

**US Elections**  
Full coverage of the US Presidential election

**IRISH TIMES.com**

6 °C Dublin » 

[RSS Feeds](#)

[Site Index](#)

[Ireland](#) [World](#)

**Never too late to be a beginner**

Already experienced performers in their own fields, eight celebrities volunteered to learn an instrument for a new TG4 series writes Siobhan Long  
expanding into other areas in the city, writes Catherine Foley  
at Chlára nua no baint.

[In Depth](#) [Other](#) [Today's Paper](#) 

Friday, October 24, 2008

## Youths' murder trial halted

THE TRIAL of six young Ballymena youths facing charges arising out of the murder of schoolboy Michael McIlveen in May 2006 was halted yesterday and the jury dismissed.

The Antrim Crown Court jury of eight women and four men were told only that "as a result of certain matters which have arisen", they were being discharged from any further involvement in the 27-day trial.

Mr Justice Treacy also thanked the jury, first sworn in on September 8th, telling them that given their commitment to the trial since then, he would, if they wished, discharge them for life from any further jury service.

No other details surrounding the legal move were given in court and the case has now been adjourned until November 10th when a new jury will be sworn in.

This is the second dramatic turn of events to overtake the running of the case.

Within days of it first opening, one of the original accused, 20-year-old Mervyn Wilson Moon, from Douglas Terrace, Ballymena, pleaded guilty to his involvement in the murder of the 15-year-old.

The schoolboy died from brain injuries the day after he and friends were allegedly chased and attacked in an alleyway by Moon and others on May 7th, 2006.

Moon, who faces life imprisonment, has been remanded back into custody to await sentence at the end of the retrial of his former co-accused, five of whom deny murder.

Those still on trial for murder are a 17-year-old who cannot be named for legal reasons; Jeff Colin Lewis (19), Rossdale; Christopher Francis Kerr (22), Carduff Drive; Aaron Cavana Wallace (20), Moat Road; and Christopher Andrew McLeister (18), Knock Crescent. All are from Ballymena.

A sixth defendant, Paul Edward David Henson (18), Condiere Avenue, Ballymena, denies charges of affray and criminal damage. Mr Henson, Mr McLeister, Mr Wallace and the 17-year-old were freed on continuing bail, while Mr Lewis and Mr Kerr were remanded back into custody.

© 2008 The Irish Times



This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

ADVERTISEMENT

### Latest »

- 13:25 US consumer confidence slumps to record low
- 13:20 Oil price dips below \$63 a barrel
- 13:19 Snow causes hazardous driving conditions
- 13:15 Numbers attending sexual assault unit double
- 13:08 Homeless man gets 12 years for attacking two women
- 12:51 Consumer spending slowdown sees imports fall
- 12:37 Cabinet considers proposal on new GP fees
- 12:28 Russian parliament ratifies South Ossetia, Abkhazia treaties

### Popular Stories

#### Most Read

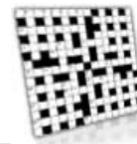
- 1 Tensions deepen between McCain and Palin
- 2 'I'll still never forgive John Aldridge'
- 3 For many evangelicals, it will be the end of the world if Obama wins
- 4 Early snow on high ground as cold snap set to intensify
- 5 Halifax rebuffs Government guarantee 'to maintain edge'

### Your Vote »

Should the Government row back on its planned cutbacks in education? « Yes | No »

Results

### Crossword Club »



Today's Interactive Irish Times Crosaire and Simplex crosswords, plus 10 years of crossword archive.

ADVERTISEMENT

## Sudoku »



Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid

ADVERTISEMENT

CLASSIFIED

### Homes



Bedrooms: 2 See More »

10 Northcliffe, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, Price: €285,000

Select your categories

Next »



A throwback to the heady days of youth in VW's new Scirocco

Find »



I am a

Looking for a

Located

Only with photos:

Next »

© 2008 irishtimes.com