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*From the
Motherland*

By Sean Farrell



There is no Planet B: The Population Factor

With great fanfare the UN has announced the next annual Climate Action Summit is to take place in New York on 23 September next. It will be the latest chapter in the lengthening saga of UN involvement in combatting climate change and global warming. The Summit is to add impetus towards implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement a "year before countries will have to enhance their national pledges under" Paris. The advance publicity anticipates that over 100 Heads of State and Government will attend. Many will have been in New York in any event to attend the opening sessions of the 74th UN General Assembly, so at least the additional Carbon Footprint of the politicians and officials jetting in to attend the Summit will not be great.

By 23 September there WILL be one indisputable addition to the world's collective Carbon Footprint since Paris 2015 - that attributable to the 300 million plus increase in the Earth's population, which some estimates suggest could reach 7.7 billion by the year's end (it could be even higher). This continued growth, currently a little (!) over 80 million per year - even though the rate of increase is slowing (from 1.29% in 2000 to 1.07% in 2009) - is a major factor inhibiting efforts to combat climate change and control carbon emissions worldwide. In many ways it could be described as the silent partner of climate change.

The reality of this climate change is with us. In the last century the world's temperature has risen by 0.74C degrees. Twenty of the warmest years on record have occurred since 1996. By 2009 carbon dioxide levels had risen by 38% and methane levels by 148% since 1750 - the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution; the rate of increase of both has risen sharply since 1950, the period of the most intense human activity and development ever. In the course of the Twentieth Century, global emissions of CO2 grew twelvefold. And, since 1950, the world population has trebled and shows every indication of continuing to grow.

The figures, from UN or US government studies, are sobering. Since 2000 the world's population has increased by almost one and a half billion, or 25%. Among the ten most populous countries some percentages have

been higher. Bangladesh has increased by 30.5% to 168 million, Mexico by 32.6% to 132 million, Pakistan by 34.2% to 204 million, Nigeria by 62.1% to 200 million and India

by 36% to 1.368 billion. Of the other five, only Russia shows a small decrease, of 2.2% to 144 million. Brazil has increased by 21.8% to 212 million and Indonesia by 25.9% to 270 million. Even the USA has increased by 16.6% to an estimated 330 million, while China, still the most populous country, has seen an increase of 11.2% to 1.420 billion. Overall these ten countries account for around 58% of the world population, having increased by an average of 23.7%, or 850 million, since 2000.

By 2050, even allowing for demographics trending downwards, these ten are forecast to rise by a further half a billion, to just under five billion. While the Chinese population will have fallen by 100 million, the Indian population will have surged by perhaps 300 million more to a staggering 1.65 billion, with corresponding sharp rises in the numbers in Pakistan and Bangladesh; Nigeria, if present trends continue, will have doubled to an almost unbelievable 400 million. The global forecast for 2050 is for a population 9.374 billion, or a further 1.5 billion plus over today's figure. The gap between the top ten and the rest of the world, currently 1.15 billion, will have almost halved to 620 million, despite very little or no growth in many first world countries, reflecting higher birth-rates elsewhere. Fifty years further on the population could be nudging ten billion, the upper limit most studies suggest that the Earth can support and feed.

The impact of this population explosion - no other phrase adequately covers it - on the planet's resources, and on the environment, including global warming, is or should be, self-evident. With the global priority now to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, and, at an individual level, the priority the pressing need to monitor and where possible reduce everyone's carbon footprint, the implication of these population increases should be of central attention and concern. Yet it appears the population factor has rarely featured in the debates and in the plans for action announced and endorsed since the world woke up to the threat of rising temperatures.

Indeed at the 2015 Paris Agreement conference, population was the elephant in the room, ignored or glanced at only in passing. It's not hard to see why. What

has bedevilled attempts to tackle global warming effectively since 1992 has been the political failure to agree on measures and on effective enforcement mechanisms, evident again in the Paris outcome. The reasons for inaction have included political differences, national ambitions and rivalries, friction and the blame game between the have and have-not countries, internal political considerations in a number of states, and increasing pressures from populist elements. Getting even a bland agreement on “voluntary” measures has involved ducking the major questions on population.

One outcome has been a sad series of milestone moments since the world became climate aware. The total human population was 1.6 billion in 1900, 2.5 billion in 1951, and is now 7.7 billion. In 1962, when Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring” sensitised US public opinion to the harm being done to the planet, it was 3.15 billion. In 1968, when the seminal Stanford Report on “Gaseous Atmospheric Polluters” appeared, it was 3.55. It was 5.05 by 1987 when the landmark Montreal Protocol to tackle Ozone levels was adopted, and in 1992, when the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted, it was 5.5 billion. In 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol was adopted,

putting the onus (and historical blame) on developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it was 5.9. By 2003, when Greta Thunberg was born, it was 6.38 and it was just under 7 billion (6.95) in 2009/2010, when the ineffectual Copenhagen and Cancun meetings were held.

The impact of a rising population goes far beyond the numbers to be fed. It is an all embracing dynamic process with an ever widening ripple effect. The numbers of consumers and the scale and nature of their consumption become relevant in terms of national and global carbon footprints. The developing Asian and other economies are following first world models, consuming and boosting GHG emissions. Just two examples. Since 1981 India, with a growing middle class, has added a massive 480 million people - half of them by now well into adulthood - almost equal to the population of the EU. In the same period China has added just over 400 million. However small the individual carbon footprints of these additions, collectively they more than negate any savings or reductions EU member states might make, even fully reaching their 2020 and 2030 targets for cuts in GHG emissions. We can lead by example. But will it be enough? And who will take heed? No Planet B indeed!

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AE ENTERTAINMENT

This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products, and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

Healy Scanlon Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Spring brings New Construction Projects

Despite the recent unexpected snowfall, there has been an abundant growth in new construction. We just recently saw the approval of two new large-scale construction developments with the advancements of the Lincoln Yards and the new 78 neighborhoods, both of which will bring billions of dollars in construction contracts and years of work for the City of Chicago. On April 10, Mayor Rahm Emanuel also announced the City Council approval of the building code to modernize safer, more affordable, sustainable, and innovative construction. Additionally, there are currently over 80 Illinois Department of Transportation road construction projects going on in Cook County alone at the moment.

With all this, there is an abundance of increased activity in planning future construction projects and construction currently underway, not only on our roadways, but with the sight of our growing skyline, with over 60 tower cranes in operation. For some, construction projects are a sign that the recent financial problems

may be improving, and for others, it may be an opportunity to get back to work. Unfortunately, with increased construction projects there is always an increased risk of accidents and injuries.

Improvements with the new Building Code

Mayor Emanuel recently announced the City Council's approval of a new building code that will take affect beginning on June 1 and completely redefine the current code by August of next year. These are the first revisions of its kind to take hold in 70 years, and will cement Chicago as the first major city in the nation to implement the 2018 International Building Code.

In addition to promoting energy efficiency and sustainability among new construction projects, this new comprehensive code promotes critical safety improvements. The new code will bring new building materials up to a more modern safety standard, while also implementing safety concerns for the buildings when they are eventually occupied.

Specifically, the new code requires sprinkler systems in the construction of new hotels, most



apartment buildings in excess of four units, buildings with 300 or more occupants, and new commercial buildings that stand over 70 feet. This is imperative for construction projects by implementing the enforcement of additional fire safety measures. We have seen the destruction fire can potentially cause to uninhabited buildings during the construction phase, however the new code attempts to reduce these consequences once the buildings are occupied. The new code further attempts to assist in safer development by restricting the use of combustible materials in the construction phase to alleviate problems during this time.

Construction injuries on the highway

As previously mentioned, a lot of the construction that has begun in the Chicagoland area in addition to new buildings is highway construction. Our already congested highways have been further strained by decreased lanes in many areas and increased traffic due to construction workers. When lane configurations are changed from the usual pattern, a distracted driver may leave his lane of travel, possibly resulting in an accident.

The increased construction traffic can be dangerous for both drivers near construction sites and for construction workers on the highway. Noteworthy, the Illinois vehicle code requires drivers to yield the right of way to any construction workers engaged in work on the highway. The speed limit is typically reduced in construction areas and stiff fines can be imposed for speeding in a construction area, especially when injury occurs.

Additionally, our legislature has already imposed restrictions on the use of cell phones, including text messaging, in construction areas.

The construction site itself can also be the cause of motor

vehicle accidents. Vehicles entering or leaving the highway from a construction site can be the cause of serious accidents. These vehicles do not use typical entry or exit lanes, and thus can create a problem for other drivers. In one case prosecuted by our office, a semi-truck abruptly stopped in traffic on the tollway in response to a signal by a flagger on a construction site to allow a truck to pull into one of the sites entrances. As a result, a vehicle behind the semi-truck also braked suddenly and was rear-ended causing significant injury.

If a construction company is negligent in controlling traffic around its work site and an accident results, the responsibility may flow to the construction company. The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Tollway Authority and other governmental entities have issued regulations and guidelines for construction companies operating near highway traffic. When an accident occurs near a construction site, these guidelines may determine whether the construction company is responsible.

Workers' compensation claims for construction workers

Construction workers also have a number of remedies if they are injured while working. Primarily, a construction worker who is injured while working has the right to file a claim pursuant to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. Under the Act, a worker is entitled to receive 2/3 of his average weekly wage, tax free, while he is unable to work. This is referred to as temporary total disability benefits, or "TTD."

A worker will also receive all reasonable and necessary medical care related to his injury, as long as he stays within the chain of physician referral. This medical care must be paid for out of the employer's workers' compensation insurance, and should not be processed through the employee's



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regular health insurance. Notably, the employee is not responsible for paying any co-pay to the doctors, hospitals or therapists who treat him.

Depending on the severity of an employee's injury, they will have other rights under the Act as well. If the employee is unable to return to his former occupation because of an injury, the employer may be required to hire a professional job counselor to help the employee find suitable work. If the only available work is at a lower rate of pay than the worker was earning before the accident, the employer may be responsible for paying 2/3 of the difference between the employee's current pay and his pre-accident pay. This is known as a wage differential. In the most extreme cases, where an employee is unable to return to any work in any capacity, he may be entitled to TTD benefits for the rest of his life.

Similarly, in another case, recently filed by our office, an individual was injured while on the job. As a result of his injury he was unable to work in the same occupation he held at the time of his injury. He was not assisted in obtaining new employment, as required by law. As a result of life-long employment in a labor-intensive job, he faced difficulty obtaining other sustainable employment. After a trial on the issue, he was eventually awarded assistance in finding new employment with the help of a vocational counselor. Additionally, he was awarded his 2/3 pay, while out searching for a new position, known as maintenance benefits.

Some benefits are limited by the Act. For instance, in most cases the employer will not be responsible for paying any "fringe benefits" for the employee, such as health insurance, union dues or pension benefits. Also, if the employer can accommodate the employee's physical restrictions, the employee must accept modified work from the employer.

For example, after an injury many employees are returned to work but the doctor tells the employer that the employee can only lift up to a certain weight

restriction, such as ten pounds. For construction workers, this will likely mean they will be unable to return to their old job. However, the company may still take the employee back to work in a modified capacity, and give him a job as a watchman or a flagger. In most situations, the company can even change the shift or hours that an employee works. What the company cannot do is change the rate of pay the employee receives. It must either pay the employee their old wage, or pay a differential as described above.

Injured workers' may also have other claims

In addition to workers' compensation claims, an injured construction worker may have other claims. For instance, if a construction worker is struck by a car while working, he will have a workers' compensation claim against his employer as well as a potential lawsuit against the driver who struck him.

A common situation arises on a jobsite with multiple contractors. When an employee of one contractor is injured because of the negligence of another contractor, the employee may be able to file a lawsuit against the other contractor. Often times this occurs when one contractor negligently leaves debris or material out on a jobsite, causing an employee of another contractor to fall and sustain injury. Likewise, this situation presents itself when one contractor fails to secure building materials properly. If a worker is subsequently injured because of falling materials, a lawsuit may be a possibility.

Furthermore, the general contractor on a jobsite may be responsible for overall safety and

cleanliness at a construction site, and may also be liable if a subcontractor negligently creates a dangerous condition.

However, a lawsuit generally will not be available when one employee is injured because of the negligence of another employee from the same company. Under that circumstance, an employee's "exclusive remedy" is a workers' compensation claim.

Conclusion

Although none of us enjoy sitting in construction traffic, construction is a way of life and a vital necessity to our economic and infrastructures development. Unfortunately, with construction can come dangerous situations. As can be seen from just this brief description, who is at fault for these accidents, and what an injured person is entitled to as a result of these accidents, is dependent on the factual situation of each case. If you are injured as a result of a construction accident you should contact an attorney as soon as possible to discuss what benefits may be available to you.

*By: Martin Healy, Jr.
pictured above*



Neil Schelhammer



Dennis M. Lynch

Family Friendly Prices and Activities At Gaelic Park's Irish Fest May 24-26

Unlimited carnival rides, great entertainment and all kinds of fun exhibits for one low admission price of \$15.00 for adults and \$12.00 for kids (during the first hour of each day) has got to be one of the best deals in the southland all summer and it can be found at Gaelic Park's Irish Fest, 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL. Throw in a petting zoo and a stage dedicated to the wee folk and you have a great holiday adventure for one low price. The leprechaun stage has all kinds of magic acts and face painters.

Irish Fest is not just for the

the 2nd floor includes great one act Irish plays.

The low admission price includes all the entertainment, unlimited carnival rides, parking, Irish step dancing competition, and various Irish exhibitions. The festival hours are Friday, May 24th from 4pm to 11pm, Saturday, May 25th, from 2pm to 11pm, and Sunday, May 26th, from 1pm to 11pm (Mass at 11.30am). Daily admission is \$18.00 for adults, and \$15.00 for seniors and kids aged 4-12 years. Each day has a reduced admission of \$15.00 for adults



youngsters, however. This indoor/outdoor festival will feature over forty acts including Nathan Carter, Jig Jam, The Fitzgeralds, Backwest Music, Maggie Speaks, Steel City Rovers, Liam Durkin, Colm Keegan, The Dancing Noodles, The Nevery Brothers, Larkin and Moran, Heartsfield, The Fenians, Bernie Glim & Friends, Joe Cullen, Paddy Homan, Jerry & Kara Eadie and many more. The Performing Arts stage located in the main building in the Celtic Room on

and \$12.00 for kids and seniors during the first hour. Online discounts include a three-day pass for only \$27.00 when purchased by May 19th. A Daily pass is \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 adults 65+ and kids 4-12 through May 19th. On Monday May 27th, gates to the carnival open at 1:00pm and admission is \$10.00. For further information and to purchase the on-line price discounts visit the web site at www.chicagogaelparkirishfest.org or telephone (708) 687-9323

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



An Informal Chat with Tony Slevin A Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps

I'm something of a slow learner, always have been. Come to think of it, maybe the only time I learned something really fast was when I never got married again after making such a screw-



Tony Slevin

up of it the first time. It's funny because it's true. For several years back in the nineties I had a terrific job, one that took me all over the world. And in every

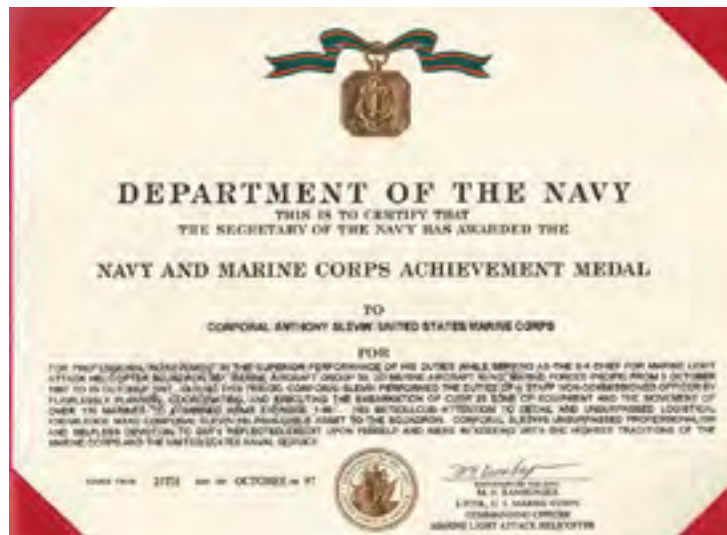
country, no matter how far off, I was running into Irish men and women. I didn't take much heed of it at first; it was just something at the back of my consciousness, this awareness that the Irish got around to an extent that was 'way out of proportion to their country's size. Then one evening I was checking into a hotel on one of the Cape Verde islands and I heard someone calling: 'Hey, Charley! How are you?' It turned out to be someone I had known back in Limerick in 1980. He had been a young fella who collected glasses in a long-gone bar called The Davin Arms. Now here he was, working as an accountant on a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean - and we run into each other. The following month I met up with a couple of brothers who hailed from County Roscommon and who had just opened a business in Panama. Then there was the beautiful Irish woman who had been one of the famous Bluebell dance troupe in Paris and who was now selling high-end property in Mexico. With the penny finally dropped I approached

Cliff Carlson, publisher of this magazine, with a suggestion that I do an extra column each month on the people I was running into. And we did just that until the major financial balls-a-rama of 2006/7 put an end to both a rather pleasant gig and a very enjoyable time in my life. I was thinking about the traveling Irish recently when I idly looked over at Tony Slevin, who occasionally drops into the Porterhouse bar in the village of Oranmore in County Galway for a beer. He and his family live a few miles up the coast in a quiet part called Maree. I've known him to exchange pleasantries with for years, but like me he's something of a loner who is just as happy by

put on that much weight since my training days" - and has a curious habit of carrying himself slightly hunched, shoulders a little forward. He also swears a fair bit and when we initially sit down for a chat he wants to move somewhere a little more private. "There are kids eating with their families over there. They shouldn't have to listen to me cursing." We find a quieter spot; but oddly enough, as he begins to reminisce, the cursing stops. I wonder if he's noticed that? The first thing that Tony corrects me on is my use of the term 'ex-Marine'. "You are NEVER an ex-Marine. You are a former Marine. I'm one and those I keep in touch with are former

again the area also gave us Bono, and for that alone perhaps Finglas owes a huge apology to the world's aching ears. Did Tony find it a tough area? "Well, I lived there all the time I was growing up, so I had nothing to compare it to. It was just 'home' and seemed no better and no worse than anywhere else. It was only after I moved away that I heard what some people thought about it; but since they had never ventured into the place I took no heed of anything they said. "The Marines had always been somewhere in the back of my mind, even then. I was aware of them and liked the idea of them but without any seriousness. Then I got engaged when I was 21 and began looking towards the States, now a real possibility thanks to the Morrison Visa. "Three of us applied and were accepted: apart from myself there was my fiancé and my brother Eric, who is four years younger than me. I went first, stayed with an aunt in Boston and was straight into a bar job at Stuart's Restaurant where I worked for a year. "It was all a bit different for me as when I was in Dublin I had gone from school to working at a jewelery outlet. You know, as a kind of runner, delivering to different shops. After five years I was assistant manager and in fact I still like tinkering around with fixing watches and so on to this day. "I adapted to America with no problem and really liked Americans. Still do. My kids are American citizens. Anyway, my fiancé followed me over a few months later, although our relationship didn't work out; and Eric arrived after six months. "It was Eric who showed up one day with flyers for the military and asked me what I thought. Funny, the things you remember: it was a Wednesday and I thought that we'd have a look around. Each branch of the military was in the same building. Eric ended up joining the army. For me it was the Marines.

"Next go-around in June, Tony takes me through his grueling basic training, posting to Korea, work on helicopters and the current topic of gun control in America. chasbrady7@eircom.net



himself, seated at the counter with a newspaper. I found myself wondering how an Irish guy came to serve in the United States Marine Corps in the 'nineties. Yes, I had been aware of that for years without ever thinking to ask him. Like I say, I've usually got my head so far up in the clouds that practical stuff like that wouldn't even occur. Slow learner indeed. So this time out I asked him if I could get his story down on record as just one example of the unusual places and situations that Irish people find themselves whenever they're let loose out of the country. He wasn't terribly keen at first, but after I said that it would all be pretty informal he was okay with it. If you're expecting someone who served in the Marines to look like a John Wayne character then I can only say that Tony is the antithesis. He still weighs in at around 135 lbs - "I haven't really

Marines. And we never referred to our rifles as 'guns' like you just did. It's your weapon or your rifle. "I was born in 1971 and I grew up in Finglas, Dublin. We had moved there when I was a year old from a tenement house in Russell Street. I don't know if the street is still there but the tenements will of course be long gone. We were one of the youngest families on that Finglas street." Now, back when I worked in Dublin Finglas had the reputation of being a pretty rough neighbourhood; but, whether that's deserved or not, some of the finest people I've ever met have come from there. And some famous faces also hailed from Finglas: the Star Trek voyaging Colm Meaney would be one (he was also in that brilliant movie 'The Snapper') and Brendan O'Carroll, the likeable star and creator of that inexplicably popular show 'Mrs. Brown's Boys' is another. Then

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Speaker Pelosi in Ireland

Say what you like about British politicians who still advocate Brexit, but they know their worth. Faced with the prospect of the UK participating in European Parliament elections this May if it does not leave the EU by then (as it certainly will not), Nigel Farage, leader of the Brexit Party, made the following threat: that he would get elected to it. Prime Minister of the UK Theresa May couched her threat differently, but it amounted to something similar. She offered to resign as prime minister if the Withdrawal Agreement she negotiated with the EU is passed through Westminster (it got hammered yet a third time on March 29th). What both Farage and May in effect were saying was: push ahead with Brexit because if you do not you will be stuck with us. British politics really is a sorry sight just now.

Writers have been making hay out of the crisis. On March 29th the *Irish Times* enlisted about a dozen writers on Irish matters to air their views on Brexit. The writers set about describing Britain's maestros who have 'led' the charge to leave the EU. The choice of image came from poet Nick Laird who likened the consequence of Brexiters' efforts to Britain 'standing at the very edge of the pool, our hands tied behind our backs, pretending we're Olympic swimmers'.

In addition to reducing Westminster, the 'mother of parliaments', to a laughing stock, Brexit has also thoroughly fatigued the body politic; so much so that now, as the entire enterprise may be fading away like a storm that has uprooted nearly everything in sight, the dominant mood is not relief but a numbed awe at the wreckage. The once efficient legislative body, Westminster Parliament, has become a zombie, incapable of animation either by those who

advocate Brexit or by those who do not. The parliament, where serious debate used to prevail, has completely disintegrated and its members have been warned to take extra security precautions in arriving and departing.

A serious politician like Speaker Nancy Pelosi blew like a cyclone through the fripperies of Brexiters on her recent trip to London and Dublin. Speaker Pelosi was accompanied by Congressman Richie Neal, Chair of the Friends of Ireland caucus, who led the congressional delegation, which had as its central mission the articulation of US Congress' position on Brexit. The force of the Friends of Ireland caucus has been bolstered since earlier this year when Neal became the chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. That status has enabled Neal to reinforce the agenda of the Friends of Ireland to maintain an open border in Ireland and to protect the Good Friday Agreement.

Strong statements of support during St. Patrick's Day in Washington this year were followed by a visit by Senator Chris Murphy to Dublin during which he voiced US concern about Brexit and the need to protect the open border in Ireland. Speaking in Dublin on March 22nd, Senator Murphy, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, gave an unequivocal guarantee of US support to an open border. He said that there was 'no chance' that the UK would sign a trade deal with the US and that 'we can't compromise the sanctity of the Good Friday Agreement and folks in [the UK] parliament need to know that', adding that 'it only takes a minority of senators to stop a trade agreement.'

This set the tone for the Speaker's visit in mid-April. In interview at the London School of Economics on Monday April 15th,

Speaker Pelosi endorsed Senator Murphy's stance and said: 'If there would be any weakening of the Good Friday accords, there would be no chance whatsoever - a non-starter - for a US-UK trade agreement. The Good Friday accords ended 700-years of conflict. It's not just about the geography though, this is not a treaty only: it's an ideal, it's a value, it's something that is a model to the world... and we don't want that model to be something that can be bargained away in some other agreement.' The Speaker reiterated these commitments the following day in Dublin when she met members of the Irish cabinet.

Coming from the Speaker of the House, this was a shot across the bow of fantasists who believe that the UK can negotiate a better trade deal with the US outside the EU, and can do so while disregarding how important the Good Friday Agreement is to senior members of the US congress. Neal, in particular, is apt to remind people that the US is a co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement.

Pelosi's intervention echoes directly back to the visits to Ireland of Speaker Tip O'Neill in 1979 and 1985. Then, as now, the Speaker's comments on the British government's responsibility for peace and stability in Ireland have been discomfiting for the British.

Theresa May made the questionable decision of not meeting the delegation of nine congressmen when they visited London. Instead she took time out from her walking holiday in neighbouring Wales (some of her antagonists hoped that she would walk the length of the Great Wall of China instead) to speak to them by telephone. Presumably this is May's way of laying the groundwork for a future trade deal with the US? Her reception for the delegation stands in contrast to the royal welcome that President Trump received in London last July. Yet London's denialism is futile. While the British government is betting on support from the White House for a trade deal, it cannot avoid, sooner or later, coming to a reckoning with the US Congress.

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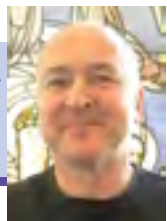
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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



A dyslexic GodDyslexia is a complicated thing to define. People with dyslexia find it difficult to decipher language that makes sense to the rest of us. Faced with a sentence, words may appear as nonsense and disordered even though the same sentence makes perfect sense. Conversely, those with dyslexia might write nonsense that makes sense to them but appears nonsensical to others. I'm reminded of the old joke about the dyslexic devil worshiper who offers his soul to Santa. I think dyslexia is a great metaphor for understanding faith.

For example, there are times when we wish someone reading our texts was dyslexic, especially when the auto-correct decides to play havoc with our good thoughts. I think God must be dyslexic. How can the creator see anything good in humans, especially when we are willfully committed to destroy the planet we inhabit, and blind ourselves to poverty and injustice? Some of more sophisticated among us choose to believe in a God tailored to suit their prejudices and designed to meet their every need. I am not one of those. Theology, as a subject, has always fascinated me. For many people, religion is anathema while for others it forms the basis of community. Billions of people in this world claim to believe in something greater than themselves; a creative force responsible for all that there is, seen and unseen. While there are just as many people who believe that such beliefs are outdated, primitive, and unscientific. The unbeliever points to the wars fought, and continue to be fought, in the name of God. Conversely, believers have been persecuted by non-believers for believing in a God. It is easy to point the finger at the concept of faith and accuse those who find a need to believe in God as one of the primary causes for our lack of progress. With such

a lopsided view of faith, it's no wonder there is no wonder or mystery in choosing to believe. When it comes to dismissing the possibility of a God, the usual topics are doled out; suffering, poverty, war, religious intolerance, inequities, clerical abuse etc. The list goes on and on ad infinitum. With such a large arsenal of damning evidence to negate the existence of God, why continue to believe? It's a question that haunts me daily as I struggle to rationalize my own faith against a host of perfectly sensible arguments. There are days when it would be much easier to simply give in, give up, and accept that there is no God, but, I can't. For, to do so, would rob me of so many wonderful things; such as beauty, kindness, love, mercy etc. Do I need to have a God to enjoy these same things? No, but a belief in God magnifies each of these qualities in a way that not only satisfies my mind but also my soul. There is no doubt that belief in God has inspired some incredible works of art, amazing architecture, transformed hearts and brought comfort to countless numbers of people. When religion is purged of intolerance, power mongering, and stripped back to the essential core, it's motivated by love. True religion is about actions, not words, that inspire us to hope. You don't need to surrender your brain in order to believe in God. In my opinion, there is no absolute mantra of words or a particular creed to adhere to. When it comes to the different religions in this world, it's best to be dyslexic. Who cares if you get the names mixed up, and read the words incorrectly. True religion advocates that the believer be just, merciful and humble. God, is probably as dyslexic as we are when it comes to the details. He/she/it has left us a huge mystery to unfold, and we can either spend our time discriminating against those who are not like us and

separating ourselves from them, or we can live joyfully with our dyslexia and read everything as an advocacy towards inclusivity. Dyslexics often have to guess at the meaning of a sentence. They need to re-arrange the words in order to achieve clarity. Faith requires us to be dyslexic. When a verse appeals to self-righteousness or sectarianism, it should not make sense. Jumble those words around in your mind until they reflect the true nature of God. Everything makes sense when we decipher language as it is intended



and reinterpret any interpretation that excludes or demeans others. Reinterpret those words that emphasize 'election' or 'chosen' and see them instead as the whole of humanity and not the select few. God must be dyslexic. How can he not see the obvious signs of a self-destructive race of beings who are intent on destroying all that is good? Is he blind to our rampant exploitation? What does he make of our tribalism and the cruelty towards others? God has to be dyslexic. God has to be dyslexic in order to read between the madness and and see beyond the nonsense we create in order to see us as we could be rather than what we are. It takes a dyslexic God to see order in the nonsense we communicate. It's truly a wonder that God continues to believe in us.



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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



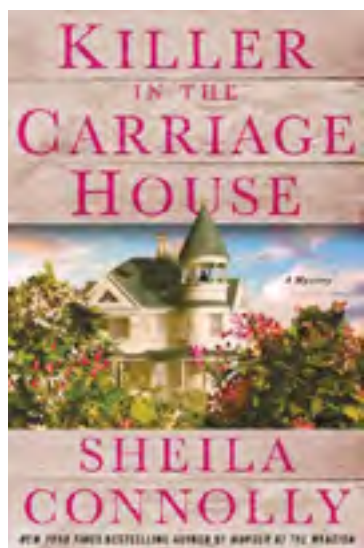
Killer in the Carriage House

By Sheila Connolly
Minotaur Books

Kate Hamilton is the main character in this mystery novel. She grew up in Asheboro, a small town in western Maryland. The town is about an hour and half drive from Baltimore. She moved out of the town after high school and became a hotel executive in Baltimore. A friend from high school asks for her help for the town.

Kate addresses a meeting of the town's citizens to tell them about her plans to keep the Victorian aspects of the town. "Most of the buildings date back to 1900, or even before and are still there under a century of siding." She suggests, too, use of the Victorian Henry Barton mansion.

Henry Barton fought in the Civil War. And after the war, came to Ashboro and bought a modest home. He married, but had no children. He built the shovel fac-



tory in town and became wealthy. He in 1911. But the question for Kate, and her research friends

is—Was he involved in anything else that made him so wealthy?

The late 1800's were the beginning of the Industrial Age. And in the archives of the town newspaper, they find a picture of Henry Barton with Thomas Edison!

Sheila Connolly is popular with the readers of this column. They are lucky because she is a prolific author of 34 mystery novels!

I review books in her "County Cork Mysteries" and "Victorian Village Mysteries" series. Each novel is a stand-alone mystery: You don't have to have read the previous one. However, the main character's reaper. The reader knows them already and can "see" them as comfortable friends.

Sheila Connolly is the grandchild of Irish immigrants and also a descendent of people who came on the Mayflower. She was born in 1950 in upstate New York. She lives now in Massachusetts with her husband, in a large Victorian house. Connolly earned a Ph.D. in Fine Arts at Harvard University. She had many other experiences before turning to writing mystery novels. She was a fundraiser for a non-profit, advisor for political campaigns, and financial advisor to towns and cities. She says that these jobs were great background experiences for her mystery novels. Her novels are so popular and intriguing that they have earned the prestigious Agatha Award for her.

The press release says: "The Barton Mansion...has proven to be a versatile goldmine of documents about the town's nineteenth century history, and Kate is convinced the papers hide something of value. When a dead body turns up in the town library...Kate begins to worry that the papers spell danger."

A friend has doubts the death was an accident. "For one thing, the way the glass is scattered looks kind of artificial—it's awfully tidy and evenly spread. Two, his head looks kind of lopsided and it seems to have bled a lot. I'll concede that maybe the cause of death, but I cannot reconstruct any way the bookcase could have fallen over on top of him and hit

his head in that particular spot. Which leads me to think that someone hit him with something, laid him out on the floor, and tipped the bookcase over on him."

It seems that whatever is in the

Irish American Humorist Farragher debuts comedy series 'McLean Ave'

After years of keeping readers in stitches with his *This Is Your Brain on Shamrocks* series of essay collections, humorist and former Irish Voice music columnist Mike Farragher has launched a TV comedy series, based on his essays and over two decades covering the Irish American rock and roll scene.

The show, "McLean Avenue," is set in Yonkers. Sean McCabe is forced to live with Peg, his Irish

papers "someone doesn't want these forgotten secrets coming to light, and they'll do whatever it takes to keep Kate quiet."

You'll enjoy reading *Killer in the Carriage House*.

often recruited by women to write online dating profiles and that also inspires the storyline of "McLean Avenue." "I've spend countless hours in bars with the lonely friends of my wife constructing online dating profiles on cocktail napkins over the years," Farragher muses. "I've never seen an Irish mammy in a situation like this and to place her into the same singles bars as her son seemed like the

perfect awkward spot to create comedy!"

The series stars Michael Foster as Sean McCabe, Dubliners Joe Rooney ("Father Ted") as Father Frank and comedian Francis Collins as Gerry the bartender. Nenagh native Ger Glennon plays Peg "Ma" McCabe, a role she has flourished in.

"There are roles and

then there are dream roles," says Glennon. "For me, Peg McCabe is a dream role. She is fun to play because she has many layers and it is so rewarding to develop her as an actress. I love this woman, know her inside and out, and she is just a blast to be around—utterly hilarious. I think Peg is to the wig what Elvis Presley is to the jump suit: it brings out the performer in her and she gives Elvis' hips a run for their money as the series goes on!"

"From the time I first read for the role of Gerry the bartender until I saw the finished product, I was drawn into the Irish humor effortlessly," Cronin says. "The banter, the constant rebellion against and love for the church. It's disruptive, pulls no punches with its irreverence and had me laughing as we were making it. I have no doubt it will find a great audience at home and abroad."

For information email irishwriter@optonline.net



Ger Glennon and Joe Rooney.

immigrant mother, after he loses a coveted gig as one of the famous Paddy Tenors. He has now been reduced to singing at nursing homes, half-full churches, and the occasional commercial for humiliating diseases like hemorrhoids and ED. He hangs with a colorful crowd of barflies/childhood friends at Brady's Bar; their sharp wit and wisdom are both an irritant and a sense of comfort to Sean.

His mother, Peg McCabe, is a recent widow channeling her grief into church volunteering. She leans on her parish priest, Father Frank, a distant cousin. Her son, priest, and best friend, Madge, all encourage her to move on and find a date online, so she throws her bait into the water. The fish take the bait in droves and Peg soon finds herself in a sexual reawakening as the object of younger men's attention in the same singles bar as her son.

When people find out he's a funny writer, Farragher says he is

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The Much-Maligned Mary Pike

by Kieran Groeger - *the Rebel County and '98* - Mary Pike, a wealthy, young Quaker heiress, was kidnapped in July 1797 by a widowed knight, Sir Henry Brown Hayes, intent on forcing her into marriage and getting his hands on her fortune. She was rescued from his house, Vernon Mount, in Cork city.

Hayes fled the country but, then decided that public opinion was in his favour and he challenged her to face him in court. He was shocked when Mary Pike won the case and he was soon sentenced to transportation for life in Australia, where the governor was a certain Captain Bligh, lately of the Bounty. Sadly, the history books tell us that the subsequent ordeal was too much for Mary Pike - she suffered a nervous breakdown and died in a mental hospital.

The author, Dr. Kieran Groeger, delights in stripping away the layers of documentation, analysing legends, old newspaper accounts, piecing together the clues to reveal a truly astonishing story. The 1798 Rebellion of the Unit-

ed Irishmen features as backdrop to these events. To people who might ask, 'did nothing happen in Cork during this period?', the author's unequivocal response would be that a lot happened. The city is brought to life in this eagerly anticipated volume.

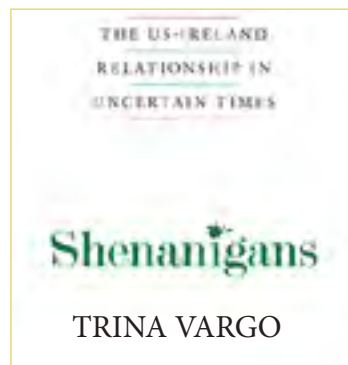
Published by The Manuscript Publisher, available online and in all good bookshops. RRP €14.99.

The book launches Friday, 10 May at 12.30pm in the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, where originals of illustrations in the book are on display. The event is hosted by Friends of Crawford Art Gallery and all are welcome to attend.



Shenanigans: U.S.-Ireland Relationship in Uncertain Times

Author Trina Vargo provides a rare insight into the US-Ireland relationship from a woman who has been at the center of it for more than two decades. As Senator Ted Kennedy's foreign policy adviser and founder of the US-Ireland Alliance, as well as the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program and the Oscar Wilde Awards, Trina Vargo is uniquely positioned to know



what the relationship needs to evolve and to survive. Vargo became part of the Clintons' "enemies list" as a result of her role in Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008. She has been attacked by a

vocal but determined few as a result of an accurate and prescient opinion piece on immigration, and she even had to battle the Irish Film Board in her efforts that resulted in J.J. Abrams filming Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Ireland. Trina Vargo speaks truth to power. Her unwavering commitment, energy, and passion, combined with clear, evidentiary, and dispassionate analysis, cause her to question if there is a future for a historic relationship.

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Keeping It Simple

I came across an article recently which said that the European male, especially those in middle, senior management and self employed positions, are now working far longer hours that they used to previously.

They are spending less time with their families and more time with their work colleagues. I know that there are times when businesses are surging and the long hours have to be put in, but there is usually an antidote where hours can be relaxed back again.

One of the disturbing aspects of the latest findings is that, given a choice, more people want to spend longer time at the office. We need to watch this as we are mortal beings with a designated life span and the film of our lives can never be re-run for a second time.

It brings to mind a little story conveyed to me some years ago by my Mother's cousin, Billy Coughlan of Glendine, in rural West Waterford.

In New York during the 1950's he was invited to spend some time with friends



who were servants in a large and prosperous house. At 11am on the first morning, he was sitting in the indoor heated swimming pool with his friend, the Butler, and his wife the Housekeeper, enjoying some martinis.

He was a bit puzzled and inquired as to where the owners of the house were. 'Oh, replied the Butler, 'They haven't got time to be here, they're up in Wall Street trying to make more money'. The tragedy was that the servants were living off this life of luxury and the people that should have been enjoying it were not. Sometimes we have to stand back a mile and ask ourselves- 'When is enough, enough?'

Billy passed away in early 2006 and I drove down from Cork to attend his funeral in Kilwatemoy Church on a very cold January morning. During the Mass I reflected on how we had interfaced over the years and



how he had also given me something for my own life. He was one of the generations who were forced to leave Ireland in search of work, and he spent the

majority of his working life in England, New Zealand and Australia. Having never married, he returned home after 25 years to the people he had grown up with in Glendine.

His passions were hunting, fishing and music and his cottage was like a little museum to house these pursuits. I remember nights when my brother, Tom-Joe and I, would go fly-fishing with him and return afterwards to Billy's cottage where the freshly caught trout would be carefully cooked and served with copious amounts of strong tea and soda bread at about 3am

in the morning. This nocturnal feasting was also interspersed with discussions on life and all of its complexities.

These were important nights and they are forever ingrained in the databases of my brain. Sometimes, when we are doing and enjoying the little things we do not realise how important they were until we start to look back afterwards with the great power of hindsight. Life is very short and it is vitally important that we hammer the best out of it at every opportunity rather than standing back and marking time. Time wastes our bodies and our intellect, but we also waste time, so that makes us about even.

'What is money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night - and in between does what he wants to do' - Bob Dylan.

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Hearty congratulations to IAN columnist **Sabina Clarke** who scooped an interview with journalist Patrick Radden Keefe. In the March issue she penned an intensely interesting

article about the author and his bestseller non-fiction, "Say Nothing." It's a harrowing documentation, an unsparing historical glimpse into the murderous climate that ripped asunder the North of Ireland.

Keefe's book haunts and stirs memories for those who lived or worked in the North. I wish I had the ability to read the 300 plus pages of "Say Nothing" (Doubleday), without cringing, without bouts of tears and fits of desperation. I wish I didn't have to keep referring to Keefe's eighty-eight pages of references and notations reflecting his extensive research to write this significant documentary. It pierces the heart and scourges the soul. I wish this was a book of fiction, but alas it's a true story of "memory and murder" in Northern Ireland.

How I wish I could be quiet and "say nothing" about this work of savage reality, but this space in IAN provides the opportunity to unload my own journalistic experiences covering Ulster during the Troubles and beyond.

Ironically, Keefe and I have much in common. He grew up in Dorchester, where I lived right "off the boat" from Ireland during the fifties. A good place for Irish immigrants, a suburb of Boston, the perfect Irish enclave to make the transition from Ireland to America. And like Keefe, I am a journalist who reported on the politics of Northern Ireland for a Massachusetts daily newspaper. As I turned the pages of "Say Nothing," I realized how familiar I was with the politicians, the English and Irish fighters on both sides of the divide, most especially the persecution suffered by Irish families at the hands of young British soldiers, many still in their teens. One could not ignore the brutality of the Irish Republican Army in all its forms and fractions, coupled with a pervasive immorality not in tune with their Catholicism. In the six counties of Ireland it was war. Nothing stopped the Irish or the English from the killing and devastation on the streets of Belfast, Derry, Castleblaney, Enniskillen, Armagh, and cities and towns in between. To this day dominance of the United Kingdom is punctuated by the Union Jack, the flag of Britain flying from every pole, on residential property, shops and rooftops. The Irish tri-color flag is rare and when its on display it flies as an act of defiance.

Born in Dundalk, a small town in the



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Republic, a few kilometers from the border, I was reared on local history, filled with disdain, even hatred, toward the Brits who invaded and took ownership of a segment of our island. We were educated confirming that wrongful takeover of our country. As a youngster I was unaware that my town served as a safe environment for the IRA, and Keefe spawned pride in my town as a safe haven for Irish men and women on the run seeking respite in a safe house. The town is now referred to in tourist literature as "The Gateway to the North."

I smiled when Sabina Clarke revealed that Bernadette Devlin McAliskey refused Keefe's request for an interview. Once elected as a member of British Parliament, she stood out in Belfast as a revolutionary whose sharp tongue and gift of speech could crucify any critic who crossed her. The day after Bobby Sands died following sixty-six days on hunger strike, she

organized a press conference in a shabby building on the Falls Road, a young Gerry Adams by her side. Recently out of Long Kesh Prison, Adams provided an update on the nine prisoners ready to follow in the footsteps of Sands, hoping that Margaret Thatcher would relent and allow Irish prisoners to dress in civilian clothes with a designation as political prisoners rather than criminals. Francis Hughes died on hunger seven days following the death of Sands. There were more young Irishmen to follow. The Iron Lady never caved!

I have learned from reliable sources that Devlin McAliskey has been shunned for years by Adams and his tribesmen. She fills her time with community work in a quiet area of the North. She knows where the bodies are buried, has accepted her place in the world, her name rarely appearing in print. She survived a bombing incident compliments of the Brits in her home in Coleraine as she lay in bed, her young child by her side. She sustained an injury on one hip and survived. This in sharp contrast to the kidnapping and murder of Jean McConville, an Irish widow, mother of ten, an alleged



British informer, murdered by the IRA. She died from a single shot to the back of her head, buried in the sand on Shelling Hill Beach on the Cooley Peninsula in County Louth. Four years ago I visited that seaside location, a barren stretch of coastline, where a storm on the Irish sea shifted the shoreline and a man out strolling discovered a piece of clothing exposed in the sand, hence the discovery of McConville's grave. She had been buried in secret for twenty years.

Was she an informer? According to Keefe, he's uncertain. So too is journalist Ed Moloney. In 2010 he published the groundbreaking book "Voices from The Grave." Keefe quotes Moloney's whose book reveals a good deal more than Keefe's, and includes

IRA testimony from the Belfast Project, a series of secret interviews with IRA men and women. Those interviews are housed in the Burns Library at Boston College.

Did Gerry Adams give the order to eliminate the widowed mother of ten? Did anyone care about the brood of young ones she left behind? I once viewed Adams on 60 Minutes and when asked about his role in murder and membership in the IRA, as always

he sidestepped the question and commented, "War is war."

Visiting Long Kesh Prison on two occasions, once on a bus transporting women visiting husbands, brothers, sons, lovers and uncles: the second traveling as a journalist of record with a contingent of lawyers from Chicago examining the judicial system in Ulster. That sinister and unjust policy where men and women were "lifted" and removed from their homes, without an arrest warrant, unnecessary under British Rule, even without evidence of a crime. Those who were lifted by the Brits in the dead of night, were tortured and imprisoned. In the lifting, British soldiers also removed their personal belongings, watches, clocks, clothes, even photographs displayed on a bureau. One mother commented to me after her 17-year old son was removed, "its like a wake without a corpse." There were dastardly deeds on both sides of the Northern historic strife. Ugly, damaging, immoral, and tragic.

The Belfast Project at Boston College houses a collection of interviews with IRA members who chronicled their experiences

on condition that nothing be released until after their deaths. In Moloney's *Voices from The Grave*, the diseased Brendan Hughes played a leadership role while incarcerated in Long Kesh Prison and on the ground on the streets of Belfast. His testimony as an IRA member is published in its entirety in Maloney's book. It is a blood curdling read. The murders, bombings, the IRA's practice of murdering alleged Irish informers, their removal to secret burial places without notification to families is beyond cruel. As IRA men and women who provided interviews for the Belfast project die off, their testimony will also be publicized. Comparisons in those stories will be studied by scholars, historians and journalists. I predict such testimony will serve as a destructive emotional burden for families still living. In retrospect, Keefe had it right when he named his book, "Say Nothing."

FRANCHISE: Forget McDonald's, ditch Starbuck's, the Irish Pub is one of the fastest growing food and alcohol franchises in the world. Irish Pubs enhance the Irish brand of hospitality, conversation and a warm Irish welcome.

TEACHERS WANTED: Irish teachers working outside Ireland are being courted by the Irish Department of Education to return to the Motherland and fill the widening gaps in the shortage of educators. Conducting a survey, The Irish Times has reached out to Irish teachers working overseas. The newspaper seeks suggestions on what practices and policies could be adopted by the Irish education system to improve conditions for teachers in Ireland. Also, it seeks feedback on what would have to change to attract teachers to return home. The ultimate request, to Irish teachers abroad:: Would you move home?

A BIKE TRIP: Daniel Stewart, a Northern Irishman undertook a recent 640 kilometer (400 mile) bike ride around Ulster, maintained a daily log highlighting what he termed "a cycling playground, an emerald art piece and a true feat of mother nature". It was a five day excursion peddling around the perimeter of the Irish north coast. Personally, and without reservation this section of Ireland is the most scenic part of the entire country. Stewart completes his goal and hopefully will write about his adventure riding from Belfast to the tip of Antrim through small towns and villages that beckon and speak legends of the past.

IRISH CINEMA: Remember Jim Sheridan the Irish film maker? His first film, *In The Name of the Father* scored seven Oscar nominations and the actor Daniel Day-Lewis

Continued to next page

Continued from last page

is the only actor to win three best-actor Oscars: His films include *My Left Foot* and *There Will Be Blood* and *Lincoln*.

In the mid-nineties the Sheridan brothers, Jim and Peter arrived in Chicago as guests of the Film Department at Columbia College. They were interviewed on stage at the College Theater to a standing room crowd. Unfortunately only Peter arrived at show-time, his brother's plane delayed arriving into O'Hare Airport. When he eventually arrived on stage holding an oversized paper cup. He remained quiet while his brother held court discussing how as Dublin youngsters their father organized neighborhood plays they produced with friends. Not unusual in Ireland for children to write plays, then act in in back yards and street corners.

Jim Sheridan remained quiet, perhaps recovering from a long day of travel. When he spoke, clearly intoxicated from the contents of his hand held cup, he belabored forth about his Irish Da. Theatrical, intense, he never ceased his pontificating and continued way past closing time. The production was hailed as one of the best ever in Chicago.

NURSES SOUGHT: Teachers are sought but so are Irish nurses working abroad, especially to garner their opinions on what the Irish Health Service can learn from them.

ANIMAL WELFARE: Ulster University located on the outskirts of Belfast provides expertise in nutrition, therapeutics and engineering. University officials have announced plans to offer solutions to farming and industry stakeholders North and South of the Border seeking solutions to animal welfare issues.

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L-R: GSFC Director of Programming, Barbara Scharres; production designer Toma McCullim; Jamilah Ali Joyce, daughter of the late Muhammad Ali; director Carmel Winters, Consul General of Ireland Brian O'Brien; Mike Houlihan, Hibernian Media, attended the screenings of *FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY* with director Carmel Winters and her wife/production design Toma McCullim, during the Gene Siskel Film Centers' Chicago European Union Film Festival recently.



L-R: Enjoying the screening of *Float Like a Butterfly* at the Gene Siskel Film Centers' Chicago European Union Film Festival held in March 2019. Toma McCullim, Carmel Winters, Jamilah Ali Joyce, and Mike Joyce. Credit: Sarah Matheson Photography

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Hibernians Condemn the Senseless Murder of Journalist Lyra McKee

Call for Renewed Commitment to the Good Friday Agreement

The Ancient Order of Hibernians condemn the senseless murder of Journalist Lyra McKee, shot in performance of her journalistic duty while covering a riot in Derry, Northern Ireland. There can be no excuse or palliation for such a wanton act; the specious absurdity of claims that it was "an accident" only give further proof to the mindlessness of those responsible. The loss at age 29 of a life with such bright potential is a tragedy which extends beyond the walls of Derry to the entire world.

The appalling death of **Lyra McKee** is sad testimony to the current state of Northern Ireland and how far we remain from the vision of peace articulated on a Good Friday 21 years ago. While there is only one person accountable for the murder of Lyra McKee, those who have been inattentive to the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement are responsible for fostering a vacuum of leadership and providing an environment in which mindless zealotry thrives. Once again, we see the disastrous consequences of Britain's policy of suzerainty without responsibility in Northern Ireland. That the fate of the community of Northern Ireland is currently entrusted to a Northern Ireland Secretary whose only talent seems to be to display her ignorance of Northern Ireland is irresponsible to the point of callousness. For Brexiters to persist the myth that the perils associated with the re-imposition of a border in Ireland is a "concocted issue" is the epitome of Saul Bellow's observations



that "A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep".

The United States is also negligent at this inflection point of history for abdicating its leadership role in the cause of peace in Northern Ireland. Despite promises by the administration, the role of Special Envoy to Northern Ireland remains unfilled. The death of Lyra McKee is a reminder that one of the great triumphs of diplomacy over violence is in danger of being lost due to apathy and inattention.

At this time of Easter, we as Catholics are reminded that out of tragedy can spring hope. Let us pray that the tragic death of Lyra McKee shall serve as a call for a rededicated commitment to the peace process in Northern Ireland.

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We Get Letters

Response April 2019 Letter

This letter saddened me because it is so typical of the sentiment today in this country that if you do not agree with me, you need to be destroyed.

This is a country that was founded on freedom. You have the right to your feelings and beliefs. This is really no longer true however.

Ms. Morrison would like to see Mr. Boyles column removed because for one, she takes issue with the fact that there are statues erected throughout this country and the world for that matter, depicting history. Regardless of whether you find them offensive, they are history. You cannot tear down and rewrite history because it offends you. History teaches us our mistakes as well as our triumphs; you take the good with the bad. You don't destroy and ignore the bad. How else do you learn right from wrong and good from bad?

As for regularly attacking Obama and defending Trumps lies, or should I say fawning over his lies, perhaps he is speaking a truth that you do not want to hear or agree with, but either way, again, although it is quickly being taken away, at this moment, Mr. Boyle is entitled to his opinion and has a right to express it just as you do.

Wearing black face was common at one time, just as dressing up for Halloween as an Indian or ninja was and as wearing Trump

costumes are now. Like everything else, this has become offensive too. The fact that people can't seem to lighten up to me is offensive.

Ms Morrisons request is to remove Mr. Boyle's column because it offends her. As I've said, this is predictable of the climate today of agree with me or be destroyed. It seems funny to me that the very people who supposedly are for everyone's rights are the ones like Ms Morrison. She is for your rights as long as she agrees with you.

There really is a very simple solution Ms Morrison. Rather than destroy Mr. Boyle, how about you simply do not read his column?

Dear Editors,

I enjoy reading IAN and I respect the fact that you have a wide variety of perspectives and opinions. Though I may not agree with all of them I learn from all of them.

Barbara Morrison's letter (April '19) urges you to shut down one point of view, that of Tom Boyle. Removing this writer as she demands would narrow the range of opinions and perspectives and do a disservice to your readers. Rosemary O'Connor

Belleek Pottery for Leinster House

Belleek Pottery, Ireland's oldest working pottery, are delighted to announce that they have been commissioned to supply a personalised dinner service to the Ceann Comhairle's dining room in the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Belleek Pottery's Head of Design Fergus Cleary along with Belleek designer, Claire Rowe have developed the design whilst the artisan potters at Belleek Pottery have brought the Galway Weave dining service from paper to pottery.



Mark your calendar for a special One Time Only farewell performance by founding maestro Dennis Smith, who will lead Acappellago (current members and alumni) in a selection of favorite pieces from our 17 seasons - along with a few surprises!

The performance is entitled *Escape to... Another Sentimental Journey*. The performance is on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the cozy historic Event Hall at Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st Street, Oak Brook. No charge for admission to this event, but please consider a \$15 donation to Acappellago at the door. www.acappellago.org

Irish Missionary, Sr. Orla Treacy, receives an International Women of Courage Award in the USA

US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, presented the Annual International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awards at the State Department to honour 10 extraordinary women from around the world. First Lady Melania Trump delivered special remarks

at the ceremony. One of the recipients is Irish missionary, Sr. Orla Treacy - a member of the Loreto congregation - who works in conflict-torn South Sudan.

The IWOC Award recognises women around the globe who have

than 65 different countries. U.S. diplomatic missions overseas nominate one woman of courage from their respective host countries. Sr. Orla was nominated by the US Ambassador to the Holy See,

The award citation reads:

"Born in Ireland in 1973, Sister Orla Treacy was, at a young age, inspired by the lives of service

other Loreto Sisters who were starting a new mission in Rumbek, South Sudan-an area besieged by civil war and violent inter-clan conflict.

"Touched by the plight of girls who were being forced into early marriage and denied the right to an education, she took action. Sister Orla and the Loreto Sisters started a girls-only boarding school with 35 students. Today, Sister Orla serves as the head administrator of the Loreto Rumbek Mission in Maker Kuei, overseeing a boarding secondary school for girls, a co-educational primary school, and a women and child-centric primary healthcare facility. Sister Orla is a part of a diverse multinational team of religious sisters, educators, nurses, and other support staff, who all share a vision for improving the lives of the most vulnerable in the community.

"Despite the devastating consequences of war in Rumbek, and the many barriers to women and girls in the community, Sister Orla remains filled with hope, and the Loreto Schools stand as a beacon of light for future South Sudanese generations. She continues to work in faith, striving for a world in which girls are not forced into marriage, are allowed to complete their education, and can pursue their dreams".

Following the official award ceremony, the IWOC recipients travel to individual U.S. cities on the International Visitor Leadership Program. American organisations and businesses will host IWOC awardees and collaborate with them on strategies and ideas to empower women both in the United States and abroad.

Hugh O'Flaherty Humanitarian Award

In 2017, Sr. Orla was given the Hugh O'Flaherty International Humanitarian Award in recognition of her courageous and inspiring work in South Sudan. Today, Jerry O'Grady, Chairman of the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial Society in Killarney sent his and his members' "heartfelt congratulations to Sr. Orla on receiving this wonderful international honour."



Photo by Don McMonacle: Sr. Orla Treacy with her Hugh O'Flaherty Humanitarian Award alongside the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial in Killarney in November 2017.

demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment, often at great personal risk and sacrifice. Since its inception in March 2007, the State Department has recognised more than 120 women from more

and compassion of her teachers who were religious sisters. After studying to become a teacher of religion, she joined the congregation of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), known as the Loreto Sisters. In 2006, while teaching and offering pastoral care in Ireland, Sister Orla joined

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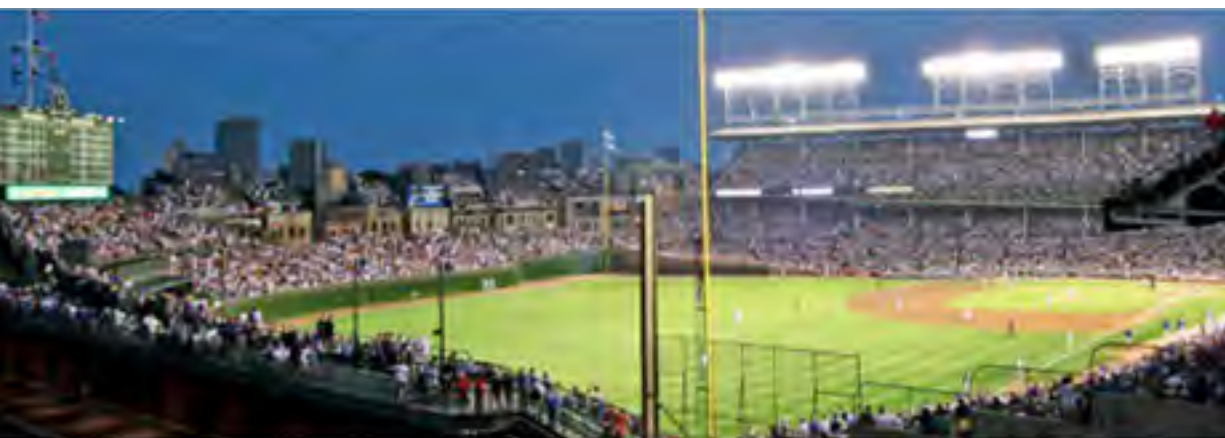
Irish Fellowship Club to Host a Crosstown Classic Party at Wrigley Field

No matter which side of town they're from, Irish Fellowship Club members will enjoy the **Cubs v. White Sox** game on **Tuesday June 18 at Wrigley Field**. Club president Kevin Flood said that the party will take place at the **Wrigley View Rooftop**, 1050 W. Waveland, starting at 6:00 p.m. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Besides a great game (which is undoubtedly a preview of a subway series), the evening will include a delicious buffet, beer, wine and soda. It's a perfect way to enjoy a stress free day at the ballpark and the fellowship of friends. **Tickets are \$180 and all inclusive.**

Another upcoming summer event for the IFC is its annual golf outing at the prestigious Beverly Country Club on Monday July 15, 2019. This always sold out event is a great day.

Memberships are available in the Irish Fellowship Club. Besides having numerous events, the Club raises funds for philanthropic causes in Chicago area, and most importantly provides scholarship assistance to each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area. **For more Info contact Kathy Taylor at KTaylor@fuseteam.com**



Cross-Town Classic Party on Wrigley Rooftop

Irish Fellowship Club Members are invited to Wrigley Field Rooftop for the **Chicago Cubs vs Chicago White Sox** game on June 18th at 6:00 pm = game starts at 7:05 at:

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Price is \$ 180.00 - includes Game day admission, buffet and beverage service through the 7th inning - beer - wine soda
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Message from ICS Executive Director:

Dear Friends, Irish Community Services continues to expand and adapt our services to meet the diverse needs within our community. ICS continues to address the immigration and social services needs of our community. ICS has also had a very exciting year of expansion with the creation of a new youth club, a caregiver & toddler play group, a mental health awareness campaign, and more. This expansion has allowed ICS to service more individuals and address increasingly more important needs within the community.

The work that we do could not be done without the support and involvement from the community. Our work can be supported in a variety of ways, including: sponsorship, event attendance, volunteering, or participation. To get involved or to support our work please contact us at 773-282-8445. Best wishes, Michael Collins



Community Film Screening "Movie Memories"

ICS invites you to join us for a new and nostalgic documentary that records and preserves cinema-going memories of the 1940s and 50s in rural County Cork.

Friday, May 17th

Doors at 6:30pm

Screening at 7:00pm

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox Ave. Chicago IL 60630

more info: aculhane@irishchicago.org / 773-282-8445

Immigration Legal Clinics

April - June 2019

Free 30 minute consultation, by appointment only. Call 773-282-8445 or email info@irishchicago.org to reserve your place. Additional clinic dates may become available.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

From 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Irish American Heritage Center, Suite 301 (4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630)

Hosted by the Chicago Legal Clinic

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

From 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Irish American Heritage Center, Suite 301 (4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630)

Hosted by the McEntee Law Group

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

From 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Irish American Heritage Center, Suite 301 (4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630)

Hosted by the Chicago Legal Clinic

Sunday, June 9, 2019

From 10:00am - 12:00pm
Teamsters Local 705
1645 W. Jackson, 7th Floor
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Upcoming Events:

- **Tara Club:** Wednesday, May 1st (10a-12p) in the IAHC. Topic: Creativity and Spirituality
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Tuesday, May 7th (4:00-7:00pm) in the IAHC. By Appointment only.
- **Emerald Club:** Wednesday, May 8th (10a-12p) at Gaelic Park. Topic: Music by Ray Gavin
- **Tara Club:** Wednesday, May 15th (10a-12p) in the IAHC. Topic: Music by Ray Gavin
- **Movie Memories Screening:** Friday, May 17th in the IAHC. Doors Open at 6:30pm.
- **Eurovision Bingo & Watch Party:** Saturday, May 18th (2-4pm) at The Atlantic Bar and Grill.
- **Emerald Club:** Wednesday, May 22nd (10a-12p) at Gaelic Park. Topic: The Price is Right

Upcoming Events Continued:

- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Wednesday, May 22nd (4:00-7:00pm) in the IAHC. By Appointment only.
- **Cultural Hour:** Friday, May 24th (10a-12p) in the Mount Greenwood Library. Topic: Documentary on Irish Crafts
- **Youth In Action:** Saturday, June 1st at 2pm in the IAHC. Topic: Screening of the documentary film "The Queen of Ireland"
- **Tara Club:** Wednesday, June 5th (10a-12p) in the IAHC. Topic: Joint Pain
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Sunday, June 9th (10a-12p) at the Headquarters of Teamsters Local 705. By Appointment only.
- **Emerald Club:** Wednesday, June 12th (10a-12p) at Gaelic Park. Topic: Screening of the documentary film "Fortune's Wheel"
- **Golf Outing:** Saturday, June 22nd at Indian Boundary Golf Course. Shotgun start at 2pm.



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Learn to paint in watercolor in a class for all levels. **Wednesdays, May 1-June 5 at 6:45pm-8:45pm or Thursdays, May 9-June 13, 10:30am-1pm • Tuition: \$130 for IAHC members and \$140 for non-members**



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Learn basic sewing and quilting instruction with the IAHC's very own Nimble Thimbles. **Mondays, May 8, 15 and 22, 7-9pm • \$135**



Stomping Grounds

This annual citywide dance festival makes a stop at the IAHC and features performances from Trinity Irish Dance Ensemble, Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago and more. **Saturday, May 18, 7:30pm • Free-\$5**



Golf Open

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Division #32 and IAHC host the annual joint golf open at the Edgebrook Golf Course. **Friday, May 31, 11:45am \$110 for the Golf Experience and dinner reception • \$40 for dinner reception only**



Tea with George Sand

Have tea with French novelist, memoirist and socialist at another in our Saturday Morning Tea Series. **Saturday, June 15, 11am • \$25 Children 12 and under \$8**



The Great Famine in Tralee and North Kerry Book Launch

Author Bryan MacMahon reads from his book which focuses on human stories rather than statistics as he depicts the famine years through the eyes of those who were there. **Saturday, June 15, 4pm • Free**

For all upcoming IAHC events, visit www.irish-american.org.

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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Auto Accident Timeline: What You Need To Know

Hello May IAN Readers! If I had a penny for every time I have been asked by my clients how long their auto accident claim will take - I will tell you, I would be a very rich woman! It is probably the most frequent question I get and unfortunately the hardest one to answer. This month I will lay out what you might expect, if you or a loved one have been injured in a car crash, Please know however, the truth is that the claims process varies from case to case. Some claims settle favorably, very quickly in a matter of weeks, others take months, and by far the majority probably take years to come to a conclusion.

The Countdown Begins

It is important to note that when you are involved in a car

accident in Illinois, you have a limited amount of time to file a claim. If you wish to file a personal injury claim, you may have only two years from the date of the accident to do so. This may be even shorter based upon a variety of rules and exceptions. It is one reason that you should be talking to an attorney as soon as possible after your car crash. It will never be your experience that an insurance company will advise you of your rights in terms of when to bring a claim, which is why as I have continuously said - have someone in your corner advising you of your rights and do not assume that the advice an insurance adjuster is giving you is correct. If you intend to just claim for the damage to your car and do not have an injury, there maybe be other "statute of limitations"

to consider. Illinois differs from many states in this regard, and this can create confusion and so again, please consult with me or my colleagues here at Dwyer & Coogan to find out what actual time limits apply to your particular circumstances. I just turned a client away this week because they came to me a month after their statute of limitations expired. They had sustained an injury, that had waxed and waned over the last two years, but recently were advised that they would need more intensive treatment. They then sought advice of what to do not realizing that Illinois has such tight time limits. Ignorance of the time limits is no defense and once your time is up, there is no way back. Lesson to be learned - do not hesitate to seek advice as soon as possible after you are involved in an accident. At Dwyer & Coogan we don't charge for in person or phone consultations so make the call!

Medical Care

Even if you do not have obvious and catastrophic symptoms immediately following a crash, you should seek medical attention immediately. This is something you have heard me advise about before. It is by far better to err on the side of caution, when you have been involved in a collision. Soft tissue injuries or what is often termed whip lash injuries do not sometimes manifest for days, sometimes even weeks, after a crash.

The Discovery Process

"Discovery" refers to the process of each party gathering evidence for their own case or against the opponent's. Your attorney will investigate your claim and gather the documentation and evidence to prove it. If you are the person bringing the claim, the burden is on you to prove all aspects of it. There is a formal, legal process of "Discovery" once these case are filed as lawsuits. This process is generally supervised by the courts. Typically, discovery takes up the most time of any car accident case and usually includes the following: Your lawyer notifying the insurance company of your intentions to sue for compensa-

tion; Gathering all your medical records and bills regarding the accident, and possibly relevant medical records from before the accident; The request of all financial records from your employer, banks, and investments to prove that you suffered financial loss due to your injuries.

Interviewing and gathering Witness testimonies, including family members or friends who will testify as to how the accident has affected you on a day to day basis; Preparing you to give your own sworn evidence in a deposition setting, where you will testify about the circumstances of the crash and the injuries you suffered as a result; Preparing and presenting your medical doctors testimony, regarding what injuries you sustained, the nature, extent and permanency of those injuries and the cost of the medical treatment you underwent; Preparing for the deposition of the other side's witnesses, which in car accident cases will involve the driver of the other car but can also include doctors that that the insurance company will hire to contradict your own medical doctors testimony; Locating and securing experts, which can include medical, engineering, financial and other types of experts, to testify on your behalf. Though each legal team will work to complete the aforementioned steps simultaneously, the entire discovery process will take months into years to be completed. The more issues in a case and the more severe the injuries, in my experience the longer the discovery process will take.

Can My Case Settle Before Court?

One issue to discuss with your lawyer is how the case can be resolved. A case can settle at any time, right up to and including during a jury trial. The course of your medical treatment will ultimately dictate the course of when a case can enter into potential settlement negotiations and it is absolutely not advisable to settle a case too early and before you know the full extent of your injuries and what your future living with those injuries, looks like. In some less serious case involving

bumps and bruises, this point may be reached relatively quickly. In more serious injury cases involving surgeries and more invasive treatment, getting to this point could very well take years. My colleagues and I settle many cases, pretrial and even sometimes before we file a law suit and we can explain all the risks and benefits of a settlement to you as the process develops.

What happens if we go to trial? Personal injury cases are heard by a Jury of 12 of your peers. When the above discovery process is over and the judge in charge of supervising your case agrees that no further evidence gathering needs to be done, your case will be give a trial date. The parties will appear on the trial date, get assigned a trial judge and from there pick a jury of 12 people to hear and ultimately decide your case. There are many benefits to having a jury decide your case. There are many risks too and we will be able advise you of those as we approach that time in your case. Many cases can still settle after a trial begins and sometimes they even get resolved as the jury is out deliberating their decision. As I said at the beginning of this article, every case is different and your biggest mistake is to compare your case to your colleagues, friends or neighbors experience. So the age old question of how long it takes to complete an auto accident case remains unanswered my friends, with the best answer being, that unsatisfactory one of, it depends! I realize how scary and daunting this whole process can be so do not navigate it alone. Call me and we will do it together!

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-782-7482.*



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Hailing originally from Arranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, Caroleann has been living and practicing law in Chicago for over ten years now. Her practice has been concentrated in representing labor and union workers and their families, in all types of personal injury and work related accidents; including, construction site accidents, automobile accidents and premises liability claims. Her father and three brothers all worked as tunnel miners so she has a deep rooted affinity for the working man and their families



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Growing up, Caroleann has directly experienced the devastating impact on a family when the primary breadwinner suffers an injury. She recently joined a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, workers compensation law, and wrongful death litigation. Caroleann is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others



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Are Crafts Looking to Kill the Pubs in Illinois?

There is a theory out there, that is actually backed up by statistics, that the presence of craft brewers is hurting bars and taverns. An article on this subject cites Bureau of Labor statistics that the number of "on-premise drinking establishments have decreased by 6.3% since 2010. Bar/tavern owners are starting to take notice and protest! In New Jersey, proposed laws that would allow craft brewers to serve customers without taking them on a tour first, met with fervent protest from some bar owners. Ironically, as the number of bars/taverns shrinks, the amount of craft brewers keeps increasing. It seems that the bar/tavern owners are affected by the presence of craft beer and not necessarily craft spirits. However, if recent legislation in Illinois passes, craft distillers will become a major player in this space.

Present Law On Crafts

Craft distillers and craft brewers can sell to customers in their tasting rooms. However, they can not have any other alcohol sold on their premises. (A law change from last session allows craft brewers to serve another craft brewers beer on tap but does not allow wine or spirits or canned or bottle beer). One small difference between the two is the craft brewer can self-distribute a certain amount as long as they make under a certain threshold, while a craft distiller can not self-distribute it product. A brew pub, similar to a craft brewer makes its own beer, however, unlike the craft brewer they have full retail privileges and can serve other brands of alcohol on its premises. So, unlike the craft brewer or craft distiller, along with their beer, the brew pub can offer selections such as

Jack Daniels or a bottle of Kendall Jackson. Also, unlike the craft brewer, the brew pub has no rights to self-distribute.

Making Craft Distillers A Threat

Present law does not make the craft distillers a threat to the bar/tavern scene. Craft distillers are limited to serving their own product in their tasting rooms. And although the consumption of spirits is on the rise, it does not match the groundswell of customers that flock to craft breweries. However, favorable law changes could become a game changer and make a craft distillery a favored destination. There are several bills proposed that would greatly increase the power of craft distillers. Senate Bill (SB) 1190 would allow craft distillers to self-distribute up to 2,500 gallons of product. SB 1672 would allow along with self-distribution privileges, full retail privileges and increase the amount of the craft spirit sold at retail from 2,500 to 10,000. Further, the bill proposes to create a warehouse permit to allow the storage of 500,000 gallons. Under House Bill (HB) 2675 a new craft distiller pub license would be created. The license would allow a craft distiller to produce 5,000 gallons of product and would allow full retail privileges. The craft distiller could have up to 3 licenses. Further, the bill would allow it to sell for off-premise consumption no more than 5,000 gallons. What these pieces of legislation shows is that the purpose is to move craft distillers from a bit player to a major influencer on the retail scene. Under the proposed legislations, craft



Sean O'Leary

distillers would have the brew pub's power of full retail privileges with the craft brewer's benefits of self-distribution. Additionally, the amounts they could sell in their tasting rooms could quadruple under one of the bills.

What Does This Do To Bars And Taverns

Enjoying full retail privileges would make the craft distillers a more attractive place to visit. Like a bar, they could offer any type or brand of liquor, however, unlike the bar, they could offer a unique product made on-site. This is also a product that the customer could take home. Further, proposed legislation would allow craft distillers to promote and deliver their product in the marketplace at a cheap cost. The bar/tavern would lack this favorable trait. Whether these legislative proposals are right or wrong is subject to debate. Some believe it's beneficial to provide craft distillers more opportunity to grow, while some believe that it provides them an unfair advantage in the marketplace. What is clear is that for bars/taverns, if these legislative proposals are successful, bars/taverns are put at a competitive disadvantage to the craft distillers and will probably lose market share. And of course, that leads to another debate whether this should or should not be a major concern? But of course, it is not debatable whether

this is a major concern for bars/taverns! No matter what way you look at it, bars/taverns have been losing market share for sometime and it is hard to stop the bleeding. But one must ask, will future legislation not only not stop the bleeding, but will future legislation create a bigger wound that becomes an insurmountable gaping hole?

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Hello everyone,
 My favorite month of the year is here. The days are longer and warmer. Oh! Yeah! Bring on the vitamin D. And I'm really looking forward to the Gaelic Park Festival. There's a fantastic line-up of top-class talent. I will be traveling myself soon. I fly to Dallas, on May 20 to join up with Nathan Carter and his band. We go from there to Los Angeles. Followed by Hartford Connecticut. We then travel by bus to Philadelphia, and Chicago. Then back to the east coast to do the final night of his tour in Boston. Nathan will be on stage on Sunday 26th at the fest, Chicago Gaelic Park from 4:15 till 6:15 pm. Maybe then you would like to come and join Declan and I in the Tara Room from 6:30 till 8 p.m. Nathan will be joined by Chloë Agnew on a lot

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



her outstanding talent. You can hear her on YouTube. And she also has two CDs that include 3 number one singles. My favorite is 'I'm Off To Lisdoonvarna In The Morning'. Hopefully, she will come to visit the USA sometime in the future.

of his shows, unfortunately, she won't be at the one in Chicago. She is one great talent and really down to earth. I guess she would have to be, traveling around the country with a bunch of guy's. I'm so glad to see the Fitzgerald's are also playing the fest and will be there on Friday and Saturday. Check out the line-up for the fest! Olivia Douglas has been touring with Nathan Carter recently. She is, from Ferbane, Co Offaly. An all Ireland champion accordion player and a mighty singer. She's very easy on the eyes. I would say you're going to hear a lot about this very talented young woman, with a great personality to match

My wife Margaret is heading to Mayo for the funeral of her Cousin/God Mother, Bridie Rowan. Bridie lived in Chicago for many years and worked as a nurse here. She was a great Irish woman and spoke her mind always. She had a great sense of humor and the world was blessed to have her for 104 years. Bridie came originally from Ballindine and spent her later years in Claremorris. She will be very missed, but we're thankful she was with us for so many memorable years. R.I.P. Bridie.

We lost another wonderful lady recently here in Chicago and that was Nora Grealish McDonagh. Nora had a beautiful voice singing the old traditional Sean-Nòs style and she just loved life and music. Nora was sadly taken away by Alzheimer's Disease. She will be missed dearly in the music community and by anyone that ever shared that wonderful smile of her's. You will always be remembered and missed by us all, Nora R.I.P.

about a legend from Co Kerry. A Chieftain called O'Donoghue. He was a king well loved by his people. During his reign the crops were healthy and the land was fertile. O'Donoghue was generous and became known for the great feasts that he hosted. Everyone was made welcome. During one of his banquets, O'Donoghue did something strange. After the meal was eaten and a toast was drunk to good health and crops, O'Donoghue suddenly stood up and headed towards the door. He left the castle talking to his people and advising them as he walked. The people followed on behind him in confusion and wonderment. He kept on talking to them until he came to the shores of Lough Leane, Killarney. In amazement, everyone watched him walk out on the water. He didn't sink until he reached the center of the Lough. Then he said goodbye to his people and slowly sank into the water. It's said he didn't die that day, and neither did he leave. And that every May since then on the first of the month he rises up from the waters and rides along the edge of the Lough on a white horse. He then sinks back into the Lough and does not return until the next first of May. As the story goes if you're lucky enough to catch just a glimpse of O'Donoghue at dawn, he will bring you good fortune and health.

Happy May, Day! Also known as - Lá Bealtaine or Labour Day. There are lots of stories and traditions about May Day in Ireland. A lot of them date back to Pagan times and quite a lot of the traditions are still alive, although year by year some are just a fading memory. The holy wells are still visited on the first of May in a lot of places. They say if you take the first drink on that morning from the well, you will have good luck and health for the coming year. Also, people would scatter yellow flowers like Daisies, Primroses, etc around the front door on the eve of May first, to help bring good luck to the house and chase away witches and fairies. There are so many different tales and superstitions and great insights into how life was long ago.

This months song is one that was borne from an idea that Jordan Mogeey came up with, and I'm proud to be a part of it. It's



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The Legend Of O'Donoghue (The Lakes Of Killarney)

© Copyright Joe McShane © Copyright Jordan Mogeey
Chorus - Amidst majestic mountains by Killarney's mystic lakes
 A whitewashed horse gallops o'er the blue
 Should you see the rider on the first May morning bright
 You'll know you've seen the brave O'Donoghue
Verse 1 - He toasted to his people and the kingdom he loved so
 Gracious with his golden goblet high
 Then when the feast was over to the lakeside he was bound
 His people filled with wonder close behind
Verse 2 - His image was reflected from the lake upon the sky
 When he waded through the waters brave and bold
 Then he slowly turned around to bid them all farewell
 The sunlight shone upon his crown of gold
Chorus - Amidst majestic mountains by Killarney's mystic lakes
 A whitewashed horse gallops o'er the blue
 Should you see the rider on the first May morning bright
 You'll know you've seen the brave O'Donoghue
Verse 3 - And on the first May morning with the spirits of the air
 He rises from the waters once again
 And if he should appear to you good fortune you will find
 Waiting for you right around the bend
Repeat Chorus

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On the Upbeat

By *Maryann
McTeague Keifer*

The middle of this month an album is going to be released that is one of the best I have had the pleasure to read and enjoy. Jig Jam (Jamie McKeogh, Cathal Guinan, Gavin Strappe, and Daithi Melia) is ready to introduce its new album PHOENIX, and you are going to be bowled over when you get to spend time with it.

I have listened to and watched these talented lads for five years and have seen them work to polish and make their music and performances bigger, better, more exciting. The musical ability in this band is overwhelming, and this album truly heralds their talents. Most of the tunes and songs were written by the band with arrangements that have you marveling at what you are hearing. The "Devil's Water" starts as a fun bluegrass song that heads beautifully into a jazzy bit you are enjoying and suddenly you are pulling in closer to hear a finger snapping accompanied harmonic spoken verse- it's brilliant!!

Jig Jam call themselves I-Grass denoting their mix of Bluegrass rooted in the Irish Tradition in which they were all raised. The lads own at least twenty All Ireland First Place Awards in various traditional instruments and singing, and while awards are nice, it is their music that is impressive. Jamie's lead vocals are strong, sure, and memorable. He plays a mean guitar, and when playing it solo can get it talking to you. He is also the jokester and keeps the concerts flowing. All have great voices, and the harmonies on this album will draw your attention. As tight and rich as they are, you'd believe they'd have to be related for them to get that sound. The harmony on Daithi's "Someday", a song of hope, enhances the emotions drawn out from you as you listen.

I love listening to Cathal, who they lovingly call Gunter, strum his double bass, and like to air play along with him when he gets going on the electric bass. His fiddling is mesmerizing. It doesn't matter if he is playing Trad, Bluegrass, or Jazz, he swings into the style with stunning fluidity. He is one of the best young fiddlers performing today.

It would be hard to have a Bluegrass band without good banjo player. They have three, and Daithi is the lead. Making it look effortless, he delights all watching and listening with his picking and swagger. His play is bright, clean and vibrant with a style all his own. He has recently started playing the Dobro and its bright metallic tone is featured on several of the cuts including "Sail Away" which is a beautiful, longing to get back home song written by Jamie.

I first met Gavin at Raglan Road in Disney World where people who knew little of Irish music were requesting Mac-Namara's Band, Danny Boy, Galway Girl, etc. adnauseum... He had a smile plastered on his face and was playing with a really great group of lads whose talents were certainly

under-appreciated. I was thrilled to see him join Jig Jam, and his mandolin is an integral part of their sound. While he is an accomplished banjo player, among other instruments, it is his mandolin style that adds texture to their music and captivates those listening.

When working on the music for this album, they decided to seek out Trevor Hutchinson to help guide them. A founding member of the great band Lunasa, Trevor has become a much sought after producer. Both Jamie and Cathal told me he gave them wonderfully helpful advice as well as arrangement suggestions. It was much hard work, and they, rightfully so, are very proud of the music they have produced. The album gives us a generous 14 tracks of a variety of songs and tunes. Trad lovers will be delighted with "Red Paddy on the Ridge" an interestingly arranged Traditional tune, and "It's in a Name/Donal Linehan" a combination of a Trad tune and a composition by Gavin. Their friend Dominic Madden's touching song "Tullamore, I Miss You," written about their home town, whose lyrics, "...a candle in the storm...I want to be where I was born," will tear at your heart.

Like "Tullamore, I Miss You" and "Someday," the songs on PHOENIX are meaningful and reflective. Jamie's and Daithi's songwriting are featured on this album. The songs are extraordinary and will be enduring. Jamie can also be witty and downright fun as with the video song "Tullamore to Boston."

The album provides a rousing showcase of their prowess in Bluegrass and Americana music, and gives credence to those who name them the "Best Irish Band in Bluegrass". The lively "June Apple" and "Big Grey Dog" will defy you to sit still with their great pickin' and Bluegrass/Old Timey/Jazzy fusion. "Let It Roll" does just that, and "Greenhill's Gold" is absolutely magnificent.

Jig Jam has earned their place in the I-Grass and Bluegrass circles. With PHOENIX, they've rolled the red carpet out. It is a thoughtful, stunning, and brilliant collection of music that will keep you playing it again and again.



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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Happy Mother's day to all our wonderful mums past and present! Ireland celebrated their Mother's Day 31st March. My long-time friend recently lost her mum Peggy from Co. Kerry she was telling me how her mum was the only girl youngest out of five, her parents had a farm and a grocery store ,her mum would deliver groceries driving the family jeep at such a young age. Peggy got married 1968, religion and politics were important to her and she was always willing to jump on the local campaign trail to help in any way at all. She immersed herself in various committees and was instrumental in raising money for an Olympic size running track along with building homes for the senior citizens, working in her local charity shop to fund mental health programmers always striving for the underdog...She loved visiting her family in America, she loved the shopping malls she even got lost in one in New York but managed to find her way home after it was closed Her daughter said she was a great mother ,friend, grandmother and everyone back home loved her because of her upbeat attitude and great sense of humor. I had the privilege to meet her I was drawn to her beautiful, kind, generous nature, I might add that my friend did the Kerry 100 mile cycle in a tribute to the memory of Peggy her mum last summer. Brilliant!!!! Many thanks for letting me share your mums story my friend your mum would be so proud of you.

I'm really missing my mum now since my kids are growing up way too fast. I can't help but feel cheated when my mum expectantly died when my son was 2yrs old (he's 20 now).When we brought him home to Ireland my mums eyes lit up she couldn't wait to grab him out of my arms. She snuggled her cheek against his little cheek and it made me realize that she did the same to me when I was born.(hopefully as I'm the middle child out of 12)She knew our emotional journey and how long we waited she was always my biggest supporter . I was the last of my family to finally have my wee family. She was over the moon when we called him after both our fathers.

A few years later we were blessed with a daughter but it was bitter sweet because my mum wasn't around to welcome her into our family, I was heartbroken but I gave my little baby girl my mother's name.(I'm also named after my mum but believe me it didn't get me any free passes). My daughter is a teenager now and I swear sometimes she gives me that LOOK...(we all know that Irish mother look)She is such an old soul.

Mother always encouraged me to write especially after I had bad car crash when I was 14yrs old, spent four weeks in Roscommon hospital. I cannot even fathom as a mother her emotions at that time. If it was my daughter I don't know if I could hold myself together. She was devoted to taking me every

year to have plastic surgery, four times in all. Really all it did was shrink the scars on my face but the real problems lay ahead as we had crashed head on into a stone wall bridge I had flipped and smashed the window shield, I can't imagine her turmoil watching me grow up wondering if I'm going to be okay ,if I can have children.? She always told me God saved me and he had a plan for me .She meant well but I would take off up the fields with my guitar and notebook, compose and cry till I felt better.

When I was singing with my band and we were advertised in our local newspapers she was so proud of me she would save the clippings in an album. God Bless her at the time as a teenager I thought it was funny now as a parent I "get it" as I save every little thing my kids do.

I had to stop in the middle of writing this as I got overwhelmed and started crying my eyes out. Few weeks ago I sat in on a Grief counselling class after losing two of my younger siblings to cancer. I was wondering why I survived my cancers. This is what I found out. I had been keeping myself busy with my children avoiding missing my mother. I fundraised, helped Irish babies, chaired school dances,. Kindergarten warm up. Room mum for years and many more committees and had my girl scouts for eight years it was like having full time job. I helped everybody else but myself? My intention upon writing this was to honor my mother and how she supported me and share my favorite memories .She was a great cook ,I can still smell her treacle and soda breads our house smelt so good. we had dessert after every meal because she had sweet tooth and was always baking her walnut, date squares, fairy buns with wings and cream on top, my arm still hurts thinking about hand beating the butter, sugar together with wooden spoon. So Mother if your listening I still miss you and yes, you were right about everything as usual but everything did turn out okay and God did have a plan for me and my children. Happy Mother's Day love you always and forever.

Grief counseling classes at old St Pats.

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by Vicki Quade

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle



Siege of Batogne

In the late 1960's I was selling fine paper to printing companies. One of my customers was Cahill Printing Company at 210 S Des Plaines St., one door south of Old St. Patrick's Church.

Cahill had the oldest union label in Chicago.

Somewhere around 1968 while making a sales call at Cahill Printing I met Fr. Stephen J. O'Donnell, the pastor of Old St. Patrick's Church. I soon learned he was Chaplain with the 101st Airborne, the "Screaming Eagles," at the Siege of Bastogne, in Belgium during World War II.

On the 22nd of December, 1944 General von Lüttwitz submitted the following demand for surrender to his American counterpart commanding the American forces in Bastogne, Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe:

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Our near Ortheville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompre-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A.A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term.

All the serious civilian losses

caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

The German commander.

Shortly thereafter, General McAuliffe sent the following communication to von Luttwitz in response to the German demand:

To the German Commander.

NUTS!

The Commander of the 327th GIR interpreted it to the German truce party as "Go to hell!"

The American army was completely surrounded, outnumbered 54,000 to 22,800.

Now its Christmas Eve and the battle will resume on Christmas Day. Fr. O'Donnell headed out to the field to set up an altar for Midnight Mass. On the way out he heard a round being chambered in a 50 caliber gun. He was challenged by a sentry who said, "halt! who goes there?" He answered, "Fr. O'Donnell you son-of-a-bitch." By the time he reached the offertory, the troops were hanging out of the trees.

He gave them all communion and general absolution knowing many of them would die on Christmas Day. Lord knows how many men he gave the last rites to. Fr. O'Donnell lost part of his foot to frostbite during the siege.

Aftermath

The 101st Airborne Division's casualties from 19 December 1944 to 6 January 1945 were 341 killed, 1,691 wounded, and 516 missing. Several regiments within the 101st were nicknamed "The battered Bastards of Bastogne," due to their part in holding the important crossroads town during the Battle of the Bulge.

The 10th Armored Division's CCB incurred approximately 500 casualties.

Rev. Stephen O'Donnell

Ordained in 1938, he served as an assistant pastor in Visitation parish in Chicago before serving as an Army chaplain in Europe

from 1943 to 1946. A Chicago native, he returned to Visitation parish after the war and was assigned to St. Patrick in 1960. In 1983 he was named pastor emeritus of Old St. Patrick's, the oldest church building in Chicago.

When my Uncle, Bill Boyle returned to Visitation Parish following the war he had won a Bronze Star at the invasion of Late in the Philippines. He married Catherine Reidy. Msgr. Wolf performed the ceremony.

In the years to follow my first cousins, Tom and Billy Boyle, would serve Mass for Fr. O'Donnell. They said he was a tough guy to work with. My Cousin, Kathleen Boyle, was baptized for Fr. Donald J. Duffy at Visitation.

The West Loop was still a rough and tumble area. Ed Cahill told me that about 1979 there was a break-in at the rectory and the housekeeper was stabbed to death in the kitchen. He went on to say that Fr. O'Donnell killed the intruder, shooting him three times with his Army 45.

Irish Veterans

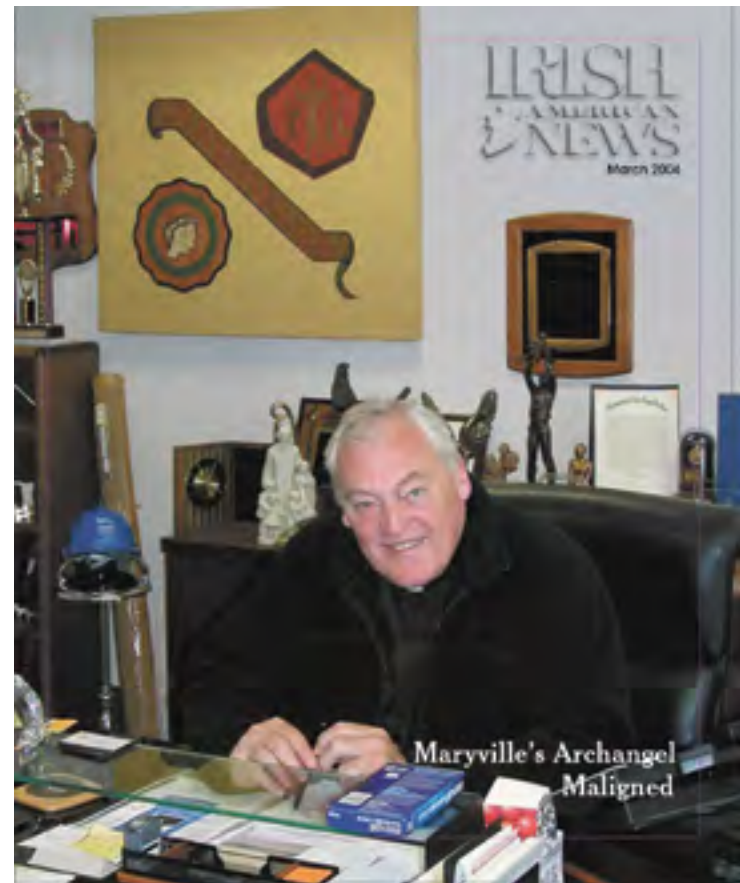
Irish veterans was borne out of the efforts of Dubliner, Declan Hughes, and James Sikora, a Corkman and U.S. Army veteran, who have been working to establish an Irish Veterans Heritage Center in Kinsale, Co. Cork.

Veterans Chapter #1 was dedicated at the White House, Kinsale, Co. Cork, and named for Navy Seal, Lieutenant Michael Murphy. MOH In Tampa, Florida we have the Major Kevin Kelley Chapter. We need a Chicago chapter in honor of Captain Joseph James McCarthy, USMC, Medal of Honor recipient on Iwo Jima.

For more information or to help, go to the website www.irishveterans.org or call Declan Hughes 011-353-86-406-6448.

Liberation Theology

A synthesis of Christian Theology and Marxist socio-economic analysis that emphasizes social



concern for the poor and the political liberation of oppressed peoples. "Preferential option for the poor."

The liberation theology movement gained strength in Latin

Church, and informally - as naive purveyors of Marxism and advocates of leftist social activism. By the 1990's the Vatican, under Pope John Paul II, had begun to curb the movement's influence through the appointment of conservative prelates in Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America.

Fr. John Smyth

One of the greatest priests I ever met. He was an all-American basketball player at Notre Dame, and turned down professional contracts for basketball, he entered the priesthood. Fr. Smyth was originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He told me once that if he had grown up there he would have fought on the side of the IRA.

My first encounter with Fr. Smyth was at Barney's Market Club on Randolph St. He raised incredible amounts of money for Maryville Academy in Des Plaines. I never heard anyone say a bad word about Fr. Smyth. May I repeat myself. I believe that the accusations made against Fr. Smyth are totally false. The headline on the cover, from March 2004 says it all. I'm sure he is sitting at the right hand of the Father.



America during the 1970's. Because of their insistence that ministry should include involvement in the political struggle of the poor against wealthy elites, liberation theologians were often criticized - both formally, from within the Roman Catholic

Whatever Happened to the Concept of Focus?

We have become a society that celebrates one's ability to multi-task. For example, we drive our cars while drinking a cup of coffee, checking our email, listening to the latest news on some electronic device, and shaving with our electric razor all at the same time. Perhaps you could add some other function that you have come to consider a "when driving" task. No wonder the police will ticket distracted drivers because their attention is divided amongst too many things.

In brief, their attention is diffused not focused on driving their car in a safe manner. I am reminded of a situation that occurred when I was a freshman in high school. My Science teacher had become quite aware of my lack of attention to what he was saying. As class was ending, he called me up to his desk. He said he had observed my lackadaisical response to his presentation of a particular chapter in our Science textbook. He said he wanted me to write out the entire 35-40 page chapter, illustrations included, over the impending weekend and bring the completed hand written chapter to him on Monday, our next class day. He convinced me that my failure to do so would be clearly reflected on my freshman report card. So starting that Friday evening and continuing until late Sunday evening, I wrote out the text of the chapter. I tried to convince my brother, Joe, and my best pal, Bill, to write some portion of the 35-40 pages, at least to draw a few of the illustrations. To my utter dismay, they both refused to assist; so it was up to me.

Well, by Sunday evening, I had completed the task.



Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



I ceremoniously presented it to my teacher first thing Monday morning. He clearly indicated that he did not remember giving me this assignment. He then threw the total re-write of the chapter into the waste basket without a glance.

I was angry with my teacher for taking up my whole weekend; I just didn't realize at the time that this valuable lesson would have a lifelong impact on me. **When you have a task to complete, do it.** Focus on its completion. If someone tried to convince me that I could complete this assignment by Monday morning, I would have laughed. What does this heart wrenching or pathetic story have to do with your life? It's obvious that it had a lot to do with mine. In brief, it says if a task has to be done by a certain time, you stand a chance of completing it if you focus your total attention on it. Perhaps you could be more persuasive in getting some nefarious assistance than I was.

Taking this issue to another level, will you focus on determining the most important tasks you have to accomplish each day this week? Do you start your work week with a plan for each day of the week? Or do you simply deal with the first matter you find on your desk? Setting some reasonable goals can go a long way in completing almost any task.

Any time you are being assigned a task, start with a can-do attitude. Be sure however that you obtain all the particulars regarding the timing and complexity of the task from the person who is assigning you the job. That can be difficult sometimes because the boss may have given such tasks to many people over the last year, so s/he might only give you the highlights or a basic overview. Just last week, I asked some people on the street directions to a certain part of their town. One individual was glad to give me specific directions, however, his well intended assistance fell short of the objective, but it did get me closer. Remember that grand old truism "God is in the details". It actually means that something will take more time and effort than originally thought. When people are

giving you instructions that they have given many times, they frequently give you only the particulars that they readily call to mind.

Get in the habit of "drilling down" when you are trying to establish what task you are being asked to complete. The person assigning the task may simply want to get it off her desk; don't let her give you just a part of the directions. As accomplished travelers might say, any fool can find New York City on their map or GPS but it takes some effort to find an obscure neighborhood location. Details do matter.

While working on this column, I took a short break, during which time I read Maurice Fitzpatrick's excellent article on Colonial Legacy in the April issue of the Irish American News. A bare bones example of how instructions can be misunderstood: in 1972 the British military commander of all British troops in Northern Ireland said "the minimum force necessary to achieve a restoration of law and order is to shoot the known ringleaders." However, three weeks later some British paratroopers killed fourteen innocent people on Bloody Sunday in Derry. Was there a misunderstanding between the two levels of command? Or possibly did someone relay the orders incorrectly? Of course, there could be many other reasons for this tragedy, but communications would be a likely source of the problem. Had someone forgotten to advise the paratroopers to focus on the "peace keeping" aspects of their mission?

For a more recent example, what about the British Airways plane that recently left London bound for Germany, yet landed in Scotland. With our highly technical communication capacity, how could such an error occur? Did the crew even look at their flight plan? One could most certainly say that these highly trained pilots did not focus on the task at hand. Carpe Diem.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: Asked of Mr. Bill Gates, "What was the most important factor in your success throughout your life?" His answer was one word: Focus. He also said, "it's best to do one thing really, really well."

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based firm that specializes in career transition/management and executive coaching. Jamesffitzgerald.com Email: jamesffitz37@hotmail.com. #630-420-0362

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Irish Language & Cultural Weekend in Iowa June 14-16

Iowa Irish, a group of volunteer organizations dedicated to promoting the Irish language, will hold their Annual Irish Language and Culture Weekend at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on 14th- 16th June 2019.

The workshop will include Irish language classes at all levels, from beginner to advanced, taught by native Irish speakers. Participants will be immersed in the language, and even outside of class time, there will be music, games, and other activities



all aimed at helping students to learn Irish.

This will be the fifth year the event is held, and already there is much interest from students

of past weekend courses. Wayne Shannon, Workshop Director and co-founder, has been impressed with the early response. "People are eager to come back to us. They have enjoyed their experience at a previous immersion course, and can't wait to do it again," Shannon said. "The past four years have shown us that there is a keen interest in Irish in the Midwest, and we look forward to this event continuing on well into the future." Contact eija5393@gmail.com.

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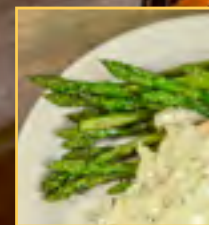
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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



At Catholic Charities, volunteers are essential to helping us care for the most vulnerable in the Archdiocese. More than 15,000 volunteers offer their compassion and assistance each year and without their help, we simply could not do all that we do to help those in need. An increasingly important group of Catholic Charities volunteers are students from local elementary and high schools. Young people have always volunteered at Catholic Charities, but over the past several years our relationships with many schools have become more formalized, as schools strive to have more structured social ministry programs that help their students see beyond the classroom. Parents and educators alike see the importance of giving students meaningful opportunities to put their faith into action. Student volunteers work with Catholic Charities in a multitude of ways such as helping at our health fairs, serving dinners to the hungry and homeless, playing with or reading to children in our early childhood centers, providing tutoring and homework help in our after school programs, providing one-on-one companionship to seniors, organizing collection drives, helping clients in our food pantries and clothing rooms, painting and cleaning our service sites, and much more. Catholic Charities is so grateful for our young volunteers because they bring a unique vibrance and energy to our programs. To the children we serve, our student volunteers are full of fun ideas and interesting stories. They have the stamina and patience to play endless games, read as many books as the children want, and provide tutoring and help with homework for as long as it takes. Our high school volunteers in particular become tremendous role models for the children, as the children see older youth who value education, are engaged in positive activities, and who are excited about the future. For the seniors Catholic Charities serves, our student volunteers spark a hope and happiness that is inspiring to watch. Especially for seniors without grandchildren nearby, interacting with youth reignites the passion for life and gives them the companionship that is

often missing in their lives. Students gain from their volunteer experiences

the knowledge that they can make a difference in people's lives. They witness the smiles and the gratitude. They have personal interactions with people from different races, different cultures and different backgrounds. They begin to see that they are a part of an entire community that extends beyond their family, their friends, and their neighborhoods. They see the largeness of the Church and know they are a part of something very positive and far reaching. Volunteering at young ages shows youth how to integrate their faith beyond Sunday mass and into their daily lives. Youth learn first-hand that serving others is an essential part of being Christian. Suddenly, the Gospel comes to life and they are living Mathew's Gospel, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Mt 25:35-36) The best part about Catholic Charities student volunteers is that they always want to do more. It is so important that we instill this hunger to serve in young people because it will last a lifetime. As we have learned from so many of Catholic Charities dedicated board members and adult volunteers who were involved in service in their youth, having the service bug bite young imbeds the desire to serve forever in our hearts. Catholic Charities is entirely grateful for the hope and inspiration that our young volunteers bring to our programs, and we are honored to be a part of their journey to becoming faith-filled, compassionate, well-rounded leaders of tomorrow.

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A Crash Course on Brexit

April has been month of headaches for British Prime Minister Theresa May. As she scrambled to whip the votes necessary to pass her Brexit deal, it became rapidly clear that the deal wouldn't pass. May minimally tweaked the deal several times to bypass Parliamentary rules that prevent the same bill from being voted on more than once, but to no avail. She even promised to step down from the Prime Minister role the

moment the deal had passed. Again, no dice.

This leaves the UK in a place of limbo. On one hand, May's party still desperately wants to leave the European Union, but members feel that her deal doesn't go far enough to ensure that a total withdrawal will occur (under May's deal, the UK would remain in the EU Customs Union through 2020). On the other hand, the minority (mainly left-wing) parties favor remaining in the EU and their members will vote no on any Brexit deal.

To add an Irish variable, Members of Parliament from Northern Ireland oppose the deal May has proposed because it includes an Irish border backstop; as part of the UK, these members argue, Northern Ireland should be able to fully withdraw from the EU just as Scotland, England, and Wales would. While this idea makes sense on paper, many are concerned that the reinstatement of a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland would reignite "The Troubles," which would inevitably cause civil unrest and could result in a great loss of life.

After proposing a deal, failing to get that deal passed, asking for an extension from the EU, receiving that extension, proposing

a modified deal several times, promising to resign if that deal passes, and ultimately failing to get a Brexit deal passed, May was forced to ask for another extension, which means MP's now have until Halloween to pass a deal outlining a smooth Brexit. If they fail to do so or receive another extension, a "Hard Brexit" will occur, where the UK would forcibly leave the European Union with no deal in place. This would inevitably cause an economic crisis in the UK, not to mention a good deal of political unrest in much of the country.

In all honesty, nobody knows what's going to happen with Brexit. Could a second referendum be called? Maybe. Could the UK end up leaving the EU with no

deal? Perhaps. Could May finally be successful in crafting a deal the majority of MP's agree with? Who knows!? An infinite amount of scenarios could play out in the coming months, but only time will tell what will actually happen. One thing is for sure, however: whatever happens in the coming months will shape the destiny of Europe, and could affect the rest of the world in a multitude of ways.

With trust in international institutions eroding in all corners of the Earth, the future of the EU, the UN, and other global organizations gets more and more uncertain with each passing day. Because of this, the UK's departure could have consequences that reach far beyond Europe

Irish Folk Icons Dervish Release The Great Irish Songbook

Featuring Guest Performances by Andrea Corr, Steve Earle, Rhiannon Giddens, Vince Gill, Brendan Gleeson, David Gray, Jamey Johnson, Imelda May, Kate Rusby, The SteelDrivers, and Abigail Washburn

London Premiere of The Great Irish Songbook Live Confirmed for September 19 at the Palladium

Nashville, TN - Iconic Irish folk group Dervish has released a new album, The Great Irish Songbook, which features performances by a remarkable array of guest vocalists.

One of those is Irish actor and director Brendan Gleeson - perhaps best known for his portrayal of Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody in the Harry Potter films - who lends his lilting baritone to the band's

spirited rendition of DK Gavan's much-loved classic "The Rocky Road To Dublin," which chronicles the adventures of a man as he travels from his home in Tuam, County Galway to Liverpool.

The Great Irish Songbook, Dervish's first studio album in more than a decade, is an ambitious project that boasts guest appearances by an extraordinary assemblage of singers and musicians from both sides of the Atlantic.

Dervish - Michael Holmes, Cathy Jordan, Liam Kelly, Brian Mc-

Donagh, Shane Mitchell, Tom Morrow, and Seamie O Dowd - is joined on The Great Irish Songbook by fellow Irish artists Andrea Corr, Brendan Gleeson, and Imelda May;

English singer Kate Rusby; Welsh singer-songwriter David Gray; and from the United States, Steve Earle, Rhiannon Giddens, Vince Gill, Jamey Johnson, The SteelDrivers, and Abigail Washburn.

Veteran music scribe Jackie

Hayden's review in Hot Press recommends, "If you need an urgent injection of nourishment for your mind, body and spirit, treat yourself to the this invigorating excavation of the The Great Irish Songbook," while The Irish Edition's Jamie O'Brien calls Dervish "one of the best bands in any genre to ever come out of Ireland" and proclaims the album their "best so far."

On September 19, Dervish will premiere The Great Irish Songbook at London's famed Palladium. Special guests David Gray and Kate Rusby will perform on the show and more guests will be confirmed shortly. A full slate of tour dates for summer and fall will be announced in the coming weeks.



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Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Emmett's Clutter Fact: If you don't have a place to put something, it WILL become clutter.

When you don't have enough room for all your stuff, you don't need more room, you need less stuff.

Emmett's Admonition:

Don't consider your wastebasket or recycle bin to be an enemy who gobbles up your important data; consider it to be a friend who must be nourished and fed. Feed it!

Above quotes from www.ritaemmett.com

The Clutter-Busting Handbook by Rita Emmett

A Day To Celebrate Clutter-Busting Your Paper

Did you ever receive a gift that seemed useless when you opened it but then you start to fall in love with it? That happened to me with a calendar.

That's right. A calendar - the same "gift" we received from our insurance guy, our bank and several charities we have donated to. (Received 8 this year) But after spending some time with THIS calendar, I was enthralled. It does not focus on dates we already know such as New Years and Halloween.

No, no - this calendar tells reasons to celebrate every day of the year such as Rubber Ducky Day (1/13), Chocolate Cake Day (1/27), Random Acts of Kindness Day (2/17), Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day (3/14), Encourage a Young Writer day (4/10) and that all of July is Anti-Boredom Month.

Truly, it's hard to stop. How about Dadgum That's Good Day (3/1)?

Then I began to check what special days fall on our birthdays. Hubby Bruce is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (1/9). Amazing coincidence - exactly one month earlier our son Robb received the "Police Officer of the Year Award". Far be it from me to brag about it ... so back to the calendar

Why would you care about this? Because the day before Bruce (aka King of Klutter) celebrates his birthday is "Clean Off Your Desk Day" (1/8).

It's already passed by but makes me wonder ... why can't we create our own day?

How about this: pick any day this month and declare it your own "Delete Paper Clutter Day".

19 TIPS FOR PAPER CLUTTER

1. Create a place for each paper to belong. If it doesn't have a "home", it becomes clutter.

2. Put papers where they belong.

3. Handle each piece of paper only once. Make decisions the FIRST time you touch a piece of paper.

4. Realize the world won't end if you get rid of much of your paper.

5. Get rid of what you don't need.

6. Skim material as soon as it arrives.

7. Open all snail mail near a wastebasket or recycle bin.

8. Try to get off junk mail lists or send it straight to the recycle bin.

9. If it takes less than a minute, do it now (read, recycle, toss, file, delete).

10. Create a place where all incoming mail goes till it can be sorted, tossed, recycled or put where it belongs.

11. Create a place where all incoming school papers go till they can be sorted, signed, reviewed, acted upon or filed.

12. Most monthly bills can be paid electronically. Saves time, cost of stamps, and paper clutter.

13. Do you have stacks of magazines you will read "someday"? Eliminate whatever you don't have time to read. Stop subscribing.

14. Recycle those papers that have one blank side. Put them a stack where people who need to jot notes or print out email jokes can help themselves instead of taking a new piece.

15. Ask yourself: Do you really want to devote precious space to this paper? Can you get this information from the internet or elsewhere?

16. Enter all messages and calls to be returned in a spiral notebook (instead of scattered scraps of paper) till it can be responded to or entered where it belongs.

17. Take ten minutes each day to sort, file or toss papers. Do at beginning or end of work day, or do it during commercials of the first hour watching TV.

18. Every day, before starting work, put away ten things on your desk.

19. Get rid of it.

And just in case you love to decorate for special days, you might want to begin preparations now for next year's Do a Grouch a Favor Day (1/16)

Happy clutter-busting AND happy celebrating.

Rita Emmett is a "Recovering Procrastinator", Professional Speaker, and author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook* and *The Clutter-busting Handbook*.

All her books are available on Amazon.com. To subscribe to her free monthly 'Anticrystallization Tip Sheet,' go to website <http://www.RitaEmmett.com>

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Do You Have A Favorite Comedian?

"My dear people let me try in my own adequate way to describe to all of you the widow Quinn, a wild women from the hills of Kerry with a figure like 6 miles of bad road, long red hair down her back none on her head and ugly God bless her, when she went to the zoo she needed two tickets, one to get in and one to get out." Hal Roach and the Irish are well known for being funny and finding humor in the unlikeliest places. I wanted to write about humor this month because of my father. He recently went under the knife and he was still able to make jokes, making us laugh when he was in the hospital. I think humor is a noted characteristic of Irish people. Some other cultures might not value humor as much as the emerald isle. While I was looking up funny people another common thread came up and that is several comedians go through depression. Humor is a great antidote for depression. In any given year 20 million Americans suffer from

depression and it can be fatal in some cases. 500,000 people attempt suicide annually and maybe just maybe laughter could curb that. Laughter does release those good chemicals, the same as a runner's high or eating chocolate. I'm not suggesting people with severe depression just need to have a laugh and they'll be fine but more laughter in all our daily lives is proven to increase the quality of life. It boosts morale. There are different kinds of humor which include: physical, self-deprecating, surreal (absurd situations for ex, Mr. Bean) improvisational, wit (word-play) topical, observational (daily life) and dark humor. Studies say a four-year-old laughs once every four minutes. I think adults forget to laugh period, never mind every four minutes. For adults' laughter is clouded because of bills, deadlines, responsibilities, aches & pains! Are we born with a sense of humor? Or is it the environment & people that we grow up with that encourage it? Maybe

some people that grow up with a lot of turmoil develop a sense of humor to cope and hide the pain from their childhood. I think to be funny is a great gift, it should be regarded as being brilliant. Surely to lighten any mood & be so entertaining we would all love to have that power. Some say a comedian's brain works faster than the average because by the time we realize one joke they have already come back with a few witty retorts. Irish and Jewish people are well known for their humor, maybe oppressed people tend to be more quick-witted. I've heard it said that comedians not only want to make us laugh but change the way we think. There is a political comedian John Fuglesang from New York that said, "Remember the people telling us to hate all Muslims because of Omar Mateen are the ones fighting for Mateen to have access to assault rifles." Some Irish comedians I'd like to highlight include Hal Roach, Ardal O'hlanon, Brendan Grace, Dara O'brian, Tommy Tiernan, Dermot Morgan and Des Bishop. Hal (born John Roach) came from Waterford he spent over 60 years in show business. He originally started a career in magic before he went into comedy. He was featured in the Guinness book of Records for the longest running engagement of a comedian at the same venue. Ardal O' Hanlon from Monaghan is an actor & comedian. You might know him as Fr. Dougal in the tv series, Fr. Ted. In 2007 he created the series,

"So you want to be a Taoiseach? In 2015 he launched Sky Cat Laughs in Kilkenny. Brendan Grace was born in the heart of Dublin; he is a comedian and singer. He left school at 13 to begin working. In 2009 he released his best-selling autobiography, Amuzing Grace. He now divides his time between his home in Palm Beach Florida and Co. Clare. Dara O'Brian from Wicklow is a comedian, tv presenter & newspaper columnist. He hosts the shows, mock the week, the panel, the apprentice. In 1994 he won the Irish Times National Debating Championship & the Irish Times/Gael Linn National Irish language debating championship. He is a fluent Irish speaker and is said to only speak to his father in Irish. Bravo! Comhghairdeas! Tommy Tiernan who comes from Donegal is a comedian, actor, writer and presenter. He lived for a time in Zambia, Africa. Maybe collecting some material for his shows. He has appeared several times on the Late Late show and the Late show with David Letterman. In 2009 Tiernan set the Guinness World record for the longest stand-up comedy show by an individual, 36 hours at Nuns Island in Galway. In 2013 he performed in Vicar Street Dublin for his 200th show audience of 1,000 people. I love to laugh, maybe more than the next guy, but I wasn't there, a robust crowd wouldn't be my favorite thing. Tiernan admits his sense of humor is controversial but claims there is no malice in his message. Dermot Morgan born in Dublin, sadly died

of a heart attack at the age of 45. He was an actor, comedian and schoolteacher. You may know him as Fr. Ted, he was Fr. "Ted" Crilly. He co-hosted the Saturday morning radio comedy show, Scrap Saturday. There is a wax statue of him in Dublin Museum. Lastly Des Bishop an Irish American comedian from New York. He moved to Ireland at the age of 14. Unfortunately, in 2000 at the age of 25 he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. That year he hosted a show, Don't feed the Gondolas, a news based tv show. He created a show in 2004, The Des Bishop Work experience, featured him attempting to live for one month working a minimum wage job. He speaks fluent mandarin Chinese; he has appeared in a few Chinese dating shows. If you want to be funnier in life, don't take things or yourself too seriously. I'll end the same as I started with a joke. Bill Murray: "twenty years ago we had Johnny Cash, Bob Hope and Steve Jobs. Now we have no Cash, no Hope and no Jobs. Please don't let Kevin Bacon die." Bill Murray Gaelic for the month Humor-greann Comedian-fuirseoir Laugh-gaire Funny-greannmhar Irish Proverb

"A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures in the doctor's bag" "The Irish, be they kings, or poets, or farmers, they're a people of great worth, they keep company with the angels, and bring a bit of heaven here to earth." If you have any comments, please email me: Molanive@yahoo.com



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This month we highlight Co. Armagh where the famous musician Tommy Makem comes from. The population is roughly 180,000. It is nicknamed the Orchard county because of the many apple orchards. Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, the seat of the Archbishops of Armagh. The primates or primacy of all Ireland for both the Roman Catholic church and the Church of Ireland is situated in Armagh. Fort Eamhain Mhacha was a pagan ceremonial site and one of the great royal capitals of Gaelic Ireland. Today Armagh is home to two cathedrals both named after St. Patrick and the Armagh observatory and is known for its detailed Georgian architecture. After Christianity spread through the pagan sanctuary converted into a Christian one. And so Armagh became the sight of an important monastery site. According to tradition St. Patrick founded his main church there in 457, it eventually became the religious capital of Ireland. In about 870 the monastery of St. Patrick was raided by Vikings as with all raids, their goal is to acquire valuables, which were often found in monasteries. The book of Armagh came from the monastery. It is a 9c Irish manuscript now held by Trinity college Library in Dublin. It contains some of the oldest surviving specimens of old Irish. Brian Boru is believed to be buried in the graveyard of St. Patrick's church. He was the high king of Ireland in 1002. Armagh has been an educational center since the time of St. Patrick and thus it has been referred to as the city of Saints & scholars. The educational tradition continued with the foundation of the Royal school in 1608, St. Patrick's college in 1834 and Armagh observatory in 1970. Three brothers from Armagh died at the battle of the Somme during World War 1. None of the brothers have a known grave and all are commemorated on the Thiepval



memorial to the missing of the Somme. Sadly, during the troubles in Armagh the violence was substantial enough for the city to be referred to by some as "Murder Mile". Over the span of two decades 24 people were killed.

On a much lighter note there is the big Tayto factory in Armagh. It is a castle a, 500 year old castle. They give tours, visitors can see how taytos and snacks are made. Taytos are Irelands favorite chips called, crisps. When I was in primary school my mother taught me the words to the song, Boys from Armagh, "There's one fair county in Ireland with memories so glorious and grand where nature has lavished it's bounty in the orchards of Erin's green land... There is a town in Pennsylvania named Armagh. Songs of Armagh: boys from Co. Armagh, boys from Mullabawn and the bard of Armagh

THIS IS A TRUE STORY...

Rekha maintains an exercise regime that includes a brisk walk every morning around some gardens in our neighborhood. One morning, she was walking earlier than usual, daybreak was only just beginning to set in, and it was still relatively dark.

As she was walking, a cyclist came up to her, snatched

her handbag (containing her keys, phone and credit cards) and sped off with it! She ran after him shouting "thief - thief". A man further ahead was washing a car and had a bucket of water with him. He grabbed the bucket and threw the water on to the cyclist. The cyclist, caught off guard, drove off the pavement and his bike fell over. The other people in the park rushed over and surrounded him. My friend Rekha was worried that the people would try and beat him up, as often happens in India, and so she pleaded with them not to hurt him. She bent down and asked the man why he did this to her? He was extremely repentant and explained that he was the son of a poor farmer and that this year their crops had failed. He said that the money lenders had threatened to beat up his father and hurt their family if they didn't pay on time. He said that he was desperate and didn't know what else to do. He was very sorry. Rekha was deeply moved by this story. She could see that boy was young and he was so skinny and bonny. She looked into the boy's eyes and said that she forgave him. She pulled out some money from her handbag and gave it to him. She told him that stealing was wrong and that he shouldn't do it again. He said he wouldn't. He said he was from a good family and well brought up and that he had made a terrible mistake.

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Young Dubliner Making A Difference For Chicago Youth

By Dean Arrowsmith

I sat down with Irish native, Nick Mulvaney from Garristown, Co Dublin to hear about his amazing journey in soccer that has taken him to Mississippi, New Orleans, London, and now to in Chicago.

"I have really found my place here in Chicago in such a wonderful city with amazing people and I do not see myself ever leaving."

Nick left his family in Dublin at 18 years of age to pursue a soccer scholarship at William Carey University playing 4 years and captaining the team his senior year. He then became the grad Assistant while playing PDL for New Orleans Shellshockers before heading to Chicago to play for the Chicago Fire NPSL. From there Nick's playing career took him to London where he played non-league before heading back to Chicago in 2011.

After stints of coaching in the Southern and Northern suburbs, Nick became the Director of Coaching at Chicago Lakefront Attack Soccer Club in the City.

In June 2012 Nick founded Chicago City Soccer Club as a not for profit and rebranded CLASC in June 2013 and became the Executive Director. Nick set out on changing the face of soccer in the City as at that time there was not much of a structure here in the City. It did not take long as CCSC began to raise the standards throughout and they became the true community club for families in the area. Providing a true player development pathway for its players but also for its coaches, they have been able to keep a consistent group of very highly qualified and experienced staff. CCSC are one of very few clubs to have 3 x USSF A and 12 x USSF C licensed coaches on staff who are all full time with the organization.

"It was always important for me to find the right people that believed in my vision and were invested in making it happen which has allowed us to create a pretty unique team of coaches who work so well together as a team. They support one another on and off the field and so when we say, "Join the

family", we truly mean it."

The Illinois Youth Soccer Association awarded City SC their 5 Star Club Award in 2015 which made them the first in the City and the 6th in the State. Their focus on player development on and off the field has been key to creating opportunities on a Regional, National, and International level for their players and coaches.

Chicago City SC has become an established organization over their short 5 years and as they move into 2019-20 they are expanding into the Chicagoland area. After adding a North location in Mount Prospect 2018, they will be adding a South location out of Bedford Park, a West location out of Lombard, and a Northshore location out of Evanston. As more and more families throughout the region search for a club that truly sticks by its belief and philosophy, CCSC continues to grow and they want you and your family to be a part of this journey. Nick also leads their Illinois TOPSoccer program for children with disabilities through the Chicago Superstars which runs Spring and Fall, Mondays 4-5pm on the lakeshore.

www.chicagosuperstarsoccer.com The club will be holding tryouts for all programming in May so please visit their website for more details. (<https://www.chicagocitysoccerclub.com/chicagosoccer>)

Another unique piece to Chicago City SC the creation of the first Women's team in the City of Chicago. Nick and his team formed a WPSL team in 2018 who play in the largest Women's league in the world, the Women's Premier Soccer League. This is the highest level of women's soccer in the city and is used as a platform for college players as they seek out a professional career upon graduation.

Last season 50+ players were drafted from the WPSL into the NWSL and so the league is a proven pathway for local Chicago players. There are plans this spring to team up with the Chicago Sky to co brand on women's sport in Chicago, stay tuned on that one and the team is looking for family

housing for its players and also they are welcoming and sponsorship or investors on this project. Check out the website for more details - (<https://www.chicagocityscwpsl.com>)

"Everything we try to do at CCSC is to provide as much opportunity for our members within the



Nick Mulvaney

game, and to see girls coming back to our club after being away in college is a really proud moment for me."

Nick continues to lead the way on bringing communities together through the game in all the right ways and he has once again proved that with his most recent endeavour.

On March 28th, 2019 Illinois United Soccer Club was released as another not for profit organization involving the following youth travel soccer clubs in the Chicagoland area. All Chicago City SC clubs along with FC Lake County, Pegasus SC and Hoffman United SC. These clubs will collaborate on and off the field to create the Midwest FC Bayern Munich ID Program which provides unique opportunities for players and coaches of all clubs involved.

The project was spearheaded by Dublin native Nick Mulvaney, Executive Director for Chicago City Soccer Club, who has been a trailblazer in the Illinois soccer scene over the past ten years.

Illinois United's philosophy is "To unite like-minded, forward thinking people to work together on creating an organization that fosters a loving culture for the game and more opportunities for players and coaches".

Player assessments will take place throughout the spring in North and West Chicago for all ages. Pre ID Program (U8-U10), ID Program (U11-U12) and Elite Training Center (U13-U18) where players are competing to make the Regional teams to then have the

opportunity to be selected for the National ID Camp, and then to be selected for the National Teams to play nationally or internationally.

It was clear to see when speaking with Nick that his heart is in the right place with everything he is doing for the game in Chicago.

"You know, when I began on this journey 7 years ago, one of the main things I kept telling myself as I watched other leaders in the industry cutting corners and over promising their members, was that I would do everything I can to be real with people. I ensured my staff and I focused solely on what we were doing, and what our mission statement was, and to stay on track and provide the best product on and off the field for the families in our city. I worked very hard on surrounding myself with good people and I had always believed I would continue to attract like minded people who cared as much as I do, and so here we are today. I have some incredible people around me who are invested in the youth of Chicago and providing a quality product that brings happiness through this beautiful game". nmulvaney@chicagocitysoccerclub.com

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What is a 'Cúl Camp'?

CICS will host its Inaugural Event this June. A Gaelic Football and Hurling Camp (often referred to as "Cúl" Camps because "Cúl" in Irish or Gaelic means goal). Cúl camps are currently held in every county in Ireland, as well as the USA and many other countries where Gaelic sports are played. CICS wants to introduce this amazing Summer Experience to Chicagoland's kids.

Cúl Camp, provides boys and girls – between the ages of 4 and 14 – with an action-packed and fun-filled three days of activity & games. The Camp is designed to introduce boys & girls to the thrills and excitement of Gaelic Football and Hurling. Whether a child is experienced or has never played Gaelic football or Hurling before, Cúl Camp is designed to provide a rewarding and fun time.



When is the Cúl Camp?

Thursday, June 20 9:30 - 1.30 pm

Friday June 21st 9:30 - 1.30 pm

Saturday, June 22nd 10:00am to 1pm

DROP OFF CLASSES!

Where is the Cúl Camp?

The Camp will take place at Peterson Park
 5801 N Pulaski, Chicago IL 60611



How Much is Cúl Camp?

- \$50.00 per child
- \$100 per family

Key Features of Cúl Camps Are:

- Structured learning so that a different aspect and skill of the game is taught every day;
- Activities are player centered with a Games Based Approach and a strong emphasis on personal development, working as part of a team and well-being.
- Activities will be organized in an age appropriate manner, with a view to optimize learning, enhance friendships, improve physical and psychological well being and promote the overall benefits of Gaelic Games.
- Children will be taught and supervised by Certified GAA Coaches.
- On the final day of Cúl Camp, children will take part in real life games, to provide each child with an introduction to competitive games and put the skills they have learned into practice.
- Every child will receive their own Cúl Camp jersey.

What Should I Bring

to Cúl Camp?

- Packed Lunch + Drink
- Suitable playing gear, tracksuit, shorts, gym shoes, football boots
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- Towel •Water



(CICS) is a community based Volunteer Organization promoting Gaelic Games and Irish Culture throughout the Chicagoland area. For Info connect with us on Facebook: @CICS Gaelic Sports.

For more information

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