

## REVIEW Dolores passes the test

**The Cranberries, Newcastle Mayfair**  
DOLORES O'Riordan's voice is stunning. Of course she sounds great on CD, but the proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating and she passed the test easily.

She moved from velvet ballad to heavier songs with ease during the Cranberries faultless set which combined the albums *Everybody Else is Doing It So Why Can't We?* and the newly released *No Need to Argue*.

Her voice has a lot of Toyah and a bit of Siouxsie. Her stage performance jumped constantly from super-mellow to super-energetic, (with a little too much Bono thrown in).

The Cranberries are a breath of fresh air. They're ordinary folk and don't take themselves too seriously.

There are no sulky poses at their gigs. Dolores brought a real feel good factor to the Mayfair where everyone was mellow, everyone was smiling, and everyone was happy.

The new single *Zombie* went down a storm, the rest of the new album mixing perfectly with the old. — JANE PICKETT

### Beating the thief

BEAT hobbyist Paul Athey stepped out to stamp out crime as he launched a new community police route.

As he pounded the pavements of Tynesouth he was joined by police area commander, Sgt Dave Walsburn, and the town's MIP Neville Trotter who tried to celebrate the first day of the new beat and PC Athey's appointment as Tynesouth Villages community policeman.

The area has been without a community hobby for four years.

### Anger over abortion link

A ROW has broken out over union backing for a pro-abortion campaign.

Hundreds of North-East workers are being urged today to speak out against Unison's decision to affiliate to the National Abortion Campaign whose policies include abortion up to birth and the removal of legal and medical restrictions.

Thousands of members, including education, health and public sector workers, are expected to join the battle to overturn backing for the NAC. The decision to back the group was made by Unison's national executive.

## Government refuses repair cash for school that leaks like a sieve

# Wet, we, we



● **HOPES DAMPENED** - headteacher Wendy Smith says school corridors leak in half a dozen places, and in classrooms displays of work and books are ruined

## £2 million needed for repair work

EDUCATION chiefs were asking the Government for £2 million to tackle some of the worst problems in the city's schools.

They include roofing work at nine first and primary schools, Lerrington, Archfield, Coalgate, Farns, West Wallasey, Hillon, Wyndham, Blonjeau and Cragside; two middle schools, Chapel House and Lerrington; and four secondary schools, Walbottle, West Denton, Blakelaw, and Kanton.

Other work included re-wiring at Hillon Primary and Gosforth Central Middle; heating upgrading at West Denton First, Kanton Comprehensive, and Walker Comprehensive; new windows at Hillon Primary and Cragside Primary; and safety and security measures at Orange Field, and three secondary schools, Gosforth Heaton Manor, and Kanton.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS SITUATION? WRITE TO OPINIONS, EVENING CHRONICLE, THOMSON HOUSE, GREAT MARKET, NEWCASTLE NE1 1ED**

**T** EACHERS are forced to dive for the buckets at a Tyneside school every time it rains.

For years, staff and pupils at Cowgate Primary School, Newcastle, have suffered problems with water pouring in through holes in the roof and after the Government turned down appeals for extra cash, there seems little chance of getting repairs done.

Headteacher Wendy Smith said they were hoping that, at long last, they would get the cash they need to tackle the worst of the problems. But their hopes have been dashed. "We were desperately hoping for this money," said Miss Smith. Cowgate Primary, which has 200 pupils aged four to 11, is typical of many schools across the city which are in need of new roofs, heating systems, electrical wiring, windows, and other repairs.

The school was built in 1934 and the three main corridors used by the children to move between classes leak in half a dozen places. There are also major leaks in classrooms, and last year a ceiling collapsed.

Leaks are patched up by the education authority but the school was hoping to solve most of problems with an allocation of £30,000 to carry out major work.

"There are three main corridors with flat roofs

By PETER YOUNG

which leak in several places when it rains," said Miss Smith.

"As fast as they are patched up, they start leaking somewhere else. These are main thoroughfares used by children to move from place to place around the school, and wet floors are dangerous.

"We have to put down buckets and containers at half a dozen places to catch the water.

"It is ruining the ceilings, displays of the children's work, and reading books which we have around the corridors. I have been at the school nine years. We have suffered these problems during all of that time and I suspect, for some time before that.

"It's getting worse. We have had several other patch up jobs but this is quite expensive and really, it's throwing money away. It needs to be done properly."

Now it is up to the education authority to draw up a new programme of priorities.

"It's out of our hands," said Miss Smith. "It's a matter of waiting to see what happens. We appreciate the problems faced by the local education authority.

Education committee vice-chairman Coun Darren Murphy, who led delegation to Whitehall to plead for extra cash, condemned the Government and declared: "It's an absolute disgrace. It is clear they don't give a damn about education in Newcastle."

● **DISGRACE** - says Coun Darren Murphy

► **COMMENT** - Page 16.

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