

# Gregory decreed no 'special' funeral seats for politicians

**Senan Molloy**  
Deputy Political Editor

TONY Gregory insisted only President Mary McAleese, Taoiseach Brian Cowen and Lord Mayor of Dublin Eibhlín Byrne should get seats at the front of the church for his funeral, it has emerged.

His wishes were that if Mr Cowen had sent an aide-de-camp to the Requiem Mass last week, the representative would have been consigned to the well of the church.

In the event, the Taoiseach personally attended the funeral.

Mr Cowen however, sent his aide-de-camp to the removal, and the funeral organisers were told that protocol dictated that he should be given a seat at the front - a point they conceded at the last moment, despite Mr Gregory's wishes.

Funeral organisers also designated seats for the President and Lord Mayor, if they attended in person.

They did so for the funeral Mass - leaving former Taoiseach

Bertie Aher, who is on crutches, sitting in the general congregation.

Yesterday, sources close to Mr Gregory confirmed that he did not want special arrangements or seats of honour for politicians at his funeral.

**Wishes**

"Seats were provided for the President, Lord Mayor and Taoiseach personally, but there were no special arrangements for anyone else.

"We were just following his wishes."

At the top of the church, prominent signs indicated that the first six rows on either side were for "canvassers only".

Mr Gregory, in an interview to be published posthumously this week, criticises the former Taoiseach with whom he shared a city constituency for more than a quarter of a century.

The independent TD ascribes a series of dirty tricks to Mr Aher in the interview, including the erection of posters during the June 1981 general election indicating that Mr Gregory supported the H-Block

prisoners, many of whom were on hunger strike in the Maze prison.

In the interview, Mr Gregory is also understood to expound on his belief in the possible existence of an afterlife.

**Reflections**

The interview with Mr Gregory, which will be published in 'Hot Press' magazine this week, includes reflections on his involvement with Official Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

His funeral Mass heard last

week that the TD and former schoolteacher was not a "theorist" in relation to republican socialism.

He ended his links with this grouping shortly after the assassination of Seamus Costello in Marino in October 1977, which Mr Gregory heard about as he was preparing to lead students on a hike.

Costello was founder of the IRSP, but was also chief of staff of his military wing, the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

It appears the Government

will hold the by-election for his seat on the same day as the European and local polls in order to wrong-foot MEP Mary Lou McDonald of Sinn Féin.

Labour councillor Emer Costello is best placed to secure the Labour nomination - husband Joe Costello is already a constituency TD - and could battle it out with Senator Paschal Donohoe of Fine Gael for the seat, assuming current government unpopularity would damage other candidates.

Clr Maureen O'Sullivan is

likely to represent the fractured Gregory camp as it attempts to hold onto the seat.

She said yesterday: "It's much too soon to talk about.

"We haven't had a chance to grieve 'Tony' yet, and such considerations don't arise."

Meanwhile his parliamentary secretary faces losing her job following his death, the *Irish Independent* has learned.

Mr Gregory is understood to have made a number of efforts to assist the woman, who is due to depart her post in the next 12 weeks.



Twink with daughters Naomi and Chloe Agnew at the premiere screening of 'Beverly Hills Chihuahua' at Movies@Dundrum Cinema in Dublin yesterday. Naomi, on the left, is holding jilly the dog while Chloe Agnew holds Rosie Kinnity. Right: Lupa the Chihuahua from Blackrock poses for the camera. GAVIN CHANEY/COLLINS

Twink treats her daughters



SOME cute and very well dressed dogs stole the limelight at the Irish premiere screening of Disney's 'Beverly Hills Chihuahua'.

Adele King, aka Twink, and her two daughters, Naomi and

Chloe Agnew, were among a host of well-known faces who attended yesterday's premiere at Movies@Dundrum Cinema with their equally pampered dogs, Rosie Kinnity and Jilly.

The comedy tells the story of

how a pampered Beverly Hills Chihuahua named Chloe (voice of Drew Barrymore) finds itself lost in the mean streets of Mexico, without a day spa or a Rodeo Drive boutique anywhere in sight.

Now alone for the first time in its spoiled life, Chloe must rely on some unexpected new friends - including a street-hardcore German Shepherd named Delgado (voice of Andy Garcia) and an amorous pup named Pa-

pi (voice of George Lopez) - to lend a paw and help to find her inner strength on their incredible journey back home.

'Beverly Hills Chihuahua' opens on Friday.

DENISE CLARKE

# Coma death man's mum to face 'drug party' trial

**Conor**  
**Name**

THE mother of a man who died after falling into a coma at an alleged "cocaine party" over a year ago is due to go on trial on drugs related charges.

Betty Grey, from Ballybeg in Waterford - whose son John (23) died in Waterford Regional Hospital 16 days after going into a coma - is facing a charge of allowing her house to be used for the illegal use of drugs.

Another Waterford man, Kevin Doyle (21), also died after collapsing and losing consciousness at Ms Grey's house in Ballybeg Square, in the early hours of November 25, 2007.

A number of other young people had to be hospitalised following the party but subsequently recovered.

The HSE issued an unprecedented appeal hours after the incident, asking for anyone who attended the party and felt unwell to seek medical attention.

**Shock**

The deaths caused widespread shock throughout the country and led to a major garda investigation in Waterford, with dozens of people questioned in relation to the events of the night of November 24-25.

At both funerals, mourners heard pleas to young people to resist the temptation to take drugs. It was hoped the fatalities would help change attitudes towards cocaine.

Four people are now listed for trial at Waterford Circuit Court tomorrow on charges arising from the investigation.



Clockwise from top: Betty Grey, who will face trial relating to the deaths of her son John Grey, left, and Kevin Doyle, who both died after taking cocaine.

Along with Grey, another woman is also charged with allowing her house to be used in connection with illegal drugs, in breach of Section 19 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. That woman faces a second charge of possession of controlled drugs.

It is alleged the drugs taken by a number of people on the

night of the party were stashed in the second woman's house.

Two local men are charged with possession of drugs for the purposes of sale or supply.

The trials are listed for the upcoming sessions of the court. However, they may not be heard for some time, due to a backlog of cases.

# Protests greet latest Tony Quinn seminar

**Grainne Cunningham**

HEALTH guru Tony Quinn was in Dublin yesterday to give a seminar to up to 900 people as controversy continues to rage over the cash people pay him for his expertise.

The multi-millionaire gave a talk lasting over four hours in the RDS, Ballsbridge, while a small group of protesters stood outside appealing to those inside to end their allegiance to the organisation.

Although the seminar was "free" it was only open to those who had already paid for a seminar abroad, which typically costs €18,500.

The *Irish Independent* attempted to speak to delegates,

who for the most part would not respond at all and simply turned their backs and hurried away.

However, one woman spoke in detail of her experience with Tony Quinn and said she believed that the €18,500 she spent on a two-week seminar in the south of France had been money well spent.

However, Mike Garde of Dialogue Ireland, an organisation which works with those involved with cults, warned people that they were in danger of being mentally manipulated.

Mr Garde said the main aim of his protest was to ensure that delegates who subsequently felt they had been duped or ripped off would have somewhere to turn.

"We are not just loonies

standing out here in the rain, but if the penny drops for some of these people, maybe we can help of some help," he said.

Mr Garde said he had heard many stories ranging from financial loss, family break-up, loss of power, and the misuse of hypnosis, to brainwashing.

**Credentials**

He also questioned Mr Quinn's credentials. However, he insisted that he had no issue with the people going on the seminar or doing the courses.

Another protester, who did not wish to be named, said his sister had taken a course with Tony Quinn about five years ago and, since then, his family have made several attempts to

end her association with the organisation.

Since she became involved, the man, who is from the west of Ireland, said his sister had changed, frequently lied about what she was doing, had spent way beyond her means on seminars and was a constant worry to her parents and other siblings.

However, one of the few delegates who would speak to the *Irish Independent* said she had had a positive and life-changing experience since attending a Tony Quinn seminar.

The woman, who runs her own business and is studying for a degree, said she now feels more confidence and wastes less time wondering whether she should have acted or

responded differently in various circumstances. "That is such a waste of time," she said.

The woman, who did not want to be named, said she had come through an acrimonious divorce and had three children to care for alone.

The woman, who attends regular seminars with the Tony Quinn organisation, said she is considering spending €63,000 on a "mind master" course and would love to see her daughters, who are 20 and 16-years-old, go to a seminar themselves.

# Woman demands parking ticket as Gaelge

**Brian McDonald**

A ROW over a parking ticket could go all the way to the Irish Language Commission.

A Connemara motorist is considering asking an Coimisinéir Teanga, Sean O Cuireáin, to take up her case after she received the parking ticket from a warden who could not speak Irish to her.

Aine Ní Neachtain, of Darcy Court, Salthill,

Galway, was before Spiddal District Court last week to answer a summons for an unpaid parking ticket she had received on December 16, 2007.

Ms Ní Neachtain told Judge Mary Faby that she wanted to speak in her native tongue to community warden Neil McHugh, who had issued her the ticket, but was unable to do so.

Mr McHugh said he had issued the ticket after he spotted a car parked on a corner of the main street in Spiddal. It was causing an

obstruction to a lorry which was trying to get past.

The warden said he twice asked Ms Ní Neachtain to move the vehicle.

He only issued the ticket when she refused to do so. He had only spoken to her in English as he was not fluent in Irish.

**Understood**

While he was of the view that the driver understood him perfectly, Ms Ní Neachtain had only addressed him in Irish.

After hearing the

evidence, Judge Faby fined Ms Ní Neachtain €40, with €50 expenses.

Now, the issue could go to the Irish Language Commissioner, who said that any complaint would be investigated independently.

Mr O Cuireáin pointed out that local authorities had specific commitments in language schemes.

In the event of a complaint coming before him, he would examine the scheme for Galway County Council to see if any of its rules were broken.

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