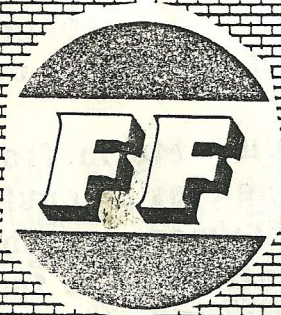


3RD Level!



Issue 1, Trinity Term '98

party Aims!

Apartheid!

Maynooth....to be or not to be???

Welcome to the first third level bulletin. I hope you enjoy this issue and may consider submitting articles for the next issue. From humble beginnings comes forth great things.....

Maria.

All views expressed are those of the individual authors and do not reflect those of the editors.

Fianna Fáil
The Republican Party

Editor: Kevin Rafter

WELCOME

Firstly allow me to congratulate Maria on her election to be your representative on the National Youth Committee for 1990.

I have known Maria from the Kevin Barry Cumann, U.C.D. where she was a popular Vice-chairperson and a very hard working Cumann member. At all Youth Committee meetings she has attended so far, we have seen ample evidence that she is an effective voice for the colleges on the N.Y.C.

Congrats to Paul Kilraine who is the new Third Level Consultative Secretary. Many thanks to Paul and all at U.C.G. for the great welcome we got on our visit to Galway for the Third Level A.G.M.

I am delighted to see that the Third Level Colleges are now working closer together. This newsletter will help this process and I hope it will become a regular feature.

Best wishes,
Noel Whelan.

.....

THE THIRD LEVEL CONSULTATIVE

The Third Level Consultative is the collective body of the Third Level Cumainn throughout the country. It, therefore, has approximately 900 members. Each cumainn has one vote at the consultative. At present there are eleven registered third level cumainn. The consultative is chaired by the Third Level Rep. to the National Youth Committee.

The Consultative aims to meet once a term with a special meeting at the Youth Conference and the Ard Fheis. It provides a forum for discussion and a means of communication between the colleges. It establishes personal contact and friendship while also facilitating the exchange of ideas among the third levels.

Maria Corrigan.

Time for change.....

For any organisation or business to exist for a prolonged duration of time it is necessary for that entity to constantly be examining and redefining its guiding aims and objectives while simultaneously adapting its structures to an ever changing external environment. Fianna Fail is no exception to this rule.

The founding aims of Fianna Fail envisaged a unitary Ireland driven by the engine of agricultural growth which was to provide the necessary conditions for economic and social advancement. While the belief in a unitary Ireland remains strong many of the other goals find themselves at odds with the Ireland of today. For Fianna Fail to remain a dominant political force the party must adapt itself to the Ireland which it presently exists within and the Ireland it seeks for the future. In this regard many of the Valeras objectives, while noble aspirations in themselves, need careful re-examination and re-evaluation.

The basis for Fianna Fail's continued dominance of Irish politics has traditionally been the strong network of members who promoted the party at local level. The cumainn structure was the lynch pin to the party's initial success acting as an efficient and effective communications link with the party hierarchy. However in recent times the cumainn structure has broken down as more and more power over party direction and policy stems from Mount Street. The fact that those people who essentially are Fianna Fail, ie. the general membership, have been relegated to campaign walkers and money collectors needs to be changed and changed fast.

An analysis of the party's aims and an overhaul of its structures has been entrusted with the Ard Comhairle following the recent Ard Fheis motion seeking such change. However, the Ard Comhairle must relapse with all members so as to rejuvenate the entire party and re-orientate policy towards the Ireland of today and the one Fianna Fail seeks for tomorrow.

Kevin Rafter.

IRELAND IN EUROPE

The European Community (EC) is a broad confederation of 12 West European countries. The essential aim of the EC is to bring member countries together, first by economic co-operation and integration, leading gradually to greater political co-operation on a whole variety of issues. The complete establishment of a large, single, and common market is an essential prerequisite for the above to be achieved by 1992.

These objectives are by their nature achieved by the adoption of common policies. A large proportion of EC revenue is invested in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), bringing about, in Ireland, as well as community wide, stabilised agricultural earnings and a modernisation of agriculture. Apart from the CAP, social policy, regional policy (which seeks to support Europe's poorest regions, such as the west of Ireland) and a competition policy, are vitally important to the EC.

The burning issue from an Irish point of view, as regards 1992, is whether or not our commercial or financial institutions will be able to compete in a free market of 320 million. To offer a right or wrong answer would be false. In the short term, some firms will suffer while others will prosper. This increased competition will lead to greater efficiency community wide. Provided that Ireland approaches 1992 in the right frame of mind, we can turn this greater efficiency to our advantage, creating more jobs and a higher standard of living.

It is our firm belief that in a modern world none of the members of the EC can afford to go it alone. Arguments against integration into Europe are based on the pessimistic belief that Irish firms will not be able to compete. Have the lessons of the 1950's not been learnt? If we cannot compete as a member of an economic block, what chance would we have as an isolated island nation?

KEITH DOUGLAS

PAUL GERAGHTY

THIRD LEVEL CUMANN

Sean Lemass Cumann-Maynooth
Kevin Barry Cumann-U.C.G
Galway R.T.C. Cumann
Sligo R.T.C. Cumann
Donogh O'Malley Cumann-U.C.C.
Donovan Rossa Cumann-Cork R.T.C.
University of Limerick Cumann
Erskine H. Childers Cumann-T.C.D.
Padraig Pearse Cumann-D.C.U.
Eamon de Valera Cumann-D.I.T.
Kevin Barry Cumann-U.C.D.

Most third level Cumann
will be holding their a.g.m
over the coming weeks.
It would be appreciated if
all incoming secretaries
could forward names of their
newly elected officer boards
along with some details of
cumann history and recent
activities. This is to facilitate
the publication of the next
Bulletin.

CORRESPONDENCE: Box 13, The
Atrium, T.C.D. OR to Maria
Corrigan.

POLITICAL INITIATIVE

At the last meeting the National Youth Committee it was decided that each Euro-constituency would undertake to investigate an area of relevance to young people from which policy may be formulated. The third levels have been asked to develop the topic (wait for it...) 'Flatland!!!'. Ask Maria.....

MAYNOOTH - A UNIVERSITY WITHOUT STATUS ?

FEARGAL SHAW-DOYLE

I write this article as chairperson of the recently founded student campaign for the granting of full university status to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

This campaign seeks to bring to a logical conclusion an issue which has been in contention for the past six years, but an issue which has been in need of clarification for almost 200 years. The issue is (a) how should Maynooth develop for the future, (b) what should the nature of this development be, and (c) who should control this development. In order to set our sights on the future, it is important to comprehend our past.

St. Patrick's College, Maynooth can trace its history back to the early 1500s with the establishment of a college by Garreth Og Fitzgerald, Lord Deputy of Ireland. The present college is situated on the same site and was established in 1795 as one academy, namely a seminary, with the appointment of trustees to govern the academy. In 1895 a Pontifical University was incorporated into the same site, in line with the re-modeled Catholic University of 1882. In 1910 in accordance with the Birrells Education Act there was created in Maynooth a recognised college of the N.U.I.. Finally in 1968, with the introduction of arts and science faculties, the college was for the first time opened up to the laity and the student population has grown from 478 in that year to over 2500 students in 1989.

However, for all Maynooths history of accomplishment and development its present status is both demoralising and constraining. Any important decisions pertaining to courses, and examination leading to N.U.I. awards, must be approved by U.C.D.. This procedure restricts the academic authority of most of the Departments in the development of new courses which will respond to the changing circumstances in higher education.

The present campaign is part of an almost 80 year movement to gain greater recognition for Maynooth. The Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke commented in 1984; "It would have the effect of bringing theory into line with reality".

A number of options are available to remove the present ambiguous status which Maynooth operates within. One would be the granting of constituent college status ie. U.C.M. while another would be to confer independent university status upon Maynooth similar to that enjoyed by Trinity and the new universities at Limerick and Dublin.

Presently the campaign has gained support from various quarters including the college trustees who are presently in consultation with the N.U.I. senate. Several representations have been made to government ministers and a recent meeting with Mary O'Rourke proved most satisfactory. You will be kept informed on the issues as they develop.

.....

VIEWS ON APARTHEID

Described simply, Apartheid is a system where certain privileges are reserved to one colour group or race to the practical detriment of other races or colour groups. Literally translated from the Afrikaans 'Apartheid' means 'Separate Development'. This policy has in practice confined blacks to self governing homelands with little potential and removed the citizenship rights within the 'Republic' of those assigned to the homelands. The 1980's saw the Coloureds (mixed race group) and the Indians get the vote within South Africa, but since these groups are outnumbered by the whites, the rulers of South Africa have not changed.

Why this system has aroused so much indignation, both within and outside South Africa, is because the all-embracing nature of Apartheid has not just political but social, economic, cultural, educational, sporting and demographic effects and

secondly because of the effectiveness with which this system has been imposed. Nazi Germany is one of the very few examples in history where a policy of racial separation and superiority has been carried out with a thoroughness rivaling that of Nationalist South Africa.

What is to be done ? It is clear that one thing we must not do is to stand aside as if South Africa and its problems and peoples did not exist. They do and we must act now to help them. Apartheid, as the Nationalists themselves realize, is no longer and probably never was a viable system of government or what is more a sustainable way of life. To maintain it requires nothing less than permanent violence and an ever ready armed forces, raised and kept in being at great cost. We must therefore assist in any way possible the transition of South Africa from a society recognizing the interests of one race alone to one recognizing all its peoples equally.

However from the point of view of the favoured whites, they have everything to lose and nothing to gain from a change which would at once transfer political power to a predominantly black radical government, which would be the almost certain result of the one-man-one-vote principal, if it were applied immediately. I believe it would be counter productive to impose total sanctions at once because this form of democracy does not exist in South Africa at present. Remember we are not dealing with a minute elite controlling a huge black population, but with a sizeable racial minority, armed to the teeth, possessing vast mineral reserves of wealth, owning most of the property in South Africa and exercising technological, military and political dominance over their non-white fellow country men.

Thus total sanctions at once, while not changing anything in South Africa politically (since our demands would be perceived as excessive) would hit hard those we want most to protect (the black workers) and strengthen the hand of the hard right, who would argue that since total surrender was required they must resist all international pressure. A far better option would be to understand that the final goal of one-man-one-vote or perfect democracy cannot be achieved overnight and therefore do all we can to hasten the advent and real power-sharing, with the role of the whites gradually being reduced to their numerical status.

Thus we should in response to negative or regressive actions (such as illicit cross border raids etc) threaten and use sanctions, hitting individual areas of there economy. However when something

positive is done by South Africa, such as repealing race laws or enacting real reform, we should be prepared to withdraw such sanctions, and make it plain we support these developments. Our policy must be geared to South Africa's future and not its past. It is only with selective pressure that we can help in building the New, Just South Africa.

Fair Representation

At the moment the youth Committee is made up of three Representatives from each of the four Euro-Constituencies, one third level representative and a number of "senior" party members co-opted from the "committee of 15". Its chairman is a T.D. appointed by the party president. The youth committee is presently chaired by Tom Kitt T.D. with youth organiser Noel Whelan acting as its secretary. The three representatives from each of the Euro-Constituencies are elected at our annual youth conference with every ogra allowed twelve voting delegates. The third level representative is elected at the third level consultative AGM usually in the month of January. With each Cumann having one vote. It is here that one problem lies.

For the past couple of months it has been suggested that the third levels have an unfair advantage over ogra as each really have four representatives on the committee, their three Euro-Constituency reps plus their third level representative i.e. they have an extra vote for the committee. Various proposals have been suggested as how best to alleviate this unfair advantage. However before considering this it is necessary first I feel to address a couple of other points.

To date this issue has not been raised at any of the present youth committee meetings so why the possible changes to the present need for us to discuss it? System have been suggested to me by a number of individual youth committee members and was brought up at a recent Cumann meeting by the youth committee member who was addressing that meeting. At our Ard Fheis consultative meeting it was felt that it was to our advantage to review the situation for ourselves and to take the initiative on a proposal for the youth committee.

The second point requires us to ask if the present system is really unfair. From the opening paragraph it would appear to be unfair to Ogra. However if it is looked at in closer detail the following emerges:

In Dublin there are 148 votes, of this the four third level Cumainn in this Euro Constituency have a total of 16 votes. In Leinster there are 136 votes, the third levels have 4 of these votes. In Munster there are

168 votes, the third levels have 12 votes. In Connaught/Ulster there are 144 votes, the third levels have 12 votes.

Taken in this context the present system, without doubt, appears unfair; however not to Ogra, rather unfair to the third levels! It must be remembered that the third level consultative has approximately 900 members the same, if not more, than any single Euro Constituency.

Example: Dublin Euro-constituency

Total votes: 148 Ogra : 132

Third Levels: 16

total Membership: 700 Ogra: 400 members

(approx.) third Levels: 300 members

i.e. There are 148 votes to elect three people (as representatives of the) 700 members in the Dublin Euro Constituency, of this Ogra (400 members) has 132 votes, the Third levels (300 members) have 16 votes.

So what have the proposals so far been? One proposal is that the third levels would be allowed two representatives, one of which would be an Ard Comhairle (National Executive) representative. They would then cease to vote in the Euro-Constituency election.

An alternative suggestion is that the third levels would retain their third levels would retain their third level rep, be allowed to vote for the Ard Comhairle rep. in their Euro Constituency but cease to vote in the election for the additional two youth committee members.

A third suggestion is that the third level Rep. cease to exist altogether and the third levels continue to vote in their Euro-Constituencies.

Thrown in amongst these is the suggestion that the third level rep be elected at the youth conference.

The final proposal so far mentioned is that the Euro-Constituency elections become three separate elections, i.e. each voting delegate would receive 3 ballot papers;

one for the Ard Comhairle position (National Executive)
One for the first youth Committee position
One for the second youth Committee position

However the third level delegates would receive only two ballot papers;
One for the Ard Comhairle position
One for the first youth committee position

And, of course, they would then retain their third level rep.

So what of these proposals. "The first proposal would appear on the surface to be very desirable. It could be very nice to have a third level rep. to the National Executive, but is it realistic? Apart from the "realistic" issue (which we could campaign for if it's something we really want) a much more important point, I feel, is whether or not this option would prove beneficial for the third levels. An accepted fact of life in politics is that YOUR HAVING a say in anything is reflected in your ability to vote. Thus the possible implications of this option for third levels are I feel, horrendous! A situation would be created whereby although resident in their Euro Constituency, the third levels would have no part and no real say; this could only enforce the isolation already felt by some Cumainn. One of the main aims of the third level consultative this year is the involvement of third level Cumainn with their local organisation, i.e. to come in from the periphery of the party and get involved. The above option is certainly not conducive to this! The third level consultative exists on a national basis, it covers the entire country. Is it strong enough to sustain a weak third level Cumainn? Can it give that Cumann the week to week support it might need? only WITH the help of that cumann's local organisation - However the above proposal would assist in deepening further the division between ourselves and Ogra.

The second proposal would ensure that the third levels would have even less of a say than they now have. They would have a small input into who the Ard Comhairle rep. was and they would have their third level rep. i.e. 900 members would have ONE full rep. on the committee.

At our recent consultative meeting it was felt that the ceasation of the third level rep. would spell doom for a lot of the smaller cumainn and would certainly not help in the setting up of more Cumainn. As can be seen from the above our influence on who is elected from the Euro - Constituencies is very small whereas the third-level rep is wholly elected by us and provides us with a voice on the youth committee.

At the moment it is not practical for the third level rep. to be elected at the youth conference. With the youth conference usually held in Autumn most of the colleges are only beginning the academic year, the time is not there for a campaign, and any campaign would interfere with and take away from Freshers week / day - one of the most important activities for the third level Cumainn. It is felt also that having an AGM at a third level consultative meeting proves more beneficial to the consultative than would an election at the youth conference.

Thus it would appear that the final option is the one that would prove most beneficial and acceptable to the third levels and for Ogra. It is a fair point that each unit should have one Ard Comhairle rep. and two youth committee reps. This final proposal ensures that the third levels and Ogra would appear to have equal representation - The third levels while retaining their own rep. would also maintain an involvement in their local Organisation. However appearing to be fair does not mean actually being fair - Having FOUR voting delagates is NOT fair, increasing the number of voting delegates from the third level is, I feel, a necessary addition to this final option ensuring that what appears fair IS fair!

MARIA CORRIGAN

THIRD LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE
NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE