

The Echo: You'll probably see us in court

The Weekend **ECHO**

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Inside next week's issue

Lawrence Weir auditions for St Patrick's Day parade role



Donaghy causes mutiny at Sunday Game

The future of RTE's flagship sports programme **The Sunday Game** has been thrown into doubt this week after the shows three main panellists all threatened to quit.

The three pundits – Joe Brolly, Pat Spillane and Colm O'Rourke, are said to be furi-



Paddy Donaghy's RTE audition

ous at RTE's decision to fast-track injured Claretian veteran Paddy Donaghy onto the main show, following a successful audition last week.

Brolly, the most outspoken and controversial analyst, told RTE management that he wasn't going on air to be "upstaged by any fast-talking, shirt pulling, rugby tackling, cheating, diving Diva from Tyrone".

Meanwhile, serial All Ireland winner Pat Spillane has told friends that although he was initially reluctant to accept Brolly on the sofa when he first joined the show, he now understands the benefit of Joe's presence, as the Derry man's gung-ho, motor-mouth style makes

Spillane look thoughtful and intelligent, which is something he never thought anyone would say about him. However, he feared that Donaghy's elevation to the sofa might actually make Brolly look intelligent and thoughtful too, which is something else he never thought he'd hear said.

Elsewhere, the third panellist, Colm O'Rourke, had nothing of any consequence to say - so nothing new there.

The show's host Michael Lyster, who has just returned to work following a heart attack, has been advised by medical experts to take a leave-of-absence, as they fear his somewhat battered ticker mightn't be able to cope with a full on

attack of opinion from Donaghy, who the show's producers have dubbed "The One Armed Pundit".

Recently recruited analyst Shane "Cake" Curran has already quit the show fearing he'd be axed with Donaghy's arrival. He is now focusing on his stand up routine with comedy act D'Unbelievables.



Cake: stand-up character

Loving your lamb

Lamb loving Claretian Paul Keenan is being tipped for success in this year's *The Apprentice*, after Sir Alan Sugar hand-picked him for the show

Sugar is said to have been impressed by Keenan's entrepreneurial spirit after he set up a speed dating website aimed at bachelor farmers who feel that

their moment in life has gone.

The site www.luvewe2.com is one of the fastest growing website in the world, while Keenan's twitter feed already has 5 million followers – mostly in New Zealand.

Sir Alan told **The Echo** that what impressed him most about Paul was the fact that: "He wasn't in any way sheepish about putting his ideas forward".



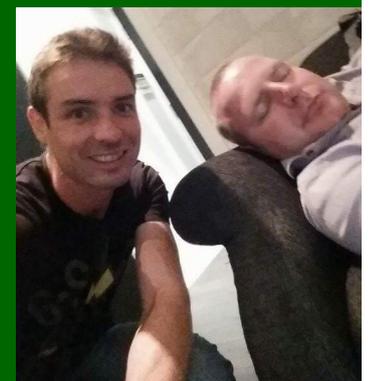
Farmers at one of Keenan's speed dating events

Home Alone and on The Phone

Social services in north London were last week inundated with calls from concerned members of the public after Barry Lynch posted pictures of his inebriated baby sitter Mike Shea sleeping off a monster session, as Lynch Whatsapped friends informing them that he was "home alone".

Child protection officers quickly raced to the scene to find Lynch downing bottles of vodka with Red Bull chasers, while Shea slept in the living room.

Social workers are keen to speak to Lynch's guardians Aidan and Manpreet to find out why he was left in disgraced child minder Shea's care - although they might have to wait for them to return from their break in a child free resort in Vegas to do so.



Sleeping on the Job: Shea