

## Judge warns refuse charge protesters

TWELVE refuse charge protesters who are to appear before the High Court today for allegedly breaching an order not to prohibit the movement of bin trucks were advised by a judge yesterday to "think very carefully" about their attitude.

Another 13 defendants apologised in court yesterday for breaching an order of September 24 last and gave undertakings they would abide by the court rulings. They were told that if they breached the undertakings, they would be in contempt of court.

The 25 protesters from a number of areas of Dublin were before Ms Justice Mealla Carroll on foot of proceedings taken by Dublin City Council. In late September, the council was granted an injunction restraining the direct or indirect obstruction or interference with the collection of waste.

After nine women and four men had given undertakings to the judge yesterday to abide by the court order, the judge was told the remaining seven women and five men were not in a position to give similar undertakings.

Ms Justice Carroll said that those coming before the court today should think very carefully about their attitude. She added that the "law was there" and it must be upheld.

● **INDEMNITY ROW:** Lawyers for the London-based Medical Defence Union have denied in the High Court that a Cork doctor facing several civil actions arising out of alleged sexual and indecent assault was indemnified by it.

Dr James Barry of Lauriston Lodge, Glanmire, Co Cork, who is in his late 70s claims that for more than 30 years he was covered by professional indemnity insurance by the MDU. Dr Barry retired in 1995.

● **TRIAL COLLAPSES:** The trial of a man accused of orally raping a woman in Cavan four years ago has collapsed at the Central Criminal Court before evidence could be heard before a jury sworn in on Monday.

The 23-year-old accused had pleaded not guilty to the oral rape of a female on a date between January 1, 1994, and April 20, 1995, in Fermanagh.

## Relatives condemn road racers jailed for fatal crash

by Kate Chamberlé

"ANIMALS! I hope you rot in hell! I hope you suffer the pains of hell that our families have suffered."

These were the words of Maureen McGuire, a grief-stricken relative of Sally McConnell, aged 39, one of two women killed by men who were racing each other at over 100mph in their cars.

The two Derry men were each jailed for six years yesterday for the manslaughter of the women.

The men, both in their early 40s, were racing each other for about 10 miles when the accident happened near Milford in Co Donegal last year. Thomas Melaugh, aged 43, of Cavanacourt, Ballymagroarty, and Patrick Savage, aged 42, of Preshen Park, in the Waterside, pleaded guilty to the charges at Letcherenny Circuit Court on Tuesday. Both were yesterday also banned from driving for 20 years.

Before the sentence was imposed yesterday, Judge Matthew Deery said it was hard to understand the actions of the two men when no alcohol was involved. "It is difficult to even describe it as an accident considering the nature of the men's driving."

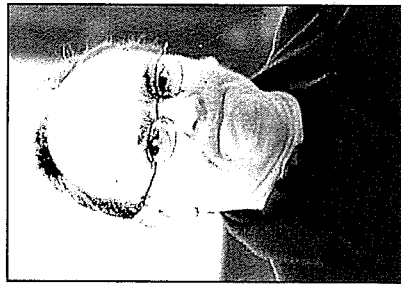
Over the past two days the court heard how on September 21 last year the two bricklayers had raced their cars at over 100 miles per hour on the wrong side of the road, overtaking on bends, driving bumper to bumper. They were also said to be driving on two wheels at some points. Each car, a Mercedes and an Audi, belonged to Savage, and neither had been insured. The two men ploughed into an on-coming car killing Avril Friel, 26, of



The Audi Quattro which ended up in Mulroy Bay following the crash.



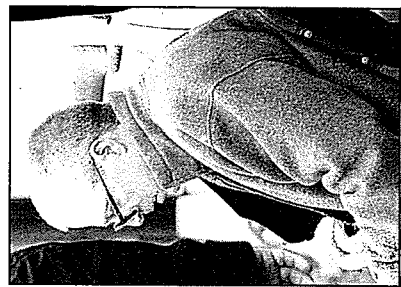
The Mercedes Benz after the fatal crash near Milford, Co Donegal.



Patrick Savage, jailed for six years for manslaughter.



Avril Friel: killed instantly returning home after evening Mass.



Thomas Melaugh: jailed for six years for manslaughter.

"Both men displayed great remorse wishing circumstances could be otherwise," Melaugh, a father-of-four and wheelchair-bound as a result of the collision, apologised to the families of

Avril and Sally on Tuesday whispering the words: "I'm deeply, deeply sorry." Father-of-three Savage has had 17 previous convictions dating from 1978 to 2001, most related to road traffic offences, the court heard.

Counsel for both men were refused leave to appeal the verdict. Afterwards, a sister of Sally McConnell said the sentence was a sham and that her family said they had lost faith in the legal system.