

ECHOOPINION

ALL of our hearts go out to the families of the victims of the awful tragedy at Boolaglass, Co. Limerick last night.

Two men who were doing their Christian duty in comforting a bereaved family lost their lives in an appalling accident.

It was a cruel enough blow to the community for a young man to be killed in a terrible road crash on Friday.

For two friends of the family to be electrocuted and three others to be injured is beyond comprehension.

WE SAY**The Echo's viewpoint**

It is, as local Garda Superintendent Eddie McKeown said, "a horrific tragedy".

We sincerely sympathise with everyone who is suffering following these terrible events. Neighbours and friends are already rallying round to offer what comfort they can.

Our thoughts are with Boolaglass

May God give them strength.
● Springboks whingeing about the referee following Ireland's 17-12 international rugby win over South Africa on Saturday is as predictable as it is sad.

Whatever you might say about the English, at least they can take a beating. World Cup champions England were humbled by Eddie O'Sullivan's men this year and they took that defeat

on the chin.

No such generosity came from the South African team, the Tri-Nations Champions in the southern hemisphere, who clearly got a big shock at Lansdowne Road.

The fact of the matter is they were out-thought, out-fought and out-played by Ireland, for whom Munster hero Ronan O'Gara was the star.

It is fair to say that most of the South African players would find it hard to get on the Irish team!

TALKING HEAD**Japanese know art of wooing**

"This time next year we will be laughing together."



ROBERT O'SHEA on some useful chat-up lines to charm the opposite sex

THE above has been voted as the best chat-up line in Japan. Or so early morning radio claimed last week in what is known as

a light news item used to break up the more serious stories of Yasser shuffling off the mortal tea towel and an investigation into the contents of horse urine.

Now poke fun as we might at the Far East's most popular line's chances of pulling the heartstrings of our chosen booty in a nightclub over here, what must be remembered is that Japan, although only five times greater in size than Ireland, has a population of well over 30 times ours.

As population is the result mainly of copulation, we must bow to the line's success rate

News also reached this desk last week that there are now more single men in their 30s than women.

In our sister newspaper, the *Irish Examiner* last Tuesday, we read that between the ages of 25 and 44, men have been found to

be twice as likely as women to live by themselves, making 'Brad Jones' the new Bridget.

In reality, Brad is far too cool a name for the sad singleton image that the article was trying to create in readers' minds. Brad goes surfing, para-gliding, rock-climbing — he has stared death in the face during one or all of these activities — he doesn't rock himself to sleep in front of the fire worrying he is going to die alone.

Not that I do. You won't catch me drifting off and leaving a fire unattended.

Being a newspaper columnist puts me more in the mould of a Garry Bradshaw. Or so I had thought when taking up this post; while it wasn't in my contract, I did feel that a certain sexiness had been implied. But like many young men, I have found that the steamship of desire is often washed up on the rocks of unwanted chastity.

What is it that stands

between us unmarried uncles and blissful mirth in companionship 12 months from now?

Chat-up lines, of course. They have been used since the caveman asked the cavewoman if she liked clubbing. And those since then have almost all been as bad.

What it is important to remember is that good opening lines are made redundant if you cannot say anything interesting after the initial conversational assault.

Unfortunately, noisy nightclubs tend to be the place you need to go to meet women of your age with child-bearing hips these days. The best chat-up line in a nightclub is usually, "Hurrumph, Hurrumph? Hurra hurumph huumph humba?" If the reaction is positive — "Hurrara Humba" — you may proceed to have a conversation, i.e. spit at each other's ears for a while.

My current chat-up line for places where you can



MAKE ME SMILE: Japanese men seem to have the right chat up lines to pull the heartstrings of young females.

speak without having to shout is: "Hi. I'm a writer." "What do you write?" asks the unimpressed lady.

"Telephone books." "Telephone books?" she says, looking doubtful.

"Yes. Could I have your phone number?"

If this was all I said, it would be pretty lame, but I follow it up with witty conversation: "You are like a telephone, baby, and I just know I'm gonna pick you up."

or "If I give you a ring, hey, maybe you'll be engaged some day."

We all know women love guys with a sense of humour, so lay on those puns.

Offer compliments too, but be specific. Don't say: "I like your upper body/left hand-side." Don't be too specific either; compliment her on both of her eyes. Then if things seem to be going well, ask to meet her again. If she says she is free on Friday night, ask her how much she usually costs. They just love that humour.

Don't always concentrate on a woman's physical beauty. Sometimes, there is nothing a stunning looking lady likes more than a man who comes right up and compliments her on her personality.

Considering I am still a bachelor, you would be justified in asking what good is this advice coming from me.

Well, I did get one phone number from a very pretty lady last week. I must have made a mistake taking it down though, because all I can get through to is a Chinese restaurant.

Maybe none of the above lines will work for you. Maybe you don't have the charisma and confidence to work with such good material.

All you unmarried aunts need not worry, 'cause there is one man out there with the looks, the style and the charm to whisper sweet nothings into your ear all night.

His name is probably Brad.

YOU SAY**Call for teenage facilities**

I WOULD like to write a response to Mr Keith O'Mahony's letter (Nov 2).

I also believe that the entire county is without proper facilities for teenagers.

Brought up within such a strong drinking culture, teenagers in this county are following the example of their elders and turning to drink.

We need to form a proper action group in order to raise funds for various projects that will give teenagers something to do, something to aim for, to get involved in.

We need a project centre in this county, where teenagers can instigate their own activities.

I would ask anyone who is reading this to help me put together an action group for teenagers in Cork. As their elders, we are letting them down and it's time to make a change.

Nicola Dupuis,
C/o Evening Echo Features Dept,
Academy Street, Cork.

● I AM writing to you in the hope that you may be able to facilitate me with a query I have regarding one of Cork's most famous but yet most forgotten sons.

Daniel Maclise was born in Cork in 1806 and became one of the most successful artists of his time.

Leaving Cork at the age of 21 to find fame in London, he was most famous for his very impressive Frescoes painted on the walls of Westminster but equally for being a very close friend of Charles Dickens.

He was very popular amongst his peers with a strong devotion to his native Cork and very unequalled in his success at the time.

The reason I write to you is that to the best of my knowledge we do not honour this man in any way.

No street, no plaque, no bridge and no statue in his honour.

If I was to ask, amongst all people I know, young and old, they have never heard of this man.

I would like to enlist your help and ask you to enquire as to why this man was never honoured in Cork.

Alan O'Neill,
Maryborough Wood,
Douglas, Cork.

THE LAST WORD

"Part of the inhumanity of the computer is that, once it is competently programmed and working smoothly, it is completely honest."

Isaac Asimov

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