

Nurses consider Bertie's proposal

NURSING unions were today considering a proposal by Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to appoint an international expert to resolve their ongoing dispute.

Three-hour work stoppages were staged by members at a number of health facilities around the country today, as part of their campaign of industrial action for a 35-hour working week and a 10% pay increase.

A major escalation of the

By EDEL O'CONNELL

Health Correspondent

action is set for Wednesday when nationwide two-hour work stoppages will take place.

The stoppages are being staged along with an ongoing work-to-rule by some 40,000 nurses and midwives, who are members of the Irish Nurses' Organisation (INO) and the Psychiatric Nurses' Association.

The executives of both unions were meeting today to review the campaign.

They will also consider a pro-

posal by the Taoiseach to appoint an international expert to make recommendations, though this is not likely to be put before members for some days.

INO general secretary Liam Doran yesterday said that the idea was "interesting" but that the unions would need to hear more at first hand.

Mr Doran said that one of the main issues under consideration would be the plans by management to deduct 13% in pay from nurses who continued to participate in a work-to-rule after next Friday.

A letter sent to all nurses late last week was also received by fourth-year nursing students informing them they would not be exempt from the threatened 13.5% pay cut should they continue to participate in the work-to-rule action.

The INO said the organisation had sunk to a new low in involving students in the row.

More than 300 outpatient appointments and medical procedures scheduled to take place in hospitals today have been cancelled as a result of work stoppages by nurses.

Ballygowan to go Brit in €250m soft drinks sell-off

IRELAND'S leading mineral water brand Ballygowan has been taken over by British Group Britvic as part of a €250m deal.

The Irish company C&C, producer of Ballygowan, has sold its soft drinks division to Britvic.

Ballygowan is the biggest brand name in the mineral water sector in Ireland, with 50% of the market.

The water is bottled in Newcastle West, County Limerick.

In addition to Ballygowan, a number of well-known brands form part of C&C soft drinks.

These include Club Orange, Club Energise and MiWadi.

The British company has also bought the dis-

tribution operation of Pepsi Cola and 7up from the Irish firm, as part of the buy-out.

The company has been to the forefront in the production of a diverse range of drinks, including soft drinks, mixers, mineral water, juices, ciders, liqueurs and spirits.

The Irish company has enjoyed international success with its popular cider brands Bulmers and Magners, though these are not part of the Britvic deal.

C&C sold its crisp brand Tayto in 2006.

Chief executive for C&C, Maurice Pratt said that C&C would have a 'sharper focus' after the sale, and would capitalise on the growth of its cider and spirits brands.

YACHTS REEL IN FOR CHARITY



Yachts from the Royal Cork Yacht Club (RCYC) berthed at the harbour board quays after their annual procession up Cork Harbour at the weekend.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

A PROCESSION of more than 40 yachts sailed up the River Lee on Saturday.

The majestic fleet from the Royal Cork Yacht Club (RCYC) made its way up-river in

a re-enactment of a similar boat parade two years ago.

Boats, ranging from motor-boats to spectacular open-ocean yachts, made their way up to Custom's House Quay,

gathering for a barbecue and live band performance that night.

The event was a fund-raiser in aid of the Children's Leukaemia Ward at Cork University Mercy Hospital.

RTÉ defends Irish Eurovision flop

RTÉ has defended its selection procedure for the Eurovision Song Contest after Ireland's entry, *They Can't Stop the Spring* by Dervish, came last in the competition in Helsinki on Saturday night.

The head of the Irish delegation, Julian Vignoles said it might be time to re-appraise their approach to the song contest. The band received votes from

just one country, Albania.

Lyricist John Waters said that he and his Eurovision colleagues were 'gutted' about the result.

In his column in the *Irish Times*, Mr Waters dismissed the conspiracy theory of voting pacts and suggested that emerging patterns of voting were less about tribal affinity than cultural, ie. musical, recognition.

He suggested that the 'taste gap' between East and West can be addressed in one of only two ways - radical introversion or a more enthusiastic opening up

to the new.' He favours the latter.

The Serbian singer Marija Serifovic won the contest with the winning song, *Molitva*, scoring 268 points.

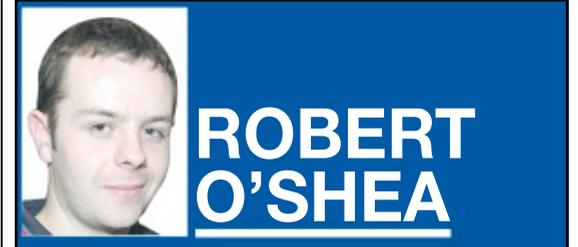
It had been second-favourite to win.

The event was held in the Hartswall Arena in Helsinki, Finland. Ireland has previ-

ously won the contest seven times, including three wins in-a-row between 1994 - 1996.

Britain's Eurovision band entry Scooch scored a dismal 19 points.

Despite an energetic dance routine dressed as airline cabin crew, the UK's entrant finished well down the field in 23rd place, with their rendition of *Flying the Flag (For You)*.



IT'S always nice when you find out there is a word for something you didn't know had a word for it before.

Last Tuesday, as I was at home listening to the soundtrack from *Platoon* - you can't beat movie soundtrack night at my house - *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* came on.

It is one of the most stirring pieces of music there is, but I am so familiar with the words I half-tuned out in my listening.

Then my ears pricked up. She didn't, did she?

She didn't just sing the lyric: "As he died to make men horny, let us live to make men free."

Rewind. I squint my ear - if this is possible - and try to catch it. And I hear "horny" again.

A Google later and everything is cleared up; apparently, he died to make men 'holy'.

Getting lyrics wrong is not something new to me. The most idiotic example is, I suppose, that for years I thought Hot Chocolate's *I Believe in Miracles* was I believe in milkos.

What were milkos, did I think? Some form of American breakfast cereal, I will say if I am honest.

Why did I think Errol Brown was singing about cereal? I never really gave it much thought.

I suppose another famous example is something I'm sure many kids in the Eighties were confused about. I know for definite that for my brother and me the national anthem finished with the words: "Charlie Haughey, *Amhrán na bhFiann*."

For a stage, I believed - just as *God Save the Queen* can become *God Save the King* - that if the Blueshirts got into power the first three words would be altered: "Sinne Fine Gael."

And not that, there was much call for me to sing it - except at the Young Conservative fund-raisers I attended when living in Luton - but I always believed the words were "Rule Britannia, Britannia Rules the World. Apparently, it's 'Waves'.

Certainly, before recently, I would never have thought there was a word for this type of silliness. But apparently the mondegreen has been around for the last 50 years.

It was coined by the American writer Sylvia Wright, who remembered the Scottish ballad *The Bonnie Earl of Murray* finishing: "They hae slain Earl O'Murray, and Lady Mondegreen."

The actual fourth line of course was: "And laid him on the green."

I think the main problem I have is that I've never been a person to pay much attention to lyrics. But in some ways, I think it makes a song more personal to you if you invent lyrics yourself.

Like Fats Domino's line from *Blueberry Hill* is definitively: "Though we're apart, you butter me still", instead of "you're part of me still."

And ABBA's *Lay All Your Love on Me* surely loses something when it's: "I wasn't jealous before we met", instead of "I was in jail just before we met."

A pal reckons he lost the respect he held for punk rocker fiend Rose Tattoo after one particular lyric in *Out of This Place*.

It is an aggressive song, but goes slightly limp, he says, when he hears the lines: "The anger burns inside of me/ Give me a water fight." As opposed to a "war to fight."

The most evocative mangled song lyric of all, if I had to take my pick, would be the verse endings of Bob Dylan's monumental protest song, which poses philosophical questions about peace, war, and freedom.

Or does it just go on about deceased insects flying through the air: "Dead ants are my friends, they're blowin' in the wind, dead ants, they are blowin' in the wind."

Some other examples are No Mercy's plaintive cry of "Baby come back, you can play monopoly."

Actual lyric: Baby come back, you can blame it all on me; the Beatles' "All my luggage, I will send to you. Actual lyric: All my loving, I will send to you.

Crystal Gayle's "Donuts make my brown eyes blue." Actual Lyric: I'm not even going to tell you this one; and is it "Transformers in the skies" or "Transformers in disguise"? I never can tell.

Mondegreens are a particularly good topic of conversation to discuss.

And if you do happen to hear a couple of good ones, send them in to me and I will try to fill another column with them rather than think up relevant opinions to the news stories of the day.

Send any good efforts to robert.oshea@eecho.ie.

One final favourite mistake has to be from Snap's *Rhythm Is A Dancer* when the rapper goes: "I'm as serious cancer; the Rhythm is a Dancer."

The sad thing is, this isn't a mondegreen at all.