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We'll pay for EU's bad call

THE EU U-turn on roaming charges is more proof Europe is more concerned about the welfare of corporations than citizens.

The European Parliament announced to great fanfare that roaming charges were to be scrapped.

However, this week the Commission rowed back on the plan that would have allowed us text and make calls without breaking the bank when we're on holidays.

What it is doing is protecting the massive profits of the telecoms operators and stifling competition, which is what the EU free market is supposed to be all about.

This is just another step on the road to the Corporate States of Europe.

GOVERNMENT Chief Whip Regina Doherty tweeted a headline from the Irish Times which claimed that the "Government finds teeth and bites back against Apple ruling".

Find their teeth, the poor know only too well about Fine Gael's teeth and have the bite marks to prove it.

It also tried to defend using taxpayers' money to defend the world's richest company and not too long ago they were taking medical cards from terminally ill children.

They tweeted: "Ireland makes no apology to anyone for seeking to advance the well-being and prosperity of our people."

Did you spot the typo there, they forgot the word "rich" in front of people.

We're haven a laugh over tax

THE Government's decision to appeal the €13billion Apple tax ruling could backfire and prove beyond doubt that Ireland was worse than the Cayman Islands when it came to tax havens.

Lawyers for the European Commission will no doubt remind the Government about the upstanding individual who was running this country when the deal with Apple was done in 1991.

Bastions of probity such as Charlie Haughey, Bertie Ahern, Pee Flynn, Liam Lawlor and Ray Burke will be mentioned as will the fact that hundreds of thousands of residents had non-resident accounts while an elite 200, including Haughey, had their cash stashed with Ansbacher in the Cayman Islands.

Banana republic? We're the Apple of every multinational firm's eye and this will prove it.

No excuses for this killer dad.. he is just plain evil

HOW do you explain to your children why a supposedly loving father and deputy school principal butchered his wife and three sons?

I doubt one parent in the entire country has given an adequate answer because the reality is there is no answer – for what rationale can there be for murdering your family?

There have been too many excuses made for Alan Hawe. In the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was just evil.

Like most people I'm struggling to understand the dark events which took place in the Hawe home in Cavan.

If ever there was a case of forgiveness overload it took place in the days after Alan Hawe murdered his wife Clodagh and their children Liam, 15, Niall, 11, and six-year-old Ryan.

Let's get real, this monster cruelly murdered his wife and children then the cowardly bastard hanged himself.

Just imagine the scene of utter carnage that greeted gardai when they entered the home at Castlerahan on August 29.

Imagine the scene on the previous evening when this maniac began to kill his wife and sons, remembering that humans do not give up their lives easily and to kill four people would have taken some time.

It is believed he killed Clodagh first, for he knew she would have tried to prevent him killing his sons.

Now consider this is the man who has been treated as some kind of afflicted being who felt he was somehow driven to leave this world and, out of mercy, take his family with him.

The media must also bear some responsibility for pussyfooting around with

nonsense about the family being laid to rest together. The bullshit brigade was also out in force trying to rationalise the events which took place in the Hawe home as if depression or some other form of mental illness could be an excuse for mass murder.

A good man who snapped he was not, he was a control freak who actually believed his kids were better off dead than to be without him. He wrote as much in a note he left.

What took place in Hawe's house of horror was the stuff of *The Shining* multiplied by four. Murder is a terrible crime but filicide – the killing of a child by its parent – is particularly abhorrent.

It is the ultimate act of betrayal against children who have unquestionable trust in their killer. It's not just a crime, it is an act that goes off the moral scale.

Most parents, and even adult animals, will give up their lives for their young.

That is why when parents kill children they violate the laws of man and nature.

Just as there are copycat suicides there may well be those who will see the sympathy for this devil as a sign that society is somehow agreeing that, in some circumstances, it is permissible for parents to kill their offspring.

It shouldn't be forgotten in the not too distant past it was permissible for a man to beat and rape his wife and abuse his children. There were echoes of those dark times

evident in the days after the Cavan deaths. While filicide is rare there have been many cases of it over the years.

The only occasion in which I was punched in a church occurred while I was covering Stephen Byrne's funeral in 2000.

He had stabbed his wife Maeve to death and drowned his sons Alan, 10, and six-year-old Shane and himself by driving off a pier in Wexford.

It is believed his wife had a brief affair so he took it upon himself to kill his family.

At his funeral I was repeatedly punched in the back by a man who obviously believed that discreetly taking notes at the back of a church was a more heinous crime than stabbing a woman and drowning two young boys.

The community had closed around to swallow, if not cover up, this dreadful crime as if hiding it would make it go away.

That attitude still prevails.

"Something just snapped." We heard

it in 2000 and we've heard it again after the Cavan murders but there is no evidence of that and in fact Alan Hawe appeared to be in good form just hours before he murdered his family.

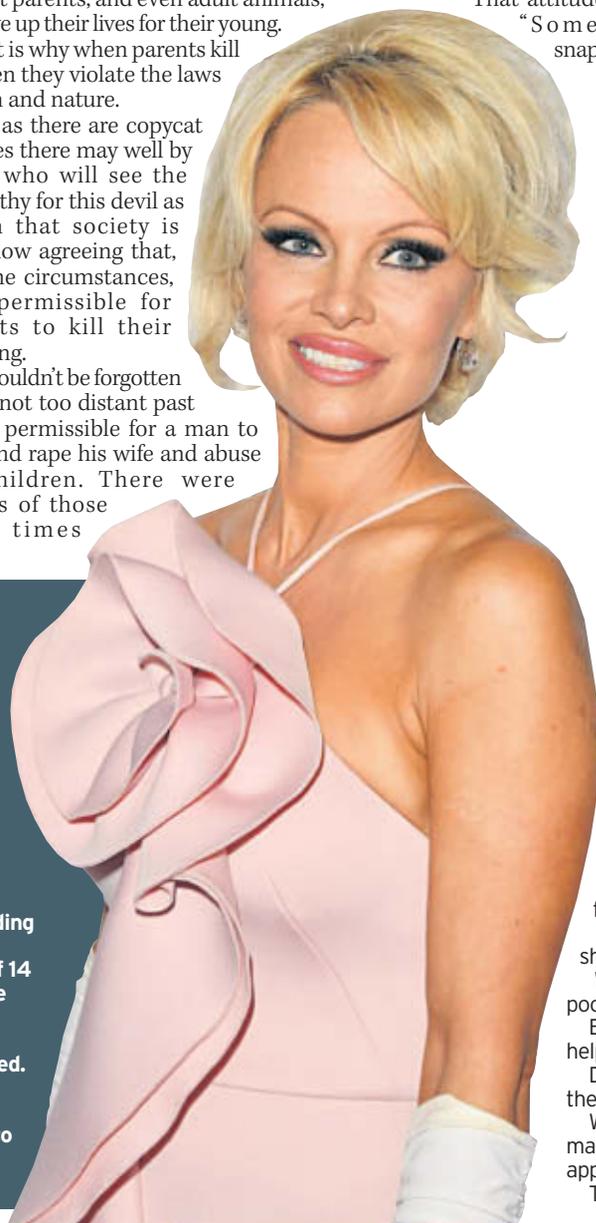
What is most troubling about these murders is the ordinariness, for if a GAA stalwart who is also a deputy principal of a national school can murder his entire family, anyone can.

His standing in the community may also have led to him being seen as a cuddly killer who wanted what he perceived was best for his family.

Those who fail to condemn this tarnish the memories of the victims.

Clodagh Hawe did not want to die and Liam, Niall and Ryan did not want leave this world to go off to heaven at the hands of their psychopathic daddy.

But he will not be with them in heaven. By butchering his wife and children, Alan Hawe has booked his passage to hell.



Naked truth of Pam's hypocrisy

THE hypocrite of the week award has to go to Pamela Anderson, who teamed up with a rabbi to warn of the dangers of pornography.

She is probably spot on warning about its "addictive dangers" and "corrosive effect on a man's soul" but it's a bit rich when she is providing the raw material for the addiction.

This is the same Pam who posed for a total of 14 Playboy covers, including its last full nude issue earlier this year.

She also appeared in a sex tape with then-husband Tommy Lee which was stolen and leaked. Aren't they always?

While Pam says porn users are "losers", she fails to describe those who are paid big money to provide it for the addicts.

Destroyer boldly goes into service on the sea

AN American destroyer, no not Trump, came into service this week and it is more spaceship than battleship.

The USS Zumwalt is said to be closer to the starship Enterprise from Star Trek than the seven US navy

ships to bear that name. But the similarity with Star Trek doesn't end there as the skipper of this futuristic ship is Captain James Kirk.

"I get a bit of a ribbing sometimes," said the commander. I bet he does.



FUTURISTIC Ship and, inset, starship

iPhone maker should be App to challenge..

I HAD a call from Bono's people this week to quash a story doing the rounds the U2 frontman came "face-to-face" with terror group Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Boko Haram, don't know about Bono but I'd turn a whiter shade of pale if I ran into these Islamic nutters.

What was true is that money is badly needed to help the poor in Nigeria and other African countries.

Bono said: "The UN needs \$300million in aid. We have to help, and quickly."

Didn't U2 get \$50million from Apple for their last album, so if the lads chip in that leaves just \$250million to go.

Would it not be more appropriate for Bono to tap the iPhone maker, which is sitting on a cash pile of \$250billion, before appealing to the public to donate their euro?

The public sure would find it app-ealing.