

## **PART-TIME PAIN**

### **Ultán Anderson investigates the life of a job-seeker**

If you've been even half alive over the past eighteen months, you will be aware that we happen to be in the middle of an economic downturn. They say it's pretty severe and there is a general lack of money from the government right down to the people on the streets. In the Republic of Ireland, one third of eighteen to twenty-two year olds are out of work. A shocking statistic if ever I heard on

All we hear in the news is recession, recession, recession. Yet we, as young people, think we are somehow immune to this adult disease. We are not adequately informed about how the credit has 'crunched' *us*. We hear about stocks and shares; bonds and bankers; money and mortgages all the time but these words don't always get past the wall of sandbags that is our teenage apathy. Well, I've decided that it's finally time to find out how to dodge the bullets of the recession gun.

Young people are finding it increasingly hard to find a job, whether part-time or full-time. School leavers with great grades can't get employed, never mind those people with the not-so-good grades. Where does that leave us? Do we wait, watching the ground, until the 'green shoots' peep through and greet us? Or do we make the move and attempt a real effort to get a job?

Are you tired of the 'Sorry, we've nothing at the minute' and the 'Sorry we've still nothing' and the 'I told you already! Get out of my shop! We've no jobs!' I am. Tired of the blank pages of the job section in the local newspaper? I am. Tired, tired, tired.

Even if I do apply for a job, Argos and Tesco are employing Mr. PhD to stack shelves rather than Mr. Good Grades but Little Work Experience. I had an interview for a waiting job in a restaurant six months ago. Over one hundred people applied for the post, and this is fairly common!

I have genuinely tried to get a part-time job - tried hard. I have done away with my previous snobby job-hunting ways- 'I'm not doing that - it's a girl's job!' has been erased from my vocab. Frankly, right now, I would take any part-time job. I've enlisted with a recruitment agency but to no avail. I've asked around the shops. Nothing. It makes me ask the question, am I employable? Obviously not. Where does that leave me?

Well, it leaves me in ten years time, obviously jobless. A couple of stones heavier, the highlight of my day being the TV troubles of Jeremy Kyle. In short, a complete loser.

I'm trying my best, and it's all I can advise anyone else to do. I'm no expert, but from personal experience, it's hard out there for teens as well as the olds. But it's not all doom and gloom - a billionaire is bound to randomly approach me in the street and offer me a once in a lifetime, million pound salary opportunity at some stage...