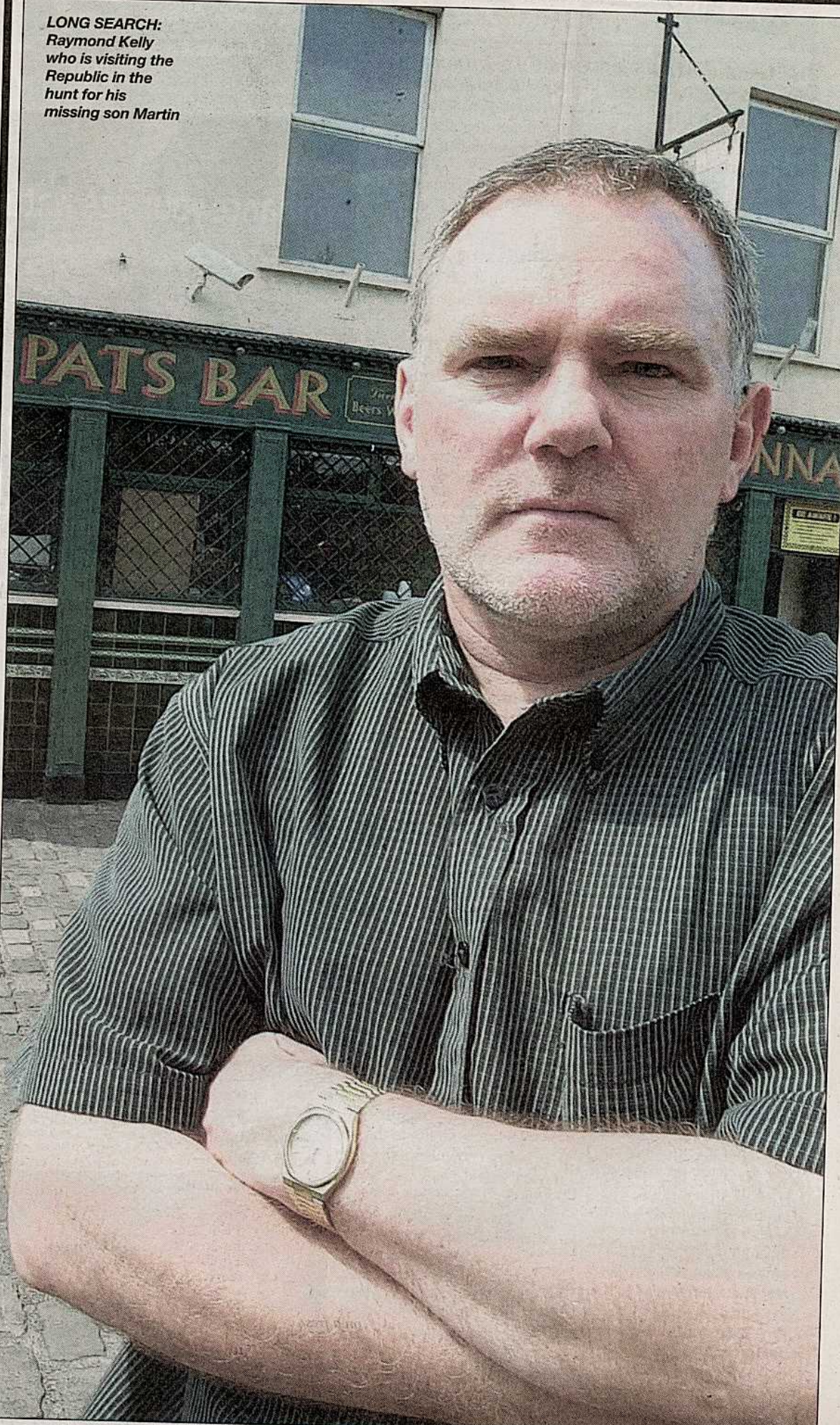


FAMILY'S ANGUISH AS MARTIN

DID YOU

LONG SEARCH:
*Raymond Kelly
who is visiting the
Republic in the
hunt for his
missing son Martin*



KELLY HAS BEEN MISSING WITHOUT TRACE FOR SIX MONTHS

SEE MY SON?

By JOHN CASSIDY

A BRAVE dad has appealed to *Sunday World* readers across Ireland to help him find his missing son – six months after his mysterious disappearance.

Raymond Kelly is pleading for any scrap of information which will help him discover what became of his 22-year-old son Martin in Belfast on New Year's Day.

The apprentice plumber and part-time barman was last seen leaving a dockside bar in the city on January 1, after a night out with friends.

It was initially believed that the happy-go-lucky single man, from Holywood had tragically fallen into the nearby dock and drowned.

However, months of exhaustive underwater searches using specialist sonar equipment and expert divers have come to nothing.

Now his distraught family has had to consider other awful possibilities, that Martin has lost his memory and wandered off, that he has been kidnapped or even killed.

While his case has continually been kept in the headlines in the north it has received little coverage just few dozen miles away, across the border.

Now his dad wants the *Sunday World* to help him put that right, by posing the simple question to our readers across Ireland: "Have you seen my son?"

And this weekend he has once again travelled south of the border to try to highlight missing Martin's case, this time in counties Limerick and Clare.

"It's now almost six months since Martin disappeared and we just cannot dismiss any possibility about what has happened to him," he said.

"His case has been well highlighted in the north and as we speak his mother is doing her best to publicise it across the UK.

Familiar

"But Martin's disappearance is not so familiar to the people of the south, yet the border is just a few miles away and Dublin is just a hundred miles.

"We just want to know if any of your readers have seen Martin. Maybe he's lost his memory. Maybe he's fallen ill. Maybe he's been hurt. We don't know.

"There was absolutely no reason for Martin to go missing. He simply went out for a New Year drink with his chums and never came home."

Raymond says his own visits south have increased his doubts about the initial theory that Martin fell into the water and drowned.

"In the last six months I've read about a number of tragic cases where people fell into the Shannon and the Liffey, for example.

"But their bodies were always retrieved eventually. The longest took around 50 days. Martin has been missing for 200 days now.

"To say we are desperate for any scrap of information would be the world's greatest understatement.

"As Martin's father all I can say to *Sunday World* readers is, "Please, please help us. I know you will if you can.

"Just contact your paper



LOST: The last pic of Martin Kelly taken on New Year's Eve

Dad's plea to **SUNDAY WORLD** readers to help track down his boy



MOTHER'S PAIN: Karen Kelly with her son Martin

or a missing person's helpline or the Gardai if you know anything at all."

Martin was last seen leaving Pat's Bar in Belfast's Clarendon Dock at about 7.15pm on New Year's Day.

He is described as being six feet one inch tall and of slim build with short dark hair. When last seen he was wearing a black Guinness T-shirt and a pair of blue jeans.

The investigation into Martin's case is being conducted by the PSNI at Musgrave Street station in Belfast. It can be contacted on 0845 600 8000.

Police now want to identify a number of people who may have seen or had con-

£12,500 raised in two tribute concerts to her son.

The concerts, entitled 'One for Marty, Two for Marty', saw some 12 big name local bands play free before packed houses in St Patrick's Hall in an event inspired by local singer, Mari Jackson.

The money is helping finance the nation-wide campaign across the UK and Ireland about Martin.

It is highlighting his case in 14 cities with accompanying TV, radio and newspaper information appeals.

"We would like to say a huge thanks to everyone in Holywood for supporting us through our nightmare. You came out in force on two brilliant nights of entertainment," said Karen.

Goodness

"We shall never forget the goodness everyone showed. There was such an emotional atmosphere throughout St Patrick's Hall. I stood back, watched and felt immensely proud that I live among such wonderful people in Holywood.

"We will target 14 cities, aiming to raise as much awareness as possible with the hope that someone will recognise Martin.

"A Holywood business has kindly lent us a motorhome, so we can minimise costs. Every penny shall be accounted for and we have already pledged £1,000 to the missing persons helpline.

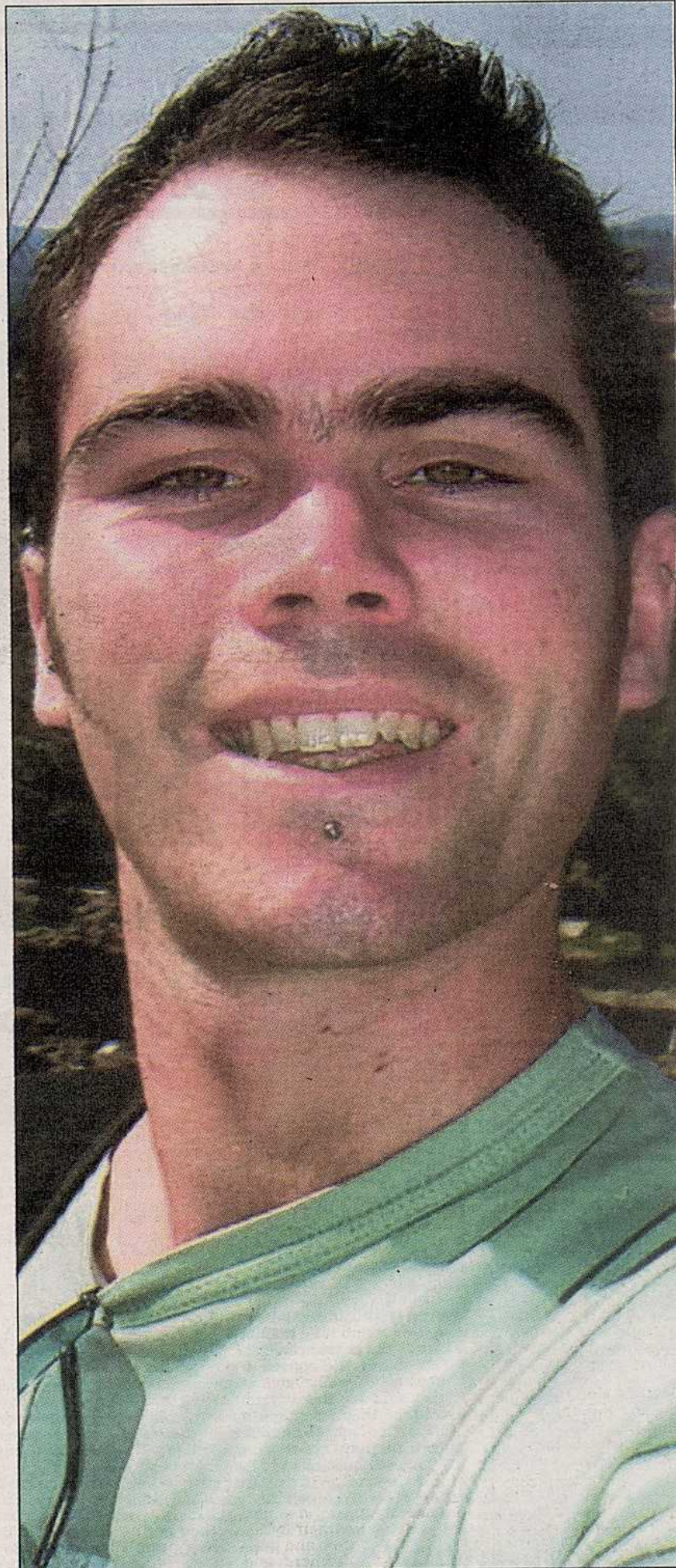
"Because we do not know what has happened to Martin, our only hope is that he has amnesia or some kind of brain injury and does not know where he is.

"He may need treatment and money will be kept in trust for him and used as necessary.

"In the eventuality that our worst fears become a reality, and Martin is not found alive, the money will be donated to funding an orphanage in Sudan, which is exactly what Martin would want."

Further information can be obtained via www.our-martykelly.com

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TRAGIC: Martin Kelly, 22, who has been missing for six months after a night out with pals