



## The Saturday Column

A weekly miscellany edited by John Cooney

### The Spanish connection

THE highlight of Limerick's fifth Kate O'Brien weekend will be a lecture by a Spanish aristocrat in whose Bilbao household the author spent some time in the 1920s, immortalising it in the novel "Mary Lavelle". It was as a governess that the 24-year-old Kate O'Brien taught English to the young Don Jose Maria de

Aleilza, the future Conde de Motrico, and his sister. Aleilza became an adviser to the then King-in-waiting, Don Juan Carlos de Bourbon, and was a crucial figure in the smooth transition from the authoritarian Franco state to democracy under Juan Carlos. In 1981 Aleilza was appointed resident of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The weekend, which runs from next Friday to Sunday, will be opened, appropriately, by the eru-

dite and affable Ambassador of Spain to Ireland, His Excellency, Dr Jose Antonio de Yturriaga Barbaran. Other speakers will include poets Michael Smith and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, the playwright Frank McGuinness, and academics Dr Maria Isobel Butler-Foley and Dr Eibhear Walsh.

The venue will be the Limerick City Gallery of Art, and details can be obtained from Hugh O'Donnell at Limerick's Thomond College of Education (061-334488).

TL:

# TUARASCÁIL

## Spléachadh Seachtainiúil ar Chúrsaí Reatha



Eagarthóir Gaeilge: Deaglán de Bréadún

● Beidh imeachtaí spéisiúla ar siúl i rith an deireadh seachtaine 24ú go 26ú Feabhra. Sa Limerick City Gallery of Art beidh "Ireland and Spain — Literary Connections" mar théama ag an Kate O'Brien Weekend. I mBaile Átha Cliath beidh Féile Drámaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath in Amharclann Scoil Dáithí, Ard Aidhin, agus i dTeach Kinlay, Sráid an Tiarna Eadbhaird beidh comhdháil ar "Ireland's Open Economy — Alternative Perspectives" á reachtáil ag an Irish Critical Studies Group.