Calls for action on teen sex

THE STATE is failing miserably to enforce laws against underage sex, it was claimed yesterday.

More than 900 girls under 17 have had babies over four years — but hardly any prosecutions have been brought.

Now Fianna Fail spokesman on law reform, Willie O'Dea, is urging the Government to make sure the laws are enforced.

"According to the law, it's a crime to have sex with a female under 17," said Mr O'Dea. "It's regarded as statutory rape — even if the girl consents.

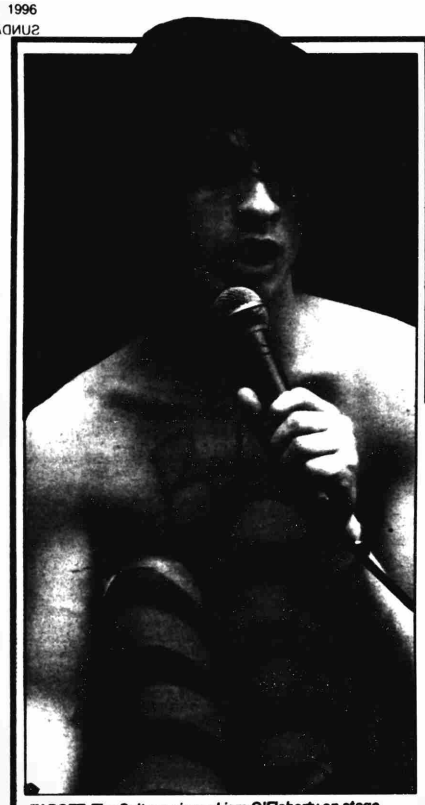
Rising

"We have an average of more than 200 cases every year of girls under 17 having babies — and the figure is rising every year.

"But, despite the laws that are in force, I am not aware of prosecutions being brought in these cases against the fathers concerned."

Mr O'Dea said that, in reply to a Dail question, he had been given official figures for the numbers of girls under 17 who have had babies in recent years.

According to the statistics, in 1992, a total of 229 girls under 17 had babies. The following year the number rose to 231; in 1994 the figure was 242 and in 1995 the number rose to 259.



TARGET: The Sultans singer Liam O'Flaherty on stage.

SUNDAY WORLD *is always tops for showbiz stories*

SEX-STARVED FAN WRECKS SULTANS' SHOW IN FRENZY

Glasgow crowd smash the band's equipment as girl tries to strip singer Liam

By JACK BURNS

IRISH rock band The Sultans had their gear wrecked during a melee after a young woman tried to strip the lead singer on stage.

Damage amounting to thousands of pounds was caused when fans invaded the stage during a concert in Glasgow last weekend.

The incident was sparked off after a young woman fan lunged at lead singer Niall O'Flaherty and tried to unzip his flies.

Members of the Cork band were at first amused by the incident — but then it turned nasty when other fans also invaded the stage.

The band had to abandon their encore at the end of the gig at King Tut's, and flee.

In the meantime, the rampaging fans wrecked much of the band's gear, as well as equipment belonging to the venue management.

Carried away

A spokesperson for the band said: "The young woman who jumped on stage seemed to be carried away by sexual frenzy.

"She was clearly bent on stripping the lead singer. Then it turned serious when other over-enthusiastic fans also jumped onto the stage.

"Amplifiers and other equipment was wrecked and the cost of the damage is considerable."

The Sultans used borrowed equipment when they played with the Sex Pistols at the Venith venue in Paris on Thursday night.

The band are playing in Mohill, Co, Leitrim, tonight when they will also be using equipment borrowed from the other bands who are playing — Something Happens and An Emotional Fish.

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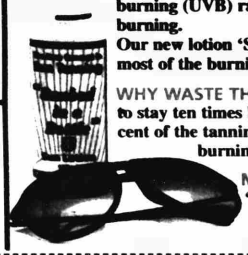

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