

GURU YOU THINK

Nicola TALLANT

Pictures: Padraig O'Reilly

TONY QUINN flew into Ireland last week on a massive PR drive to save his crumbling reputation.

But the Mucky Messiah couldn't resist flashing his wealth and paid a security team to give him the full superstar rapper treatment as he was whisked around to meet his devoted fans.

Two high-powered jeeps, a brand-new top-of-the-range BMW and a team of eight bodyguards were on hand to 'protect' Quinn, girlfriend Eve and secretary Mary Power from whatever threat he felt they were under during his homecoming.

To those who have remained loyal to him throughout the storm of the last year, Quinn remained at arm's distance, favouring the company of his new inner circle of rich oil magnates who he hopes will turn him into a billionaire baron.

Incredibly, during the week he told shareholders of an oil company pumping 5,000 barrels of crude a week that they would have to borrow from him to get their money back.

Tanned

The tanned guru sported a Miami Vice-style wardrobe of white pants and short-sleeved shirts while at home in Dublin, complete with a dodgy mullet of dyed blonde hair.

The 62-year-old has tried to fight off the ageing process for years but despite travelling everywhere with his 23-year-old blonde lover, few could mistake him for anything more than a sugar daddy.

Quinn has been staying at his Hick's Tower home in Malahide since his return to Dublin last Saturday, where a team of devotees cater to his every whim.

But despite his best efforts to look the part, it is becoming increasingly evident that Quinn is morphing more and more into a ridiculous Austin Powers-type character desperately trying to hang on to his past.

In advance of his arrival he delivered one million copies of his very own newspaper to homes across the country.

He even interviewed himself for his 'Blueprint For Successful Living', which features articles about his mind techniques, his gyms, his health supplements and now his oil company.

On one page an old photo of Quinn's body-building days is used, on another he describes his girlfriend as the 'poster girl' for his Educogymns and on the front he is pictured, dressed in white, in front of a marina of yachts.

The mind guru, who has amassed a huge fortune by conning followers out of millions of their personal savings to fund his lavish lifestyle, gave his annual address to the pastures at the RDS on Sunday. In the past he semi-

MINDER



'Messiah' Quinn's ring of steel as he tries to save crumbling reputation at stormy meeting

nar has attracted crowds of up to 1,000 but only a handful of devoted fans showed up to hear his address.

He arrived there with his heavy-handed security shortly after 2pm, despite the fact followers were told to be at the hall at 10am.

He emerged from the back of a blacked-out jeep followed closely by stunner Eve, who was dressed in a scarlet red cocktail dress.

Secretary Mary Power, who has

devoted her whole life to Quinn, was left to carry their bags.

Inside he took to the stage where he tried to sell his pricey seminars in the sun, including one he is planning in Spain next month.

Two days later the same ridiculous security arrangements were made at Hick's Tower when Quinn and his entourage made their way across town, again in high-powered vehicles.

This time he faced down investors in

an oil company at their AGM at the Burlington Hotel where he invoked the spirit of his dead mother to shut up his critics.

Accused

Quinn, who has been accused of muscling in on the billion-dollar company by using his mind bending techniques to influence other directors, took to the stage and said he was ready to get tough with people who

told tales to the Sunday World. In a rambling, self-contradictory speech, Quinn told 200 shareholders at the International Natural Energy meeting: "You will not get me to go to court.

"Some of you here will have depended on that fact. But I have no choice. If they think I'm joking, talk to my mum. My mum will tell them, 'Tony will give you enough rope to hang yourself'."

Quinn went on to rant about how

CRACKS APPEAR IN EMPIRE AS



DATE WITH SHAREHOLDERS: Quinn arrives

As he gazed out over a room half-filled with disgruntled shareholders who had been told they would not be getting a payout on their investment, Tony Quinn reverted to his classic Messiah pose.

When he helped boxer Steve Collins to beat world champ Chris Eubank in 1995, Eubank claimed he was "psyched out" by Quinn's creepy stare.

And the stare was back with a bang at the AGM of the Belize oil company which Quinn now controls. In a Messianic pose straight out of Michaelangelo's Last Supper fresco and countless Sacred Heart pictures, he stood, arms out from his side, to form a triangle.

It clearly brought out the mothering instinct in some of the older women and a lap-dog loyal

directly at them for almost the entire meeting.

The controversial Messiah told the 200 shareholders at the AGM of International Natural Energy that he was ready to get tough with people who told tales to the Sunday World.

Patti Usher, wife of the late Mike Usher who had first discovered the oil and got Quinn to invest, sat alongside Quinn at the meeting as did Dr Gilbert Canton, CEO of Belize Natural Energy Ltd, the company drilling the oilfield on behalf of INE in the tiny country.

Echoing the ethos of Tony Quinn's Educo cult, Dr Canton said his workers regard the company as a "family". A bizarre photo in the company's brochure showed Belizean workers taking part in a "team-building" game which involved interlocking