focus Ireland, Geraldine cannot work as she does not have a current address.

President Higgins was and handed the letter on Monday, during a visit to Focus Ireland services in Dublin. Speaking at the event the President said that he was concerned at the stories he'd heard.

'You can't leave the provision of housing to be a residual feature of the market play,' he said. 'We've done that and the homelessness is a consequence of it.'

A spokesperson from the Dublin Region Homeless Executive told the Mail last night that they cannot comment on individual cases.

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Siemens recall for tumble dryers over fire risk

WHITE goods giant Siemens has issued a recall of tumble dryers made in 2002 amid fears they will catch fire.

The company, BSH Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances Ltd, issued a safety notice to households warning customers of the potential fire hazard after 68 appliances that were manufactured between January and May 2002 carry a risk of overheating.

The overheating is due to a defective electronic component in the control panel which, in extremely rare cases, can be a fire hazard.

In a statement, Siemens said it would carry out free repairs to defective products to elimi-

By Sandra Mallon

nate this issue. 'As a precautionary measure, appliances affected by this issue should only be operated under supervision, ie if someone is at home and not during nights.'

'In order to reach as many consumers as possible, advertisements will be placed in various print and online media in the coming weeks.'

To check whether a tumble dryer is affected by this safety action, customers can enter their appliance data at the website www.siemens-home.com/tumbledryersafety or alternatively contact the company's customer

service on a freephone number, 1800 855 833. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday 8am to 5pm.

'An appointment to repair the appliance will be made promptly with consumers affected by this issue,' the spokesman said.

'BSH would like to apologise to all consumers for any inconvenience caused,' added the spokesman.

In 2009, Bosch was forced to recall dishwashers in the US and Canada that were made between May 1999 and July 2005 after they were discovered to be a potential fire hazard.