

SCÉAL

IRISH LANGUAGE SUPPLEMENT

Inside today



“ Harris was saying that failed asylum seekers who have not yet been deported make up a very significant proportion of what he considers to be excessive inward migration . . . This is dangerous nonsense

Fintan O’Toole Opinion



STRENGTH TRAINING IN YOUR SIXTIES SEVEN THINGS I LEARNED

Sheila Wayman Health + Family

‘I couldn’t imagine a more reprehensible fraud’ – Carey jailed for 5½ years



Malachy Clerkin

at the Circuit Criminal Court



“A final comment,” said Judge Martin Nolan before DJ Carey turned to go. “I couldn’t imagine a more reprehensible fraud than to tell people you had cancer and to extort money from them on that basis.” That is what it all came down to in the end. All the years, all the rumours and all the stories, the whole elaborate cobweb of fantasy that Carey had constructed around his life, it was all reduced to brass tacks now. He had taken almost €400,000 from people under false pretences and now he was going to jail for 5½ years. On a busy day in Court 5, DJ Carey was nobody special. He was not even DJ. At 1.06pm, after a hectic morning when 32 cases passed through the court, Judge Nolan announced there was a sentence-

ing matter to be dealt with before lunch. The clerk called Denis Carey to the box. The five-time All-Ireland winner arrived in the suit he had worn to court on Friday, this time without a tie. He stood behind the glass and listened impassively for the nine minutes it took Judge Nolan to deliver his sentence. He kept his hands clasped in front of him and looked at the judge throughout. He was asked nothing and he said nothing. There was nothing left to say. ‘Goodwill’ “He took advantage of people’s good nature and goodwill towards him,” said Judge Nolan. He exploited the good natures of others and the goodwill he had accumulated

by reason of being well-known and an outstanding sporting personality. “In most of the frauds that this court hears, the weakness most fraudsters seek to exploit is greed. This is not the case here. Mr Carey exploited the good nature of people. He knew a lot of these people, if not all of these people, and they knew him. They had good regard for him and he persuaded them that he needed these monies. He promised to return the monies and obviously he knew at the time that he would never return the monies,” the judge said. “So it’s a very serious crime. It’s reprehensible behaviour, it’s very bad behaviour. And I think all parties who gave monies to Mr Carey must have looked at themselves in the

mirror and thought, ‘How foolish am I?’ But they were good-natured people who wanted to help a person in need and he exploited them.” The court was packed. Journalists, legal folk, members of the public; DJ Carey’s life has always been a rubbernecker’s gala. A small contingent from a school tour tried to slip in the back but by now they had no hope. “So what to do about him?” pondered Judge Nolan aloud. “I think if I was to set a headline sentence for his global misbehaviour, I would say somewhere in the region of eight to 10 years as a starting point. “Mitigating factors have been identified so he’s entitled to a reduction. “The sentence I am going to impose upon him is a term of

■ Former Kilkenny hurler DJ Carey was once considered an icon. Yesterday, his reputation demolished, his fall from grace was completed. PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK BOLGER/INPHO imprisonment of 5½ years.” And that was that. Carey turned to his left, slightly unsure of what was supposed to happen next. The couple of gardai who were behind the glass in the witness box with him guided him by the elbow and walked him back out the door he had arrived through. His life in tatters, his reputation demolished. His fall from grace complete. ➔ The downfall of DJ – a staggering mesh of fact and fiction: page 5

Exams papers ‘sold for €50’ to apprentices

Protected disclosure raised concerns over cheating and risks to public safety

Minister asked AG to consider if there may have been criminal case to answer

ELLEN COYNE Political Correspondent

A protected disclosure alleging cheating within the electrical craft apprenticeship programme prompted serious concerns of alleged criminal activity and risks to public safety. Minister for Further and Higher Education James Lawless asked the Attorney General to consider if there may have been a criminal case to answer, after his department became aware earlier this year of allegations that exam papers had been available for sale to apprentice electricians for €50 the night before a test. The claims raised fears for the public from potentially unqualified electricians. Other “compromised” exam papers were alleged to have been shared with apprentices hoping to qualify as electricians in advance of assessments. The chief executives of the State agencies Solas, which is responsible for further education and training, and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) were both called for a

meeting with Mr Lawless. This took place when the serious allegations came to light shortly after the Government had agreed to close a €40 million funding gap for State-funded apprenticeship programmes. “Compromised” exam papers have now been withdrawn and replaced, and some of the responsibility for curriculum and assessment roles has been taken away from Solas and given to relevant colleges instead. Amid fears for public safety, Mr Lawless commissioned an independent review, which confirmed there were no safety risks arising from any unqualified personnel in the system. While the original allegations related solely to the electrical apprenticeship programme, there were concerns within the Department of Further and Higher Education the issues identified could be more widespread. There were fears the value of the apprenticeship qualifications could be undermined by a lack of robust testing.

It is understood Mr Lawless commissioned a “system-wide assessment review and quality improvement plan”. Solas is also now undergoing a periodic critical review – a review of public bodies that is required every five years. Details of the issue will be shared with Government Ministers at a Cabinet meeting today. In a statement to The Irish Times, Solas confirmed that it was aware of the protected disclosure “which gave rise to concerns about the quality assurance of assessment for a craft apprenticeship assessment for the electrical trade”. It said it was “taking these matters very seriously” and had taken action “including the immediate withdrawal of any potentially compromised papers, issuing replacements to avert any threat to exam integrity”. Solas also said “any allegations of the availability of exams/assessments for purchase have been and will be vigorously investigated and pursued by Solas in order to safeguard the integrity of the system”. The protected disclosure was first made to QQI, which is the State agency responsible for protecting the quality and integrity of further and higher education qualifications in Ireland. QQI and Solas did not comment on whether they had made Garda reports.

Yates coached Taoiseach and seven other high-profile FF figures

ELLEN COYNE and JACK HORGAN-JONES

Fianna Fáil has confirmed it hired Ivan Yates during the presidential campaign to provide four hours of “interview and debate training” for its candidate Jim Gavin but said the former Fine Gael minister was not involved in its campaign team. Eight high-profile Fianna Fáil politicians, including Taoiseach Micheál Martin, were also given media training by Mr

Yates. Mr Martin, Minister for Housing James Browne and Minister for Transport Darragh O’Brien were all coached by Mr Yates for the 2024 general election. Minister for Children Norma Foley was separately coached ahead of the last general election, while Mr Browne and Mr O’Brien were also coached while serving as housing ministers. It is understood this would have been paid for from the secretarial allowance, a publicly funded allowance for ministers

that covers public relations expenses. The general election training was paid for by Fianna Fáil. “In relation to the general election, he did one session with Micheál Martin during the general election campaign. Mr Yates also provided training to Ministers Darragh O’Brien and James Browne during the same campaign,” Fianna Fáil said in a statement. Mr Yates provided media training to Minister for Further and Higher Education James

Lawless, when Mr Lawless was a backbench TD. Mr Yates also provided debate and interview preparation for Fianna Fáil during both the general and European elections. This included training for MEPs Barry Andrews and Barry Cowen during the European election campaign. Minister for Social Protection Dara Calleary was also coached by Mr Yates in 2022, when he was a backbench TD. Controversy has surrounded Mr Yates since it emerged he

provided coaching to Mr Gavin before the candidate ended his presidential bid. After Mr Yates’s work with Mr Gavin emerged, Coimisiún na Meán, the media regulator, said it would be contacting Newstalk and RTE to seek more information about the work Mr Yates did for them during the presidential election. Mr Yates was approached for comment. ➔ No stranger to controversy: page 2

Weather

Mostly cloudy. Rain in the south and east will ease. Highs of 13-16 degrees

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Home News

Sr Stan: Social justice campaigner and homelessness advocate Sister Stanislaus Kennedy, known to many as Sr Stan, has died aged 86. Page 3

Criminal Assets Bureau: Cab is selling increasing numbers of properties seized from criminals. Page 2

World News



Ukraine: Attack drones now cause about three-quarters of all casualties in the Russia-Ukraine war. Page 6

Business + Your Money

Housing: The median price paid for a home in Dublin 6 rose to almost €800,000 in the third quarter, making it the most expensive Eircode in the State. Page 14

Glenilen: Profits doubled at west Cork-based yoghurt maker Glenilen Farm to €930,826 last year. Page 15

Sports Tuesday

Soccer: Xabi Alonso has told Trent Alexander-Arnold to enjoy his “nice” return to Liverpool with Real Madrid tonight in the Champions League. Page 19

GAA: Considered by many as Monaghan’s greatest ever footballer, Eugene ‘Nudie’ Hughes has died at 67. Page 23

The Rest is **POLITICS** Live

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