

**RATZ**

**Simon Adorian and Cecily O'Neill**

*A public meeting*

PHIPP: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Deirdre. Phipp and I am Chairman of our Public Parks and Highways Committee. The matter of the Ratz has been brought to my attention a lot recently. I'm particularly distressed to have found out about one recent occurrence - a bunch of these rebellious vandals were in Rosemont Park and actually went so far as to throw three of our attractive civic benches into the ornamental fountain.

1st CITIZEN: (*sarcastically*) Oh dear...what a shame!

PHIPP: Furthermore they went on to destroy a large number of plants and shrubs (*more jeers and ironic comments from Citizens*) Hamelin has long been famous for its gracious architecture and attractive parks. Tourists come from far and wide to visit our town and for occasions like the Lord Mayor's Procession. We cannot let the Ratz spoil our fine town and its traditions. The Ratz are nothing short of vandals and should be locked away for life.

*PHIPP sits down to mixed reaction. MAYOR rises to speak.*

MAYOR: Well, there you have it ladies and gentlemen. I'm sure you can see the high level of care and concern felt by your Council. We will now open the discussion to the public.

*The MAYOR now chairs the public meeting.*

Yes. You, madam. The lady over there in the nurse's uniform.

STRIDE: Thank you. My name is Sandra Stride and I'm a Ward Sister in the District Hospital. We're really at the sharp end of all this, having to deal with all the victims of this recent violence. I want to put a question to Councillor Fitzpatrick, Chairman of the Public Health Committee. When was the last time he was in any of our Hospitals?

FITZPATRICK: Well, madam, it so happens that I attended a function at the District Hospital only last month.

STRIDE Last month! Have you seen the state of some of the people who have been coming in recently, because of all this violence?

FORTUNE Excuse me, madam, but how do you know that these people have been injured by the RATZ?

STRIDE (*shouting*) Of course I know, you stupid woman!

*Uproar in the crowd.*

FORTUNE Yes, but do you have any proof?

STRIDE (*shouting back*) I work there. I'm in there every Tuesday morning, so don't give me that!

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- MAYOR: Order! Order! Really this is most unnecessary. Now, can we have another speaker please? Yes, you sire.
- BIND: My name's Arthur Bind and what I want to know is what are the Council going to do about all this? It's all very well calling meetings and making speeches, and such like, but meanwhile it goes on. I've had five windows smashed in the last fortnight. I can't afford to go on replacing them, can I?
- GRAHAME Sir, that is precisely why we are holding this meeting. So we can listen to everyone's views and then come to some decision. There is a Council meeting tomorrow.