



## SENTENCE: Mulholland Sick nurse found guilty of assaults

By JOHN KEANE

A BRUTAL Portadown nurse has been convicted of assaulting two elderly patients in her care and of poisoning one of them.

Noreen Mulholland 35, was given a four-year suspended prison sentence by Dublin Circuit Criminal Court and struck off the register of nurses.

Mulholland, originally from the Obins St area of Portadown and now with an address in Park St, was convicted of assaulting John Gethings 77, and Seamas Doherty 80, in Naas General Hospital.

She was also convicted of poisoning John Gethings.

The court heard that a colleague reported seeing Mulholland "very brutally and very roughly" injecting Mr Gethings with the sedative Serenace the night before he died of cardiac arrest.

The dead man had been prescribed the powerful anti-psychotic in tablet form only and Mulholland, who had already given him his tablet, knew the drug could interfere with bodily functions.

Three months later another nurse saw Mulholland "very roughly" inject the second elderly man with Serenace.

Seamas Doherty called out for help and Mulholland told him to "shut up" and threw a glass of water in his face.

Mulholland then held the syringe in her fist and pointed it at the old man in a threatening manner.

### Light

When the allegations came to light, gardai were called in and they exhumed the body of Mr Gethings.

But the jury were told the prosecution were not claiming that Mulholland was responsible for the death of John Gethings.

They found her guilty of assaulting both men and guilty of poisoning Mr Gethings but not guilty of poisoning Mr Doherty. She had vehemently denied the charges.

Mulholland had been sacked from a previous nursing job at the upmarket Blackrock Clinic because she did not have the level of skill needed to work nights, and had poor attention to detail.

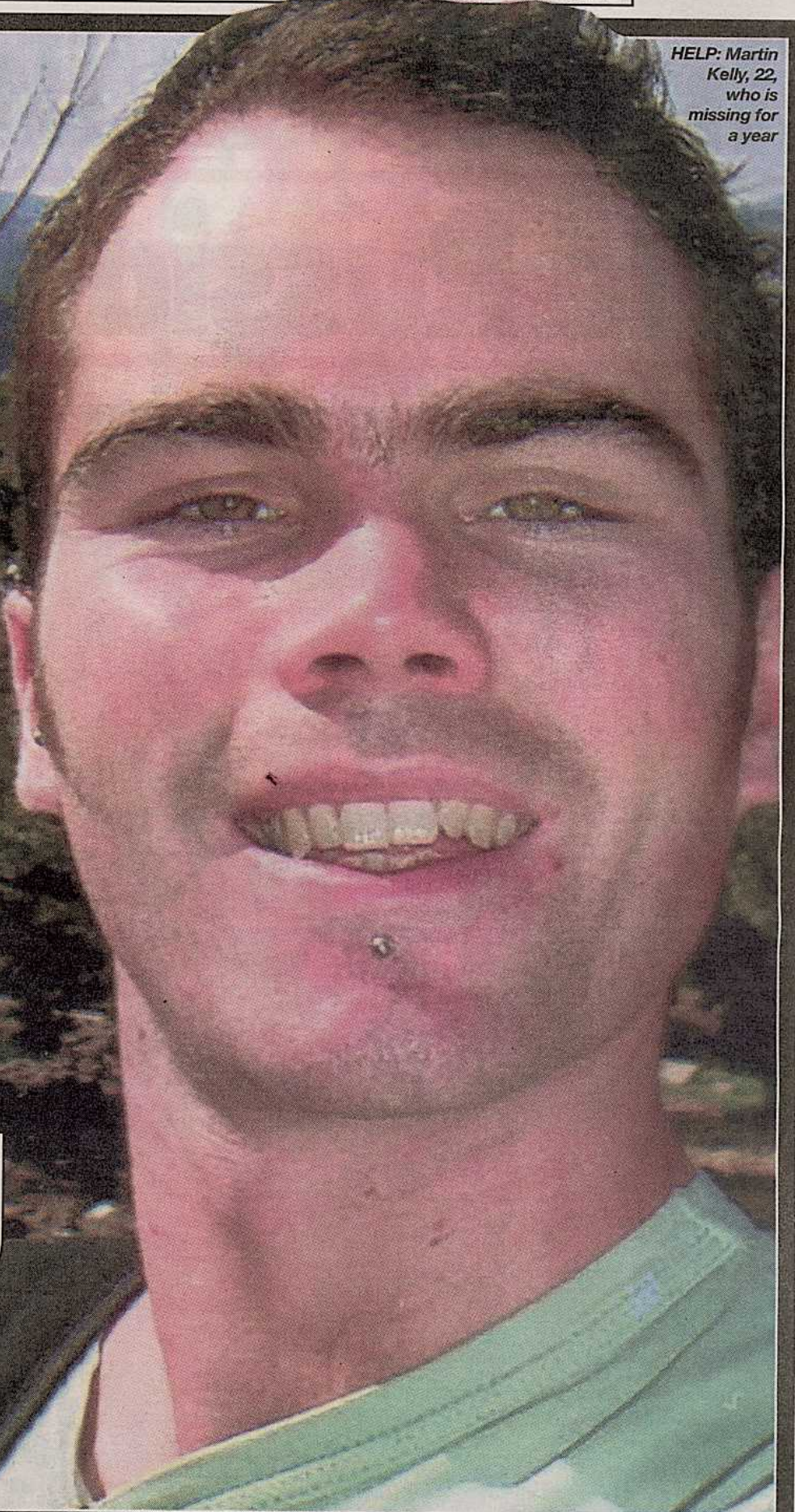
Sentencing her to four years imprisonment on each assault charge and two years imprisonment on the charge of poisoning, Judge Frank O'Donnell said Mulholland was "in continuous and trenchant denial."

However he felt that no purpose would be served by sending her to jail so he suspended the sentences for five years.

## POLICE LAUNCH NEW HUNT FOR HOLLYWOOD MAN

# A year on and there's still no sign of missing Martin

HELP: Martin Kelly, 22, who is missing for a year



### POLICE conducted fresh searches for missing Hollywood man Martin Kelly this week.

By RICHARD SULLIVAN

The *Sunday World* can confirm that a team of officers searched a stretch of marshland known as the Kinnegar lagoons close to Hollywood.

The latest search comes ahead of the first anniversary of the disappearance of 21-year-old Martin in the docks area of Belfast on New Year's Day.

Police searchers were clearly visible to thousands of North Down commuters as they fanned out across land between

the busy A2 and adjacent railway track.

The *Sunday World* understands that the search was launched at the request of Mr Kelly's family rather than as a result of any specific new information.

A police spokesperson confirmed that officers were searching for any traces of Martin Kelly on Wednesday.

Meanwhile Martin's father Raymond has revealed his intention to launch a new appeal for information about him this forthcoming New Year's Day.

He plans to distribute leaflets in the docks area of Belfast where his son was last seen leaving Pat's Bar at the Clarendon Dock at 7.15pm on January 1 last.

Exhaustive land and sea searches and a high profile publicity campaign across Britain have so far failed to turn up any clues as to his whereabouts.

There are countless only theories, that he may have fallen into the dockside waters and drowned, lost his memory or been killed.

### Relentless

Martin's family have continued their own relentless search for any scrap of information as to what has become of him.

His mum Karen embarked on her own month-long mission to highlight his case across England, Scotland and Wales.

During her trip she fell ill with serious heart trouble, believed to have been brought on by the

massive stress she and her family are under.

Despite this she still managed to publicise Martin's case around 14 cities with accompanying TV, radio and newspaper information appeals.

The journey was funded with the proceeds of two charity tribute concerts which were held for Martin in his home town.

The concerts, entitled One for Marty, Two for Marty, netted over £12,000 towards the ongoing efforts to find him.

Martin's dad has also been extending the search for his missing son south of the border.

He has gone to the Republic on a number of occasions in search of any scraps of information.

His most recent trip took him to Counties Limerick and

Clare. He previously visited Dublin.

The Kelly family have already outlined their plans for the charity funds if the worst happens and Martin is not found alive.

They say that they want any money remaining in its coffers to help fund an orphanage in the Sudan.

Martin had worked as a volunteer in Africa between the ages of 17 and 18 and said he wanted to return there to help out again.

Further information on Martin Kelly can be obtained from the website [www.ourmartykelly.com](http://www.ourmartykelly.com)

The investigation into Martin's case is being conducted by the PSNI at Musgrave Street in Belfast, telephone 0845 600 8000.

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