

1973

Letter from Eric O'Broin to Irish Times re. Mountpleasent Festival

Sinn Fein

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MOUNTPLEASANT FESTIVAL

Sir,

Without trying to belittle the good work being done by Mr. Coleman in his attempts to bring Art into the homes of the people of Mountpleasant Buildings, or indeed his attempts at reorganising the Rathmines Youth Club, I feel that the kernel of Miss Eileen O'Brien's article (Sept 6th) will have been passed over by your readers.

No amount of music or charitable acts or fresh air (as suggested by JANE BLAKE S_ept 12th I.Times) can hope to change the conditions that required the staging of the Pop Festival. For when the music ceased the residents were left with the stark reality of their living conditions - which were so vividly described by MISS O'BRIEN. When the dancing was over some children remained to play around in the cascadeing waterfall of human sewage, while others went to bed with their brothers and sisters in their grossly overcrowded and damp rooms where rats are not an uncommon sight.

The State stands utterly condemned and disgraced for it is under their care that so many people both young and old have had to spend time in hospitals both mental and general. The high rate of gastritis and bronchitis among babies in Mountpleasant is not just accidental.

The vast majority of the people of Mountpleasant Buildings do not want music to brighten up their lives - they want houses. And those fortunate enough to have been offered alternative accommodation absolutely resent being uprooted from an area where they have been born and reared, or have spent most of their lives, and being forced to live in such far removed and ~~alien~~ alien places as Kilbarrack and Coolock.

over/-.....

In answer to a question I put to a Mother of five children, when I asked her ~~what~~ what improvements she would like to see in the buildings, she replied; "I would knock them down and give the people decant houses."

Yours sincerely,

Eric O Broin,
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Rathmines,
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