

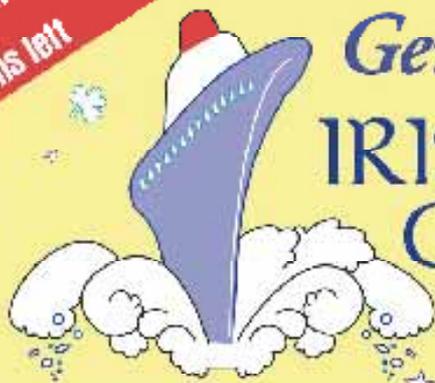


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...see page 26

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## Green Linnet sold

News/Editorial by Bill Margeson

It was four years ago that this paper internationally broke the story that five recording artists for Green Linnet in Connecticut were suing the company for alleged instances of non-payment of royalties on record sales. The five were represented by The Law Offices of Bob Donnelly in New York. In the intervening time, there have been a number of strongly worded allegations back and forth, with the artists being the most vocal, to the point of holding a demonstration across the street from the company's headquarters in Danbury. The battle is over. Amazingly, everyone seems satisfied with the outcome.

Digital Music Group has purchased the digital rights to the entire music catalogue of Green Linnet, and simultaneously sold the physical distribution rights for the actual cd's to Compass Records in Nashville. "We (Compass) are extremely happy with the deal," stated Compass President, Garry West. Green Linnet reflected that same feeling in a statement from corporate spokeswoman, Judith Joyner. We are very pleased with the results, and we think it is a great situation for all the parties." The artists' attorney, Bob Donnelly reflected the same sentiment, "We are very, very happy with the deal." Of course, no one would comment on the specifics, but all seem genuinely satisfied with the outcome.

This has been a rancorous legal battle, and attorney Donnelly was still not prepared to abandon the position his clients had taken. "We think the position Linnet took regarding our clients was despicable and unfair. But, that does not mitigate the fact we are very happy with the results." The artists suing the company partially included Eileen Ivers, Mick Moloney, Joanie Madden and the supergroup, Altan. Linnet never denied owing the artists back payments. The legal maneuvering in the last four years look unclear from the outside, but uppermost in all parties' minds was the unpaid royalties issue, and how that could be actually handled. While the company is closing its doors in Connecticut, the name will not disappear. "We do have the ability to issue new titles on the Green Linnet label and will selectively use the imprint when it is appropriate to the project," said West. The amounts were substantial regarding the unpaid royalties. Of course, no one from the outside knew the exact amount, as that was central to the lawsuit in the first place, but the amount was rumored to have been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Clearly the digital rights to the Linnet catalogue are pivotal to DMG. Those rights represent the largest, single source of Irish music, which will be made available on a pay-per-download basis on the internet. There were some questions as to the actual value of the physical product, the cd's. The number of cd's is thought to be in the area of 50,000, and they have already been transferred to the Compass warehouse in Nashville. Clearly, the music business in all types of format is rapidly being digitalized with downloads the major wave of the future. Does that leave Compass holding a warehouse full of economically deteriorating value? Hardly, according to West. "There is still a healthy market for cd's, and for specialty music, maybe as large a one as there's ever been. While digital is a big and growing factor, you have to remember that our artists tour as a way of life to

support themselves even. You can't buy a download at a concert and you certainly can't have a download autographed. And the true aficionados enjoy holding the album, looking at the artwork, seeing the track lists, and, importantly, the liner notes. These elements just aren't there on a typical download." Hard to argue.

Green Linnet President Wendy Newton has been widely vilified by musicians over the royalties issue. According to one source, She has a, "thousand knives in her back." While it is agreed that all parties have come out of this far better than when the entire suit began four years ago, this must be a bittersweet moment for Newton. There seems to be absolutely no doubt that the company failed to pay large amounts of royalties owed under her leadership. Why that was, and the extent will now never be settled legally. Each side had their own explanations. But, what cannot be argued is that Wendy Newton was a driving, iconic force in Irish music for decades. It was she who founded Linnet, which became, by far, the most formidable name in Irish music. She had a great set of ears for the music and new talent, and a driving belief in the music. It is arguable that she created the mass American market for the traditional music itself. The musicians suing her, rightly, were nonetheless beholden to her in no small parts for the careers they enjoyed. This should not be lost in the shuffle. Green Linnet was a huge factor in bettering a lot of peoples' lives from the artists right through to the listeners. Neither the owed royalties situation, nor Wendy Newton's unprecedented contribution to Irish music can be ignored. They should both be remembered, and fairly balanced. Period.

In a far ranging interview, Garry West put the situation best, regarding the future. "People who love this music and these artists have a responsibility to support this music. These albums don't sell in the millions, nor do they get the exposure that pop music does. If the audience wants to see Celtic music continue to be available they need to show that there is an appreciation and a demand. It is a tougher market today because a lot of the large retailers don't have the balls to carry a full range of cd's. They panicked a few years ago because of the "internet scare" and the idea that consumers wouldn't need retail, and in the process created a self fulfilling prophecy by cutting back on specialty music and, as a result, driving consumers to the internet. That just means we have to work harder and smarter."

As Compass enjoys an unchallenged reputation of integrity in the market and among the musicians, there is no doubt that it was the right label in the right position to make the deal for the physical products. The company is used as a roll model of entrepreneurial excellence, even at the Harvard Business School. No one seriously doubts that Compass will make a go of the deal, as will DMG. Wendy Newton must be having mixed emotions in extremis. The battles are over. There are surely hard feelings left, but it must be remembered by all concerned that Newton and these artists created something marvelous in the American market, and they, at one time, did it all together.

On we, and they go. The key factor will be West's statement that those of us who love this music, have a responsibility to support it.



Protesters of the Irish Football Association outside Gaelic Park May 23, 2006.

## CIAS takes on Irish Football Assn

A group here called "Chicago Irish Against Sectarianism" held a silent picket May 23 to protest a visit to Chicago's Gaelic Park by the Irish Football Association of Northern Ireland team for a VIP reception there. The team was in town for a Soldier Field meet with Romania.

In another development on May 24th (just before press time) two parties to be held at The Abbey Pub and at Johnny O'Hagan's in support of the IFA had been canceled, allegedly by the coaches of the IFA soccer team.

"I think it's a shame. Both sides are wrong. I don't agree with the demonstrators and I don't agree with the cancellation of these parties either. Families and children were looking forward to meeting the team," said Billy Lawless.

CIAS members cite the IFA for failing to effectively confront anti-Catholic hatred directed at Celtic players in Windsor Park, the IFA's home grounds in Belfast. They also resent an IFA policy requiring Irish players to use British passports while traveling with the team. CIAS had asked the Gaelic Park's Board of Directors to reconsider their invitation to the IFA, but the board voted to proceed with the reception.

Park President John Griffin told the

CIAS the decision was based on the park "not taking political positions" and that it "has a policy of openness, inclusiveness, and is against sectarianism, racism, etc."

When the IFA group arrived at Gaelic Park, some of the players greeted protesters with smiles and expressions of encouragement, indicating they were clearly in agreement with the group's sentiments. Said CIAS spokesman Vince Casey: "We were successful today; and got our point across. We hope they got the message back in Ireland."

In 2002 footballer Neil Lennon was forced to withdraw from the Northern Ireland team after a death threat, reportedly from the LVF. The BBC reported: "Lennon was due to captain his country's team at Windsor Park in Belfast. He withdrew on police advice following the threat made by telephone to the BBC... The threat is believed to have come because Lennon is a Catholic and plays for Celtic."

In an earlier incident, threatening graffiti, including "You are a dead man Lennon" appeared outside his home. Said Lennon: "I am very disappointed that my desire to play for my country, on my first opportunity to captain my team, has been taken away from me." He instead retired from international football.

## O'Dea's gather In Madison, WI, July 7-8, 2006

North American O'Dea's and O'Day's are gathering for the first time in the U.S. this summer in Madison, Wisconsin, for a weekend featuring four of the O'Dea Clan's past and current Chieftains. The Clan leaders notably include its reigning Chieftain, Sue Poole of Australia, and the Clan's Hereditary Chieftain John B. O'Day of Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Past Chieftains Bill O'Day and Anderson O'Day, and current Tánaiste, John B. O'Day III round out a historic line-up.

A Friday evening reception at the Gathering hotel, the Madison Marriott West, in Middleton, WI will be followed by a gala picnic on Saturday at Lakeview Park in Middleton that will feature discussions on heritage with Clan Genealogist Ed O'Day, the Clan's traditional raffle and

auction in support of the Clan's work, and entertainment by the top area Irish Music band Stone Ring.

For those with an O'Dea, O'Day, Dea, Day, or Dee heritage it's a mighty event not to be missed. It's not necessary to hold a Clan membership to join the festivities.

Details on registration and accommodations are available on the Clan website at [www.odeaclan.org](http://www.odeaclan.org) or by contacting Clan Tánaiste John O'Day either at [joday@wvcp.com](mailto:joday@wvcp.com) or by mail at 1851 Ranger Rd., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, USA

### More News!!!

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**Reality TV's Ashley Purl**

by James Bartlett

It is hard to believe that just a few years ago, the words "reality TV" meant a documentary about penguins in the frozen tundra, or a pride of lions in a scorched desert. Now, reality TV is a phenomenon of its own, and aside from the seemingly endless and increasingly bizarre and unusual programs - even including shows that pit ex-reality contestants against other ex-reality contestants - there are websites, magazines and even a television channel dedicated to this latest audience-pleaser.

There seems to be a long queue of people volunteering to place themselves squarely in the public gaze, so it's even more difficult to believe that somebody could be brave enough to take on this world, putting their dancing skills on the line in front of the judges, choreographers and millions of fans of *So You Think You Can Dance*?

Auditions were held in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, and dancers were tested in everything from ballroom and ballet to salsa, jive, hip-hop and krumping for a chance to win the overall prize of \$100,000 and a rent-free apartment for one year in New York.



Ashley Purl

Although Nick Lazzarini was the eventual winner, Ashley Purl, the 24-year-old Irish dancer from LaGrange Park, Illinois was a huge hit on the show, although she confessed to the *Irish Herald* that she was actually very shy:

"I was pretty nervous coming out to L.A. for the show. I had a big phobia of public speaking, and I also was a little scared about what we would have to learn dance-wise. But after a week of getting interviewed on camera every day, I was cured of my phobia and actually volunteered to be on a promo commercial for the show!"

Ashley has been Irish dancing since she was six years old, and is currently the principle dancer in the Trinity Irish Dance Company, which is based in Chicago and was established in 1990 to give professional career opportunities to students who wanted to break out of the competitive circuit. They've toured Europe and Asia and appeared at Washington's Kennedy Center, New York's Joyce and New Victory Theatres, and Los Angeles's Royce Hall and on countless television shows.

Ashley herself stopped performing competitively when she

turned 18, because the dancing is hard on the body:

"It's like ballet in that way. Many girls peak at around 16 or 17, and some go on into their early 20's, but I knew by that time that I wanted to dance on a professional level. I've been all over the world performing with Trinity, but I always found it funny that while I could easily perform in front of 200,000 people on stage, if they passed the microphone to me or asked me a question, I never knew what to say".

Many people were surprised that Ashley did not make it out of the "Hollywood Week" into the Final 16, but she had a different view about being cut from the show:

"At the Chicago audition I saw some amazing dancers, and then was really surprised to see them get cut on the spot. I had no idea they were going to pick me to go to Hollywood, and the whole week there was a challenge for me, but in a good way. I feel like it made me grow stronger, both physically and mentally. Even though I was happy with how the show portrayed me, I was a little upset that they only showed me failing - there was more to the story than that. I felt that I succeeded, and I am grateful that I was chosen to represent Irish Dancers - especially for all the little girls out there".

Ashley had already been to Los Angeles with the Trinity Irish Dance Company, and she has a regular hang-out on Sunset Boulevard:

"My brother has been living in L.A. for the past five years, working as a film editor, so I have been able to visit him several times as well. On the show, we were staying across from the Universal City Walk, so we really just went out there for dinner and the shops. But we did also have a few nights at the end of the week where we let loose and headed out to the

Saddle Ranch, a big cowboy bar. We thought our bodies couldn't get any more sore, but after the bull ridin'... Oh Danny Boy!"

She has visited Ireland before, although in the future she wants to plan a vacation that isn't linked to performing:

"I have been twice, going to Ennis, County Clare, for the World Irish Dancing Championships. My first time was in 1998, and we took home a gold medal! Our family drove round the country, but I was only 16 then and I didn't appreciate it as much as I would now. My ancestors were from County Donegal and came over to America in 1863, and my grandfather, Fred McLaughlin, started playing the bagpipes around the same time that I started Irish Dancing. I'm proud to call myself an Irish American".

*So You Think You Can Dance?* is already gearing up for second series, but as far as Ashley's future is concerned, there have already been some developments:

"For about 3 weeks after the last episode I was on, I was recognized quite a bit. I work in a bar, and at least 3 times a night I had people coming up to me with one of the following: "You look so familiar but I just can't place where I know you from", "My friends over there have a bet with me that you were on TV. Were You?" and "Have you ever watched that dancing show on Fox? Because you look just like someone that was on it".

She has just been signed by an agent in Chicago, and has possibly found another new direction for her career:

"I have also been working alongside Janna Giacoppo, a photographer from L.A. who is currently living in Chicago. I have become her make-up artist/assistant working on headshot photos for other up and coming actors and actresses, and I have found that I have a hidden talent with make-up. It has really opened my eyes to what I may like to pursue as far as a profession".

Either way, Los Angeles will be seeing her again soon:

"I will definitely be back out to LA, though. It's a really great city and I have lots of great memories here."



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# Tinker's Dam

by Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley



## My father: a brave, gentle and quiet man and storyteller

There are special times of the year when this writer remembers his Father. Of course, there is always Father's Day when we remember his gentle and encouraging way in which he tried to raise his four stalwart sons. And his gentle and respectful way of treating Mother.

To memory also comes a sturdy wooden chair in the kitchen of our flat on the West Side of Jersey City, N.J., not far from Ellis Island where he landed from Ireland in July of 1926. Each evening he taught each of us in turn our prayers. Faithfulness to God was an important part of his life.

There are also early memories of his teaching each of us how to swim in the Atlantic Ocean on the Jersey Shore. He was a noted athlete in Gaelic Football in Dublin, and rejoiced when any of us succeeded well in sports.

Father was also a great storyteller (shanachie mor) and delighted us

with tales of life in Ireland. While still a teenager, he joined the Fingal Irish Brigade of the Irish Volunteers and was captured at the end of the Easter Week Rebellion in April of 1916. He often recounted that one of the saddest days of his life was being marched through the streets of Dublin to the taunts and jeers of the pro-British crowds.

But his faith in the Irish people was restored when he and others returned from Wakefield Prison Camp in England to a hero's welcome in Dublin in the Christmas Amnesty. He soon joined the Dublin Brigade of the Old IRA and served with Michael Collins, Kevin Barry, and others. He was appointed as a member of the bodyguard detail to protect Eamon de Valera. As a signal man for the Great Southern Railroad in Ireland, he was often called upon to deliver messages and orders to the various units of the IRA during the Black and Tan War. He was considered a

brave and resourceful member of the group.

During this difficult time, he also remained faithful to his Church. He often went to the Carmelite Church on Whitefriars Street in Dublin where, he said, "You could always get a good hearing." The Carmelites also buried IRA men from their church. He was delighted when this writer joined the Carmelites many years later.

When partial freedom came with the Irish Free State, Father began to think of a future in America. He had declined to become part of the Free State Army, even though offered a commission, and soon after his marriage to Mother, he set sail for America. She followed him a year later.

In America he was considered a hero by the Irish American Community. He was loyal to Ireland, his family, his church, and his new nation of America.

A few days after he landed in America, his brother, Richard, helped him to get a job with the Western Electric Company of the Bell Telephone System. He worked there for 34 years, and attained the position of supervisor with only a sixth-grade education in the National School in Skerries in Co. Dublin.

Perhaps his greatest struggle in life was with alcohol. He eventually won that battle, too, and taught his Sons the great need for compassion

and encouragement in life.

At his funeral in 1968, the family met an elderly IRA veteran who had been in prison in England with Father. The man told us that

our Father was a brave and fearless man, even when threatened by British guards. But we already knew that. He was our hero, too, a gentle man who loved deeply his God, both his countries, and his

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## Driving tips from Left Lane Maureen

by Maureen Sullivan, CTC Sullivan's Travels

Taking a self driving vacation in Ireland is not as difficult as you would think. Yes, they do drive on the other side of the road.

A story I made up to make it easier to drive in the countryside of Ireland is "You run your wife into the bushes". When one is driving the narrow roads, you will find yourself driving in the middle of the road. When a car comes from the other way, the driver runs his

wife/passenger into the bushes. This puts the car on the left side of the road. Remember the passenger hugs the outside of the road. Running your passenger into the bushes, puts the car on the correct side of the road.

The steering wheel is on the opposite side of the car. So, when you are by yourself the first thing you do after getting into the car is to look around to see if anybody is looking. Then, get out of the car and get back in on the side with the steering wheel. If your wife

says you're getting in the wrong side, you reply "I'm just opening the door for you". The reason for driving on the left side of the road dates back to medieval times. They rode their horses on the left side of the road, forcing strangers coming towards them to pass them on the right. Then, if the need arose they would draw their sword with the right hand. An Irishman once told me "We don't drive on the wrong side of the road, you do!"

To drive in Ireland all you need is a valid drivers license with 6 months validity. All passengers must wear seat belts. No child under 14 years of age should be riding in the front seat of the car. Ireland has very strict drinking and driving laws. Taxicabs are now all over Ireland and if you are going to the pubs, use a cab. My uncle told me, "In the old days they didn't have DUI laws because the donkeys didn't run into each other and they always knew how to get home".

To plan your Irish vacation, start by flying into Shannon airport where you will land on time if they can get the sheep off the runway. In this way you experience the Irish driving in the countryside. Coming out of Dublin Airport, one starts out driving in 3 lanes

of expressway, driving on the other side. If you go to the east side of Ireland, plan to finish your vacation by leaving from Dublin Airport. This saves crossing back to Shannon and 4 extra hours of driving.

May the road rise up to greet you!! A great way to start your vacation is a visit to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. It is located 8 miles from Shannon airport. You will be leaving the airport on N19. Take the turn towards Limerick, N18 carriageway, and you will see signs for the castle turn off. You'll know you are in Ireland, when you see Bunratty Castle.

Do not take the car into Dublin City. There are over 1.5 million people who now live in Dublin, not counting the Irish that drive to work in the city. It is a nightmare of one-way streets, congestion and roundabouts, that will quickly confuse you. The streets change names every block and the street signs are on the buildings, sometimes at the second floor level. To top it off, the city has a new train tram system called "Luas". It runs on the street with the cars, and when there is no train coming the cars drive on the tracks. Stay outside of Dublin at a B&B and take the "Dart Train" into Dublin's Fair City. If you want to stay in Dublin, return the car at the Dublin Airport and take the "Air Link" Bus to Dublin Center. The bus doesn't go to the hotels but has drop-off and pick-up points close to the hotels. Cost is 5 Euro, one way.

Get an automatic car, it is worth the extra money. Since Ireland is very hilly, you will not want to kill the engine going into a roundabout because you were watching traffic and forgot to shift or put the clutch in. The rental company will give you an auto information packet with driving instructions and advice in case of an accident. You should look this information over carefully. Familiarize yourself with the car before leaving the rental lot. Remember, you drive on the left side of the road! Your passenger is your navigator (map interpreter) and is as important to the operation of the car as the driver.

Passing is very common in Ireland. It is important that you use your mirrors to watch for cars overtaking you. Some Irish intersections have roundabouts. Don't let them scare you, they work. Before you get to the roundabout there will be a large sign explaining the different directions you might want to go. Remember, when you enter

the circle, look right. You must give right-of-way to the cars coming from the right. Then go to the left, go with the flow, and stay on the outside. You probably will be driving slower than the Irish. There is nothing wrong with pulling over and letting the cars behind you pass. They will just know you are from the States. Make sure you use your mirrors when pulling back on the road. On dual carriage ways, always stay in the left lane. The right hand lane is used only for overtaking a slower vehicle. "N" roads are national roads and are wider and faster to travel. "R" roads are local roads and are much more interesting. Look right and drive left!

The best place to park in towns is the "Car Park". In most towns, when using Car Parks or parking on the street, they have pay machines and ...continued to page 10



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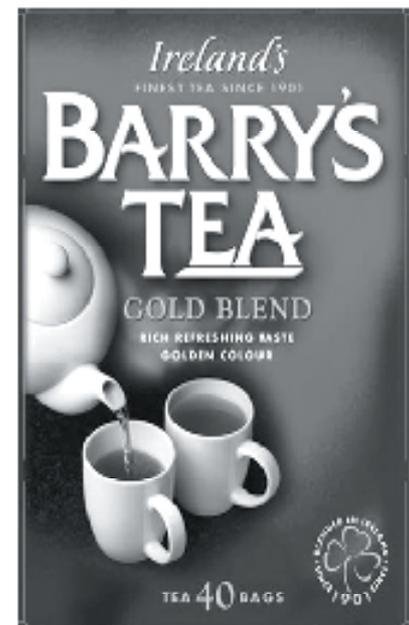
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# CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



modernism and struck the right note for the big occasion.

Captain Tom Ryan, a Roscommon man proudly read the Proclamation as the music of "Mise Eire" filled the air and the sun shone brightly. And it was the grandfather, Eoin O'Neill, of Michael McDowell, Minister of Justice who countermanded the Rising in 1916.

This was an unusual parade, as for many years the Irish government played down this remembrance of the Rising for reasons best known to themselves. But, this year all had to admit that it was a "glorious success". Now that peace is at hand political leaders and others can readily acclaim those who made the supreme sacrifice, so that we of this generation could remember with pride those gallant men and women, "who rose in dark and evil days to right their country's wrong, who kindled here a living faith that nothing could withstand, but alas that Might should conquer Right they fell and passed away, but true men like you men remember them with pride".

### Attempt to deprive Chicago—Irish policeman of rightful honor

One hates to use such language as "Anti—Irish bigotry" in this day and age, especially when the Chicago Police Department is

involved. But, apparently something went terribly wrong when a brave Chicago—Irish—American policeman, named "Constable" James Quinn was deprived his rightful honor of being the first Chicago policeman killed in 1853 "in the line of duty". The honor was given to "Constable" Casper Lauer, who was killed less than a year later also "in the line of duty".

The miscarriage of justice came to light recently when a retired U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent named Rick Barrett was researching information for his own family roots and came across this mistake. He immediately brought it to the attention of the Chicago Police Department, but apparently the department historian Dennis Bingham was unconvinced and explained that "Constable" Quinn was off duty when he was killed in a brawl, and therefore was considered not eligible to receive the honor. Even Supt. Phillip Cline was of the opinion that not only was Mr. Quinn ineligible for this award but he did not deserve mention on the list of over 460 officers who had died "In the line of duty" over the years.

But, Mr. Barrett, aided by Alderman Ed Burke, Jim (Skinny) Sheahan and Mr. Potter Palmer IV, produced additional evidence such as the Chicago City Council of that time awarding the widow of Mr. Quinn compensation for the death of her husband "killed in the line of duty", and also a Chicago newspaper account of the incident which reported that "Constable Quinn was commissioned to make an arrest last Friday night." And the story even reported that the City Council "authorized the police department to make a sweep of the area a week after Quinn's death, because an officer (Quinn) has lately been killed there while in the discharge of his duty."

After the meeting called by Alderman Burke in order to review the evidence, William Bazarek, police department assistant general counsel, promised to take a fresh look at

this evidence saying, according to a Chicago Sun Times story, "From what I have heard this is certainly a compelling case. Absolutely."

One can understand that anti—Irish bigotry prevailed back then in the 1800's and that discrimination actually occurred. But, today, it's all a mistake and I say that coming from a proud Chicago police family. Hopefully, also it can be quickly rectified and forgotten.

In the meantime our hats off to the great Irish—Americans who made it possible, such as Mr. Barrett, Alderman Ed. Burke, Jim (Skinny) Sheahan, and indeed Mr. Potter Palmer whose grand Grandfather, served on the jury that convicted Mr. Rees of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Constable Quinn. Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde. (Thank you, my friends).

### Rededication of Daley monument in Dubgarvan, Ireland

We are indebted to Mai O'Higgins, famed Dungarvan, Co. Waterford song writer who recently forwarded the following story of the rededication of the Richard J. Daley monument in Old Parish, Co. Waterford. First unveiled in 1949, in the presence of the late Mayor Daley and his charming wife, 'Sis'. Now 47 years later the monument has been renewed to feature an Irish language plaque in time to coincide with Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Speaking at the event Dungarvan Mayor Cllr Fiachra, Udaras na Gaeltachra said that the rededication was a symbolic one. Praising the late Mayor Daley, he said, city government in Chicago (under Mayor Daley) remained a prosperous place for the later half of the 20th century whilst similar metropolises crumbled in the "rust belt". This was something that the Irish appreciated. He also praised Mayor Daley for helping elect President John F. Kennedy, an event that gave hope to the modern world.

And he praised the generosity of Mayor Daley for his "signifi-

### Ireland remembers the glorious Easter Rising.

No event in recent Irish history so thrilled and inspired Irish men and women at home and in exile as did the glorious Easter Rising of 1916, 90 years ago. Despite the countermanding of the Rising almost at the last hour, because of many reasons, a handful of brave men and women ill-equipped and unprepared, took on the might of the British army (the army of occupation) and for almost one long week defied the Saxon to occupy some of the main buildings in Dublin City, including the General Post Office and Boland Mills.

The historic day was Monday April 24, 1916 as one of the leaders, Padraig Pearse began to read the Proclamation of the Republic of Ireland within the GPO (General Post Office). In a firm voice he loudly proclaimed, "Irishmen and Irishwomen in the name of God and of the dead generation from which she receives her old traditions of

nationhood, Ireland through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom."

It was a historic blow for freedom, but it was not decisive. That would have to wait for another day and the War of Independence in 1920 when a Free State was established for 26 counties leaving six still under the Saxon rule, and unfortunately dividing the country. This partition of Ireland is the root cause of all the "Troubles" since that time and will continue to be until freedom reigns and Ireland is one country, all 32 counties reunited, without a trace of the British army or its influence.

Ireland remembered the heroic Rising when over an estimated 200,000 Spectators turned out recently to commemorate the 90th anniversary and to cheer the splendid sight of Ireland's army as they proudly paraded in their dark green ranks. Even President Mary McAleese looked splendid for the occasion and An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, associated patriotism and



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cant donation" for the building of the new church in 1970. Mayor O'Ceilleachair said that the Daley monument stands as a reminder of our relationship to the U.S. An achievement of those who were rent from our shores.

Significantly the ceremony occurred at a time when the Kennedy/McCain legislation was before the U.S. senate for consideration. Latter day emig-rants from Ireland and Waterford hope the new legislation to become law will benefit them and other "Undocumented", the Mayor said.

Mayor Gaelitachra, also said that Ireland celebrates the fact that Irish—Americans are coming back to Ireland, not only to vacation, but also to work and even retire. He expressed a hope that as America reaped the benefit of so many Irish emigrants over the years, emigrants like the ancestors of Mayor Daley and the Kennedy's, who helped to make that country become one of the greatest in the world. Hopefully Irish—Americans coming back to Ireland, will now lend their experience and know—how in making Ireland even more progressive than it presently is, "as they live, work and play in our midst".

Mai O'Higgins is one of Irelands famed song writers and has written some all-time greats such as "Beautiful Bundorn", "Dungarvan My Hometown", "My Dublin Bay", "St. Patrick's Day", and of course the "Homecoming For Mayor Daley" and many others, all heard periodically on the great Martin Fahey's Irish program every Saturday morning from Hammond, Indiana. In a beautiful Easter card received from Mai, she sends best regards to all her many Chicago friends, including Mayor Richard M. Daley and his charming wife Maggie, who visited Dungarvan a few years ago. Mai moved recently from Dublin, and now resides at Apt. I, Fisherman's Dock, Green's Quay, Youghal, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Part of the Mayor Richard J. Daley, "Homecoming Song", includes, "Today, we welcome an illustrious son of his noble clan, together with his kith and kin. To greet this friendly man from Chicago he choose to come to tread the sacred earth of his ancestral home. For Mayor Daley a man of high renown our cheers ring out from Old Parish to Dungarvan town. A simple plaque, a little mountain grove will forever keep green a memory and a place of love" Mai O'Higgins.

## Former Kilkenny hurler takes over GAA

Former Kilkenny all-star hurler, Nicky Brennan recently took over the presidency of the Gaa from Kerryman Sean Kelly at the annual con-vention. Brennan will be stepping into big shoes as the popular Gael from the Kingdom left a big legacy, including opening Croke Park to other sports; soccer, rugby, etc, in the bold move that many convention goers did not like.

Besides his great skill on the field of play, Brennan was also a hard working chairman of the Kilkenny GAA Board as well as President of the Dublin body. He also managed Kilkenny senior hurling teams so he comes well equipped to handle what promises to be a stormy term at the helm.

One of the pressing motions hanging fire for some time now is Pay-For Play for hurlers and footballers. It is sponsored by a strong players union named GPA and is led by the well known Dessie Farrell. But, Brennan made it clear from the start that the games will remain amateur, saying, "Pay-For Play of any kind will not be discussed by me during the next three years and I know that the vast majority of our stake holders agree with this view". Bold talk indeed for an incoming president.

But, Brennan intends to meet with representatives of the unit and talk over many pressing subjects that players want such as insurance, rightful expenses for time training and playing, and other important items that should be available for at least senior inter—county players of both codes. But attempting to professionalize the organization is apparently not on his agenda.

Irelands national games date back to the misty past and are associated with the long struggle for freedom, since 1884. The association has come so far and made such progress with the amateur status that to even think

of changing to professional with all its faults would be foolish and definitely losing touch with our forefathers of the past. By all means lets take good care of our players, particularly the inter-countymen and women on and off the field of play and lets play our games as we have always done for the glory of Ireland and the Gaelic Athletic Association.

## Senior hurling and football on Gaelic Park schedule

Chicago Gaeldom will be pleased to learn that senior hurling and hopefully senior football will be included on a busy schedule at Gaelic Park, this season after an absence of a year. Combined with junior hurling and football, ladies football and camogie this should make for a great attraction for June, July and August. The games start at 2:00pm each Sunday and finish about 6:00pm. Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest. West on Cicero or east on Harlem at 147th. Street.

Sadly two great clubs Erin's Own and Limerick are unable to field senior teams, but will have two junior ones in action. Immigration is the reason for this problem of being unable to field teams, hurling particularly. Hopefully, Congress will soon pass the McCain/Kennedy legislation and legalize some of the undocumented Irish in our midst. They will make good hard working U.S. citizens as other Irish emigrants before them have done.

## T.J. Maloney's in Merryville

"T.J. Maloney's authentic Irish Pub", situated in the entrance lobby of the famed Raddison hotel and show house in Merrillville, Indiana, is fast becoming one of the most popular meeting and eating places in the Midwest. Set up in a similar style as the well known "Kitty O'Shea's House" in the renowned Hilton and Towers on Michigan Ave. in Chicago's Loop, it is much

larger and more elegant. The walls are decorated with sports copies of the Irish Press in the 1960's, depicting some of the great Kerry and Clare footballers of that era. Our good friend P.J. O'Dea would have a field day explaining Irelands national pastimes to the "Hoosiers".

Timothy J. Maloney, we are told, was a wee man of great strength who journeyed from the Shannon side in county Limerick, as many other Irish emigrants did, in search of a better life. He was a fine man to tell a story and a great lover of the pint, with laughter that could be heard far and near. With his favorite pipe in his hand he talked about the Famine, the fight for freedom, the great games of hurling and football, and the song, dance and music of the Gael.

He welcomed friends to his Home in Limerick with his "Slainte agus saol agat". And he passed on this love for people, to the people of Indiana and the countless patrons who come and go into this legendary hotel, on route 30 in the heart of Merrillville. No one is a stranger in the House of Maloney with a big Cead mile failte and good health and long life to you.

Maloney's in Merrillville was the location of our surprise 86 birthday party kindly provided by one of our favorite nieces, Mary Lou and her husband, John Duda, together with our Merrillville family, daughter Ellen and family, Colleen, Patrick, Kaylyn, and Debra. And it was another unforgettable occasion, enjoyed by all.

The food and refreshments there are Irish by name and product. The menu highlights such specialties as Irish style smoked salmon, Spuds Maloney, Celtic chicken, Galway Bay fish and chips, etc. and for "Afters", Irish bread pudding, Guinness ice cream, Bailey's cheesecake and much more. And of course the old reliable a pint of Guinness, or Smithwicks Ale (I grew up in the shadow of Smithwicks Brewery in Kilkenny City).

The owners of Maloney's, John Ring, with Cork ancestry, (no relation to Christy) Martin Hughes, Dublin, played the big ball game by the Liffey, charming Lisa Walsh, Manager, and Bradley Hurst, very efficient and friendly server, are to be complimented for providing such an authentic Irish Pub, with all the settings at this ideal location. Catering as it does to busy Star Plaza patrons, in addition to other hotel residents, it is one of the finest we have seen.

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Continued from page 6

you leave the coupon on the dash. Yellow lines along the curb mean no parking. If you get a parking ticket, pay it in town, or the rental company will debit your credit card. Also in towns, if there is a parking spot on the other side of the street, the Irish will pull into it, so you

can't tell which side of the street to drive on by the parked cars. Ireland has made 2 dramatic changes in driving speeds. It lowered speed limits from 60mph (100 kph) to 50 mph (80 kph). It also changed the speed limits to metric, so the speed signs on the open road will now say 80. Speed limits are posted on circular signs. Speed limits are 80 kph on most open roads and 100 kph on dual carriage

ways. Multiply kilometers by .6214 if you want to know the miles.

It's important to know the correct way to ask an Irishman for directions. The incorrect way is to abruptly say, "Excuse me! Could you please tell me the way to Tipperary". When inquiring about directions, start a conversation and this will become a friendly exchange. "Ah, that's a great dog you have there" or "It's a grand pub you have here". Large quantities of information will then be exchanged and you'll get the directions needed. My husband went into a country pub to find a certain B&B and came out with directions. In conversation, the man behind the bar told him "Two doors down on the left". There was a house next to the pub. One mile down the road I thought my husband had messed up the directions, but 2 miles down the road was the B&B. Just like the Irishman said "Two doors down on the left". The Irish are always eager to help you, and they will go out of their way to put you on the right road. But an Irishman once said to me "If you're going there, this is a bad place to start," and then proceeded to give me directions.

The Irish have a way with words. "Traffic Calming" signs as you enter a town mean traffic may be slowing down ahead.

Traveling the back roads of Ireland, you will notice a white dividing line in the center of the road. As you travel,

both sides of the road get smaller. You think, what's the value of the white line when one can't squeeze the car into your half. To let an oncoming vehicle squeeze by, edge your car as close to the hedgerow as possible, and let the car pass you. The most interesting part of Ireland comes when the road turns into a goat's path.

Getting lost on the road is part of seeing Ireland. By doing a self-drive you will get to the places you would most

like to visit. Trace your family heritage and tread on the sod your forefathers walked. Some of the best experiences I had happened when I was lost, and you will get lost! A client of mine went into a gas station and said "I'm lost". The Irishman came from behind the counter, gave the man a hug and said "You're not lost, you're in Ireland". The man felt great and get the much needed directions.

"It's not where the path leads you. It's what you find along the way."

**O'Brien Elected 3rd Vice President of Illinois State Bar Association**

Arlington Heights attorney John G. O'Brien has been elected third vice president of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA). ISBA's third vice president moves up the organizational ladder to become president in three years.

O'Brien is a solo practitioner in Arlington Heights concentrating in residential real estate law and estate planning.

Long active in the ISBA, O'Brien has been a member of the ISBA Board of Governors since 2002, and an Assembly member since 1997. He is an appointed member of the Illinois Supreme Court's



Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board, and a member of the ISBA's Special Committee on Strategic Planning and its Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law. He is also a member of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the ISBA's fundraising arm. O'Brien is a co-founder and chairman of

the Illinois Real Estate Lawyers Association. Established in 1997, the organization has grown to 1,750 members. He also serves on the board of Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc. O'Brien received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1968 and his J.D. from Loyola University in 1972.

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## The gift of gab and a bus not a cab gives Coffey the sweet smell of success

By Cliff Carlson

The youngest of five, Phil Coffey is a true Southside Irish boy. He attended St. Thomas Moore Grammar School at 81st and California and Brother Rice High School at 99th and Crawford. His attention span was short in those days, and he had to work at it to finish somewhere around 425th of 435 students in his graduating class.

His father, John, worked for the City of Chicago and for McKee and Pogue, a prominent Southside realtor in its day. "My dad retired as executive director of development for the City of Chicago," Phil said. "He was a tough Marine. He was sharp, loyal, and probably the brightest business guy I ever met. He knew B.S. from gold and was a great mentor to me. Most of what I do well I got from my father."

Phil comes from a family of liberal Democrats who are huge White Sox fans. "I, on the other hand, am a proud Republican and a Cubs fan. In fact, I negotiated buying my house at a Cubs game," declared Phil.

He had a hard time getting into college, but made it through four years at Southern Illinois University. Afterwards, "I kind of drifted," he said. "The thing that saved me in life was that I was always interested. I listened well. I love history, culture, and people's stories, and I guess I am a bit lucky."

Phil's dad got him his first job at the Edgewater Beach Hotel as a landscaper in the summer and a doorman in the winter. The job was a great teacher for the professed listener, and Coffey worked his way through college while there. He was very friendly with the people in the building, fascinated with the lifestyle that was so different from his. When college days were wrapping up, a tenant in the building suggested to a friend that he should hire Coffey.

Phil became a food broker for Mid-Central Foods. It was a family-owned business, and nepotism was strongly adhered to. Phil was assigned to sell to the small independent stores, and sell he did. He used his Southside Irish savvy to listen to the owners of these small stores. He reeled off his own yarns as any good Irishman would. He met the fellas at the bar and deals were made. He sold well and he sold a lot. In no time he was

selling more than anyone in the company.

But Phil was indifferent, even hostile, to management and structure. He got into a beef with his boss. When the boss wanted Phil moved, upper management moved his boss instead. It was an early lesson that people would bend the rules for a rainmaker,



but his hostility to management and structure continued to haunt him. A buddy in the company gave Phil some good advice: "Don't make a career out of this. Look around. It's better to be a big fish in a big pond than a big fish in a small pond."

Phil took a look around, and when the opportunity arose, he took it. A friend mentioned that Effengee Electric was hiring. "I went to work for them and they took me under their wing and groomed me to take over for an older guy who was retiring. I had the same problem there. I did a great job, but I was hard to live with. I got along great with the customers, but not with management. It takes doing management's job to realize that they aren't so dumb after all," laughed Phil.

Coffey always had a sixth sense about how to make some-

thing work. At 25 he was living a bachelor's life in Lincoln Park. He was out at night talking to the girls until 4 a.m. and up at 8 a.m. talking to his customers. It was 1981. Technology was starting to change everything. Phil took a job with Sencon, a company that made sensors and controls at the start of the computer age.

He loved it, and was somewhat obsessed with his product--so much so that he built his own portable device, a miniature version of large devices used to count products on very fast-moving conveyor belts. He took it with him on his first date with his future wife, Lori. He took it to parties and, when someone asked what he did for a living, he showed them!

Two great things happened to Phil on that job. He was on the cutting edge of technology with a great product, and he could sell it nationally to owners and managers of breweries. "I loved these guys and they loved me," Phil beamed. He was at the right place at the right time doing the right thing. His passion and enthusiasm for what he sold, and his natural Southside moxie, made him a star. He sold a ton of product. He built relationships

kibbitzing and networking with the guys.

But management was still a problem. Phil and his latest boss didn't see eye to eye. His boss tried to get him fired several times and finally, two weeks before Phil was to marry, his boss succeeded in removing him. "I went to my future wife and her parents, who were mortified, and I told them that I wasn't worried and they shouldn't be either. Secretly, I was scared. I was getting married, starting a family, and it seemed like being fired was becoming a pattern! We had a huge wedding with a fabulous honeymoon in Hawaii. That was where I learned to do everything first class. I spent every last penny on the honeymoon and had a wonderful two weeks."

As luck would have it, the day he returned from Hawaii his phone rang. A headhunter, Keith Newman, had heard about Coffey and had a golden opportunity for him, if he could fly out that same day to California and interview for a job. His wife said, "Go!"

Every candidate Keith had sent so far failed in the interview process. He needed Phil in order to make or break the deal. "These guys in California are tough, and they have tough requirements. I can meet you at the airport and brief you on them," Keith told him. Phil met Keith for the first time at the airport. "If you get through the first guy you've probably got the job, but I've thrown a lot of candidates at him and none have gotten by so far," Newman lamented.

Phil was impressed with the briefing Keith gave him and felt he knew what kind of a guy this was he would be interviewing with first. The company, Ransco Industries, built climatic equipment which, simply put, simulated climate. Cutting edge again. The equipment was being used on airplanes to test reliability under all kinds of weather conditions, but it was just starting to be used in the automotive industry.

Keith wasn't kidding. The interviewing process was tough, but Phil was up to the task. By the third interview, at barely 27 years old, he was sitting in front of the company president, Mr. Wassen. Wassen didn't waste any time. He threw a fast curve to this lifelong Cubs fan, and Phil's

reflexes didn't fail him. Wassen tossed down Phil's resume and told him that he didn't know why he was there. He said that Phil jumped from job to job, had no background in the business, no graduate degree, and limited experience. He should have never made it to the third interview.

Phil spoke up, not missing a beat. "Let me get this straight. You are really looking for an overqualified 35-year-old who isn't going to apply for this job anyway? Is that right?" He didn't know it right away, but he had passed with flying colors. There were two more interviews to go through but the job was his. Wassen became Phil's first real mentor, teaching him how to listen better and how to accomplish more in a day, both at work and at home.

The new job was very high tech. The company was one that actually helped American auto companies overcome quality issues that kept U.S. cars from competing with Japanese automakers. His territory was the midwest, and Phil soon became a part of the "old boy network." Within twelve months Ransco was building sophisticated climate-testing equipment for Phil's new clients, who were most of the big automotive companies in Detroit. "We became the dominant company in the automotive industry. We were an awesome company. We went from \$5 million to \$24 million in business in three years," said Phil.

After selling these systems for a while, Phil suggested that the company should be system integrators, building from the ground up, including pouring the cement, and so on--not just providing the climate system like all of their competitors did. The company listened to Phil, and started getting the complete jobs. None of their competitors could match them.

"The company was very good to me," Phil recalled. "I made over \$250,000 that first year. The greatest thing, though, was that I went from trying to allocate my products on a small shelf in a grocery store to negotiating with plant engineers and managers of large auto companies. I sold inside as well as outside. It was like going to medical school. I was learning, growing, testing and being tested, all in a very

short span of time."

Business was going so well that Phil suggested going worldwide--to Japan, England, Sweden, Korea, Australia, France, and Germany. "Being a history major in college," he says, "I was fascinated. I was learning the ins and outs of different cultures. It was an education you can't pay for." He stayed with Ransco from 1983 through 1988, when they started grooming the company for sale.

He started his own consulting firm, helping startups get funding and teaching them how to get into different markets. "I don't know where I got this great idea, but when I took on a new client I told them that I was like a bus not a cab. Pay me when you get on, not when you get off." It worked. One would introduce him to another and so on.

One of his prospects was OMI, Odor Management Inc. They hired him for three months. "They had all kinds of problems," he remembers. "They wanted me to investigate their company and help them decide whether to dump it, sell it, or grow it. I looked at all of it and I told these guys, 'This is a goldmine. It's a phenomenal product with myriad opportunities.' It had a couple of big problems, though: good investors who were lousy managers, and a terrible distribution system."

Phil was looking for his own business at the time, so he told OMI that in three years he could turn the whole company around. They took the deal. "I wanted a product that could be sold in multiple markets where no one market could hurt me if it wasn't doing well," Phil says. "This was the product. It had high margins, low overhead, and minimal people working for it."

OMI's industrial division was built worldwide, using the company's technology, Ecosorb, to absorb and break down odors that were byproducts of industrial companies. Phil says he knew that the stink from foundries would not be accepted for much longer as the culture in society was changing.

Also, he discovered that OMI's distributors, who owned shares in the company, were stealing from the investors. "I got the proof, and the two investors went from 51% owners to 100% owners. I told them they could give those shares to me and I would continue to grow the company. They did. I brought people in that I had been successful with in the past. I knew them and they knew me. In three years we were selling our product in 31 countries, they got all their money back, and I was having the time of my life all over the world," beamed Phil.

Now the company was profitable and everything was rosy. But Phil was bored. "I had built the distribution system and our presence in the market. We bought a couple of companies with our profits, but that didn't work out well. I wanted to invest in things I could run so I suggested we move into the consumer business.

They were older and didn't want to do it. I offered to buy them out. I owned 49%-they owned 51%."

It took three hard years of negotiation, but in May 2003 the buyout occurred. Phil wasted no time. In July he launched the consumer business and he was like a kid again. He went to all of his staff and offered them a piece of the company. He told them they would get no raises nor would they see any profits for at least three years. All the key members agreed to purchase shares. His bank, J.P. Morgan Chase, worked with him and gave him advice.

All profits from the industrial division were poured into the new consumer division, which utilized every skill Phil Coffey had ever learned, and then some. He went after the high-end specialty stores, not Walmart and K-mart. He convinced these high-end customers that they could sell his product, which neutralizes odors and is used in gym bags, dorm and hotel rooms, cars, cat boxes, cigar stores--anywhere unpleasant odors are found. The product was presented to the public in unique ways using candles, gels, sprays and more. He gave samples to all prospective customers. "If you don't believe us, try the product," he told them. The first year, product was placed in 140 outlets. By July 2005 it was in over 3,000 stores in 50 states. And the best thing was the reorder rate, with 97.6% of his customers reordering.

"Everything I do is in four color," laughed Phil. He has a client book that tracks what each customer buys and how it sells. He marks the book in these four colors to arm him with pertinent information that will help him when he talks to clients. Many times he knows more about how product is moving in their stores than they do. And he still talks to most of them. During this interview he checked every phone call and was ready to talk to his customers whenever he was needed. "I believe the customer respects you more in the specialty business and wants your input. The customer wants you to help him sell your product in his stores, so let your customers become your evangelists," he exclaims.

Phil's family includes his wife Lori, daughter Elizabeth, and sons John and Tim. Elizabeth goes to Notre Dame and is working as an intern for Lou Dobbs of CNN. John played football for Mt. Carmel and goes to Valparaiso College. Tim is a sophomore at Mt. Carmel and plays on the football team.

His wife Lori was the only one in the family working the day they were married, and she married him anyway. She obviously understood his entrepreneurial side! The day she had the first baby, Elizabeth, she told Phil she would never go back to work. She's been home with the kids ever since. Phil believes they are all good solid kids. He did say he was lucky.

### Jamie O'Reilly Trio at World Folk June 10

Jamie O'Reilly, one of the city's premier song stylists, returns to World Folk Music Company (WFMC), 1808 W. 103rd St., Chicago, on Saturday, June 10 with the Jamie O'Reilly Trio. The Jamie O'Reilly Trio replaces The Book of Liz, which had been slated as the last presentation in WFMC's 2005-06 concert series but was cancelled due to cast members' scheduling conflicts.

Jamie, known for her distinctive vocal style, is a first-rate ballad singer and entertainer with a broad vocal range and vibrant connection to both her repertoire and audience. The Jamie O'Reilly Trio, a relatively new collaboration for Jamie and long-time musical partner, the celebrated singer/songwriter Michael Smith, is in demand throughout the Chicago area and receiving standing ovations and superlatives from presenters and fans alike. Cellist



photo by Iwona Biedermann

Bob Weber (Elgin Symphony), who spent a career playing chamber music, lends depth and richness to the trio's sound, as they merge musical styles and present a lively, captivating show. Tickets are \$20 and are available by stopping in at WFMC or calling (773) 779-7059.

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# Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

## We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

email: boylekettle@yahoo.com



Sun-Times column, also on March 24. He blames the problem on "clerical culture that permeates the Archdiocese Pastoral Center and its affiliates."

Justice Ann Burke is not as forgiving. She believes the Cardinal should have reviewed every file of priests who had contact with children. This echoes my comments on this subject in a previous column. On the morning news Bishop Imish is retiring from the Joliet Diocese. He should have been removed long ago.

Catholics in Boston are not going to Mass regularly; fewer than one in five attend. Statistics cited by Jay Lindsay in the Chicago Sun-Times show 21.5% attend Mass in Chicago, and 29.1% in Milwaukee. If you analyze that, the Hispanic community fills the churches on Sunday. What part of that 21.5% do they make up? The same phenomenon is happening in Ireland. There was no Midnight Mass in Lixnaw, Co. Kerry, on Christmas Eve.

I could continue on, but what is the use. I am frustrated by the ambiguities and the lack of remorse by the leaders of the church.

Kathleen O'Toole  
Boston's police commissioner, Kathleen O'Toole, will head the Garda Siochanna as Chief Inspector. 52 years old, O'Toole sat on a panel to create a reform program for the Northern Ireland Police Force. She was the only candidate for this newly created post. Maybe she can root out some of the corruption in Ireland.

The San Patricios  
There will be a reception at the Union League Club of Chicago, on Thursday, June 22, 2006 honoring Los San Patricios Battalion. Mayor Richard M. Daley is the honorary chairman. The Irish and Mexican Consul Generals will be honorary hosts. Professor Michael Hogan, author of The Irish Soldiers of Mexico, will be on hand for the occasion. We will

recount the heroics of Captain John Riley and the rest of the Irishmen who served in the Mexican Army.

Co-sponsoring the event are The Irish Cultural Club of Chicago, Chicago Gaelic Park, the Irish American Heritage Center, and the Mexican Fine Arts Center. Reception 5:30 p.m. by invitation.

Gas Prices

We're getting hosed at the pump! The futures traders are driving up the price. Remember what happened with electricity in California. Qatar was in the news, and stated that right now there was more oil on the market than there had been in the last two years, and could not understand the high prices.

### Clan na Gael

Clan na Gael celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1916 and the 25th anniversary of the H-Block Hunger Strike in 1981. A dinner was held on April 15 at the Hyatt Regency RiverWalk, downtown Chicago. 250 people gathered to pay tribute to the men and women of 1916 and the H-Block Hunger Strikers of 1981. Councillor á Sharkey from Co. Louth delivered an impassioned speech. He focused on the number of seats Sinn Fein had gained in local government elections over the last several years.

Margaret Blackshire, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, was honored for her contributions to the Irish community and her support for a united Ireland. I had the distinct honor and privilege of reading the Proclamation. It was a good evening. I shared a table with the Rooney Clan and Cliff Carlson.

### Irish Cultural Club

On Thursday, April 13, the Irish Cultural Club of Chicago held its first get-together. A luncheon was hosted by Jim Sloan and Tom Boyle at the Union League Club of Chicago.

The principle goal of the club is to foster and promote Irish cultural programs in literature, history, music, and the arts. Also, to share knowledge and support existing Irish organizations. Attending the first session were Professor Emmet Larkin, Professor Larry McCaffrey, Mike Breslan, author Chris Lynch, Terry McCarthy, and Frank Gleeson. Membership will be limited to those who have made significant contributions to Irish culture.

### Sad News

Sad news spreads fast. Two stalwart volunteers at the IAHC have left us recently.

Tom O'Grady, 69 years old from Swinford, Co. Mayo, died of heart failure. Known as the gentle giant, and possessing Irish charm, he won the hearts of all who met him. I spent many hours working with Tom as we renovated the Heritage Center. He moved gracefully, like an athlete, and was an extraordinarily strong man. One encounter with Tom I will never forget was the day I met up with him in 1989, while I was running for the board of directors at the IAHC. Tom said, "I paid my dues so I can vote for you." That comment gave me a lift and I was elected. Tom knew tragedy. He married late in life, but lost his beautiful wife

### Carol to cancer in 1995.

Francis "Frank" Kilker was a retired Christian Brother who spent the last 22 years volunteering at the Irish American Heritage Center. He was 84 years old, born on April 1, 1922. Serving as a docent, Frank often gave tours at the center. Hundreds of tour groups soon learned how knowledgeable Frank was in all areas of Irish history and culture. Frank's cleverness and his great sense of humor often had people laughing during the presentation.

We will miss these two men who gave so much to the Irish community. God Bless! My condolences to their families.

### Sex Abuse

I have come to the conclusion that Cardinal George is incapable of addressing the crisis here in Chicago after hearing him say the "apparatus didn't work" in the case of Reverend Daniel McCormack. To my way of thinking, an apparatus is something mechanical. I can think of many types of apparatus I would like to see Reverend Daniel McCormack caught in, and it wouldn't be the safety net for the flying trapeze. Michael Sneed's column in the Chicago Sun-Times, March 24, 2006, posed the question to Cook County State's Attorney Dick Devine: The Archdiocese did not comply with Illinois mandatory reporting laws per the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. I doubt that the Cardinal will ever be indicted for this violation of state law. Reverend Andrew Greeley defended the Cardinal in his Chicago

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**Irish Fest**

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## Variety show June 4th to benefit Irish Repertory of Chicago

A Touch Of Ireland, a benefit performance for Irish Repertory of Chicago, will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox, Chicago on Sunday, June 4th at 2pm. The program, directed by Brad Armacost, 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 Sean Cleland's ensemble as well as vocalists Catherine O'Connell, Cathy Cowan, Martin Hughes, Eamonn McDonagh, Mark Piekarz, Mary



Daniel J. Travanti

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.

A dessert buffet and a silent auction featuring items from many of Chicagoland's local artisans will also benefit Irish Rep, and subscriptions to Irish Rep's upcoming 2006-2007 season will be available at the event. Post-performance, music will continue in the Fifth Province Pub at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets are \$20 at 773.248.7700. Ample free parking is available.

## Irish Repertory: Chicago's Irish Theatre, Seeks Office Space

Irish Repertory of Chicago is seeking office space in the Chicagoland area. Size and location aren't as important as reasonable rent. Remember, your donation of vacant office space to this nonprofit theatre company could result in a tax deduction. Anyone with an office space to donate to this worthy cause should contact Irish Rep by calling 773-248-7700 or 312-543-9142 or online at info@irishrep.com.

Don't miss Irish Rep's current production: Hugh Leonard's Love in the Title, directed by Charles Gerace, at Victory Gardens Theatre, May 24

## Dublin Writers Festival

The Dublin Writers Festival, now in its ninth year, returns this summer, June 14th - 18th, and will feature some 40 Irish and international poets and novelists in readings, lectures, panel discussions, theatre performances and public interviews. The Festival features some of Ireland's best-loved authors as well as the best of international writing and cultural theory. There will be writers representing the UK, Iran, The Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Nicaragua amongst others. In co-operation with the Dublin Writers Festival, CLÉ, the Irish Book Publisher's Association, presents a two-day book fair during the Festival, featuring authors and meet the publishers events, and celebrating the wealth and diversity of the Irish books trade. For full program information see www.dublinwritersfestival.com

## More News!!!

With more news and stories than we can print this month, we ask that you please go to our website for more information. [www.irishamericannews.com](http://www.irishamericannews.com)

## Milwaukee School of Pipes & Drums Concert

On Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 7:30pm, the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums will present their 8th annual Piping Concert at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. The instructors will perform as will the Calendonian Dancers. Tickets are available at the door for \$8. For more information about the concert contact ICHC (414) 345-8800 director@ichc.net.

Instruction from June 11-16 at Alverno College. The session is open to 65 piping students and 12 drumming students which allows for individualized one-on-one teacher/student interaction. For more information on the school contact the director, Tom Cobb at (414) 422-9235 tcobb@wi.rr.com. [www.milwaukeeschoolpiping.com](http://www.milwaukeeschoolpiping.com).

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# Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN



## Review of The Able Dealer

The Able Dealer, the 2006 spring production of the Gaelic Park Players, is nearly 80 years old. Written by J. B. McCarthy of County Cork in 1928, the author set this kitchen comedy in that southern county. There are not many still alive who remember the 1920s firsthand. Those who do say that that was a time when a piece of poor Irish land had little value and a pound note had a lot. But nowadays, the opposite holds true. Even though the unit of Irish currency has switched from pounds to cosmopolitan Euro, one does not need to find oil or gas on a piece of desolation fit only for grazing goats to strike it rich in Ireland today. Nevertheless, poor land and its destitute owner's scheme to pretend it has value is the premise of this play. In the hands of the capable Gaelic Park Players, it mostly works.

The play revolves around the efforts of old codger, Simon Daley (Barney Farrelly) to find a home for his final days. He is an inmate of the Workhouse Union, a local charitable institution or poorhouse of less than sterling repute. Simon wants out and hopes to spend his remaining time living either with his niece Nancy Carroll (Deborah Ryan Sampson) or nephew Michael James Cogan (Mick Kenna.) But they want no part of him. They see him as a penniless loafer who will cost money and complicate their lives. Facing that, Simon must display ingenuity to get them to take him in.

Simon owns a small holding of rocky land on the side of a mountain. Even nephew Michael says he would not take it as a gift because it is so worthless. So Simon, with the aide of a conman he meets in the Union, concocts a scheme to make his relatives think that the land has value. The con artist living off his wits is Professor Hayden (Larry Coughlin) known simply as "The Professor." The pair pretends that gold has been discovered and that a mining company

wants to buy Simon's place. This changes everything. Both sets of relations now start competing for Simon to stay with them in the hope that he will bequeath them the land. But Simon is too shrewd to sign over the property. He knows that as soon as he does, it will be back to the poorhouse for him.

Simon fights a valiant rearguard action but eventually his options run out and he is backed into a corner. He is on the verge of doing what his relatives want when fate intervenes. This brings about a resolution to his dilemma. The star of the show is Larry Coughlin as the urbane Professor. He is bombastic when he is supposed to and conniving when it is called for. He delivers his lines with aplomb and captures the essence of his character. Both he and Barney Farrelly team up as an engaging comic couple. Of the females, Annie Cogan (Bridget Christianson) is the most accomplished.

A problem for this production is the small size of the stage at Gaelic Park. Its tight dimensions and the need for on stage furniture consisting of a sofa, easy chair, kitchen table and kitchen chairs for this play present a challenge. Nevertheless, director Christina Garrivan is up to most of them by using a simple box set. She is able to accommodate the action by skilful blocking and moving furniture as scenes dictate. Judging from audience reaction, attendees obviously enjoyed the show. They laughed a lot and seemed satisfied. Even the play's dies-ex-machina ending did not seem to faze anyone. Gaelic Park Players will be taking this production to Toronto, for the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival in early June.

### A Review of Sea Marks

Sea Marks, written by Gardner McKay, is the Spring 2006 production of the Shapeshifters, at the Irish-American Heritage Center. It may be a good play, or it may not. I cannot say for sure. Nor, I imagine, can anyone else who was in the audience on the night I attended. I doubt that many were able to catch more than half the lines. Certainly I did not. Not from any direct fault of hearing or the actors' failure to deliver, I would like to emphasize. The sound problem was due to the high decibel activities going on in

direct competition with the play at the Center that Saturday night. For example, on the floor directly above the auditorium 400 people were gyrating to the amplified beat of an 8 person Mambo orchestra. To those above it was lively fun, but below, it sounded much like a herd of elephants on the march. If that was not bad enough, next door to the theater in the Fifth Province Lounge, another amplified group was booming away. They seemed to be doing their best to drown out raucous voices in the bar and any other opposition. On top of that, additional parties including more bands were in full swing in various function rooms around the Center. The Center is only moderately sound-proofed. Because of that, there was a continuous cacophony of unwelcome sound entering the auditorium. This created a nightmare both for the actors and playgoers.

"I found the noise distracting and my performance suffered. Instead of being totally into my character, it was a struggle. I lost connection with the audience and was sorry for it" said Justine Serino following the performance. She had played the part of Timothea, a Liverpool divorcee.

"You give to an audience but get back as well. That was not there tonight. There could be nothing subtle. I found myself shouting to make myself heard" commented Robert John Keating, who had played Colm, an Irish fisherman with poetry in his soul.

### What about the audience?

"It was uncomfortable and hard to hear" said a young woman who was a first time visitor to the Center. She remained mum on whether she would ever be back. With so many other theaters in Chicago, that seemed unlikely.

Sea Marks is about Colm's love for Timothea and whether a city girl and country boy can have a lasting relationship. The production seemed adequate but more than that I cannot say. Last year, the Shapeshifters took A Mislead Heaven by Carson Grace Becker to the Acting Irish International Theater Festival and won top prize. This year they are hoping for a repeat in Toronto with Sea Marks. How they will do is hard to predict, but if they are to be successful they will need not only to be seen but heard as well.

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### Love in the Title

Irish Repertory of Chicago Announces the Chicago Premiere of "Love in the Title", May 24 through July 2 at Victory Gardens Theatre, 2257 N Lincoln, Chicago. This riveting play is directed by Charles Gerace, and is written by Hugh Leonard, Ireland's most feted modern playwright. 2006 marks Leonard's 80th birthday and his 50th year as a produced playwright.

Love in the Title is simultaneously set in 1932, 1964, and 1999, connecting the lives of two sexually-liberated but unhappy women and one prude, following them on a journey of reconciliation and renewal. The intertwined stories of Irish writer Katie in 1999, her uptight mother Trina in 1964, and her long-dead wild and adventurous grandmother in 1932 take place in three politically and culturally distinct periods in 20th century Ireland. Love in the Title celebrates the indomitable and enduring spirit of the Irish woman.

The regular schedule for Love in the Title is Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8:30pm (\$34), Saturdays at 5:30PM (\$38), and Sunday matinees at 3:30pm (\$38). For tickets or more information visit [www.irishrep.com](http://www.irishrep.com) or call 773.871.3000.

### Celebrate Bloomsday at the IAHC with two events

The IAHC will celebrate the life and works of James Joyce with its annual Bloomsday Celebration featuring two events this June.

On June 16, 1904, writer James Joyce met his wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, Ulysses. Modern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16th "Bloomsday"; a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works.

This June 16, a Friday, members of the IAHC's Cultural Committee will present the seventh annual Rattlin' of the Joists presentation with dinner and entertainment including readings, music and song presented by notables from Chicago's theater and music community. The group will perform excerpts from Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners, Ulysses and Finnegans Wake, as well as biographical detail on Joyce's life.

Directed by IAHC member, Josephine Craven, the celebration is "...a wonderful way to explore and enjoy the fertility, immensity and complexity of James Joyce's genius."

The evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:30pm and dinner at 7:30pm. The cost for the celebration is \$30 and includes dinner with wine

and soft drinks. Reservations are required and tickets can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

On Saturday night, June 17, the Sean Walsh movie, Bloom will be shown in the auditorium at 8pm. The 2003 film stars Angeline Ball and Stephen Rea. Tickets for Bloom are \$8 and can be purchased at the door. For more information on the Bloomsday events, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

### Irish American Heritage Festival to host Irish American Idol contest for young talent

Is your child a budding pop star? Does he or she have what it takes to be an Irish American Idol?

Back by popular demand, the Irish American Heritage Center will hold its third annual Irish American Idol Contest during its annual Irish Fest July 7-9.

Like the popular television show, contestants will perform a song for a panel of judges. The contest is broken down into two categories: children under 12 and a teen category for kids, ages 13-18. All contestants must complete a registration form and have a parent or guardian's signature to compete in the contest. Forms must be turned in no later than Saturday, July 8 at 1:30pm.

All contestants must prepare an Irish song of their choice that is under 3 minutes long. Preliminary auditions will begin at 2pm on Saturday, July 8 and will be judged by a panel of judges. Five finalists will be announced Saturday at 6 pm. This contest is open to amateur contestants only.

On Sunday, the five finalists will perform on the theatre stage at 1:30-2pm. Further judging will be based on scores from a panel of judges and audience response. The winner, who will receive generous prizes, will be announced on the Main Stage at 3:15am and will perform his or her winning song.

Each Idol finalist will be given two tickets for parents or guardians for Sunday's competition. Parents must pay for admission to Saturday's auditions.

Tickets for the Irish American Heritage Festival are \$12, or \$8 pre-sale if purchased by July 6. Admission for seniors is \$7 and children under 12 are free with a paying adult.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60630. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



L-R: Julie Daley, Alyson Green, Erin Myers star in Love in the Title, opening May 24 at Victory Gardens Theatre.

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Stephen, a fifty-year-old neighbor of mine: "We would all have taken the boat if we'd had the slightest chance of getting a job. There can be nobility in poverty, but if you have the possibility to get out and practise whatever skills you have, why would you not take it?"

So here we are now. We're selfish, we're greedy, we have abandoned manners and we begrudge people who got out and made an attempt to find something else.

Why have we become like this? And what is the reason for it? When did we lose the run of ourselves? Ireland likes to boast of its special relationship with America, but is instead now simply another American state and a glorified airport for kids on their way to Iraq. Britain, on the other hand, pretty much admits that it is a glorified missile base. At least there's a smidgin of honesty there.

Blair just looks increasingly like a man who

made a deal with the Devil but didn't expect to have to pay his end of the bargain quite so soon, but that's another day's work. Oh, and Mr. Blair, while we're on the subject--- I've just heard as I write this that another two British soldiers have been blown up by a roadside bomb. There's another quarter inch gone from that receding hairline of yours. Your partner in duplicity, on the other hand, is I am quite sure bothered not a whit.

I find that the attitude of the Irish to their fellows in America is simply symptomatic of a deeper malaise, perhaps what happens when a country gathers a lot of wealth over a short space of time. To Hell with you, Jack. I'm all right.

Well Jack, we won't always be alright. History has a habit of being cyclical and bad times have a way of coming back. When it all goes pear-shaped, perhaps we will wish that we had been a little kinder, a little more Christian, a little more caring than we have shown ourselves to be of late.

It's astonishing, really. I thought, well, I'm writing about Irish immigrants who have been working illegally in America for years. How hard can that be? The one thing that I can be certain about is that their fellow Irish will back up their attempts to be recognized legally.

Think again.

Of over a dozen people that I have spoken to in the last two weeks only two have any time or sympathy for them. Amongst the comments were such gems as "They were rats who deserted a sinking ship and now want back because there's money to be made here" and "We cannot be seen to be rewarding criminality".

Welcome to the New Ireland: a land that is increasingly in danger of losing her soul. Sure we're all rolling in money now—supposedly—so why give a thought to bygone and ancient days like the Eighties. They're as dead and buried as our grandfathers. Yet I will tell you seriously that we have lost something that is precious, and this is not an old codger talking.

I recall the summer of 1979 (so maybe I'm a bit of an old codger) when I hitchhiked all over Ireland. The country was just emerging from under the awful hammer of the monstrous Archbishop John Charles McQuaid and while there wasn't a lot of money being thrown around—except, of course, by bent politicians hanging out in bars—it was a great time to be young. As hard as it is to believe now, it was still possible to knock on the door of a farmer in order to pick up some work for a day or two, sometimes just for food and a bed. This may sound like something out of "The Grapes of Wrath", but it didn't feel like begging. It felt great, especially at that age.

Fast forward to 2006 where we can't even recognise that Irish immigrants left here because there was nothing for them. Does it never occur to some people that the much-vaunted Celtic Tiger (and how I have come to hate that smug expression) may have taken a little longer to roar without the immigrants sending money back to their families?

One of the most sensible and honest comments that I was given while doing this piece was from



(l-r) Consul General Charles Sheehan, Sligo County Manager Hubert Kearns, Sligo Councillor Gerry Murray, Irish Junior Minister for Trade and Commerce Michael Ahern, Sligo Councillor John Sherlock and Sligo Assoc of Chicago President Kevin Malee.

## Sligo Association of Chicago says thank you

The Sligo Association of Chicago's members, supporters, and friends showed up in numbers for the St. Patrick's Day downtown parade and the party following. The Saturday temperature was nearly 60 degrees which encouraged the crowds that came out to march. Afterwards at the party at The Hilton Hotel the awards for the Art and Essay competitions were handed out. The following is the list of winners. Art 1st Place winners: Ann Joritz, Joseph Laporta, Kaileen Joritz, Shane Collery and Kaitlin O'Rourke. 2nd Place winners: Kathleen Flanagan, Shannon Joritz, Sean McGovern, Claire McGovern, 3rd Place winners Colin Collery, Gavin Lee, Tommy

O'Connor, Isaiha McManus, Declan Collery and Grace Collery. Essay 1st Place winners: Carmel Carnegie, Tara Cahill, Erin O'Connor, Michael O'Rourke and Seamus Flanagan. 2nd Place winners: Louise Haran, Jack O'Connor and Kieran Willis. Honorable mentions went out to Vanessa Flanagan, Kieran Willis, Seamus Flanagan and Quinn Clerkin in the Art category and to Joseph Laporta, Kathleen Flanagan and Vanessa Flanagan in the Essay category. Thanks to everyone that participated in the competitions and to everyone that marched alongside us and made St. Patrick's Day an event to remember. We look forward to another enthusiastic year.

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# Get Your Irish Up ...North!

By James McClure



## The Road Less Traveled

One of the pioneer travelers of "The Alcan", The Alaska-Canada Highway, penned the following ambivalent poem:

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Leaves my mind in serious doubt  
As to whether the man who built this route  
Was going to hell or coming out

The experience is an odd mix of pleasure and pain, but definitely not to be missed.

My journey on the Alcan in late summer 2005 was full of promise and adventure, as I headed to a television news reporting job in Anchorage determined to see the sights, albeit as fast as possible. I had gotten a late start after testifying in a court case that convicted an attempted Chicago carjacker to 58 months, so off I darted to Winnipeg, Manitoba on the first leg of my journey, driving 14 hours straight.

I figured if I could keep this ridiculous clip up, I could arrive in Alaska in a matter of four days. The necessity for sleep and the arduous trek into Alaska, across several mountain ranges, would deem otherwise five days into a journey most sensible people do in 10.

My two-province per day progress bode well as I raced along four-lane roads initially, learning from two charming older ladies, at a Saskatchewan produce stand called The Lil' Red Barn, that the heron-covered Canadian dollar coin is called a Looney and the two-dollar coin, by association...a Two-Ney. As I reached British Columbia traveling along the diagonal from just above North Dakota on into Alaska...I was past the halfway point of the 3700-mile journey from Chicago, but the toughest part was yet to come.

Moving on up into the foothills of the Canadian Rocky Mountains I had a false sense of security about the "fully improved and paved" Alaskan Highway, as it's known in Canada. No doubt it was an improvement over the original condition in 1942, but still a challenge.

The Alcan, originally called The Alaskan

Military Highway, was built as a crash endeavor in a perceived race with the Japanese in World War II. Long before the era of the space

race and the Missile Gap, Imperial Japan had bridged much of the distance with a successful attack and occupation upon the Aleutian Islands following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Could a march up through Anchorage on into Fairbanks and the mineral-rich Alaska Territory be far behind? The U.S. and Canada teamed up to build a 1500-mile highway for military equipment and personnel through the most rugged country in North America.

That they did it in roughly eight months, beginning in March 1942, is amazing; the following exploits by civilians staking a claim of a new beginning is perhaps more amazing. For in the half century following those first gold miners, making their way up by pack mule into the Yukon, pioneers of a different sort would face a rugged journey that required at least two spare tires and an extra set of headlights as travelers followed the unimproved Alcan with its rough paving of huge gravel rocks inches across. Broadcasting pioneer Augie Hiebert, an engineer who set up the first radio and television stations in Alaska,

recalls traveling the winding roads, steep grades and icy treachery of the route in January 1949 with a wife and new child. "The main thing is to pee whenever you stop because you don't know when the next chance will come."

Stopping is perhaps the scariest part, even in modern asphalt days. On one such pit stop I realized that it had been 15 minutes since I pulled off the road and not a single car had passed in either direction in mid-afternoon. This combined with reaching a remote cabin gas outpost, looking little changed from the 1940's and being informed it was about to close at 10 p.m., I breathed a sigh of relief knowing I had picked the perfect part of the journey to discontinue my practice of driving into the early morning hours. When the dumpsters say "Food Attracts

Bears" and your Ford SUV is guzzling gas on the rising side of three dollars a gallon,

you quickly realize that the AAA towing card doesn't help much when there are hundreds of miles between settlements.

Leaving the provinces and crossing into the Yukon Territory, I faced a two-day journey on a two-lane road that was nothing short of awe-inspiring. With steep cliffs to the right and steeper drops into river canyons on the left, the horizons became endless mountains and peaks that I would traverse...each vista prettier and larger than the last. The whole experience seemed like traveling Colorado on steroids, the geography seemingly taller and farther spread. Moose, caribou, mountain sheep, bald eagles, not to mention dozens of buffalo blocking the road at one point were examples of the abundant wildlife and the remote nature of the journey.

Nearing the Alaska border I came across a construction zone. They don't build an alternate route as much as merely level a mud path. I felt like I had driven into a National Geographic article and straight back into the time of those U.S. Army engineers slogging through the muddy forests and marshes.

After sitting astride a bench that afforded the benefit of placing one cheek in Alaska and the other in the Yukon Territory of Canada I had just conquered, I only had another half day to go. Pulling off the side of the road a few hundred yards short of U.S. Customs, I pulled out my birth certificate to learn that military matters had changed since 1942 in terms of global threats.

"Ah, let me give you a little bit of advice," the customs agent deadpanned, more than a little perturbed at my interrupted approach. "Ever since September 11th it's not a real smart idea to stop just before you get to the gate area like you're a terrorist or a smuggler. You almost got an armed escort into the United States of America!"

Shortly thereafter I made my ninth fill-up of the trip at a roadside

cabin/restaurant staffed by a long-haired, bronze-skinned woman who said she was of the Athabaskan tribe, one of more than a dozen tribes in Alaska; it is much more than Eskimo country. As I wound down past Mt. McKinley on a now familiar two-lane stretch of treachery with the sun going down among the snow-covered peaks surrounding me even in summer, I had a greater appreciation of why natives called Alaska "The Great Land." In a land of adventure I had taken the first bold step.

Jim McClure is a television news reporter and freelance journalist based in Anchorage, Alaska. He can be reached via e-mail at JimMcClure71@aol.com

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### Help for Ireland's emigrants

Approximately 20,000 Irish emigrants are returning to Ireland annually, with even higher figures expected for 2006. Emigrant Advice is the Dublin based information and advocacy or-

ganization that works with intending, existing and returning Irish emigrants and immigrants. Emigrant Advice was established in 1987. However it was not a new service, but rather an updated response by the Dublin Diocese to the increased rate of emigration in the 1980s. Its predecessor was the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau established in 1942, which offered advice and assistance to emigrants of the 1940s, 50s, 60s, and 70s. The Catholic Social Welfare Bureau was disbanded in 1982 but the emigrant section continued as the Emigrant Welfare Bureau until 1987 when it became Emigrant Advice. In 2003, 2004 and 2005 Emigrant Advice worked directly with 58, 68 and 178 returning emigrants respectively.

Emigrant Advice works with immigrants and members of new communities. The organization delivers information and education presentations and materials including its 'Returning to Ireland' resource pack, works towards highlighting and resolving the difficulties faced by immigrants, and liaises with other NGOs and the Trade Unions to resolve cases of exploitation or the infringement of workers rights experienced by immigrants. The organization is also working with members of new communities to help them establish their own support groups that will enable immigrants to preserve their culture, access services and entitlements, and integrate more successfully into Irish society. [www.emigrantadvice.ie](http://www.emigrantadvice.ie)

### Centenarian's Bounty to be extended following Government Approval

The Government has approved in principle the extension of the scheme for the payment of the Centenarians' Bounty to any Irish citizen who was born in the Island of Ireland, regardless of where he or she may currently reside. Up to now the Bounty, which currently amounts to €2,500, was payable only to centenarians living in the State.

Commenting on the announcement An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, said: "While

we now enjoy a flourishing economy and have become a country of immigration rather than emigration, history shows that many thousands of our people had to leave Ireland out of economic necessity... Many of these people continued to support families back home and it is well known that the families they had to leave behind relied on the envelopes that would arrive from overseas...

The Department of Foreign Affairs are informing Irish Community Organizations abroad of this very positive development. This is a further step reflecting the Government's deep appreciation and recognition of Irish Communities abroad."

Applications from claimants residing outside the state should be lodged with the department of foreign affairs, either with an embassy/consulate abroad or with the consular and passport division in Dublin.

### Irish Set Dance Ceili

Make your reservation at one of the charming Cedarburg B&B's and come for an overnighter or the weekend. Dance up a storm and visit with friends at the Set Dance Ceili (Party) on June 10th at 7pm. There will be instruction on the set of the evening, the Kilfenora, and dancing from 8-11pm to the live music of athas. \$9 Admission - Cash Bar - Bring a snack to share. Cedarburg attractions and accommodations information is available at [www.cedarburg.org](http://www.cedarburg.org).

If you've always wanted to learn Irish Set Dancing here's your chance! No Partner required. Beginners welcome. Connemara Set Dancing classes will run June 12 - August 7, 7-8:30pm, fee \$45. Pre-registration is suggested.

All at the American Legion Post, W57 N481 Hilbert Avenue, Cedarburg, WI. <http://sets.sul-liassociates.com> 262.302.7854 Teri Sullivan.

### Celt is popping up everywhere!

Starting May 1, Celt is a featured album on the listening stations in 275 Borders Stores nationwide. It is exciting that Borders believes so strongly in the Celt project as it is rare that an independent artist gets such an endorsement by this major chain.

Celt is also available on ITUNES! Michael recently returned from France and

is already planning future tours. Upcoming dates in the US include the Corn Palace Festival with Leann Rimes and Trace Atkins. In the meantime you can buy Celt online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or at [www.lmlmusic.com](http://www.lmlmusic.com)

In his spare time, Michael has been in the studio recording Christmas Celt. Enjoy! [www.michael-londra.com](http://www.michael-londra.com)

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### Diner Tales at Raven

A fresh new slice of comedy, with two overlapping stories, "Coffee on Wednesday" and "Without a Net". Both engage us in the regulars who frequent a neighborhood Chicago diner, while obsessing about their aspirations, life choices and failures. "Coffee on Wednesday" is a semi-autobiographical piece about two 40-something men, who meet weekly at the diner and revel in their mid-life crises. "Without a Net" features a waitress, who, from time to time, is a high-wire artist in the circus, and is about the decisions people make as they journey through life.

Diner Tales is directed by Raven Theatre company member Chuck Spencer, making his professional directorial debut. Diner Tales opens on Sunday June 4 at 7pm and runs through July 16, on the intimate West Stage of the Raven Theatre, 6157 N Clark St, Chicago 773-338-2177 [www.raventheatre.com](http://www.raventheatre.com)



Mike Hennessy accepts his lovely Basket of Goods raffle prize made by Una Dempner for the Clan na Gael Easter Commemoration.

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# Irish Book and Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST

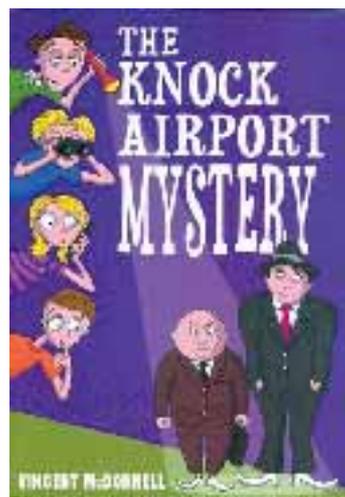


Two for Young Readers American criminals plan to help the leader of their gang to escape. He was arrested in Ireland and is being extradited to the United States.

The criminals almost succeed, but are stopped at the last minute by a group of Irish children who figure out their plan and outsmart them.

The story of how they do this is told in The Knock Airport Mystery by Vincent McDonnell. The Collins Press/DuFour Editions/610-458-5005: Chester Springs, PA, 2006. 203 pages, \$9.95

In Ireland McDonnell is a widely known author of children's fiction. He has written seven books in this popular series, and has won prizes for his short stories and novels.



The Knock Airport Mystery begins with Irish children playing at a construction site. They see two well-dressed men approaching, and wanting to avoid getting into trouble, the scatter.

One of the children hides in the cab of an earth moving machine. And

because of the overhears the crooks planning the escape of their gang's boss. The thugs are clever enough to use code words, even though they think they are alone.

It's summer vacation from school so the children have plenty of time to find out the details of the plan. The detective work they do to learn this is scary.

The gang's leader is hiding in a coffin, just taken out of a hearse that was going to be used in the escape. This is an example of the exciting use of language. The gang leader "suddenly sprang into a sitting position. His hands shot out and he grabbed [the Irish boy's] T-shirt. Before anyone could move, [he] was dragged towards the coffin. His face was no more than inches from the ugly face of..." the criminal.

"I'll get you boy, [he] threatened. I'll have your hair pulled out strand by strand."

"But he got no further with his threats. To [the boy's] relief, the detectives [from the Garda] moved swiftly forward, [They] pinioned his arms...and handcuffed him."

I love a mystery story, and even though this book is written at about the 7th to 9th grade reading level, I read it avidly.

DuFour Editions brings these wonderful books to us from Ireland. What a great way to encourage a young person to read.

These quotes are good examples of the encouragement of imagination and magic of language.

The children helped their uncle gather turf, but at noon they stopped work to eat the lunch their aunt had made for them. "There were chicken and ham sandwiches and

soda bread polka dotted with currants and raisins and spread with homemade jam. There were biscuits and juicy apples and flasks of tea and a bottle of lemonade."

"...the food...tasted better than any food they had ever eaten... When their appetites had been sated they lay down on the heather, soaking up the sunshine. Above them a lark sang, so high in the sky that it wasn't even a speck on that cloudless tent of blue. The softest of breezes cooled them..."

"They lay resting in silence for about fifteen minutes, and then [they] got up. Below, the countryside was spread out like a multi-colored bedspread. To the north he could see the Ox Mountains in Sligo, and as they turned...to the left they saw the Nephin Ranges out to the west

"...confidence is something you have to have if you want to be a success." That is good advice for a young person about living life.

Riverside: The Movie by Peter Regan, Anvil Books/The Children's Press/DuFour Editions/610-458-5005; Dublin, 2005, 128 pages, \$9.95.

This series of books is very popular in Ireland. This is the tenth book in the Riverside series.

Peter Regan is the author of that series. He has written several other books for children, and two fantasy novels, as well. He lives in Bray, near Dublin. This book is written at the 7th or 8th grade reading level. The story and the way it is written, held my interest throughout. Giving a young person Riverside: The Movie is a great way to encourage love of reading.

Several Irish teens and pre-teens decide to make a movie about Budgie Ryan. The movie would be called Budgie of Bray.

Budgie Ryan "...was one of the best left footers to come out of Ireland. He had a cannonball of a shot... We'll bring his name alive again."

Budgie lives in the neighborhood and is an old man now. But as a young

## Another Big Change in the North

by Frank West

Gerry Adams visited Chicago several years ago to explain his goals for the Peace Process and his vision of Ireland's future.

One of the things he said was to ask forgiveness for the Unionists. He said that despite all the indignities, humiliation and brutality suffered by Nationalists, they should not seek revenge.

He said the revenge of Nationalists would be the sound of the

man, he was one of Ireland's most successful soccer players. His team qualified to play for the World Cup.

He scored against teams from England, Italy, Spain, etc. He became famous for making extraordinary goals. Sports fans considered his left leg and foot to be charmed.

Now, as a sick old man, he must have his left foot amputated.

Various characters are introduced as the young people use their strengths and resources to gather information about Budgie.

This is an example of memorable writing. It might appeal to a young reader as the author describes a local Dublin person called Dracula. "Most times he was a death's door, then he would make a miraculous recovery and reappear in the bar... fighting fit. Lately, almost as if to add some glamour to his life, he had taken to wearing a white trench coat and a pair of saucer-sized sunglasses. With his hair gelled and combed straight back with a huge quaff in front..."

Riverside: The Movie is ideal reading for a young person: good writing with unobtrusive advice near the end of the book an admirable characteristic is encouraged: "...he's got feeling. That's what sets him apart. Feeling makes a person worthwhile."

laughter of our children and grandchildren. They would grow up in an Ireland that was at peace.

I thought of those words of Gerry Adams when I recently read an editorial in the Irish Voice.

Peter Robinson led a delegation of Unionists on an official visit to the United States. Robinson is the second in command in Ian Paisley's ultra unionist DUP party, and Paisley's probable successor.

Robinson said "... I have observed from life that bitterness consumes the vessel that contains it and I am resolved that the troubled times I have lived through should end in my day and my children will see peace... And that the sons and daughters of the Planter and the Gael have found a way to share the land of their birth and live together in peace."

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### Irish American Heritage July 7-9

The 21st annual Irish American Heritage Festival will be held July 7-9, 2006. Headlined by Nanci Griffith, Gaelic Storm and Michael McDermott with three days of music on four stages, the festival showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening Irish culture in Chicago.

Nanci Griffith performs on Saturday night at 9pm. Griffith is a shining example

of the impact the Irish and Irish Americans have had on the music scene on both sides of the Atlantic. Loved and respected for her work as a country music star, Griffith has always embraced her Irish heritage and has recorded several Irish folk songs throughout the years. Griffith won a Grammy for her work with the traditional Irish music legends, The Chieftains. Performing with her Blue Moon Orchestra, Griffith brings her special brand of folk and country charm to the stage in what should be a truly special evening of the best in Irish and American music.

Gaelic Storm takes your favorite Irish songs and melodies, rocks them up a bit, and turns them back into heart-pounding, foot-stomping tunes that are still uniquely Irish. Perhaps the most popular Irish group touring these days, Gaelic Storm will bring the house down closing the festival on Sunday night at 7pm.

Friday night boasts the return of Michael McDermott at 9pm. McDermott first played the Irish Fest in 2005 and surprised his audience by covering a number of Irish traditional and popular songs. One of Chicago's premier singer-songwriters, McDermott will be playing



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lots of his own material and hopefully some more surprises this year.

Other performers include The Makem and Spain Brothers. The Makems perform on Sunday at 4:30pm. The band, Brigid's Cross will make its Irish Fest debut on Saturday at 6:30pm. They are a huge favorite on the Irish festival scene throughout the country and bring their high energy show to our stage this summer. Many of Chicago's local favorites and talents, such as The Chancey Brothers, Baal Tinne, Finbar Fagan and The Muck Brothers will also appear.

The Folk Tent returns with various demonstrations of Irish instruments, dances and sing-alongs. Irish and American food will be available throughout the weekend, and dozens of vendors and artisans will be selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry.

Two exciting contests, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest and the Irish-American Idol Contest return to this year's festival. The Mashed Potato Eating Contest takes place at Friday night at 8pm. Contestants may sign up that night but should be

forewarned that two-time defending champion, Jim Sullivan, returns with many new contenders. The contestants will compete for a variety of prizes.

Budding young talents can begin to experience fame with the The Irish-American Idol competition on Saturday afternoon. There will be two categories, one for children under twelve and another for teens from 13-18 years old. Contestants must register by 1:30pm on Saturday or pre-register by calling the Center at 773-282-7035. Like the popular TV show, contestants will get a

chance to sing an Irish song for a panel of judges. The finalists will perform on Sunday afternoon, with the winner announced and given a chance to perform on a festival stage Sunday evening at 6 pm.

Get tickets, at 773-282-7035, ext. 10. Tickets: \$12 per day; \$8 in advance until the end of day July 6; seniors \$7, Children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid adult. Hours: Fri., 6-12 p.m.; Sat., noon-midnight; Sun., noon-11 p.m. Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago.



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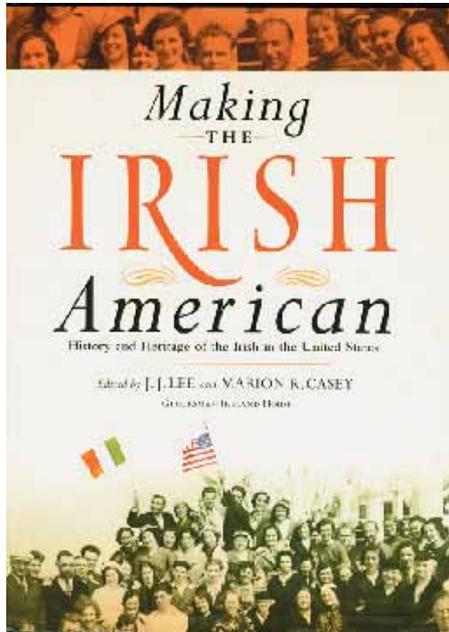
### Making the Irish American: History and Heritage of the Irish in the United States

edited by J.J. Lee and Marion R. Casey  
NYU Press; \$50.00; ISBN 0-8147-5208-X  
www.amazon.com

Combining original research with reprints of classic works, Lee and Casey create a truly rich portrait of the Irish immigrant impact on America, and America's impact on the Irish immigrant. These essays and articles offer a complete understanding of the Irish American experience and a compact history of Ireland itself. Additionally, Lee and Casey explore the various channels through which the Irish have made their mark, from politics to labor organizations, from domestic service to popular and traditional music, from sport to step dancing.

J.J. Lee is the director of the Glucksman Ireland House, Glucksman professor of Irish Studies, and professor of History

at New York University. Marion R. Casey is assistant professor, Glucksman Ireland House, New York University and past-president of the New York Irish History Roundtable.



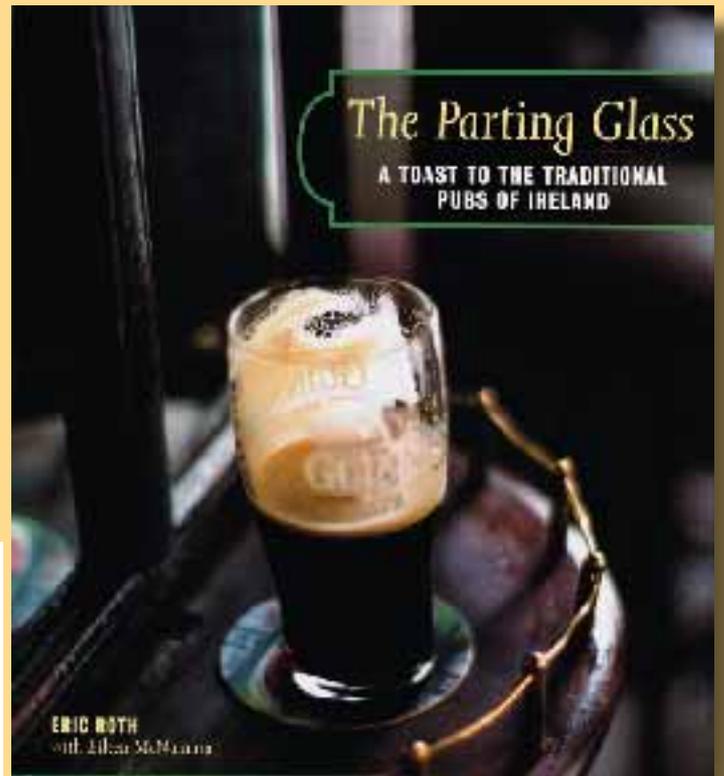
What better way to experience the richness of Ireland's cultural heritage than a meandering journey through its traditional pubs? The Parting Glass is a nostalgic ramble through 43 of the most inviting establishments in the cities and countryside of Ireland. Some of the pubs visited are historic taverns; others are more contemporary. But all reflect the vibrancy and drama of the country's social history. This charming volume invites tourists, armchair travelers, and anyone interested in Irish history and culture to raise a "parting glass" to this cherished aspect of life in Ireland.

### About Our Cover

### The Parting Glass: A Toast to the Traditional Pubs of Ireland

by Eric Roth with Eileen McNamara Stewart, Tabori & Chang; \$29.95; ISBN 1-58479-438-0  
www.hnabooks.com

This quality book holds a picture of Sean's Bar, which advertises itself as the oldest pub in Ireland. That's Barney Dempsey playing the fiddle on the cover this month.



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## An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



### Immigration--action or inaction

As we go to press we have once again reached a crucial phase in the effort to bring about the much-needed reform of our immigration system. The last month has seen an increase in public support for comprehensive immigration reform with large marches and public events staged in many cities across America.

As time goes on one thing is becoming more clear and that is, this problem is not going away. Another thing, which is also clear, is, that as people begin to look at the issue in its entirety they become convinced that only a comprehensive approach will fix the mess that has become of our immigration laws.

Our political leaders failed to move the issue forward because in the words of Senator Kennedy: "Politics got in the way of policy." Much blame and finger pointing followed and as Senator Specter said: "There is plenty of blame to go around."

Much of the opposition to doing something has gotten stuck on the issue of what to do with the approx. 12 million undocumented people living and working in the U.S. Suggestions have varied from: "send them home", to: "Give them all a green card." We need to get real; neither of these solutions will solve the difficulty. Simplistic solutions are unhelpful and will not work.

What is really needed at this point is having our political leaders do what they were elected to do, namely, legislate. They need to legislate in a way that is fair and just for all concerned. In doing so they need to remember that the option of sending millions home is totally impractical. Besides, for millions of these people the U.S. is home. They have American born children who are citizens. Their kids play baseball with our kids. They go to our churches and help build our communities in so many ways.

Those who oppose a path to legalization do so because they object to amnesty. So do I but I am proposing amnesty as part of the means to solving this issue. I propose that we offer amnesty to our elected officials, give them amnesty until the next election and if they haven't come up with a good solution then vote them out of office and elect people who are willing to look beyond party political interests to doing the right thing for our country and all those who call it home.

What do you believe?

According to a recent Newsweek Magazine survey, 67 percent of Americans believe that when we die, our souls

go to heaven or hell; 79 percent described themselves as "spiritual" and 64 percent said they considered themselves "religious." Only 8 percent identified themselves as neither religious or spiritual.

When asked if they believed God created the universe, 80 percent said they did. Those who do not believe in God amounted to only one percent. When asked why they practiced religion, 39 percent said it was to help them develop a more personal relationship with God. Almost two-thirds of Americans pray every day, and 69 percent indicated that the most important part of prayer was to seek God's guidance, thank God or to be close to God.

The fastest growing category identified in the Newsweek survey was "spirituality," especially among those under 60. In fact "spirituality" is also the fastest growing category in book sales. It is clear that while many Americans do not go to places of worship on a regular basis, yet, they are deeply interested in things "spiritual".

Looking at the above results, it would not be much of a stretch to conclude that America is going through a spiritual rebirth of sorts. To many on the outside America is seen as a very secular country and there is a very clear division between Church and state. And, yet, many look to religion more than science to try and find answers to life's puzzling questions.

One of the most persistent and troubling questions for many is; what happens to me when I die? I write this during the Easter season when we Christians focus on the resurrection of Jesus. The belief in life after death is something, which offers hope and consolation to countless people now as it, has done for centuries.

Yet not everyone is convinced of the reality of life after death. And this is understandable as it is something, which we must ultimately accept on faith. I have had people confess to me in confession and outside of it their doubts in faith and they wonder if it is sinful to have such doubts. I assure them that it is not sinful to have doubts. God gave us enquiring minds and expects us to use them. To me, doubts and questions are a natural part of the process of developing our spiritual lives. By asking questions and seeking answers we come discover what a wonderful gift faith is. In the process we also come to know and understand who God is and how God wishes us in the words of Jesus: "To have life and have it in abundance." (Jn.10: 10)

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](mailto:siochan@catholic.org)

## Damien Rice and Fiona Apple One night only!

Damien Rice joins Fiona Apple with special guest David Garza at the Charter One Pavilion at Northerly Island Chicago, on July 13th at 7:30pm.

Damien Rice has spent much of the last two years writing and recording. Rice achieved international success with the release of his debut album O, which has now sold almost two million copies worldwide. Prior to reaching Gold sales status Stateside, O achieved triple-Platinum sales status in the UK and spent over 80 weeks on the U.K. Top 75 Album Chart.

Tickets are available at the Charter One Pavilion Box Office, all Ticketmaster Outlets, online at [www.LiveNation.com](http://www.LiveNation.com), [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone at 312-559-1212. Proceeds from Charter One Pavilion will support the development of Northerly Island Nature Park. The



Chicago Park District welcomes suggestions to shape Northerly Island into a world-class nature park for all Chicagoans to enjoy.

## Donnybrook in the Park III

Join us for live music, dancing, food and fun at White Park, Hanover, IL, on Saturday, June 10. Donnybrooks I & II have raised thousands of dollars for local projects and Donnybrook in the Park III will be no different. This year's fund raising event is for the Hanover "Kids Kount Program," which is raising funds to purchase new playground equipment and to help with overall improvements to the wonderful White Park. Come rain or shine, Donnybrook in the Park III organizers are prepared

with larger tents to insure the music and dancing by the famous Claddagh Dancers will continue. Sugar Ray will be back with his famous barbecue and side dishes, the Hanover Girl Scouts will be offering soda and water and the Schwan's Ice Cream cooler will be on hand for dessert. Festivities begin at 1pm and featuring Chicago's Irish Sensation, Donnybrook at 7pm. Park admission is adults \$7, teens \$3 and children \$1. Support the Kid's Kount Program while enjoying free boat rides, raffles and a silent auction. [www.irishparty.net](http://www.irishparty.net)

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## Remembering Bobby Sands – Chicago’s Commemoration

By Bill Chambers and Rae Lutz Doberstein

I was a skeleton compared to what I used to be but it didn't matter. Nothing really mattered except remaining unbroken. I rolled over once again, the cold biting at me. They have nothing in their entire imperial arsenal to break the spirit of one Republican Political Prisoner-of-War who refuses to be broken...They cannot or never will

break our spirit. I rolled over again freezing and the snow came in my window on top of my blankets. 'Tiofaidh ar la,' I said to myself. 'Tiofaidh ar la.'

### One Day in My Life, Bobby Sands

Chicago Irish Republican activists remembered the unbreakable

spirit of Bobby Sands at the 25th anniversary of his death at the Six Penny Pub on Sunday, May 7. Bill Chambers, the chairman of the local Irish Northern Aid unit, started the program with a reminder that the war is not over, even though many people believe it ended with the Good Friday Agreement. He

reminded the crowd that people like Bobby Sands lived in extraordinary times, in a state of war, but that we also live in extraordinary times and our war had not ended.

The British have not left Ireland. The Assembly, as part of the GFA, may all come apart in November. Chambers's challenge to the crowd? To resist. To refuse to fall into the sleepy

dreams of those Irish-Americans who believe this morally right war has been won. The battles we face today are political campaigns against the same enemies of Irish freedom Bobby Sands defied. The loyalists still have guns and still exist. The British army is still in Ireland. The British government is still refusing to admit collusion, still trying to stop an independent investigation into the murder of Pat Finucane, when every human rights organization in the world has condemned them, the Irish Dail has condemned them, and soon the U.S. Congress will as well if it passes a proposed resolution. Chambers encouraged everyone to support Coiste, the Republican ex-prisoner support organization in Belfast, to come to the city-wide hunger strike

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commemoration this fall, and to support all efforts in educating people in this country that the war isn't over. These are things that everyone can do to honor the memory of Bobby Sands.

The event's featured speaker, Paul Harkin, gave his address next. A Derry native, he grew up amidst the difficulties that confront the Catholic minority of the occupied counties. Paul was 16 years old in 1968 when the war between the Nationalist Community and the British Crown Forces escalated into the "Troubles". Harassment, beatings, and intimidation became a part of his daily life. Paul became involved in the struggle for civil rights, for equal opportunities, for basic human dignity. In 1975 he was arrested and convicted by the British Diplock Courts, without benefit of a jury or representation. He spent the next 6 years in the Long Kesh P.O.W. Camp. He was released in 1981.

Paul shared his experiences of the constant refusal of the British and RUC forces to recognize the political status of those fighting for Irish freedom. He recalled the funeral of Volunteer Michael Gaughan, who died on hunger strike in an English prison. The RUC pushed back and abused those attending his funeral. But no matter what the Brits did, they could not stop the Irish determination to remain defiant, in jail or outside it. Paul's hardships as a political prisoner was nothing compared to the abuse the prisoners had to endure on the blanket protest and during the hunger strike. Whatever has happened, the Republican prisoners have always maintained their political status – it was Maggie Thatcher who foolishly thought she could take it away.

Today, former prisoners continue to fight the British as MPs; the war simply continues in another form. Maggie Thatcher's regime is over, but the same British forces are still in place with different names – the B Specials became the UDR who became the RIR. The RUC became the PSNI, but it's made up of the same Orange Order bastards. The secret war against the Irish nationalists continues and will never end until the faceless men have been defeated. Irish activists must never let their guard down.

A video on the hunger strike made in 1988 was shown. The film provided footage of the blanket protests, the hunger strikers and H-Block protest campaign, Bobby Sands's election as MP, his funeral and that of the other hunger strikers, the faces of murdered Sinn Fein workers, ending with scenes from Sinn Fein's first major election victory in 1988 – the video brought home to the crowd how the political battle continues against the same forces of opposition almost 20 years later.

The Bobby Sands 25th Commemoration was only a prelude to other events happening in Chicago in the fall. The national convention of the Irish American Unity Conference is being held on 9/30/06 at the Doubletree Hotel

in Rosemont. Some of the confirmed speakers include:

- Two members of the Finucane Family, who will speak on behalf of efforts to have a truly independent investigation into Pat Finucane's murder.

- Mary Nelis, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and a City Councilor for Foyle. During the period of the blanket protests and the hunger strike, three of her sons were imprisoned for long periods of time and two were involved in the H-Block protests.

- Nuala O'Loan, the Police Ombudsman in Belfast, who will discuss the investigations of her office into misconduct by the PSNI.

- Margo Harkin, an independent film producer from Derry who made two recent films for TV on Bloody Sunday and the Hunger Strike

- Marion Walsh, one of the founding members of the Victims and Survivors Trust in Belfast, a support organization for those who have suffered or lost family members due to the conflict.

- Maureen O'Looney, a Chicago IAUC member and Irish activist for over thirty years, who will be honored for her ongoing work on behalf of a united Ireland.

On October 1, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rosemont, a 25th Anniversary H-Block Hunger Strike Commemoration is being sponsored by many Irish groups and activists. Some of the speakers for this event include Mary Nelis; Terry Kirby, a former H-Block blanketman; Bobby Lavery, a former Sinn Fein Belfast City Councilor for eleven years; and Matt Morrison, a former POW who served ten years in Long Kesh. For more information on

the October activities, contact Bill Chambers at 773-296-0089 or Rick Coleman at 815-667-4939.

The Bobby Sands Commemoration of May 7th was a fitting tribute to a true Irish hero, but it is only the beginning of the commitment of the Irish of Chicago – and America – to remain vigilant against British oppression, both in the North of Ireland and throughout the world. In the words of Bobby Sands, "Tiocfaidh ar la."

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## radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



Over 500 CD's a year. Do we listen to all of them? Nope. Do we listen to at least parts of them all? Yup. How many of them do we review, based upon our policy of not doing negative reviews?

40-50 each year. What does that tell you? Do the math.

Can we still be thunderstruck, bowled over, amazed and delighted by an artist? You bet! Happened twice this month, alone! Rose Laughlin and Alison Hood are the names. The two could not be more different, but what connects them is one thing. Right. They are incredible artists.

Let's talk about Rose Laughlin first. This amazing singer is now Chicago-based, having moved from her native Seattle a few years ago. Her new album is entitled, *Souvenir* and can be found at her website, [www.roselaughlin.com](http://www.roselaughlin.com). Or, just google her name. Chicago is now, arguably, the biggest hub of Irish musical talent outside of the Island, itself. We don't think Chicago has ever shown brighter in Irish music, and that is not civic pride boasting, as over the years we have been very critical of our fair city in its lack of support of our gifted musicians. Rose could have moved anywhere. She chose to bring her gift to Chicago, and we are all the beneficiaries. A very smart young lady, this brilliant alto chose Dennis Cahill, Chicago superno, to produce the album. We remember the first times we heard certain female singers and were, literally, stunned. Cathie Ryan, Eilis Kennedy, Maranna McCloskey, Dolores Keane, Mary Black. Magic. Now add Rose Laughlin to the list---way towards the head of the list. Thank God she is no quivering, nasal soprano from some American city, trying to sound like some quivering, nasal soprano from some Irish city. Rose sings the most wonderful Irish traditional numbers. But, here's the secret. She doesn't try to sound Irish. Oh, she sings the songs as they are meant to be. No radical overhauling of cherished tunes like *The Parting Glass* or *The Month of January* here. True to the bone. But, this is an American woman singing. She brings such a rich tapestry of American folk, country, and blues into each Irish tune--and yet, each song remains perfectly Irish in its truth. She doesn't deny her musical roots of America like so many trying desperately to be like the Irish. She has the most beautiful voice we have heard in years. It is so strong and rare. Warm. Sincere. Soul. And, this is a woman who knows exactly who she is. And, who she is not. We expect Cahill's album to be perfectly produced. He is among the top two or three now internationally when it comes to cranking out his masterpieces. Along with fiddler Martin Hayes, Dennis is a gifted guitarist who created a total niche market for the popular duo, and now produces flawless albums using his musician's ear. That he and Rose Laughlin found each other in a big, big world is one of those millions of wonderful miracles that occur every day. We go right past most of them, while doubting their existence. But, here we have an album. And, we have Rose Laughlin right here in our backyards. We agree with the brilliant head of Compass Records, who we interviewed for another article in this month's paper, Garry West. People who love this type of music have a responsibility to support it. He is 100% right. Over the years, we have been the first to introduce you to many new world-class trad talents. We have been the first to discover major, new "brilliant" and tell you about them. That is our job. We remember none in that long list better

than Rose Laughlin. This is a woman whose talent is pointing a new and crucial direction for Irish music. Get the album. Listen to the future. We tell you right now, this is the Female Vocalist of the Year. Now, she did her job in singing this album, Dennis did his work in gathering some of the top musicians in Chicago to back her up in the studio and showcasing this amazing voice perfectly. We have done our job in introducing her to you. Now, you do yours. Remember what Garry West said Go see her, and for your love of music, get this album. Rose Laughlin is in Chicago. Great news for us. Big career for her. Just beginning. We're all at the start of it with her now. All the better for us. And, the music. Rating: There are not enough stars

The regular reader knows all about our weekly radio program, *Blarney on the Air*, each Monday night at WDCB, 90.9 fm from 7-9:00 p.m. You ought to. We shamelessly flog it enough. We share the microphone with our dear friend, Shay Clarke, who as you also know if you have listened, is clueless when it comes to Irish music. A native Dub, he thinks lots of things are Irish music. Kind of fun to watch him wander around in his own personal music hell of vague attempts at finding good music. Well, you have heard that even a blind pig occasionally finds an acorn, and so it is with dear, dear Shay. There has been a great deal of discussion about how he actually found Alison Hood's album, *Romantic Themes & Celtic Dreams: The Nocturnes of John Field*. First, a little background on Field. A native Dubliner, (1782-1837) Field invented the nocturne. That's right. Invented it. Don't worry, we didn't know how to define a nocturne, either. A slow, dreamy, almost trance-like piece of beautiful music, standing alone, apart from any other piece of music. Not part of a symphony, concerto or sonata. All by itself. And, when it comes to nocturnes, Field is the man. THE man. Chopin idolized Field and gave him full credit as the inspiration for his far more famous, but not equally beautiful nocturnes. Fields work is magnificent. He is fascinating to read about, and you should google him. Talk about Irish traditional music! It is now obvious that a nocturne is truly Irish! Wow! Who knew? This album, produced by Phil Coulter is the essence of musical beauty. Take a genius of a composer like Field, and put his music in the hands of Alison Hood, an incredibly gifted concert pianist and cellist. Alison, just married we might add, now teaches at the National University in Maynooth outside of Dublin. She has a Ph.D in Music from Trinity College. She is brilliant. Beyond brilliant. Based upon her classical work here, she must be ranked near the top of international pianists currently performing. Like Field, she is a native Dubliner. She is perfect for the music. We cannot imagine a better choice to perform this all. Her intuition, soul, talent and logical analysis of the music shows in every note of a magical piano. This is one of those rare albums that you can put on in the background as you read, you can play it at a dinner party, or you can listen closely and be swept away. Surely, this is Irish music at its deepest and most lovely level. Two geniuses, Dubliners, find each other almost 200 years apart. The result is this album. This beauty. There are 12 nocturnes presented. No, this isn't DeDannan, Liz Carroll, Brock-McGuire or Cathie Ryan. But surely, above all, it is quintessentially Irish. You must have it. Get thee to Amazon. Order it. This is the most gorgeous album we have heard in decades. Deeply moving, you are the better simply for the hearing of it. And, to think, we have Shay Clarke to thank for it.

Notes: \* We have to mention Meitheal. July 17-21 this year at the University of Limerick, Ireland the event is headed now by old friend and world's best box player, Paul Brock. It is five-day total immersion workshops in your music or dancing area of interest featuring the very best musicians and Irish dancers. Whatever your interest, this is the big leagues. Lots of concerts and sessions all over Limerick in celebration of it all. If you are near Limerick this July, we are jealous of you, and you should make your way to UL and get in on the action. You should see the faculty!! A stunner, to be sure. Go, Paul!

\* Sligo Live looks like another great festival in Ireland the first weekend in June. The line-up is amazing. The ni Dhomnaill sisters (Mairead and Triona), The Border Colliers, Marin Hayes and Dennis Cahill and Kate Rusby are only a few. Wow! Not to be missed, if you are ANYWHERE near! Check [www.slivolive.ie](http://www.slivolive.ie).

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# Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



come play for us in Chicagoland. [www.barleyjuice.com](http://www.barleyjuice.com). Festival Legends John O'Brien, Jr. has been the Assistant Director of Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival for the last twenty years and like his father John Senior, is passionate about the songs and stories of his Irish heritage. Over the years John has spent a lot of time in close proximity with some of the giants of Irish music and has had the opportunity to interact and interview them at length.



His book Festival Legends: Songs and Stories, is an illuminating look at the lives and times of some of our favorite artistes, Tommy Makem, Danny Doyle, Liam Clancy, Johnny McEvoy, Cherish the Ladies, and many more. It's a great piece of work and is a must read for all of you who share his love of Irish music. I'm sure that my colleague Frank West, who pens our book column, will be taking a look at it and will tell you a lot more, but in the meantime check out John's website

[www.songsandstories.net](http://www.songsandstories.net). Best of luck with the book John and thank you for sharing these important stories....I'm really enjoying it. Summertime - Gaelic Park Fest will be over by the time you read this but its looking good right now. The weather forecast is perfect, the line up is amazing and we will have fun.

The visitors have been arriving from Ireland in a steady stream. We had my brother Don and a bunch of friends around Easter and recently my Mother, my Uncle, Aunt and my cousin. It's always a great time when we have visitors and we took in the highlights. It also gives me an opportunity to visit some of my pals in Galena, Dubuque, and Chicago. The Irish Cottage in Galena is a great credit to Jack, Debbie, Basil, and their staff. If you have not yet had the pleasure of their hospitality get yourself down to The Irish Cottage in Galena for some great times. it's like a piece of Ireland in the Midwest.

Kitty O'Shea's comes of age! Kitty O'Shea's is celebrating it's 21st anniversary and as it was my local, when I first came to America, I must join all the other well-wishers and say well done to Eamon Brady and his crew. Kitty O'Shea's is located in The Hilton on Michigan Ave. and has been a favorite watering hole for visitors and Chicagoans alike and still stands tall as Chicago's Premier Irish Pub.

Festifying - In the next few weeks we will travel to Highland games in Milwaukee and Oakbrook. We will work feises in Gaelic Park, Dayton, and Cincinnati, and Irish festivals in Gaelic Park, Boston, Cuyahoga Falls, and Euclid, Ohio. Next month we should have a lot of news for you from these various venues...see you at the fest!

6 Yanks - Barleyjuice - Barleyjuice have just released their new album, 6 Yanks and it is, BRILLIANT! These guys from Philly never cease to amaze me with their very clever use of words, their driving rhythms, and their sense of fun.

Thirteen tracks, ten of them written by the band themselves and it is the self-penned songs that stand out. Songs of the heather, songs of the shamrock, songs of the sea, but mostly odes to the drink. Seven tracks are devoted to the juice of the barley, the grape, and the hops. Some are mentioned by name, Guinness, Bailey's and Jameson. Barleyjuice, The Band - Kyf Brewer- vocals, guitar, accordion, piano, harmonica, bagpipes, and drums., Keith "Swanny"- Swanson, vocals, bouzouki, mandolin, pipes, and whistle, Billy Dominick- fiddle and backing vocals, Jimmy "Carbomb" Parkinson- whistle and banjo, Eric Worthington- Bass and backing vocals, Jeremy Berberian- drums.

That's a lot of instruments in the hands of very talented musicians and when you add in the voices you get magic. Kyf Brewer's voice is remarkable. Shades of Ronnie Drew, Shane McGowan, and Van the Man, but it is very much his own, crafted to deliver the songs he writes in the style he has written them, yes, that's what this band is all about - style.

6 Yanks, The Album

1. Misty Morning Miss'd. This short instrumental featuring Swanny on guitar is so sweet that I could listen to it forever, but it is the calm before the storm.

2. Pretty Wild Bride. The wedding Day, seen from the groom's point of view. Happiness is "a bottle of Meade and my Pretty Wild Bride."

3. Modern Pirates. This rollicking seafaring ditty features peg legs, kegs, tankards and lassies and ends up on the Rocky Road to Dublin - great stuff.

4. Love with a Priest. The priest in question is none other than Father Arthur Guinness, in this clever homage to the Pint - creamy white collar etc.

5. Real Old Mountain Dew. More drink in this traditional song which has been overdone by everybody, but there are a few surprises hidden in this version.

6. Beauty and Rum. Back to the sea for this sad reminiscence, but as usual, the lads put a sting in it's tail with a great version of Lord of the Dance on bagpipes...and I'm sure I heard goats bleating in there too....it must have been a wild party.

7. More Pipes. Rocking bagpipes in this instrumental that must be a crowd pleaser at live events

8. Tartan is the Colour of My True Loves Hair. This Highland love song is a great example of Kyf Brewer's way with words...its fun, its irreverent, and its great with lots of frolicking in the heather - featured drink - whiskey.

9. Tim Finnegan's Wake. Old favorite about the restorative power of whiskey. I prefer the songs they write themselves.

10. Dear Old Ireland. A great patriotic song that I haven't heard for years. Beautifully introduced and executed. Ireland boys Hurrah!

11. Whiskey, Baileys, Guinness. Back to the drink, with this great song. A prescription to ease the pain. I'm sure I hear Ronnie Drew in the background rocking harmonica and fiddle. if you like The Pogue's, you'll love this.

12. A Band's a Band for A That. An Anthem to the British Rock Invasion. This song requires attention and it has grown on me. Its probably the best song on the album.

13. The Bar I Loved, Remained. This is another funny little song. The girlfriend has left him and as he drowns his sorrow at his favorite barstool he muses, "Now the whiskey won't make me forget her -- but it's making her sister look better."

This is a terrific album, its full of the trademark Barleyjuice energy, gritty lyrics, tight harmonies, and driving rhythms. It is a fitting follow-up to last years album "Another Round" which has been my favorite since it was released, I am still waiting for Barleyjuice to

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# Careers

by James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



## Missing Ingredients: Creativity and Leadership, Part 2.

My April 2006 column provoked a great deal of reaction. To be totally honest, I had hoped that some people would have challenged the thesis that I addressed: namely, that perhaps the greatness of America can be seen only in our rear view mirrors. The April column addressed the concerns that David Halberstam postulated in his book, *The Next Century*. The vast majority of respondents said the column was "right on."

If we seriously believe that our greatness is behind us, how do we continue to function at a respectable level? We need to examine ourselves carefully to regain our drive and focus. We need to regain that great American spirit that put us in the same class with the great Roman and Greek societies. The simple statement that one was a Roman spoke volumes. The Spartans and Athenians knew they occupied a special place in the firmament. We need to remember we are the Yanks, the Americans. It is to our honor that we have become the most generous people in the world. No conquering power ever did for their beaten foes what we did for Europe after World War II.

I recently attended a seminar on fund raising that was facilitated by Larry Johnson, Vice President of Development for Joliet's Silver Cross Hospital. He said that in 2004 Americans contributed more than \$248 BILLION to charitable causes. More than 80% of that staggering amount of money was contributed by individuals. While watching a recent interview of Microsoft's Bill Gates, there was a small line of info crossing the bottom of the screen. It said that Mr. and Mrs. Gates have given their foundation over \$28 BILLION. Their foundation is focusing its attention on major life changing issues including the elimination of AIDS world wide and improving the study of Mathematics and Sciences in American high schools.

We are the country that sent the first men to the moon; the first to send probes to Mars and Jupiter. Our medical facilities are acclaimed around the world for their mastery; almost any important political or business leader, who takes ill, comes to the USA for treatment. Our graduate schools in engineering, medicine, law and business are the envy of the world. We are considering a wall at our borders to keep people out; people are willing to risk death to enter this country. But we need to recognize that we are blessed in this country. As a responsible society, we are obligated to pay back to our fellow inhabitants on this planet.

My concern is that we believe too much of our own public relations. The above achievements should be motivators for even more success in the future. We seem to have lost our desire to excel; that burning desire in our national gut. Remember that great scene from the movie, *Network*, where the anchor man says, go to your window and shout out in your loudest voice; I am not going to take it anymore. We need to be doing more of that; we need to stop complaining and refocus our individual and national goals on excellence. We need to be looking more positively at our situation

as a country and determine how to improve it.

The motto of the Christopher movement that was started by Father Keller years ago speaks to what's on my mind: "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness" Who among us wants to spend their days simply cursing the darkness?

We Americans are an extraordinarily talented and blessed people. Whether business people, educators, lawyers, doctors, auto workers, or IT types, we need to reaffirm our belief in this country by challenging the status quo all the time. Doing so is not without some risk. In many organizations the higher you go the more rigid and less flexible the environment becomes. I was stunned by what a senior partner of my former employer (one of the world's largest CPA firms) said about the lack of questioning he had experienced after addressing the firm's top 60 human resources executives. He said he was not surprised; the higher the level of the audience the fewer questions. His attitude made me wonder if he was smart enough to negotiate mid town traffic. He later became the firm's chairman.

Senator Orrin Hatch was the guest speaker at an intimate industry-focused meeting here in Chicago several years ago. When an attendee objected to some of the comments made by the eloquent Senator from Utah; Hatch appeared to be shocked that an ordinary citizen would challenge him. The challenger reminded the Senator that he works for us, not the other way around. It was done respectfully but clearly the challenger made his point; Senator, you folks in Washington need to listen to us citizens. Maybe this is an unfair analogy, the challenger knew that the Senator was not going to discharge or reassign him. But the lesson is still there, nobody is above criticism.

General Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently delivered the 2006 commencement address at the Citadel in South Carolina. He recounted the chewing out he got from his company commander in Vietnam, when he asked once too often for specific directions. The CO said that Pace was paid to make decisions; so go do it. Pace says he has spent the last 37 years living that advice. And yes, he has paid a price for his candor at times, but he has kept his honor intact while giving truthful advice and counsel to both his superiors and subordinates. Can we all say the same? Or do we hide behind the same litany of self serving excuses?

General Pace said that he has found that his subordinates will support him if he let's them know that he wants to know what they are thinking. They simply want him to know their thoughts; he doesn't have to implement all their ideas. From the boss' point of view, Pace stated the most basic tenet of leadership is that the superior must take care of those in his/her charge. At every level, you need to be cognizant of the obligation to speak up.

St. Ignatius of Loyola said, "Go forth and set the world on fire". How different is this admonition than an excerpt from Nelson Mandela's 1994 inaugural address 450 years later: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that

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### Birmingham Six member dies

Richard McIlkenny, one of the Birmingham Six wrongly imprisoned for IRA bombings in the 1970s has died in a Dublin hospital.

Six Irishmen were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1975 for pub bombings in Birmingham that killed 21 people, despite pleas that the confessions had been obtained through beatings. Mass public protests in Ireland and in England kept their case alive until August 1990, when forensic investigations showed

their confessions had been tampered with and they were freed in March 1991. They served 16 years. The six were Paddy Hill, Billy Power, Mr McIlkenny, Hugh Callaghan, Gerry Hunter and John Walker.

Mr. McIlkenny is survived by his wife Kathleen, his daughters and his only son, who were all at his bedside on Sunday in the James Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown when he died. Born in Belfast, Mr. McIlkenny was 73 years old.

### Careers ...cont'd

most frightens us. .... You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure among you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others'. Aren't these eloquent challenges to us all? When was the last time you allowed your "light" to shine?

Do we know what we intend to manifest at a personal level or a full blown national or global level? You might say that I am simply recommending that we view every problem as a challenge to be overcome. If so, you are right on target. We are not willing to speak our minds nearly enough. Perhaps you also received the admonition that my father shared with me, "Jim, don't ever bring up politics or religion in conversation." Dad was afraid it might offend someone. Aren't you willing to offend people who favor unjust and unfair treatment of their other fellow human beings?

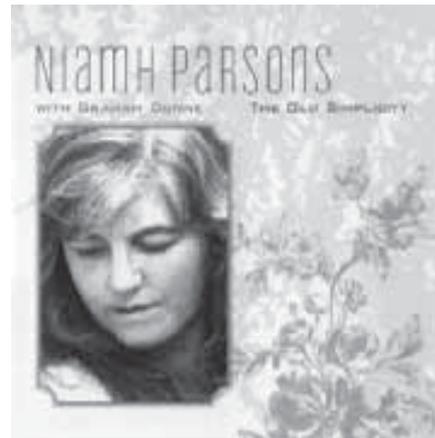
Some might say that this column is supposed to be about careers, why all the flag waving and ego boosting? I would counter that observation by indicating that we need to regain our "mojo" at every level. The above observations are as applicable to your day to day work as they are to global issues. The pursuit of excellence in creativity and leadership will bear great fruit to us all. Wouldn't your life or company be improved if you could organize and articulate effective strategies for their growth? Carpe Diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc; an Oak Brook based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone number: 630-684-2204. (NEW) email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net. Jim is on the Executive Committee of the Career Transitions Center of Chicago.

### The Old Simplicity CD

by Niamh Parsons with Graham Dunne  
www.greenlinnet.com

In her powerful new album The Old Simplicity, Irish singer Niamh Parsons (pronounced Neeve) takes on themes of war, injustice, aging and of course, love with her forthright nature and earthy voice. She says that "songs of war are also often love songs - war creates situations where love is both found and lost." She has collected songs from both contemporary and traditional sources for the album,



In The Old Simplicity, Niamh teams again with guitarist Graham Dunne, who contributes two lovely instrumentals to the recording, and producer Dennis Cahill. Cahill recorded the album in some of the city's top talent: John Williams (Solas), fiddler Liz Knowles (Cherish the Ladies), singer Kat Eggleston (Bohola), jazz bassist Larry Grey (Ramsey Lewis) and gypsy-violin player Steve Gibbons. Cahill, known for his duo with fiddler Martin Hayes, adds guitar and mandolin.

### Poem For Niamh Parsons

Why spin my ranns for other girls  
When Niamh is close beside?  
With her sweet face and her sweet voice,  
Yet I'm unsatisfied:  
If I don't tell her just how sweet  
And warm she makes me feel;  
O Niamh, you make my poor heart ache  
To think that you are real!

If I could pull some velvet words  
Down from the air to view,  
I'd range them all in order  
And I'd send them off to you.  
But, ach! I've never known you-  
It's your voice and your sweet way  
That makes me send this poem to you  
To cheer you on your way!  
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### Paddy Clancy Scholarship

\$1,500.00 Paddy Clancy Scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate students who wish to pursue studies related to Folk Song, Sean Nos, and Traditional Singing. The deadline for submission of the Paddy Clancy Scholarship Application plus all supporting documents is July 31, 2006. Awards will be announced on August 17th and will be issued by August 31, 2006. For more information contact John Gleeson, Department of Celtic Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at gleeson@uwm.edu.

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## Annual Fitzpatrick golf tournament raises \$250,000 for Irish charities

A spring tradition that began 13 years ago brought Irish and Irish American celebrities and dignitaries together for the Annual Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Golf Tournament, held Monday, May 15, at The Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford, NY. The outing, led by John Fitzpatrick, CEO,



Senator Hillary Clinton greeted by John Fitzpatrick prior to the event's kick-off breakfast.

Fitzpatrick Hotel Group N.A., raised \$250,000 for The Barretstown Camp and Corrymeela Reconciliation Center, both sponsored by the American Ireland Fund.

Notable guests and participants included U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton; former Irish soccer star and manager, Mick McCarthy; Consul General to Ireland, Tim O'Connor; Andy Pike, the British Consul for Northern Ireland; and NYPD's Manhattan borough chief, Bruce Smolka. Kingsley Aikins, CEO

of the American Ireland Fund, and Kieran McLoughlin, vice president and director of development of the American Ireland Fund also participated in the tournament.

Since its inception in 1993, \$1.1 million have been donated to Irish organizations, according to Fitzpatrick. The Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Golf Tournament honors the late father and mother of the Fitzpatrick family. For information regarding next year's event, please visit [www.fitzpatrick.golfreg.com](http://www.fitzpatrick.golfreg.com).



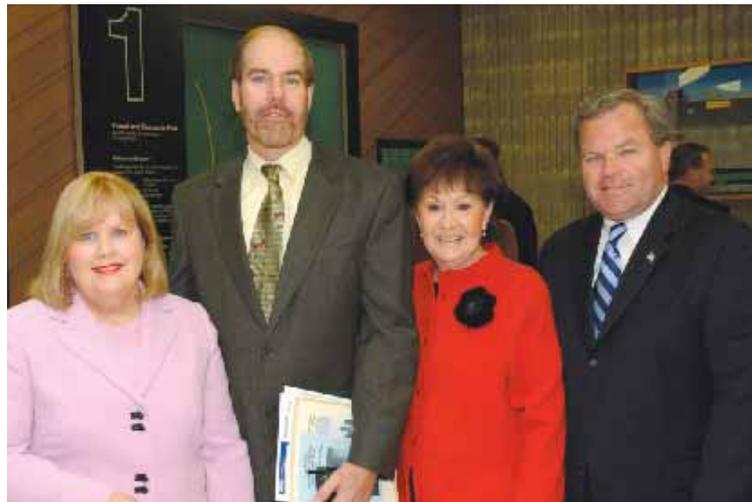
I-r: Joseph O'Reilly (Bank of Scotland-Ireland), Woody Collins and Ronan Collins (RTE Radio personality), Eithne Scott-Lennon (Fitzpatrick Castle, Managing Director and John's sister), and John Fitzpatrick (CEO - North America of the Fitzpatrick Hotel Group, N.A.)

## First phase tunnel is complete

A celebration marking the completion of the 109.4 miles long tunnel phase of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan was held recently at the Mainstream Pumping Station in Hodgkins, Illinois.

Many dignitaries were on hand. Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago explained, "the system captures

the combined sewer overflow and sends it to a reservoir, where it is pumped to a treatment plant, treated and released after the storm". President O'Brien went on to say that the Deep Tunnel Flood Control Project started back in 1976. This is the first phase of this 3 billion dollar project. The next project will be completed 17 years from now.



(I-r) MWRD Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany, Mike Flannery of WBBM TV, Channel 2 News Commissioner Gloria Alitto Majewski and MWRD President Terrence J. O'Brien

## Celtic Woman & Ronan Tynan one show only

The international Irish music sensation, Celtic Woman, will play in Chicago for one performance only on July 11 at 7:30 P.M. at Charter One Pavilion at Northerly Island. They welcome very special guest and famed Irish tenor, Ronan Tynan.

Celtic Woman features 5 beautiful performers: 4 gifted vocalists Chloe, Lisa, Orla and Meav -- and Mairead, a brilliant fiddler. The group has made a tremendous impression on US audiences, quickly selling out shows at major venues such as Carnegie Hall over the past year. Ronan Tynan's singular voice and irresistible appeal have led him to strike out on his own, resulting in a successful and meaningful solo career.

Tickets are available at the Charter One Pavilion Box Office, all Ticketmaster Outlets, online at [www.LiveNation.com](http://www.LiveNation.com), [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone at 312-559-1212. Proceeds from Charter One Pavilion will support the development of Northerly Island Nature Park. The Chicago Park District welcomes suggestions to shape Northerly Island into a world-class nature park for all Chicagoans to enjoy.

## Commission a painting from Tom Joyce



Derek Warfield formerly of the Wolfstones. oil on canvas - 16" x 20"

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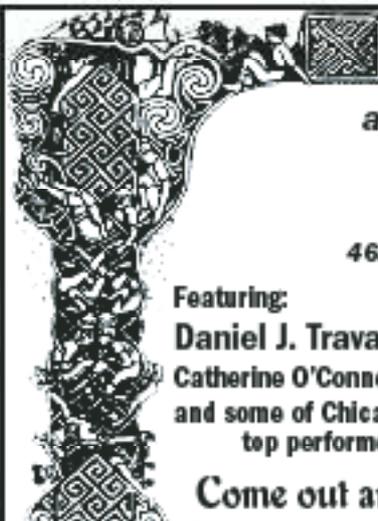
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# Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.  
Senior Partner



is like a random lottery, virtually unrelated to whether the claim has merit," said lead author David Studert, Associate Professor of Law and Public Health at The Harvard School of Public Health. "These findings cast doubt on that view by showing that most malpractice claims involve medical error and serious injury and claims with merit are far more likely to be paid than claims without merit."

Dr. William Sage, a Professor of Law at Columbia University in New York City, added: "these findings are absolutely no surprise to any of us in the policy community. They are consistent with everything we suspect and learned from research over the last twenty years which is that the major problem out there is that there are medical errors that are not compensated rather than frivolous claims that are compensated."

In addition to the main talking points, the study found that 80% of claims involved major disability or death. However, only 56% of all

claimants receive compensation. Of all injury claims, 63% were found to be the result of medical error. The researchers found that one in six claimants whose injuries were caused by medical error did not receive any compensation. Nonpayment of claims where error was involved occurred more often than payments for injuries where error was not apparent.

The insurance industry has used scare tactics to force the legislature into enacting law which now limits an injured patient's right to recover. For example, claims that doctors are leaving the state in droves due to the high cost of malpractice insurance in Illinois are unfounded. According to the American Medical Association, there are more doctors in Illinois today than there were ten years ago. The same is true for emergency room physicians, whose numbers have doubled in Illinois in the last thirteen years.

In the mid-90's, pro-insurance lobbyists were successful in pushing

through legislation in Illinois that significantly impaired an injured persons right to recover. After two years of litigation, that law was held unconstitutional. Eventually the current law will be tested in the courts and a determination will be made whether this limitation on an injured patient's right to recover will pass constitutional muster.

By: Jack Cannon, The Healy Law Firm



Jack Cannon is an associate attorney with The Healy Law Firm. He has been representing injured parties in the State of Illinois for fourteen years.

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 nine 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](http://www.HealyLawFirm.com). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

## Frivolous Malpractice Lawsuits Uncommon: Harvard Study

There has been a great deal of publicity recently about doctors leaving the state as a result of frivolous medical malpractice lawsuits. In fact the publicity has reached such a crescendo that the Illinois Legislature recently passed a bill placing caps, or limits, on medical malpractice verdicts. The underlying basis for the bill was that insurance companies were forced into doubling and tripling doctor's malpractice insurance premiums due to an epidemic of frivolous lawsuits being filed. A recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine indicates that this is not the case.

The study, which was conducted by researchers at the Harvard School

of Public Health, found that most malpractice claims are meritorious, with 97% of claims involving medical injury. The press release from Harvard headlined: "Study casts doubt on claims that the medical malpractice system is plagued by frivolous lawsuits." In addition, the study found that very few claims are paid where there is no error made on the part of doctors. The study also found that the incidents where patients are seriously injured by medical negligence without receiving any compensation are a far bigger problem than that of cases without merit receiving compensation.

"Some critics have suggested that the malpractice system is inundated with groundless lawsuits, and that whether a plaintiff recovers money



## IAHC art exhibit celebrates Irish traditional music

The Irish American Heritage Center is proud to present the pastel paintings and drawings of artist, Alice McMahon White to coincide with the Irish American Heritage Festival. Her exhibit, Green Groves of Erin, runs from June 15-July 10 in the IAHC Gallery.

Alice McMahon White's paintings and drawings are a celebration of a culture caught between the ancient and the modern and of the Diaspora in Chicago. She lives in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago, has a studio in the Fine Arts Building and is a member of the Fine Arts Building Gallery. Her portraits and landscapes are in numerous collections and have been exhibited and won awards in regional, national and international exhibitions. She studied art at St. Xavier University.

Green Groves of Erin runs from June 15-July 10 on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm and during the week by appointment. The exhibit is free and open to the public. There will be a free opening night reception with traditional Irish music by dulcimer musician, David James, on Friday, June 16 from 5pm to 8pm.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60630. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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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



Hunger. The word strikes fear in the hearts of parents or anyone on the edge of poverty. It is a daily reality for the homeless. For low and minimum wage families and workers, the threat of hunger is constant. For seniors, it is downright dangerous.

Those who survived the Great Depression or a major recession remember a time of unemployment or family crisis when you weren't sure if you would have enough money for food after the rent, the utilities and the medical bills were paid. Maybe you skipped meals or ate less so your children could eat. Today this is known as "food insecurity."

According to the nationwide study of families receiving charitable food assistance that was done by America's Second Harvest Network: "Hunger in America 2006," 31.6 percent of the families were forced to choose between buying food and paying for medical care or medicine.

And right now, 38 million Americans aren't sure where or when they will get their next meal.

Hunger and food insecurity know no race, age, religion or nationality. Since 1917, hungry men, women and children have come to Catholic Charities to be fed. Today, nutritious food is an important part of most of our 168 programs.

For one man, hunger remains an unforgettable experience that has forever shaped his life and values. Anthony De Santis has been a well-known and respected restaurateur and owner/producer of the famous Drury Lane Theatres in the Chicago area for more than 50 years. Born to poor, hard-working immigrant parents, Tony has never forgotten that "pain in the pit of his stomach" so familiar to him as a child.

For almost 60 years, without fanfare and with steadfast charity, Tony De Santis has sent fresh fruits, vegetables and meals to our shelters, meal programs, soup kitchens, homes for mothers recovering from addiction and their children who live with them, and recovery homes for men. For decades, he has been a consistent

and generous supporter of our Emergency Assistance Program, which runs 12 food pantries for poor and hungry families and individuals in the poorest Chicago neighborhoods, every suburban region, and Lake County. Tony's first priority, after his family, has been to feed poor and hungry families, children, seniors and individuals and those recovering from addiction. Hardly a person or program at Catholic Charities has not been touched by his generosity.

Tony's care for his hungry brothers and sisters is an expression of Christ's own love for and identification with the poor and hungry.

"Lord, when did I see you hungry and give you something to eat?"

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25)

This spring, with characteristic greatness of heart, Tony has done a remarkable thing to help his hungry brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Chicago. He has made a donation of \$1 million to Catholic Charities—a gift unprecedented in our history—so that we can continue to feed the hungry.

Regardless of our resources, all of us can do something to fight hunger and help our neighbor. On Tuesday, June 6, National Hunger Awareness Day, and throughout the month of June, I invite you our readers, to directly help the 870,000 poor and hungry people who come to our doors each year by contributing food for our food pantries, shelters, Emergency Service Centers, and our supper programs.

You can take a big step against hunger by joining our 3rd Annual "Mary Jane Murphy Walk Against Hunger," starting out at 11 a.m. on June 6 from the B'hai Temple in Wilmette and proceeding to the Catholic Charities Tuesday Night Dinner for the Hungry and Award Celebration at our St. Vincent Center, 721 N. LaSalle Street in Chicago's River North area at 5 p.m.

There I will have the privilege of bestowing the Inaugural "The

Anthony De Santis Award" on four local heroes for their extraordinary efforts to fight hunger and help the hungry: Jeanie Moysey, who founded Catholic Charities' annual "Walk Against Hunger" in honor of her mother; Larry Wert, President and General Manager of NBC5 Chicago; Diahann Sinclair of Pullman Bank and Trust; and Michael Mulqueen, retired Executive Director of the Chicago Food Depository.

Please help Catholic Charities feed the hungry by donating non-perishable boxed or canned food and meat to our Emergency Centers in Chicago, South Holland, Des Plaines, Cicero or Waukegan. Or you can sponsor one of our four Evening Suppers for the poor; hold a food drive in your parish or office; or volunteer by calling (312) 655-7315. For more information, visit our web site at [www.catholiccharities.net/hungerday](http://www.catholiccharities.net/hungerday).

On behalf of the thousands of hungry and food-insecure mothers and children, seniors, families, homeless and destitute people we feed every day, I thank you. God bless!

## Two officers earn Distinguished Service Award

Mark Donahue, President, and Frank DiMaria, 2nd. Vice President, of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7 recently presented the Distinguished Service Awards to Chicago Police Officers Thomas McNichols and Michael Chuchro.

Officers McNichols and Chuchro responded to a traffic crash and found a vehicle struck a light pole. The driver was pinned in the vehicle and two passengers were ejected from the vehicle, lying in the street in very

serious condition. Officer McNichols had been a licensed paramedic and immediately went to the aid of the two passengers until ambulances arrived. When the ambulances did arrive they were short handed and McNichols and Chuchro stayed to help. All three victims were transported in critical condition, but due to the quick response of Officers McNichols and Chuchro and their willingness to act, all are expected to recover from their injuries.



(l-r) V.P. Frank DiMaria, Officers Thomas McNichols and Michael Chuchro, and F.O.P. President, Mark Donahue.

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# MICK

By Mike Morley



## "Kayo Dugan is dead"

On May 15 National Public Radio carried two reports on Northern Ireland. The first, titled: "Flare up of Sectarian Tensions in Northern Ireland" noted the first meeting of the Stormont legislature in four years, saying "it was shut down in 2002 because Catholics and Protestants couldn't agree on how to go forward; and they still don't."

Correspondent Matthew Bell reported that the session opened with a minute of silence for 15 year old Michael McIlveen, "murdered in a sectarian attack". This was one of the few mentions of his brutal murder anywhere in U.S. media. McIlveen, a St. Patrick's high school student in Ballymena, after visiting a movie theatre with friends, stopped for some pizza on the way home. They were attacked

and chased by a large band of Protestant youths. Michael was cornered by an estimated dozen attackers who beat him with a baseball bat, kicked him, and stomped on his head. He struggle home, but died in hospital the next day, his family around his bedside.

One boy interviewed on the NPR/BBC report said: "Religion can cost you your life. You might as well draw a line in the street, and if you cross it, you're in trouble".

Bell said: "Police are worried about reprisal attacks" then quoted former Ballymena mayor James Curry: "Ballymena has never been known as a center for sectarian violence. He says the town was relatively peaceful during the darkest days of the troubles". Curry: "Somehow, now that the troubles are over, sectarianism has started to raise its ugly head". Bell: "Curry says shadowy, Mafia-like organizations on both sides of the Catholic-Protestant divide still fan the flames of sectarianism". Bell concluded his report on Stormont, including the mandatory British phrase: "Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army."

Next up came a report titled "Britain's Struggles with the IRA", which began: "At first the British used tough, special tactics to try and squash the threat from the IRA. But, as time went on, British officials decided it was better to rely on the country's regular criminal code". We then hear from Prof. Mari FitzDuff of Brandeis, who worked with the British Army in Northern Ireland directing the "Community Relations Council". She tells us the army lost all goodwill they had with the Catholic population when they imposed four years of internment without trial.

The reporter asks if the U.S. "would be willing to use the British experience with the IRA as a model for how to deal with Al Quaida. FitzDuff says "many in the British Army have urged that the American approach be completely rethought".

The twin BBC/NPR reports were an adroit spin on unwelcome news about Northern Ireland. But to straighten out the corkscrew tale, one would have to know that the minute of silence in the Assembly was called for by Sinn Fein, and that Stormont was not shut down for four years "because

Catholics and Protestants could not agree," but rather because Ian Paisley's party, helped by dirty tricks attributed to security forces, refused to take part; just as they do today. Omitted was the key political Stormont news of the day- Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine decided to throw his one swing vote over to the Ulster Unionist Party, giving them the balance of power in a heretofore equally balanced assembly, and snatching a ministerial post from Sinn Fein.

But had NPR made mention of the PUP deal, would Ervine's party have been labeled "the political wing of the UVF"? Most Americans, misinformed for decades, wouldn't know the UVF from the UAW anyway.

No mention either that Ballymena, where the McIlveen boy was so brutally murdered in a town center festooned with union jacks and UDA\UFF symbols is Ian Paisley's home base, a no-go area for Catholics. On Easter Saturday, another young nationalist from the same Dunclug estate as McIlveen was beaten and stabbed in the town's Tower shopping centre. Kirk McCaughren, 20, suffered a punctured lung in the daylight attack. Incredibly, police charged him with "causing an affray", but filed no charge against any of up to a dozen assailants. The assertions by former mayor Curry that sectarianism is new to Ballymena were not only ludicrous, but were aired without comment or challenge from a news team that can only be complicit or naïve.

There are reliable sources that occasionally report unbiased news from the UK. The BBC is one of them, along with the Guardian. But those stories are almost never carried by U.S. editors despite (or because of) the large Irish population here.

Here's the Irish News on the boy's murder: "There have been a number of similar, though less serious, assaults in Ballymena in recent months. The town, which is DUP leader Ian Paisley's home constituency, is noted for its bitter sectarianism and has been the scene for numerous attacks on the Catholic minority who live there. Hollywood actor Liam Neeson is probably Ballymena's most famous son. However, on being offered 'Freedom of the town of Ballymena' by Ballymena Borough Council, his subsequent comments that he had felt like a 'second-class citizen' growing up in the town, resulted in the offer

being withdrawn by the DUP-dominated council."

NPR's second report (on Britain vs. the IRA), admits internment camps for the Irish were a mistake. Better to rely on "the regular criminal code" - perhaps a reference to classifying political prisoners as criminals- Thatcher's policy that led to 10 dead on hunger strike.

It concludes by equating the IRA with Al Quaida. Bad news about a gang of Protestants committing murder has been brought onstage briefly, taken a bow, and been replaced by "the usual suspects". For a kicker we are urged to take the intelligent British approach to war against terrorists- Very neat propoganda, very professional, but typical. Don't think so?

So as not to single out the NPR/BBC America coverage, let's look at how the prestigious Washington Post played the events. Here's the Post's Kevin Sullivan, May 16; Page A12. On the assembly: "A previous assembly... governed Northern Ireland until October 2002, when it collapsed over an Irish Republican Army spying scandal." On the majority Irish nationalist party, a short, boiler plate "there is no other way forward" quote from: "Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein, the political affiliate of the Irish Republican Army..."

The only other mention of the party supported by the majority of Irish Catholic nationalists is in seven wrap-up paragraphs devoted to the DUP leader: "Paisley sat impassively as Adams and McGuinness, who Paisley has called terrorists and killers, sat barely 10 feet away."

The murdered Catholic teen (the third young Catholic murdered in the past nine months) was given a one sentence mention, seven paragraphs into the "news" piece. Now consider how negative news for Britain originating on this side of the Atlantic is played here.

"U.S. House urges Britain to probe Finucane murder Thursday May 18, 07:22 PM WASHINGTON (Reuters)

"The U.S. House of Representatives called on Britain on Thursday to comply with an agreement with Ireland and start a full investigation of the 1989 murder of Northern Ireland attorney Pat Finucane.

The House voted 390-5 for a resolution urging Britain to establish a full "independent public judicial" inquiry into the murder of Finucane, a human rights attorney gunned down in his home in Belfast in front of his wife and three children.

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Some human rights groups have connected loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces with the murder as part of Northern Ireland's 30-year sectarian conflict.

In 2001, the British and Irish governments jointly appointed Peter Cory, a retired justice of Canada's Supreme Court, to determine whether independent commissions should investigate possible state-sponsored collusion in six murders, including Finucane's.

Cory made his recommendation for an inquiry commission, but the British government instead said it would conduct a more limited probe of Finucane's slaying.

New Jersey Republican Rep. Chris Smith, who sponsored the measure, said he hoped "our combined efforts here and in the Republic of Ireland will move the British government to finally live up to their agreement ... and help secure public and international confidence in the Northern Ireland peace process."

Now, that's a story right out of your own U.S. Congress. By an overwhelming vote- 390 for, 5 against-U.S. lawmakers challenged a foreign ally to come clean and do its duty as a "democracy". Did you read about it? If so, where?

After the vote, the story was flashed (co-opted?) by London-based Reuters. It then appeared in numerous British and Irish press reports, as well as on U.S. government websites. But a week after the event I still haven't turned up a single mention of the story by any American news organization, be it in Boston MA. or Bummerville CA. Maybe I'm mistaken on this one. If you turn up any U.S. news references, let me know. "Turn up?" perhaps the entire U.S. fifth estate was actually transformed into turnips for a day.

Silence like this speaks volumes.

The Rev. Ian Paisley stood for a minute of it at the reopening of the Northern Ireland Assembly. A minister of church as well as state, Paisley rules over North Antrim, the only constituency in Northern Ireland that voted against the Belfast Agreement. Catholics are a distinct minority in the 70% Protestant area.

There were UK news reports that Paisley, in a gesture of compassion toward the McIlveens, reached out to heal the wounds a constituent Catholic family shattered by Protestant hatred and violence, Said Ireland's RTE: "The DUP confirmed tonight that party leader and local MP, Rev Ian Pais-

ley, visited the house of murdered teenager, Michael McIlveen in Ballymena on Sunday night and prayed with his family." But the Guardian wasn't buying it. The British paper reported that Paisley merely "rang them to offer sympathy and condemn the attack."

The murdered boy's family personally invited Paisley to attend the funeral. His uncle, Francis McIlveen, said Paisley would be "more than welcome". It was yet another chance for the reverend MP to take the high road.

There was much speculation whether Paisley would actually attend the funeral, putting at risk the support of his anti-Catholic flock.

Liam Clarke reported in Ireland's Sunday Times: "Ian Paisley is likely to attend the funeral of Michael McIlveen... according to close associates. A senior member of his Free Presbyterian church has said there is no theological or doctrinal reason why the Democratic Unionist party leader should not walk in the funeral cortege and stand at the graveside, as long as he does not attend mass or enter a Catholic church".

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the DUP: "I am sure that Ian and the party would want to associate themselves in whatever way they can."

Suzanne Breen in the Sunday Tribune was more guarded: "Senior DUP sources said Paisley, the local MP, would have "absolutely no problem" attending the funeral except that it's likely to be held tomorrow or Tuesday when the Stormont Assembly is in session after its four-year suspension."

Paisley apparently could use the assembly to get off the hook. But then police were late in releasing the boy's body to the family. The funeral was rescheduled to Wednesday.

When the day came, Paisley, true to form, did what he has always done for the funerals of Catholics murdered by Loyalists, the same he did for the three young Quinn boys aged 7, 9 and 11, burned to death during July 12 Orange Order "protests" in 1998.

He claimed to have urgent business in London. As the funeral proceeded amid reports of stoning and harassment of mourners, Paisley stood in Commons to echo the "concerns" of Ballymena's chief of police Terry Shevlin that Protestants might be attacked.

Despite the fact that Catholics in Ballymena are outnumbered five to one and dread to use public services located mostly in "no go" areas for Catholics, Paisley asked Tony Blair: "In order to prevent

any retaliation, will the prime minister back the police by giving them the men who are needed to do the job...?" Blair replied that he would indeed support the police.

Ray Gillespie, Paisley's DUP councilor in Ballymena was more honest: "I won't be going to the funeral. Stepping foot in a Catholic church is against my religious beliefs. The Pope is the Antichrist and is the head of the Catholic church, which is not a true church or faith... As a Catholic, he [Michael McIlveen] won't get into heaven unless he has been saved... Catholics are not accepted into heaven."

A sup of soup would have saved this boy from Hell.

I am reminded of Father Barry, Karl Malden's character in my favorite film: "On the Waterfront". Writer Budd Schulberg relied on the real waterfront priest, Rev. John M. Corridan, S.J. for the character and the actual dialogue.

I would recommend to members of the press the famous scene down in the hold of the Irish ship, where Kayo Dugan lay dead.

"Dropping a sling on Kayo Dugan... that's a crucifixion."

Every time the mob puts the crusher on a good man- tries to stop him from doing his duty as a citizen - it's a crucifixion.

The only way to break the mob is to stop letting them get away with murder.

And anybody who sits around and lets it happen, keeps silent about something he knows has happened- shares the guilt of it...

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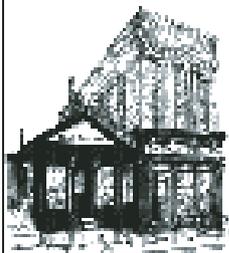
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# For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



Fr. Gerald Fogarty R.I.P. passed away on 4/28 in his 73rd year, of cancer, in the Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio, TX. He was one of four sons of the late Paddy and Katty Kennedy Fogarty, ex-Laois and Limerick. He had served in parish work in Mercedes, Corpus Christi, Del Rio and San Antonio. His missionary work took him to the barrios of Mexico City and Tehuantepec, Oaxaca where he developed a comprehensive catechetical program for the diocese of Salina Cruz. Upon his return to the US he was especially devoted to people with chemical dependency and was tirelessly available to those needing counseling and support. In later years he served in retreat centers in Dickinson, TX and Marrero, LA. Gentle pastoral care characterized his priestly life. He passed away attended by his fellow priests and his brother Eugene and sister-in-law Eliza. Fr. Gerald, my cousin, entered the seminary from Chicago south side's Leo high school.

Tom Joyce R.I.P passed away on April 23 in Bradenton FL in his 98th year. He was a life-long promoter of All-Ireland national self-determination. During the 1980s he was active in Illinois campaigns for the Birmingham Six, the MacBride Principles, Joe Doherty, etc. Born in Westport, Co. Mayo, he came to Chicago with his mother when he was fourteen. He became a ranked handball player. As a champion welterweight boxer he traveled with the US boxing team to Paris, London and Cairo. After TB cut short his boxing career he entered DePaul Law School where he coached the campus boxing team. For 60 years in the practice of law, first in the Illinois Attorney General's office and later in private practice, he championed the underdog. Tom's wife Nancy and four children did him proud at the obsequies. Thanks to Gerry O'Loughlin and his step-dancers who added beauty to Tom's wake. Also to P.J. O'Dea who arranged for a Sheriff's police escort of the funeral and for a piper to attend Tom's last earthly journey. Ditto Pat Cloonan and Albert Neary for their reels, jigs and hornpipes at the post-funeral reception. Paying his respects at Tom's wake was

the Honorable John McNamara who led the Illinois MacBride campaign.

Leo High School, the alma mater of Fr. Gerald and thousands of south siders, remains an inspiration. Though its student body is entirely African-American (of whom 93% go on to college) it is largely funded by ex-alums. For an inspiring account of Leo High read *Every Heart and Hand*, by Pat Hickey (AuthorHouse; 2005). On the book's cover Pat has written; "This is the greatest story never told. The guys who attended Leo High School are too busy doing to have time to do any telling. The story of the support for a school that everyone but Leo Men predicted would close or should be closed is a great Chicago story, a great human story, and a real American story. Not having graduated from Leo, I am free to make a big deal of what goes on at 79th and Sangamon on the south side of Chicago." For a copy of that inspiring book phone Leo High School, 773 224 9600.

Help stop genocide. Phone Sens. Durbin and Obama and your congressman. Courteously request that they stop the slaughter in Darfur. Also request that they cease abetting and funding Israel's genocide of the Palestinians. Since electing Hamas, Palestine's population has been systematically starved. This "Final Solution" by Zionists facilitates their usurpation of Palestinian lands and houses and is implemented by our taxes. Decent persons cannot stand by, silent, while the world's new Nazis, the current Israeli regime, wipes out the Palestinian people. But beware attributing Zionism's genocidal policies to all Jews. There is far more truth and decency re Palestinians in Knesset debates and in Israeli newspapers such as Ha'aretz than in our Congress and "mainstream" news media. Do not be the CHILD that Republican Greece once defined as "any person uninvolved in the policies of his time." Be able to tell your offspring that you were not silent, but spoke up against the genocides of your time.

How much control does the Israeli gov't exert over our news media and gov't? Sharon infamously claimed that Israel controls the

U.S. gov't. By means of AIPAC bribes, much of our total foreign aid goes to Israel, and much of the remainder of it goes to Egypt for kowtowing to Israel. So it appears that our taxes go for Israeli rather than U.S. benefit. When that rare entity, a Jewish US soldier, was killed early in W's war on Iraq, the soldier's mother was reported saying that he had given his life for Israel. She was correct, of course. Aside from the oil companies, our war on Iraq benefits only Israel. Israeli Vs Palestinian policy follows the pattern of British Vs Occupied Irish. In both cases those who perpetrate the overwhelming percentage of terrorist murders label their victims "the terrorists." In both cases the news media abet the actual State murders, cover them up, while falsely attributing terrorism to the victims. In both cases our Congress and White House respond to the Big Lie as if were the truth and allocate yet more of our taxes to the murderers.

What a change! America's traditional anti-Semites now support Israeli expansionism while those who used to champion the Jews now speak up for the Palestinians. The change is starkest in Occupied Ireland whose Irish always identified with the Jews, while its "Loyalists" identified with, and were supported by, Brit Neo-Nazis. In recent years Belfast's Irish neighborhoods have taken to flying the Palestinian flag while the Loyalists fly the Star of David. This resulted in the Loyalists getting a letter from Britain's infamous Neo-Nazi Combat 18 (1 for the first letter in the alphabet, A, for Adolph, and 8 for the eighth letter, H, for Hitler. The letter referred to the many years of Neo-Nazi support for the Loyalists, how it had always championed Loyalists against the "Niggers." It then asked how Loyalists could fly the Star of David while continuing to expect Combat 18 support. According to the Combat 18 letter, "Nigger" describes not only Africans but also Jews and Irish. Let us acknowledge that it is an honor to be the target of a slur from the likes of Combat 18. And how fitting that the Neo-Nazi-supported-Loyalists fly the Star of David throughout their districts. There is little difference between the British and Israeli armies. Both are criminal operations, made successful by the news media.

Rachel Corrie, a young American, was murdered by an Israeli soldier. She was a member of the

International Solidarity Movement of heroic young people bearing witness to Israeli gov't crimes against Palestinians. In March, 2003, she stood between an Israeli army D9 tractor and the house of an Israeli doctor and his family. Corrie was acting as a "human shield" protecting the house and the family within it. This demolition was to make way for Israel's illegal apartheid wall that is built entirely on land being robbed from Palestinians. Thus, Rachel was acting as the conscience of mankind. Though she was standing on a pile of rubble and wearing Day-Glo orange, the Israeli soldier ran his D9 over her and then back-bladed her. Dead within minutes, she has become the personification of youthful virtue against evil (despite the U.S. news media's smears against her).

"My name is Rachel Corrie," the play, was staged at London's Royal Court Theater last year to great acclaim. Two months ago it won three Theatergoers Choice Awards in London - Best New Play, Best Solo Performance, and Best Director. Then, last March, the play was scheduled to open in New York. But America, "the Land of the Free," is now less free than London is, as New York theatergoers will not be allowed to see what so thrilled British audiences. In a brazen act of cowardice the New York Theatre Workshop cancelled the play. It is important to note that the clout-heavy censors weren't theatergoers or even Jewish theatergoers. It was politicians, politicians in Israel, who were so powerful as to be able to reach all the way to New York to thus deprive Americans of their freedoms. Ariel Sharon was not idly boasting when he publicly claimed that Israel controls the US gov't.

\$11 Billion more for Israel? That is the sum, in addition to the annual \$3 billion we already give, that Israel has asked from the US gov't, to defray the cost of evacuating "settlers" from the Palestinian property they had been occupying in defiance of international law.

We're all proud, along with long-time Irish activist Catherina Wojtowicz (whose mother is a Barry). The Daily Southtown recently did a story on Donald Wojtowicz, Catherina's father, Donald, a retired Chicago cop and now a Dept of Aviation security officer, found a vacuum-sealed wad of cash totaling \$320,000 on a tarmac at Midway Airport.

Donald promptly turned it in. The cash turned out to be the property of the Federal Reserve Bank. Later, he said; "Keeping it never entered my mind." The Southtown suggested that a finder's fee is in order. Ain't that the truth! He brings honor not only to himself and his family, but also to the Chicago Police Dept, and Dept. of Aviation. He reminds us of the Chicago and US that were once so respected. His act demonstrates how community respect could, indeed, be recovered if we all, especially pols, would perform in such law-abiding fashion.

Bush law. Bush keeps saying that his main responsibility is to protect us. Has he forgotten that he actually swore to defend the Constitution and to "faithfully execute the laws," and that had he done so we would be best protected? He has become a dictator. Nearly every one of his official deeds violates the law. The number of recently enacted U.S. laws he has broken surpasses 750 according to The Boston Globe's Charles Savage. Bush claims he has the power to ignore any law enacted by congress if it conflicts with his interpretation of the Constitution. He signals which new law he intends to violate by uttering one of his infamous "signing statements." Thus, he doesn't even bother to hide his crimes. By initiating his unprovoked war against Iraq he has perpetrated the Supreme Crime defined at Nuremberg as encompassing within itself all resultant deaths and losses. By converting the proud U.S. into an official torture nation our Deserter-in-Chief has henceforth exposed our soldiers to similar torture. His threats to nuke Iran and his other belligerencies have made a rogue State of the once respected US. He will be impeached; but not for the Supreme Crime. Why not? Because the cowardly Dems were his accomplices. Instead, they will impeach him for his domestic spying, or torture, or some of his lesser crimes. Pity the benighted. Bush's main base, the Rapturists, still believe he will bring Armageddon. Meanwhile, the gullible of the pro-lifers believed he is one of them. He responded by trying to privatize their social security.

Which Brit Reg't starved your relatives? See [irishholocaust.org](http://irishholocaust.org).

Who are the terrorists re Occupied Ireland? See [terrorismireland.org](http://terrorismireland.org).

Corrections are invited to 312 664 7651 or [fogarty@ix.netcom.com](mailto:fogarty@ix.netcom.com).

# We Get Letters

## Peter King - Still Irish America's Champion

Throughout his career, Congressman Peter King, at great political risk, stood with the Irish American community, and the nationalist people of Ireland, when politicians in Hyannisport, Washington, Dublin and London were running for cover. Unfortunately, some in our community have quickly forgotten his staunch comradeship and support. This memory challenged minority also seems to suffer from a political, cultural, and economic myopia when it comes to the interests of our homeland, the United States.

It is timely that United Flight 93 is showing in movie theaters. The film is a much needed reminder of the devastating Sept 11 attacks. The perpetrators were greatly facilitated by 40 years of debilitating multiculturalism, a naive political correctness, unenforced immigration laws and our unprotected borders. Irish Americans were heavily represented among the fatalities at the Towers, the Pentagon and on Flight 93 itself. Certainly, the casualty list of the FDNY reads like an Ancient Order of Hibernian's membership roster. About fifty per cent of the firefighters, who perished, were members of the FDNY Emerald society. The enemy visited loss and grief on many Irish American homes that day.

Further plots, disrupted since Sept 11, reveal that the enemy continues to take advantage of our dysfunctional immigration system. Peter King's HR 4437 is necessary anti terrorist legislation, which would be essential in preventing another attack. Aside from the security issues, polls consistently demonstrate that American citizens are increasingly concerned about the adverse effects that uncontrolled, unregulated irrational immigration is having on our nation's culture, economy, academic competitiveness and standard of living. The latest polls indicate that H.R. 4437 enjoys the support of the vast majority of American voters. It is favored 2 to 1 over the Senate's legislation Pete King's bill by bringing order and rationality, would recapture, and preserve, our nation's cultural, economic and intellectual integrity.

HR. 4437 is not anti Irish legislation, despite the best efforts of the unrepresentative, though disproportionately vocal, Irish left to paint it so. Resolving the undocumented Irish problem need not be an insurmountable challenge. The out of status Irish came here legally through an immigration control point. They speak English. Being natives of a similar Western democratic, Judeo-Christian culture,

they have assimilated readily. Indeed, they are almost indistinguishable from their

Irish American cousins. Educated and skilled, they have become productive members of our nation's economy. They are not dependants of our over generous welfare system.

In this era, when Western civilization is under assault from radical Islam, it makes perfect sense for countries like the United States, Ireland, Britain, Australia, and others, to have their common foundation and purpose tangibly manifested in a relatively unrestricted, interactive, residency arrangement. Resolving the Irish immigration problem is not irreconcilable with the objectives of HR 4437.

The 1965 Kennedy Immigration Act perpetrated a grievous act of discrimination when it locked the Irish, British, Italians, Polish, and Germans among others - essentially potential immigrants from the old mother countries - out of our immigration pool. Under the current admissions system, it is almost impossible for somebody from one of these countries to immigrate legally. Whatever legislation arrives on the President's desk - and we are confident that it will contain the essentials of HR 4437 - must contain a provision which will rectify this discrimination. It is only logical and just that there should be room in our immigration pool for our friends and allies, especially for well-educated, English - speaking immigrants, who are perfectly assimilable. In an era of increasing global competition, our immigration policy must also accommodate the best that the rest of the world has to offer.

For countless years, when things were "hot" in the Northern Irish statelet, Pete King stood with us. Now, it is incumbent upon us Irish Americans, naturalized and native born alike, to stand with Pete, in his efforts to secure our homeland, the United States, and to preserve and promote its cultural, economic and intellectual interests. Patrick Hurley, Queens Co. GOP, Co. founder Irish Immigration Reform Movement - 1987

## International festival in Indiana

Less than an hour from Chicago, Northwest Indiana will be hosting the first NWI International Festival at Sunset Hill County Park. The 235-acre park located at the intersection of US Highway 6 and Meridian Road in Valparaiso will play host to several mini countries offering many ethnic backgrounds to celebrate their heritage at the same time. Each mini country will have music, dance, food, merchandise and beverages representative of their culture. This year the countries being highlighted are America, Europe, and Ireland.

The Gaelic Area brings back to the Friday night performance, Kennedy's Kitchen out of South Bend. They offer a myriad of entertainment including dance, pipes, traditional and today's Irish music. Saturday's line up begins at noon with Hogeye Navvy. Emcee Sean McRactagan will keep the pace as he directs the terrific well know Irish bands. Back again is New Element from Northwest Indiana and the

Dear Editor.

After perusing through the pages of May's edition of IAN I finally came to Chris Fogarty's section "For the Republic" you know the section, it's the one that after reading it makes you feel quite down and ill for the rest of the day.

I was quite amazed that out of seventeen items only nine were Irish related, that's close to 50% of the whole column, what is going on Chris, is the Republic improving so much that there is less to write about this month, just a thought but maybe you your self are getting tired of the Hunger strikes, The Holocaust, The Brits and their crimes, Gerry Adams & Martin McGuinness, Which Brit Reg't, Who are the Terrorists, The IRA, to mention a few.

I would like to see all of your column devoted to the Republic and not deviate to other irrelevant items not related to.

I am sure you can do better for June's edition and hopefully "Keep it Irish." Tony O'Connor, Chesterton In

Dooley's. New to Sunset Hill is Fiona Molloy who hails from the North but warms you with her captivating stage presence. Saturday evening will be rocking at the Gaelic Area with Bluestack from Chicago and Highland Reign from Indianapolis. Both bands will leave you wanting more.

The NWI International Festival runs June 23 from 5pm-8pm & 24 from noon to 8pm at Sunset Hill County Park in Valparaiso Indiana. For directions or to learn how to become a vendor at the festival please contact Judy Rooney-Davis at (219) 465-5209 or email jrooney@porterco.org.



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# Voice of the Immigrant

By John W. Kearns, Attorney at Law



Attorney Kearns practices immigration law and general practice from Chicago, Illinois, although representation extends nationwide and overseas. Although he has twenty years of experience, he continually looks to take a fresh approach. Mr. Kearns' articles have appeared weekly since 2003 in the presses of many immigrant communities here in the U.S. and abroad, in an effort to help the aspiring immigrant acclimatize to the American culture and legal system, as well as to provide immigration updates and pointers.

This will be our first article addressed to the Irish: These are troubling times both for immigrants to this country and for citizens. It seems to those of us who are concerned, that the very Constitution itself is under attack, while on the other hand, the threat from without is very real. What are we as Americans? How do we define our national character? Where do we want to go from here and what do we want to become? What will we sacrifice to preserve and protect that which we value the most? A balance must be struck between preserving the rights and freedoms that we Americans so cherish and doing what is necessary to protect our safety and our national integrity. Now is the time for that battle to be fought and the immigration issue is the front line upon which the test will be made.

It is an appropriate moment for me to begin what I hope to be a regular column. I see that Father Michael Leonard has been giving superlative coverage to the current debate being waged in Congress, and I always enjoy reading his updates on immigration news in these pages. Issues regarding safety and injury are well covered by my brother at the bar, Michael J. Healy, Jr., Esq. With the readers support, I'd like to join them to discuss both immigration issues in a little greater depth from a practitioner's view, having learned some tricks of the trade, and also matters of general law. This will include stories and pointers on cases from traffic, criminal, drunken driving (don't do it!) to landlord-tenant, building permit, mechanics liens, to divorces and issues of domestic battery and abuse, to bankruptcy, debt consolidation, and dealing with creditors, and anything else that comes to mind that the readers care to discuss. My main goal is to pass on some of the practical realities I've learned from experience.

Today let's talk about immigration. The latest Senate action: A big chance for legalization for undocumented immigrants jumped into the scene in early April when the Senate Judiciary Committee reported out for general debate by the full Senate a compromise bill that can best be described as resembling the McCain-Kennedy Bill. By the time you read this, there may be more news, but

let's summarize what's been said so far.

After the very anti-immigrant, pro-enforcement bill that we got from the House in December (H.R. 4437), things looked very gloomy for any kind of amnesty. That changed with the Senate Judiciary Committee action, the first real hope for illegal immigrants since 2001. I wouldn't call the proposal an "amnesty" and as Father Michael points out, I wouldn't call it anything until it passes both chambers and President Bush signs it.

When we say "pro-enforcement," we mean that the House overwhelmingly called for all overstays to be reported to the National Crime Center database for immediate arrest by local police as soon as those police would ever check the immigrant. Also anyone helping the illegal immigrants would be declared criminals, and that would be immigration lawyers, doctors, priests, and domestic violence shelters. The Cardinal of Los Angeles has declared a program of civil disobedience should this law pass. Retired military bases would be reactivated as detention camps, there would be new shortcuts for expedited removal, judicial review would be even more limited than now, and there would be money in the budget for funding and training of local police for all this. That's the House Bill, H.R. 4437.

The Senate Judiciary Committee went the other way, offering a bill, that while still providing increased enforcement and border security, at least came up with an "earned legalization" program leading to a green card for those now here illegally. This is no amnesty, but an application process. Applicants would have to qualify. Applicants would have to learn English, pay taxes for three of the last five years, have a clean criminal record, pay a \$1,000 fine (possibly for each family member), etc. This Senate proposal then went to the full Senate for discussion and debate by the full Senate.

I'd like to make clear that a consistent subtext of all of this debate is a promised strong criminal enforcement effort to come against employers of illegal or unauthorized immigrants. Any so-called "guest worker" program will be a last employer amnesty before a strong crackdown comes with criminal penalties.

No matter how liberal the legislative proposal under consideration, each contains stricter law enforcement as well as border security provisions in an effort to crack down on those entering illegally. It's a big point with the foes of legalization that 5 million illegals were covered by the last amnesty, which was supposed to be the end of it, yet now we have 11 million.

The big news then was that a "compromise" had been reached between conservative and moderate factions with a brand-new proposal. Keep in mind that the devil is in the details and there are no specific details. That compromise proposal would classify all illegal immigrants into three groups:

1) Those here longer than five years, who would have to apply and qualify for an earned legalization program, with many requirements, leading to a green card.

2) Those here between two to five years, who would be permitted to apply for the earned legalization program, but, while the whole family would be eligible, the lead applicant would also have to go to a border port-of-entry and be readmitted in a temporary guest worker program.

3) Those here less than two years, who would simply have to leave the country, although they could supposedly qualify for a new temporary guest worker program from their home country, along with the rest of humanity wherever so situated.

Many, many details need to be clarified and questions answered before this could work. For example, does this mean they get rid of the 3/10 bars?

Also, an application process is one thing, but if English language ability and a civics test are required, then that means interviews. Who is going to interview 11 million people? Will we have to interview each other under a new "guest interviewer" program? And the criminal background checks will become backlog. Before ending your current case and running up and down in the street proclaiming an amnesty, let's remember how a bill becomes law.

After what could be months of "debate" on the merits of the issue and the future course of the Republic by the intellectual heavyweights who steer the Ship of State, the Senate may come up with a final result. That final Senate bill then goes into a joint House-Senate Conference Committee where it is considered along with the House result, H.R. 4437, until a compromise is reached. That compromise bill goes back before the House and Senate for passage by the Congress, after which it then goes to the President for signature or veto. If he signs it, then it becomes law, and only THEN do we have something to talk about.

This is an election year. Immigration is a hot topic guaranteed only to

lose votes for any politician taking a position one way or the other. If final legislation fails to materialize before the end of this year, it will not happen at all. All pending legislation will die when the 109th Congress leaves office in January. Unless the American people force Congress to a decision by taking to the streets, the politicians would love to dodge this bullet as they have done for the past five years.

The proof of it is what happened to the Senate compromise bill by the end of that week of debates. The whole project crashed and burned at the last moment. On Friday, just as the Senate was to adjourn for a two-week Easter vacation, the bill died on a procedural vote. It seems that the conservative, anti-immigrant Republican forces had attached at least three so-called "poison pill" amendments to the bill, such as what was contained in Bill Frist's proposal. Therefore, the pro-immigration reform forces, mostly Democrats, refused to bring the bill to a vote, thereby opening themselves to take the blame for stalling "immigration reform." On the key vote, 38 senators, all Democrats, lined up in support, 22 short of the 60 needed, leaving the legislation in limbo as lawmakers left the Capitol for the two-week Easter break. Supporters of the measure expressed hope for its resurrection. "We have an agreement. It's not going away," said Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who supports the bill. By the time you read this, I am sure the debate will have continued.

Immigration is only one of the big, controversial issues facing Congress this term. If we want to see what chance any major immigration legislation has for passing, let's look at what Congress has done in other areas.

House GOP leaders blocked a vote on a budget for the coming year when leaders concluded that they lacked a majority. Many lawmakers are questioning whether Congress can even agree on a budget for next year. The House-Senate leadership also gave up hopes of clearing a tax cut before the April 17 tax filing deadline. The Senate passed a lobbying and ethics bill, but it was watered down, and the House has dramatically slowed action on its version.

The slowdown, this year at least, stems from divisions between Democrats and Republicans, Republicans and Republicans, the House and the Senate, and Congress and the White House. Add to that the weakened state of President Bush and the absence of former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas), two leaders who imposed discipline and forced through bills, and the result is near-paralysis.

Polls suggest the public is angry about everything from illegal immigration to government spending, but the legislative process has virtually ground to a halt.

The process seems to have been

reinvigorated since the Senate went on break. Demonstrations in the streets, the sight on television of business owners being led away in handcuffs, and daily front-page articles on immigration seem to have set the tone that this issue will not go away. Now President Bush has announced exactly where he wants this issue to come out, while throwing a few bones to the conservatives. The big news from Bush is the clear definition of an earned legalization program as NOT an amnesty, and that he does not support a mass deportation, which is actually the government's current mission statement. I will give the man credit for pointing out and reiterating that the United States are a Nation of Immigrants, and that this a fundamental attribute of the American character. Finally, Bush agrees with what I've been saying all along.

At this point, we are hopeful for immigration reform. We believe an earned legalization program has a chance for passing shortly. It is uncertain how any such program can cover, for example, those with outstanding prior final orders of removal or deportation. Past tax returns will have to be filed and taxes paid. Past criminal convictions or findings of fraud in immigration cases with have to be vacated, reopened, or rebutted. Not every body can do these things; QUALIFIED professional advice should be sought. The reader writes:

Question: Otherwise immigration-challenged, I am married to a U.S. Citizen. We filed papers with immigration, but to be honest, we don't get along that well. In fact, I can't even find her, but at least she is somewhere ruining my credit. Should I get a divorce and abandon my marriage case because we will soon get an amnesty? Please say yes! Signed, "Hopeful"

Answer: Dear "Hopeful": NO!

The information provided in this article should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. While the statements contained herein reflect the opinions of the author only, and not the publication or its editors, the information provided may be a summary or compilation from other sources, who are gratefully acknowledged hereby. The contents are intended for general information purposes only, and you are urged to consult with a lawyer concerning your own situation and any specific legal questions you may have.

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Call or e-mail with questions about immigration, business, or general law, or any other aspect of American culture or politics that may be of a curiosity to the aspiring immigrant, and we'll be happy to lend a hand, for whatever it's worth: jwkearns@hotmail.com or (312) 738-2529. Please refer to our advertisement elsewhere in this fine newspaper for more details.

## Gertrude Byrne Promotions All-Star Irish Charter Cruise

On a glorious Sunday afternoon, almost 2000 passengers sailed out of Ft. Lauderdale to the tropical paradise of the Eastern Caribbean on Gertrude Byrne Promotion's All Star Irish Charter Cruise. Holland America's stunning ms Westerdam cruise liner was the mode of transport for passengers who hailed from across the United States, Canada, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Falklands, Germany and Australia.

Greeted on arrival with flutes of champagne and the lilt of Irish music, passengers anticipated a Sail Away Party to remember. Ireland's 32 county flags swayed in the gentle breeze alongside hundreds of green, white and gold balloons contributing to an atmosphere that can only be described as electric. Everyone cheered wildly while frantically waving Irish and American flags. Tommy Flynn and the New York Showband encouraged all to join in for Ireland's 32. As the names of counties were called out, cheers could be heard all over Florida. Passengers who had yet to experience a Gertrude Byrne cruise could be heard saying, "this is unbelievable... how can we describe this when we get home!" That is exactly how a Gertrude Byrne Promotion's cruise can be described, as simply indescribable.

Gertrude started many years ago by carefully selecting Holland American Line, whose fleet comprises of five star luxury liners with spacious staterooms, many with private verandahs. The five-course menu selections are offered nightly in the luxurious two-tiered Dining Room where tables are laid with fine china and crystal and the room graced with fine art and antiques. Romantic formal nights offer a more elaborate menu which is a traditional cruise favorite.

When it was time for passengers to explore the ports of call, the selected islands certainly enhanced the cruise experience. First stop was Nassau in the Bahamas. Some passengers opted to visit Paradise Island, one of the most magical places in the world. Others satisfied their curiosity by participating in the varied shore excursions on offer. St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin

Islands was the next port on the itinerary where many strolled through the narrow streets of Charlotte Amalie, winner of the prize for Caribbean shopping thrills. Keen golfers teed off at one of the world's finest golf courses while many relaxed on the beautiful white sandy beaches. Next stop was St. Maarten, a truly spectacular island governed by two nations, France and the Netherlands. Island tours were varied and interesting, as two distinct cultures could be experienced at one time.

The last stop on our itinerary was Holland America Line's own pristine private island of Half Moon Cay, which offered everything required for a day of play in paradise: a two-mile crescent of perfect beach; an interior lagoon; private beachside cabanas and varied water sports. While the Black Velvet Band (featuring Richie O'Shae) performed just off the beach, every off-duty Irish artist in the vicinity of the stage contributed to the atmosphere by joining with the band in song or in some cases to provide some comedic relief. The atmosphere was phenomenal; raucous laughter, robust sing-alongs and energetic dancing. It just could not have been a better day. With a stunning view of the cruise liner docked in the nearby turquoise waters behind the sandy white beach, it was absolutely magical.

And now let's turn to the Superstar entertainment... where can one find such an array of Irish artists under one roof, never mind on the High Seas? Ireland's most talented were onboard to keep passengers singing, dancing and laughing over the entire week. All tastes were catered for; star-studded concerts, side-splitting comedy, set-dancing, step dancing, quicksteps, waltzes and jives from your favorite Irish showbands, not to mention dancing on the Lido deck under the stars as the ship sailed along the Caribbean waters. Due to many requests for dance

lessons, Tony Ryan was on hand this year to give instructions and his classes were well attended. The camaraderie amongst the passengers was second to none. It was as if they had known one another all their lives as the entire ship was alive with Irish music for all seven days. Ireland's greatest entertainers performed in several venues and passengers roamed the ship, many hoping not to miss out on any of the many invaluable experiences on offer.

During the days at sea, passengers kicked up their heels on deck in the afternoon under the Caribbean sunshine, while enjoying the best of Irish music. The Captain of the ship commented during the sailing that Ireland must be without all of its entertainers as they were all onboard Gertrude Byrne's All Star Irish Charter Cruise! The final night of the cruise saw the moving grand finale, produced by Gertrude Byrne. Over one hundred entertainers, proudly displaying the Irish and American Flags said their goodbyes in song to all of the passengers "Now is the Hour...and...Until we Meet Again". It was the perfect ending to a perfect week.

Gertrude Byrne promotes a cruising experience of a lifetime. She is adept at anticipating her guests' needs and each year goes above and beyond to fulfill them. On a Gertrude Byrne Promotion's All-Star Charter Cruise, you are sure to have the best onboard experience possible and a cruise that is unforgettable. She is very proud to promote an event that brings so much happiness to so many people and is very grateful for the continued support of all her customers. The next All-Star Irish Charter Cruise is on February 10-17, 2007 and is well on the way to another sell-out. If you are planning to book, don't wait.

## Model Irishman laid to rest

Thomas Edward Joyce, Sr. was recently interred at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Thomas was the beloved husband of Nancy Lee (nee Buell); Cherished father of Anna Mae (David) Longaker, Nancy Brigid (Jack) Brown, Aurelia Treasa Pace and Thomas Edward, Jr. (Jodi) Joyce; Devoted Grandfather of David and Tommie Longaker, Jack III, Nancy, Michael and A.J. Brown, Adam Pace, Cali Lee and Jenna Joyce; Treasured Great-grandfather of Brooke Brown. He was also dearly loved by his longtime caregivers Juanita and Cynthia.

Thomas Joyce was born July 4, 1908 in Westport, County Mayo Ireland and he immigrated to the United States with his mother at age 14. His first job when he arrived in America was with the Chicago Surface Line as a water boy. He was also a runner for the Irish Brotherhood. Throughout his long life he cherished and upheld the Irish National ideals.

Thomas attended high school at Campion in Prairie DuChien, WI. He received a bachelor's degree in Phi-

losophy from Loyola University and his law degree from DePaul University in 1934. He then went on to receive a Master's Degree in Law from John Marshall Law School. Thomas continued to practice law in Chicago for 60 years and was most proud of his work representing women, children and victims of injustice during the post WWII Japanese Internment camps. From 1942-46 he was Assistant Attorney General handling nearly 300 criminal cases without defeat. He was active in politics. After many years serving as Precinct Captain of the 43rd Ward, he was slated to run for the Illinois State Senate.

Thomas was active in sports throughout his life. He played baseball at Campion high school, traveled the world as a representative of the American Boxing Team (prior to the Golden Gloves era), was a winner of the Paddy Harmon Cup, was a DePaul Boxing Coach and continued to play handball well into his 70s.

Contributions in Thomas' memory would be appreciated: the Norman B. Barr Camp's Children Fund P.O. Box 70 Williams Bay, WI 53191.



You can catch Lisa McClowry at the Redhead Piano Bar with Tom Linsk every Monday and Thursday from 8 pm. to 11:30 pm. She is shown here at her CD release party for "Diary of a Chameleon" CD release party May 11, 2006. The bar is located at 16 W. Ontario, 312-640-1000.



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**Golf for immigration support 6-10**

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support kicks off the summer with its 6th Annual Golf Open this June 10th at Fresh Meadows. CIIS provides free and confidential services to immigrants and citizens alike in the Chicagoland area and beyond. We offer assistance with citizenship, adjustment of status and many other immigration related issues. We provide our services against the backdrop of the current debate on immigration reform and we are proud to serve the newcomers in our midst. The Irish have played a valued and crucial role in building our great nation and we ask

that this generation be allowed to play its part.

Our office is also fortunate to be served by full time Chaplain and Clare native Fr. Leonard who provides 24 hr pastoral care and support to our community. We would not be able to serve without the support of generous individuals like you and we ask that you support our 6th Annual Golf Open.

We invite sponsorship of a tee or an ad at \$100, or a hole at \$200. All other donations are greatly appreciated. Call our office today on 312-337-8445. Help us serve!

**Mayo golf 6-25**

The Mayo Association of Chicago will hold their 16th Annual Golf Classic on Sunday, June 25, 2006, at Stony Creek Golf Course, located at 103rd and Mansfield Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois, starting time 8:00am (shot-gun start).

The golf fee is \$80.00 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, on-course refreshments, and a buffet luncheon after the golf round is complete.

For reservations, please call John Naughton (773) 774-9677 (evenings).

**Golf & Dine 6-5**

Chicago Celtic/Fado golf outing will take place on Monday June 5th at Waters Edge Golf Course in Worth IL. It is a best ball scramble with a 1.30pm registration and a 2.30pm shotgun start. The cost is \$125 per person, which includes; Green Fees and Cart, lunch, dinner with open bar, prizes for best teams as well as long drive, closest to pin, hole in one wins \$10,000.00 on a select par 3, and transport from and back to Fado. Space is limited. Please call James Tobin or Kieran Aherne at Fado (312) 836-0066 for more information.

**Golf for Concern Worldwide 6-28**

Come enjoy the 4th Annual Concern Golf Outing held at the Harborside International Golf Center, 11001 South Doty Ave East, Chicago, on Wednesday, June 28, 2006.

2006 Honorary Chairperson Richard A Devine, Cook County State Attorney.

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organization committed to the relief, assistance and advancement of the poorest people in the least developed countries in the world. Founded in Ireland in 1968, Concern Worldwide has more that 3,700 people working in 30 countries across the globe. Proceeds from the 2006 golf outing will benefit water initiatives in La Gonave, Haiti. Even though there are natural springs scattered around the island, only about 30% of the island's residents currently have access to safe drinking water. For more information about Concern Worldwide and their mission to help people living in absolute poverty achieve major improvements in their lives, visit [www.concernusa.org](http://www.concernusa.org) or call (312) 431-8400.

**Notre Dame defensive back debuts in Madison Square Garden for first professional fight June 10, 2006**

Tommy Zbikowski, a University of Notre Dame defensive back and team captain, will fight professionally for the first time in Madison Square Garden on the opening card featuring Miguel Cotto vs. Paul Malignaggi, against a fighter yet to be determined.

The fights will be televised live on Pay-Per-View beginning at 9 p.m. Eastern Time.

Tommy predicts a win for himself in boxing, and more importantly, a national title for Notre Dame in the 2006-2007 season.

For more information contact Mike Joyce at 708-227-8425.



Marty Gleason predicts victory!



Charlie Carey and Tommy



Former heavyweight champion, Ernie Terrell, Heisman Trophy winner, Johnny Latner, and Fr. Robert McGinnity were on hand to root Tommy on.



E.J., Tommy and Christen Zbikowski. Brother and sister were on hand to support Tommy as he heads to his first professional fight to be held in Madison Square Garden, June 10, 2006.

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# Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



The installation of Nicky Brennan as GAA President for a three year term last Easter was warmly greeted at the GAA Congress. He spent the last year in the shadow of the incomparable Sean Kelly, the outgoing president, and he knows he has a hard act to follow. The applause in recognition of Walsh's great work in breaking down barriers within the Association has now been cast in stone with the opening up of Croke Park to other codes. The new president took the opportunity to lay out his stall, and told the delegates present at the Great Southern Hotel in Killarney about the hopes he held for the GAA in the years ahead. Naturally, he has told the Gaelic Players Association he will deal firmly on any matters posed by the players group when they are put on the table.

But he warned them already that any question of 'pay for play' is strictly out, and he knows that this is a view very much in the minds of the GAA. President Nicky Kelly

holds strong opinions about the way forward for the Association during his period of office and he has already articulated his thoughts on these matters. He proposes to establish a Players Welfare Officer who will deal with problems and complaints on a personal or collective basis. That has now been warmly accepted by county Boards and they will give their backing to it. This job will be advertised shortly and it is open to all units of the GAA (including the North American Board members)

Brennan throws out the idea that instead of heading directly for the back door after being beaten in the provincial football championships, selected weaker counties would compete in the Tommy Murphy Cup, allowing the winners to re-enter the All-Ireland series at a later date. I believe this is a very sensible suggestion.

Many people feel that the present system merely offers weaker counties the chance to be beaten twice in the race for Sam Maguire. By allowing

the winners to re-enter the All-Ireland race at the last twelve or quarter final stage, it would enhance the status of the competition and create a possible chance of a weaker county knocking out a stronger contender. He offers other very interesting proposals. In the National Leagues he would like to see the return of the old four groups of eight in football and five in hurling. Groups would be decided on order of merit, and consideration given to returning to the autumn start to ease fixture pressures in spring.

I'm all for the four football groups, and a start made in October carrying on to November and the first two weeks in December. Hurling is a different kettle of fish. The present system has a number of flaws with 12 teams in Division One. Some counties are completely out of their depth. A proper grading system would be more preferable for the hurling League with promotion and relegation applying.

Starting the Leagues in October would give counties valuable match practice which I believe will be done anyway, at a time when they would be starting winter training or playing with their clubs. The hurling league set up needs to be looked at and changed from the present format. There will be some opposition to the president's ideas of scrapping the mi-

nor and under 21 grades and replacing them with an U19 competition. I see no reason why the minor and Under 21 championships should be removed from the GAA calendar. They are highly popular competitions and are necessary as valuable games towards discovering new talent for the senior grade. That also applies to the Under 21 series as well which commands popular support all over the country. If the suggestion is to ease pressure on the fixture planners why not do away with the All-Ireland club competition? I emphasise that because the club inter-county championship has always been a headache for county boards. The reason is simple. Some counties are late completing their local competitions.

And the inter-county club championships are always delayed because there is a long wait for the local county championships to be run off. There would be little opposition for the departure of the club championship but certainly not the minor and Under 21's. He suggests bringing forward the dates of the All-Ireland senior finals to leave more room for club activities. A motion from Wexford asking for such a change was shot down at the Annual Congress at Easter, but there was support for playing them earlier than the second and fourth Sunday's

in September which is the norm.

This year is an exception. The finals are fixed for the first and third week in September due to the once-off Ryder Cup golf series. There is no reason why those dates cannot be retained for the All-Ireland finals in hurling and football every year. The president calls on county boards to look after their club players who have to remain idle while the club county players are involved with their county team.

Needless to say, that has to be a priority, as the club programmes are chaotic in many counties at present. It was raised at Congress this year when several counties bemoaned the fact that players involved on the inter county front lead to their county board calling off local games. I often wonder why the same county boards do not make allowances for that situation by staging their importing club championships earlier in the season. That would get over the clash between local and county fixtures.

If that doesn't happen, it would fall on the central powers to step in and impose sanctions on those county Boards who are not prepared to sort out the problem. Perhaps, if the central powers withdrew, a county's quota of All-Ireland final tickets might force them to run a proper summer club football hurling programme.

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