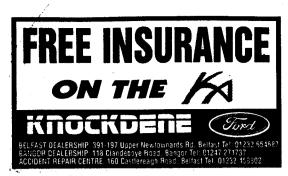


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opinion poll – P15



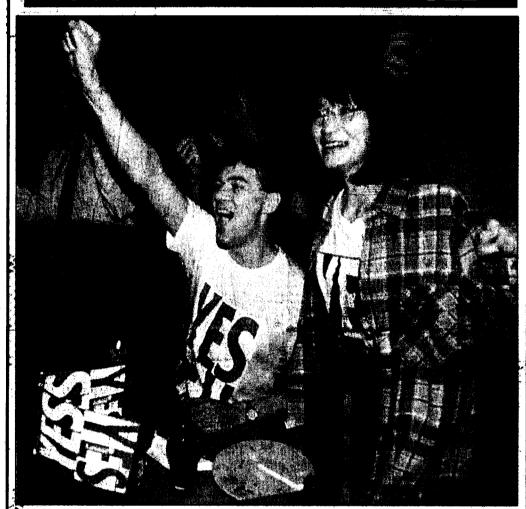
WALKER **FRIDAY INTERVIEW**



DOUGAL

From the BBC to the EC - P14

SCOTS VOTE 'AYE' IN POLL



Tartan triumph: Scots celebrate at the International Conference Centre in Edinburgh early this morning as it became evident that, for the first time in 300 years, Scotland will have its own Parliament, with tax-varying powers. Edinburgh should see its assembly by the year See referendum report, page 5 THE Government today ruled out any postponement of the scheduled launch of substantive multi-party talks at Stormont next week.

It was being made clear in London that, despite the political turmoil over the IRA's hardline statement on the talks process, ministers would not be shifted from their target date of Monday.

But there was strong speculation that the Ulster Unionists will delay their entry into the talks until Sinn Fein makes its position clear.

Senior sources said the 110strong party executive, which will meet tomorrow to discuss participation, was unlikely to endorse face-to-face negotiations with republicans.

UUP negotiator and honourary secretary Jeffrey Donaldson declined to comment on a possible outcome of tomorrow's meeting.

But he stressed that the party was seeking assurances from Government that any return to IRA violence would result in Sinn Fein's immediate expulsion from

He said yesterday's IRA statement that it has difficulties with the Mitchell Principles "demonstrates that if republicans don't get their way at the negotiating table then there will be a return to violence.

Mr Donaldson said his party was demanding the Prime Minister also make a statement to re-affirm that the consent principle will be a guiding principle of talks.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble was due to make a hard-hitting address to the Forum today stressing that unionists will not tolerate constitutional change over their

UUP unlikely to face SF

By Desmond McCartan and Martina Purdy

Political Development Minister Paul Murphy has vowed to quiz Gerry Adams over the IRA statement on Monday.

DUP leader Ian Paisley said the IRA statement showed the ceasefire was tactical and urged the Government to



David Trimble: Forum statement.

eject Sinn Fein from talks. But Mr Adams has tried to downplay the significance of the IRA comments, contained in an interview in Republican News.

He insisted the IRA's comments were "broadly supportive of the Sinn Fein position which was absolutely behind the search for a real and democratic settlement."

SDLP negotiator Mark Durkan said the statement was for internal consumption of the IRA and should not surprise anyone.

But former Taoiseach John Bruton disagreed and claimed republicans were aiming for maximum embarassment.

He urged unionists not to be manipulated by repub-

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry expressed concern at the IRA statement which has fuelled loyalist anger at the process.

● Viewpoint, page 14

'Put talks

NORTHERN Ireland people want a referendum on their political future even if the Stormont talks fail. The finding, contained in an opinion poll published today, comes at a time when the problems facing the negotiations

are mounting. If the talks do not succeed by next May, most people still want the British and Irish governments to put a 'settlement package' to the test in a referendum.

Less than one in ten people — 9% — regard the idea as unacceptable. Imposing a settlement, however, does not find much

favour — six out of ten people oppose the two governments taking matters into their own hands if the talks collapse. The opinion poll — undertaken by Queen's/Rowntree Trust in association with the Belfast Telegraph and UTV — shows that most people want a direct say in their political future.

If a settlement of any sort a chance to vote on it.

The survey gauged public feeling on whether the talks should continue if all unionists stay out.

Opinion was mixed, with 47% opposing them continuing, but 53% saying the idea was either desirable, acceptable or tolerable.

As to what should happen if Sinn Fein left the process, only one in four people -- opposed the talks continuing.

A majority of Catholics and Protestants back the idea of a referendum if the

Ulster seeks referendum on future

By Mark Simpson

talks fail, but they are at odds over what amounts to the passing of any settlement

A simple majority in Northern Ireland is the most popular pass-mark amongst Protestants. Catholics would prefer to

see the success of the refer-

endum hinge on support gained from more than 50% in each community A compromise option is a

weighted majority to be set as the pass-mark in Northern Ireland.

When put to the two communities, the idea received a positive response with only around 20% in each community ruling it out completely. Protestants liked the idea better than

The opinion poll also showed the two communities disagree on who should be entitled to vote in a referen-

Poll results, page 15

PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY

Those seeking an understanding of our existence and the world are invited to attend a course in Practical Philosophy. This is not a history of philosophy, nor a comparative study of philosophers. The philosophy is that Man in truth is limitless and that there is unity underlying all apparent diversity. This is known as non-dualistic philosophy and can be applied to day to day living.

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three basic constituents. Students are asked neither to accept nor reject any

ideas but to test them in the light of their own experience. Meditation is offered in the fourth term

BELFAST course starts: next Thur 18th Sept Thursday 7:30 to 9:30 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 12 noon at the Ulster Peoples College, Adelaide Park

Fee £60 (full-time students £20) Enrol before the lecture on first day of attendance.

Enquiries: freephone 0800 716 228 School of Philosophy and Economic Science 47/49 Northumberland Rd, Dublin 4. Tel (01) 660 3788

Councils to get greater powers for development

By Noel McAdam, **Local Government** Correspondent

NORTHERN Ireland's 26 councils are to be given greater powers to develop their own areas and towns, it announced today.

The plan is seen as a confidence-building gesture aimed at unionists, who have long demanded more powers for councils.

Revealing details of the plan, local government minister Lord Dubs pledged new proposals for legislation giving councils powers to manage and develop their own property.

Councillors are also to be given half the places on a new planning advisory body which could overrule the Department of

Environment Lagan Valley Ulster

Unionist MP Jeffrey Donaldson said: "It is a small step in the progress towards greater

powers for local counc-

The plan has particular significance in Belfast, where the council owns large pieces of land which could be zoned for industrial development, community needs or housing.

City Hall Ulster Unionist group leader Fred Cobain said: "It has enormous potential for us and addresses the democratic deficit in Northern Ireland in that it relaxes the power that the DoE, which is not elected, has over us."

government spokesman Stewart Dickson said: councils already had control over their own

Court gives Lagan boat bar green light

By Julie O'Connor

A LEGAL challenge to a controversial plan for a floating restaurant and bar on the River Lagan was dismissed today. Belfast High Court gave the go ahead for

the proposal.
Mr Justice Brian Kerr dismissed a judicial review brought by a Belfast rower, Oonagh Nel-Opponents claimed the DoE failed to take account of how the development would jeo-

pardise sporting But Alliance local activities on the river when it overruled Belfast City Council and approved the plan for the 100ft long, 35ft high property.
However, Lord Dubs Developers TKS plans to moor the boat

signalled there will be no major shake-up of parallel to the Stranmillis embankment local government until the Stormont talks and close to Queen's PE centre.

Dismissing the judicial review, Mr Kerr agreed with the Department of the Environment that the river was not part of the Belfast

Urban Area Plan. Speaking after the judgement, Miss Nelson said she was devastated by the outcome.

to win," she said.
"We are also very disappointed and this will have a great effect on sporting activities on the Lagan. "Eight boat clubs use

the Lagan, and this is going to disrupt everything.

now also have to put up with a lot of disruption and noise.

Martin Brennan, the solicitor for Miss Nelson, said they would be considering an appeal. Campaigners have waged a six-year battle over the boat bar.

Pervert parole fury

was under fire today after a convicted child sex offender was allowed parole in his home area of Portadown.

His ex-wife and Churchill Park residents hit out after the paedophile spent three days with relatives, without the community being informed. A police source said Maghaberry failed to inform them he was to be released on licence. The prisoner's ex-

wife said: "How the authorities can release him without informing me or the community is outrageous. "He has been con-

victed on extremely serious charges of sex abuse with children. He is a self confessed paedophile and I only

Yes, yes

to tartan

dream

A spokesperson for the Churchill community said: "There are two schools in the area and hundreds of young children living in Upper Garvaghy. This sort of

friends spotted him.'

action is highly irresponsible."
There was no immediate response from the Prison Ser-

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FINANCE

TV AND RADIO

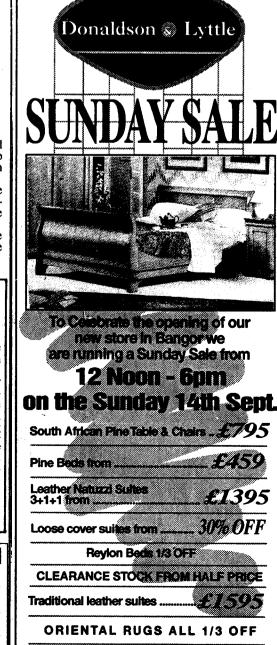
CROSSWORD

Bodyguard not told of Diana's death **Deal face to face** with Adams. unionists told

shotgun death latest

Double

Weather Outlook GREATER BELIAST AREA: A cool and windy end to the day with fleeting sunny spells and scattered sharp showers. Tonight it will be quite cold and windy, but the shower activity should diminish with some reasonable clear spells developing. A fresh north west wind. Min temp 6C. SEE BACK PAGE



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