

# Man fired for magazine theft speaks at tribunal

By Gordon Deegan

A 53-YEAR-OLD airline security man said yesterday that he was sacked for taking a €4.50 copy of Time magazine off an aircraft because 'management was out to get me'.

On the third day of an unfair dismissal case at the Employment Appeals Tribunal, Tim Marks said that 'there was a definite campaign to get me just because I saw fit to raise concerns over the work environment' at ICTS Ireland's operation at Shannon Airport.

A former employee of ICTS Ireland Ltd, Mr Marks was fired on November 1, 2014.

He was sacked for the theft of the magazine from a rubbish bag on the stairwell of a United Air-



Tribunal: Tim Marks

lines aircraft at Shannon on October 22, 2014. In denying the claims, the company stated that the theft of the magazine amounted to gross misconduct. At the hearing in Ennis yester-

day, Mr Marks said he submitted a list of grievances on behalf of himself and 15 of his colleagues, in relation to the company's operation, with the firm's human resources department in the UK in November 2013.

Mr Marks said: 'There has been ill-feeling for a long time amongst the workers and I sent the list of grievances.'

'I was invited to go along to a meeting and I felt that from that point on, they were out to get me.'

At the hearing yesterday, Mr Marks admitted that taking the magazine 'was wrong - it was a momentary lapse of concentration'.

The three-member tribunal said yesterday that it would issue its ruling in due course.

# Dr Mark Dooley



## MORAL MATTERS

# In art, children see the beauty of the world

**T**HE other morning, I was walking behind two mothers who had just dropped their little boys to school. One turned to the other and said: 'No, they certainly won't be doing art! I mean, what do they need art for?' The second mother nodded vigorously before declaring: 'Mine won't be doing it either! You're right, they don't need it. It's soccer all the way for my fellas.'

How sad, I thought to myself. How sad that those little boys will be deprived of something so fundamental to our happiness as human beings. Indeed, I would say that art ranks alongside religion as our primary source of consolation and hope.

We live in an age of the image - an age when artistic creativity is everywhere in evidence. Never before have we placed so much emphasis on design and appearance. The way things look is vital to their success.

In all areas of technology, design is of paramount importance. We are obsessed with the latest model, the shape and size of our phones, tablets and TVs. That is why cultivating artistic creativity in children is not simply for their pleasure: it may well be their future.

More broadly, what would human life be like were it not for beauty, harmony, depth and meaning? From art flows the meaning of existence. Without it, our time here would be 'nasty, brutish and short'. From the moment we wake each morning we begin to create. We put on our make-up, straighten our hair and choose our clothes with care. Each day, we seek to express ourselves artistically.

We want to 'look right', to appear harmonious to the world. We want our homes to reflect our unique style and taste, which is why we place such emphasis on decoration. We take care when choosing paint, furniture and the artwork which adorns our walls. We design our gardens in our own image and likeness.

Look around and you will see that your surrounds shine with the light of self. To the stranger, they tell a story of who you are and what you value. They are a declaration of your taste and style. Essentially, we are artistic beings. Even those who do not place much emphasis on how they or their homes look are making an artistic statement. Wanting things to appear shabby or unkempt is no less a statement of style.

My sons arrive home after 'Arts and Crafts' with their little creations. They are colourful and beautiful, but they are so much more. They testify to how my children see the world, how they imagine it to be.

Art is the vernacular of the imagination, the spiritual word made flesh. We look at our surrounds and see

them not as they are, but as they might be. We see below the surface of things into their heart and soul. And then, in the moment of creativity, we transfigure what we see. We give it a face, a smile, a look of love. We transform suffering, pain and hardship into examples of transcendence.

When the great masters painted the Crucifixion, they did so by transfiguring its horror and desolation. Through their eyes, Calvary became that point of intersection of time and eternity. As we gaze upon those scenes, we don't see agony but an illustration of sacrifice so profound it drains the eyes of tears.

Through art, everything - no matter how painful - can be redeemed. Through Dickens, we learned to love the widows, orphans and strangers. We noticed people to whom we have previously been blind. The artist escorts us from the surface to the centre. We are brought into the depths of things and there we find that our hearts begin to open. In seeing things as we have never seen them before, we are ourselves transformed.

It was not moral philosophy that changed our views in relation to other people, animals or the environment. It was novels, paintings and film. It was the creative hand of those agents of love who dared to imagine the world differently.

If our future can be different from our past, it is thanks to those who open up new imaginative horizons. They take a brush and dream a dream. They create a character and through his words and actions the face of our world changes forever.

**A**RT is intrinsic to life and love, to happiness and hope. It is the veil through which we glimpse a brighter day. In and through it, we see the nobility of humanity, the beauty of a world redeemed from itself.

Children need art more than sport or games, or even many of the subjects they learn at school. They need it because, in its absence, they can never truly know love, joy or the heights to which humanity can rise. Without experiencing the transfiguring power of the artistic spirit, they shall never find lasting peace on this Earth.

It is true that we can try to live without it, but a life without art is a life deprived. It is to see no further than the surface, to exist as though imprisoned in the present moment. To live in the radiant glow of art and beauty is to transcend the mundane by embracing the extraordinary, the wonderful, the true and the good.

And when that happens, we finally see why human life is so astonishing. We see that even here, in the midst of all our pains and problems, we can do the impossible.

Simply by putting brush to canvas, we can recreate our world as though our woes had never existed.

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T&Cs apply. \*2 kids under the age of 12 can stay for free when sharing a family room with 2 adults - Just pay for meals.

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