Spring Has Arrived... And So Have The Festivals!

With Irish, sun-starved prisoners of our northern climate, where rain is so frequent a visitor we get used to walking around half-wet all the time, the reaction to the appearance of old Sol in the sky with something approaching religious rapture. And coinciding with the departure of the bad weather and the arrival of the finer variety are the first pack of festivals. We've just finished with an enormously successful Pan-Celtic Festival that filled our streets and shops and pubs with happy Ceilí of all descriptions. With a programme packed with music and song and dance and general jollification, Galway rang to the sounds of Welsh, Irish, Scots Gaelic, Breton, Cornish and Manx.

Coming up over the next few weeks are more festivals. The A.T. Cross Curt International Festival of Literature begins next week and promises to be one of the most enjoyable of the year. Starting from very small beginnings, Curt has over the years grown into an important gathering of writers not only from Ireland but all over the world. This year Curt welcomes no less a person than Derek Walcott, last year's Nobel Prize Winner for Literature and widely regarded as one of the very finest poets international.

International music Mecca, with top-class musicians making their way from all over Ireland to share the unique atmosphere of the town celebrated by native son, Francis Fahy, author of the real version of "Galway Bay".

Video Nasties

Earlier this week the British Parliament agreed an amendment to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill tabled by Mr. Alton M.P. While few would disagree over the need to exercise responsibility with regard to the kind of material available to children and young people, the whole affair raises some important questions that will surely have their repercussions in Ireland.

First of all, there is the timing of Mr. Alton's amendment and its motivation, which can be traced directly to the remarks made by the judge summing up in the trial of the boys sentenced for the horrific murder of little Jamie Bulger. The judge, discussing what could have led two teenage boys engage in such an atrocity, referred to the possible effect of a video called "Child's Play II" which had been seen by the boys. This unleashed a bout of soul-searching that led to the conclusion that video nasties, like it or not, are part of the wider realm of "information" to failure. Censorship of this sort, backed by Government, is ill-advised. The ap­

collection of "Galway Bay".

The Challenge of Evangelical Christianity

Dear Editor,

In the aftermath of reading the Advertiser feature on the tour of the Galway Christian Fellowship in the issue of 7/4/94, I asked myself the question: why are our shepherds so silent? Is it a concern to priests, bishops and members of the clergy that the flood of this kind of material have cast aside their childhood faith and now are hunting with a different version of the Good News? Do we really need the spiritual benefits of the Mass and the sacraments, or do we believe, as the writer of this letter claims, that "the basis of all knowledge of God?" isn't possible for me to hold prayer meetings in my own house, fill my listeners with my own set of beliefs, watch my gathering grow and start up a new Church to further my own version of the Christian faith?

There is no doubt that these evangelical churches are just as passionate in their belief in their own version of God as is the Bible in its version of God. Is it not guilty of this crime that Dr. Berwick abusabut rs but may have arisen to some extent over some excessive ex­
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Video Nasties

The topic was the fact that the President of Queen's Col­

In this week in 1688 the Town Improvement- Board decided to send copies of the correspondence to the author of the real version of "Galway Bay".

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There is no doubt that these evangelical churches answer a real need in people who listen to the Good News? Do we really need the spiritual benefits of the Mass and the sacraments, or do we believe, as the writer of this letter claims, that "the basis of all knowledge of God?" isn't possible for me to hold prayer meetings in my own house, fill my listeners with my own set of beliefs, watch my gathering grow and start up a new Church to further my own version of the Christian faith?

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