

Chicago Hooker Sails to Galway



May • 2006

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Fr. Close Retiring

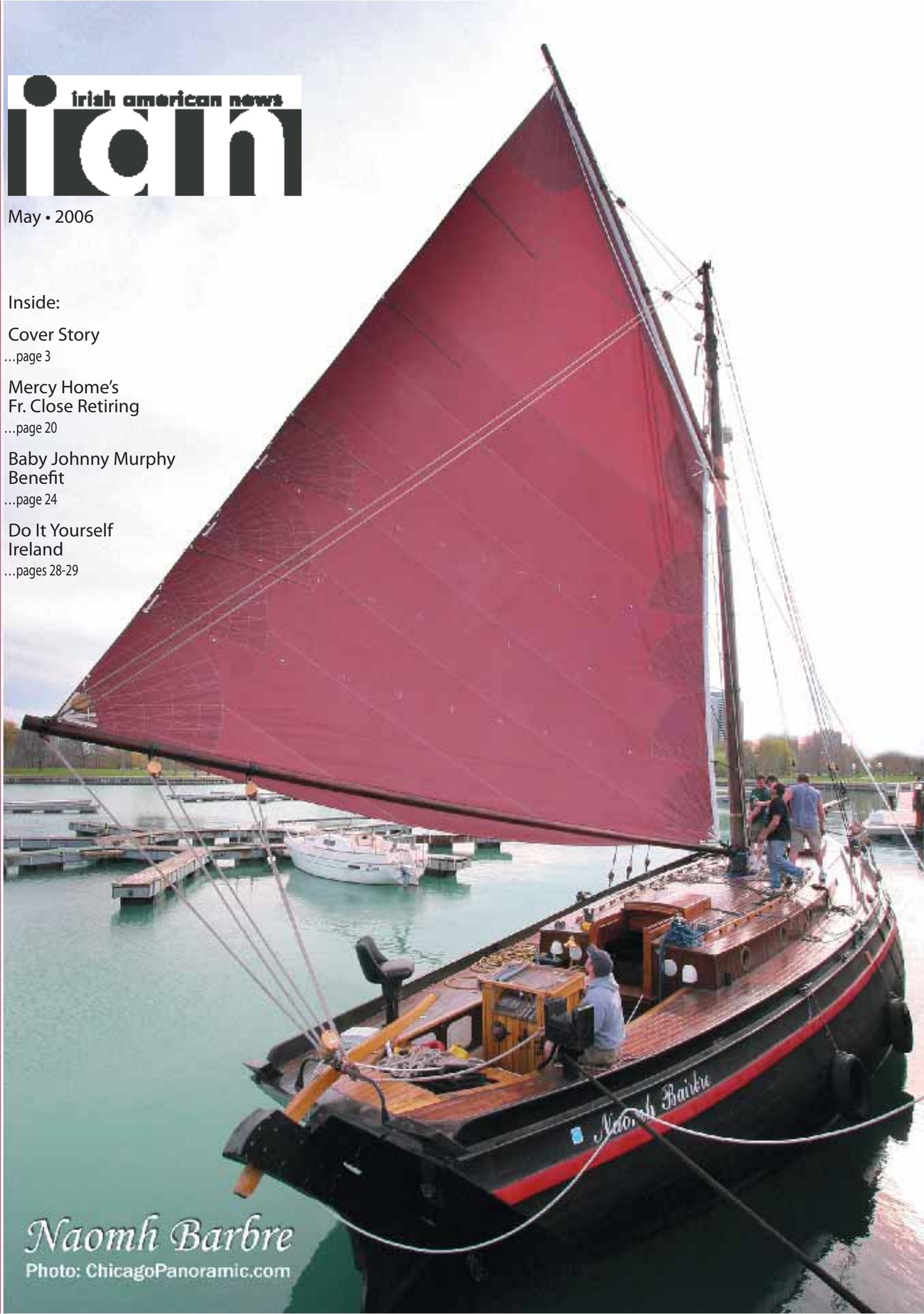
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Naomh Barbre

Photo: ChicagoPanoramic.com

Mulkerrin's rule: Build a boat in your garage and sail it to Ireland!

On April 26, 2006, Steve Mulkerrin and crew sailed his homemade "Galway Hooker" out of Montrose Harbor turning his dream of sailing to Ireland into reality. Now they just have to make it "across the pond!"

You might not be a part of the crew of the Chicago-made Naomh Barbara, but you can journey with the brave boys from to Ireland by following their progress live via their web site at www.sailingtoireland.com or at www.irishamericannews.com.

Naomh Barbara (St. Barbara) is a Galway Hooker class boat built in Chicago by Steve Mulkerrins from Lettermore, Co. Galway.

Steve's labor of love began as a dream many years ago, while the actual construction began in 2001. Three long years, many long nights and quite an expense later, the project of a lifetime was completed.

Steve's first became a first boat christening for Mayor Richard J. Daley who performed the ceremony at Montrose Harbor on June 4th of 2004. Mayor Daley has followed the progress of St. Barbara, and no doubt will follow the journey across the Atlantic to Galway via the internet.

The Crew of Naomh Barbara are Steve Mulkerrins, skipper Pat Joyce and his brother Tom, Barney Flaherty, and Coley Newell.

Whatever Floats Your Boat

Crew member and resident phi-

lospher, Coley Newell, explains his sound reasons for going.

"I know I'm nuts, I've known this for many years now. Not completely nuts, but a good healthy dose of it, enough to make people look twice at you. It's the people that will try to convince you that they're normal, now those are the ones that scare me, especially if they're from Ireland. It's part of the

mental back-pack given to you at birth, whether you want to believe it or not, it's there.

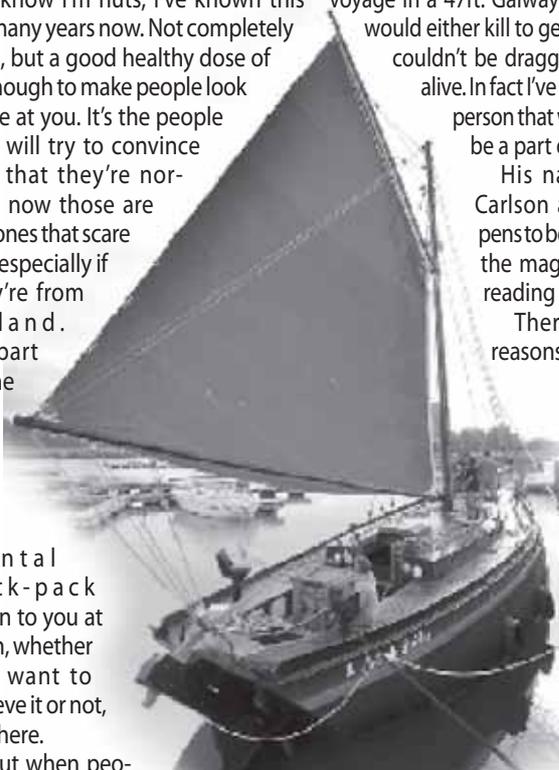
But when people hear for the first time about the journey four able seamen and myself are about to take part in, that look is there, you know the one. The contorted facial expression that lets you know, this person had no idea of the degree of my insanity, the Deer in headlights look.

There is no Grey area that I've encountered regarding an ocean crossing voyage in a 47ft. Galway Hooker. You would either kill to get on it or you couldn't be dragged on board alive. In fact I've met only one person that would love to be a part of this trip.

His name is Cliff Carlson and he happens to be the editor of the magazine you're reading right now!

There are many reasons for wanting to take part in something like this, adventure, being a part of history, the love of the Ocean or revenge for what she's taken from you.

For all of us going, it's primarilyly adventure. The romantic notion of conquering the bold Atlantic Ocean, when it's you against Mother Nature and that's it. Having to rely on your wits, respecting her but also never forgetting that she's taken so many of



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your friends and relatives that you hate her as much as you love her. A very fine balance that tilted enough either way is a recipe for disaster.

We were sailing on Lake Erie (ironically named the Graveyard of the Great Lakes) almost 18 months ago, when we got word of a boat that went down between Rossaveal and the Aran islands with 4 men missing. All four had perished. One had helped Steve on the boat we were on, two others went

to school with Pat the skipper and the fourth, just 25 years old.

It's odd that it never changed my mind about wanting to go, it never even crossed my mind as a matter of fact until just now. My grandfather and uncle were taken from my family before I even had a chance to meet them, so the way I see it, she owes me and I owe her. I'll consider her debt to me paid in full if she delivers all of us safely in Lettermore!"

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Minister Dermot Ahern launches ePassport

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern T.D., took delivery of the first Irish ePassports, containing biometric data. While the new biometric passport will look much the same as its predecessor, it will have a microchip embedded in it which contains the digitized facial image and personal details of the passport holder as they appear on the data page. The microchip can be read electronically at border controls. This technology represents a major development in identity verification and security, providing a much stronger linkage between the individual and his or her identity than traditional systems which rely solely on visual identification. It will strengthen the passport issuing process by providing a further safeguard against fraudulent applications. The Minister stated that it is important for citizens to be assured that such data is securely stored and its use is properly regulated by legislation, passed by the Oireachtas.

The new ePassports are presently undergoing independent testing in the Netherlands and will also be tested in US State facilities in Virginia to ensure they meet US specifications. Under the United States visa waiver program, participating countries must move to full production of biometric passports before 26 October, 2006. It is estimated that Irish citizens made 500,000 visits to the US last year, making Ireland one of the top 10 countries among visitors to that country.



Dermot Ahern T.D.

The Minister highlighted the need to also introduce a series of new offences relating to traveling on a false Irish passport which will be contained in new legislation approved by Government. The proposed legislation will introduce a series of offences and penalties that will offer greater security to Irish passport holders.

Pardon requested for Irish Soldiers 'Shot at Dawn'

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D., has laid before the Oireachtas a report prepared by his Department into the courts-martial and executions of 26 Irish-born soldiers by the British Army during the First World War.

In its findings, the report described a military system of justice which was flawed, which appeared to ignore clear evidence of medical afflictions, and which was marked by class-bias and a disparity in the treatment of different Irish soldiers. A total of 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers were tried under this system and 'shot at dawn'.

Addressing Seanad Éireann on this issue, Minister Ahern said that "our unwavering objective is to engage in finding an agreed resolution on this issue that would bring comfort to the families of those executed..."

(and) to recover their memory from the dishonor that was done to them some 90 years ago."



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Minister Michael Ahern welcomes Precision Software

Minister for Trade and Commerce, Michael Ahern T.D., officially opened the new US corporate headquarters of Precision Software in Chicago, on March 10th, 2006.

Precision Software is an indigenous Irish company providing global logistics solutions. Precision moves goods for 900 medium and large scale customer sites in 55 countries world-wide.

Speaking at the official opening of the new headquarters in Chicago, Minister Ahern said: "Precision Software is a fine example of the new breed of Irish company which is actively developing business opportunities across the United States. Irish companies now have over 300 offices in 35 states in the US and they employ over 52,000 people. Irish investment in the US has increased ten-fold in the last decade. And more is on the way.

"Irish companies, with Enterprise Ireland support, are continuing to set up offices in the Americas to service customers, prospect new business and seek out partnerships with US companies. Ireland's high tech companies have been successful in the US, and in other international markets, because they offer high quality products and business solutions that are tailored to specific customer requirements.

Bell named as Northern Ireland Assembly Speaker

The British government announced the next Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly will be former Alliance Party deputy leader, Eileen Bell. Mrs. Bell was a member of the last Assembly and has represented North Down at Stormont since 1998. She was the deputy leader of the moderate unionist Alliance Party from June 2001 until she quit the post recently to make way for East Belfast MLA Naomi Long. Mrs. Bell will be the first woman speaker of the Assembly and succeeds former Alliance leader Lord Alderdice. She is a former civil servant and a Peace People activist - born in Dromara in County Down and grew up in Belfast.

Mr. Hain said she was taking over as the Presiding Officer at Stormont at a crucial time in Northern Ireland politics. Stormont's 108 Assembly members will be asked on May 15 to try to form



Minister, Michael Ahern T.D., and Greg Lloyd, CEO of Precision Software.

"Precision Software has come a long way in a comparatively short time and, clearly, has the drive and capability to achieve even greater things in the future," Minister Ahern concluded.

Precision Software was established in 1984 in Dublin, Ireland. From the early days of developing a software solution to create documents for goods being shipped out of Ireland, Precision Software and its product has grown to encompass all international shipping, to anywhere from anywhere, for all modes of transit. Today, Precision employs 120 people and its global trade and transportation solution, TRAXi3 supports 900+ customer sites in 55 countries.

a power-sharing executive involving unionists and nationalists, including Sinn Fein. Northern Ireland's 108 MLAs will be summoned to Stormont on May 15 and given six weeks to form a power sharing executive. If that proves impossible, the political process will be parked throughout the summer. The Assembly would then be recalled in September and given issues to work on such as water charges, the rates, education and the economy. Assembly members would also be given an ultimate deadline of November 24 to form an executive. If no power sharing government could be formed by then, MLAs' salaries and allowances would be stopped and the British and Irish Governments would enter into new partnership arrangements, deepening and extending the level of cross-border co-operation.

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Tinker's Dam

by Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley



Late Irish President de Valera was a Carmelite



President Eamon de Valera

It is scarcely over 30 years since the death in 1975 of the late President Eamon de Valera of the Republic of Ireland and one of his nation's great political figures. His exploits during the Easter Rising of 1916, and his being the only Irish commandant not executed by the British General Sir John Maxwell, gave him great status in Ireland.

According to some reliable sources, this was due to the fact that de Valera was actually born in Brooklyn, N.Y. of Irish and Spanish ancestry. The British, faring badly on the Western Front, didn't wish to antagonize America, its future potential ally in World War I, by executing one of its citizens. There was substantial opposition to America's participating in that conflict, especially among the large Irish and German ethnic groups in the U.S. De Valera, after his release from prison in England, along with Irish leader Michael Collins, became one of the leaders in Ireland to oppose the conscription of Irishmen into the British army in World War I.

When de Valera was the last commandant to surrender his garrison at Boland's Mills in Dublin at the end of the Easter Week Rising, his British captor, Captain Hitzen remarked, "You made a gallant stand, it is a pity you were not on our side fighting the Germans." "We have our ideals," replied de Valera, not turning his head from the road in front of him, "and we only fight for our ideals."

In this brief statement the fu-

ture president of Ireland tried to sum up his political beliefs. In his decades of service to Ireland, he tried to live out that belief in spite of the opposition his programs sometimes brought about.

During his long life of 93 years, Eamon de Valera offered great service to the people of Ireland, especially after the Anglo-Irish War of 1919-21 when the Irish Free State was established with limited freedom. He also served as prime minister of Ireland from 1932-48, 1951-54, and from 1957-59. His final service to the Irish was as president of the Republic of Ireland from 1959-75 when death came at the age of 93.

"He tended to be very much the schoolteacher he had been earlier in life," explain Michael J. Shanley, this writer's father who was a member of the Dublin Brigade of the Old IRA and served in de Valera's body-guard detail. "He was so very tall and had such pronounced features that it was difficult to disguise him."

Birth in America

Born in New York of Irish and Spanish parentage, de Valera went to Ireland as a youth and made it his homeland for always. Though he was a scholar seemingly destined for a life of teaching and research in Mathematics, both politics and rebellion swept him into its whirlwind. De Valera was to know rebellion, defeat, prison, disillusionment, and finally only partial victory. He and others in the 1916 Rising were more academics than rebels. This led the British to refer derisively to it as "The Schoolteachers' Rebellion."

Carmelite Connection

According to Fr. Joseph (Linus) Ryan of the Irish Carmelite Province, De Valera's friendship with the Carmelite Order came about as a result of a schoolboy friendship at Blackrock College in Dublin with Fr. Lawrence

(Dionysius) Flanagan, O.Carm. After de Valera had escaped from Lincoln Goal in England in 1919, he made his way to Our Lady of the Scapular Priory on E. 28th Street in New York City. Here Fr. Flanagan, who was ordained a Carmelite and had become part of the New York Irish Province, and the other Carmelites hid DeValera in the priory while an international police force searched for him in vain. De Valera, a daily communicant, never forgot the kindness of the Carmelites to him. And when Fr. Flanagan returned to Ireland for a vacation after a long period in the U.S. De Valera placed a government car and driver at his disposal.

On the Carmelite side, according to Fr. Ryan, it was the most Rev. Kilian Lynch, O.Carm., then prior general of the Order (1947-59) who admitted de Valera to full membership in the Carmelites on the occasion of a visit of de Valera to Rome. "I can personally testify that he wrote to

me during my time as provincial and asked that after his death he would be laid out and buried in the Habit of the Carmelite Order (Calced)," wrote Fr. Ryan. "In that letter he mentioned that

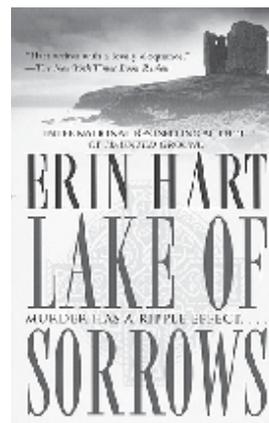
he had already made Fr. Donald Maria O'Callaghan (former provincial of the St. Elias Province, New York) aware of this request."

At the death of President Eamon de Valera in May of 1975, his request was fully carried out and he was laid out and buried in the full Carmelite habit and white cloak. According to Fr. Ryan, there are photographs in the Archives of the Irish Province showing President de Valera lying in state at Dublin Castle in his Carmelite habit.

In the summer of 1972, my mother (Mary O'Neill Shanley) and this writer had an audience at the Presidential House in Phoenix Park (Arus an Uachtarain) in Dublin. He was delighted to know that one of his old comrades, my father (Michael J. Shanley) had a son who was a Carmelite priest. His devotion to the Carmelites, especially through the Scapular and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, was still very much in evidence.

Lake of Sorrows

by Erin Hart
Pocket Star Books; \$7.99; ISBN 0-7434-7101-6
www.amazon.com



Hart delves into Ireland's mysterious peat bogs to create a stunning tale of deception and murder. Pathologist Nora Gavin arrives at a desolate industrial site in the Irish midlands where workers have just unearthed a long-buried, badly damaged body. Moments after her arrival a much more recent victim is discovered. Like the ancient body, the new corpse bears multiple wounds, suggesting the ghastly ritual of "triple-death", a primitive practice in which a victim was slain three ways. What does this reminder of Ireland's blood-soaked pagan past mean?

Erin Hart is a theater critic and a founder of Minnesota's Irish Music and Dance Association. She and her husband live in Minnesota and frequent Ireland often. www.erinhart.com.





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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



Immigration bill still a problem.

Although the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee recently passed a good version of the McCain-Kennedy legislation on mostly a Democratic vote, 11-6 it later fell apart as Republicans attempted to attach amendments that would largely water down its effect. After much partisan bickering the senate voted itself a two-week vacation and that's where it stands now during the absence of the lawmakers.

When the members of the committee and others return from the visit to their respective states they will no doubt have heard an earful from their voters, who by and large want the borders fixed before anything else. So until that happens the struggle to enact a "fair and equitable immigration law will" continue. And Reform workers, Irish and others will have to continue to reach their senators

with their story, all over again.

Senator Ted Kennedy and his co-sponsor of the legislation which was passed by the committee although crestfallen said later, "I'm sorrowful but not without hope for the future." Senator John McCain was on the same page with "the fight is not over, We'll bring it up again until it passes, the issue must be addressed."

Looking back to the days of the late 1960's when the American-Irish Immigration Committee was endeavoring to get a similar bill passed in the senate, the House had already passed the bill, which would have provided a "Floor" for future years after the old "National Origin Quota System" had been scrapped, as being "Discriminatory", the senate allowed the bill "to die" and this has been the problem ever since. Countries like Ireland and other northern-western European coun-

tries have been "Handicapped" because of its pattern of emigration, despite the huge contribution of its earlier emigrants in fighting for, defending and rebuilding this great country of ours.

Hopefully, U.S. congress will not allow this injustice to prevail and Reform movements, Irish and others will continue the struggle to enact a "Fair and equitable U.S. Immigration law". One that will take into account the contribution made by the Irish and other countries in making our country the best in the world.

Ray O'Hanlon a unique candidate for Irish Senate.

News of the possibility of Ray O'Hanlon, popular senior Editor of the Irish Echo newspaper, being eligible for consideration to fill a vacant seat in the Irish Parliament spread through Chicago-Irish circles recently, where the Dublin man is considered a unique voice for the Irish diaspora abroad.

Senator Jim Higgins who presently fills the Mayo seat in the Irish senate was also elected to the European Parliament in 2004 and now has graciously offered to give up his seat in the senate in order to make way for a qualified representative abroad, provided that a qualified candidate could be found and would be available. Ray O'Hanlon was immediately proposed and has allowed his candidacy to proceed. The two big political party's in Ireland, Fianna Fail and Fine Gae have agreed to the proposal.

Ray O'Hanlon has few equals as a writer and editor. His special interest has always been in the welfare of Irish emigrants, especially the "Undocumented". We urge Irish-Americans to rally support for Ray O'Hanlon.

Mary Riordan hailed in County Clare.

Well known Chicago Gael Mary Riordan, live wire secretary of the very active Chicago Gaelic Park, Board of Directors,

was recently hailed in her native Co. Clare newspaper, The Clare Champion, under the title, "Clare Gael at home in the Windy City". It was brilliantly written by one of Clare's former star caman wielders, Gerry McInerney. Although I never saw Gerry play the old caman game, I have been assured that in his time he was one of the best forwards in Ireland, and that says our mutual friend, P.J. O'Dea (the man from Clare) is saying something.

The popular Mary, who hails from Kilmihil, has indeed been one of the guiding lights in the continuous Gaelic Park success. In her own inimitable style, quiet, soft spoken but firm, she commands attention and her ever readiness to take on any job that requires attention ranks her as an exceptionally unique leader in Chicago gaeldom. There is no doubt that with others she must share the distinction of being one of the pillars of this great Board of Directors over the years. Long may we enjoy leaders of her calibre.

In addition to the dedication that "the darling lass from Clare" puts into her recording position, her Gaelic Park radio program which she shares with two other great Chicago Gaels, Harry Costello (the man for all seasons) and Mary Hackett, has a vast audience and is another great success in not only promoting the countless Gaelic activities at the Park every night of the week, but also in promoting the traditional Irish games hurling and Gaelic football scheduled each Sunday afternoon, from 2.00pm until 6.00pm, during the playing season, April to September.

Gerry ends up his fine story with the sentence, "Nary is your true Gael, a Gael away from home." She sure is Gerry. Clare's loss was Chicago's gain. Mary found a welcome home here in the Windy City with another great

Gael from the mighty Kingdom, Matt Riordan brother of Batt, both of whom played some fine football over the years with the famed Chicago's St. Brendan's. The Edmund Rice Network on the Web.

Our sincere thanks to hard working Christian BRother, John Dornbos, Br. Rice High School, Chicago, who sends along the fine "Edmund Rice Network on the Web", footsteps walking with Edmund, the world over. The new province of Christian BRothers North America includes 300 Brothers spread across three countries, United States, Canada and Dominica. This huge undertaking provides some insight regarding the many expressions of the richness of the charism of Blessed Brother Rice, native of Kilkenny, Ireland and hopefully the next Irish saint.

The network includes, Congregation website, www.edmundcit.org. Edmund Rice Christian BRothers, North America, www.erercbna.org. Christian BRothers Vocation, North America, www.cfcvocations.org. Associates Of Blessed Edmund Rice, North America, www.associates.blogspot.com.

Readers are invited to log on for further information. The immediate business is to pray for the canonization of Blessed Edmund. Favors received however small are requested to be forwarded to the nearest CBS school. In Chicago, Bro. Rice, St. Laurence or Leo. Or. Bro. John Dornbos, 1-773-445-4988.

Daily Southtown asked to retract its "Kiss Me I'm Drunk" Irish man illustration.

In an otherwise fine Southside St. Patrick Day Parade issue, the Daily Southtown printed an illustration of an Irishman with a tri-color flag in his hand and a glass in the other, and a "Kiss Me, I'm Drunk" button on his lapel under the heading "Please behave, a sensible guide to etiquette and behavior at the Southside Irish parade"! But, instead of the usual button slogan, "Kiss me I'm Irish", he cleverly or otherwise substituted the wording to read, "Kiss me I'm drunk", indicating I presume that this is a drunken Irishman celebrating.

The wording beside the illustration reads, "Dressing festively and waving an Irish flag is a fine idea. Getting drunk and being abnoxious is a dumb idea." Some people may think that all this is being funny and is nothing to get



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alarmed at. Making an issue over nothing. But, Irishmen have long labored in the United States under a false label that they are the world champion drinkers. Strange as it may seem, they are only third after the Germans and English. And far from being abnoxious when they do get inebriated at celebrations they are known to become sentimental.

I'm sure that I was not the only one that protested this illustration, but if I was, so be it. I felt justified asking for a retraction in the interest of dispelling the myth, that everyone at a St. Patrick's day parade is of Irish ancestry. The whole world, or at least part of it, is Irish on St. Patrick's Day and we Irish love it. And not everyone that takes a drink becomes obnoxious or troublesome. So there is no justification and I am not amused at the Daily Southtown's continuation of this unjustified myth. And if we of Irish ancestry, and that includes the Parade Committee, allow this to get by then we deserve what we get.

Up to the present the Daily Southtown has not acknowledged my letter. Perhaps that's the usual Chicago media way of ignoring the matter in the mistaken opinion that if the writer does not agree with our opinion throw his letter in the wastepaper basket. Thank God our Editor, Cliff Carlson prints all such letters because he believes in telling both sides of the story. A fact that has not pierced the heads of other Chicago media yet. To be continued.

An Irish baseball team.

According to a fine story in a recent Irish Echo by Fiona Walsh there is presently an Irish national baseball team in existence and doing well. And as a matter of fact there is a documentary being filmed called the "Emerald Diamond" based on the teams activities to date which includes winning a bronze medal in the European championship.

John Fitzgerald who has ancestry in Cork, Tipperary and Kerry filming the film, said that the team started out without a field, funds or equipment. They now have a dedicated field in Dublin thanks to Peter O'Malley owner of the Dodgers of Los Angeles. Other teams have started in Belfast and Cork.

Fitzgerald said, "I think Irish people take to the game naturally, because of our history of hurling". Hopefully he knows that the game "Rounders" the forerunner of baseball was brought to America by early Irish emigrants. And with some changes developed into our baseball. I can recall playing the game with hurley and ball back in the late 20's in Kilkenny City.

English parades begin to rival U.S.

English-Irish readers of our paper, the Joe McVeagh family from the Midlands, tell us that English parades honoring Ireland's national Apostle, St. Patrick, have begun to rival America's in turn-out and color. Despite the cold windy weather and in some cases snow, thousands of people

sporting the tri-color Irish flags and bunting marched in tributes to the Irish saint, whilst thousands more along the march routes cheered them on.

From London up to the midlands, Birmingham, Manchester and other well known English cities big and colorful parades with lots of traditional Irish music sneaked along all over England displaying an Irishness that has never before been seen. Just a few years ago, neither London or Birmingham had parades and even Manchester was small compared to what it was this year.

The tremendous growth of these Irish parades is a testimony to how the Irish community has become such a power all over England. Even London's Mayor Ken Livingston had words of praise about the Irish community in his big city. He was honoring several Irish people when he said, "by celebrating St. Patrick's Day we are marking the enormous contribution that generations of Irish people have made and are making in the social, economic and cultural life of our city." Times are certainly changing and that's a good sign.

Irish hotel in Chicago for sale.

Fitzpatrick's Hotel Group in the Chicago Loop has put the well known eating place on the "For Sale" block. Making the announcement recently John Fitzpatrick, chief executive, said he had received an offer he could not refuse for outright purchase after he had abandoned plans to convert

the property into condos, according to an Irish Echo story.

The buyer, according to the report, is the Denihan Hospitality Group. The selling price was not revealed. The Denihan Group owns the Affinia and Benjamin hotels in New York. The chief executive is Patrick Denihan who said that he was "delighted that the Chicago building would become the first Affinia hotel Outside of New York". Thanks from Florida.

Gene Earner, promoter of the big annual Fund Riser for St. Margaret's Church on the southwest side of Chicago, writes from his home in Sun City Florida to again thank our readers for their help in making this years event as big as last year. To date the party raised 60,000 and another big crowd had a wonderful evening for a very worthy cause. St. Margaret's at 9900 So. Throop Street was a pro-Irish parish and many of its former parishioners come from all over the U.S. to attend the annual "Get together".

Shortly after the party, Donna, the charming wife of Gene, became very ill and for several days was on the critical list. Thank God and the prayers of her countless friends to Blessed Edmund Rice, Our Lady of Knock, and St. Rita of Cascia, she is now making great recovery. We join with her many friends in wishing this charming lady a speedy and complete recovery. Readers are asked to remember Donna Earner in their prayers The Earner phone number in

Continued to page 45

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Immigration: Challenge For US Says Taoiseach

by John Gallagher, San Francisco Irish Herald

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern was recently in the United States to ensure, among other issues, that the undocumented Irish working in the US are not forgotten.

In an interview with John Gallagher, Ahern spoke about the undocumented Irish living here. Ahern said he knows the case very well after working on the issue for over 10 years.

"We understand the problem, it's part of a greater question. If you could just deal with the Irish issue, [it] would probably be easy to resolve this but it's a problem of 11 million people that are undocumented, and this is the real challenge," said Ahern.

It was a topic he spoke with President George Bush about, at the traditional Saint Patrick's day celebration in the White House, though mentioning a figure of 25,000 as opposed to the approximated figure of between forty and fifty thousand given by Irish immigration centers across the US. "I would like to express the hope that a path

may be found to enable current Irish immigrants to legalize their status in the US on a permanent basis," said Ahern.

At the White House celebration Bush noted the contribution of the Irish "among the firefighters and police officers who sacrificed their lives to save others at the world trade center." He also reflected on how the "economies of our two countries are closely tied," a subject Ahern spoke on.

With Ireland's low (12.5 percent) business tax rate, the US has invested heavily in Ireland. However, the European union wants Ahern to "harmonize" taxes. "I'm not too worried anymore... There was a lot of pressure on us from France and Germany and other countries... [and] it will continue to be an issue around that. But I think more and more, people realize that the successful issue is to... make taxes more competitive. What we have done in Ireland is to make our system very transparent."

Ahern said that the government is ensuring that Ireland maintains its competitive edge

going into the future. "We are now embedded into the philosophy of having more innovation more money into research and development more money into the life sciences. We've put huge investments for us as a small country into research and development."

Earlier this year Ahern had to deal with the riots, which took place in his Dublin constituency. The riots precipitated by a controversial Unionist rally, was due to parade down Dublin's O'Connell Street, however, the parade never got underway.

"It was one of these days that unfortunately went wrong. There was a chance taken that this could be low-key and that we were all grown up enough that we could have a march by victims family in the North, admittedly associated with one side, that would go through the streets of Dublin peacefully," said Ahern.

He added that the situation was not helped by O'Connell street being a building site due to redevelopment and that although Republican Sinn Féin (RSF)—a minor political party that formed as a splinter group from Sinn Féin in 1986—organized a protest, it was hooligans who caused havoc on the day.

"Unfortunately they [RSF] got a new found five or six hundred supporters who came into town for the occasion, who were not ei-

ther their supporters or anybody else's supporters, and decided to have a hooligan frenzy for a few hours and that really was the unfortunate thing about the day."

While victims of the Troubles occurred on both sides of the community, there were murders with serious consequences, which still have to be resolved.

The murder of human rights lawyer Pat Finucane nearly twenty years ago has been a sore subject for the British government and there are strong indications that there was British collusion in his death and a public and open inquiry has been demanded and was agreed to. However, little progress has been made. Ahern was asked why he trusted the British government. "I'm a good friend of Tony Blair but on this issue we differ. We do not accept that the inquiries offered to the Finucane is the one we agreed on at Weston Park," said Ahern. "We do not believe it's the one that was recommended by Judge Cory." A motion was passed last month in the Dáil Éireann supporting the Finucane family.

"I don't see the British government at the moment changing but neither are we going to change our position," added Ahern.

With an Irish election to be held between now and summer 2007, Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fáil party may look at the option of a new coalition partner.

Currently the Progressive

Democrats with eight seats in the Dáil are a minority partner but if Sinn Féin gain seats there is a prospect that Ahern will look at his options of sharing government with Sinn Féin.

When asked what conditions would his government form a coalition with Sinn Féin, Ahern said, "If sometime in the future if Sinn Féin changed their policies to be compatible with our policies."

However, he added Sinn Féin were anti-Europe. "The only one who really opposes me on Europe... of any significant grouping is Sinn Féin. On that reason alone... I couldn't be engaged with a party that effectively wants Ireland to pull out of Europe."

However, Conor Murphy, Sinn Féin MP for Newry and Armagh told the Irish Herald: "Sinn Fein is not anti-Europe. We are for a proper working relationship with Europe. We are, however, not for handing over entire sovereignty to Europe."

"The real question is whether we would go into government with Fianna Fáil and some of the other more conservative parties in the South. We would have to be convinced that they were prepared to seek a more firm national quest. The real difficulty with sharing power, would be us," added Murphy.

The Taoiseach started his US travels in San Jose, California before leaving for Washington, DC to meet President Bush.

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'A Touch of Ireland' at IAHC to Benefit Irish Repertory Theatre

Irish Repertory Theatre, Chicago announces a benefit, A TOUCH OF IRELAND on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at 2pm.

This benefit will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox, Chicago and will include a dessert buffet between acts. The music will continue afterwards in the Fifth Province Pub. The Center is located just East of the Edens expressway on Wilson at Knox and ample free parking is available.

The program will feature a variety of prominent Irish performers and performers from multiple disciplines. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is scheduled to perform a scene with Brigid Duffy from the classic Hugh Leonard play, A LIFE. Musicians from Noel Rice's ACADEMY OF IRISH MUSIC, Harpist Katie O'Shea and members of



Daniel J. Travanti.

Sean Cleland's IRISH MUSIC SCHOOL of CHICAGO, Catherine O'Connell, Cathy Cowan, Martin Hughes, Eamonn McDonagh, Mark Piekarcz, Mary

Grimes of the Heritage Singers and the OLD TOWN MALE GOSPEL SINGERS will share the stage with members of the RUTH PAGE DANCE COMPANY and traditional Ceili dancing with John O'Grady of the Francis O'Neill Club. The spoken word will also be celebrated by readings by Josephine Craven and Frank Gleeson.

This "embarrassment of riches" is being directed by Brad Armacost (currently appearing at the Royal George Theatre in LEAVING IOWA) and will benefit Irish Repertory Theatre's operating fund. A raffle and silent auction will be held. Information about the company and its upcoming season will be announced at the event. Price for the concert and reception is \$20 and may be purchased by calling the Irish Rep Box Office at 773-248-7700.

Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN



Sea Marks are sailing aids that keep sailors on track. They enable seamen to keep their bearings and avoid rocks and shoals particularly in stormy seas. That is the metaphor of Sea Marks, the current production from The Shapeshifters at the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave, Chicago. Former heart-throb turned author Gardner McKay had that vision in mind when he wrote Sea Marks, a bitter-sweet two person play set in Ireland and England. "If this play is about anything, it might be about knowing our place. Especially in liquid times, when we can easily flow wherever and seemingly become whatever" he has stated.

The play features Timothea (Justine Serina,) a publisher's assistant in Liverpool, England and Colm (Robert Keating,) an Irish fisherman living on a remote island. The two meet briefly at a friend's wedding and Colm is attracted to her. After he returns to his lonely life, he starts writing to Timothea. She finds appeal in the beauty of his words and responds on that basis. Eventually the two reunite and the question is: can persons of such different backgrounds find happiness?

Colm learns that Timothea has saved his letters and has persuaded her boss to publish them as a book of poetry. He is outraged because he considered the letters for her eyes only. They were not for the larger world. That creates conflict. For her part, Timothea becomes less than enchanted with Colm's attitude and behavior. She is bothered by his drinking, his clothes, his table manners and his refusal to continue writing. In the end, Colm is torn between his love for Timothea and a yearning to return to the sea, the only life he has known. McKay may have obtained some of the lyrical language in the play from Madeleine Madigan his Irish wife. Directed by Gregory Gerhard, the play which opens May 5th runs through May 20th. Admission \$15.

Crosshaven, a quiet and peaceful village in Ireland, is where the Owenabue River meets the sea at the mouth of Cork Harbor. It proved a productive spot for John Bernard MacCarthy (1888 - 1979) who worked there as a mailman. In his spare time, MacCarthy wrote prodigiously and was involved in

theater. By the time he died, MacCarthy had penned hundreds of short stories, three novels, a book of poetry and dozens of plays, mostly comedies. Some were produced at The Abbey Theatre. One, The Able Dealer, is the spring production of the Gaelic Park Players. First performed in 1928, it is a light hearted romp set in a small Irish village. The play features Simon Daly (Barney Farrelly) recently released from hospital and looking for a place to spend his final days. He has no money but he owns a small holding of worthless land. He hopes to be taken in by remote relatives and the play centers about his various stratagems to achieve that goal. Directed by Christina Garrivan, the play will run through May 7th. Admission \$10. Gaelic Park is at 6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest.

Children aged 7 - 12 will have a chance to appear in a stage play if they participate in The Seanachai Theatre Company's summer school project this year. The play will be the culmination of a week-long theater workshop from June 26-29 at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. It will be staged during the Center's Summer Irish Festival in July. "This is the first time we've done such a workshop even though we thought about it for some time. We wanted to support the Irish community for all the support it's given us over the past eleven years. We hope that children and parents will be as excited by it as we are" said Jacquelyn Flaherty, Artistic Director of the Seanachai. Ms. Flaherty is an experienced teacher and will direct the school. She will be assisted by Amie Marks, Jean Haley and Mac Brandt with backup from Christy Arington if needed. All are members of the Seanachai Theatre Company

"We hope to foster a love of theater in the children. They'll be exposed to all aspects, from the basics of how theaters work to script adaptation and play production. There'll be individual tuition with a maximum of eight students per teacher" explained Ms. Flaherty.

Ms Flaherty pointed out that even children who are not interested in becoming actors or a

theatrical career can benefit from the course. "We do physical exercises and play games for theater by Viola Spolin as warm ups. The children will be given text to learn and will get comfortable speaking in public. They will develop poise and confidence."

The cost of the school is \$65 with a 10% reduction for members of the IAHC. More information can be obtained from The Seanachie Theatre. Tel 773 878 3727 or the IAHC 4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago. Tel 773 282 7035

Adult actors and directors interested in honing theatrical skills in Ireland can do so this summer at the Drama League of Ireland's 41st Residential Summer School announced Karen Carleton, Chairman of the League. The school will take place at the University of Limerick on the green banks of the River Shannon from July 29 through Aug 5, 2006.

"During these eight days our focus is exclusively on stagecraft. Participants can forget their daily cares and develop dramatic inspiration. It's a great place to polish technique" stated Ms. Carleton.

As in prior years, the drama school will feature various training tracks. This year there will be seven, ranging from Physical Theater through instruction in the Vakhtangov Technique to a course intriguingly entitled Theater Detectives. The Physical Theater track will be led by Vincent O'Neill, Artistic Director of the Irish Classical Theatre Company in Buffalo, New York. O'Neill, who trained at the Abbey in Dublin, is an aficionado of James Joyce. He was a hit in Ulick O'Connor's one man show Joycity at the Dublin Theatre Festival and also off-Broadway. In Physical Theater, students learn how to utilize their whole body to create memorable characters. It includes instruction in movement and mime in various stage settings and theatrical environments.

The Vakhtangov Technique is based on the work of Eugene Vakhtangov (1883-1922.) He was Russian actor, director, and producer who brought original concepts to the theater. Vakhtangov developed nonrealistic styles of performance using such devices as masks, music, dance, and abstract costume and scenery design. His best-known production was 'Turandot', based on a Chinese fairy tale. This course will be taught by Oleg Mirochnikov who was originally from Belarussia. Mirochnikov's presence reflects the increasing diversity of com-

munity theater in Ireland. It also underscores the increased interaction between Ireland and Eastern Europe.

The Theater Detective course will show how to investigate leads in page to stage production. Through exercises and workshops students will uncover hidden meanings and directions in a script. This track will be led by Belinda Wild, a director currently based in Cork.

Participation in the course costs

€480 (\$580.) This includes tuition, all meals and accommodation but not travel. "We'll extend a special 'Céad Míle Fáilte' to participants from the US. They'll be able to participate in our extra-curricular social activities at no additional cost. They'll have a wonderful week to remember" said Anne Mekitarian, Director of the Summer School. More information can be obtained from the DLI, Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7 or visit www.dli.ie. Email dli@eircom.net

Love coming to Victory Gardens

Love in the Title, a comedy, set in 1932, 1964 and 1999, explores the lives of three extraordinary women: grandmother, daughter and granddaughter. As their fears and secrets are revealed, it is clear that their stories of love lost and won, have more in common than they ever would have dreamed.

Through their intensely personal stories, a portrait of a family, a country century takes

shape. With his customary wit and fierce intelligence, Hugh Leonard, author of "Da", takes us on a fascinating journey, by turns nostalgic, comic and poignant. Charles Gerace is the director.

Love in the Title will be performed May 24-July 2 at Victory Gardens Theatre (2257 N. Lincoln Avenue). For tickets, call 773-871-3000. For special group rates, call 773-248-7700.



(l to r): Alyson Green, Julie Daley, Erin Myers ... photo by Matt Doubleday

The Sixteenth Man

In order to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, Inisfree Irish Arts will perform The Sixteenth Man at the Gaelic Park Festival on Memorial Day week-end. The Sixteenth Man by Sean Callan is a one act play on Roger Casement, the renowned human rights campaigner and Irish patriot who was hanged in Pentonville prison, London in 1916 for his involvement in the Irish Nationalist revolt in Dublin - the Easter Rising.

The play uses, for the most part, Casement's own words derived from personal writings, diaries, direct quotes and con-

temporaneous reports, to trace his odyssey from Ireland where he was born to England, Africa, South America, Germany and finally back to Ireland where he was captured and handed over to the English. Josephine Craven will direct the production and play the role of Narrator. Frank Gleeson will play the role of Roger Casement. Background music will be provided by Mike



King. The play will be performed at 7:30 pm on Friday, May 26th and at 1:30 and 4:40 on Monday, May 29th, 2006.

Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

email: boylekettle@yahoo.com



Memorial Day Originally known as Decoration Day, the tradition may have begun in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania in October, 1864, or in Waterloo, New York in the spring of 1866. More than a dozen towns lay claim to founding the tradition. Decoration Day was officially proclaimed by General John A. Logan on May 5, 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery. General Logan's family can be traced back to County Monaghan, Ireland. The day was set aside to decorate the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers who died in the U.S. Civil War. The name Memorial Day was first used in 1882, but was not commonly used until after World War II.

Each year that passes gives new meaning to Memorial Day. My memories as a child bring to mind the parades in small towns like Des Plaines, Illinois where I grew up. The American Legion,

the VFW, the police and fire departments along with boyscouts, cubscouts, girl scouts and a mix of civic organizations would march. The Mayor was always out front. There were antique cars, a fire engine and a police car. If it was a good year there would be a marching band from Main Township High School or a drum and bugle corp. Following World War II, a man who had survived the Bataan Death March would march in the parade every year.

The parade always ended at the Veteran's Memorial where Pearson St. met River Road, across from the Sears Farm Store.

A year or so before World War II ended there was a sailor lying in the grass in the back of the memorial. He had been drinking and passed out. He lay there vomiting. As a child not yet seven years old I couldn't begin to understand what this sailor had

been through. What horrible things he witnessed and the shipmates he watched die. After all the speeches were delivered with patriotic fervor and the wreaths were laid, a local minister would say a prayer. Taps were sounded by a bugler and the ceremony ended.

The crowd would begin to disperse, although some lingered for awhile. People headed back to Miner St. and went to the Sugar Bowl for an ice cream sundae or a soda. Others went to the Zephyr Cafe or the Cypress Inn for something stronger. Later people would go to the cemeteries and visit the graves.

In the afternoon the pet and bike parade brought out all the kids in town. There were dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, snakes, birds - almost any pet you could imagine. Bicycles were decorated with crepe paper woven through the spokes. Carl Manz, a local grocer, would ride his gay 90's "high wheeler" bicycle. Lots of prizes were awarded. It was great fun!

The war memorial is gone now. The bronze plaques were moved to the VFW Hall. Now the plaques have found a permanent home at Lake Opeka on Lee St. just North of Touhy Ave. I visited there today and found many familiar names. Notably, Jimmy Donahue and Mike Bryant, whose names you will find on the Viet Nam Memorial. Following the Korean War a profound change took place. When we entered the Viet Nam War, people wanted to know why we were there. Were we still fighting Communism?

The war was on the TV news every night. We saw people executed by the Viet Cong. We saw napalm dropped on villages. Agent Orange was used to kill vegetation and wound up killing people too. Drug use was common amongst the enlisted men. Officers in our military were being fragged. Killed by their own troops, usually with a fragmentation grenade. Six hundred of these fraggings have been confirmed and there were 1,400 mysterious deaths. Then came the peaceniks, hippies, and young men went to Canada to avoid the draft.

My lifelong friend, Jim Mulroy, was a United States Marine Corps helicopter pilot in Viet Nam. I'll share with you a letter he wrote to me Nov. 25th 1965.

Dear Tom,

Just a shortie to say hello and Happy Thanksgiving. Have been busier than hell the last few weeks. I was also lucky enough to squeeze 3 days R & R in Okinawa. However, I didn't leave soon enough. 18 Nov. 65, was quite a day of infamy in my young life. I won't go into all the details. The place was called Hiep Duc, 100 V.C. in the immediate area, we ran an "Arvan" strike, trying to take it back from V.C.

who had killed all the innocent civilians and beheaded them. When we came in they were waiting for us with .50 cal. Machine guns and 12.7 AA guns. Total loss, 3 helos shot out of the sky, 2 hit so bad couldn't fly back to pick-up zone. 3 pilots seriously wounded, 2 crew chiefs killed, every aircraft hit numerous times. We made 5 trips into zone, might have saved a few asses. Possible recommendation for a DFC, but not really too important; I lived. Got a chance for R & R that night at midnight and took it without argument.

Enclosed is an article I thought you'd get a kick out of. A friend of mine wrote it. Unfortunately, every event in it is quite real. But one must keep his sense of humor, in love and war.

Will write again when I get a chance.

Thanks for your letters,

Your Friend,

Jim

Jim was lucky. He came home in one piece. Jim's grandfather, John Mulroy, was killed in France during World War I. He was from Balla, Co. Mayo. Jim's father was an IRA officer who left Ireland with a price on his head.

I lost my friend Jim on January 21st. He died suddenly at the Irish Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Jim loved Ireland, and it was comforting in a sense that he died on Irish ground. Semper Fidelis.

This Memorial Day think of our soldiers in Iraq, and Afganistan. Two names have appeared on a memorial at Lake Opeka. One man died in Iraq, and the other in Afganistan. Say a prayer for them. Make a donation to the paralyzed Veterans and to the USO.



Jim Mulroy

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872 - 1918)

Canadian Army

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

WE SHALL KEEP THE FAITH
Written by Moina Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Margaret Kelly started her career as an actress at the age of 99. She had a scene in an HBO special with a Boy Scout, that's all I'm gonna tell ya. She also will appear in a feature role in the upcoming indie film, "Tapioca". In this movie, she's the femme fatale.

She will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 21st with a shindig at the Blackthorne Club. My old pals Tony and Kay Golden took me to tea in Margaret's kitchen last week and I fell in love.

Margaret kept turning off my tape recorder and saying, "Ah you just want to hear my brogue... My brogue never changes, but I had a sister Elizabeth, she became "yankified".

And a lovely brogue it is, growing more melodic and elegant

ever since she arrived in America at the tender age of 17. She was little Margaret Moyles then, one of the nine daughters of Anthony and Winifred Moyles in Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland.

Margaret made the passage on the Auriana in 1923. "I played the violin on the boat, they had me downstairs all the time. They were dancin' jigs, dancin' reels, and I was playin', but I wasn't getting nothing for it, til finally they started givin' me quarters. I had a whole bag of quarters when I met my sister."

Her name was changed from Moyles to Miles at Ellis Island. "My sister came to meet me. When she arrived, I had my overnight bag and she says, 'Give it to the porter.' and I said,

'No, his hands are dirty!' She went all around Chicago telling everybody about me because I said his hands are dirty. He was colored and in Ballina we didn't see any colored people!"

Margaret met her husband, Patrick "Buddy" Kelly at a house party one night with her sister Agnes. "He got up in front of the fireplace and sung, 'The Old Bog Road'. Then he came down and said, 'Is it all right if I walk you home?' And I said, 'Yes'. Then he wanted the telephone number and of course he called me. My mother and father said 'No calls here, no boyfriends.' They were very strict."

Strict or not they couldn't stop Buddy Kelly from courting her. Buddy had joined the IRA at 15 and participated in the Easter Uprising in 1916. He was later shot by the Black and Tans in the arm and shoulder and imprisoned with Eamon DeValera in Dublin. The IRA dug a tunnel to get him out

and hurried him to a ship, which Buddy Kelly and DeValera took to Canada. After a year Buddy Kelly snuck across the border in Buffalo and made his way to Chicago, where the patriot wooed and won Margaret Kelly.

In Chicago Buddy Kelly opened a tavern at Diversey and Halsted, which he owned for 33 years. His pretty bride worked behind the bar. Margaret says, "Men would come in and say, 'When is Margaret comin' to work?' My husband was getting jealous."

"He was a good provider." Margaret says wistfully of Buddy, who died in 1984 at the age of 85 with that Black and Tan bullet still in his arm. She still collects checks from the widow's pension fund for over 500 bucks every month.

These days Margaret is taking it easy. A lady from her parish brings her communion every Sunday and she's looking forward to seeing her pastor from St. Tarcissus at her birthday party. "That's Father McCarthy, you'd never know he's a priest, he has half the collar on.

He's a lot of fun."

Margaret hits the hay late at night after the news is over on TV. I ask her what time she gets up. "Whenever I feel like it!"

One thing she doesn't miss about the old country is the spuds. "I hate potatoes. For cryin' out loud, that's all we got on the farm, potatoes and milk, potatoes and milk. When I came to this country I thought I'll get away from the potatoes, I was so tickled to death."

Margaret quit smoking two years ago at the age of 98. What's her advice on living a long life? "Work hard, keep on working. Don't sit down and sit on your butt!"

She invites me to her upcoming 100th birthday party and shows me photos of her pal Kitty Ginnelly's party from 1983, "I was the best lookin' one there!"

Smart money says Margaret Kelly will also be the best-looking dame at her own party later this month. God bless you Margaret and Happy 100th birthday.

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*I took my son and daughter sweet, on a day in early spring bright,
 To enjoy a day together free, beneath the Sun's warm light,
 Everybody was smiling and happy, it was a day more than just fair,
 And many families just like mine, seemed to be without a care,
 We ambled around the park like scene, going where we wished to go,
 And the now assembled community, moved everywhere to and fro,
 There were pennants, food and crackerjack, hot dogs, peanuts and beer,
 And smiling nationalities and races mingled, with no thoughts but of good cheer,
 The men and women in uniform guided us, by our ticket to our seat,
 While joyful festive gayness, filled our hearts with a similar beat,
 We were all joined magically transfixed, by a familiar springtime sight,
 Which through the greatest gift of soldiers gone, remains a treasured national right,
 Below us on a diamond green, another of the jewels in freedom's crown,
 We all stood as one in silence, the people in the stands and the men there on the ground,
 As we listened to that beautiful Anthem, that never fails to make goose bumps rise,
 We quietly thanked God again for our land, where that Star Spangled Banner flies.*

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Irish Books in Review

BY FRANK WEST

There was an army recruiting poster used in the British Isles with an attractive picture of the middle eastern part of the British Empire. It said, "Join the army and see the world". The posters used in Ireland soon had a sentence written in at the bottom: "Join the Black and Tans and see the next."

British Voices: From the Irish War of Independence, 1918-1921 by Tom Galvin. The Collins Press/ Dufour Editions 610-458-5005: Wilton, Cork; 2005, 261 pages, \$35.95.

British Voices is an unusual book. It is a collection of recollections by soldiers and officers of the British army.

There are many eye-witness reports by Irish Republican Army soldiers and officers. Outstanding examples are those of Tom Barry and Ernie O'Malley. Almost nothing is heard from the view of the soldiers and officers of the British army.

By 1921 the British had over 100,000 soldiers in Ireland! They were British army soldiers, Black and Tans, and the Auxiliaries. They also had planes, tanks, ships and even artillery. Ireland is about the size of Indiana, and most of the fighting was in the southernmost counties. Most of those servicemen were in an area approximately equal to the southern part of Indiana. It is testimony to the tenacity of the soldiers and commanders of the Irish Republican Army that Britain's enormous army, with its unlimited material resources, could not defeat them.



The IRA were few in number compared to the British, but with guerillas like Michael Collins and Tom Barry, they kept an army in the field and kept the British off balance.

The British had just won World War I. Britain and its allies had bested the huge and excellent German army. Why couldn't they have just overwhelmed the much smaller Irish foe? I would say the British were faced with an Irish army that had near total popular support. The other factor was that the British government couldn't focus on the importance of Ireland.

"Ireland was not the only campaign the British army was engaged in... The British were involved

in the occupation of Iraq, a military intervention in the Russian Civil War, the suppression of a rebellion... in India, a war with Afghanistan, a potential war with Turkey, the occupation of Germany, and was contending... with unrest in Egypt.

[These commitments] predisposed the British government to negotiate a settlement in Ireland."

So even with these problems, the British Army had a huge advantage in men and resources. So how did it lose?

Michael Collins, like America's George Washington, realized the war of independence was a political war, not just a military one. Keep an army in the field. Persevere and endure long enough and the enemy will grow tired of war. About this British General Vinden says "By

1922... the army obtained the upper hand, but the British government under Lloyd-George became tired of the whole affair..." and called for a truce to negotiate the treaty.

British Voices presents a refreshing look at the Irish War of Independence. These are some quotes I think you'll like.

British General Percival says: "The IRA Intelligence Service... reached a very high standard of efficiency, and every movement, and very often every intended movement, of the Crown Forces was known."

The author states: "Many of the accounts detail the tedium and boredom of British military life... They show the central role of sport as an important diversion... Some of the stories describe dances, pubs and relationships with local women."

The Black and Tans were recruited to help the British police. About them General Wimberley says: "...the government brought into southern Ireland irregular forces of semi-soldiers and semi-police called 'Black and Tans', who were... recruited... from ex-officers and men who had served in the Great War... who would not, or could not, settle down in civil life, and... were... no more than 'things'"

British soldiers and officers often respected the courage and patriotism of the IRA forces. A private describes this in his diary: "Night after night we have been ordered out, 'Michael Collins has been located... [Scotland Yard] had him surrounded'... he is still at large, and from what I can see... he is likely to be, the population of Dublin are too loyal to give him away. I was going to say I hope he keeps free, but someone might see this before I get it home so that is better left unwritten."

Novelist of rural Ireland dies

by Frank West

John McGahern was born in 1934 in CO. Roscommon and passed away in April, 2006.

He was the author of *The Barracks* (1962), *The Dark* (1965) and *Amongst Women* (1990). He published six novels, four collections of short stories, and last year his recollections called *Memoir*.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said, "John was one of Ireland's finest writers..." However, in the mid 1960's Ireland's political and religious establishments didn't like McGahern. His books were banned and he was fired from his job as an elementary school teacher. This was after his novel *The Dark* was published in 1965.

The book is about the emotional tension suffered by a boy who can't reconcile his natural sexual urges with his desire to become a priest.

Samuel Beckett and other Irish writers offered to help him but McGahern declined. He felt his description of human sexuality would be vindicated, and went into exile in Britain and then France.

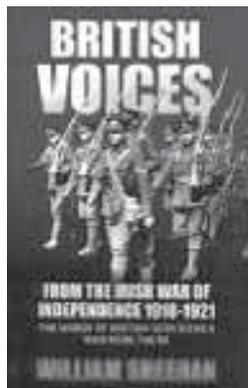
Tim Pat Coogan in Ireland in the 20th Century discusses this list of censored books and banned authors. On that list McGahern joined such illustrious authors as Joyce, Beckett, Liam O'Flaherty, Behan, O'Faolain, Kate O'Brien and many others. Eventually the list included 1,034 banned by the Irish government which was strongly influenced by the reactionary Catholic church. The church had immense power and great control over Irish soci-



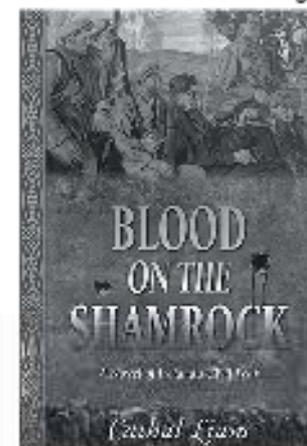
John McGahern

ety until recent times.

Tim Pat Coogan sums up McGahern's accomplishment, "John McGahern in his... unflinching dissections of rural Irish adolescence and parenthood, *The Dark* and *Amongst Women*... reached heights that very few of his contemporaries come near."



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James Joyce wants to live fully

by Frank West

Recently I completed a six week course of classes discussing *Dubliners* by James Joyce.

The course was presented at the Newberry Library by William Dumbleton. Not only did he have many insights, but he has a gift for encouraging discussion. Joyce uses the stories in *Dubliners* to encourage us to live a full, vibrant life. He wants us to have a vision of ourselves that includes options and possibilities for our growth. He wants us to realize our vision and to take risks to accomplish our goals.

Dubliners is a collection of fifteen short stories. Joyce was only twenty-three years old when he wrote the first of these in 1904. He completed the last of the stories in 1907. They are still vibrant and powerful.

Brenda Maddox, a prize winning commentator on James Joyce, says this about his revolutionary style of writing, "Joyce, the narrator, leads the reader on 'with heavy judgement and intimate confidences' and then just at the moment the reader needs most help, withdraws. 'Thus the method of telling forces us to judge, to interpret, to participate in the text'".

Maddox goes on to say about this revolutionary approach, "... *Dubliners* presents Joyce at his most accessible, it also draws the reader into a conspiracy with him. Joyce orchestrated each story to reach an epiphany – a moment of revelation. These stories do not have any clear ends because they reach their conclusion only in the mind of the reader".

When Joyce wrote these stories, Ireland was poor and backward and its culture was in tatters. Ireland had been reduced to the level of a colony by the Act of Union of 1801. In this Act Ireland became part of the United Kingdom, also called Britain. There was no Irish government to promote industry, or jobs, or the culture of Ireland. Instead, Britain imported raw materials – grain, cattle, and other food stuffs – refined and manufactured them and then sold them back to Ireland. This was the colonial system: colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country.

Britain kept Ireland as an agricultural backwater. The Catholic church was content with the situation and did not want change.

For Britain, Ireland was a source of cheap, agricultural products.

For the church, it was a source of priests and nuns. These were often sent to do missionary work in other countries, instead of staying home and working for change.

Dubliners repeatedly addresses this lack of desire for change – Joyce saw it as a kind of paralysis. He saw the acceptance of the status of colonial degradation as both powerful personal and national problems.

In the story *Eveline*, Joyce points to this lack of will. *Eveline* has a chance for a new life an adventurous man. He has traveled in many parts of the world and now wants to settle down. "She must escape!... He would give her life, perhaps love, too... she wanted to live".

While waiting for the ferry boat that would take her to a new life "... she prayed to God the direct her, to show her what was her duty."

"She gripped with both hands at the iron railing... she sent a cry of anguish!"

"She set her white face to him, passive like a helpless animal."

She didn't take the chance for a new life.

Dubliners tells us to overcome our fears and to reach for those things that will change our lives for the better.

Collins the Man

By Des Kenny of Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery, Galway, Ireland

Although the name of Michael Collins has dominated twentieth century Irish history, he is still a shadowy figure. He is the great Irish Warrior of the War of Independence, the man who, single-handed, brought the great British Empire to its knees, but he has become such a romantic icon that it is difficult to discern the truth from the myth.

The same can be said about all the other major participants in the 1916 Rising – more especially about Eamon DeValera, Collins's greatest rival – but nobody matches the aura that surrounds "The Big Fellow". Michael Collins is the quintessential Irish hero.

Like all great heroes, he comes ready made. He makes his first public appearance at the mature age of 26, when he plays a minor role in the General Post Office during the Easter Rising. From then until 1919, his presence is seen more in the context of his later achievements than of his actions during those three years. Then he emerges as a fully fledged National leader about to take on a defeat the British Empire and, in so doing, was to write the seismic *Manual of Guerilla Warfare* for the Twentieth Century.

For the next three years Collins became Britain's Public Enemy #1, and when that role became redundant after the signing of the Treaty, he became



Republican Enemy #1 until a stray bullet brought down the curtain on the 22nd of August 1922, near his own birth place at Béalnabláth.

Almost immediately, the myths were finding their way into print. The first biography was published almost immediately, written by American journalist Hayden Talbot, who had actually interviewed Collins. There was at least one sensational serial in the "Pictorial News" called "The Secret History of Michael Collins" by "One of his Bodyguard", which had a story of Collins escaping from Dublin Castle on a white horse. This angered fellow activist Piaras Beaslai so much that he undertook to write the first official biography and in 1926, his massive two-volume work, "Michael Collins and the Making of a New Ireland" appeared.

Since then, there has been a plethora of biographies or books

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about various aspects of his life. Two of these stand out – Frank O'Connor's "The Big Fellow" and Tim Pat Coogan's "Michael Collins – A Biography" (on which the Neil Jordan film is loosely based) – simply because they make the biggest statements. Almost all take Easter Week 1916 as their starting point. With the possible exception of Tim Pat Coogan's, there is no full biography and certainly none by a professional historian.

Peter Hart's, "Mick the Real Michael Collins", just published, could claim to be the first academically researched biography. Hart has already established his credentials, with two groundbreaking books on the activities of the IRA in Cork, during the War of Independence. The title, however, may be a trifle unfortunate as it has a "Tabloid" ring about it.

From the beginning, Hart dispels any sense of journalistic nationalism. There is a steady methodical approach to the work, which is certainly refreshing and allows the reader a greater depth of knowledge with regards to the young Collins, his family and his background. Thankfully, Hart avoids the full academic treatment, making this approach totally accessible to a wider audience.

Perhaps the most significant element of this book is the way Hart charts Collins's development as a Politician and a Revolutionary. His sojourn in London is described with a fine eye for detail. The reader is then taken through his move back to Dublin, the lead up to the Rising, and then a full account of the part played by Collins in the GPO during that fateful week.

There follows an in depth analysis of those crucial years between the Rising and the War of Independence and how Collins gradually became the figurehead of the revolution. Here, Hart is obviously on his home patch and is at his most comfortable. It makes for compulsive reading.

The old mythologies die hard and this book certainly challenges them. We are living in an age when our erstwhile values are being eroded. Our religious, political, and even judicial mentors have been found wanting and the foundations of the mores we have lived by are crumbling. In many respects this book is a breath of fresh air, allowing us to examine the very basis of our beliefs and we are all the richer for it. For anyone interested in Irish history or culture, - or indeed personal freedom – it is a must.

Contact: Des Kenny directly at desi@kennys.ie or directly at 011-353-91-709367.

Kennys Bookshop was established in 1940 by Des and Maureen Kenny who met at University College Galway, and married upon graduating. They started their business by renting two small rooms in Galway City. They lived in the back room and had their bookshop in the front room. In the 1950s, they added Irish Arts & Crafts to their book business and this

was further expanded in 1960's with the opening of The Kenny Gallery. Des and Maureen had six children, five of whom still work in the business.

Kennys Irish Bookshop & Art Gallery is now fully online at www.kennys.ie. Mick: The Real Michael Collins by Peter Hart is available now through Kennys for 23.99 euros.

Love Mystery Books? Good News!

There are several new, outstanding mystery books. Some of the books are written by Irish authors and some by Irish Americans. The writing is rich, profound and provocative.

Here are six mystery books that will be reviewed here during the coming months.

Dublin Noir edited by Ken Bruen
The Wrong Kind of Blood by Declan

Hughes

The Dead Yard by Adrian McKinty

Blood on the Shamrock by Cathal Liam

The Knock Airport Mystery by Vincent McDonnell

The Dramatist by Ken Bruen

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T

radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



The regular reader knows how swamped we are annually with musicians and recording companies hoping to have their new releases reviewed. We estimate 500 CD's are sent to us each year.

In the final analysis, it is impossible to get to them all. The regular reader also knows we review only the albums we like. Really like. We decided years ago there was no gain in putting albums or musicians down with clever and snide remarks. Most musicians pour their hearts and souls into these recordings. The best way is to ignore them, if the albums are not up to snuff. We get around 500 a year, and review about 40-50. What does that tell you? It is therefore a pleasure and somewhat of a thrill to find three unbelievably wonderful albums in a single month.

First up is Mick Moloney's masterpiece, McNally's Row of Flats. We don't know where to start, so let's just wade in. Mick, and Barry Stapleton and the Ward brothers at Irish Fest in Milwaukee have been the leading exponents of an important musical theory for years. That is that there is a distinct, different and equally viable type of Irish music that separates from what is commonly called traditional music. It would be called Irish-American Music. And, this form of music really started in New York in the 1870's and 1880's with the coming together of the fabulous team of Harrigan & Hart. Other names flourish in this epic, as well. David Braham and Tony Pastor are only a couple more. These are the men who created vaudeville and musical theatre as we know it today. Under Mick Moloney's masterful hands, the album gives us 14 great tunes written by Ed Harrigan and David Braham. They all date from that magical time period of the 1870's, 80's and 90's. This is great music. Tender, nostalgic, humorous, melodic, catchy and devastatingly satiric, many are favorites to this day. The oft' referred to, but seldom heard, Mulligan Guards is but one. The liner notes and history from Mick are worth the price of the album alone. But, the music!! It is perfectly performed by Mick and his guests, including a full orchestral arrangement on many of them. These tunes, Are You There Moriarity, Old Boss Barry, Danny By My Side, My Dad's Dinner Pail and I Never Drink Behind The Bar are only some of the offerings--each performed exactly as they were written. They are magic, and Mick is the perfect person to have pulled this off. His voice and unequalled understanding of this music and its history are the key ingredients at work here. This album is something else. It is important. We don't know when we have enjoyed an album more. We listen to it constantly. It is fabulous music and great, great history all rolled up in one perfect package. We all owe Mick a vote of gratitude for this. It is a part of us all. Rating: Four Harps

This year's Musician of The Year is Clare fiddler, Manus McGuire. He has a brand new album, Fiddlewings, out on Green Linnet. Now, we gave you an early "heads up" on this one a month or two ago, with the Award itself. It is now out. Is Manus the best traditional fiddler in the world? Well, there are many who would agree with that. It doesn't matter. He is surely at or near the top on any trad buff's list. Manus wrote many of the tunes on the album. The playing is perfection. Manus' bow technique is unequalled. Each tune jumps, as the crafty creator blends his years of pleasing audiences into one perfectly sequenced album of 15 selections

covering 36 tunes! We are partial to the airs, done gorgeously here. Chicago Irish music mavens and radio hosts, Mary Caraway and Erik Carlson have always said that no one plays a waltz like Manus. Hard to argue. If you haven't heard Manus with Moving Cloud, Buttons and Bows or The Brock-McGuire Group, you might think this is just another fiddle album. You would be wrong. Each time Manus records we are offered gold and diamonds to treasure. Here he is with his latest. He is a wonder, and the album is a musical blessing. Up Clare!! Rating: Four Harps

Last up is Tommy Martin. The album's title is Shady Woods. His album was one of those mentioned early that got lost in the pile of 500. Maybe we should give that a formal title. The Pile of 500. How does that sound? Anyway, Tommy is the best piper we have heard in a long time—and we have heard a lot of great ones. A Dub, originally, he now resides in St. Louis, and is on honeymoon as you read this. Are the Cayman Islands ready for the pipes? Well, we are when they are played like this. We won't go into all the sources, all the background here. This album is a terrific piece of business. Wow! Can this boy play!! If you love uilleann pipes, this is a must have. You can go to Tommy's website--just google his name and find him, or there is CDBaby, and the album will also be available on LiveIreland.com soon. This is a new star in the sky. This is a deeply understood and heartfelt album of real musicianship. Good on 'ya, Tommy!! Rating: Four Harps

Notes: * Are you listening to our radio show on WDCB every Monday night from 7-9:00 p.m. Chicago time? Hm? Hm? We have a ball. Partner Shay Clarke continues to fail to grasp even what Irish music is, but even he occasionally finds a lovely piece of music. We try to keep educating him, but when it comes to trad, it is like trying to teach an armadillo about Beethoven. We love him anyway, and we have great fun with him. Do tune in. If you are out of listening range, go to www.wdcb.org and have a live stream listen!

A night for Muscular Dystrophy

Friday, May 5th, Milwaukee based Harley Davidson Motorcycle will host it's annual Black and Blue Ball to raise money for MDA at the Midwest Airlines Center Downtown Milwaukee, 6:00 p.m. - midnight. Each year the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Southeastern Wisconsin Black-n-Blue Ball is a highlight among Milwaukee's social events. The Ball's motorcycle theme encourages a relaxed and fun evening on the part of its guests dressed in 'black' leather and 'blue' denim. No stuffy tuxedos or fancy cocktail dresses.

It will be an evening full of fine dining and entertainment; live and silent auctions showcasing hundreds of items including Harley-Davidson collectibles, merchandise, memorabilia and products; a raffle; a temporary tattoo parlor; the opportunity to have your picture taken on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and much more. Honorary Chair will be Ireland Native Ruth Crowley, her brother Morgan of Broadway fame will be performing and 1985 Chicago Rose of Tralee Michele McCormack will emcee. Call Lisa Lodde at (414) 535-9700.

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Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



2006 Comhaltas Weekend

The Murphy Roche Irish Music Club hosted the 2006 Comhaltas Convention in Chicago in April, and what a grand affair it was, with delegates and visitors from all over the world.....yes, it was truly international.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann have 400 branches worldwide, in four continents and is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional arts.

Comhaltas was founded in 1951 at a time when Irish traditional music, dance and indeed the language were in dire straights. And since then they have been responsible for the amazing renaissance in all things Irish. Most of our now famous Irish bands, musicians and dancers came up through the ranks of feiseanna (competitions) organized and sponsored by Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.

Anyway, hats off to Mike & Kelly Chole who brought this great event to Chicago. Thousands of visitors, many from Canada, England, Ireland, and all over the world came to dance, sing, have fun and learn at the many workshops and lectures that were available to them.

There was set dancing, ceili dancing and late night set dancing that went on till 4:30 A.M., no slackers here, these people know how to party.

There were workshops for pipes, whistles, fiddle, flute, button accordion, piano and bodhrans. Other workshops covered sean nos singing, Irish cooking, Aran knitting, singing the Mass in Irish, Irish language, Irish history and music composition.

The choir and musicians who performed at the Gaelic Mass on Sunday were terrific and I had the pleasure of listening to them practice, and I could have listened to them all day.

I did not manage to attend all of the entertainment and events but I managed to spot several great Irish musicians. Liz Carroll, John Daly, Jackie Moran, Lawrence Nugent, Mike Rafferty and John Harling were all there and I'm sure I missed loads of others.

Jackie Moran gave me a copy of his Comas album which I intend to play on our radio show and I know that Kelly Chole personally ferried many of the visiting dignitaries over to visit our Irish American Heritage Center. I'm sure that our visitors were very impressed.

Next year's convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia,

the first time that the North American convention will be held in the south.....Ireland in Dixie '07.

For more information visit www.irelandindixie.com and to learn more about Comhaltas visit www.comhaltas.com Enter the Haggis Gaelic Park Memorial Weekend

Enter the Haggis will play at Gaelic Park this Memorial weekend and I'm really looking forward to seeing them again.

No strangers to the Irish festival circuit, this five piece Canadian based band play a genre bending fusion of Celtic rock, jazz, blue grass and almost everything else, they are a high octane tremendously entertaining band. Enter the



Haggis are Trevor Lewington, guitar and vocals, Brian Buchannan, fiddle, vocals and guitar, Mark Abrahams on bass, James Campbell on drums and Craig Downie from Glasgow on bagpipes, whistles and vocals.

You may have seen them on PBS in their "Live at Lannigans Ball" show which has been aired many times. Their current album, which is their fourth, "Casualties of Retail" has secured their success and their new album due out in June is produced by Neil Dorfmann who has produced Bob Dylan, Dire Straits and Solas. They are having a competition to name their new album on their website www.enterthehaggis.com

This band of mad lads toured Ireland, Germany and Italy last year with two busloads of fans and shook up the locals wherever they stopped. You will also have the opportunity to see the lads at Milwaukee's Irish festival, Colorado Irish festival in Denver or at the Kansas City Irish festival. Jigs and reels with attitude, don't miss them at Gaelic Park.

Celtic Tenor Matthew Gilsonan

I spoke recently with Matthew Gilsonan, one of the Celtic tenors, during their recent American Tour. I had heard from family at home that Matthew was from Kells in Co. Meath and as I grew up there myself, and knew many Gilsonans, I felt compelled to check him out.

Matthew Gilsonan, James Nelson and Niall Morris are the Celtic Tenors and have just finished their third US tour which was greatly received and their current album "Remember Me" has been hugely successful in the classic crossover charts.

If you get your Tenors mixed up -you know what I mean, Irish Tenors, Celtic Tenors, Three Tenors.....all you have to remember is that the Celtic Tenors are the three younger, better looking, trendy ones who can out sing anybody.

Anyway, back to my chat with Matthew Gilsonan from Kells. Matthew, who grew up on a farm, loved to sing and often sang along with ELO on his Walkman while driving a tractor. Now, you can really get into it while singing on a tractor. The noise of a Massey Ferguson tractor engine is awesome and you have to sing your brains out to be able to hear anything.....great early training for any Tenor.

After an engineering degree from UCD he moved to America where he was involved in high power microwave systems. But the love of the music was strong in him and he returned to Ireland, to the College of Music, the National Chamber Choir, where he mastered his trade.....what a voice. Even though he sings like Pavarotti, he still has the heart of a rocker and loves Tom Waits, Tom Petty, Queen and Cole Play.

His sister Deirdre Shannon toured with Celtic Woman. They are obviously a talented family.

He grew up a mile or so from my grandparents and now lives in Carlanstown on the other side of Kells beside the old Clarke homestead of my other grandparents.....it's a small funny old world.

Matthew is married to Celestine, they have a three-year-old son Sean and another baby on the way. We wish them luck and hope to see the Celtic Tenors return soon.....in fact I think they are back again this month. Blarney on the Air

Don't forget to join us, myself and your man on the other page, on Monday nights between 7 and 9 for some Blarney on the Air. You can tune in to 90.9 FM in the Chicago area, that's WDCB from the College of Du Page. If you live outside of Chicagoland you can listen online by going to www.wdcb.org where you can listen to the show live. Bill Margeson and I have a lot of fun presenting the show and we look forward to you joining us.

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Mercy Home for Boys and Girls "Father Jim" Retiring His Mission Honored at Historic Holy Family Church

More than 1,500 friends from around the country, dignitaries, current and former Mercy Home residents gathered on the West Side at historic Holy Family Church—1019 South May Street—on April 30 at 1 p.m. for a celebration mass honoring the Rev. James J. Close for his 33 years of leadership at Mercy

Home for Boys & Girls. Fr. Close, who turned 70 years old on Good Friday, handed over the reigns of the venerable Chicago institution to Father Scott Donahue, who became the Home's 8th president in its 119-year history on May 1.

"I didn't want to admit it, but it's time for me to begin the next chapter in my life. A chapter that takes a slower pace," Close said. Father Close has been working at a tireless clip for 33 years, transforming Mercy Home and leaving it on a solid footing so that it can continue to help abused, neglected and other at-risk kids far into the future. "When I first came here in 1973, childcare organizations across the country were being closed down—and even Mercy Home was nearly bankrupt." Today, the Home is able to provide total care, housing and therapy for more than 130 young men and women between the ages of 11-21.

Close credits an attitude of embracing change for the continued success of the Home. Close reorganized the agency's financial structure, eliminating its reliance on nearly all government funds. Today, the Home is more than 98% privately funded. He also reorganized the Home's approach to childcare, providing structured, specialized therapy and guidance to youth in order to create life-long change. In the early 1980s, he instituted a program of aftercare so that youth who leave Mercy Home can rely on a familial connection well into adulthood. This helps ensure that the positive changes youth make while at Mercy Home last through their adult lives.

Not bad for a man who turned down the job at first. When the late John Cardinal Cody approached the young parish priest from

St. John Brebeuf in Niles, IL, in 1973, Father Close knew nothing about running a home for boys. He told the Cardinal that he prayed long and hard about the offer but that he had decided to decline. Cardinal Cody responded that he too had prayed about it and told Close that he was to report immediately to Mercy Home.

Thirty-three years later, Father Close leaves an organization that witnessed its greatest physical expansion in more than a century, and the founding of a home for girls in Chicago's Beverly community in 1987. Throughout it all, he says, a passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew has guided his ministry and leadership:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me... I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least, you did it for me.

"This passage has encouraged me through many challenging times and always reminds me of why Mercy Home exists," Father Close said. Father Close will never become a stranger at Mercy Home: "It is my intention to continue to serve the Home in whatever way possible," Close said. Cardinal Francis George has bestowed upon Father Close the title of President Emeritus of Mercy Home.

Since 1887, children who need hope, healing and a place to call home have been finding refuge at Mercy Home in their residential and mentoring programs. At-risk children who have been the victims of abuse or neglect, poverty and even abandonment are provided with the chance to improve their lives at Mercy Home. Mercy Home operates two locations—a home for boys at 1140 W. Jackson Blvd. in Chicago's West Loop and a home for girls at 11600 S. Longwood Dr. in the Beverly community.



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Local Authors Bring Out Irish

Barrington Area Arts Council (BAAC) and the Barrington Area Library invite the public to an Irish-inspired Meet the Author event, featuring local authors and Barrington Writers Workshop members, Jean Tolle and Sharon Bossard on Sunday May 21st, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Barrington Area Library's Zimmerman Room. Jean and Sharon will share passages from their novels, sign books and present information for aspiring writers and history buffs. The event is recommended for ages 12 and above. Light refreshments will be served. Call (847) 382-5626 to RSVP.

Jean Tolle is the author of *The Galty Prize*, a young adult historical novel that is also enjoyed by parents. www.jeantollebooks.com

Sharon Bossard's *Finding My Irish*, is a non-fiction journey into personal Irish history. www.findingmyirish.com.



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Gaelic Park's 20th Irish Fest

Gaelic Park has booked the best Irish musicians from around the city, country and abroad to perform at their 20th Annual Irish Fest - Tommy Makem, Deirdre Reilly, Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul, Gaelic Storm, Bluestack, and the newcomers Molly's Revenge, The Clumsy Lovers, Black 47, The Saw Doctors, American English (hailed as the best Beatles tribute band ever), Elevation (the most authentic U2 cover band around) and others. Along with great music, Gaelic Park's Irish Fest includes Irish step dancers, Ceili dancing, a huge carnival midway with unlimited rides, an assortment of activities for kids such as contests, magicians, a petting zoo and face painting, all kinds of food vendors, 20 Irish import stores and free parking.

The 20th Annual Irish Festival begins Friday, May 26th from 3p.m. until 11p.m., and continues Saturday May 27th and Sunday May 28th noon until 11p.m., and Monday May 29th noon until 8p.m. Regular admission is \$15 including unlimited carnival rides. Admission is \$12 for adults 65 and over and kids 12 and under. For children 3 and under admission is free. Call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more details or watch for a complete schedule around town.



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Dear Editor,

In the week leading up to the re-celebration of the 1916 Easter Rising, the Taoiseach (first, leader) urges us to begin "a great national conversation" on what it means to be Irish 90 years later. Surely, being Irish does not include the building of a motorway through Tara's landscape? I doubt that those who died 90 years ago intended that their political descendants would drive this project ahead – now considered by many as a sick joke gone terribly wrong.

Recently the Taoiseach stood with Tony Blair at Eamhain Mhacha and recognized it as the ancient capital of Ulster. Surely he can recognize Tara as the ancient capital of Ireland?

The Taoiseach has the opportunity to give the Irish state an unforgettable 90th birthday present and to enter the history books himself. Let him bring his renowned negotiating skills to bear on this disaster, admit that Noel Dempsey, the NRA and Meath County Council have made a mind-boggling mistake, move the M3 and leave this virtually intact landscape for those who may celebrate the 190th and 200th anniversary of the Rising.

Our Taoiseach has a choice. He can be a real leader and be commemorated as the man who saved Tara at a crucial time in our development as a nation or as the man who destroyed her.

If 1916 had not occurred would we be fighting to save Tara? After all, the DUP are trying to save the Boyne Valley. Yours, Muireann Ni Bhrolchain Maynooth, Co Kildare

Dear Editor

Patty Nolan-Fitzgerald began her teaching career at her Alma Mater, Queen of Peace High School, an all-girls Catholic prep school in Burbank, IL where she then became the school's Principal. For more than three decades, Mrs. Nolan-Fitzgerald brought honor and distinction to Queen of Peace and the working-class kids who attended. Patti Nolan-Fitzgerald formed and directed the Catholic Schools Opposed to Racism, which received the blessing of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Students from all over Chicago attended workshops on how to fight racism in its many manifestations and developed programs to do just that. Queen of Peace High School enjoyed the distinction of being in the vanguard of social justice in Chicago. Several weeks ago, the newly re-organized board of directors for Queen of Peace High School, fired Patty Nolan-Fitzgerald for failing to work well with the school's newly appointed President and for doing the social justice work with her students that have so benefited the Sinsinawa Dominicans. The

Kids are angry. The parents are angry, The alumnae are angry. The Board of Directors could care less.

Cardinal George grew up in Chicago. His family lives in Chicago. He knows the Chicago way. Bishop William Quarter, the first Bishop of Chicago, steered legislation through Illinois Government in 1847 that made the baby Diocese a Corporation Sole. In short, Queen of Peace High School, though sponsored by the Sinsinawa Dominicans, belongs to the Archbishop of Chicago. Patti Nolan Fitzgerald is one of his lambs. She has been unjustly terminated. Cardinal George, you have an opportunity to carve out a place of honor in the hardened hearts of people who love to see our Church suffer. Do the right thing. Exercise the Chicago Way - A Corporation Sole - pick up the phone and make things happen. Give the Sinsinawa Dominicans, if not the members of the Queen of Peace Board, a real piece of your mind, which should reflect the feelings of the students and parents. Don't allow this opportunity to escape you.

Pat Hickey hickeysite.blogspot.com

Bluestack CD Release Party at Galway Tribes May 6th

One of Chicagoland's most popular Irish bands is releasing its third album highlighted by the re-release of a popular Wolfetones song. The album, titled "No Irish Need Apply", will feature the only authorized 25th Anniversary version of "Joe McDonnell". Brian Warfield & Skin Music have given Bluestack exclusive permission to re-record their song about the life and times of Joe McDonnell who was one of ten men to die while on hunger strike in Long Kesh Prison in 1981. The new album contains 10 songs with 8 of those being Original tunes and include Bluestack's next big hit "The Saxon Cage"!

Bluestack is a three member band made up of lead singer Brendan Loughrey, bassist/highland pipes player Bruce Quintos and drummer Roger McCullough. The band plays a mix of Irish Rock and Brendan's original music to packed houses all across the country. The band has quickly become the premier Irish band in the Chicagoland area and has played in New York, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Nashville to name just a few.

The Official CD Release kick-off celebration is being held at The Galway Tribes (.com) in Frankfort (815-464-9881) on Saturday May 6th. The band will perform from 8pm – 11pm, which will be followed by a CD signing party. Advance reservations are highly recommended! www.bluestackmusic.com.

Enjoy a tall, cold glass of König Ludwig Weiss (the King) on tap at the following fine Irish Pubs:

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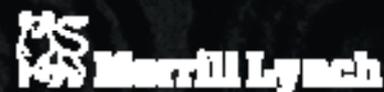
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Vegas Bound? Gallagher's Steakhouse Carries on New York Tradition in Grand Style

By Liam Cassin
Las Vegas—or 'Lost Wages,' as the stewardess on our SouthWest Airlines flight referred to it—has done a lot of growing up in the last decade or so. The cliché that it is an adult version of Disneyworld still rings true, with miniature versions of Pyramids, Medieval castles, Ancient Rome and so on and acres of blackjack and poker tables and slots which for many are the main attraction. But the city's powers-that-be are also reaching out to a more sophisticated audience these days and nowhere is that more obvious than on the culinary scene. All the major hotels along the famous Las Vegas Strip feature top class restaurants.

After some debate, given the immense variety of choice, our merry band of six trekked off to wards New York-New York hotel in search of Gallagher's Steakhouse. New York-New York has brought the magic of the original "city that never sleeps" to the Nevada desert, home to the other city that never sleeps, through its re-creation of traditional New York landmarks. To access the main entrance guests will walk across a 300 foot version of the Brooklyn Bridge, past a 150 foot scale version of the Statue of Liberty. The hotel's innovative facade is a replica of the classic Manhattan skyline, complete with its very own Empire State Building; while the casino/plaza area is built to resemble the streets and redbrick buildings of the typical New York neighborhoods including, for ethnic flavor, Little Italy and Chinatown.

As you would expect the hotel, like the city that inspired it, has a great many Irish connections. Its latest addition, a bar called the Nine Fine Irishmen, proved the perfect spot for us to partake of some pre-dinner drinks. The pub's interior, featuring a grand Victorian-style bar, ornate cottage areas and shop style snugs, was entirely handcrafted in Ireland by a variety of local tradesmen using authentic Irish materials. The Guinness was superb.

Moving "across the street" to Gallagher's, appetites fully whetted, we were greeted by restaurant manager Larry Downey, an Irish-American from San Francisco. He lead us to our table in a cavernous booth and explained some of the restaurant's history while our server handed out menus and elaborated on the night's specials.

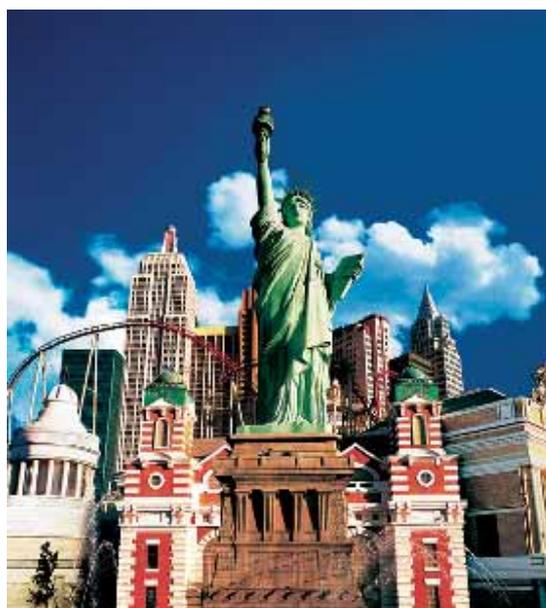
There has been a Gallagher's Steakhouse in New York since 1927.

On opening the menu it became immediately apparent that we are going to have to do the starters 'family style.' There was just so much to choose from that restricting ourselves to one option just didn't seem

right. First up was the Irish Smoked Salmon, which was served with traditional condiments. This simple dish, it turned out, embodied the entire ethos of food preparation at Gallagher's. It's all about the quality of the ingredients. By turns we dug into mounds of mouth-watering Alaskan Crab legs, Jumbo Shrimp, Fried Calamari, Oysters on the half shell, Maryland Crab Cakes and my personal favorite Oysters baked with crab and baby spinach stuffed with smoked bacon and hollandaise. All standard Steakhouse fare, and yet there is nothing standard about the seafood Gallagher's serves. It could not be fresher if you were eating it on the dock of San Francisco Bay on the morning the boats come in.

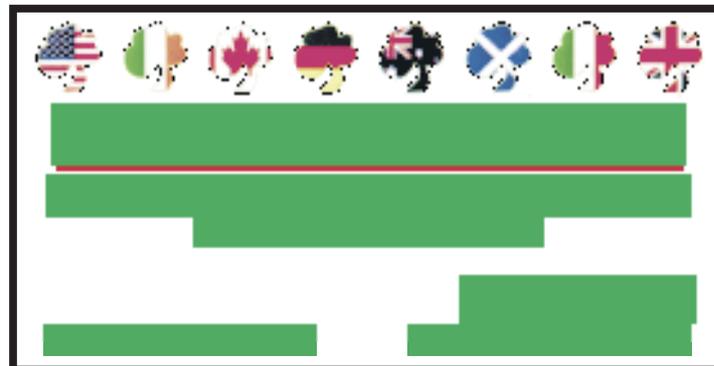
The main courses follow the same rationale as the appetizers. High quality steaks, all 'USDA Prime,' (as well as seafood and other meats), simply but excellently prepared. I opted for the dry-aged bone in New York Sirloin, the restaurant's signature steak. The process of dry-aging results in an extremely juicy steak with a meltingly tender texture. A side of brandied peppercorn sauce was the perfect foil. The other members of the party were equally impressed with their own choices and with the sides we ordered for the table; sautéed spinach, seasonal mushroom medley, lyonnaise potatoes and seasoned french fries.

Gallagher's is a sublime steakhouse experience. The luxuriant surroundings provide the perfect scene for the culinary treats on offer. The noise level is loud enough to give the place a 'buzz' but private enough to enjoy your own conversations without shouting. All the staff we met were attentive



but discrete. We learned from our waiter that he manages about five or six tables in a shift. That's a very healthy ratio for excellent service. The wine list is both accessible and affordable and there is no shortage of expert advice if you want it.

The whole package makes for a memorable night out. Not one that you may have expected in Las Vegas, but as I said at the start, the City has grown up a lot in the last few years.



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The Golden Links to Kaylie's Ancestors

By Rosemarie Stevens

As Kaylie quickly prepared herself for school, she could not decide what outfit to wear. Her family was of modest means, and her older sisters had worn many of her clothes previously. Today was going to be a special day at school. Her teacher was going to announce a special surprise.

Just before Kaylie left for school, she gathered her books, combed her curly mass of blazing carrot-colored ringlets, and smeared sunscreen onto her delicate skin. She then hurried off with a portion of her breakfast still in her hands. She needed to be able to "eat on the go." She was allowing her childlike curiosity to get the better of her. The inquisitive anticipation of what awaited her, was occupying her thoughts.

Later that morning during instruction, the teacher explained to everyone in her class, that in two weeks they were going to have a special "show-and-tell" day. The other pupils marveled at the thought of being able to flaunt their riches. Unlike Kaylie, they were being reared within wealthier circumstances.

Several of her counterparts had souvenirs from their previous travels. Some of her other peers had expensive toys they had received as gifts. Kaylie's presents were more humble. During her last birthday, she received a cloth rag doll, and a tea set. Although she loved these items, she knew they were not as extravagant in comparison, to the offerings the other pupils had received.

That evening Kaylie spent hours rummaging through her personal belongings to see if she could find an unusual item, she could bring for the upcoming event. She was attempting to find that "special something," so she could impress everyone. Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful in her attempt to stumble upon an article, which would electrify her classmates.

She slouched on her bed feeling a sense of frustration, when suddenly she heard her mother knocking at her door.

"May I come in Kaylie; I have something to show you?" Her mom asked. "Sure, come in." Kaylie responded, while at the same time surrendering defeat.

When her mother stepped into her bedroom, she was holding a smaller golden bracelet with what appeared to be tiny toys dangling from its lacy links. "What's that?" Kaylie inquired.

"This is what is called a charm bracelet," her mother explained.

As Kaylie admired the bracelet, she noticed its deep richness in color. It had almost a coppery sheen to it. This was very rare. Adorned to the delicate loops hung eight miniature ornaments. Each trinket was artistically sculpted with precision. Kaylie was able to identify what each one was. She recognized a pudgy leprechaun, a shamrock, a claddagh, a traditional Irish dancing shoe, a Celtic cottage, a primitive spinning wheel, and a bagpipe. The eighth petite pendant had a horseshoe, a four-leaf clover, and a wishbone all intertwined together as one. Kaylie was amazed at how meticulously chiseled they each were.

She also noticed that the style of the diminutive charms, as well as the tone of the radiant armlet, looked unusual. "Why does this bracelet look so different?" Kaylie questioned inquisitively.

"Well, this is what is referred to as an antique, which means it was made many years ago. This actually belonged to your great-grandmother. That's why it looks so different from the more current jewelry you are accustomed to seeing me wear."

"Wow, it must be pretty old," Kaylie replied enthusiastically! "It is, that's why it is called an antique," her mother repeated.

"You see, your great-great grandfather was a goldsmith. Both he and his wife fled Ireland in the late 1800s in order to travel to America in hope of a better life. They had one child, a daughter, who was your great-grandmother. They were poor and they did not have many possessions. After they arrived here, your great-great grandfather earned his living making gold jewelry for other people.

During their first holiday season in their newly adopted land, they could not afford to buy their daughter, your great-grandmother, a present. Therefore, each day, several months in advance, they would save any leftover gold scraps they could find. Your great-great grandfather worked on this bracelet every night, after each workday. It was finally finished on the day of Christmas Eve. Originally, it only had only one charm. However, every St. Patrick's Day, he would add another one, until there were eight all together. Each charm is a symbol of the homeland they adored. Except for this last one, which was created to bring good luck always. Your great-great grandfather wanted his daughter to

always remember their heritage and the beloved native soil they had left behind. Your great-grandmother, my grandmother, treasured this bracelet. It is a bit dirty and worn down now, but I am certain at the time it was a spectacular piece of jewelry." Her mother vocalized with a sentimental tenor.

Her Mom then suggested, "Why don't we take it to our jeweler tomorrow after school, and see if he can clean it and fix it up for us. "Okay, but we need to have it back in time for the presentations in two weeks." Kaylie cautioned.

The next day, after school, they visited Mr. O'Linski, their family's neighbor, and jeweler.

Mr. O'Linski viewed the bracelet through his special lens. "This is a very old and delicate article," he assessed. "I can clean it up, and polish it, but I don't think it is strong enough to wear everyday. It is simply too fragile," he advised.

"Oh, I was hoping Kaylie would be able to wear it whenever she wanted to," her mother countered in disappointment. "I'm sorry, Mr. O'Linski explained, I wish I could have better news to tell you," he replied in a sympathetic manner.

"I can clean it up, and make some repairs on it. It will be ready for you in about 10 days," he offered. "Okay, just do the best you can," her mother answered with a slightly optimistic expression.

During recess the following day, some of the other girls asked Kaylie what item she was planning to bring for the upcoming show-and-tell. "I'm not saying," Kaylie replied as a mischievous grin crept on her face. The other children began to brag about what they intended to present for the big occasion.

"I'm bringing an expensive dollhouse, my parents bought for me while they were traveling Paris. It is so big, that my Dad is going to have to take it to school in his car," she boasted. Another student stated, "I'm bringing the new computer laptop, I received last year for my birthday," she shouted smugly.

"Well, what I plan on bringing is very special, but you'll just have to wait and be surprised," Kaylie firmly retorted.

A few days before the presentations were to occur, Kaylie and her mother, ran down to the jeweler to pick up the bracelet. When they arrived at the jewelry store, Mr. O'Linski was standing by the front doorway displaying a huge smile. He was holding a long emerald green gift box.

"I have a surprise for Kaylie," he stated. He handed Kaylie the small package.

As she eagerly raised the lid of the box, she could not believe her eyes! There laid on top of satin interior, a shimmering golden vision gleaming in its own magnificence. The glow radiated from the box. Mr. O'Linski began to describe in detail the labor, which was required in order to fully restore their ancestral treasure.

"I added extra gold on every link of the wristlet. The charms were so sturdy, that I only needed to polish them up a bit and reattach them to the links. I then secured each one to its own area by attaching it directly to the link. This way, they are each fastened more securely. They do not design jewelry like this anymore. The detail alone is quite rare.

I worked with a richer gold combined with copper, so it would match the deep color of the bracelet from that period in time. I added a special old-fashioned lock to match the overall appearance of this section. This conventional bolt is also much bigger and stronger, so Kaylie can put it on everyday by herself, and it won't fall off of her wrist." Mr. O'Linski emphasized.

"Wow, it looks practically new, I hardly recognized it," Kaylie's mother expressed in amazement. "How much money do I owe you for all of this extra work?" she asked. "Not a penny extra," Mr. O'Linski informed her.

"I don't understand," her mother replied in bewilderment. "Your husband has already paid for everything. He wanted it to be a big surprise for Kaylie. I have made this piece of jewelry very sturdy, so Kaylie will be able to wear it whenever she chooses to," Mr. O'Linski explicated.

"This is the most beautiful bracelet in the whole world!" Kaylie exclaimed. She immediately fastened it onto her wrist, and admired the artistry of the charms. "I'll bet you will be the only girl in the class, who owns something so significant," her mother said. Kaylie eagerly nodded her head in agreement.

Kaylie wore her newly renovated precious medal on the way home that evening. She decided not to wear it to school until the special day. As she took each step, the eight miniature ornaments jingled slightly. To Kaylie, this only added a magical mystery of this recent discovery.

On the day of the special occasion, Kaylie wore her favorite emerald green outfit. She polished her bracelet the night before, so it would twinkle in its own luster.

Later that day, during the other presentations, Kaylie watched with

nervous anticipation. The other children brought belongings, which were expensive, but did not possess any personal meaning, or family history.

Kaylie kept her arm hidden in her pocket. She decided she did not want anyone to notice it until it was her turn to speak. When she heard her name called, she marched up to the front of the classroom. Others began to hear a soft ringing sound whenever she attempted to take each new step.

As Kaylie neared the front of the room, she pulled out her arm and revealed to the entire class her surprise. Everyone in the room began to stare at her wrist in astonishment! The rich golden charms glittered against her creamy complexion embossed with freckles. The sunlight gleamed into the room from the window, which created a soft array of colors shimmering within an array of tints, stemming from the gold on the bracelet.

Kaylie told her classmates the story of the personal struggles regarding this heirloom. When she finished, the other children wanted to view this historic asset more closely. She knew she owned something irreplaceable, and began to feel a sense of honor. Kaylie began to think about her great-great grandfather, and the exquisite present he had created out of love for his daughter.

Kaylie knew their "Irish eyes" were smiling down on her from heaven. She felt their love, pride, and warmth, wrapped around her body, like a warm quilted blanket on a chilly night.

Later that day, during recess, some of the other girls gathered around Kaylie and took turns wearing her band of trinkets. Their teacher approached the small crowd.

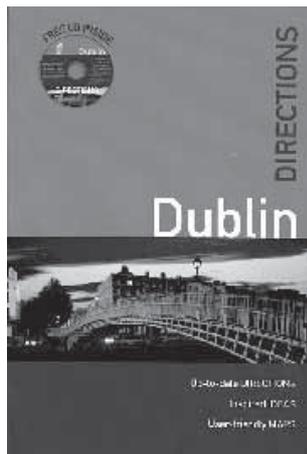
As each child was waiting for her turn, their schoolmarm began to explain, why this piece of jewelry was so meaningful to Kaylie and her family. "Sometimes, the most extraordinary possessions we own are the ones which tell a story of our heritage, and of our family's predecessors. This connects us to our forebearers, which allow us to understand our past. This provides us with a stronger foundation which helps us each to understand ourselves a little better," she explained.

As she finished speaking, she looked back and winked at Kaylie. Kaylie winked back at their instructor, as she tilted her head in grateful acknowledgment. For she understood the important message that this teacher had taught them all during recess that day.

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Money matters for Travelers to Ireland

By Corey Taratuta, yesiree100@hotmail.com

With the old standbys of cash and travelers cheques getting edged out by debit and credit cards, visitors are finding purchases and withdrawals in Ireland to be just as easy as at home. That convenience can come at a price, so we've put together a few tips to help you decide which is right for you.

Cash - Converting your dollars to euros (pounds sterling in Northern Ireland) can be done at tourist offices, some hotels and at Bureau de Change locations throughout Ireland; however, the best rates are usually available at Irish banks.

You can also get euros at your home bank before departing for travel, but rates may be higher, and a week's notice may be necessary to assure the currency is available. Counterfeiting has made \$100 bills undesirable and many Irish banks will not exchange them.

Travelers Cheques still provide a safe, efficient way to carry cash. Although few merchants accept them, you can easily convert travelers cheques at banks and Bureau de Change locations. It is generally suggested to get your cheques in dollars.

Credit Cards have earned a reputation for offering the best exchange rates. Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted; American Express is less common.

Most cards have instituted an International Service Charge for any purchases made in foreign currencies. These fees, which are in addition to the one percent charged by Visa and Mastercard, can range from zero to three percent.

A "service" known as the Dynamic Currency Exchange has been making an appearance in some of Ireland's most popular tourist destinations. In this case, credit card transactions are automatically rung up in dollars thereby enabling you to assess

your purchase costs in your home currency. However you are not able to assess the higher exchange rates and fees which can increase the price by four percent with this service. Yet, you have the option to refuse the "service" and ask the clerk to re-run the transaction in euros. As a rule of thumb, if a dollar sign appears anywhere on the slip, you will likely be charged more. Insist it be rung up as a local transaction, and if you end up with a clerk who isn't sure how to bypass the setting or encounter a manager who refuses, sign the slip "Local currency not offered" and when you get home, contact your credit card company to adjust the charges.

Debit Cards - Even small villages in Ireland now have automatic teller machines (ATMs), also known as CashPoints, which visitors can use the same way as ATMs at home. In Ireland, bank ATMs often have little or no fees. Unlike most North American ATMs, Irish keypads usually just have numbers on them, with no letter characters. So, if you rely on alpha-numeric keypads to remember your PIN, you will want to learn one with numbers only.

Corey Taratuta is the co-host of the Irish Fireside podcast. More details about money matters and traveling to Ireland are available at www.irishfireside.com

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In addition to the nightly concerts, there will be a variety of work-

shops on all things Irish...from learning to dance a jig or speak the Irish language to instructions on the tin whistle and bodhran.

The world class Volendam features an array of on-board activities including casino gambling, golf at sea, swimming, bingo, scuba lessons, fashion shows and more. Many staterooms have private verandahs.

Irish Festival Cruise accommodations, for January 22nd through February 1st, start in price from \$1,499.00 per person (based on double occupancy). The price includes all ship-board accommodations, meals and entertainment. The package can only be booked through Irish Festival Cruises, Ltd. at 1-800-441-HARP. www.irishtours.com

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Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.
Senior Partner



This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we 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.

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of ten trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Repetitive Trauma: a Lesser Known Work Injury

You're on the job using your hands morning and afternoon, trying to ignore the tingling or numbness. The symptoms originally appeared months ago. They were mild and tolerable then. But with each workday, as you repeat the same motions, the symptoms increase slowly and steadily. Unexpectedly, as you're performing your job, an intense pain develops in the wrist and up your arm. Is it just a momentary spasm or could it be carpal tunnel syndrome? If the pain persists it may be the latter, a painful, progressive condition caused by compression of an important nerve that runs through the wrist.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is one type of repetitive trauma. Repetitive trauma is an injury caused by a repeated motion. It is not limited to the hands and wrists. It may afflict the knees, elbows, neck, back, and any other moving body part. Although the body motion may appear simple, there is a distinct interaction of biomechanical factors at play, such as specific joint angles, clearances between tendons and bone, forces applied, and progressive friction over time.

Repetitive trauma is not limited to secretaries, court reporters, cashiers or those who type for a living. Actually, it is common in the construction trades: plumbing, electrical, carpentry, bricklaying, sprinkler fitting, operating and laboring. For example, while operating heavy equipment your knee or elbow may strike hard surfaces several hundred times a day. Shoveling material or using an air hammer all day may expose the back to slow but steady deterioration and ultimate breakdown.

Work-Related Repetitive Trauma is Compensable under the Illinois Worker's Compensation Act

To recover worker's compensation for repetitive trauma, an employee must demonstrate that his or her condition was caused or aggravated by work. So long as the work activity is one contributing factor to the condition, other contributing factors such as the normal degenerative aging process or a non-work-related activity do not bar a claim.

In one case, an employee's job required her to stand and walk 8 hours per day, a portion of which she carried 10-30 pound bundles of shirts. Because doctors opined that the repetitive carrying of the bundles and the inordinate amount of time

spent on her feet caused her left heel spur and plantar fasciitis, and the arbitrator agreed that such job duties exposed her to a greater risk of injury than that of the general public, the employee was compensated for her loss. On the other hand, an employee who experienced sudden pain in his right foot, later to be diagnosed as a "fatigue fracture," was denied compensation because the arbitrator found that walking on a concrete floor at work does not pose a unique risk of injury to the employee any greater than the general public.

In another case, a truck driver who suffered a ruptured disk in his lower back was compensated because it was found that the driver seat, cab and truck frame transmitted subtle but significant, repetitive shocks to his body while driving long hours over the road, and that his job exposed him to a greater risk of injury than the risk to the general public. On the other hand, if one injures his back while bending over at work to tie his shoes, it is not compensable because the act of bending over does not present a risk peculiar to or increased by the employment compared to the general public.

The Act's Notice Requirement Can Present a Problem

The typical compensation claim consists of a single, definable injury. A repetitive trauma claim is atypical

because the injury is not obvious; rather, it is subtle, gradual, and manifests over a long period of time. A major problem is that workers who suffer from repetitive trauma often fail to provide timely verbal or written notice to their employer. Failing to do so can bar a compensation claim (consider that the Act requires employees to provide notice of the injury to their employer within 45 days from when they discover the injury). The indefinite nature of repetitive trauma combined with the finite nature of the notice requirement can create a pitfall for the worker.

For example, a laborer whose job requires an inordinate amount of crouching sees his doctor for consistent and increasing dull pain in his knees. The doctor tells him his condition is work-related repetitive trauma. But since the injury has yet to intensify, he returns to work, keeps quiet and continues on with his job. Then, about 6 months later, a severe pain develops in his knees. It is intense enough that he cannot continue working. He notifies his employer for the first time. The first question the employer asks is when did this injury occur? He responds that it has been gradual, that he and his doctor noticed it 6 months ago. This employee may have lost his rights to recover worker's compensation benefits because he failed to give

his employer notice of his condition within 45 days.

An employee can avoid this notice pitfall by telling his supervisor about the doctor's diagnosis after the earliest medical treatment.

Conclusion

The Worker's Compensation Act seeks to strike a fair balance between injured employee and employer rights: recognizing repetitive trauma (rather than requiring complete collapse) of a body part as a compensable injury was established to protect the worker, whereas, the 45 day notice requirement was established to protect the employer from old or non-work-related claims. Repetitive trauma cases present a challenge because the precise date the injury manifests itself is critical and yet open to wide interpretation. Any employee whose doctor tells him or her that he or she may have work-related repetitive trauma should seek prompt legal advice.

This general discussion of rights and responsibilities under the Act is not, and should not be considered a substitute for, individual legal advice.

By Matthew Healy, The Healy Law Firm

Matthew is a newer associate attorney. Prior to law school, he worked construction as an operating engineer.

Readers are asked to help find author of song

Mrs. Kathy Mapstone writes from Saltillo, MS, asking our readers to help in finding the author of the well known old Irish song, "Clonmel". She thinks that it may have been penned by her Grandmother, Mary O'Neara, who lives close to Clonmel in Tipperary. Apparently it was given to her grandfather, Andrew Colbert Dalton, Kilcash, Co. Tipperary before he left Ireland in 1899. He died in Chicago in 1945. Apparently he was a Gaelic football player and may have been on the Chicago All—star team of 1927.

Mrs. Mapstone was the daughter of Andrew Thomas Dalton and they lived at 10215 So. May Street, Chicago in St. Margaret's parish. Her Dad played hurling with the Harry Boland team and was one of the founders in 1925, with Galwayman, Mike Mulryan, Tom O'Mahoe, Cork, and others.

Mr. Mapstone lives at 266 Mount Leader Tri, Saltillo, MS. 38866, and would appreciate hearing from any of our readers with any information of that era, especially if the writer of the song is known.

Mrs. Mapstone read our story on the internet about the St. Margaret Fund Raiser, back in February and as a former parishioner she wished she could have been there to meet her old neighbors from the famed neighborhood around 9900 So. Throop Street, on the great southwest side of Chicago.

CLONMEL

Farewell to the valleys, Farewell to the mountains
The wilderness grotto and sweet Patrick's well
For tomorrow I'll leave you and leave you forever
My beautiful Suir Isle and my darling Clonmel

The Italians may boast of their sunny skied island
Of the gorgeous climes let the proud Germans tell
For they know not that dear little spot in old Ireland
Ah, twin sister to Erin au revoir Clonmel

Here is a health to you lads, here is a health to you lassies
It is breaking my heart to be saying farewell
For tomorrow I'll leave you and leave you forever
So good bye to you all and adieu to Clonmel

Here is a health to you lads, here is a health to you lassies
It is breaking my heart to be saying farewell
For tomorrow I'll leave you and leave you for ever
So goodbye to you all and adieu to Clonmel.



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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago Administrator, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Helping mothers: the hearts of the families we serve

Mothers are the hearts of their families – giving life to their children, nurturing their growth, and cherishing each individual. As we celebrate Mother's Day with our families, I ask you to remember and help mothers whose hearts are breaking with the pain of poverty – because mothers are the hearts of the families whom Catholic Charities serves.

In the spirit of this beautiful Easter season, as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ Our Lord, I ask you to help Catholic Charities give new life to mothers and children who are in great need. On Mother's Day weekend, May 13-14, the Catholic Charities Annual Mother's Day Appeal collection will take place in most parishes.

Catholic Charities has a long tradition of helping mothers and children. In 1917 Cardinal George Mundelein founded Catholic Charities to care for the most vulnerable members of society: orphans, widows and unwed mothers and their children, who needed more assistance than individual parishes could provide. Today, Catholic Charities continues to compassionately help vulnerable women and children, and poor families and seniors struggling to survive.

In fact, 89 years later, the majority of the 870,000 people served yearly by Catholic Charities' 168 programs in Cook and Lake counties are women, most of whom are mothers and grand-

mothers.

So on this Mother's Day, I ask you to "Help our Moms: the hearts of our families."

With the saving love of a mother, Catholic Charities helps mothers. Each year we provide maternity services for hundreds of teens and women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, and supportive adoption or foster care services so that children in need of families will find loving homes. We provide food for almost 32,000 low-income mothers, infants and children in our mother and child nutrition programs; and apartments and employment programs for 400 families working their way out of homelessness – 99 percent of which are headed by single mothers.

On any night, there are over 250 homeless individuals living in our family shelters, almost 75 percent of whom are children. Like a mother, Catholic Charities shelters those families and helps them get back on their feet. When moms fall prey to drug or alcohol addiction, we bring them back to life – and to their children – through residential recovery programs.

Our 17 early childhood and day care centers in Chicago's neighborhoods help mothers and fathers by nurturing their children's minds, bodies and spirits within a safe and happy educational environment, while allowing the parents to work toward a better life for the family.

We help grandmothers, too! Eighty-nine percent of the people who live

in our 17 residences for low-income seniors are women. More than 60 percent of the 72,000 seniors who receive some of our many Senior Services – other than housing – are women. In addition, thousands of home-bound or low-income seniors are assisted, visited, fed and comforted by Catholic Charities staff or volunteers, or receive other services that enable them to remain in their own homes.

Yes, Catholic Charities is like the mothers whom we help: caring, vigilant, and worried about the destructive effects of poverty upon her children. But with your help, we can continue to lift up families crushed by hunger, homelessness, joblessness, addiction or misfortune.

Inspired by Christ's example of healing service to the poor and suffering, and his mother Mary's steadfast care and compassion, please open your hearts and join Catholic Charities to help us "Help our Moms: the hearts of our families."

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. May you and your families enjoy a most blessed Mother's Day!

To learn more, volunteer or donate, visit: www.catholiccharities.net.

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Dine at RedNoFive - help C.I.B.

The Chicago Irish Brotherhood Youth Burn Camp 5th Annual Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2006, 7:30pm, at RedNoFive, 440 N Halsted, Chicago.

This fundraiser will benefit the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's Camp I Am Me. Tickets are \$100 per person. There will be a full cocktail bar, buffet, live music and giveaways. To purchase your tickets or to donate go to www.chiirishbro.org. For more information contact Tim Egan (708) 606-6700 CIBpres@cs.com.



Eileen Ivers will appear at Chicago's Gaelic Park Memorial Irish Festival. Call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more details

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B Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan



Lizzie McNeill's A Cozy Pub Setting in River North

"You could stay all day and all night," owner Patrick O'Brien invites. If you're downtown and looking for a great pint of Guinness, check out Lizzie McNeill's on River North. If you're on the make for an Irish establishment in the downtown area, this is the place. The ambience is quite welcoming and low-key- a tough thing to come by in such a corporate district. Although located amid high rises, the feel is that of a neighborhood bar. The turn-of-the-century gas lamps and stained glass above the bar give it a distinctly Dublin-esque feel. Seldom uncomfortable crowded, it's never difficult to get excellent service. Located at the river level (facing the Chicago River) of the Sheraton Hotel building, it's the perfect setting for a pint

after shopping or work. The unique setting caters to locals and visitors alike.

The entirely homemade menu is a medley of reliable yet tasty standbys as well as delectable light meals. The mesquite chicken quesadilla rolls, mozzarella sticks or guacamole and chips go well with the excellent Guinness, Sam Adams, Bass, Harp, Smithwicks or other draft choices. The pizzas also offer a palatable distraction from your suds. If you're going light, check out Lizzie's Garbage Salad, a mélange of salami, black olives, tomatoes, bacon, red onion, cucumbers and cheddar and bleu cheeses. The lean corned beef is a good pick from the varied, if not extensive sandwich and wrap selection. The beef stew or chili with sour cream, cheese and



Patrick O'Brien, one of the owners and managing partner of Lizzie McNeill's.

scallions would help fill any possible voids the excellent spinach and artichoke dip might leave.

Lizzie McNeill's has a prime location for summer. The front doors open out onto River North, where there is outdoor seating under shady umbrellas for 100. If it's too chilly, how-

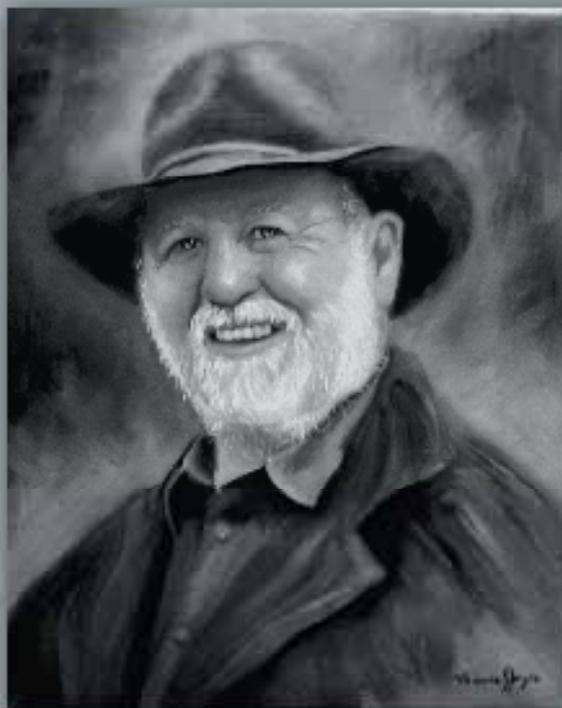
ever, the homey, overstuffed couches and chairs near the fireplace make the pub conversation friendly- the perfect place to catch up with friends. Bring your laptop and camp out on one of the several wooden church pews to keep awake, as wireless internet is available.

Live music is in the works for every Thursday in May, and not just Irish music either. Plans are in place for a variety of different bands and acoustic guitarists. Stop by to watch sports on the flat screen TVs.

It's a great pub for a party, too. Lizzie's can accommodate up to 200 people, in which you are guaranteed your own personal Irish pub for the evening. If you have bigger numbers, the pub also has access to a party room on the 8th floor of the Sheraton Hotel. Call the pub at 312.467.1992 for details, or visit www.lizziemcneills.com.

Lizzie McNeill's is located at 400 N. McClurg Ct., Chicago, just down the street from the giant AMC movie theatre. The pub is at the river level of the Sheraton hotel building, but is not accessible through the hotel. Parking is available in the lot at Illinois and New streets. Bring your ticket in to the bartenders and park for 24 hours for \$5. Hours are April 1- November 1: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday-Friday, until 3 a.m. Saturday, and November 1- April 1: 4 p.m. - 2 a.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Sunday, and until 3 a.m. on Saturday.

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Remembering the Hunger Strike: Four Heroes Who Died in May

by Rae Lutz Doberstein

His was the face of Ireland. Boyish, laughing, the face of Bobby Sands is known throughout the world as the symbol of the 1981 hunger strike by Irish Republican prisoners in their continuing fight for human rights and political recognition. Without Sands's smiling countenance the hunger strike would be devoid of an icon, a flesh and blood representation of the sacrifice made by men willing to die for their beliefs.

But there were other strikers besides Sands - nine others, as a matter of fact. Three of them died in May shortly after Sands. Their names are Francis Hughes, Patsy O'Hara, and Raymond McCreesh, and although not as visible as their comrade, these men suffered the same anguish, the same pain and lingering death that made Sands a legend. The world deserves to know who they were and the commitment they shared that made them sacrifice in the name of Irish freedom. This is their story.

Francis Hughes

Francis Hughes, who died on May 12, 1981, was born in February 1956 to a dedicated Republican family in Bellaghy, South Derry. Although he was known for his good nature and spirit of fun, he must have realized from an early age that for the Irish of the North life held little of either.

Bellaghy was a dedicated Nationalist town, so Francis couldn't help but hear the countless tales of Republican valor and heroism that people he grew up around lived through and repeatedly told. These made him into a bold young man. On one memorable occasion, he got past a British patrol that stopped him and his friends as they passed through a field by telling them that the IRA activity in the area made them worried about taking the main road. He even bummed a match from the soldiers. A quality of fearlessness defined Francis, ran through his blood from an early age. This fearlessness would serve him well as he grew into a man who became a Volunteer.

The catalyst for his involvement with the Provos came when he was seventeen, when he and a friend were coming home from a dance. RUC officers dragged Francis and his mate from their car and beat both of them for no reason other than the fact that they were Irish. Francis knew that lodging a complaint against the RUC would be useless, and might also make him and his family targets for retaliation by the police. But the beating bred in him a determination never again to be abused by anyone, especially the British.

Shortly after Francis became involved in Irish Republican activities with a ragtag militia, a cease-fire went into effect that he did not support. Always

the rebel, he split off from his formal Bellaghy group and started an independent military unit. In 1973 this unit was formally made a part of the IRA and Francis Hughes, Volunteer, was born.

As his Republican activities mushroomed, he became a frequent target for British and RUC raids. Still, he continued to operate with the same daring that enabled him to escape from that British patrol. During a night raid by the army, the home in which he was hiding was surrounded by armed troops. Francis marched out the front door into the darkness. By speaking quietly to the soldiers as if he were one of their own he managed to get away to safety.

Throughout the years 1973-1975, Francis worked tirelessly for Irish freedom. The more active he became, the better known he was to British officials. Eventually he decided to go into hiding.

From that moment until the day he was sent to prison he lived as a fugitive, but he never considered retiring from the fight for Irish freedom. He was willing to sacrifice everything for the Republic from the moment he became an activist.

His stint as an Irish Republican prisoner began on March 17, 1978 when British soldiers captured him after he took part in an assault on two of their number the previous day. Though shot in the thigh and seriously wounded, Francis shouted a Republican slogan as he was taken into custody. He spent ten months in a hospital before his true identity as a wanted man came out and he was taken to Castlereagh. While being interrogated in that infamous temple of brutality, the same audacity that brought him into the ranks of the Volunteers caused him to defy his captors as they tried to make him betray his comrades. After six days of questioning, the authorities realized that he would never give them what they wanted. In February 1980 he was sentenced to prison.

Francis's spirit of defiance did not leave him once he became a British prisoner. He went on political protest in the H-Blocks as soon as he entered them. Once the idea for a hunger strike took shape, he volunteered to participate. He was not selected immediately, but toward the end of the strike he became one of thirty men accepted. Francis considered his election to the ranks of this Irish Republican brotherhood one of the highest honors he attained.

He spent the last 59 days of his life

as part of the hunger strike. Even as his strength dwindled and his pain increased, he remained the same fearless fighter for Irish freedom, always thinking of his country, always concerned for his fellow prisoners. After his death, Christy Moore wrote *The Time Has Come*, a poem that is an eloquent statement of Irish defiance, in his memory.



Sands

Patsy O'Hara - The suffering still goes on.

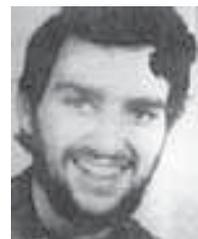
With his death on May 21, 1981 Patsy O'Hara became another in the long line of Irish martyrs who died for the Republic. Perhaps Patsy was born for the cause, because two of his brothers, Sean and Tony, were also imprisoned for their work for Republicanism.

Patsy was born in July 1957 to a Republican family. Growing up in Derry, a city long a hotbed of Nationalist/Loyalist clashes, illustrated sharply for Patsy the disadvantages and prejudice forced upon Irish Republicans. These were lessons that he learned early on, and they shaped his destiny as well as the road he chose to travel to reach it.

Patsy's maternal grandfather fought for the British army during World War I. When he returned home, he saw how the Brits victimized and oppressed the Irish people. Angered by the coldness of the British government and the abuses of the Black and Tans, Patsy's grandfather refused his army pension and became a Republican activist.

Patsy grew up hearing stories about his grandfather's work on behalf of the Republic, and they bred in him a courage and determination not to suffer under British rule. At a protest march in which his brother Sean participated, Patsy saw how a belief in the justice of a cause could empower people to tremendous success. Although heavily outnumbered by the authorities, to Patsy the protestors seemed like a juggernaut rolling over the British. This feeling of invincibility, of inevitable triumph, inspired him to enter the Republican movement.

In April of 1975 he joined the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Threatened by the young group, the Brits planted material for making explosives in a car Patsy was driving. He was charged with



O'Hara

possession of explosives and given a show trial. The RUC proved so stupid and inept in their attempt to frame him that he was acquitted a twice. From then on he was an all-too-frequent target of RUC and British persecution, so he lived on the run. It was during this period that his brother, Tony, was arrested during an armed raid and received a sentence of five years in the H-Blocks on nothing more than an unconfirmed verbal statement.

More arrests and acquittals followed for Patsy, but eventually the Brits were able to make a charge of possessing a hand grenade stick. In January 1980 he was sent to prison and immediately went on the blanket as a protest against not being granted political prisoner status. When selected for the hunger strike, Patsy's determination to remain a soldier in the movement for Irish freedom grew as his physical strength deteriorated. Nothing, not even the knowledge of his impending death, deterred him from his Republican commitment. When he died he became, and remains,



McCreesh

a true portrait of Irish courage.

Raymond McCreesh

Like Patsy, Raymond McCreesh died on May 21, 1981 after several weeks on hunger strike. Unlike Patsy, however, Raymond's life was marked by a quiet a but no less strong a Irish Republicanism that led others to admire his discretion and good nature as much as they admired his endless bravery.

Raymond, the last of the hunger strikers to die in May, went to prison in 1977 at age 19 for his Republican activities. Although a younger man than most of his fellow prisoners, his age was no bar to his commitment to the movement. By 19 he was an old hand at Nationalism, because he'd been an active volunteer since he turned 16.

Raymond grew up in South Armagh. His seven siblings and his parents all held Nationalist sympathies, and this led him on a natural path toward Republicanism that first manifested itself in a deep love of all things Irish. His ethnic pride defined him.

Although somewhat shy in everyday life, Raymond instinctively took the lead in the Republican movement once he entered it. It simply was not in him to sit back and let others do the work he believed in. South Armagh had long been an area of strong resistance to British rule, and because a British para regiment was based close to his house, Raymond heard countless tales

of British brutality against the Irish and witnessed such acts himself. Once the SAS began to operate in the area, his hatred for his oppressors increased.

In 1973 he became a member of the IRA's 1st Battalion in South Armagh. He immediately adopted a style of Republican activity that did little to bring him to the attention of the Brits. He seldom took part in any sort of public protest or discussed politics. Because of his intelligent, reasoned, yet committed approach to his Nationalist work, Raymond was able to live at home until his arrest, a fact that helped to ground him, since he was fiercely dedicated to his family.

Although only a teenager while a Volunteer, he never shied away from any Republican mission, no matter how dangerous. In fact, his sense of fearlessness and ability to think through all the possible pitfalls of any assignment made him one of the first to be called upon to assist other units. He was known as a rational, reliable soldier who never faltered and had the ability to inspire these qualities in those around him.

Unlike a lot of high-profile activists, he never became a hunted man until the incident that led to his arrest. In June 1976 he and two of his Republican comrades, Danny McGuinness and Patrick Quinn, were attempting to ambush a Brit observation post at Sturgan. Soldiers from another Brit observation post spotted the three men. Raymond and Paddy became separated from Danny but refused to leave him behind, endangering their own chance to escape. They took refuge in a house that was all but destroyed by the assault of the Brit paras attempting to capture them. Even after surrendering, Raymond and Paddy were fired on by the soldiers. After being beaten and interrogated for three days, they were finally charged.

In March 1977 Raymond was convicted of a number of offenses against the British government and received a sentence of 14 years. He never acknowledged the jurisdiction of the court. Once he arrived at the H-Blocks, he joined the blanket protests. He manifested his repudiation of the non-political status forced on him by his British captors in one other very telling way: by refusing to accept family visits. Although he loved his family, being separated from them was a price he felt he had to pay to in order to deny his British masters their right to control his life.

Raymond volunteered for the first hunger strike but was not chosen for the initial protest. His determination to participate in this act of organized rebellion never left him, and by the time he was accepted into the hunger strike he had committed to it as fully as he did all his other Republican activities. When he died on May 21, 1981, at the age of 24, he left behind a portrait of courage and resolve that inspired the world.

F or The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



Wonderful news! Patrick Cullinane, an ex-Co. Limerick resident of London, informs me that The Irish Post (London) newspaper has finally taken up his cause. If true (and there is no reason to doubt it) Mr. Cullinane will soon be vindicated and compensated. Regular readers here will remember how Britain's Inland Revenue (its IRS) fabricated a tenant list and, after noting that it was false, still used it to lien Mr. Cullinane's house. They then violently evicted him from it, sold it, and kept all of the proceeds though their fraudulent lien was for only a few £thousands. Patrick's experience at the hands of English bureaucrats is representative of the fierce, official discrimination directed against the Irish there, including Richard O'Mahoney whom I've met. But they target not only the Irish. After all, Britain is a kingdom, not a republic; so many ordinary Britons are victimized also. You read here of 76-year-old Norman Scarth, who was framed and remains wrongfully incarcerated. Ditto ailing pensioner Maurice Kellett who recently hunger-struck in prison. Similar official crimes are being perpetrated against some ordinary Brits. I know many of the crime details but space permits me to mention only their names here in the hope of catching the eyes of non-criminal Brit bureaucrats. Their names are Peter Oaks, Colin Peters, Jean Hooper, Raymond Fox, Geoffrey Scriven, George Westcott, Michelle Edwards, Margaret Brown, Mai Keng Law, Margaret Gomm, Maurice Kirk, Royston Leicester, Ian Hamilton, Anna Foley, Gerald Mulder, Collette Harnett, Jacqui Challenger, and Margarita and Tom O'Neill. Each has lived through horrifying ordeals. It all reminds one of the Soviets and their KGB and Gulag. In her letter to Home Secretary Charles Clarke, justice advocate Suzon Forscey-Moore writes (in part); "As I understand it, Mr. Kellett and Mr. Scriven use robust language in their criticism of the legal system. This may provide a motive for treating them unjustly, but it does not make injustice defensible. As I understand it, Mr. Kellett and Mr. Scriven were required to attend two different courts on the same day and time. I believe that Mr. Kellett did not even attempt to attend one court, whilst Mr. Scriven did attend one court but the hearing did not take place until 6 p.m. It is quite extraordinary that two persons known to me should be imprisoned without trial for not doing the same impossible thing. It suggests that persons in Court Service routinely collude and act with

malice aforethought in clear violation of Article 5 of the Human Rights Act 1998, the right to liberty and security of person."

Let's hope that the Irish Ambassador to Britain doesn't continue to sabotage Mr. Cullinane's chance for justice as he did when I contacted him. Who can forget Irish-America's ultimately successful struggle to get the Illinois State legislature to enact the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland? Who can forget that justice's main opponent (besides the Brits) was Irish Consul Gunning? And how Gunning's successor continued to sabotage us? Similarly, some years ago I accompanied Mr. Cullinane to the offices of both of the Irish newspapers in London; The Irish Post and The Irish World. At that time the lack of integrity at both newspapers shamed this Irish-American. Their executives outdid one another in disparaging Mr. Cullinane while their paper was full of puff pieces for the Irish Ambassador. But Mr. Cullinane was not utterly alone. In his darkest days two Englishman, Neil Woodward and Guardian newspaper finance reporter Philip Inman sought justice for him. So did Brendan Halligan of The Limerick Leader newspaper. Recently, The Irish Post replaced some key staff. So Mr. Cullinane's chance for justice now depends upon the integrity of one person, Irish Post Acting-Editor Jon Myles. Our prayers and best wishes go to Mr. Myles that he may do what no Irish news organ in England has done to date. Let him make The Irish Post the voice of Irish integrity in England, demanding justice at long last for Mr. Cullinane.

Can it be? A reader informs us that a housing project is now being built directly atop Killala's Holocaust mass grave. Some years ago an Irish-American group installed a large memorial plaque on the old landlord's high wall on the roadside adjacent to that mass grave. Soon thereafter the Mayo Co. Council sent out a truck and crew that demolished it and hauled it away as rubbish. This was followed by the housing project planning application, which was opposed by the Irish everywhere. But the Irish gov't remained true to form in obliterating this important piece of Irish history; a most sacrilegious act. This act reminds us all that the Irish gov't has opposed all of Irish America's main efforts to get justice for our Occupied brothers and sisters. No matter how filthy the British deed, from the bombing of Omagh to the denial of the vote to the Occupied Irish, from the

later job denial policy targeting Catholics to their lobbying efforts across the US against our successful MacBride Principles campaign, from torture at Long Kesh to their teams of assassins in Occupied Ireland, these British crimes were always abetted by the Irish gov't. By their fruits ye shall know them! We must summon our integrity - organize! Irish-Americans and decent people everywhere must ensure that none of the thousands of Ireland's other Holocaust mass graves will be similarly obliterated. Instead we must lovingly install memorials over them at last.

The wheels come off Bush's Iraq adventure. As this column pointed out in detail at the time, it was a criminal operation from Day One. As this is written six more US Generals are calling for Rumsfeld's resignation or dismissal on the basis of incompetence. But all six are now retired. We know that Bush/Rumsfeld smeared and fired General Shinsecki at the beginning of the war when he presciently called for more troops. But where are all of the other high-ranking officers? Must they be safely retired on pension before they begin to speak out in support of our troops and our nation's laws? When did serving officers become such cowards that they refuse to risk their jobs and pensions? The corruption, the self-serving cowardice, is evidently nurtured in the very service academies.

West Point, our nation's army academy, has a horrendous record for rape and for abetting rapists. Eleven percent of the female cadets are raped at West Point. At the Air Force Academy twelve percent of the women who graduated in 2003 reported that they were victims of rape or attempted rape while there. Many, fearing the usual cover-up, do not report when raped; thus it is estimated that about 20% of all female students were victims. To put just the smaller number of reported rapes into perspective consider that Chicago's rape rate is 1.4 per 1000 annually (which amounts to 5.6 per 1000 in 4 years). Thus a woman is 21 times more likely to be sexually assaulted in her four years at the Air Force academy than by moving to Chicago for four years. And a woman is 19.6 times more likely to be sexually assaulted during her four years at West Point than during four years in Chicago.

The cover-up of rape is where the academies really show their colors. "The administrations preferred to vilify the female victims and not their attackers. Many of the male cadets involved were allowed to graduate 'with honor' despite multiple accusations."

No-fault rape is the new policy. A Rocky Mountain News (3/26/05) article was headed; "No Punishment Recommended in Sex Assault Scandal." Also in a NYT article (3/19/05) headed

"Pentagon Sets New Policy on Reporting Sex Assaults at Academies," reports that "a confidential survey of 4200 cadets and midshipmen, all of the women and about 1000 men, at US military academies conducted by the Defense Department in the spring of 2004 revealed 302 claims of sexual assault by women of which only one-third had been officially reported. Taking this data into consideration, on March 18, 2005 a new policy was announced for all US military academies which would permit a victim of sexual assault to seek counseling and medical care confidentially without triggering the disciplining process. This policy, it is hoped, will increase the percentage of sexual assaults which are reported and increase the willingness of victims to seek assistance. Military commanders would receive notice of the request for help but not the identity of the victim, thus providing them with more accurate information. Hopes were expressed that the new policy, by giving more control over the situation to victims, would also result in more official reporting through disciplinary channels." Nowhere can I find evidence that a single one of the many rapists at our military academies have been duly arrested and charged, nor have their superiors been held accountable for covering up the crimes. Thus it is in these prestigious military nurseries of crime and cowardice that the standard was set for later silence in the face of the Supreme Crime; that of unprovoked war (against Iraq).

U.S. honor, where are its defenders? Why did no military officers (or men) stand up for our Constitution, or for the Nuremberg mandate, for the Geneva Conventions against torture, or for International law on the conduct of war, all of to which the US is a signatory? Millions of ordinary Americans marched against the Iraq invasion but where were the tens of millions? Why do they oppose the war only now when that Supreme Crime has proven unprofitable? Why, from Day One, didn't more oppose the war on the basis of its criminality? How did it come to pass that so many Americans became so Un-American, became willing subjects of the Bush empire of torture?

Why alienate the world so? Why do it, to a great extent, for Israel?

When we all pushed for enactment of the MacBride Principles, for Joe Doherty, for the Birmingham Six and other issues, we knew that we were bringing democracy to Occupied Ireland. We were confident that our US Constitution would supplant their corrupt old British monarchic system, its corrupt courts, corrupt military, and corrupt news media. We shuddered at British policies of torture and assassination and exposed them. We had contempt for their corrupt courts and exposed them. We made jokes about the

kill-or-be-killed "religion" of the Rev. Ian Paisley and his very angry God. We sneered at the corrupt British disparity of wealth. We were sure (at least I was) that their era of tyranny was ending; that they would soon enjoy our higher, fairer U.S. standards.

What happened? Our Constitution and values are not implanted in Occupied Ireland. It is not free and won't be, for a long time. Far worse, the British/Zionist system has taken root here. Consider; an even more murderous version of Paisleyism has spread throughout the US, especially in the South. Rapturists comprise Bush's most solid support and, being faith-based in their push for Zionist lebensraum and Armageddon, they are not reachable by facts or reason. Britain's disastrous 1917 invasion of Iraq has been repeated by us, even to the hypocritical British General's 1917 "We bring you freedom" speech in Baghdad. He was parroted, no irony intended, in 2003 by our General upon entering Baghdad. The torture and political assassinations that once marked Britain and Israel as monster regimes has now become US policy. It horrifies the world. America and all Americans are now stained by torture as permanently as its victims are scarred. America's once-courageous news media now report less truth than the vile old BBC. Mary and I now watch BBC TV; the lesser of evils. Our Supreme Court is now essentially packed with the same kind of might-makes-right old boys as the British courts at whom we once sneered. In the event that America rights itself by arresting our Iraq war criminals/torturers our newly corrupt Supreme Court will probably be the crucial obstructers of justice. Britain's class system is being duplicated here. While the US produces less and less of its material needs, a class of paper-shufflers has sprung up and is siphoning America's wealth into its own few hands. American wealth disparity has already surpassed that of Robber Baron days of the 1890s. The NYT (3/26/06) reports that 50% of America's bequested wealth now goes to the richest 7% (which might not be important for long; if we face financial meltdown). But I believe that America will survive the consequences of Bushism, especially if we overcome its new racism and restore respect for work and for organized labor. Above all, we must reject falsehood, and confront liars on the spot if lives are endangered.

A true hero is the subject of a new book. It is titled; RUAIRI O BRADAIGH, The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary; by Robert W. White. White is a professor at Indiana University. Ruairi O Brádaigh is the head of Republican Sinn Fein. A The Nation ad for the book states; "In a very real sense, Ruairi O Brádaigh can be said to be the last, or one of the last Irish Republicans.

Trinity Irish dancers on 'Martha' show

This past St. Patrick's Day, several gifted dancers from the World-renowned Trinity Academy of Irish Dance traveled to the Big Apple to be interviewed by Martha Stewart on her show, "MARTHA." Martha was so impressed by the Trinity Irish Dancers that she has already invited them to celebrate the Irish holiday with her again next year. For the show, Mark Howard, founder and director of the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, choreographed an original piece that his dancers named Bean Laidir (pronounced BANN-LAWDER), Gaelic for 'strong woman,' in honor of Martha. To complete the successful St. Patrick's Day segment, the Trinity dancers surprised Martha with a gift of a Shillelagh, a traditional Irish walking stick, and an official Trinity T-shirt.

Trinity Academy of Irish Dance is recognized as a leader among Irish dance schools worldwide. Trinity Academy is the first and only American team to have brought home gold for the United States and to date they have won an unprecedented 24

World Championships. The Academy dancers have been featured numerous times on major network shows including "The Tonight Show," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "Live with Regis," "CBS This Morning," "Good Morning America" and most recently, "MARTHA."

Founded nearly 25 years ago, Trinity Academy of Irish Dance began with 20 students in a church basement and a gifted teacher with great vision - Mark Howard. Over time, a very clear philosophy of instruction developed into a truly innovative program, which continues to be practiced in each classroom today. Despite its international fame, the Trinity Academy upholds a supportive, grounded program that welcomes dancers of all skill levels and abilities. Trinity Academy of Irish Dance is now accepting new enrollment for summer and fall programs in Illinois and Wisconsin. For more information please call 773.774.5961 or 877.326.2328 or visit the Trinity website at www.trinityirishdancers.com.



Trinity dancers who appeared on "MARTHA":
 Back row (l-r): Danae Luetkehans (LaGrange, IL), Lauren Morton (Waukesha, WI), MacKenzie Holland (Chicago, IL), Maura King (Brookfield, WI), Deirdre Gillette (Elmhurst, IL), Martha Stewart, Olivia Gahn (Richfield, WI), Victoria Felker (Elm Grove, WI), Kendall Gaspari (Palatine, IL), Erin Canon (Wauwautosa, WI), Maura Shea (Madison, WI), Maggie Doyle (Elmhurst, IL)
 Front row (l-r): Mari Doyle (Elmhurst, IL), Myah Trilling (Brookfield, WI), Susanne Weicek (Chicago, IL), Emma Curran (Hartford, IL), Aidan Hartnett (Nashotah, WI), Shannon Kehoe (Whitewater, IL), Marissa Wurster (Wauwatosha, WI), Cara Horan (Chicago, IL)

For the Republic ...cont'd

Studies of the Provisional movement to date have invariably focused more on the Northerners and the role of people like Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. But an understanding of them is not possible without appreciating where they came from and from what tradition they have broken. Ruairi O Brádaigh is that tradition and that is why this account of his life and politics is so important. "O Brádaigh, a true advocate of democracy for all of Ireland, is consequently barred from the US. Because our gov't fears that Irish-America will wake up if it learns how Britain rules its Occupied Irish. Irish republicans are denied visas to come here. They get visas only if they sell out, cease promoting democracy and, above all, cover up British crimes against the Irish. O Brádaigh will never sell out; so he will not be allowed to visit the US; at least not until Irish-America begins to assert itself against Brit control of our gov't's Irish policy. Saoirse, the only Irish republican newspaper remaining, was founded by O Brádaigh and is published by his son, Ruairi Og. To my knowledge, it has never disinforming nor twisted the news.

Democracy now! is the name of new TV show at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday on Channel 19 in Chicago. Like this column, it reports the news that the rest of the media cover up. Its very truth-telling is exhilarating. Enjoy! And see the improvement it will make in our body politic! If it isn't aired in

your suburb, get your local station to provide it. It is now on 400 systems nationwide.

Dennis Donaldson, the IRA leader and traitor who had been working for MI5 for the past two decades, was recently found dead, shot-gunned, in his hide-away house near Glenties, Co. Donegal. While the American and British news media report his death as an IRA hit, Donaldson's family have announced that it was more likely that it was MI5 that silenced him. The only other possibility is that he was killed by one or more of the relatives of, say, the Loughgall Eight (who were murdered after being set up by Donaldson). Sad to say, his MI5 handlers AND his fellow IRS/Sinn Fein sell-outs had abundant reasons to silence him.

Which Brit Reg't starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org. Who are the terrorists re Occupied Ireland? See www.terrorismireland.org.

McNulty School of Irish Dance Celebrates its 35th Year

The McNulty School of Irish Dance held its annual Family Dance on Sunday, February 12th at the Drury Lane, Oakbrook. A celebration of Irish music and dance began as families and friends gathered for morning Mass, offered by Father Karl Langsdorf. Father Karl was accompanied by singer Kathy Cowan, guitarist Jimmy Moore and the women's choir of the Old Town School of Folk Music.

The McNulty families moved into the elegant banquet hall where David Dunne and his band Blackwater played a variety of rousing jigs and reels as Irish dancers of all ages, from preschool through adult classes performed across three stages.

Special appearances included a dance by this year's graduating senior dancers, as well as the debut of the McNulty Show Troupe's newest

choreography piece "For Ireland."

The School's Director, Barbara McNulty, T.C.R.G., also celebrated her 35th year as an Irish dance teacher. Barbara and the McNulty School of Irish Dance held its first class in Naperville back in 1971. Over the years, the school has grown to more than 450 students at 15 locations throughout the Midwest.

Each year, the Family Dance also has a raffle with help from local community and private donations. Proceeds go to Illinois Celtic Arts, the school's non-profit parent organization, to help offset expenses for dancers throughout the year, including parades, trips and workshops with overseas instructors.

This year, the McNulty School of Irish Dance and Illinois Celtic Arts played their part in giving back

to the community by donating 10 percent of the raffle proceeds to The Heart of a Marine Foundation.

The Heart of a Marine Foundation was founded by Georgette and Roy Frank after their son, Lance Corporal Phil Frank, was killed in Iraq in April, 2005. The Foundation supports service members and their families from all branches of the U.S. military by providing comfort, moral support and friendship. The Foundation offers special assistance and care packages to deployed military personnel and veterans, and also gives financial assistance to military families.

Congratulations to Barbara, the teachers and the families in the school. The 35th Annual McNulty Family Dance was truly a grand event. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

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Sinn Fein Councillor Sharkey visits Chicago

Guest speaker at the 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration dinner, Sinn Fein Councillor Tomás Sharkey, gave a rousing speech to guests in attendance after taking time to answer a few questions for Irish American News.

Q. What's your position in North Ireland's government?

A. Sinn Féin Co Councillor in the north of Co Louth.

Q. How long have you been in office?

A. Two and a half years. The Party gave me the seat and then I won elections 2 years ago. Two years ago there were four Sinn Féin elected Reps. Now there are thirteen.

Future plans?

Q. How is Sinn Féin doing in the south? "Flyin!" 126 council

seats in the south.

A. We now have Councillors in counties that haven't had an elected Sinn Féin representative in sixty years.

Q. Will there be a government soon in the North?

A. Yes. At the minute we are confident. The May 15th assembly in Stormont is to be reconvened without an executive. The deadline to come to agreement is sometime in November. If this fails, then the two governments have to implement the Good Friday Agreement.

Q. What would you like Irish America to do?

A. Come with us in one voice. Show the U.S. administration that Irish America is behind the Good Friday Agreement and there are

no distractions. We need Bush and the administration not to be observers but active participants in driving the Good Friday Agreement. We want Britain and Dublin to get the message from the U.S. to keep pushing for the peace process. People need to see that the July 28th, 2005 statement favors the IRA. It was a momentous occasion and it now means a whole new way of working in Irish politics.

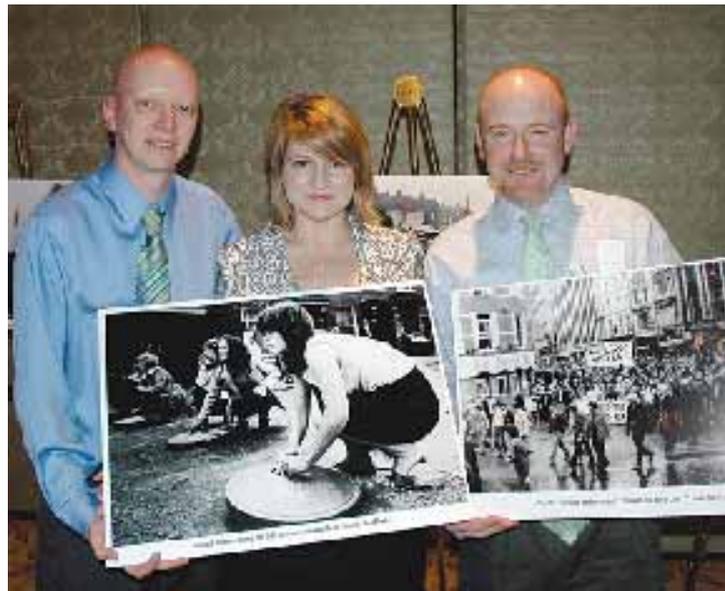
We know that enemies of the process are still there and still active – spying, spooking and spinning. The 1916 Proclamation recognizes that outside forces will try to divide the Irish people.

Q. Was the hunger strike necessary?

A. Yes. The volunteers made the decision. They made a brave decision. The hunger strike showed the determination of the volunteers. Even in prison they were still taking on British forces. The personal sacrifices of families were enormous.

Q. What, if anything, would you like the people in the South to do?

A. Sinn Féin is not just a political party. We are a movement for change. The Celtic boom left a lot of people behind. Senior citizens wait on trolleys for treatment in hospitals 2-3 days. Kids have overcrowded classrooms. The weakest are being ignored by the economic boom. That's not what the 1916 Proclamation promised. It's important for all parties to sit down and closely read the democratic program of government for the first Dáil.



Kieran and Michelle McAleer, and Vincent Casey. Michelle's McAleer Designs made 60 posters and the giant proclamation that were displayed on easels and on the walls around the room.



Some of the folks enjoying the evening were Vincent Casey, Rosemary Sobol, Diane and Roger McGuire, Robert and Sheila Loftus, and Jim Hayes.



Maureen O'Looney (l), and Sinn Fein Councillor Tomás Sharkey present a special bodhran made by prisoners in the H-Block to the evening's guest of honor, Margaret Blackshire; Illinois AFL-CIO president.



John Rooney and Sinn Fein Councillor Tomás Sharkey.



Tom Boyle delivered a tremendous reading of the 1916 Proclamation, that got the attention of all in attendance.

Get Your Irish Up ...North!

By James McClure



MICK

By Mike Morley

Mystery Man



Sense And Censors

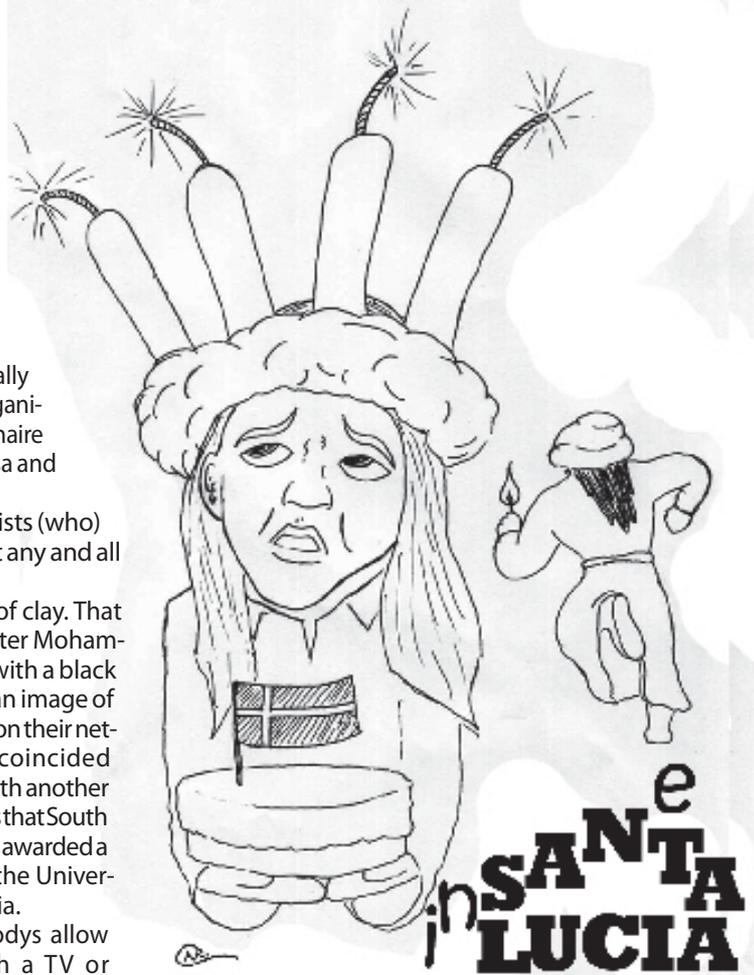
It was inevitable. Viacom and Comedy Central have finally come out of the closet. Media giant Viacom is not really "an organization... committed to artistic freedom" as claimed by its billionaire President S. Murray Redstone when he justified Mother Teresa and her order being called "a bunch of f-ing c---s" on Showtime.

Nor are they, as Comedy Central proudly boasts, "satirists (who) believe that it is our First Amendment right to poke fun at any and all people, groups, organizations and religions".

The April 12th South Park episode exposed their feet of clay. That show was to have included a scene with a cartoon character Mohammed. Comedy Central censored it. Instead, the scene ran with a black screen saying: "Comedy Central has refused to broadcast an image of

Mohammed on their network." That coincided last month with another surprise: news that South Park has been awarded a Peabody by the University of Georgia.

The Peabodys allow anyone with a TV or radio show and a spare \$250. to compete for "the most prestigious award in electronic media". In the early years, Ed Sullivan and Edward R. Murrow were winners, along with Rod Serling, Walter Cronkite, and Orson Welles.



Cartoon By Colm Morley

Also honored was Howdy Doody.

Speaking of doody, in the same South Park episode (aired during Easter week) in which Comedy Central censored the cartoon image of Mohammad, the network had no problem at all showing Jesus Christ defecating on President Bush and the American flag. (Was the Peabody announcement a typo? Could it have been a "Pee-body"?).

According to Peabody Awards Director Horace Newcomb, South Park was honored for being a show that "shatters every taboo". But in TV land, as in America, all taboos are not equal. Some taboos are PC, some are just... taboo. It makes one wonder about the spirit in which the Peabody committee once gave former FCC Chairman Newton Minow an award for calling the TV industry "a vast wasteland".

The awards ceremony is set for June 5 in New York, hosted by two-time Peabody winner Jon Stewart, anchor of "The (Comedy Central) Daily Show". (Talk about a round-pound.)

Your pop media will predictably line up to trumpet the prize as a well-deserved honor for liberal crusaders against ignorance and intolerance. In making the announcement, Newcomb himself said of South Park: "Through that process of offending it reminds us of the need for being tolerant." Incredible! Is the Peabody Director himself vying for an award- in doublespeak?

Producing a half-hour "comedy" called "Bloody Mary" for national TV, then airing it on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception- a "comedy" the highlight of which depicts the Blessed Mother spraying Pope Benedict full in the face with menstrual blood, "reminds us of the need for being tolerant"?? On that basis, Joe Goebbels deserves a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Peabody.

Some Irish groups are currently observing the 25th year since the death of 10 Irish Republicans on hunger strike, as well as the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. They are also lobbying for some form of amnesty or citizenship for some 11 million foreigners, including Irish, who reside in the US with no legal status. We're going to save these thorny topics for (perhaps) our next column.

Hey! Last month we asked readers to figure out who was the handsome lad pictured on the column head, and e-mail their answer to: editor@irishamericannews.com. You should send a CC to Irishtv@ameritech.net So come on- let's see some entries. You won't get a "Peabody", but correct answers will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for dinner at Molly Malone's in Forest Park, and for second and third prizes of fine Irish music CD's.

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SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers

Sharing
a Pint
with Tony
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Tony Duggins' love of Irish rock music began with theft.

One of his friends had broken up with her boyfriend. Before leaving him, she stole a Pogues album.

It later was given to Duggins, then 16. He never cared how he got hold of it. All he knew was the music overwhelmed him when he first listened to it. Sometimes it was deep and sad, but it also could be simple and rowdy. The Pogues and their lead singer Shane MacGowan were more diverse than anyone Duggins had heard before.

"It was just beautiful music", Duggins remembered.

Duggins, now 31, and The Tossers, an Irish rock band from Chicago's South Side, have yet to reach the status of the Pogues. And unlike MacGowan, Duggins still has all his teeth. But that depth, that sound, that diversity, they're all noticeable in The Tossers and their lead singer.

As Duggins put it while recently Sharing a Pint, "There are a million sides to me."

In a conversation that lasted hours and more than a few pints at The Abbey Pub in Chicago, Duggins displayed a few those sides.

There was the Duggins on the CD covers - the one with the pint and the cigarette. He has a side that likes to have a good time. There's also a side that loves Irish literature. He talked about how the book "Are You Somebody" by Nuala O'Faolain, gave him a different outlook on life. He has American and Irish political views and isn't afraid to share them. He wasn't fond of invading Iraq. He has also a love for music, all kinds of it. His place is filled with CDs and records.

Even after talking with him for awhile, though, you never feel you have a full grasp of who Tony Duggins is and what makes him tick. As he spoke more and more, I discovered sides to him that I hadn't known were there earlier

in the interview.

His music is a perfect example of his personality.

The Tossers' newest album, The Valley Of The Shadow of Death, begins with "Good Morning Da." The lyrics are simple: "Good mornin' Da, oh I'm in gaol. I don't need you to try for bail. If I know Ma, she'll scream and wail, so just lock me up and throw away the key." It's loud, fast and plain Irish drunken music. It's what The Tossers played on ABC's The Jimmy Kimmel Show on St. Patrick's Day.

"You got to have those songs to have fun," Duggins said. "We have political songs too, but we don't sing them live. People want to come out and have fun."

Other songs by Duggins have much more meaning. "Go Down Witch, Down" is about everything from the Salem Witch Trials to Columbus to Guantanamo. My personal favorite, "I've Pursued Nothing", is about a dark time in his life.

The Tossers and Duggins have their share of sad stories to tell. (The band's name comes from a derogative term for intolerable or unwanted people.) Started around 1991, The Tossers have experienced their ups and down. They've broken up a few times. They've added and subtracted members - there are seven current members. They've worked full-

time jobs and dedicated their free time to the band on the side.

They struggled to find a label that wanted to take a chance on an Irish-American rock band. It wasn't until Thick Records came along in 2000 did they sign to their first label. In 2005 on St. Patrick's Day, they moved to Victory Records, a larger company based out of Chicago. Victory now has the band touring the country, selling CDs in Best Buys and playing on shows like Jimmy Kimmel.

Duggins hasn't reached his goals in life yet with The Tossers, but he's getting closer and closer to it.

"We've always wanted to be professional musicians," said Duggins, whose band has toured with Flogging Molly and Dropkick Murphy, two of the more well-known Irish rock bands. "I didn't see the potential until we signed with Victory. We could have folded at any point and we did a few times. The dedication and drive to do what we do brought us back. We really love what we do."

* For more information on The Tossers, check out www.thetossers.com. Their newest record is available at Best Buy and other stores.

** If you have any comments or suggestions for someone for Sharing a Pint, e-mail Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

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Returning to the Ideals of the Easter Rising

by Alex Revzan
No failure, as the world judges these things, was ever more complete, more pathetic than (Robert) Emmet's. And yet he has left us a prouder memory than the memory of Brian victorious at Clontarf or of Owen Roe victorious at Benburb. It is the memory of a sacrifice Christ-like in its perfection.

The above words were spoken in Brooklyn, New York in 1914 by an Irish schoolmaster visiting the States on a fund-raising trip for the academy he founded in Dublin. Patrick Pearse would go on to help lead the Easter Rising and found the Irish Republic. As this year marks the ninetieth anniversary of the Easter Rising it is worth taking a few moments to remember the events of Easter week, the ideals proclaimed through the rising and the execution of the men who led it. From the vantage point of most Irish-Americans, even those who are republicans, this seems a far-off and remote event. Most all of us can recite by heart all of the milestones of that week. The storming of the GPO at noon, the reading of the proclamation, the shelling of Liberty Hall and Sackville street by the gunboat Helga, all the way to the execution of the rebel leaders in Kilmainham Gaol. The Rising has, like all watershed events in history, a significance that transcends the actions. No matter how hard they tried, the British could never rule Ireland as though the rising had never happened. As we prepare to mark the ninetieth anniversary of this seminal event, the time has again come to wonder, what if anything, does any of this have to do with our time? The answer is, plenty.

In 1916 the British Empire was at war throughout the world to preserve the freedom of small nations. One small nation was about to take them up on this promise and assert their independence from eight hundred years of brutal colonial rule. At noon on Easter Monday 1916, a combined force comprised of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army (ICA) stormed the General Post Office as well as several strategic parts of Dublin and began an uprising which would last a week and in the end claim over three thousand military

(British and IRA) and civilian lives. Just after the seizure of the GPO one of the principle architects of the rising stepped into Sackville Street and read to the rather bemused crowd the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. This document, like the American Declaration of Independence, guarantees the sovereignty of Ireland to the people of Ireland. Once the Republic had been formally declared, subsequent communications from rebel headquarters referred to this force not as the Irish Volunteers and ICA separately, but as the Irish Republican Army.

The response of the colonial administrators was slowed by manpower shortages caused not only by commitments for the war but also leaves granted for the Easter holiday. However, by the middle of Easter week the British Army was in Dublin in number and beginning to cordon off and reduce the IRA positions. Contrary to James Connolly's prediction at the outset of the Rising, the British had no qualms about using artillery against private property. Despite their small numbers, the rebels fought for every inch of ground. Every British success came at a disproportionate cost. At Mount Street Bridge on Wednesday, a hand-full of volunteers holding several strategic buildings held off a large detachment of the 2/5 and 2/8 Sherwood Foresters. In the process, the volunteers inflicted grievous casualties.

By Saturday however, the situation had become untenable for the rebels. The GPO, which had been IRA headquarters, was abandoned due to fires started by British artillery. A final council of war was held among the provisional government and it was decided to surrender in order that further loss of life is avoided. Patrick Pearse's order to lay down arms was counter-signed by James Connolly and delivered to all remaining rebel outposts. As soon as the rebel army had surrendered, the British set about punishing the men who dared to declare Ireland's liberty. A round of speedy court martials were held and in all fifteen of the republican leadership faced British firing squads. Included in this number were all seven men who had signed the Proclamation of the Irish

Republic at the outset of the rising. So eager was the British administration to see the republic quashed that James Connolly, who had been grievously wounded in the fighting during Easter week, had to be tied to a chair when he faced the firing squad in Kilmainham's Stone Breakers Yard.

The situation faced by Irish Republicans today is not so very different than that faced by those in 1916. Britain is again at war. And, again, politicians are debating the best way to implement home rule. This of course is now referred to as "devolution" in the current political argot. However, when discussing "devolution" versus "home rule" this is really a distinction without a difference. In each case the goal of the British government is to allow just enough autonomy to Ireland to keep it quiet with out having to admit to the failure of their colonial rule and finally end their occupation of the island. After over seventy years of partition and after thirty seven years of more or less open war with the Irish Republican Army the British are again looking for a way to still govern Ireland, but at arms length. As usual, the British administrators have failed to realize that it is their very presence in Ireland that fuels the fire of resistance. More than that, at this point in time is "devolved government" an answer that any side is likely to support? The answer is an unequivocal no.

Instead it is to the ideals of the Easter Rising we must return. The proclamation read publicly for the first time in front of the GPO nearly ninety years ago guarantees the ownership of Ireland to the people of Ireland. Countless brave men and women gave their lives not only during Easter Week but also in the war of independence that followed. Even in our own time, patriots have tried to secure the promise of 1916. This year also marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the H-Block hunger strike. The ten brave men who died resisting British tyranny carried on the spirit of Easter Week. Bobby Sands, the former officer commanding of the republican prisoners and first hunger striker to die wrote in his diary, "Well, I have gotten by twenty-seven years, so that is something. I may die, but the Republic of 1916 will never die." This is

the point we must remember as the British issue yet another ultimatum in hopes of restarting the Stormont assembly. No matter how benign a face it takes, British rule in Ireland must always be opposed. Tíocfaidh ar la!

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Horoscopes

by Theresa Castro

Aries: Try to relax this month while most of the planets travel in your twelfth sector "behind your back". That means that the other folks hold the limelight while you work behind the scenes. This, by no means, is a bad thing. You may be a bit low on energy.

Taurus: This is your month to shine and a time to get your world in order. Others might be doing spring cleaning but you are cleaning up in the professional sector. You will begin to be noticed in many ways for good reason.

Gemini: You are building something that will really pay off in the future. The key now is to have patience for what it is you are trying to accomplish. Forget the quick results. Be satisfied with modest gains. Most gardeners and farmers are well acquainted with this concept of life.

Cancer: Try not to limit yourself too much in the fun department. You work too hard! Did you hear the old saying that you can't take it with you? You can only leave "it" with your heirs or maybe wallpaper your casket in a bland shade of green. Live for now in this life, and delegate more. Spend time on yourself.

Leo: You are the fun loving sign of the zodiac and poor Cancer (above) needs help. You know how to appreciate life and will not work yourself to death. The planets and Jupiter may impart too much desire for gambling and revelry, but that is better than working yourself up to a stroke.

Virgo: You can benefit from a little R and R these days. The holidays are all the way over now and you can take it easy. The Sun, Venus, and Jupiter are all working to help you on your way to relaxation and better control of many areas of your life. You can now put away the "cat o' nine tails" as well. Time to heal those wounds.

Libra: You can keep buying lottery thicketts now. This is money well spent provided you are not a chronic gambler. There is a hotline for gambler's anonymous if you're interested. But, if you play well and don't gamble away the rent money, you could hit the "big One!" Thank you planet Jupiter!

Scorpio: Lucky Jupiter is in your house! This is very fortunate and lasts for most of the year 2006. Now with the sun in your seventh sector of significant others you may have a better social life as well. You have more opportunities to branch out in business and in professional areas.

Sagittarius: Your health is about to improve. If you are in general good health you might start working out more now. More physical energy will come your way and you will make good use of it. The Sun will cross your sixth sector and help you immensely in many ways.

Capricorn: If you are funning your business you will love this month. Even if you are not you will find more energy to get what you need to get done. You could fall in love, win a contest, or have an addition to your family. OOPS! Be careful about that one! Anyway, you will be happy whatever comes your way.

Aquarius: You are the ultimate people person. Everybody loves you and you love everyone. This will be enhanced by a major aspect between Sun, Jupiter, and your own birth sign this month. You will also need time to recharge your batteries because of the unusually high demand for your presence at home and at work.

Pisces: You have unpredictable planet Uranus at your house for an extended stay. He will not leave for the next few years. This is similar to having an eccentric old relative move in. Do you need this? Well, there are ways to deal with these things. Your attitude has a great deal to do with the way you handle this.

Bon Voyage party for crew of Naomh Barbre

Hosts John and May Grealy pitched a send-off for the captain and crew of Naomh Barbre (pronounced neeve barbra) on Sunday, April 23 at their new pub (formerly the Jefferson Pump) at 5001 W. Lawrence Avenue.

Those of you who missed it were out doubly; Bia agus deoch, ceol agus craic only begins to describe the phenomenal spread, music and good times that are apparently served up daily at the new Grealy Pub.

The proprietors have obviously been taking notes rather than complaining or suggesting whilst visiting (scouting) Irish pubs around the country for yea these many years; the Guinness was prompt and well drawn (if both are possible with Guinness,) priced right (I'm guessing, my money was no good that evening,) and the music served up by Steve Fitzgerald and Jimmy Considine was lively and well-received.

Until an official review, I'll simply state that I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and heartily recommend Grealy's to all.

wishing fair winds and following seas - walt kennedy

St. Barbara - A Galway Hooker (Who-ker) 'Sail Boat'

The St. Barbara is a replica of a traditional Sail boat native to the West Coast of Ireland. Her builder, also a native of the West Coast of Ireland, is Stephen Mulkerins

Stephen began building the St. Barbara in 2001. She is constructed of white oak and larch. This was imported from Ireland, With a mahogany and teak interior.

Work was completed and she was christened by The Mayor of the City of Chicago Richard M. Daley, June 4th, 2004.

June 4th 2004 was subsequently proclaimed - "St. Barbara Galway Hooker Day in Chicago"

She is the largest Galway Hooker ever built and The first to be built in the United States. Stephen and his crew plan to sail the St. Barbara From Montrose Harbor Chicago, to Connemara Ireland In the summer of 2006 via the Great Lakes to the Erie Canal, on down to the Hudson River Where she will sail into the great New York harbor

Here she will sail along side the Welcoming sight of The Statue of Liberty

Unlike her ancestors of the Famine years, this Galway Hooker Will be returning to a prosperous life in Ireland and Bidding farewell to the Statue of Liberty and the Great United State of America

We wish her "Fair Winds and Following Seas"



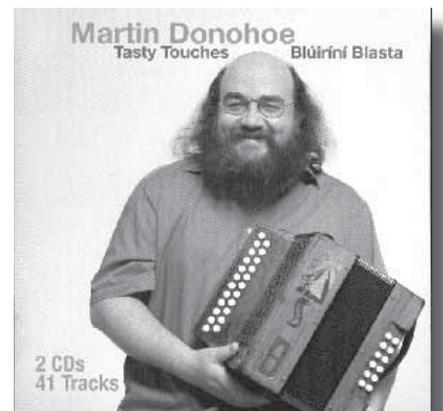
I-r: Barney Flaherty, Coley Newell, Steve Mulkerins, Pat Joyce, John & Mary Grealy

Tasty Touches, Blúiríní Blasta by Martin Donohoe

www.tastytouches.com

Accordion player Martin Donohoe is a legend in his own time. A household name throughout the county, he is also known in traditional music circles countrywide and indeed overseas.

A native of Cavan Town, Martin is a gifted traditional musician in his own right but spends a lot of his time promoting and producing other people's work, having a particular passion for all things Cavan-related - its music, its culture, its people. Martin founded the Nyah Festival, now in its third year and growing fast. The Nyah (an old Irish word meaning lift or soul in music) is winning positive coverage in the national media and for the duration of the festival attracts visitors to County Cavan from all over the country and some from abroad.



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Officers stop killers

John T. Capparelli, Treasurer of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, presented Distinguished Service Awards to Chicago Police Officers Alphonsus O'Connor and Hugh McCormack. Capparelli then went on to describe what took place at the scene of the crime.

Two male victims were lured to an apartment, via the internet, where they met two women. While watching television, two offenders emerged from a back room armed with semi-automatic pistols. Both victims were blindfolded and their arms were bound with duct tape. One victim was severely pistol whipped to extract the location of the victim's money.

One offender left with a victim to drive him to the location and retrieve the money while the other offender stayed with the beaten victim in the apartment. As they exited the building the victim broke free and ran south with the offender in pursuit. When the offender caught up with the victim he shot him twice in the head.

Police Officer Hugh McCormack of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Police Department was driving by and witnessed the execution. The offender observed Officer McCormack in his Norfolk Southern squad and fled with McCormack pursuing in his vehicle. In an attempt to stop



(l-r) William Dougherty, 1st Vice President of F.O.P., Officers Alphonsus O'Connor and Hugh McCormack, and Mark Donahue, President of F.O.P.

the offender Officer McCormack blocked the sidewalk.

Officer Alphonsus O'Connor was stopped at red light in route to work at the 007th District when he observed the offender run across the street holding his side. Officer O'Connor drove westbound and observed Officer McCormack exit his vehicle with his weapon drawn ordering the offender to show his hands. At this time the offender raised his gun and a shoot-out began. Office O'Connor exited his vehicle and announced his office, only to see Officer McCormack get wounded and fall backwards.

Officer O'Connor fired at the

offender who now turned and exchanged gunfire with O'Connor. McCormack at this time was on his radio calling in a 10-1 stating that he was wounded. O'Connor fired until the offender fell with a bullet wound through the heart.

Officer O'Connor used his cell phone to call 911 for assistance and request an ambulance for McCormack. McCormack was shot in his chest, arm and stomach, but the bulletproof vest he was wearing kept the chest shot from penetrating.

Detective Sean Ronan, responding to the 10-1, arrived on the scene as paramedics

were putting Officer McCormack into the ambulance. Being appraised of the seriousness of McCormack's wounds, Ronan rode with McCormack in the ambulance to Christ Hospital calling out the direction of travel so that the T.R.U. Unit as well as the 007th, the 008th District and the Hometown Police Department could shut down intersections and save time on the lifesaving run to the hospital.

Once at Christ Hospital, McCormack underwent emergency surgery for the stomach wound

testines and severed his urethra. Due to the quick responses of Officer O'Connor and Detective Ronan, P.O. McCormack was able to recover from his near fatal wounds.

Officers McCormack and O'Connor's valor and disregard for their own safety stopped the escape of a cold blooded killer and ended up saving the second victim's life. Once the shooting started the second offender fled the scene and responding units freed the second victim. Later, Area One took the second offender into custody.

Capparelli stated "It is with great appreciation that the Fraternal Order Of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, present Officers Alphonsus O'Connor and Hugh McCormack with Distinguished Service Awards".

where the bullet went through his in-



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For the last 5 years, his son Brian has worked with him.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Immigration Reform

Harold Wilson a former British Prime Minister, once said: "a week is a long time in politics." And as I write this piece during Holy Week I have to agree. Visiting the capital last week pro-immigration reform activists were ready to celebrate a deal on the contentious issue of what to do with the 11 million undocumented workers in the US. The Senate failed to agree last week on a compromise proposal to create a guest-worker program and provide a path for as many as 11 million undocumented immigrants to earn legal status. The deal did not materialize but the issue has not gone away.

A number of recent polls however are encouraging for those who want to see a comprehensive approach to fixing our broken immigration system. An

example is the Bloomberg/Los Angeles Times poll this week. It shows that most Republicans support proposals to give legal status to undocumented workers and legislation that combines tougher enforcement of immigration laws with new temporary-worker programs.

The fact that 64 percent of Republican voters support this two-part approach may be good news for the GOP as President George W. Bush, who has endorsed a similar proposal. These results indicate Republican voters are at odds with legislation approved by republicans in the House of Representatives in December of last year that only emphasized tougher enforcement and the construction of a 700 miles wall along the Mexican border.

"You need to be fair to the

people that have been here for a long time, who have kind of fallen through the cracks," said Lawrence Hall, 47, a Republican from Reisterstown, Maryland, who participated in the poll.

In the survey of 1,357 Americans conducted April 8-11, 67 percent of Republicans said they support a solution similar to the Senate proposal, which would allow undocumented workers to stay in the U.S. after paying a fine, learning English, going through a background security check and backpaying their taxes. Only twenty percent of Republicans are opposed to such a plan.

This sensible and humane approach is supported by a majority from both parties in the Senate and has also been backed by a very large coalition including, religious groups, trade unions, human rights groups, the chamber of commerce and other bodies.

The time has come for both parties to do the right thing, leave party political games outside the chambers and fashion a solution, which is comprehensive, just and fair.

Golf

Chicago Irish Immigrant

Support will hold its annual fund raising Golf Tournament on Sat 10th June at Fresh Meadows Golf Club in Hillside. Anyone who is willing to support us either by playing on the day or by sponsorship should please contact Brendan Magee at 312-337-8445 for further details. We thank you for your generous support in the past and hope that you can join us for what has become a very popular outing.

Actions

"Actions speak louder than words" is a common saying and one worth reflecting on. Each day we make many decisions about our lives, decisions that make a real difference to the way we live. This includes what we decide to eat and how we spend our time. Much of our actions are performed on automatic pilot, we don't give them much thought. This is appropriate for everyday chores but not for matters that have a significant influence on our health and on the well being of those with whom we live and work.

I often here people apologizing for an action by saying: I'm sorry I didn't think about what I was doing. We could be spared much grief and indeed spare others much grief if we only pay closer attention to our actions and their consequences. You can think and dream and speculate about what might and what might not hold real meaning for you. Yet the truth of who you are will most often be revealed by the choices you make.

Take a few moments to look at the life you live, and you'll clearly see your true priorities. If you wish to adjust those priorities, you can reliably do so by adjusting the thoughts and actions that support them.

By the way you choose to give your time, attention and effort, you are setting your priorities, and those priorities will greatly influence the way your life precedes.

As always should you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at: 312-337-8445 or Cell. 773-677-5341 or e-mail: siochan@catholic.org.

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Young dancers of the Mullane Irish Dance Academy visited Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas (r) in her downtown Chicago office. Pappas presented Mary Alice Mullane Godley (l) and her youthful Irish dancers an award for promoting Irish heritage and culture. Front row: Clare Broderick, Brigid Broderick, Orla Godley and Michaela Gleason. Back row: Megan Broderick, Katie Broderick and Fiona Gleason

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St Ignatius graduate awarded Chicago Police Officer of the Year



Officer A. O'Connor

The Illinois State Crime Commission (ISCC) is proud to announce its selection of Police Officer Alphonsus A. O'Connor to receive its Chicago Policeman of the Year Award at the Crime Commissions 10th annual dinner, "A Salute to Those Who Make a Difference," which will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at the Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Early in 2005, Officer O'Connor was instrumental in thwarting a violent internet induced crime in progress.

Inspired to join the Department

by his late cousin PO Johnnie Gilhooly who was killed in the line of duty in 1969, O'Connor joined the Chicago Police Department in 2002 after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a major in Political Science. Officer O'Connor has been on the Chicago Police force only four years and has earned several awards to date.

With the help of such distinguished individuals and relying entirely on community contributions rather than government funding, the Illinois State Crime Commission has become the most dynamic, effective and respected crime fighting organization in Illinois.

Irish Business School Defends Rugby World Title in US Tournament

MBA Rugby World Champions, Ireland's UCD Smurfit School of Business, return to North Carolina April 8 to defend their title. Over two days, the Irish will compete against 20 men's teams in the annual international tournament organized by Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. The Dublin team has competed in the tournament since 2000, winning that year's title and again in 2002, 2003 and 2005.

Rugby union is played throughout the world, with major national teams including France, Australia, England, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Wales and Scotland. Although football has its origins in the game of rugby, among the differences are that a rugby team has 15 players and a player can only pass the ball backwards or laterally to another player, or kick it. The game is extremely physical and is played without the padding common to football. The first recorded game on American soil took place May 14, 1874, when Harvard University hosted Montreal's McGill University in Cambridge, Mass.

Congress under pressure as millions struggle to pay for college

"The issue of affordable college education can be a key organizing issue in this year's elections." --Toby Chaudhuri, Campaign for America's Future Communications Director

Responding to public outrage about higher student loan rates and the rising cost of college, a wide range of organizations and activists representing millions of students, parents and recent college graduates are pushing to repeal recent cuts to student aid programs and increase supports to pay for college. Millions of people nationwide will pay significantly more in interest on their student loans because of

new measures recently approved by Congress effective July 1.

Using the slogan "Reverse the Raid," many organizations are mobilizing the public in different ways around the rising cost of college. Groups are reaching out to their members, releasing reports, launching online campaigns, communicating with the public, and holding events at dozens of college campuses and in hundreds of communities this year to ensure that the more than 18 million Americans whose seek to pursue a college education can afford it, according to organizers.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., re-

sponded to the public's concern by introducing legislation that cuts student loan interest rates in half. Many of the groups that called on Congress to reverse the raid on student aid endorsed the legislation in a letter to Congress. The United States Student Association launched its "Grant Aid Now!" campaign in March, and is encouraging its members to contact their congressional representatives www.usstudents.org. The Campaign for America's Future will initiate a petition campaign calling on Republicans to match their rhetoric with action and help keep college affordable www.ourfuture.org.

Migrant boost fills Australian skills shortage

Australian Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone said the government had responded to the country's skills shortage by bringing record numbers of skilled migrants to the country. The Australian Government has made over 97,500 Skilled Visas available for 2005-06. It's the largest intake of skilled migrants since the late 1980s.

In recent months over 150,000 jobs have been advertised weekly, and unemployment is at the lowest level in the last 10 years. A total of 18,700 migrants took advantage of the state-specific and regional migration program. The biggest increase came in the form of doctors. A Senior Migration Agent from National Visas said that accountants, nurses and trades-people, including mechanics, electricians and builders, are among the most sought-after skills wanted by Australian employment groups.

To find out more information about migration to Australia visit www.nationalvisas.com.au



P.J. O'Dea, "The Man from Clare," shown here with his Hall of Fame award given to him by the Good Morning Ireland Foundation. The award recognized his years of devotion to all things Irish, and his illustrious sports career. P.J., now 80-years-young, played on 25 different Irish Football Clubs in his day.

Gaelic News, cont'd.

Florida is 1-813-633-2567.

Harry Boland hurlers convene.

Chicago Harry Boland Hurling Club convened recently and picked the following officers for the coming year, according to hard working secretary, Kathy Delaney. Chaplain, Fr. T.J. Maloney, Hon. Pres. Mike Maloney, Chairman Oisin Walsh, Vice-chairman Christy Phillips, Sec. Kathy Delaney (Te. 708-226-1163), Asst. Sec. Brian Fealy, Treau. Liam Hogan, Asst. Treau. Michael Horan, Registrar Marcus Morris, Asst. Reg. Gerald Norris.

A large turn out of members and supporters augers well for the famed club. Efforts are being made to speed up the home base rule with the county board and get the club back into shape for what promises to be a thrilling year of the old caman game at Gaelic Park. Information available on the county board's activities are sketchy, but apparently every effort is being made to get the senior hurling and senior football back on schedule starting as soon as possible.

The clubs big fund raiser will be held on Friday night, May 12th, at the Stony Creek Country

Club, Oak Lawn, Illinois, starting at 7.00pm. A buffet dinner will be served with an open bar for \$30.00 per person and the music will be supplied by D.J.'s Marcus and Christy. Tickets for the big raffle are being distributed. For more information call Kathy Delaney at 708-226-1163.

Our paper on the internet. A telephone call recently from Karen Theresa Dalton, Saltillio, Miss, informed us that our recent story on the Internet concerning the big Fund Raiser for St. Margaret's Church was well received. It was the first that she had heard of the big gathering of former parishioners, and she is one of the members of this old church and would have been at the party had she known in time. She promised to be there next year, God willing.

Ms. Dalton told of visiting Chicago Gaelic Park some time ago and was amazed at such a beautiful Gaelic Center and the many fine facilities available. Her father was Paddy Dalton a star player with the Harry Boland team back in the 20's shortly after its formation. She thanked Harry Costello who gave her the royal tour of the park. He also showed

her a picture of the first Harry Boland hurling team which included her father, and the late great Mike Mulryan, one of the guiding lights of the famed club back over 80 years ago. She promised to keep in touch with our paper, and to return to the park this summer to witness some of the hurling and football games.

Congratulations Fr. Kevin.

Our good friend and fellow columnist Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley, O. Carm. will celebrate his Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving mass of his dedicated priestly ordination on Friday May 26th at the National Shrine of St. Therese of Liseux 8501 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois, starting at 6.00pm.

Together with his countless friends we offer our sincere congratulations as we pray together that God will give him many more years to continue the great work for God, country and fellow man and woman that he has been doing with so much success over the past 50 years. If ever there was a man whom Chicago-Irish and others should admire and respect that man is our own Fr. Kevin. Beannact De ar an oibre, a cairde Gael.

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Football (soccer) International Friendly Matches (LIVE)

May 23 at 2:30pm - Austria v Croatia

Austria host Croatia in a final warm-up game before the World Cup starts

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in June. Croatia will be looking to assemble their stars in the most efficient manner while Austria are looking to build their team with a view towards the European Championships which they will co-host with Hungary in 2008.

May 24 at 2:00pm - Ireland v Chile

Neither of these team will be present in Germany, but that doesn't mean this won't be a tightly contested game. With Sir Bobby Robson's help Steve Staunton is looking to re-establish Ireland as a footballing force while Chile are disappointed to have missed out on World Cup play after a disappointing qualifying campaign.

May 30 at 11:30am - Czech Republic v Costa Rica

With the World Cup fast approaching both of these teams will use this game as a final warm-up for the big dance to start in just 9 more days. The Czechs are currently ranked by FIFA as the number 2 team in world soccer while Chile will be hoping to improve their current ranking at number 67 in the world.

Rugby Heineken Cup (LIVE)

May 20 at 9:30am - Teams TBD - FINAL

The Heineken Cup started in 1995 as a stepping stone between domestic rugby and the international stage. The

Heineken Cup involves club rugby teams from Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, France and Italy. The format is as follows: The six Pool winners and two best placed runners-up will qualify for the Quarter-Finals and will be decided by the following criteria: Four points for a win, two points for a draw (match points). A bonus point will be earned by a team scoring four or more tries and by a team losing by seven or less points. The Pool winner will be the Club with the highest number of match points earned in each Pool. The runners up will be the two-second placed Clubs from all six Pools with the next highest number of points. For the quarterfinal round, the Pool winners will be ranked 1 - 6 in terms of the number of points earned. The runners-up will be ranked 7 and 8.

The reigning champions are Toulouse, who are incidentally the only 3 time winners of this competition were eliminated from this year's competition by Leinster. Who will raise the cup this year from the semi finalists of Biarritz, Leinster, Munster, and Bath?

The network is available on DIRECTV (Channel 615) as a premium channel and with GlobeCast WorldTV DTH. Check www.setanta.com/usa for updated schedules. Additionally, Setanta is available PPV in many pubs and clubs nationwide.

Duddy back fighting in the Big Apple

"Ireland's" John Duddy (16-0, 14 KO's) makes his first WBC Continental Americas middleweight title defense June 10 against veteran Freddy Cuevas (25-8-1, 17 KO's) in a 10-round bout on the Cotto-Malignaggi pay-per-view card at the famed Madison Square Garden.

The Irish middleweight sensation Duddy is now rated No. 13 by the World Boxing Association. He's coming off of a devastating first-round TKO of Shelby Pudwell on March 16 before a sold-out crowd of passionate Irish fans in The Theater at MSG. John's returning to the "big house" where he won an eight-round decision a year ago against Patrick Thompson.

"I keep working hard and at the end of the day," Duddy said, "this is what I want to do and where I want to be. I'm very comfortable fighting at home in Madison Square Garden. There won't be an Irishman (Kevin McBride) fighting Mike Tyson this time (McBride stopped Tyson in Washington D.C. on the same night Duddy defeated Thompson.) Hopefully this fight will be another step forward. The more fans, the merrier, and I am really looking forward to it.

Cuevas, fighting out of Chicago,



has victories against former world champion Charles Murray (TKO7), Wilfredo Rivera for the USBO light middleweight title in 2002, and previously unbeaten (9-0) Sam Hill. Freddy took current undisputed world middleweight champion Jermain Taylor 12 rounds and has been in against former world champ Kassim Ouma and top challenger Kingsley Ikeke.

Play golf and help the world

The Fourth Annual Concern Worldwide Golf Outing will be held on Wednesday, June 28th, 2006 at the Harborside International Golf Center. The event will begin at 10:30am with a 12:30pm shotgun start. An evening program and dinner will follow. Cook County State's Attorney, Richard A. Devine will serve as honorary chairperson for the event this year. To purchase tickets, please call 312-642-8400. Harborside International Golf Center is located at 1101 S Doty Ave East, Chicago. www.concernusa.org



Maureen OLooney & Mary Johnson take a look at the golf course for the Big Irish Immigrant Golf Day, June 10th at Fresh Meadows. Everyone is welcome. (312) 337-8445.

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Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



A few weeks ago the Gaelic Players Association sent text messages to their GAA members asking them to consider withdrawing their services on the weekend of April 8/9, on the day that the seventh round of the National Football and a number of deferred

NHL Division 1a games were due to be played. The move was viewed as the most militant proposal that the GPA had put forward since they were founded in 1999. The text sent to the players read "A number of squads suggested players should boycott all League fixtures on April 8/9 as a one-off protest to demonstrate how serious we are. Are you in favour? Text yes or no."

The GPA took the decision to ballot their members at an Executive meeting. If there had been a positive response, it would have caused major disruptions to a GAA fixture programme, already packed to capacity and behind schedule. The proposal threatened to drive a further wedge between the GPA

and the GAA as frustration grows on the issue of sports grants, Dessie Farrell, who is the Central Council representative for the players, sought GAA backing for sports grants at the last meeting. Central Council delegates wanted time to consider the grants proposals and to consult their county boards before making a decision. The GAA has defended its decision stating that the matter will be discussed when incoming president Nicky Brennan takes up office at the Easter Congress.

It has been suggested that Brennan would meet with the GPA this month. Opinions among squad members is known to be greatly divided over the issue of strike action and the possibility was there that if a unified response was not forthcoming, the GPA would lose ground in their battle. Leading GPA officials have consistently warned of growing frustration and anger in its ranks over what is perceived as GAA stalling tactics. What has angered their members most, according to

their spokesman, Dessie Farrell, was the failure of any GAA representative to attend a meeting with the Minister for Sport, Art and Tourism, John O'Donoghue recently.

It only took the GAA a matter of days before they issued their own edict on the matter, and that came as no surprise from the GAA, the largest sporting organisation in Ireland. It stated bluntly, that if the GPA were to go ahead with the threatened strike action, the GAA would abandon all League matches arranged for that weekend. They would also call the competition null and void which meant no money spin off for the contesting counties. All trips arranged for the various group winners would be withdrawn. That did it. The GPA quickly called off their threatened strike.

Instead, the GPA decided to delay the starting times of all matches by one quarter of an hour. That plan worked, because the GAA felt that the quarter of an hour extra delay on the starting times of the matches, didn't really interrupt the fixture programme and all went smoothly on the day. But it may be interesting to list the number of items the GPA want the GAA to address.

1. GPA calls on Croke Park to endorse the Government grants scheme for inter county players and to

formally lobby Government for immediate implementation of same.

2. An authoritative player-welfare audit system to be set up immediately. * Enhance insurance/injury scheme for all players, club and county. (Shortfalls here are the most common player complaint. * Enhanced entitlements to players playing and training facilities. * Comply with forthcoming recommendations outlined by the Sudden Cardiac Death taskforce. "Enhance medical facilities at training and playing venues. * Medical supervision at all county games. * On-going education and information on the anti-doping code.

3. Croke Park must provide formal recognition for the GPA and enter negotiations to facilitate a collective bargaining agreement (defines exactly what players and the GAA can expect from one another across all relevant issues). Funding for the association through a percentage of income from appropriate revenue streams, will be an integral part of this process.

4. The GPA calls on Croke Park to address county board apathy towards hurling in non traditional counties and to ensure that all rounds of the Nicky Rackard and Christy Ring Cups are played as curtain raisers to top flight championship games.

5. Croke Park. in consultation

with the GPA, must address the fixture crisis currently affecting club and county players.

6. The GPA calls on Croke Park to lift the ban on "Club Energise" with immediate effect and adopt a policy of full commercial co-operation with the players' body (playstation, sticker- book collection.)

It remains to be seen how far new president Nicky Brennan will move when he meets the GPA on their latest demands. The president cannot make any decisions on his own. He will have to go back to the Management Committee and discuss any plan he may have drawn up after meeting the GPA. There are a number of top officials who are totally against the GPA telling the GAA how to run their organisation. The bottom line from the GPA side is the emphasis all the time on expenses matters relating to travelling to training and to matches. They claim it's a ploy by players, to get reward for playing football and hurling. In no time at all, it will be followed by club players looking for the same 'goodies' that inter county players are now getting and are seeking even more. The GPA would need to row back on their current demands or they will really start killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. The GAA haven't got a bottomless pit!

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