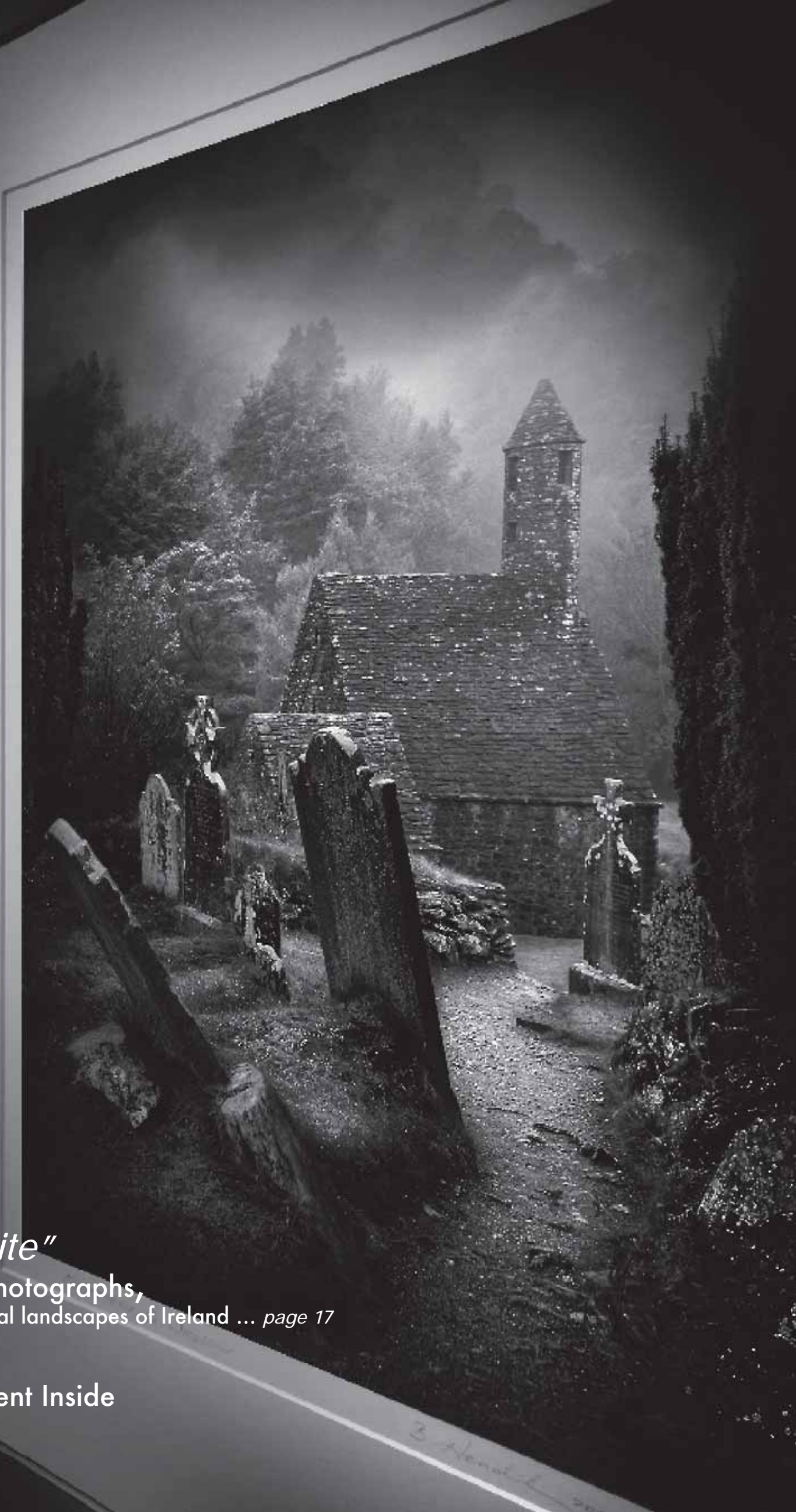




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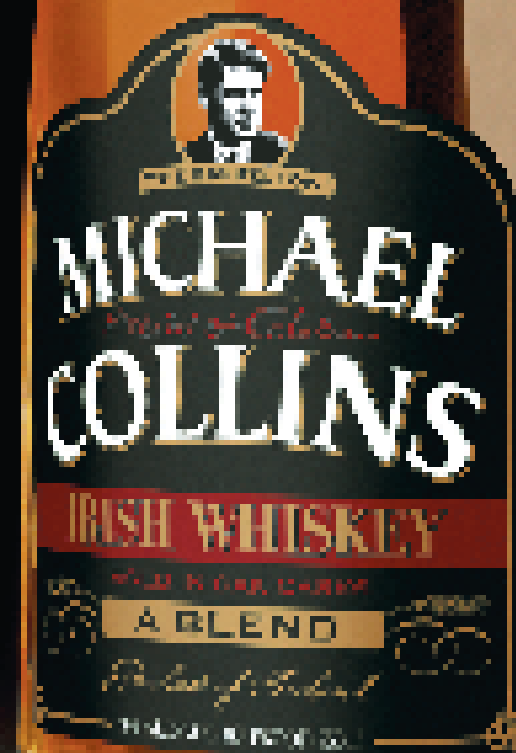


"Ireland in Black & White"

Barry Hendrickson's fine art photographs,
an ongoing series of the vast and surreal landscapes of Ireland ... *page 17*

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Howard and Sliwinski tie a Trinity celtic knot!

In the world of Irish dance, Mark Howard and Natalie Sliwinski are two dynamic individuals who have certainly made their mark. Howard, founder of the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance and the Trinity Irish Dance Company, is the mastermind behind Trinity's innovative style and unique teaching philosophy that has helped bring Irish dance to mainstream America. Sliwinski, one of the most accomplished American Irish dancers to ever compete on the international circuit, was the former principal dancer in the Trinity Irish Dance Company and is currently the lead instructor at Trinity Academy of Irish Dance. This past fall, these two became husband and wife.

Both Howard and Sliwinski have had hugely successful careers. Howard holds the distinction of being an Emmy-award winning choreographer, in addition to leading his world-renowned Trinity dancers to an unprecedented 24 world titles for the U.S. Howard's success with Trinity has led to repeat appearances on most national broadcasts, including "The Tonight Show," "Live with Regis," "Good Morning America," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "CBS This Morning," and "Martha." Trinity's innovative style and groundbreaking achievements have also been the subject of numerous feature films and PBS documentaries.

Some brief highlights of Sliwinski's tremendous career include being one of the most accomplished solo-step dancers to ever come out of Trinity's program. She is surpassed only by her own students at Trinity Academy of Irish Dance.



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Natalie Sliwinski, Mark Howard.

In 1998, Sliwinski was part of the acclaimed Trinity team that was awarded a historic gold medal at the International Irish Dance Competition as the first American team to ever win a senior team competition. As one of the founding members in the Trinity Irish Dance Company, Sliwinski was the company's principal dancer until she took her current position as the lead instructor at Trinity Academy of Irish Dance.

Howard and Sliwinski were engaged last September in Yorkshire, England, where Howard was born. On September 30, 2006, they were married in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin among family, friends and colleagues from all across the world. They will live together in Roscoe Village—Chicago, where they will both continue their commitment to the Trinity institution.



Jennifer Murphy, a junior at Cristo Rey High School, won a \$2,000 scholarship from the Irish Fellowship Club's educational fund. This is a remarkable high school in that it offers a St. Ignatius education for lower income students of Hispanic heritage. Students go to school four days a week and work one day a week in an office building to pay for their education. Each company sponsors a job for \$25,000, which allows a different student to work at the company for the full week. For more information you can check out their website @ www.cristorey.net. Jennifer hopes to study marine biology in college. Pictured (l to r): Chris Kozicki, Vice-President of the Irish Fellowship Club and a member of Cristo Rey's leadership advisory council, Jennifer Murphy, a junior at the school and Father James Gartland, S.J. President of Cristo Rey.

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Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



cer Wednesday, October 4th. By now, he's on the first tee at Ballybunnion. And no doubt, he'll be leading the cheers at the next Notre Dame game. God bless!

Donegal Woman

Sean Throne has written an exciting book about his grandmother who was hired out at the age of 12 in Donegal. The book is written in such a way that it exposes the harsh conditions in which people had to live and the brutal way they were treated by the landlord class in the early 1900s. I've only finished 16 chapters, but will tell you more when I finish the book. They are about to schedule a fourth printing and the book should be widely available before Christmas. More to follow!

Sister Rosemary, SSJ

Sister Rosemary, 74, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province, Missouri, nee Mary Kathleen O'Malley, sister of John O'Malley, past President of the Irish American Heritage Center, passed away in St. Louis, MO. She was buried at the convent cemetery. A memorial mass was held at St. Viator's Church, 4170 W. Addison St. on Saturday, October 14th. Sister Rosemary was a missionary nun and

spent many years in Peru. My condolences to the O'Malley family on the loss of their loved one.

Cross Border Orchestra

The advance team of the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland, has made two visits to Chicago in the last five months in an effort to bring the orchestra here

next fall. Alderman Ed Burke will chair the Chicago committee. Venues being considered are the Chicago Symphony Center and the Auditorium Theatre. Over 160 musicians ages 12 to 24 from both sides of the border combine their talents in an effort to promote peace and reconciliation backed by a choir of 500 Chicago area school children.

Election Time

By the time some of you read this the election may be over. Hopefully, the Democrats will take back the House and put an end to the madness that exists in Washington, D.C.

The Republican 'Walls of Jericho' are crumbling. The Christian right has been hornswoggled by the likes of Congressman Foley. Institutional pedophilia seems to be rampant in this country of ours.

The Archdiocese of Davenport, Iowa is the latest one to file for bankruptcy because of sex abuse.

Discriminatory

I've been told that the term 'Chocolate Co. Cook' has upset one of our readers. I will take him to task and explain to him that I am not a racist, but rather a victim of reverse discrimination. Patrick Fitzgerald will sort it out for the 'nepocrats'. No time for all that right now.

Republican Hypocrisy

It amazes me how the Christian Right was taken in by the Republican dogma. Family values? Guess again! If all their dirty laundry was hung out, the tabloids would forget all about Madonna's adopted child and Paul McCartney's divorce. I still think about Evangelists, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker and Tammy Faye, remember?

Iraq

Some societies may be better served by dictators, remember what happened in Yugoslavia when Tito lost power? The same thing is happening all over again. Anarchy! Civil War!

Racism

Barack Obama in his new book "The Audacity of Hope" says people often quote part of the speech he delivered at the Democratic National Convention. "There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America... there's a United States of America."

Some of our Cook County politicians must not have tuned in that night, Todd Stroger, Jim Beavers, Bobby Steele and Danny Davis, who are all posturing themselves and their relatives for various political offices. Barack Obama also referenced Dr. Martin Luther King's promise "that we be judged not by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character."

We have a man of character, Dan

Seals, 35 years old, running in the 10th Congressional District. He will have to beat Mark Kirk, the Republican incumbent. Dan Seals was interviewed on WTTW Channel 11. He fielded all the hard questions Phil Ponce asked him and came up with all the right answers. Seals has an MBA, lives in Wilmette with his wife and family, and is a director at GE Financial.

He is often compared to Senator Obama because he, too, is an African American. Both of these men have the content of character Dr. King referred to. I voted for Barack Obama and would vote for Seals if I lived in his District. These men are great role models for young people. Please note, the key to their success in life is due to their education and determination to excel.

Tony O'Friedmann

My friend Tony succumbed to can-

*"Moderation is a fatal Thing—
nothing succeeds like excess."*

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

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Local shop sponsors trip of a lifetime "Home to Ireland"

The Irish Shop in Oak Park, and Coveny Lane in Riverside are hosting a chance for a lucky winner and his or her guest to travel to the Emerald Isle and experience the wonders of Ireland. Stay in superior first class hotels, enjoy a medieval banquet in a 16th century castle, a jaunting car ride, an Irish cabaret, and tea and scones in an Irish farmhouse - all part of the fabulous grand prize "Home to Ireland" giveaway.

"Ireland has so much to offer its visitors whether they are Irish or not! The welcoming nature of Irish people, breathtaking landscape, the music and the charm" commented shop owners Jim and Anne August. "Ireland is a warm and magical place, and that's why we jumped at the chance to help co-sponsor this lovely trip."

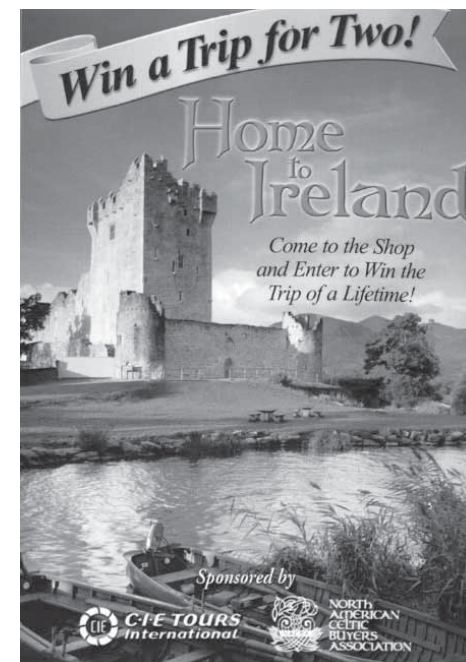
Best of all, the lucky winners will see the splendor of Ireland without having to worry about driving on the "wrong" side of the road! As guests of CIE Tours International, they will enjoy a 9-day luxury coach tour, which will take them to Dublin, Galway, Waterford, Cork and Killarney stopping along the way to experience the rich history and awesome beauty of Ireland.

Voted one of the top ten tour operators in the world by readers of Travel & Leisure Magazine, CIE Tours International is Ireland's premier tour operator. "We take

vacations very seriously" said President, Brian Stack. "So seriously that we have made a business of it for the past 75 years! We are delighted to sponsor this wonderful prize".

Among the highlights of the trip is the opportunity to kiss the Blarney Stone. Perched atop Blarney Castle in Co. Cork, "the stone of eloquence" is said to bestow the "gift of the gab" to all who kiss it! A visit to the Waterford Crystal factory and showroom will be a special treat for collectors of Irish crystal who will see the process of cutting and polishing this fine product. The tour also includes a visit to the Cliffs of Moher, Killarney National Park, The Ring of Kerry, the medieval city of Kilkenny, Trinity College, Old Jameson Distillery, and Clonmacnoise, a monastic settlement founded in 545 AD,

"A coach tour is a marvelous way to visit Ireland," said the Augusts, "especially for the first-time visitor. The door-to-door service, sat-of-the-art coaches, outstanding sightseeing and entertainment programs, and of course the wonderful CIE tour directors and drivers with their daily doses of humor, anecdotes, information and assistance ensure a superb vacation that I know my customers would love." The Irish Shop in Oak Park is an authorized seller of travel to Ireland with CIE Tours International and customers can pick up a



complimentary copy of CIE's 80-page brochure at the store.

In partnership with CIE Tours International, The Irish Shop in Oak Park and Coveny Lane want to give one lucky winner and his/her guest a chance to travel to Ireland, and enjoy a once in a lifetime Irish experience. No purchase is necessary, (some restrictions apply) - just stop by either shop and enter to win!

The Irish Shop is located at 728 W. Lake St., Oak Park, IL 60302; 708-445-1149. Coveny Lane is at 30 E Burlington, downtown Riverside, 708-442-4387.

No Need To Walk Alone In Wales

Mountain Travel Sobek Joins The Wales Walking Scene

Wales invites travelers to lace up their hiking boots and take hold of their walking sticks with the announcement of Mountain Travel Sobek's Historic Hikes of Northern Wales, a nine-day walking vacation debuting May 2007.

Mountain Travel Sobek's welcome arrival on the Wales walking scene means that in 2007 travelers will have three highly-regarded small group walking and adventure companies from which to choose should they want to share in the pleasures of exploring Wales by foot. The Wayfarers offers a six-day Snowdonia: Land of Myths & Mountains and Country Walkers offers a seven-day Wales: Ancient Pathways.

Mountain Travel Sobek's nine-day "Historic Hikes of Northern Wales" follows in the footsteps of prehistoric peoples, drovers, pilgrims and climbing pioneers. Walkers travel ancient trails, stopping in at medieval villages, traditional Welsh mountain farms and visit a castle or two or three. Featured hikes include Offa's Dyke, Snowdonia National Park and the Llyn Peninsula. Priced at \$3,590 land only, and limited to six to sixteen guests, Mountain Travel Sobek offers five departures in 2007: May 19, June 9, June 23, September 8, and September 22.

The tour begins and ends in Manchester, a mere 45 minutes from North Wales. For more information, visit www.mtsobek.com or call 1-888-687-6235.

The Wayfarers is offering the ever-popular six-day "Snowdonia: Land of Myths & Mountains" bringing walkers through the diverse North Wales landscape. Castle visits, strolls through quaint market towns, a visit to the whimsical village of Portmeirion and an afternoon with a local hill farmer elevate the experience, as does distinctive Welsh accommodation. Priced at \$3,295 land only and limited to six to sixteen guests, The Wayfarers offers three Wales departures in 2007: July 1, August 19 and September 23. The tour begins and ends in the walled town of Chester, just a half hour from the North Wales border. For more information, visit www.thewayfarers.com or call 1-800-249-4620.

Country Walkers offers its lauded seven-day "Wales: Ancient Pathways" which begins in South Wales with walks in the Wye Valley including a stop at Tintern Abbey and also features walks in the Brecon Beacons National Park (think endless green rolling hills), Offa's Dyke, which runs 177-miles along the English-Welsh border; and Snowdonia National Park. Journey highlights include distinc-

tive accommodation, fine cuisine, ancient sites, mystical lakes, enigmatic standing stones, Norman Castles and walking ancient Celtic trails in the homeland of King Arthur and the Druids. Priced at \$3,298 land only and limited to six to eighteen guests, Country Walkers offers three Wales departures in 2007: June 3, July 8 and August 12. The tour begins in Bristol, a half-hour from South Wales and ends in Manchester, the ideal gateway into North Wales. For more information, visit www.countrywalkers.com or call 1-800-464-9255.

Walking in Wales is second nature with the footpaths being traversed since ancient times, yet these three companies elevate the experience with their skillfulness, knowledge and extreme care. No matter which small group walk travelers select or even if they decide to hoof it on their own, Wales gives it word that walkers will be enriched and enlivened by a warm Welsh welcome, jaw-dropping scenery, and rich Celtic culture and history. (It's hard to sum up a country that dates back to pre-historic times in one sentence, but we tried).

For more information about walking in Wales and to order a free Wales Vacation Planner and Walking brochure, visit www.visitwales.com or call 1-877-872-1133.

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SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers

Anytime I could get away from my own life the past few weeks — a minute here, an hour there — I went to live with Michael Patrick MacDonald's family in the projects of Southie.

I was there when his brother Davey jumped off the roof and killed himself. I could see his sister Kathy come flying off another roof and then spending months in a coma. I felt his family's pain when his brother Frankie, the neighborhood celebrity, was killed during a bank robbery. Oh, how I felt that life couldn't be any less fair when shortly after Frankie's death his brother Kevin committed suicide while in jail.

Actually, I wasn't present to any of those events. I've had to remind myself of that over the past few weeks. I certainly had to when "Sharing a Pint" with MacDonald while he was recently in Chicago promoting his new book, *Easter Rising*, a follow-up to his best-seller *All Souls*.

Great books have the ability to displace you from your own life and immerse you into the words on the page. MacDonald, 40, obviously already had an interesting story to tell, but the way he does so in both his books makes it all feel so real.

"My goal when I first started was to make something that made it feel like oral storytelling like in the Irish tradition," said MacDonald while having coffee at 312 in downtown Chicago. "That's something I think I would have gotten from my mother or grandfather. I knew that I wanted that style. I found out that putting that on the page is different than doing it orally. The voice that I was looking for seems effortless, but in fact it's much harder to get that plain,

simple, straight-forward storytelling. If it feels effortless to the reader, then you've done the right thing."

His first book focused on his family's tragedies and life growing up in Southie. He left nothing out. He openly talked about the abundance of drug use, the crooked mobsters in the neighborhood and the countless funerals, most of which were held for teenagers.

The response to the book varied, of course. Some people hated it and even went so far as to threaten him. Some were glad that finally the truth was told. A lot of people were just simply moved by it. Plenty of mothers who lost their children in similar environments felt as if their story had been told as well.



Michael Patrick MacDonald and Scott Powers

crossing the pond. It wasn't until his grandfather would only loan him some money if MacDonald promised to visit Ireland that he went.

It was there he finally didn't feel like an outcast anymore.

"People over in Ireland get upset if you over-identify with the Irish thing," MacDonald said. "Believe me, I rejected it all my life. I tried to not identify with the Irish thing."

"Sooner or later it bit it me the ass. You have to identify with it. It's not that easy to erase your history. If you do, you'll probably have a lot of mental illness."

Finding Ireland was a major step in MacDonald's healing process. Writing the books has continued that.

"The more I tell the story it becomes less painful," MacDonald said. "I know it'll be difficult to talk about, but it won't kill me. ... A lot of people avoid, I can't talk about that. It's too emotional. The more people do that the less healthy they are because we have to. It's part of our lives. It has to become a part of us."

While in Chicago, MacDonald shared his story while at bookstores in Beverly and Lincoln Park. Chicago was MacDonald's seventh stop on his eight-city tour. It was one of the more anticipated places for MacDonald to visit. After living here for a year while in his 20s, he fell in love with the city.

"I choose to live in Brooklyn because it's really good for me now being in a writing community," said MacDonald, who's working a screenplay for *All Souls* and plans on writing future books. "I love Boston because it's where I'm from. But I'll always say Chicago is my favorite city in the country. If I could live anywhere and it was just based on the place, it would be Chicago."

"It's like a true American city. It's a big cosmopolitan city, but it's also very American. There's something very, very cool about that."

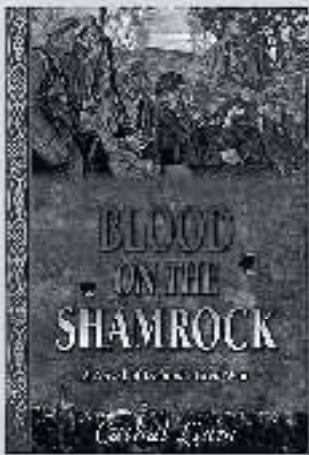
* Share a comment or future column suggestion with Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com

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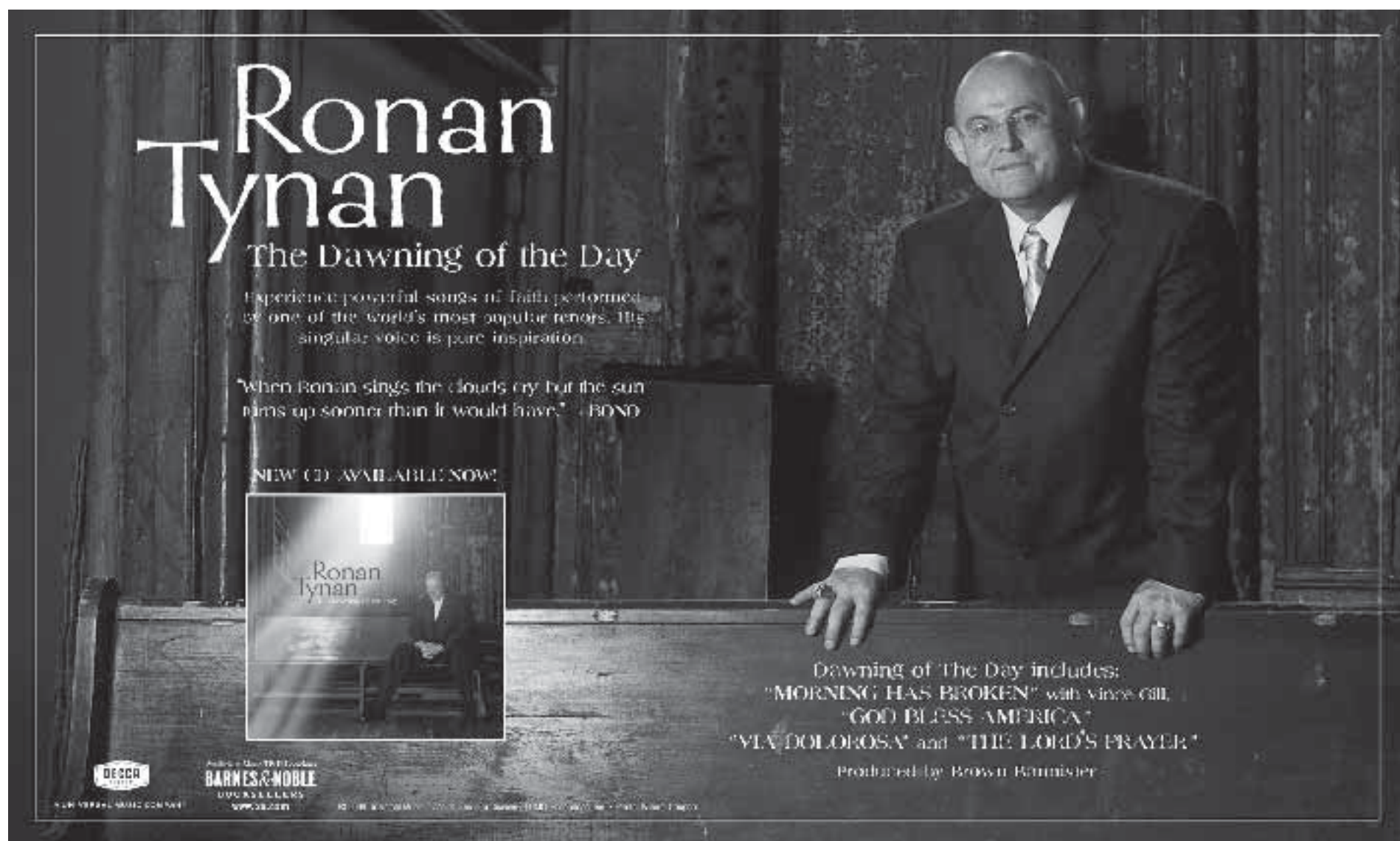


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Above: Mrs. Maggie Daley, (C-right) joins members of the Galway Chicago Sister Cities Committee to preview an exhibit called, "Images of Chicago: A Spectacle of Urban at the Water's Edge", at the Galway City Museum on Monday, October 2, 2006 in Galway, Ireland. During Mrs. Daley's official visit with the Galway Chicago Sister Cities Committee, she and the Committee members met with Mayor Niall O'Brolchain and members of the Galway City Council.



Irish runner George Cuddy, bib no. 12247 in the Chicago Marathon devoted his run to the families of Irish Republican Political Prisoners, and has been raising donations for the families through sponsors for his race. George carried the tricolor proudly for 26.2 miles and finished in a very respectable 3:42 minutes. George qualified to run the Boston Marathon in 2007.

More information is available at www.irishfreedomcommittee.net/IFC_INFO/EVENTS/IFC_BOSTON/Marathoner.htm or www.26milesfortheifc.blogspot.com.



The Maude Family Kids from Chicago (triplets Kieran, Emmett, and Ryan, and sister McKenzie) were all supporting Mayo on a recent Sunday. The Mayo mad quartet have cousins in the Tourmakeady and Kilawalla area and are sons and daughter of Martin and Marita Maude. Proud grandparents are Maureen and Patrick Driscoll and Rosemary and Michael Maude.

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Crafts Council of Ireland brings Irish artisans to Chicago

Ireland makes its premiere at one of the most prestigious international art fairs, Chicago's Annual Exposition of Sculptural Objects & Functional Art. (SOFA) is one of the key international art fairs for contemporary craft and applied art. Almost 100 international galleries and dealers display work that "bridges the decorative and fine arts". This is a collector's paradise - presenting for sale one-of-a-kind masterworks that will last a lifetime.

This year, for the 13th annual SOFA Chicago, the Crafts Council of Ireland will present the work of their leading artists for the first time. Curator Brian Kennedy has chosen daring, innovative and beautifully crafted pieces in glass,



textiles, wood, metal and ceramics. Showcasing the very best Ireland has to offer will establish a profile for Irish craft and help achieve international representation for Irish makers.

Last year over 35,000 people attended the three-day event and this year many of those will have their first experience of just how desirable contemporary Irish craft can be. The Crafts Council of Ireland is dedicated to raising the international profile of Irish craft. SOFA Chicago is part of an ongoing policy of the promotion of Irish work in the US, following on from Loot New York, Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Fair and Forty Shades of Green in Memphis. For more details contact Helen Carroll t: 086-8057220 e: ncgpress@ccoi.ie, or www.sofaexpo.com.



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Cliffs of Moher new visitor experience opens in January

Barring any unforeseen difficulties the new Cliffs of Moher visitors center will open on or about January 8, 2007. What used to be a poor excuse for a visitor's center is now a beautifully designed center complete with ample bathroom facilities, a first aid station, a small cafe, a medium sized restaurant, a small retail outlet and a fantastic wall of computer generated animation which allows the visitor a birds eye view from the top of the Cliffs to below the ocean surface.

Backed by the largest grant ever from Tourism Ireland, The Clare Co. Council put up some of their own money, acquired a loan from their bank and built a beautiful visitor center into the contours of the local terrain. Covered with a the grassy hillside, the 3,000 sq. metre building is barely visible.

In order to keep the Cliffs as pristine as possible, new walkways and viewing areas replace old ones and rangers will be on hand for visitor safety and to answer questions about the Cliffs.

The restaurant upstairs provides panoramic views of the Cliffs and Liscannor Bay. Open for lunch bookings, the dining experience will be one of excellent Irish fare and friendly hospitality. The restaurant will close to the public at 7 p.m. It will be available on limited days for special occasion events such as wedding receptions or corporate functions. We hear the sunsets can be fantastic!

In order to accommodate the over one million visitors to the Cliffs each year and pay for the upkeep and running of the operation There will

be a fee for parking. Automobiles will be eight Euros, no limit on passengers. Tour buses have their own rates. A park and ride is also being developed for the future. Tour operators have been cooperating with the visitor center to spread the arrival of their buses so everyone can get the best views and service possible.

Sponsorship Opportunity

While approximately \$37 million dollars was raised to complete the project, an additional \$3 million is needed to apply finishing

touches. Individuals and companies interested in sponsorship have the opportunity to be discreetly recognized at the Cliffs with a donation of amounts from \$5,000 and upwards. Not to worry though, the Cliffs will never be renamed for a corporate sponsor.

Smaller donations are gladly accepted and a way to recognize those is being developed.

For more information you can contact Project Leader, Gerard Dollard at 011-353-65-6846471, or email: gdollard@clarecoco.ie.

Arranmore Celtic Christmas Concert

Arranmore releases their documentary/performance DVD "One Night" on Nov. 24, 2006. This DVD was filmed at the Metropolis Theater along with special guests, Jennie Avila, Aoife Clancy, and Cork Ireland's Two Time Polka.

Copies of the DVD will be available at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights on Friday Nov. 24th. Arranmore, Donnybrook, and the McNulty Irish dancers will appear in two shows at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. 847-577-2121

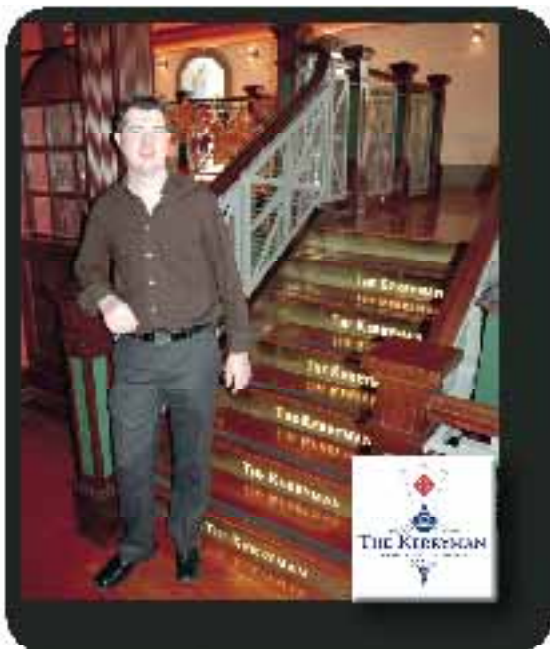


Gathered together to discuss marketing the new "Cliffs of Moher" facilities due to open in January, 2007 are (l to r): John Walsh; Aer Lingus, Sean Ferrell; Irish Consul General, Flan Garvey; Mayor of Clare, Martin Falsey; Clare Association, Gerard Dollard; Project Leader Cliffs of Moher, Marie McKown; Tourism Ireland, and James Burke; Midwest Sales Manager Celtic Tours.

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2006 Rerum Novarum Award Recipients Announced

Charles P. Carey, Chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade and partner in the commodity trading firm Henning and Carey, Francis J. Harmon, principal account executive with BlueCross/BlueShield of Illinois, and Terrence J. O'Brien, President/Commissioner of the Metropolitan

Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC), will receive the 2006 Rerum Novarum Awards from Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. at the 16th Annual Seminary Salute to Labor, Business and Government on November 28, 2006 in the Plumber's Union Hall.

The Rerum Novarum Awards, presented by St. Joseph College Seminary at Loyola University of Chicago, honor men and women in labor, business, and government who have proven outstanding in their support of the following ideals: respect for the dignity of the human being and

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Charles Carey

human labor, the right to organize and the right to a living wage.

Carey is serving his second consecutive two-year term as Chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), a leading global futures exchange. The Chicago native has been elected to numerous leadership positions in his 28 years at the CBOT and is currently a member of the CBOT Executive Committee.

Harmon has been with BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois since 1989, where he developed the company's Labor Affairs Division. Under Harmon's leadership, BlueCross/BlueShield has partnered with over 100 labor unions across



Frank Harmon

Chicago, providing more than 1.2 million union members and their families with first-rate medical coverage. Harmon brought scores of previously resistant unions to the BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois health care company, primarily through an innovative program called "shared claims processing."



Terrence O'Brien

O'Brien, born and raised in Chicago, was first elected to a six-year term as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago in 1988. As the third generation of his family to work for the MWRDGC, O'Brien has since been re-elected in 1994 and 2000. Presently, he serves as Chairman of the Judiciary and Real Estate Development Committees.

St. Joseph College Seminary's annual "Seminary Salutes" to Labor, Business and Government, featuring the presentation of the Rerum Novarum Awards, includes a cash raffle, cocktail hour and traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner. Tickets are available in tables of 10 at \$1,500 per table or individually for \$150 per person. Benefactor Tables of ten can also be purchased at \$2,500 each, with special recognition in the evening's program.

For more information, or to reserve tickets, please call Kate Minogue at (773) 973-9722. Mail orders are accepted at St. Joseph College Seminary, 6551 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60626.

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SAT, NOV. 11	KATIE SULLIVAN BAND	8:30P
FRI, NOV. 17	DONNYBROOK	9:00P
SAT, NOV. 18	THE BEGGARMEN	8:30P
WED, NOV. 22	SHARKY DOYLES	9:30P
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special features, all relating to the Irish American experience. There are over 1,445,000 people of Irish descent living in Ohio and the impact and involvement of the Irish in Ohio has shaped the state since its birth. IAN Ohio will bring the movers, shakers and music makers to you from a unique perspective each month.

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If you have news and information that would be appropriate for IAN Ohio, you can call or email the numbers above.

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November Events At Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, will start a new season with fun fall events. The monthly Musical Luncheon is a great way to enjoy a fall day. Beginning at noon on Wednesday, November 1st, 2006, the Musical Luncheon includes an afternoon of music and dancing along with a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets are \$12. Reservations required.

Monthly Mass and Breakfast is back. This month's Mass will

be held on Sunday, November 12th, 2006 with Mass beginning at 10 a.m. A delicious traditional Irish breakfast including bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more will be served following the Mass for the small cost of \$6.

Reserve your tickets for the weekly Celtic Suppers, held each Sunday from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. The Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and are

perfect for large group meetings and family celebrations. For the cost of \$15 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided. This month's entertainment includes Gerard Haughey on November 15th, Sean O'Donnell on November 12th, and Velvet Green on November 19th. Children are welcome, ages 12 and up are \$8.00, free for children under 3. Please call Gaelic Park for more information or to reserve

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Fr. Michael Leonard



The Wait Goes On

President Bush said Oct. 6th that "you cannot kick 12 million people out of your country", at a ceremony celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month. He was referring to the approx. 12 million illegal immigrants, mainly Latin Americans, who already live in the US. People need to realize that Congress has the last

word on immigration policy. And the 109th Congress has decided to take a "do nothing" approach to tackling the real problem of our broken immigration system.

It is pretty clear that legislators believe tough immigration policy will get them votes, judging by the last-minute law they approved, authorizing construction of a 700-mile

fence on the US-Mexico border.

All reasonable people who have studied this important issue are agreed on one point, namely, that an enforcement only approach will not work. Some experts have called the Secure Fence Act the "eggshell" law because they consider it hollow - it does not include a fence on the Canadian border or appropriate the money to build one. Nor have the elected representatives resolved the long debate over what to do about undocumented people already living here. Meanwhile, the lives of millions of honest hardworking people are further put on hold as they wait ridiculously long periods for the chance to be re-united with family members.

"We must remember that in order to secure our borders, in order that we fulfill our heritage, immigration reform has to be comprehensive in nature", said Mr. Bush. And so say all of us, now, if we can only convince the members of Congress, that on this issue, the time has come to heed the President's advice and give the nation a comprehensive immigration bill.

Free Advice

Free advice is not always free, neither, is it the always the best. We have found that we often hear from clients who have been given free advice, which has turned out to be inaccurate or sometimes downright misleading.

Once again let me kindly advice, if you or anyone you know needs an answer to an immigration related question, please, give us a call. Our advice is free and up to date. And if we don't have an answer for you right away we will be happy to research the issue and get back to you or refer you to a professional who can answer your query.

A Little Humour

Three friars were banished from their monastery for various rule violations, so they decided to start a business together. They traveled around until they found a town that they liked, and opened up a plant shop. Their floral business was soon thriving.

One day, a woman was shopping at the friar's store, and while she was strolling down an aisle with her toddler, a large plant reached out, grabbed the child, and ate it. Needless to say, the woman was quite upset at the loss of her child. However, the friars refused to believe that one of their plants could have done such a thing. The woman told all of her friends about the incident, and soon everyone in the town was in an uproar. They decided to kick the friars out of town. Every person in the town, except for a man named Hugh, gathered outside of the friar's shop, shouting, waving sticks, and demanding that they leave. But the friars said "No. We're not leaving". So the townspeople gave up and went home.

Well, a couple weeks later, another

woman was walking through the friar's shop, looking at plants with her baby, when a plant grabbed her child and ate it. She ran through the streets screaming that a plant had swallowed her baby. The townspeople were outraged, and again gathered outside the floral shop (except for Hugh), waving torches, and demanding that the friars leave town at once. But the friars said, "No way", and all the people gave up and went home.

A few days later, yet another woman dared to take her child into the floral shop. She held her infant tightly in her arms, but it was no use. A large ficus wrestled the child from her arms, and ate it.

When the townspeople heard of this, they were extremely upset. They again gathered outside the friar's store (except for Hugh), yelling and threatening bodily harm to the friars if they didn't leave town. But the friars said, "We're staying". So, the citizens gave up and began to go home. Just then, Hugh showed up. He walked up to the friars, and said, "Get out of town, now!" The friars immediately packed up all their belongings and fled that very day, never to be heard from again.

The moral of this story is: Only Hugh can prevent florist friars.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the office, Tel. 312-337-8445, Cell 773-677-5341 or you can e-mail me at the following: siochan@catholic.org.

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landscapes of Ireland

Barry Hendrickson's much acclaimed series of portfolios, "Ireland in Black & White," is a stunning and breathtaking look at the vast and surreal landscapes of Ireland. His dramatic black

On the cover: "Ireland in Black & White"

Barry Hendrickson's fine art photographs, an ongoing series of the vast and surreal

as his research in other counties pulled him in, he began portraying other parts of Ireland. This coming year, Barry is excited to be releasing his next portfolio which highlights parts of Co. Galway and the Aran Islands.

Traveling nationwide, he exhibits his "Ireland in Black & White" series at some of the top fine art shows in the country, such

about the subjects of his photographs. Interacting with people and talking about Ireland is his favorite part, as their experiences and family histories influence and help shape the direction of future work.

The Response to the Work
"When I am drawn to the essential nature of a place, my goal is to bring the full essence



A cultural exhibit at the Seattle Center during Irish Week.

and white images of thought provoking and starkly beautiful panoramas conceal both the rich and tragic history of Ireland. These photographic interpretations of Irish landscapes are luminous in nature, and rarely seen in this light. This ongoing series of photographs attempts to illuminate our Irish heritage and its sense of place.

As a commercial and fine art photographer from Minneapolis, Minn., Barry has a unique outlet that combines his passion for photography, his love of family histories and interest in Irish heritage. This series, "Ireland in Black & White," encompasses all of these drives.

An Ongoing Series

Each year Barry works on a new series with a unique geographical or cultural focus. "Years ago, we began researching our family history and needless to say, we were intrigued. As we experienced Ireland and witnessed the changes taking place, we initially decided to profile these counties of Ireland for posterity," explains Barry. But

as the highly regarded Old Town Fine Art Fair in Chicago. He also displays this limited edition series at select galleries, cultural institutions and festivals across the U.S.

Barry personally appears at all exhibitions to show his work and to discuss his photography and Ireland. He has unbridled enthusiasm and passion for his work and it shows.

His work has struck cords with patrons as stories surface

of what these places feel like to life in my photographs. This is everything to me. Using the interpretive and emotive qualities of black and white, I strive to invoke a sense of atmosphere in my images," says Barry. He must be accomplishing this goal because the response to his Ireland work has been tremendous. Even leading customers to write in his guest book, "You've captured her soul. Grand!" and "You've brought me to tears."



Crowds gather at the Old Town Art Fair in Chicago.

About the Photographic Process

Influenced heavily by the legacy of the Zone System, Barry's work begins at exposure with a pre-visualization of the image in black and white and how he will render this impression in the master print down the road. In the tradition of the fine print, he works to develop print contrast with rich velvety blacks and an emphasis on relative tonal range.

"With composition and the play of light and shadow, I attempt to bring a sense of depth to the image, so as to look in rather than at," says Barry.

To See the Work

If you would like to view or purchase Barry's original fine art photographs, go on-line to www.IrelandInBlackandWhite.com. You can also contact Barry Hendrickson Photography at 612-617-8170.



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Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.
Senior Partner



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

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

Issues Involving Residential Fires

In 2005 there were approximately 396,000 residential structure fires reported in the United States, which caused an estimated \$10.7 billion in property damage. These fires caused 3,055 deaths and 13,825 injuries in 2005 alone. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined. The leading cause of fires in residential structures is cooking, accounting for 28.9% of

all reported residential fires.

Conventional wisdom suggests that smoking would present a higher risk of causing a fire than does a simple task like cooking. However, only 2% of all reported fires are caused by smoking. Interestingly, those 7,400 smoking fires caused nearly 10% of all fire related deaths, whereas nearly 107,000 cooking fires caused only 2.9% of all reported fatalities.

The Importance of Fire Insurance

It is important for property owners and renters alike to understand their responsibilities and rights when it comes to protecting against residential fires. Generally speaking, a property owner may be responsible for injuries that occur to individuals while on the property. This may include injuries that result because of a fire on the premises. Fortunately, most homeowners' insurance policies cover fires to residential structures, even those caused by negligence. The insurance company is usually obligated to pay for damages caused by fire.

Both the Illinois Smoke Detector Act and the Chicago Smoke Detector Ordinance outline individual's rights and responsibilities as it relates to fire protection. The Smoke Detector Act provides that each dwelling unit shall be equipped with at least one functioning smoke detector within 15 feet of every room which is used for sleeping. The Act defines a dwelling unit as including single-family homes, each living unit of a multiple family residence, and each unit in a mixed-use building. The owner of each dwelling unit is responsible for ensuring compliance with both the Act and the Ordinance. (Act: 425 ILCS 60/1,

Ordinance: Chicago Municipal Code Sec. 13-196-100).

However, Illinois law holds that the Smoke Detector Act does not require a townhouse or condominium owners' association to bear the responsibility of complying with the Act. The responsibility falls on the owner of each unit. *Sandstrom v. DeSilva*, 268 Ill.App. 3d 932 (1st Dist. 1994), *Allen v. Lin*, 356 Ill. App.3d 405 (1st Dist. 2005).

The Act also provides that owners of rental units (i.e. residential apartments) must install smoke detectors. This responsibility will not fall on a homeowners association or tenant, as neither is viewed as an owner of any individual residence. Under the Act, the owner of any dwelling unit made available for rent is responsible for providing the tenant of each unit with written information regarding smoke detector maintenance and testing.

If an owner fails to follow the provisions of the Smoke Detector Act and an injury results to a guest or tenant, the owner may bear responsibility in civil litigation.

Also, in *Sandstrom v. DeSilva*, the appellate court found that each townhouse unit, which was separated by fire walls from its neighboring unit, was a separate building, and as such, the association was absolved from liability. The court held that it was

the responsibility of the individual owner to install a smoke detector. That owner may be held liable in court if injuries occur to a third party resulting from the owner's failure to install a smoke detector.

Illinois law also mandates that a tenant in a rental unit look to the provisions of his or her lease agreement to determine who bears responsibility for adherence to the Act. The Illinois Supreme Court has long held that in the absence of an express provision in a lease, a tenant is not liable to the landlord for damages to premises from fire, even that which is caused by the negligence of the tenant. Generally, the building owner would carry fire insurance and thus, the insurance company would ultimately bear responsibility for those damages. *Cerny-Pickas & Co. v. C.R. Jahn Co.*, 7 Ill.2d 393 (1955).

Safety of Individuals – Most Important Consideration

Owners and tenants alike should examine their lease agreement for express terms regarding fire protection and responsibility. In the absence of such language in the lease, the owner of each dwelling unit is generally responsible for ensuring compliance with local and state fire provisions and taking steps to protect the home from fire. No matter who is ultimately liable, it is very important that all parties ensure compliance with fire protection regulations for the safety of those on the premises. By Jack Cannon
The Healy Law Firm

Murphy Roche Irish Music Club annual meeting

The Murphy Roche Irish Music Club invites anyone interested in traditional Irish music to its annual meeting, at 2:00 pm Sunday, November 5, at The Chalet, 8300 S. Wolf Road, Willow Springs. The club will set its agenda for 2007 and welcomes community input. After the meeting, club musicians will gather in the Chalet Pub for a traditional Irish music session — a lively time open to listeners and musicians from outside the club as well. For more information, please contact Joe Martin, public relations officer, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, 630-650-5751.

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'Tell' told well

By Catey Sullivan

(We understand some of the below takes place the first week of November and may be over by the time you read this)

He's been dead for more than half a century, but George Bernard Shaw remains ahead of his time.

For scalpel-sharp vivisections of contemporary ideas about class, marriage and sexism, it's difficult to outwit the Dublin-born playwright, essayist and novelist. Never mind that he completed his last play in 1950. His writing is as fresh and as skeweringly spot-on as the latest edition of *The Onion*.

With a staged reading of "You Never Can Tell," ShawChicago continues its gleeful, 150th birthday celebration of the writer whose works slice, dice and lay bare the follies of mortals in the throes of their own limitations. The 1899 comedy runs through Nov. 6 at the Ruth Page Theater in Chicago, and will be followed by Shavian holiday programs in December. November 5th, the company performs "Arms and the Man" at the Chicago Cultural Center. (See below.)

Shaw was skeptical (to put it mildly) on matters of religion, and espoused the radical notions that women were equal to men; that "illegitimate" children were really nothing of the kind and all the wealth in the world couldn't turn a boorish know-it-all into a more palatable sort of human being.

All of those ideas shine sharply through in "You Never Can Tell." The comedy is the verbal equivalent of an action-adventure movie: Instead

of explosions and car chases, we get fireworks of language, dialogue written with the exactness of a choreographed duel, words flying from knife points and ideas are parried with dizzying panache. ShawChicago Artistic Director Robert Scogin keeps the provocation and the zingers stinging from start to finish.

Shaw's language demands a wry, dead-to-rights precision; step too hard on the trenchant points, and you'll overpower the subversive undertow. Underwhelm in the delivery, and Shaw's biting commentary is lost in false subtlety. Scogin's cast gets it just right. So when Mrs. Clandon (Kate Young) explains that "I married before I was old enough to know what I was doing," it's with a perfectly calibrated amount of ruefulness and matter-of-factness.

Or take Valentine (Christian Gray), a dentist who prides himself on being too clever for the illogical messiness of sentimentality and yet finds himself red-faced in love with Mrs. Clandon's daughter Gloria. It's not that he's been struck by Cupid, Valentine rigorously explains. Gloria's effect on him is a simple matter of science. When she walked into the room, he explains, "My blood got... oxygenated."

"Let's not call it love," he continues oh-so-scientifically, "Let's call it chemistry."

Then there's Gloria (Sienna Harris), trying to reconcile her highly educated mind with her emotions.

"I know what's right and dignified and strong and noble," she insists, "but oh, the things I do! The things I do! The things I let other people do!"

"You Never Can Tell" centers

on the headstrong, convention-free Clandon children, who in addition to Gloria include Dolly (Courtney Bohl) and Philip (John Francisco)



You Never Can Tell. The actors are, from L to R, Michael McAlister & John Francisco. Photo by David Krupp

and their attempts to reconcile with their long-absent father Fergus Crampton (Tony Dobrowolski).

Dobrowolski is a scene-stealer (in a good way) as the man Mrs. Clandon would not live with after she married him. A pop-eyed blowhard of blustering obnoxious bravado, Mr. Crampton recalls his marriage as "a twinge" not unlike a toothache.

But as Shaw makes delectably clear, even the most blustering boor

could be hiding a profoundly lovable core. Nor, the play points out, can you ever tell what capricious, undeniable turning the human heart will choose to take in defiance of all that is logical, scientific, dignified or noble.

It falls to the Boone, an understatedly sagacious waiter (Michael McAlister), to put this all in perspective. "It's the unexpected that always happens, isn't it?" he asks. "You never can tell, sir. You never can tell."

ShawChicago presents:

You Never Can Tell

2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Mondays through Nov. 6, Ruth Page Theater, 1019 N. Dearborn, Chicago

\$15; <http://www.shawchicago.org>; (312) 587-7390. Arms and the Man, 1:20 p.m. November 5 Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, \$10; <http://www.shawchicago.org>; (312) 587-7390.

A Yuletide Carol 2 p.m. December 3, Chicago Ridge Public Library, 10400 S. Oxford Ave., Chicago Ridge

Free; (708) 423-7753. A Yuletide Carol 2 p.m. December 10, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston. Free; (847) 448-8600.

Manhattan Theatre Club Casting For Brian Friel's Translations

Manhattan Theatre Club has announced full casting for its new production of *Translations* by Brian Friel. The co-production with McCarter Theatre Center will be directed by Tony Award-winner Garry Hynes (Beauty Queen of Leenane). Opening night is Thursday, January 25 at the Biltmore Theatre (261 West 47th Street).

In 1981, MTC produced the American premiere of Brian Friel's masterpiece *Translations*. Twenty-five years later, the themes of this play are as timely as ever. Clashing cultures and tragedies of miscommunication unfold in Friel's invented Irish county of Ballybeg, a place he has explored in his plays *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Aristocrats* and *Molly Sweeney*. Poignant and moving, *Translations* depicts the power of language to unite and divide people in a time of cultural imperialism. www.ManhattanTheatreClub.com.

Revered Boston Band's "Angry Bagpipe Punk Adds To Film's Boiling Ambience"

Boston's beloved Dropkick Murphys are currently featured in Martin Scorsese's #1 film *The Departed*. As a result of increased exposure for their song, "I'm Shipping Up To Boston," sales for its parent album, *The Warrior's Code* and its entire Hellcat Records back catalog tripled this past week according to Soundscan.

The song plays prominently through the opening credits and recurs throughout the entire introduction of the film as the backstory of the characters involved are revealed.

The tune, which was originally released on the 2005 Hellcat Records disc, *The Warrior's Code*, is the latest example of Scorsese's willingness to prominently feature music in his films. "The Departed

is one of the best films we have seen in a long time," says Murphys co-founder Ken Casey of the Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson and Mark Wahlberg-starring movie. "We were fortunate enough and feel honored to have one of our tracks used in the film."

Meanwhile, a Chud.com review adds, "Martin Scorsese has one of the finest ears in modern cinema when it comes to using songs in his films, and there's a Dropkick Murphys track in a pivotal scene of *The Departed* that ups the ante of everything on screen."

Elsewhere, *Everyonesacritic.net* attested, "In *The Departed* we hear recurring music from Boston's own Dropkick Murphys, whose angry bagpipe punk only adds to the film's boiling ambience."



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Shamrock Club News

The Milwaukee chapter will meet on November 2nd at the Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Avenue, at 7 pm. Special guests will be the Irish Fest School of Music, under the direction of Shamrock Club 2005 Scholarship winner Kaitlin Hahn. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The Shamrock Club will again be a part of the International Institute's Holiday Folk Fair. This year it will be held at State Fair Park from November 17-19. They will have their Cultural, Sales and Food Booths in operation. Volunteers for needed for them all, so if you would like to volunteer, please contact Peter Dundon 414.964.4772 or 262.242.8245

Belleek Event in Pleasant Prairie

The Waterford Wedgwood Company Store in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin is having a Belleek Pottery Event. Many people are not aware that they carry Belleek pottery along with Waterford crystal and Wedgwood china, but on November 24th, the "big shopping day" after Thanksgiving, from 1-3pm and 4-6pm, Ms. Aimee McCauley will be discussing the company

for Food, or Folk Fair Food, Noreen Barclay at 262-695-8563 or Folk Fair Sales for Sales. Shift are 4 hours and volunteers are given passes into the festival, as well as a meal ticket.

On December 7, the annual Christmas party will take place at the ICHC, starting at 6 pm. More details will be released later.

In February, John Gleeson will return with a new topic. His yearly addresses are always popular.

For more information on the Shamrock Club, please go to <http://shamrockclubwis.com> There you will be able to find calendars on Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Midwestern Irish Events. If

and the products with customers and she will personalize any new purchases. Aimee was born and raised near the Belleek village and has strong family connections to the Belleek Pottery that go back several generations. She has a passionate knowledge of the Belleek Pottery, it's markets, history and products.

Store Manager, Karren Gervasio, believes "... (Aimee) will bring great

Leahy releases DVD of live show

Musical phenomenon Leahy have released their dynamic self-titled Public Television Special to national retail outlets. The amount of raw talent and musicianship in one family is rarely experienced and not to be missed.

Even though the world is getting to know them now, their approach to both life and music was captured in 1985 in an Academy Award-winning documentary entitled "Music Most of All." It is evident today that years of playing music and travelling the world has born a wisdom, purpose,

you wish to join, you can find information and download an application form. We also have a 24 hour Irish Activity line, 414-77-Irish (774-7474.)



and confidence in Leahy that exudes their every performance. Audiences are always brought to their feet and literally transformed by Leahy's show. Every sense is engaged. One cannot help but be totally entranced by their synergetic connection. You just don't

get to see a phenomenon like this every day - with any group - let alone a family...

Leahy's current tour is criss-crossing North America, continuing through March 2007. For more information visit www.leahymusic.com.

Gaelic Storm in Sparta, WI



Gaelic Storm fans will be excited to know that the band will be playing at Nightclub Xtreme in Sparta, WI at 8:30 pm. on Tuesday, Nov. 14th. Tickets cost \$20 per person. The club is located at

210 Water St. in Sparta, WI and has a 42 ft. bar and 300 person capacity.

Tickets may still be available by sending an e-mail to: jennj32@msn.com.

Irish Inns and Tours

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Irish Inns and Tours is a group of five Irish inns that offer both romantic and corporate accommodations for visitors to Wisconsin. You are welcome to visit our Irish hotels scattered throughout Wisconsin: St. Brendan's Inn (Green Bay), County Clare Inn (Milwaukee), 52 Stafford Inn (Plymouth) and Rochester Inn (Sheboygan Falls). We also have an inn in Ireland, perfect for that vacation getaway!



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A Couple of Blaguards plays The Royal George

Irish eyes (and mouths) will be smiling as A Couple of Blaguards, the rollicking Irish comedy written by award-winning authors (and brothers) Frank McCourt & Malachy McCourt, plays The Royal George Theatre for a limited four-week engagement.

Directed by Howard Platt, the updated production returns to Chicago's Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St., Chicago, for a limited four-week engagement, beginning Saturday, November 25, 2006 through Sunday, December 24, 2006.

In 1988, before Angela's Ashes and A Monk Swimming made "McCourt" a household name, the two McCourt brothers, Frank and Malachy, first introduced Chicago audiences to their charming childhood tales in A Couple of Blaguards at the Royal George. This updated production features New York veteran Jarlath Conroy (as Frank) and popular former Chicago actor Howard Platt (as Malachy) sharing reminiscences

(and the stage). Incidental Irish music adds to the celebration.

Like their best-selling books, Frank McCourt and Malachy McCourt's A Couple of Blaguards is an autobiographical account of their years growing up in poverty in Ireland. Though times were tough in Limerick, the tales spun by the brothers McCourt simmer with bittersweet recollections, ferocious humor and a parade of colorful characters - from the priest who warns of sinners' eyeballs exploding in Hell to the McCourt grandmother who spits on Frank's unruly "Presbyterian hair" to tame it.

According to Malachy McCourt, "This show is the result of Frank and me listening to the stories of our elders which in turn tunes the ear, the eye and the tongue to observe and give voice to even the most trivial of events. I think we had more fun than anyone writing and performing Blaguards, which has become an affectionate term for the rowdy,

outgoing, and sometimes drinking sort of boys. If you don't have a good evening, you should have yourself checked to make sure you haven't died during the day."

The performance schedule for A Couple of Blaguards at the Royal George Theatre Main Stage, running Saturday, November 25, 2006, through Sunday, December 24, 2006, is: Tuesdays-Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. There will be one Monday evening performance, November 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets, which are priced at \$39.50 for weekday performances (Monday-Thursday) and \$49.50 for weekends, are available at the Royal George Theatre box office, by calling (312) 988-9000 or (312) 902-1500, or visiting www.ticketmaster.com. This family-friendly production is best enjoyed by adults and children ages 12 and up.

Shapeshifters Theatre Presents Two Fall Shows

Shapeshifters Theatre will present two shows in November and December.

The November Comeallya is a performing arts variety show, anchored by the comedic one-act play, The Rise and Fall of Enver Hoxha. Performances will be in the Shamrock American Room, with the smaller space set in a cabaret style. Entertainment includes music by some of the Center's fine session players from the Center, solo vocalists and staged readings from IAHC Poetry fellows.

The Rise and Fall of Enver Hoxha is a comedy set in the operations room of a bus company. It is the study of change or resistance to change, within the workplace. Character Aquinas Mooney's task is to make the buses run on time. He is ably assisted by Noreen O'Sullivan, resident spinster and hypochon-

driac. There, also in portrait form, is Enver Hoxha, one time ruler of Communist Albania and role model for Aquinas in his Herculean dealings with senior management.

The quiet atmosphere is disrupted by an ambitious new employee with a radical restructuring plan for the company which promises to ruffle feathers in the Operations Room. The results are a hilarious look at drama in the workplace.

The November Comeallya runs Friday, Nov. 17th at 8pm and Sunday, Nov. 19th at 3:00 pm. Admission is \$5 for Center members and \$7 for the general public.

Shapeshifters will also perform An Irish Family Christmas this December. Shapeshifters' cast will perform the story from An Irish Night Before Christmas and readings from John B. Keane's Christmas writings. The shows

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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



Tony Blair Get Your Troops Out of Ireland

Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Britain with Bertie Ahern, An Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland, recently told Ian Paisley and his Unionists to get together with Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin before November 24, 2006, and get on with governing the Province of Ulster (one of the four provinces of Ireland) as they have been elected to do.

If they don't comply, Mr. Blair, do what not only a majority of the people of Ireland, but also a majority of the population of your own country of England wants you to do, pull your troops and influence out of the province and let the people of Ireland determine their own destiny. After all, your troops are fighting side by side with our gallant American soldiers in Iraq for that very same cause, the right of every country to rule or determine their own destiny in a democratic manner — Why the difference in Ulster (Northern Ireland)?

Standing with Mr. Ahern, Blair said, "This is a crucial moment in this whole process. We have been almost 40 years waiting for this. Now is the time to get the business done and complete it." So, Mr. Blair, if you want to leave behind you a legacy of a peaceful Ulster and Ireland, before you retire, really complete the job, pull your troops out of Ulster, or at least name a withdraw date.

Chicago Olympic Logo Unveiled

Mayor Richard M. Daley and his great leader of the Chicago Olympic Committee, Pat Ryan, recently unveiled the Chicago logo. It is described as "a stylish Olympic torch that captures Chicago's strength and spirit", that may well be the rallying cry for the city's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, a worldwide attraction.

It is now very event that Mayor Daley is making every effort to stage this big event and with only two other U.S. cities bidding to become the U.S. entry, San Francisco and Los Angeles, both of whom hosted the games before, Chicago stands a good chance of named the U.S. entry, at least.

If Chicago is chosen as the host city, millions of people from all over the globe will come to the city to watch the Games and to go sightseeing. And no doubt every ethnic group in the city and beyond will be staging shows to showcase and promote their respective culture, games, song, dance and music.

Hopefully, Chicago-Irish, whose ancestry helped build and rebuild Chicago, before and after the Fire in 1871, might well indeed qualify to stage one of the minor events. No doubt improvements would have to be made and such things take time and

money, but its never too soon to start kicking around ideas well in advance of final decisions on the location. Better to do little by little over time, than having to do it all at once.

Likewise, our fine Irish American Heritage Center located on the north side of the city — like Gaelic Park, considered one of the finest ethnic centers in the U.S., should be prepared to take full advantage of what might well be a golden opportunity. Both centers make ideal locations to showcase Ireland's fine culture, games, song, dance and music. We expect their leaders to leave no stone unturned.

Even if all of this is just a dream, the year 2016 should be an unforgettable one for the Irish at home and away. As we all know it will be the 100th anniversary of the glorious 1916 Uprising. And what unforgettable memories that conjures up in the minds of Irishmen and women. A handful of brave men and women, ill-prepared and ill-equipped fought the might of the British Empire for almost a week, so that Ireland might be free and independent.

Paying tribute to such a brave and heroic event should be nothing short of perfect and hopefully Chicago-Irish will be in the forefront in depicting this wonderful part of Irish history in all its glory, and for all the world to see.

Congratulations Mike and Nancy Kenny on Your 50th Anniversary

In a big 50th wedding anniversary celebration at Chicago Gaelic Park recently, Mike Kenny and his charming wife Nancy received congratulations and best wishes from a large crowd of family and friends from Ireland and throughout the U.S. Gaelic world. It was a festive occasion for all concerned and the happy couple joined in all the festivity, making it a memorable occasion for all.

The popular Ballyheigue, Kerryman, needs no accolades from me. He has rightly earned numerous awards for dedicated service in many causes since coming to Chicago in 1950. His name and fame is a household one in the Windy City and indeed in U.S. Gaelicdom, all over the country.

Introduced into the GAA by his good friend the late Martin C. Quinn, himself a great camanachder, immediately after his arrival, he lost no time in becoming a spark in the fledgling association, it being reactivated and struggling to get off the ground. Together with others he got the Austin Stack's hurling club moving and their many thrilling games with the famed Harry Holland's put the old camanach game in

Chicago back on the GAA map. In the committee room he was no less active and soon became the spark, with others, that promoted the GAA nationwide even to the extent of helping to get the old Midwest GAA Board started, resulting in the formation of the North American Board in 1959, and eventually the erection of Chicago Gaelic Park.

Not content with all that great work, Mike played a prominent part in the many deserving causes that came along the way in the past half century, for which he has received numerous Humanitarian awards for his tireless work in helping Chicago Gaels and others, who had fallen on hard times. And even today when the call goes out for a leader in such cases, Mike Kenny, Malachy Mannion, Nancy Holly, Maureen O'Looney and others are first on the list as proven leaders.

But, of all the great things that Mike did and is doing, meeting his beautiful and charming wife-to-be Nancy, had to be the most rewarding. And the fine family that followed brought the happy couple great joy and happiness all along the way. Nancy always found time to not only encourage his many endeavors, but also to be right by his side. In her own quiet and unique way she became his co-worker and together they became a household world in Chicago and beyond.

And so we join with the countless friends of Mike and Nancy in wishing them many, many more years of good health and happiness. May the good Lord continue to bless their every good work and endeavor and may He always keep them in "The palm of His hand". Slainte, a cairde gael, agus bean-nact De leat (Good luck my good friends and God bless you both.)

My Sincere Apology to Frank O'Neill & Family

My sincere apology is extended to the well known Chicago-Irish Nationalist Frank O'Neill, his charming wife and family for a genuine mistake in my last column. I immediately apologized to Frank and his wife and in a typical Irish manner they graciously accepted it. Cur a mile mait agat, a cairde gael.

The mix-up occurred from a phone call with a good friend in which we were discussing many things, including news about two Chicago families with the same surnames. I take full responsibility for the error. It was a genuine mistake that should never have happened.

I am very happy to announce that the popular Frank is hale and hearty and lost none of his unique

Irish humour, regardless of the circumstances. Nor has he lost his burning desire to see his native province of Ulster, free from all British oppression, troops and influence. He longs for the glorious day when Ireland will be reunited in a real Irish Republic, all 32 counties. "Not merely Gaelic, but free as well; Not merely free, but Gaelic as well." All true Irishmen and women, at home or in exile, join you in that determination Frank. May we all see that day in our lifetime.

Seeking Tailteann Games Memories

An Irish reader in a current issue of the Irish Echo writes seeking Tailteann Games memories for a documentary her firm is making about the Tailteann Games, a major cultural event which took place in Croke Park, Dublin, in 1924, '28, and '32. I recall the 1928 and '32 events and the great enthusiasm they aroused for the promotion of Irish games such as Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball, and Rounders, a forerunner for our own Baseball. She is seeking memorabilia and photographs. I sent her a copy of Seamus O'Ceallaigh's description of them in his fine book, The Story of the GAA.

Seamus tells the beautiful story of the Tailteann Games, dating back to 632 B.C. and A.D. 1169, which was held every four years, the first week in August, near the spot where Tailte, one of Ireland's most distinguished Queens was buried. From all accounts, the High King proclaimed the opening as various chieftains brought along their star hurlers, footballers, athletes, horsemen, musicians, harpists, and singers, for the daily events. And the ladies devoted the evenings to music, singing, dancing and drama. They called it the "Irish Olympics".

The founding of the GAA in 1884, and the huge success of Irish athletes abroad in the U.S., Canada, and Australia, brought the revival event to the fore. Teams travelled from the U.S., England, Australia, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand and even South Africa. The events in Dublin in the 20's were a huge success, and attracted large crowds from all over the world. After the playoffs, Ireland beat the U.S. in the finals as expected, but nevertheless it helped promote the games abroad.

Readers are asked to write Ms. Mager, with further enquiries or if they have any photographs of these events in the 20's. Her address is Union Films, Caragh Road, Dublin, Ireland. We look forward to the documentary.

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Damien Dempsey delivers at Gunther Murphy's

The backroom at Gunther Murphy's was electrified with the music and the lyrics of Damien Dempsey, (left). Over 100 attended, and many in attendance knew the words to his music. We found the words soulful, heartwrenching, piercing and exhilarating, and the passionate delivery one-of-a-kind. Damien is a Dubliner, but we predict his music will reach the entire Diaspora! His latest CD, "Shots" is available at retailers and Irish imports stores. IAN will let you know when he is back!

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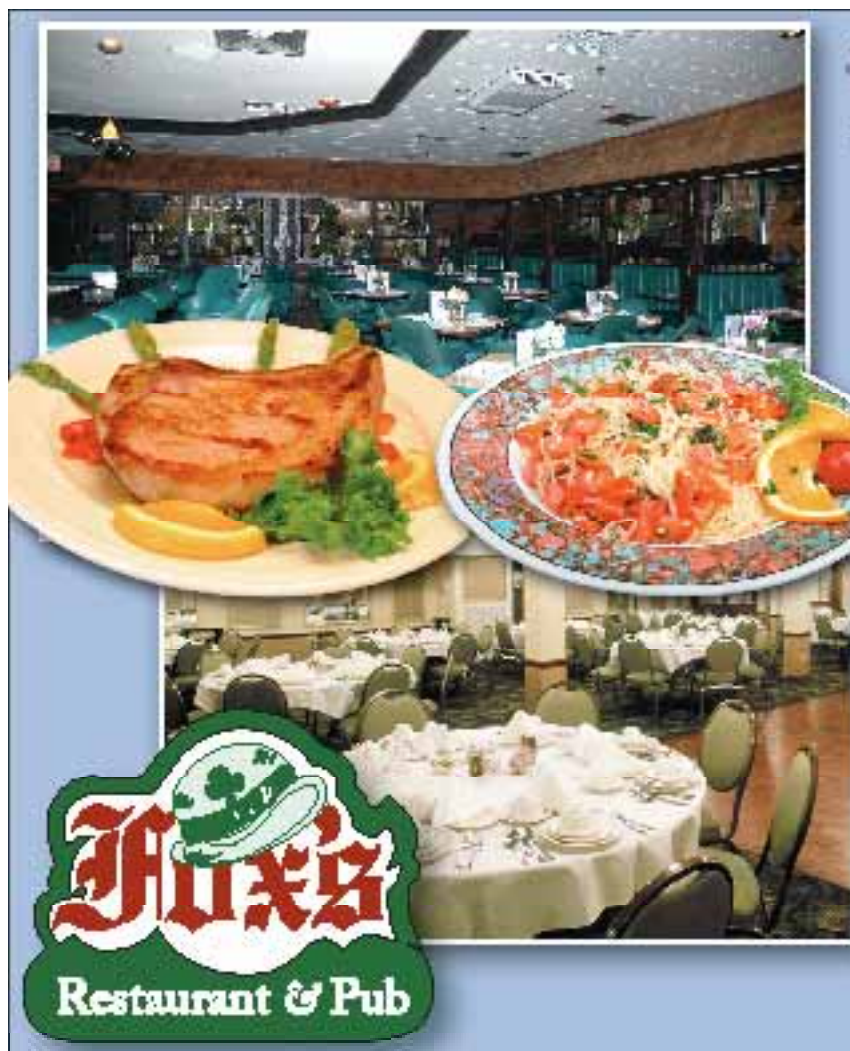
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HOUR 8

Attention Chicagoland Authors

The group's next meeting is Tuesday, November 28th at the Woodridge Public Library at 7 (pm). Sharan Tash will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Authors Marketing Group. Sharan is a successful businesswoman from the Chicago Area. She will discuss the importance of relationship networking for everyone, including authors. As Sharan states "she is more likely to buy a book from an author she knows personally than someone she doesn't." (Note: Woodridge is located just east of Naperville). The library's website is: <http://www.woodridgelibrary.org>.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Jim Durkin, a co-founder of the group, via e-mail at jamestdurkin@hotmail.com or by visiting the group's website at: <http://www.authorsmarketinggroup.org>.



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Special Children's Charities Night of "Pirate Queen"

Join the Special Children's Charities for a mystical evening of Irish music and dance, to see Boubilil and Schönberg's The Pirate Queen, with proceeds directly benefiting Special Olympics Chicago.

The performance will take place on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cadillac Palace

Theater, 151 W. Randolph Street in Chicago. Tickets are \$125 each and the proceeds directly benefit Special Olympics Chicago.

Only 200 tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. To place your order today, contact Special Children's Charities at 312-527-3743 or scc@sochicago.org. Credit card

orders will be taken over the phone or via email. To order via mail, send check payable to Special Children's Charities to: Special Children's Charities/Special Olympics Chicago, 541 N. Fairbanks Court, Chicago, IL 60611.

In accordance with IRS regulations, a portion of your contribution is tax deductible.

The Third Annual Echoes of Erin Comhaltas tour made a stop at the Irish American Heritage Center October 20, 2006 and much of Chicagoland's Irish music scene stopped by to see the show. They were not disappointed! The show lasted almost three hours, but no one went home early as the music and the dance and the storytelling were superb. Pictured are two Irish families with a lot of great music between them, the Daly and Carroll families. (l to r): Eileen Abberton, John Abberton, John Daly, Liz Carroll, Eileen Carroll, Paddy Daly, Eileen Daly, Kevin Carroll.

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Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in IRELAND at the Irish American Heritage Center

Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland celebrates the Christmas tradition with the finest in Irish song, dance, music and laughter.

The concert includes the lineup of Kathy Durkin, Ireland's Queen of Country, Richie Hayes, the "leprechaun of song and comedy" and the Dublin City Dancers, a renowned troupe of Ireland's finest traditional and contemporary Irish dancers. The team is comprised of dancers straight from Ireland's most prestigious dance shows, including Riverdance and Lord of the Dance.

Friday, December 1 at 8pm

Tickets are \$20 - all seats are general admission

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Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan

Navigate the Loop to The Kerryman Irish Pub

Throughout Ireland's history, ancient to present, County Kerry has contributed much to the credit this culture so greatly deserves. The modern-day Kerryman himself, owner Mick O'Donoghue, keeps a careful eye on the goings on of this part-elegant dining, part-boisterous Irish pub. There is a definite Chicago-industrial feel to this warm-colored and modernly decorated pub. A solid, festively decorated mahogany wood first floor pub gives way to an almost straight staircase of iron detailing, mixed with wood-finished railings, reminding patrons of the past use of the probable factory space. The apparent iron-work décor on the dining area of the second-floor loft echo the many bridges of the Chicago River just a bit further south of the pub. Everywhere one looks, there are tributes to famous Kerryfolk—John B. Keane, actor Gregory Peck, and



Antarctic explorer Tom Crean.

But the original Kerryman's accomplishments went largely unrecognized until recent times. St. Brendan, known as Brendan the Navigator or Voyager, and namesake of this establishment, is believed by some modern-day scholars to have explored North America as far back as the 6th century A.D. Ordained a monk in 512, Brendan spent the next twenty years of his life exploring the areas around the Irish isles and founding monasteries. Sometime early in his travels, (estimated around 523 A.D.), Brendan learned from another monk of faraway lands to the west. He and a group of monks set sail for this land in small vessels made of oak bark with animal hides sewn together over wood, to investigate the land and convert the inhabitants. Legend claims they were gone for close to

seven years. Few survived the journey home to Ireland. The story is supported by Latin texts written during this time in Europe, after Brendan and his crew returned and the story spread throughout the continent. Mysterious Ogham writings found in modern-day West Virginia lend credibility to the ancient voyage, containing Christian religious messages and "Celtic" symbols. The existence of these writings is accepted as proof among some contemporary historians that Christian monks walked in North America more than 1400 years ago, the dates coinciding with Brendan's journey.

Take the legend or leave it, but there's no doubt about the great food and service to be found in this classy pub. The Guinness is perfectly poured—not a single bubble to be found. Get your happy-hour group together from the office and meet for Thursday night drink specials of \$2 Miller Light bottles and \$4 Jaeger bombs. Order some Bass Ale onion rings to accompany



Image of St. Brendan and monks rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.



The exterior of The Kerryman.

your drinks—the only of their kind to be found in the loop, served with Bass in the batter and horseradish on the side. If not, the Baked Artichoke dip is a great alternate way to start out, Artichoke hearts blended with roasted red peppers, chiles and garlic, served alongside toasted French bread make a good way to warm up on chilly autumn nights. The sweet Dingle Bay Crab Cake, pan fried with mustard and roasted red pepper sauce, is definitely worth a try. The burger and pub sandwich collection is a decent size, ranging from classic burgers to sun dried tomato yellow fin tuna or meatloaf. Among the best features of the All Day Affairs are the herbs, capers and brown butters sautéed salmon with vegetables, filet mignon medallions, macaroni and three cheese or the curried chicken. There is also an Irish breakfast available all day. A delectable Galway seafood chowder and selection of six salads offer diners a choice of lighter fare.

Be sure to save room for dessert. This part of the menu is currently under construction, but the selections thus far are

amazing. Among others, the St. Brendan Boat is a light puff pastry with fresh strawberries, whipped cream and crème Anglaise. The Granny O'Donoghue's chocolate cake is just the right mix of sweet and bitter—absolutely amazing!

The Kerryman has an amazing party room located on the second floor loft in the back, for all your special occasions. Stop by to watch the Bears win on flatscreen TVs, or catch all the Gaelic Athletic Association games here. Watch the Notre Dame game while you recover from last night with \$4 Bloody Mary's or \$2 bottles during the game. Weekends feature all sorts of music, from Irish on Thursdays, to DJs on the weekends. For a real Chicago-Irish feel, navigate your way to The Kerryman at Erie and Clark (661 N. Clark St., red line to Grand or Chicago, bus lines #66 east or #125 west). For more information, dial 312.335.8131 or check out info@thekerrymanchicago.com

Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer and columnist living on Chicago's Gold Coast. callahanmaureen@hotmail.com

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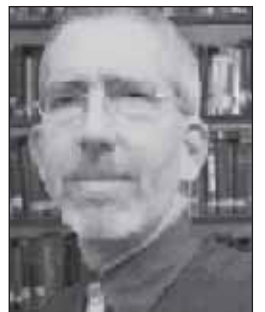
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Barack Obama, Cullerton, Close, honorary co-chairs of St. Patrick Fathers' Kenya famine relief event

Raffle and Dance to take place at 4:00 p.m., November 26, 2006
at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago

U.S. Senator Barack Obama joins State Senator John Cullerton and Dr. Michael Close in asking Chicagoans to dust off their dancing shoes and open their checkbooks for the St. Patrick Fathers' Holiday Ball Room Reunion and raffle benefiting Kenya famine relief. The event will reprise the Chicago Holiday Ball Room social dances of the 1950s and 1960s, and will culminate with a raffle drawing for a pair tickets on the Irish tour cruise, a diamond ring and other prizes.

All proceeds from the raffle and dance will go to the St. Patrick's Missionary Society relief efforts in Kenya.

"I think people in this community share my concern for people in Kenya who are subjected to the horrors of drought, famine and starvation," said Senator Obama. "Chicagoans want to help and the St. Patrick Fathers' projects—drilling water wells and delivering food—are very direct and tangible ways of providing significant relief."

The St. Patrick Fathers have missions in two villages in the hardest-hit part of Kenya, where there has been no rain for two years, water sources have dried up and food supplies are severely depleted. Soon, the people in these villages will not be able to give their children even one meal a day, according to Vice Superior Father John Garry, who leads the St. Patrick Society's missions in Kenya. The goal of the Chicago fundraising event is to raise at least enough money to dig two permanent wells and deliver ten seven-ton trucks of grain to the villages.

"The raffle and dance will give people an opportunity to reach out in a meaningful way to people who need our help, and have a bit of fun at the same time," said State Senator Cullerton. "The dance on the 26th of November at the Irish American Heritage Center will re-create the great times many people in Chicago's Irish community remember at the Holiday Ball Room. We'd love to share that experience with people who were there in the 50s and 60s, and with newcomers."

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Tradition In Review



By Bill Margeson

Well, we can call this CD Slam III! More! More! More!

Let's give a listen to a brand new group out of Ireland, Liadan. All-female and all-talent. A sextet, as it were. They sing and play beautifully. And, they are set to tour with The Chieftains in 2007, so you know they are good. Let's jump the PC Shark, and also say how attractive they all are! Fiddles, whistles, flutes, piano accordion and harp. Very feminine. Lovely. VERY traditional, they lend a softer, more intuitive approach to the music. This album is only for the true trad lover. It is, as so many first albums are, named solely after the group. Liadan. This group was recommended to us by Paul Brock, so you know they are good. If you like roarin', thumpin' trad, this is not for you. This is very, very well played. Great stuff—especially in a group's first album. Bill Whelan and Micheal O'Suilleabhain are also supporting the group with some

very effusive liner notes and recommendations. The women also arranged most or all of the tunes and songs. Major league. This must be listened to very closely, as should trad music be in general. Lots of rewards here for the real listener. Rating: Three Harps

Teadá has their brand new album out. Entitled, Inne Amarach (Yesterday,



Tomorrow) it is all-instrumental, and a stunner. We came late to the Teada train. There is always a hot, new group out in

trad that everyone is talking about, and that was Teada for a while. We think it actually may have hurt them, as the buzz trapped them. Time has moved a little down the road, and these five lads have truly matured and come into their own. The album is on Compass in the States, issued under license from the

legendary, Gael Linn. Compass or Gael Linn has really put the money behind this package, as there is also a dvd included separately, featuring the band and many of the Sligo musicians and others from whom they have drawn inspiration. Finally, this band is living up to its buzz. This is a solid contender for Instrumental Album of the Year. Exciting trad, Teada continues their own tradition of including a tremendous variety of tempos and forms in the tunes. They are surely in a contemporary context—but still truly trad. As we say, we have become fans, and albums like this will keep us firmly in the Teada camp! Rating: 3.5 Harps

We got introduced to Dave Gunning through the superb Nova Scotia/Cape Breton presentation at this year's Irish Fest. We raved about this to you in the September column. No need to do it again. Suffice it to say, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton stole the Fest. The tourism officials brought along the very best of their musicians, singers and composers. Dave Gunning was a highlight. Singer, guitarist and composer, his work is a delight. He is a throwback to the time not so long ago when lyrics meant something, and meant to touch you. He has a great voice, and almost all the songs on his album, Two-Bit World are self-penned. Almost. He also does the best version of Broom O' The Cowdenknoves we have ever heard. A winning talent, with a very sincere manner about both his stage appearances and his music. This is a great, great album, performed by an artist who matters. And, he is so young! His tune, New Highway and Salt Hearts should be instant classics. This is not trad, and it ain't folk. Like all the best of this genre, it cannot be easily labeled. Let's try. It is terrific music. Does that work for you? Rating: 3.5 Harps

truly trad tunes, played openly and perfectly. Unbelievable energy. The hottest and best group in trad right now is Munnelly, started by Kieran's brother, the aforementioned Dave. This album is a project that furthers the Munnelly reputation as the best, while offering an even deeper trad approach. This is mighty, indeed. If you love trad, get this—stop lollygagging! Google!! Rating: 3.5 Harps

Finally, this month, we have Inside Out by Micheal O'Raghallaigh. This is a wonderful concertina player, with real ability. Great taste. Energy. Spontaneity. A sense of humor. Dare we say it? Okay. Soul. This is all trad, all tunes. Backed by some very able musicians, including the legendary Triona ni Dhomnaill on keyboards, this album is such a winner! Huge! It was sent to me by old buddy, Alan O'Leary from Copperplate in London. We mention him a lot in this column, don't we? That is because we can think of no organization from which we more eagerly open the packages of albums they want us to review. If Copperplate is involved, we know the artist is great. Never fails. And, not here, either. There are millions of you who love the concertina, and you just can't hear it better than here. There is Jacqueline McCarthy. And, Noel Hill. And, now O'Raghallaigh. Wow! Four Harps! Wow!

By now, we hope you have found the Public Radio show, Blarney on the Air with Shay Clarke and me. It is on every week on Mondays, from 7-9 p.m. (Chicago time). WDCB 90.9 fm. Get it on the net at www.wdcb.org You will hear wonderful music, as is reviewed here. You will also, unfortunately, hear whatever aural insults Shay decides to bring that week. He has not a clue. Not a clue. A musical armadillo—but a lot of fun to share a show with!



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Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



She's sweet, smart and sexy, bright, bubbly and beautiful, her name is Susie Watkins, and she's captured the heart of Patrick Murphy, that scallywag from Cork and dynamic lead singer from Gaelic Storm.

Susie and Patrick were engaged to be married during the summer and in July he first introduced her to thousands of screaming fans at the Dayton Irish Festival, the fans screamed back their approval. They loved her too.

A few weeks later, Susie accompanied Patrick to Milwaukee Irish Fest and again, on stage, introduced his fiancé Susie to thousands more, it was a celebration and Susie was well received by the legions of Gaelic Storm troopers. Patrick still belts out his signature song "Born to be a Bachelor" but it does not ring true anymore... Pat, your bachelor days are over, but with Susie by your side your future looks brighter than ever!

her friends when they played in the Chicago area. The love story had begun, but with Pat based in L.A. and touring all the time it had yet to be tested, and fate had a few tricks to play.

Band member Steve Weymayer may have been playing Cupid when driving through the Chicago suburb of Downers Grove where Susie lived for a while, passed a moving truck with WATKINS on the side of it. "Susie Watkins" said Steve, "We haven't seen her for a while Pat." Serendipity! But Susie had moved back to California to work for a mail order catalog and had lost touch with Pat except for an occasional e-mail.

Pat needed to get out of L.A. Co-founder of Gaelic Storm and all around great guy, Steve Twigger had settled down in Austin, Texas, with his other half Allison and Pat found his own place in Annapolis, Maryland. Susie, tired of her desk job, landed a spot on a private 112 foot yacht as a Girl Friday cruising up and down the East Coast—sounds like something out of Lifestyles of the Rich and the Famous—and it was. Better still, the yacht was docked in Annapolis, MD. She had a fabulous time and was able to meet up with Pat regularly and they have been dating ever since. Susie eventually gave up the yacht, but stayed in Annapolis where she now works for National Geographic. I

told you she was smart. Susie first met Pat's parents while they were visiting him in California. Pat's dad, a great character by all accounts, says of Pat "he still can't sing worth a damn" and according to Susie, Pat's mum will sing "at the drop of a hat!" Susie has since met Pat's 8 siblings and visited Ireland, together with Pat immediately after this year's Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Pat met Susie's parents in California. They were concerned about her move to Annapolis, but Pat, that wily Corkman, won them over and they are

both now Gaelic Storm fans, indeed Susie's mom can sometimes be found patrolling the Gaelic Storm chat room (MomW). It was very important to Susie that Pat fit in well with her family, but Cork charm prevailed and Pat is loved by all, especially her 3-year-old nephew.

The proposal was planned by Pat at a very special night in Wolftrap, VA. He had organized a picnic for two, at a performance of the National Symphony Orchestra. It was 100 degrees that day and Pat had the cooler with the wine and sambos. Afterwards it was strawberries and champagne, then out comes the ring box and then according to Susie, "It was just his smiling face and he almost forgot to pop the question."

The wedding is planned for September '07 in Annapolis. They have chosen a beautiful church downtown for the ceremony and the reception will be held at the Headquarters of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, dedicated to environmental responsibility and keeping the Bay pristine. "It is an amazing and serene place," Susie tells me. It will be a big bash with all the Murphy's from Cork and guests from all over the USA. Of the expected 200 guests, only 25 or so are from Annapolis.

With Gaelic Storm's busy schedule, Susie and Pat are often apart for weeks, but despite the rigors of the road he still calls her three times a day and as for Susie, well she has a wedding to plan. Pat's folks—the Murphy's from Cork, met in the USA when Pat's dad was in the US Army and his mum was a flight attendant with United. This busy band that bring much joy wherever they play, have all made their homes in different cities. Twigger in Austin, Texas, Ellery in Boston, and now Pat in Annapolis. Ryan is moving to Chicago and Peter, the piper is moving to Chicago also.

Pat dedicated the album "Tree" to "Q" (Susie Q) so now we know who "Q" is. Susie refers to her Pat as "P" so, as we've always been told, we must mind our P's and Q's. We wish them all the luck in the world and I suppose, eventually, just what the world needs, more Murphy's... God help us.

Festifying.....the end of the season

Since I wrote last we have done festivals in Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan and two in Missouri. The Kansas City Irish festival was a fabulous event. It is held downtown at the Crown Center Square and has three stages with an amazing line up of bands. Black 47, Hothouse Flowers, The Bridies, Seamus Kennedy, The Fuchsia Band and of course Cowtown favorites, The Elders. The big surprise for us was that Morton's

Steakhouse was a food vendor... now there's posh for ya. It's a magnificent location in a busy downtown area and was a brave move by Dan Regan and his committee. In a few short years they have grown their festival from a regional event to a top ten Irish fest. Congratulations to Dan.

Weston, Mo have their Irish festival in October and it is also a great fun event. Check out the KC festival website and the Weston Irish website for more details.

Blarney

We are happy to announce that we have found a new retail location for Blarney Fine Irish Jewelry, on Randall Road just North of I 90. We will be open Tuesday's through Saturday's from 11-7 at The Midas Touch Jewellers, just opposite Menards from November 1st. We look forward to welcoming you and showing you our fine selection of Irish/Celtic jewelry just in time for the holiday season.

Our website blarneyhome.com should be up in the next week or so but in the meantime if you have any questions just call us at 847-844-9380.



I sat down with Susie one sunny morning at Milwaukee Irish Fest to get the lowdown on this Gaelic love story.

Susie Watkins was born and raised in Anaheim, California and the Welsh blood in her veins makes her a bona-fide Celt, (not that that's important, but it is a big plus.) It was back in 2000 that she first encountered Gaelic Storm. Susie, then a student at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, went to a gig, booked by her friend who was on the Fine Arts Committee. She enjoyed the lively and energized performance but it was after the show



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Tinker's Dam

by Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley

The Christmas miracle of World War I in 1914 brought peace of Christ

Some 90 years ago much of Europe was a political tinderbox awaiting the spark that would ignite it into the terrible conflict known as World War I or simply "The Great War." Ironically, since the turn of the 20th Century, the French and other European countries had been enjoying what they happily called "La Belle Epoque" (the beautiful era).

Great scientific progress and human



exploration had been made by many to make life better. Empires expanded to the far corners of the earth to take up "the white man's burden" to the native peoples of

Africa and elsewhere. Hope and exhilaration greeted each new discovery. But still the mood of many people was ominous as the clouds of war hung sullenly over much of Europe, and armies prepared for battle.

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on June 28, 1914 at Sarajavo in Bosnia provided the final spark that plunged Europe and much of the world into the greatest war known up to that time.

Guns of August

Shortly afterwards, the famous "guns of August" boomed and the mighty armies of the French, British, Belgian, German, Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires began their mobilization for a relentless war that would eventually claim millions of lives before peace was finally restored in 1918.

But in spite of all the shelling, gunfire, smoke, blood, mud and death, one of the little-known "miracles" of that time took place on Christmas Day in 1914. It was a miracle of human kindness and love. Along with others, British and Irish troops participated enthusiastically.

Plea for Peace

In November of that year, Pope Benedict XV

requested a cessation of hostilities on Christ's birthday. "Impossible!" was the reply from both the Allied and Central Powers high commands. The war must go on.

But what is impossible for officers in high places is often very possible for the ordinary soldiers who quickly tire of war and soon long for peace, home and love. The thousands of men facing each other in the mud-filled trenches that stretched their ugly scars in the earth from the Swiss border to the North Atlantic decided to call off the war on the Western Front themselves.

Along around sundown on Thursday, a cold and frosty Christmas Eve, the firing died down until every gun was silent. After months of thundering artillery and crackling rifles, the silence was almost eerie. What was happening?

According to reports, it was a young British soldier who first sensed the "miracle." Standing guard duty at midnight in an outpost on the edge of "No Man's Land," Pvt. Peter Goudge was alert to every sound from the German trenches.

Suddenly he was startled to hear the German troops singing their traditional Christmas hymn "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" (Silent Night, Holy Night). Pvt. Goudge started singing himself. Before long English and Irish troops of the British Expeditionary Forces (BEF) sang "O Come All Ye Faithful" to the cheers of the Saxon infantrymen. The singing continued until all along the Western Front former enemies sang Christmas carols with joy and peace in their hearts.

Hundreds of Lights

English, Irish and French troops then began to notice hundreds of colored lights strung up by the German soldiers along the barbed wire in front of their trenches. At places along the trenches, brightly colored Christmas trees brought the holiness of the season to the war-ravaged battlefields.

And Pvt. Goudge was even more startled to see a lone German soldier carefully picking his way across the barbed wire and shell holes of "No Man's Land" while holding aloft a tiny Christmas tree bright with flickering candles.

Leaning over the barbed wire of the British trenches, he shouted happily in English "Merry Christmas."

"Merry Christmas to you" roared back the British troops. Soon the air was filled with gleeful shouts of "Merry Christmas" to which the Germans replied, "Froehliche Weihnachten."

The Germans then shouted, "Come out we will

not shoot for Christmas." Timidly at first, troops of the BEF climbed out of their trenches and advanced unarmed into "No Man's Land" to greet yesterday's enemies in gray-green uniforms.

Some laughed, others were near tears as they embraced to wish each other "Merry Christmas."

Along the hundreds of miles of trenches, the Christmas "spirit" caught on quickly. French troops shouted "Joyeux Noel" across the battle lines. A French regimental band serenaded the German troops with classical music, with a Christmas theme predominating.

And Belgian and German troops exchanged gifts of cigars and cheese, presents from their loved ones at home, and now shared with yesterday's enemies.

Christmas Miracle

Christmas Day finally dawned to the strange sight of groups of formerly hostile soldiers exchanging gifts, good wishes and songs on yesterday's bitterly contested battlefields. Despite language and other barriers, the Spirit of Christmas overcame all.

Football matches, using the barbed wire as field markers, took place between teams from opposing armies. British team played a German team and lost 3-2. Minor officers and ordinary soldiers had photos taken with their opposites. It was truly difficult to tell that a war had raged between these armies for five months. Brotherly love and the Spirit of Christmas filled the day.

Toasts with beer and wine, and even tea and coffee, were offered for home and family and friends. The most popular toast, though, was to peace.

But as evening fell, soldiers of the various armies began to trickle back slowly to their trenches to resume, much more reluctantly, the bitter business of killing each other. Tears and manly embraces marked the parting of thousands of men who had found "Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men" - if only for day.

The "Christmas Miracle" of 1914 had ended.

Military high commands in all armies took severe measures to insure that warring troops would not fraternize in the future. There were no more Christmas "miracles" for the rest of World War I. But to those soldiers who participated in it, the day the war stopped for Christ's birthday was a cherished memory of "Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will."

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Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland celebrates the Christmas tradition with the finest in Irish song, dance, music and laughter. The show stars vocalist Tony Kenny, who, in the world of Irish music, needs little introduction. He was Ireland's 1998 "Entertainer of the Year," and has thrilled audiences around the world with his exceptional talent.

The concert includes the lineup of Kathy Durkin, Ireland's Queen of Country, Richie Hayes, the "Leprechaun of song and comedy" and the Dublin City Dancers, a renowned troupe of Ireland's finest traditional and contemporary Irish dancers. The team is comprised of dancers straight from Ireland's most prestigious dance shows, including Riverdance and Lord of the Dance.

The concert is Friday, December 1st at. Tickets are \$20 and all seats are general admission. 773-282-7035, ext 10.

Carraig Pub music

This month at the Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park come in for the great free entertainment beginning Fridays at 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 p.m. This month the Carraig presents:

Jerry Eadie, Friday, November 10th;
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The Ploughboys, Saturday,
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Also, the Carraig has daily food and drink specials and a menu of delicious foods including Beef Stew, Shepard's Pie, shrimp, perch, cod and halibut. Every Tuesday night visit the Carraig Pub for the Pub Quiz beginning at 8p.m. and exercise your trivia knowledge to win prizes. Also, Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. to enjoy the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago. Everyone is welcome.

For further information and to reserve dinner tickets please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323. Also visit our website at www.chicagogaelpark.org for more information.

'Glengarry Bhoys' At Ballydoyle November 10

The Glengarry Bhoys invite you to Ballydoyle Irish Pub on Friday Nov. 10, 2006 to celebrate their tour in support of their eighth and 2006 CD release, "Mill Sessions" on Celtic Cross Records. The unstoppable high-energy of these Ontario-based ambassadors of Canadian Celtic World Traditions (or Canadiana, as they like to call it) fuses Celtic Scots-Irish, Pop, and Canadian rhythms into a uniquely multi-layered sound like no other. The background of Graham Wright, singer-songwriter and Bhoys' guitarist, gives us a glimpse of where this inventive sound came from. You don't normally hear "bagpipes" and "contemporary music" in the same sentence, but the Bhoys' extraordinary arrangements twist, turn, and revere each song into their innovative trademark Glengarry Bhoys' sound! With a wide variety of choice

material, durable thematic threads, and spirited vocals and arrangements, "Mill Sessions" can only expand the Glengarry Bhoys' reputation as imaginative and talented musicians. Their work on this album is a vigorous celebration of energy on-tap.

If energy is what you crave, there is nothing like seeing the Glengarry Bhoys live. They aim to please with their vivacious stage show and put out an upbeat kick-up-ye-heels concert' all-to-the-wall foot-stompin' live performance. The Bhoys log over 150 shows a year nationally and hold top billing on the Celtic-festival circuit. The Mill Sessions tour includes a brief jaunt to Scotland, dates in the U.S. and Canada.

Ballydoyle Irish Pub, 5157 Main Street, Downers Grove IL, Showtime: 9:00 PM. Ticket Price: \$5.

Colleen's Angels for Prader-Willi Fund Raiser

On November 19, 2006, Colleen's Angels for Prader-Willi Syndrome will hold a fund-raiser at Gaelic Park to raise awareness and promote research to unlock the mystery of Prader-Willi, a life-threatening syndrome.

The evening will begin at 3pm to 9pm with a cost of \$25.00 per person, which will include food and entertainment. Velvet Green will start the festivities, then Pat Daly and the Sounds of Green, and ending with Frank O'Connor. Also, The Trinity Dancers will be performing at 6pm.

There will be a Grand Raffle and tickets are now available for \$20.00 each or 3 for \$50.00. The grand prize is \$3,500, 2nd prize is a surround-sound system, and 3rd

prize is \$500. Tickets for the raffle will be available at the event, or you can call Bill Devitt at 708-372-1737, or John O'Connell at 708-489-6727. There will also be a Basket Raffle, as well as a Silent Auction. The highlight of the Silent Auction will be some memorabilia from the '85 Bears, and 2005 World Champion White Sox.

Anyone who is unable to attend and would like to make a donation, please send it to Colleen's Angels, State Bank of Countryside, 6053 W. 79th St., Burbank, IL 60459.

Your donations and prayers are extremely appreciated. Join us on November 19th for a good time for a good cause!

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Chicago Commemorates the Hunger Strike

By Rae Doberstein

October 1, 2006 was the occasion for the Chicago remembrance of the 25th Anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike. As a

result of the strike, ten brave Irish freedom fighters gave their lives so that their surviving comrades could have the right to call themselves political prisoners.

In a hall decorated with grim black and white photographs of the deceased prisoners' funerals, black and Irish flags, and posters dramatically reading "MURDER" in reference to Margaret Thatcher and her government, participants met at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rosemont. Although the tragedy commemorated was a solemn one, joy at seeing old friends permeated the banquet room as adults laughed and chatted and children ran about in a constant whirl. Once the program began, however, the soberness of the occasion drew everyone's full attention to the first U.S. presentation of Margo Harkins's documentary for BBC Northern Ireland, The Hunger Strike.

Harkins's film began with a montage of scenes set in Long Kesh, Belfast, and other places throughout the North victimized by The Troubles. The documentary combined footage of former prisoners walking the now abandoned H-Blocks with interviews of the surviving participants – both Irish and English – and the prisoners' families and supporters. As expected, the British reminiscences, particularly those of a Long Kesh guard and Margaret Thatcher's political flunkies, smacked of arrogance and a deep contempt for the Irish people. Some politicians, however, exhibited an unexpected humanity at the treachery and cruelty of Thatcher's regime. Harkins's use

of balance in choosing which interviews to use made viewers realize that British humanity, while rare, does indeed exist in reference to the Irish.

The most difficult recollections came from the prisoners themselves, both comrades of the fallen Volunteers and men who survived the Hunger Strike. Dying from starvation is incredibly painful, and the personal accounts told by the prisoners of what they and their allies suffered were hard to hear. Bobby Sands, who originated the second Hunger Strike when the British reneged on their promise to consider the prisoners' demands for political status, figured prominently throughout the documentary. Sands is the best known of the Hunger Strikers, and his death had a tremendously galvanizing effect on the world. It was quite fitting that he should be the movie's focus.

The other Hunger Strikers also got their due in Harkins's film. Every one of the ten men who gave his life for Ireland was honored in the documentary. The stories told about these valiant heroes and their commitment to a Free Ireland brought home how brave they were, how much they loved their country and the Irish people and their willingness to sacrifice all in the name of the Republic. A more fitting tribute would be hard to find. Harkins gave them the justice the Brits denied them.

The families and friends of the dead men also had a forum in the film. Gerry Adams, Bernadette McAliskey, and other Republican activists received much coverage in interviews. Perhaps the most moving moment captured was the statement of Bobby Sands's mother immediately after his death. Her grief and her love for her son permeated every word; it was clear where his indomitable spirit and love for humanity came from. No one watching this part of the documentary came away unmoved.

After the film concluded, Harkins took questions from the audience. Harkins stated that when the film aired on BBC Northern Ireland it drew a 40% audience share, an extremely large viewership for the network. She also said that while people in Britain want to pretend that The Troubles don't exist, the Irish throughout the island are becoming more and more

eager to learn about Northern Ireland. Of the many calls received after the program's airing, only three were negative. The others were overwhelmingly supportive of efforts to get out the truth concerning the British victimization of ten brave soldiers in the war for Irish freedom.

After the film ended Joe McShane began to sing and play guitar. He did an original song he wrote about his neighbor, Hunger Striker Raymond McCreesh. McShane wrote the song two days after McCreesh's funeral. It was a fitting tribute to that selfless Irish patriot.

The next speaker was Omar Sierra from the Venezuelan Consulate in Chicago. Mr. Sierra spoke of his own country's current struggle for freedom from oppressive forces, and reminded the audience that Simon Bolivar, hero of Venezuela's battle for liberation from the control of Spain, had as his best general and confidant an Irishman, Daniel Florence O'Leary. Mr. Sierra expressed a great deal of empathy for Northern Ireland's struggle to be free from British domination. He stated that Venezuelans hold a tremendous amount of admiration for the Irish people.

After the Consul's remarks concluded, Marian Walsh of the Victims and Survivors Trust took the podium. Mrs. Walsh grew up in Belfast and first experienced British-led terror in 1969 when she and her family were burned out of their home by Loyalists. Her father was shot but survived; unfortunately, Mrs. Walsh's son, Damian, who was not involved in politics, would not be so lucky. He was murdered by the UVF in a botched assassination attempt on a known Republican, as a direct result of which Mrs. Walsh began the Victims and Survivors Trust to help others who have lost loved ones or been injured by the Brits and Loyalists. The Trust works to provide worthwhile activities for the residents of Belfast, but its chief goal, according to its mission statement, is to, "Assist in the building of a peaceful society" in Northern Ireland. The Trust has been active in many aspects of Northern Irish life, including The Open the Files Campaign. Anyone wishing further information about the Trust may contact Mrs. Walsh through the Trust's website or at (028) 9022 2181.

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John Finucane and Sean Cahill

A procession of pipers escorted in bearers of Irish and American flags and 10 people bearing large photo placards of the Hunger Strikers who gave their lives. A moment of silence once more reminded those in the hall of the solemnity and sacredness of the occasion. After the ceremony concluded the audience heard from two men who know all too well what their brothers endured in 1981: Terry Kirby, a Blanketman, and Bobby Lavery, who functioned as a conduit of information between the "outside" and the Maze during the Hunger Strike and was one of the first Republicans to be elected to the Belfast constituency.

Mr. Lavery stated that during the Hunger Strike he was keenly aware of how Margaret Thatcher tried to demonize the Strikers. According to Mr. Lavery, "The British tried to drain the lifeblood of Republican support by throwing everyone they could into prison." The attempts to break the Irish spirit failed; British intransigence and inhumanity toward the Strikers only served to strengthen the Nationalist movement and draw worldwide attention to the horrors in Northern Ireland. Mr. Lavery, who lost a son and brother to The Troubles, spoke in high praise of all activists for Irish freedom when he said, "Because of you our cause will never die."

Mr. Kirby, who had been visibly moved by the moment of silence, took the podium after his old friend finished. Mr. Kirby has quite a history of causing problems for the Brits. He escaped from the Maze in 1983. While imprisoned, he went on the blanket and this brought him into contact with the men who would eventually die in the Hun-

ger Strike. Mr. Kirby reported that the mood in the H-Blocks was somber when Bobby Sands announced that a second Hunger Strike was to begin and that he would be the first striker. He promised to remain on strike until the Brits granted Republicans the status of political prisoners. This meant that everyone in the H-Blocks knew from the start of the second Strike that Bobby Sands would die, "Because when Bobby gave his word he stuck to it."

Despite that grim reality the prisoners began to sing just as they did each night. Mr. Kirby recalled that Martin Hurson led the song. Mr. Kirby said that he knew Francis Hughes well and that Hughes was, "A great soldier... he took the fight to the Brits." He refused to be put under anesthesia when having a British bullet removed from his body for fear that he would give away information about the Volunteers while under the influence of the drug. Mr. Kirby spoke glowingly of the other Strikers as well: Joe McDonnell, "Never gave in in the slightest way to the Brits"; Kevin Lynch was nicknamed "Barabbas" and had a terrific sense of humor that no amount of suffering could dim; Raymond McCreesh was quiet and a deep thinker; Kieran Doherty, with whom Mr. Kirby was arrested, went on the blanket with him; Thomas McElwee, who lost a leg in a bomb explosion, would take his prosthesis off and beat his guards with it; a quiet man, Patsy O'Hara was also interned with Mr. Kirby when they were both 17; Mr. Kirby stated that Mickey Devine, the last Striker to die, was very quiet and shy, "But you listened to him when he spoke" because everyone

knew what he had to say mattered.

These personal recollections of the 1981 Hunger Strikers gave flesh and blood to the smiling faces earlier illustrated by the placards. "These men took an oath to the Irish people," Mr. Kirby said of all the Hunger Strikers. "They're not heroes; the people of Ireland are the heroes. You are the heroes." After a moment of intense emotion he added, "I ask you never to forget our fallen."

John Finucane, the son of Pat Finucane, was the last to speak. He spoke of his family's campaign to have a truly independent investigation into Pat Finucane's murder. (Pat Finucane was a human rights lawyer from West Belfast who devoted his career to defending individuals falsely accused by the British government. He also was Bobby Sands lawyer. He was accused of being a "Provo" lawyer and was murdered in front of his wife and children on February 12, 1989 by the pro-British Ulster Defense Association. Brian Nelson, one of those involved in his murder, worked for the Force Research Unit, an undercover unit of British Military Intelligence.) At the end of his talk, John provided the most fitting end to the commemoration by looking at the faces of the ten brave men on the posters behind him - saying that "soon no one will remember the names of the British government officials, the security forces, the loyalists - the people who murdered my father and the ten men on hunger strike. But for years to come the name of my father and the names of Bobby Sands and his comrades and what they sacrificed will be remembered and honored."

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IAHC Library Hosts writers for reading - signing

The IAHC Library is proud to present readings and book signing by writers and Cathal Liam and Michael Raleigh on Sunday, November 12th at 2pm. The writers

will be the November guest authors for the library's monthly Great Irish Books Discussion Group. This event is free and open to the general public.

its build up and aftermath still sullies Ireland's dream of national unity.

Liam writes short stories, poems and Irish editorial commentary for publications in the United States and Ireland. His successful first historical novel, *Consumed In Freedom's Flame: A Novel of Ireland's Struggle for Freedom 1916-1921*, chronicles the events surrounding the 1916 Easter Rebellion and the ensuing Irish War of Independence. The story follows the adventures of fictional character Aran Roe O'Neill and his commitment to helping Ireland achieve freedom from British domination.

Michael Raleigh's *In the Castle of the Flynns* tells the story of the resilience of an Irish-Catholic family in Chicago in the 1950s. The story is told in the voice of a young boy, Daniel Dorsey, who has lost both parents in a car accident and is left in the care of his grandparents, with the support of his aunts and uncles. Author Michael Raleigh is the author of five critically acclaimed novels. His most recent, *The Riverview Murders*, won the first Eugene Izzi Award. He has received four Illinois Arts Council Grants for fiction. He teaches English at Truman College in Chicago.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located on Chicago's northwest side, near Wilson Avenue and the Edens Expressway, at 4626 North Knox. For more information on the Cathal Liam and Michael Raleigh signing and reading, call 773-282-7035, ext. 19, or visit www.irishamhc.com.

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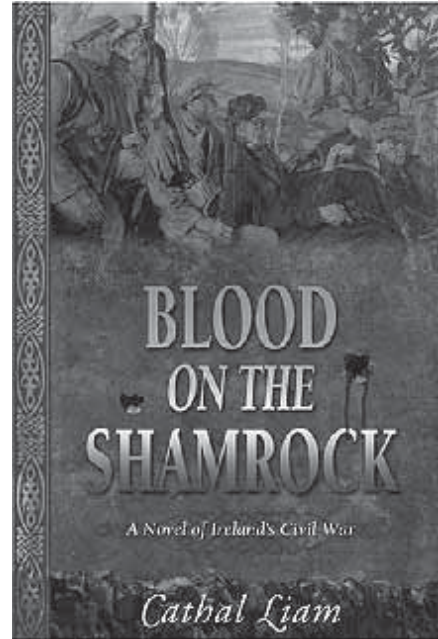
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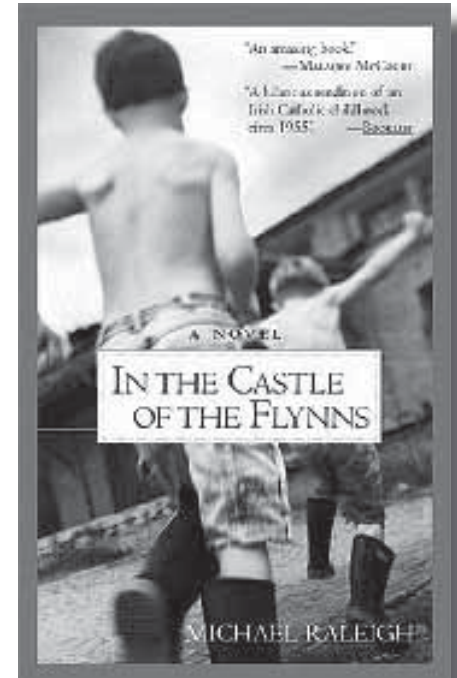
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Cathal Liam will read from his latest book, *Blood On The Shamrock: A Novel of Ireland's Civil War*, the sequel to *Consumed In Freedom's Flame*. It resumes the chronicle of Ireland and of fictional character, Aran Roe O'Neill, during the Irish Civil War. Although the Irish Civil War was only a tragic ten-month episode,



IAHC Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale

The IAHC will kick off the holiday season with its annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 3rd. The event runs from 9am to 3pm.

Mass will be celebrated in the auditorium at 10:30am with The Irish Heritage Singers and the Legacy of Erin Children's Choir will provide the music. A traditional Irish breakfast follows in the Social Center. The cost for the breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and reservations are required. To purchase tickets for the breakfast, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10. All other events are free.

Holiday shoppers are also encouraged to browse the bazaar, where there will be crafts for sale. An Irish-American quilt, as well as many gift items will be raffled off. There will be an instant raffle with prizes from each of the day's vendors and gift items collected from Center mem-

bers and local Irish import stores.

The Jolly Holly Bake Shop will provide homemade pies, bread, scones, cakes and cookies for sale. Everyone's favorite, Santa Claus himself, will be in the pub to hear little ones' Christmas wishes and have photos taken with them from 1-3pm. The IAHC is stroller-friendly.

During the bazaar, the IAHC Library is pleased to host author Peter Behrens, who will read from and sign his first novel, *The Law of Dreams*. The Law of Dreams tells the story of a young man's passage from innocence to experience during the Irish Famine of 1847. Behrens transports the reader to another time and place for an unforgettable experience.

For more information on the bazaar, bake sale and mass and breakfast, call the Center office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST



"I was more than a teacher. And less. In the high school classroom you are a drill sergeant, a rabbi, a shoulder to cry on, a disciplinarian, a singer, a low level scholar, a clerk, a referee, a clown, a counselor, a dress-code enforcer, a conductor, an apologist, a philosopher, a collaborator, a tap dancer, a traffic cop, a priest, another father-brother-sister-uncle-aunt, a bookkeeper, a critic, a psychologist, the last straw."

Teacher Man: A Memoir by Frank McCourt. Scribners; 1-800-456-6798; New York; 2005; 258 pages; \$26.00.

The author, Frank McCourt, was a teacher in a public high school of New York City for thirty years. The subjects he taught were English, English Literature and Creative Writing.

At the end of his thirty year teaching career he felt challenged to record his experiences in a book. The result is *Teacher Man*.

McCourt is the author of the

wildly successful *Angela's Ashes*. That book is about his year's growing up in the Irish city of Limerick.

The next book he wrote is *'Tis*. It is about his experiences coming to America and his pursuit of the American Dream.

Now he has written *Teacher Man*. It is about his life as high school teacher in New York.

Teacher Man is a subtle, but powerful look at what it means to be a teacher. The book is nuanced and almost wistful. It is filled with vivid stories of students, parents and administrators. McCourt has a wonderful ear for dialogue and the way these people use language. Referring to this, McCourt quotes Ben Jonson: "Language reveals the man, speak that I may see thee."

Some students leave deep impressions on the teacher. McCourt captures that feeling. I know, because I was a high school teacher myself for many, many years. And I greatly cherish meeting former students.

The structure of *Teacher Man* is that of stories gathered around a central theme. This is not unlike a lesson in school where stories are used to illustrate it. As his previous books show, Frank McCourt is a gifted storyteller.

He loves words and how they are used. Words have immense power. The tone in which they are used is very meaningful. His stories constantly show this love of language.

We all have had experiences with teachers; some good and some not so good. But those experiences have left us with strong emotional

impressions. *Teacher Man* captures those feelings. We can identify with McCourt's stories about his lover of his students.

Throughout the book he proudly refers to his Irishness. He often used stories about growing up in Ireland and coming to America to get the attention of students and illuminate lessons.

Paraphrasing the biographical information from Scribners; Frank McCourt was born in New York City in 1930. The family moved back to Ireland where he grew up. He came to America in 1949. Today he lives with his wife, Ellen,

in New York and Connecticut.

McCourt will appear in Chicago to discuss *Teacher Man*. This will be part of the Chicago Humanities Festival on Wednesday, November 1st at 6:00pm in the Art Institute's Rubloff Auditorium.

The stories in *Teacher Man* show Frank McCourt's acute observations of New York high schools. They are filled with love of language and compassion for humanity. These quotes from *Teacher Man* show this...

"I didn't have any particular philosophy of education except that I was uncomfortable with the...higher-ups, who had escaped class rooms

only to turn and bother the occupants of those class rooms... I never wanted to fill out their forms, follow their guide lines, administer their examinations, tolerate their snooping, adjust myself to their... course of study."

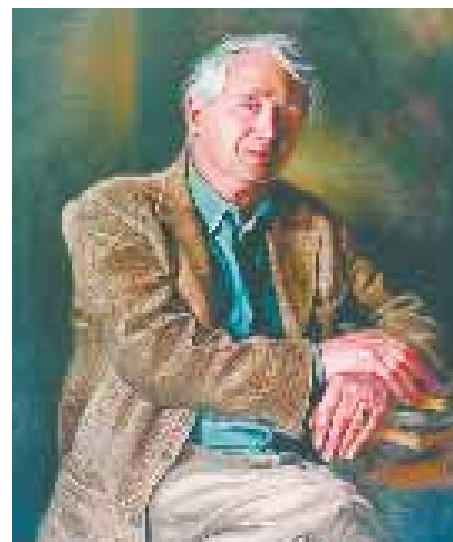
"When you get into the habit of examining your conscience it's hard to stop, especially when you're an Irish Catholic boy. If you do bad things you look into your soul, and there are the sins... Everything is either a sin or not a sin and that's an idea you might carry in

your head the rest of your life."

"Every class has its chemistry. There are some classes you enjoy and look forward to. They know you like them and they like you in return. Sometimes they'll tell you that was a pretty good lesson and you're on top of the world. That somehow gives you energy and makes you want to sing on the way home."

McCourt's advice to his Creative Writing students: "Every moment of your life, you're writing. Even in your dreams, you're writing. When you walk the halls in this school you meet various people and you write furiously in your head... You see someone you dislike. Furious writing again in your head. Decision to be made. Turn your head away? Stare as you pass? Nod? Hiss a hi? You see someone you like and you say, Hi, in a warm melting way. A Hi that conjures up splash of oars, soaring violins, eyes shining in the moonlight. There are so many ways of saying Hi. Hiss it, trill it, bark it, sing it, bellow it, laugh it, cough it. A simple stroll in the hallway calls for paragraphs, sentences in your head, decisions galore."

Teacher Man: A Memoir by Frank McCourt. Scribners; 1-800-456-6798; New York; 2005; 258 pages; \$26.00.



Frank McCourt oil painting by Tom Joyce

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Get Your Irish Up ...North!

By James McClure



Chutes Over Snow and Sand

Tensed at the ready on patrol in Iraq. Walking alongside fellow Army paratroopers it happens all too quickly, an ear-splitting explosion possibly killing or maiming comrades. You recover from the shock to barely hear the zing whistling bullets...bullets aimed

wave of Army parachute troops train to fight for the sands of Iraq that will be 130 degrees hotter than this winter day in Alaska.

On assignment with the men and women of the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Light Infantry Division, I walk

over there," remarks Roth, bearing little resemblance in personality to the Robert Duvall Airborne leader in Apocalypse Now, save for the olive drab uniform and black oak leaf clusters on helmet and tunic. Roth's quiet confidence is more cerebral, yet just as fit, discussing novels and insurgent tactics with the same thoughtful manner.

"Everyone of my troops is a paratrooper, and whether in a support or combat role they are all on the front lines," observes Roth. "There is no such thing as a rear area in Iraq."

So even training personnel specialists in roadblocks and insurgent dangers is a top priority here in the ice-cold snowdrifts at Camp Carroll on Fort Richardson. The lead enlisted man for the personnel in personnel is Sgt. First Class Arthur Crump, who turns the heat on at what's called Traffic Control Point Training. "Are you watching him? What! Aren't you watching HIM?" Crump bellows. "Stay on your man!" He shouts for emphasis

as one, then several, mock Iraqis alternately stroll, approach and run past the concertina wire.

"You never know who the enemy is and who's gonna hurt you at a checkpoint. We prepare them for the worst," adds Crump. Later he doles out hot soup and sage advice to the troops huddled inside a tent warmed by a stove and body heat of young soldiers. The scene is not unlike the briefing coaches give tired football players at the end of practice. And there's lots of practice. The training lanes, as they are called, cover a host of situations played out over several days. Some paratroopers wear all white camouflage; almost all wear the puffy white "Bunny Boots" that insulate against the cold. It's hard to picture but safe to assume, that in a matter of months, they will all be decked out from head to foot in desert tan camouflage and facing the most dangerous time of their careers. As one group forms a perimeter around a suspected ambush, I ask the senior sergeant

present if he feels like he's not in Kansas anymore, or at least Alaska, in his snowbound crouch with M-16 rifle at the ready. "You can say that again; this is more like Oz!" he deadpans.

Down the road another group mock carries a comrade's body away from a simulated IED (Improvised Explosive Device) attack on a Humvee, a scene eerily reminiscent of ones we see regularly on the evening news. "We come up with tactics to foil them and they come up with new tactics and devices. It's a chess game but we'll be ready when we go over there," notes Roth.

Much to my surprise I'm part of the training. Think of it as embedded on the half-shell. Roth encourages me to get up close and personal with the troopers as they fan out, and ask lots of questions. Welcome to the New Army, especially as this entire brigade was formed from scratch as part of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's move to lighter, more mobile units. "Part of their effectiveness includes being able to describe their mission to reporters and help people back home know what we're doing over there" according to Roth.

Roth's battalion is part of a Field Artillery organization where guns, people and all equipment can jump into battle. The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division was activated in July of last year and was deployed to Iraq just last month...eight months after this first crucial training. All units of the 4-25 BCT are on Airborne (parachute) status.

The second day of my pseudo-embedded status ends with a politician/lawyer captain named Sullivan observing training that includes two teenagers Roth wants me to interview, both for my knowledge and theirs. These young boys from the heartland of the lower 48 are the army's newest paratrooper-medics. Healers that also carry a rifle into combat. "I figure it's a way I can do the most good, right from the start," says one of the two privates, first class. "I want to make a difference, that's why I signed up," adds the other. They are over there now, doing a job they trained to do in Alaska. They and the men and women they help and heal, are worthy of our support for their courage and sacrifice.

Jim McClure is a television news reporter and anchor when not freelancing for Irish American News. He may be e-mailed at JimMcClure71@aol.com



Lt. Col. Thomas Roth and author James McClure



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Make A Real Difference This Christmas With Global Gift

If you are wondering what to give that special someone this Christmas, Trócaire, the Irish Catholic agency for world development, has the perfect solution.

Each year, the Trócaire Global Gift campaign offers a range of ethical and innovative Christmas gifts that you can purchase on behalf of friends and family in the USA or worldwide and Trócaire will distribute to families in the developing world. The agency is also encouraging people this year to ask to be 'global gifted' – that is to ask someone who would normally buy them a present to get a global gift on their behalf instead.

Global Gift is an original and inspirational gift idea that will transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable families and provide hope for their future. The objective of the campaign was to raise money for and awareness of Trócaire's long-term development work. Over the past 30 years Trócaire has funded nearly 7,000 programmes in more than 60 countries worldwide. These programmes included education, skills training, healthcare, the promotion of human rights and democracy and food security programmes.

The annual pre-Christmas appeal this year offers a range of nine life-changing gifts ranging in price from

\$13 to \$256: birth certificates for children in Mozambique so they can avail of state services; olive trees for farmers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; kits to help returning refugees in Sudan; seeds and tools for communities in Liberia; goats for rural communities in Africa; grain storage facilities to help farmers in Central America; care provision for orphans affected by HIV/AIDS, the gift of water to help communities all over the world and housing kits for Burmese refugees in Thailand.

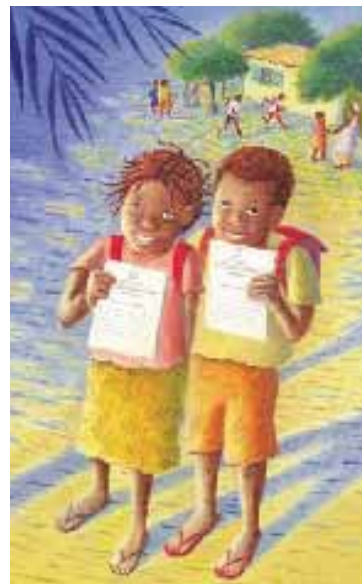
"The success of the Global Gift programme is partly due to its having captured the imagination of increasingly jaded consumers," said Trócaire's Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator, Natalie O'Toole. "This offers people a chance to do something that really benefits others and at the same time to enjoy the more traditional spiritual meaning of Christmas instead of the more commercial one that's now commonplace."

To date the practical gifts have included seeds and tools, cashew nut trees, wormeries, chicks, goats, school kits, fish farms, kits for midwives, sheep, home vegetable gardens, irrigation pumps, solar-powered ovens and family survival kits comprising a cooking pot and utensils, blankets, soap and a container for collecting water.

Once a person has decided to buy a gift, they will receive a certificate enclosed in a Christmas card, showing how the selected gift will be used. The card can then be sent to the person of their choice as a 'gift' to them.

There are a number of ways in which to buy a gift: You can order online at www.trocaire.org/globalgift or www.buyaglobalgift.com

Alternatively, you can mail an order to Trócaire, Global Gift, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland. You can also telephone +353-1-6293333 or fax an order to +353-1-6290661.



For Veteran's Day

Here's to the men and women who marched off with their country's siren song echoing in their ears,
To those whose beautiful banner of freedom, banished their own innate mortal fears,
To those who kept tyranny and hell, contained on some foreign shore,
To those who gave up their precious lives, and to those who gave much more,
To those who died in battle, without blessing and without grace,
To those who are sentenced to sleep forever, with foreign dirt above their face,
To those who fill our V.A. hospitals, with only the parts of themselves they managed to bring back home,
With no chance to live the "American Dream", because of sacrifices made so far across the foam,
To those who came home shattered, forever married to the demons of war, with no real hope of ever getting well,

And may God forgive us, to those we left behind, condemned to live in what's far worse than any hell,
To those who served, who were wounded physically and mentally and whose scars are seen by themselves alone,
To those who try to live a "normal" life, with constant pains and haunting memories that will never be outgrown,
We shall keep your sacred memories seared deep within our Nation's heart, and we will carry them to our grave, And we shall see your faces upon the Stars and Stripes, whenever we see our precious Flag of Freedom wave,
To all those brave brothers and sisters - We have not forgot! We have not forgot!
We love you - We thank you - We pray for you - We salute you - The American Patriot.

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Representative Burke Honored

Representative Dan Burke (D-Chicago) was recently honored by the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association for his advocacy in Springfield on behalf of fire safety issues. Rep. Burke was the chief house sponsor of the Fire Safe Cigarette Act. This legislation will require all cigarettes sold in Illinois beginning in January 2008 to be designed to be low ignition strength so that if the cigarette is not being puffed on over a period of time it will self-extinguish. Similar legislation in New York State resulted in a 30% decrease in fire related deaths.

"With cigarettes being the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States, I feel this legislation will go along way in reducing mortalities," said Rep. Burke.

"We really appreciate Rep. Burke's making this legislation a reality. Smokers are not the only victims of these types of fires. Most victims are non-smokers, including children, family members, neighbors, and



George Michehl, IFIA Executive Director (right) and Rep. Dan Burke.

firefighters. This is a preventable tragedy," said George Michehl, Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association.

The Illinois Fire Inspectors Association is a statewide organization made up of municipal and county fire inspectors dedicated to fire prevention through public education and advocacy.

Durbin welcomes former president of Ireland Mary Robinson

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) met with former president of Ireland Mary Robinson in his Capitol office recently to discuss the fight against HIV/AIDS, the global shortage of health care workers, and the "brain drain" emigration of health care workers from Africa to North America and Europe.

"President Robinson shares my concern

people. And yet, according to Ambassador Randall Tobias, who has been confirmed as the first U.S. Director of Foreign Assistance, there are more Ethiopian-trained doctors in Chicago than in Ethiopia," Durbin said.

Under Durbin's proposed amendment to the Senate immigration bill, those applying for legal status to work as health professionals in



U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and former president of Ireland Mary Robinson.

for what is taking place in Africa," Durbin said. "With 11 percent of the world's population, 25 percent of the global disease burden and nearly half of the world's deaths from infectious diseases, sub-Saharan Africa has only 3 percent of the world's health workers. Personnel shortages are a global problem, but nowhere are these shortages more extreme, the infrastructure more limited and the health challenges graver than in sub-Saharan Africa, the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We will not win the war against AIDS or any other health challenge without finding solutions to this crisis."

Robinson is currently applying her experience in governance and human rights work as president of Realizing Rights: the Ethical Globalization Initiative. The Ethical Globalization Initiative seeks to promote greater human development and security by fostering more equitable international trade and development; strengthening responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa; and shaping more humane migration policies.

Durbin introduced the African Health Capacity Investment (AHC) Act of 2006 with a bipartisan group of Senators last month. He also offered an amendment to address the "brain drain" issue during the Senate's debate on immigration earlier this year.

The AHC Act is a comprehensive measure to help sub-Saharan African nations confront the alarming shortage of health workers. Thirteen countries on the continent have fewer than 5 physicians per 100,000 people.

Durbin pointed to nations like Ethiopia, where there are only 3 doctors and only 20 nurses per 100,000 people. "In the U.S., we have 549 doctors and 773 nurses per 100,000

America must answer whether they signed a bond or made a promise to work in their home country in exchange for educational support. If the answer is affirmative, then they must fulfill that commitment before being allowed to work in the U.S.

Additionally, the amendment would allow legal permanent resident doctors and nurses to travel to developing countries to assist with health emergencies without jeopardizing their own immigration status in the U.S.

Regarding the critical shortage of health personnel, Durbin pointed to a report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) which found that "there is a universal shortage of 4.3 million healthcare workers, but the crisis is most severe in Africa."

"This is an alarming report. It shows that we face a global health crisis with profound consequences," Durbin said.

The WHO report identifies the increasing migration of health workers from the poorest countries to the richest as representing a "loss of hope and years of investment."

"This 'brain drain' is impacting millions of lives in Africa," Durbin said. "Africa loses 20,000 health professionals each year; they leave to staff the hospitals and offices of Europe and North America. Their countries lose the investments they have made in their education and training and the benefit of their skills at a time when AIDS is ravishing the African continent."

Robinson was Ireland's first female president, serving in office from 1990 to 1997. From 1997 to 2002, she served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Robinson also attended the XVI International AIDS conference last month in Toronto.

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Voice of the Immigrant

By John W. Kearns, Attorney at Law



"War On Terrorism" Updated: War is imminent. The press is criticizing the President. The President considers certain classes of immigrants as supporting the enemy. Sound familiar? The Administration pushes anti-immigrant legislation through Congress. These laws raised the waiting period for naturalization from 5 to 14 years, permitted the arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign subjects of an enemy nation in time of war, authorized the chief executive to deport at will (without due process of law) any non-citizen alien he considered dangerous, and finally, banned the publishing of false or malicious writings against the government or its officers, and banned the inciting of opposition to any act of Congress or the President.

Did freedom-loving Americans rise in opposition to this unconstitutional infringement of their basic rights?

These laws were the mildest wartime security measures ever taken in the United States, and they were widely popular at the time. Nevertheless, only one alien was deported, and only 25 prosecutions, resulting in 10 convictions, were brought under the Alien and Sedition Act of 1798. That was President John Adams, the second President of the United States (1797-1801), the enemy was France, and the targeted immigrants were French and Irish.

With the war threat passing and the Republicans winning control of the federal government in 1800, all Alien and Sedition Acts expired or were repealed during the next two years. This is nothing new under the sun; those who fail to study their history are doomed to repeat it, etc.

Immigration Reform: Backlog Reduction Is The Issue: The November midterm elections are almost upon us. As the 109th Congress draws to a close, any progress towards immigration reform appears to have stopped for now. The common belief is that the only hope for what many consider an amnesty rests with the election of enough Democrats to take away control of Congress from the Republicans. The Republican Party has been hijacked by the ultra-conservative Christian Right, which appears to be against everything except promoting an American theocracy with them making the rules for everybody. The Republican Party is now in an ideological tug-of-war between its moderate center and this vocal conservative right wing. This is a situation familiar

to the 1970's Democrats, which until then was the party of big-city liberals as well as blue-collar workers and the rural South. During the time of Nixon and Reagan, the Democrats' conservative base defected to the Republican Party, leaving the Democrats with an identity crisis from which it has not recovered to this day. Today, the Democratic Party appears unclear and uncertain of its agenda and the identity of its political base. Meanwhile, the Republican Party is increasingly in disarray as the Christian Right pulls the party further into extreme positions which are starting to get noticed by the voters and especially as corruption and sexual scandals rock the credibility of the party.

The reason I devote so much space to the arcane politics involved in this election is that there is nothing more important to immigrants than what happens in this election. The best thing to happen for immigration reform is that Republican Representative Mark Foley appears to like little boys. It certainly helps that the office of our good friend, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, was notified of this fact three years ago and did nothing. Republican candidates in this election are seeking to distance themselves from the scandal. Polls indicate the American voters have had enough of the Republicans. And Democratic candidates for Congress this year see a glimmer of hope.

Where does this leave us? If the Democrats seize control of Congress, that puts us a long way towards passing immigration reform, but not all the way. There is still the will of the voter to consider. Is immigration a hot-button issue with the voters, considering the War in Iraq, the War in Afghanistan, the economy and loss of jobs, and all the corruption and scandals? Much of the American voting public is still xenophobically anti-immigrant and still believes that immigrants take Americans' jobs. I have heard both "These Mexicans just come here for welfare" and "These immigrants just come here to steal" and as unemployment numbers grow, we can expect to see more anti-immigrant resentment as the immigration issue becomes a focus of national debate.

Meanwhile, the nation's population is set to reach 300 million this week. This event will no doubt generate interest in the immigration debate, since about 55% of the 100 million added

to the nation's population since 1967 have been legal or illegal immigrants and their U.S.-born offspring. They say a new baby is born in the United States every seven seconds, someone dies every 13 seconds, and a new immigrant arrives every 31 seconds, for a net result of the population growing by one person every 11 seconds.

Believe it or not, this population growth in this country has made the environmentalists to be AGAINST immigration policies that will let more people come into the U.S. This, of course, ignores the fact that those people do live somewhere, but apparently the environmentalists believe that all those people living in poverty elsewhere on the planet is better for the environment. It is true that immigrants coming to this country means more sprawl, more energy consumption, and more waste.

Where would all this immigrant population growth come from, if we reformed the immigration laws? Well, besides the fact that immigrants have more children and larger families than native-born citizens, it sometimes gets forgotten in the discussion of amnesty for illegal immigrants that there is first a BIG step which must be taken before we can let those present here now illegally be able to achieve a legal status: how about all those who "have been playing by the rules" and waiting, often for years, for their family petitions to become current? It is this huge backlog of waiting petitions which must be cleared first, because these people have followed the rules and proper procedures. Even with a family-based petition (I-130) filed and approved, a spouse and children of a green card holder must wait five or six years, and the brother or sister of a U.S. citizen must wait as long as 14 years to be able to apply for a green card and come to this country. We don't see this process as such a factor in the Eastern European communities, but the in the Asian (Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Philippine) communities, this is how entire families eventually come, started by one person who sponsors the rest of his family, so that twenty years later there are 50 or 60 family members here in the U.S.

Before any comprehensive immigration reform package passes that would include an earned legalization for the undocumented and a guest worker program for people who just want to come here to work and not necessarily immigrate, I would expect the family-based backlogs would have to be eliminated. These are huge numbers, and would result in a real population surge as well as a changed demographic make-up of the American character that I am not sure the American voter will be ready for if they

realize the true impact. Meanwhile, on the other side, we have conservative proposals to eliminate the diversity visa lottery, the ability of U.S. citizens to sponsor siblings (brothers and sisters), and to eliminate the automatic right to U.S. citizenship of persons born on U.S. soil to illegal immigrants. The issue will be far from concluded even if the Democrats sweep Congress.

What can be done? The real surprise to me is that people, whose whole goal in life is "to get the blue passport", do not realize they are aspiring not to just "get a passport", but to becoming a legal citizen of the greatest nation in the history of the planet. You should take an interest in the affairs of your new country, learn its language, traditions and history, and VOTE. I was amazed to read recently that immigrant community activists had registered over 16,000 recently naturalized citizens to vote within the past few months, in Chicagoland alone! Chicago is a wonderful place to vote for immigrant rights: it was the rally for immigrant rights here last March, which attracted a crowd of over 100,000, who kicked off a series of rallies across the country. Especially with such important elections coming up, with the immigration issue on the front burner, it is so important to register with your local Board of Elections (in Chicago, dial 311) and exercise the right to vote!

This country was founded by immigrants. The mix of immigrants of various backgrounds, striving for success and building families, is the central strength of the American character and what makes it resourceful, resilient, strong, and successful.

The constant influx of immigrants is what keeps American society from becoming moribund, effete, and decadent. The first immigrant generation struggles to succeed with fewer resources other than motivation, hard work, and a healthy disrespect towards authority. It is the second generation, with all the education and other material advantages provided by riding on the coattails of the first, who very often fail to achieve their potential. America needs that first generation, every generation.

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Attorney Kearns practices immigration law and general practice from Chicago, Illinois. We invite questions or topic requests by email: jwkearns@hotmail.com. Please call or email with questions about immigration, business, or general law or American culture. Consultations by telephone or in the office can be arranged by calling: (312) 738-2529. Native speakers are available in our office. See advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper.

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Mick

By Mike Morley



PERDONO

I concluded last month's column with two questions: "Is there anyone out there who really thinks it's a great idea to weaken the discretion of American courts in extradition cases? Would you vote for him?" Apparently, "Yes" is the answer to both questions. On September 29 the UK-US Extradition Treaty passed in the Senate, unanimously, no less. All 100 senators were on hand, and not one stood to voice an objection. So when Britain snatches the next Irish-American before a kangaroo court in Belfast, not one of the suits you elected will be able to raise the "I was in the bathroom" defense when (or if) a myth called Irish American opinion cares to howl about it.

In devoting this space to the UK treaty passing from committee to Senate floor, we sidelined an entirely different news topic. Does Leonella ring a bell? It's only a month ago. Have you also forgotten a town called "Paradise"?

On September 19 National Public Radio ran a feature titled "The Pope's Apology and Religious Fervor". The commentary concerned Pope Benedict's speech at Regensburg University Sept. 12 in which he quoted a 14th century Byzantine emperor who termed Mohammed's command to spread faith by the sword "evil and inhuman".

NPR's announcer: "The Pope said he was sorry for the angry reaction his speech provoked among Muslims... that apology was enough for many Muslim leaders... but other Muslim leaders think the Pope should issue a fuller apology. Commentator Joe Loconte also thinks there is more for the Pope to say on this subject, to reach out to Muslims."

Two days earlier Rosa Sgorbati, known as Sister Leonella, was shot in the back by two "men" while working at her pediatrics hospital and SOS Village for children in Mogadishu, Somalia. Her guard Mohammed Mahmud was also murdered.

Loconte's advice to the Pope: "Christianity is a great ally to freedom of conscience. But it took time! For centuries the Church was an adversary of reasonable religion." (Is he actually urging the pontiff to appreciate that Islam, founded fifteen centuries ago, needs more time to evolve?) Then, and I just knew this bogeyman was coming he describes "medieval Europe and its Catholic establishment" as a period when "The machinery of the Inquisition, fueled by a theology of persecution was in high gear... Many were burned alive. By the Pope's own definition of a capricious and coercive religion, the Church was a hotbed of violent irrationality".

But, lo! The cavalry arrives. Loconte: "Protestant figures such as William Penn and Enlightenment figures such as John Locke laid the foundation for a theology of religious freedom." He ends his NPR (we have often

wondered what that "P" really stands for) editorial saying the Pope is correct in drawing attention to Islam's injustices, but urges: "The next step is to remind Muslims of his own church's history". Religious music plays as the announcer tells us Loconte is "a distinguished visiting professor at Pepperdine University and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center".

Curious, I did a bit of research. The EPPC is a neoconservative policy institute.

Listeners to Loconte's learned reflections on Catholicism and the papacy might have been interested to hear that the NPR commentator is a fellow at the Heritage Foundation, another conservative think tank, and a director of Evangelicals in Civic Life. He holds a master's in Christian History and Theology from Illinois' Wheaton College, which bars Catholics from its faculty. The college recently fired Joshua Hochschild, assistant professor of medieval philosophy, for the offense of converting from Episcopalian to Catholic. Hardly a bastion of Enlightenment, the 146 year-old school forbade students to attend movies until the 1960's; and banned dancing until just three years ago.

Pepperdine? It's affiliation is Churches of Christ, a denomination which, besides its aversion to dancing and Catholicism, also forbids women in most congregations from leading men in worship or bible study groups. So when good old Joe Loconte (sounds like a guy who'd enjoy a beer and an afternoon at the track, eh?) lectures the Pope that it takes time to develop a reasonable religion, his background in institutions with an odd aversion to both Catholicism and Enlightenment culture ensures us he's familiar with the subject. In February Loconte was on NPR opposing the Ohio Board of Education and a federal court ruling that "intelligent design" (the new creationism) is a religious view with no place in a science classroom.

And what of Loconte's Enlightenment heroes? Locke, whom one biographer calls "The Philosopher of Freedom", was a major investor in the English slave-trade via the Royal Africa Company, helped draft the Fundamental Constitution of the Carolinas granting a master absolute power over his slaves or "leet men": "All the children of leet-men shall be leet-men, and so to all generations." Locke (1632-1704) lived in a military dictatorship under Cromwell, and supported William of Orange to the English throne. It was a period when large numbers (perhaps 300,000) of Irish Catholic men, women and children were rounded up, separated, and sold as slaves to English colonies in the Americas. Penn also owned and traded slaves, but was more considerate of native Americans, paying fair prices for lands he bought from them.

Back to Wheaton. Besides Loconte, two of its alumni stand out. One is Billy Graham- no surprise there. The other is Dennis Hastert who, backed by fellow Republicans and evangelical Christians, is now fighting to retain the House speakership post he assumed from Newt Gingrich in 1999. Soon after Hastert became Speaker, he found himself at the center of a nasty religious debate in the House.

Timothy J. O'Brien... remember him? No?

How about Father Timothy J. O'Brien? He was the Marquette (Jesuit) University professor chosen to fill the vacant post of House Chaplain, a responsible and not very weighty position, but one apparently not ever held by a Catholic in the history of the American republic. Hastert chose a search committee of 18 house members (9 Republican, 9 Democrat- 3 were Catholic) and set them the task of choosing a new chaplain. They worked hard, came up with 60 candidates, and narrowed it down to 3. Father O'Brien received the votes of 14 congressmen (78%). Reverend Robert Dvorak, regional director of the Evangelical Covenant Church came in second, with one vote for the Reverend Charles Wright, a Presbyterian minister. The 3 names were delivered to Speaker Hastert, Majority Leader Dick Armey, and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, but reportedly minus the vote tally. Gephardt chose Father O'Brien. Hastert and Armey chose Reverend Wright. That sparked a lengthy House battle, laced with charges of anti-Catholicism not heard since the nomination of JFK.

The debates sharpened on Feb 2nd when then Texas Gov. Bush kicked off his South Carolina primary race with a speech at a University whose founder Bob Jones considered the Pope "demon possessed", and the Catholic Church "The Mother of Harlots" and a satanic cult. Challenger John McCain accused Bush of anti-Catholicism.

(Incidentally, Jones himself lent legitimacy to Ian "The Pope is the Roman anti-Christ" Paisley, a "reverend" without a sheepskin. He suddenly became Dr. Paisley in 1966, two days after being released from a sentence in Crumlin Road jail for inciting anti-Catholic riots. Jones himself flew to Northern Ireland and handed Paisley an honorary Doctorate of Divinity. Jones also bestowed honorary titles on others he admired: including George Wallace, Strom Thurmond and Lester Maddox.)

Hastert joined other House members in a PBS News Hour interview March 17. Hastert claimed he had not been informed of the vote tally: "That's how they decided- to come down with the three unranked people to pass on to us". Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) one of the committee's 3 Catholics retorted: "That is, at best, a lame excuse, because again, everything we do here is by vote... to say today in March of the year 2000, that they never knew what the vote was, is ludicrous. The Speaker's staff person counted the votes."

As to why he continued to insist on Wright over O'Brien Hastert stated: "My experience, in just that short period of time, looked like he was the person that was most willing to reach out, to work with families, to be involved with members." Rep. Eshoo wondered why Hastert would create a committee, then override it, instead of simply naming the chaplain himself: "He should have just done that from the beginning. Why use a bipartisan committee as window dressing?" Rep. Gephardt: "I tried to talk to the leadership on their side many times, and did many times, and told them that there were real concerns among the Democratic members on the search committee as to how this was being done." Rep Henry Hyde: "I know questions were asked about would Father O'Brien wear the Roman collar. And how can

he be a successful chaplain if he doesn't have a family and have endured the problems of being a parent? Those are not off-the-wall questions, but they indicate a lack of, let's say, sophistication concerning the Catholic Church."

The Catholic League noted: "The outgoing Protestant chaplain (James D. Ford) wore a collar for decades... At one point, aides to Speaker Hastert claimed in the press that the Rev. Bill Graham called the speaker's office to express support for Rev. Wright. Hours later, Rev. Graham issued a statement saying he did no such thing; he simply wanted the process to be free from politics." - Amazing!

The 5 month battle ended March 23, 2000. Wright withdrew after meeting with Hastert, who then threw out all 88 candidates; instead naming the Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, vicar of the Archdiocese of Chicago as the first Catholic House Chaplain.

Regarding the Pope's recent speech, one wonders how his historical reference in a theological lecture at a school in Bavaria became a hysterical reference on the front page of newspapers world-wide. In contrast, last March while a UK victory in the extradition treaty debate was still in doubt, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and a bipartisan group of a dozen other Congressmen issued a demand that the British government begin a full "independent public judicial" investigation into the murder of Northern Ireland attorney Pat Finucane. That story merited plenty of coverage overseas, especially in Ireland and Britain. But aside from government and Irish community sites, we found not one line about it in the American press, print or otherwise. That's a hell of a lot of U.S. reporters in one bathroom.

In his Regensburg talk, the Pope led into his 14th century reference by explaining that it was a conversation between Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and a Persian during the siege of Constantinople, that it concerns the relationship between religion and violence in general, and was "rather marginal to the dialogue" but "can serve as the starting-point for my reflections". Manuel II speaks to his guest, says the pontiff, "with a startling brusqueness, a brusqueness that we find unacceptable, ... saying: 'Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.'"

Had any news editor chosen to actually read this obscure speech, he couldn't possibly have missed that sentence immediately preceding the 600 year-old quote. Despite the fact that Manuel II was besieged by the Ottomans, the Pope considered the emperor's manner of address to his Muslim guest "unacceptable".

Friday, (9/15) three days after the papal lecture, Somalia Sheikh Abubakar Hassan Malin stood in his Mogadishu mosque exhorting his flock: "Whoever offends our Prophet Mohammed should be killed on the spot by the nearest Muslim." His advice to Muslims: "hunt down" the pope and kill him.

Sunday: During his Angelus blessing in Rome, Benedict said he was "deeply sorry" for the reaction to his quote. He explained: "These in fact were quotations from a medieval text, which do not in any way express my personal thought."



Gareth Woods shown here opening for Damien Dempsey at Gunther Murphy's recently. Gareth performs around Chicagoland and is a fine singer and songwriter in his own right. Check out his website at www.garethwoods.com.

Sunday: In London, another "holy man", Anjem Choudary, addressed demonstrators outside Westminster Cathedral: "Whoever insults the message of Mohammed is going to be subject to capital punishment."

Sunday: In Mogadishu, gunmen shot dead Sister Leonella, a devout woman who had devoted 40 years of her life to caring for the sick of Africa. In 2002 she founded a nursing school in the SOS Children's Village hospital in Mogadishu. The first 34 nurses graduated this year. Leonella had just returned to Mogadishu on September 13 from Kenya after registering three of her new graduates for medical college. Islamic courts now control the city and she had a hard time securing re-entry. Four days later she was shot to death outside her children's hospital. You know her last words: "Perdono. Perdono." (I forgive, I forgive.)

Monday: An al Qaeda group issued yet another reasoned statement: "We shall break the cross and spill the wine. ... God will (help) Muslims to conquer Rome. ... God enable us to slit their throats, and make their money and descendants the bounty of the mujahideen".

Two weeks later Charles Roberts entered a little schoolhouse in Paradise and in a few minutes of convulsive horror, lined up 10 schoolgirls, shot them at point-blank range, then shot himself to death. Five of the girls, aged 6 to 13 years, died. The rest lay in serious or critical condition.

That evening Amish families gathered to grieve, to confront the inexplicable. The health workers who had come to comfort and counsel them as best they could were soon awed by their lack of anger toward the murderer. Among their concerns was what aid they could offer to his family. These gentle people were in shock and deeply hurt, but were free of rage at the almost biblical devastation forced forevermore upon their lives by a deranged outsider.

Here the Golden Rule is not a slogan hung in a frame. A

grandfather, standing by the body of a 13 year-old, tells a group of young boys: "We must not think evil of this man." A woman: "For some reason, this man decided to go against God. He made a choice." Another woman: "He had problems of the heart."

Charles Robert's widow was invited to at least one of the girls' funerals. Some visited his father to offer their condolences.

In Paradise there is no church. It is customary for families to visit neighbors to pray, and gather at the schoolhouse for Bible reading. The people of Paradise had a contractor come in with a machine which they shun, and bulldoze the neat and sturdy schoolhouse their own hands had raised and maintained. In minutes, a haven they had known as the nucleus of their community was broken, laid low, and hauled away; casting out from their fellowship an unbearable physical memory of the terror and heartbreak of that day.

Paradise Pennsylvania; Children's Village, Mogadishu... flickers of enlightenment amid encroaching thickets of hate.

Comptroller Hynes and wife welcome birth of twin boys

Illinois State Comptroller Dan Hynes and his wife Dr. Christina Hynes welcomed the birth of their twins in late September. William and Finley Hynes were born shortly before midnight 9/29/06 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Christina, Liam and Finn are doing well. The twins remained in the hospital for the next week to build strength before going home to meet their older brother, Charlie. "Christina and I are very thankful for all the prayers and good wishes we have received over the past few months of what had been a difficult pregnancy. And now we are overjoyed by the blessings we have received," said Comptroller Hynes.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago Administrator, Prersident and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



founded almost 90 years ago to care for the poor, we have been dedicated to not only defending, but promoting and strengthening the family as the building block for human life and human dignity: for the safety, security and stability of families and individuals – for faith, hope and love.

Our efforts were recognized nationally in September, when Catholic Charities' Family Self-Sufficiency Program in Lake County was awarded a \$25,000 grant

by Catholic Charities USA's Family Strengthening Initiative, which is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This grant will help us to help more poor and endangered families.

The Church's mission to care for the poor and to speak for families is deeply rooted in the Ten Commandments and the example of Jesus, who ministered to the poor, and healed and restored families.

Yet today, we see great poverty and loss of dignity among the families who come to us.

The reason: Many families today cannot fully address – without help – the problems that lead them into poverty.

That is why we focused our 2006 position paper on Family Strengthening: Family, Become What You Are! This statement was released at the 89th Annual Meeting of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago on October 26. Directed to the public, to funding agencies, and to legislators at federal, state and local levels, it sets forth the complex needs of families, the causes of family poverty and achievable solutions.

Poverty threatens everything sacred and necessary to the family: financial independence that secures housing, educational opportunities, access to food, medical care, child care, transportation to

work and safe neighborhoods. It harms adults, children and seniors – individually and as families.

Most of these problems are rooted as much in society and the economy as in individual choices. Low- or minimum-wage employment cannot support a one- or two-parent family even when two parents are working. High rents; low-wage jobs that do not offer health benefits, sickleave or unemployment compensation; domestic violence, substance addiction, mental or physical illnesses; and lack of affordable child care for working parents damage families. In addition, care for the elderly and disabled is often assumed by family members on a full-time basis.

Catholic Charities tackles these family problems head on. Last year, Catholic Charities served 895,000 poor or vulnerable individuals. Whether living alone, or in two- or three-generational families, all of these men, women and children are members of families. And each one of our 168 programs directly serves many of these tens of thousands of families each year.

Catholic Charities provides short- and long-term supportive services to help each family to achieve or regain their independence, self-sufficiency and human dignity. Emergency food and clothing; nutritional programs for women, infants and children; counseling; child care programs; budgeting skills and job training; family shelters; in-home care for seniors; hundreds of transitional apartments for formerly homeless families; residential programs for mothers in recovery and their children; centers for families and children in communities at risk due to gang activity; family caregiver support programs and 19 beautiful residences providing dignified, safe housing for 1,200 seniors – these are just a few of the ways Catholic Charities strengthens families.

Currently we are establishing a new model for comprehensive wrap-around services for children and families at St. Mary of Celle Family Center in Berwyn.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his first encyclical: Deus Caritas Est, God is Love, states that "The Church is God's family in the world. No one ought to go without the necessities of life." Like the Good Samaritan, we are required to show "universal love toward the needy." Catholic Charities is totally committed to acting on this belief and strengthening families. Please keep us and all families in your prayers.

• There are many volunteer opportunities at Catholic Charities to help strengthen families in need. Join our Junior Board volunteers who read to children at our family shelters – or to seniors who live at one of our senior residences. Volunteer to teach valuable life skills such as budgeting or English as a Second Language; or to mentor young adults who struggle to stay away from gangs, or who face teen pregnancy.

• Funding opportunities are available: Sponsor the rent for a year for a family in one of our transitional housing programs; or cover the cost of in-home caregiver services for a poor family caring for an elderly loved one.

• Family Strengthening: "Family, Become What You Are!" – the annual position paper of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago – is available under "Publications" at www.catholiccharities.net.

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Friday, 11/24	Thompson Brothers
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Irish Heritage Singers Celebrate 20 Years

The Irish Heritage Singers present the First Annual Chicago Invitational Choral Festival on Saturday, November 4, 2006 and Hearth and Home, their 20th Anniversary Concert, on Saturday, November 18, 2006, at the Center.

The choral festival event will feature area choirs and will culminate in a massed choir performance which includes all participating groups.

Some of the choirs participating include: the Irish Heritage Singers, the Normennes Singing Society, the Grieg Ladies Singing Society, The Waukegan Swedish Glee Club and Chicago Metro Barbershop Group.

The First Annual Chicago Invitational Choral Festival, sponsored by the Irish American Heritage Center, will be held Saturday, November 4, 2006, at 7:30pm at the Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago. Admission is \$10 at the door and children 12 and under are free.

Hearth and Home, the Irish Heritage Singers 20th Anniversary Concert is Saturday, November 18, 2006 at 7:30pm at the IAHC. Tickets are \$12 for IAHC members and in advance, and \$15 at the door. Tickets and information are available by calling the Irish American Heritage Center office at 773-282-7035.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 N. Knox Avenue, near Lawrence and Cicero. There is plenty of free parking, and the Fifth Province, the IAHC pub, will be open for refreshments after both events.

Maggie Barton Benefit at IAHC November 19th

A benefit will be held to aid Maggie Barton on Sunday, November 19, 2006 at the Irish American Heritage Center. Maggie, 6 years of age, is the adorable and much loved daughter of Jim and Beth Barton, and granddaughter of Noel and Barbara Daly from Lahinch, Co. Clare.

Maggie was born almost two months premature, and has been diagnosed with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy, microencephaly, seizures, cortical vision impairment, as well as gastrointestinal reflux which requires Maggie be fed through a feeding tube. Dealing with Maggie's immediate physical and medical needs have caused a huge financial burden for her family. It is with this in mind that friends have gotten together in an effort to defray some of the expenses and financial worry for Maggie's family.

The benefit will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Avenue, in Chicago from 2:00 pm til 9:00 pm. Donations voluntary at the door. A buffet supper, music and entertainment will be provided for your listening and dancing pleasure, as well as a Silent Auction. There will be Cash Bar. Anyone who would like to help Maggie but will be unable to attend this function can do so by sending a donation to LasSalle National Bank, Attn: Stacey LaTona, 4747 W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646. For further information on this benefit, you can call 773-286-6866 or www.hyperbaricsforhope.com - link to Maggie Barton Benefit.

Royalties Group unites music with good causes online

San Francisco band Culann's Hounds donates rare track to The National Veteran's Foundation

Musicians and music fans have a long history of supporting charities and worthy causes through call-to-action songs, concerts and festivals. With the launch of The Royalties Group on Myspace.com (<http://groups.myspace.com/theroyaltiesgroup>), musicians and fans who believe that music can make a difference can join a circle that encompasses the whole world via technology and the Net and where the call and the answer to action are a part of daily community life.

One of the U.S. Celtic scene's rising stars, Culann's Hounds, renowned for its effervescent performances, has earned glowing reviews from critics and inspired a devoted following. All sales of "The Blackthorn Tavern" will be donated to the National Veteran's Foundation (<http://www.nvf.org>), now celebrating its 20th Anniversary.

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Every Tuesday in the Cottage

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



How do you want to die?

Come on, you've thought about it. Or at least heard details of somebody's death and said to yourself, "What a way to go!"

I was watching an old Abbot & Costello movie the other night and Boris Karlov was this creepy guy who hypnotizes Lou Costello and tries to get him to commit suicide. After several unsuccessful comic attempts at getting Lou to either hang himself or jump out the hotel room window, Boris asks in exasperation, "Okay how would you do it? How do you want to die?"

Lou stands on the windowsill of the 20th floor of the Waldorf in his pajamas with a noose around his neck and says, "Old age."

Plenty of wise guys will tell you they want to go out like the late actor John Garfield, who supposedly died in the saddle. The late Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller passed that way too. Ol' Rocky threw a seven while doing the nasty with his "staff assistant", Megan Marshak. He was 70, she was 25. It was a heart attack waiting to happen. Rocky's wife, Happy, wasn't too happy about the news and had Rocky cremated less than 24 hours later.

Ever the gent, Rocky left Megan fifty grand in his will. Thanks for the "grabber".

Many of us want death to come in an instant, unexpectedly, without any pain. Somebody sneaks up on you from behind and blows your head off with a shotgun. It's over before you even know

what hit ya. My pal Pete Nolan told me he wants to go in his sleep, after a round of golf and some drinks as he naps on his couch. Nice and comfy.

Elderly folks of faith look forward to their demise. There's a great scene in "Grumpy Old Men" when Jack Lemmon says to Walter Mathau, "Hear about Fred? He dropped dead of

a heart attack last night." Mathau continues shoveling his walk and says, "That lucky bastard!"

Which brings me to the case of the poor mope who fell out of a tree in Englewood last month. The Sun-Times said, "Julian Spencer was adept at climbing trees as a young boy in his native Jamaica."

Julian died in a comic tragedy. He was horsing around at a pal's house at 64th and Racine. Maybe he was shooting his mouth off about what a great tree climber he was when one of his buddies bet him twenty bucks he couldn't scale the tree in the yard in front of them.

Julian took off his shoes and handed his wallet to 62-year-old friend Lawrence Williams. The Sun-Times carried a photo of Lawrence in front of the offending tree. He looked like Redd Foxx.

Up the tree went Julian, six feet, eight feet, ten feet, twelve feet, he climbed. He got about 15 feet up and a branch cracked under him and he tumbled down and hit his head on the concrete. Good night.

Somebody asked his friend Lawrence Williams why he didn't catch him, but it happened too fast. Julian died of head injuries at the hospital later that night. I hope he didn't suffer.

Killjoys would say, "What the hell was a 49 year old man doing climbing a tree at night, was he drunk?"

Nope, just drinking water on an Indian summer night. "Well, he had no business climbing a tree, serves him right. The death of a fool!"

I wonder. I think Julian probably climbed the tree to entertain his friends. Julian was alive that night, living and breathing and jiving his pals. He went out on a limb for his buddies.

I'll bet St. Peter ushered Julian directly to the VIP room in heaven, where scientists, performers, poets, athletes, and artists mingle in greatness. Julian met legendary historical figures who had climbed their own metaphorical trees on earth. They saw challenges before them and up the tree they went.

Julian's pal Lawrence Williams told the Sun-Times, "I never saw anything like it in my life."

Up in heaven Julian Spencer is partying with Jonas Saulk, Edison, Jackie Robinson, Dr. Martin Luther King, JFK, St. Joan, Galileo, and Jayne Mansfield. Tree Climbers all!

Julian Spencer, I salute you! You died a noble death...as opposed to Rocky.

View the trailer for Mike Houlihan's new indie film at www.TapiocaTheMovie.com

2007 Travel/Study for Teachers and Administrators

The National University of Ireland is offering a seminar entitled "Education in Ireland", a comparative study of the Irish and American Educational System, from July 5-28, 2007 in Galway, Ireland. The course will earn 6 Graduate Credits. For information email lilysky@ncia.net or call Barney Keenan, NUI Coordinator, at 603-466-2972



Corrine Connor was a big winner at the IAUC conference recently, taking home a box of delights in the raffle that were donated by Maureen O'Looney.

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For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



GOOD NEWS! While the governments of Anglophonia (US, Canada, UK, Australia, NZ, and to a great extent, Ireland) follow Bush & Co into reestablishment of empire there are pro-republican groups working to great effect in each country. In the past few years activists in Ireland, including Mary Kelly, have, for example, disabled a US bomber in Shannon on its way to obliterate Iraqi innocents. Others spotted and exposed the secret "extraordinary rendition" torture flights stopping-over in Shannon and Baldonnell airports. In Australia John H. Wilson is leading a grass-roots, democratic uprising. Their immediate goal is to replace their corrupt court system. Their motto is "Trial By Jury IS democracy." The rest of this column focuses upon Britain and the efforts of its pro-democracy groups led by an American citizen, Suzon Forscey Moore.

PATRICK CULLINANE figures in this good news. His plight is well-known to my regular readers. He is the Ex-Limerickman, working in London, who was robbed of his London home by Britain's Inland Revenue (IR, Britain's IRS) abetted by corrupt judges, corrupt pols, and a corrupt news media. The IR fabricated a nonexistent additional income for Cullinane and then charged him with failure to pay taxes on it. They eventually threw him into the street and sold his house, keeping all of the proceeds. While the Irish World and the Irish Post, "the Voice of the Irish in Britain" not alone adamantly refused to defend Cullinane, they essentially abetted the IR's crimes against him. But all during this time one honest reporter, Englishman Philip Inman of THE GUARDIAN newspaper was upholding the truth for Cullinane. Cullinane now informs me that Suzon's affidavit has been of great additional help to his case.

THE GREAT MANY other victims of British judicial corruption will be better served by, rather than naming them here, filling this space with as much of the Affidavit as will fit. It starts: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE No. CA03-542 (55). THE SOCIETY OF LLOYD'S, Plaintiff, vs. KARL ARONSON, Defendant.

Affidavit of Suzon Forscey-Moore

I, SUZON FORSCEY-MOORE, of 53 Abbey Road, Cambridge, England CB5 8HH, based upon my personal knowledge, hereby declare as follows:

Introduction.

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a naturalized subject of the United Kingdom. I was born and grew up in Jamestown, New York and moved to the Los Angeles area where I lived for 25 years. I first came to England in 1976 while a student at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. Pitzer awarded me a BA in English in 1977. I moved to Cambridge, England in 1987. In 1992, I began to campaign for ministerial accountability. In 1996 I began campaigning for judicial reform. In January 2001 I was awarded a Master's degree in Law by DeMontfort University in Leicester, England for my dissertation on The Prerogative of Summing Up in Miscarriages of Justice in the Crown Courts of England and Wales. I began work on a PhD on the English Civil Justice system at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge in September, 2002. 2. I make this affidavit at the request of Charles B. Lembcke, counsel for Karl Aronson. I have been advised that it will be submitted in response to the question posed by the Court at the hearing on Lloyd's Motion for Summary Judgment as to whether the English legal system offers fair and impartial tribunals.

3. The true nature of the English legal system should be properly established for the protection of past and future investors who are citizens of the United States and other jurisdictions as English courts are, despite their considerable reputation, neither fair nor impartial.

4. This affidavit contains material which may be outside the norms of evidence. However, due to historical and cultural differences and in the context of the important issue to be decided, descriptive material is relevant and necessary if the Florida Court is to reach a well-founded and defensible decision.

5. Contemporary hearings in English courts may be best understood as traditional theatrical rituals in which the agents dressed in ceremonial 18th century costume unselfconsciously fulfill their oath of loyalty to the Queen by dismissing and/or punishing unimportant people for their foolish insistence on justice and fair play. Courts in other jurisdictions should distance themselves from the perverse character of English law where unexamined belief in an hereditary system of privilege trumps the fair application of principles of law.

6. It would be wrong for the Florida court to turn a blind eye to a system in which the rights of the individual are sacrificed for a perceived but unjustifiable greater good, the protection of a privileged hereditary elite.

Jaffray v. Lloyd's in the Court of Appeal for England & Wales

7. This case reveals, through its historical context and in the recent conduct of the English judiciary in Jaffray, that financial affairs and affairs of state in the United Kingdom have been and continue to be decided by a secretive elite largely composed of, and of mutual benefit to, hereditary aristocrats.

8. Lloyd's of London, an international insurance underwriter, evolved from transactions between ship-owners, merchants and insurers in the 1680s. It was given a unique status by Parliament in the Lloyd's Act of 1862. Lloyd's names were men of considerable wealth and influence.

9. Until greater suffrage was allowed in the 1830s, Parliament was openly run for the hereditary aristocracy; men who used their positions to pass laws for their own benefit, whether that was legitimating their bastards or raising the price of grain or deciding the most advantageous location of a new canal.

10. The aristocracy did not have to relinquish their power to continue to order things to their personal advantage. Every elected Member of Parliament (MP) has to swear allegiance to the Queen in order to be able to speak, to have an office and be paid.

11. The United Kingdom of which England is the dominant nation is self-described as a "constitutional monarchy" even though there is no constitution and no current plans to adopt one. The Royal Prerogative, a notion undefined in law and operating without parliamentary oversight, allows ministers, judges and other administrators unlimited and unrestrained use of power.

12. In 2004, the House Select Committee on Public Administration studied the Royal Prerogative. The result was that ministers proposed to entrench their secretive powers under the Royal Prerogative in the Legislative Regulatory and Reform Bill which opponents labeled "the Abolition of Parliament Act."

13. Crown immunity is the mechanism which enables the prerogative. It is accepted by those in power that anything which is "done in the name of the Crown" – every administrative, legislative and judicial action – is immune from prosecution. The assumption is that those in power can do no wrong.

14. The Royal Arms in the form of the Lion and Unicorn and a motto which proclaims Dieu et Mon Droit (french for "God and My Right") presided over the Court of Appeal in Jaffray, just as they hang behind the bench in English courtrooms and appear on the letterheads of the Queen's government. This is no outdated and quaint symbol but a genuine emblem of the Queen's overarching authority.

15. There is also a mostly hidden motto on the Royal Arms: Honi Soit Qui

Mal Y Pense, which is french for "Shame on whoever thinks evil of this." (It is my understanding that this was originally the motto of the Order of the Garter, England's most exclusive club founded in the 1340s by Edward III to reward those who had successfully perjured for him in a crisis. He had been caught in flagrante with a servant. Her garter was still in his hand! CF) Ever since then that motto pre-condemns all criticism of the monarch.

16. Americans pledge their allegiance to a flag which represents a nation where the ideal is liberty and justice for all. In England everyone in a position of authority pledges their allegiance to the Queen, an individual who by accident of birth inherited unlimited powers of patronage. Neither Parliament nor the Judiciary have any restraining effect.

17. When the interests of the Queen and any part of her elite government are at risk, only one outcome is acceptable. Legal proceedings in English courts are therefore driven to that outcome by fair means or foul.

18. Criminal law (which is of little concern to the hereditary powers) is highly codified. Government at all levels, however, has "codes" and "guidelines" which can be breached freely. The conduct of the commoner is ruthlessly scrutinized while misconduct by their "betters" goes unpunished. White collar crime, with very rare exceptions, goes untried and unpunished.

The Action

19. In the civil action in England's Court of Appeals in the matter of Jaffray v The Society of Lloyd's, the court has found that the Lloyd's sales brochures used to attract investors had misrepresented their audits as "rigorous" and "true and fair." The court found that these statements were both untrue and material. The court also found that Lloyd's had "no audit at all." Lloyd's misled investors, creating financial ruin for tens of thousands. The mental and physical trauma of this would lead to suicides and early graves, yet the Court of Appeals, in its great serenity, failed to hold Lloyd's to account.

20. In the Jaffray hearing, witnesses could not be cross-examined because of a perverse requirement that the cross-examiner accept the witness statement as true before cross-examination. This not only impedes the search for truth, but protects an unprincipled witness from the (however unlikely) risk of prosecution for perjury.

21. Litigants in person were not allowed to cross-examine witnesses at all, a clear demonstration of unequal treatment (in 1993-94, litigants in person had a 96% failure rate in the Court of Appeals).

22. Fraudulent concealment was not allowed to be at issue in Jaffray. The

doctrines of fraudulent concealment and/or fraudulent non-disclosure are not recognized under English law. 23. The Jaffray appeal was not misconducted under English law (no such thing is possible given the English judge's unfettered discretion), but English law does not recognize as its duty the delivery of justice and remedy to victims of fraud. The English Court of Appeal accepted that it had a higher duty to uphold private legislation rubberstamped by Parliament.

Immunity

24. Names who have suffered damage and loss have been denied compensation because Section 14 of the Lloyd's Act of 1982 grants Lloyd's immunity. Self-granted and undeserved immunity is an almost universal characteristic of English law. Immunity confers privilege, and undeserved privilege is inequality.

25. Lloyd's had immunity for all acts except intentional fraud. The authors of the act would have known that intent is hard to prove and easy to deny.

26. Judges are covered by Crown immunity in all their actions. Barristers cannot be sued for incompetence. Geoffrey Robertson QC, a barrister with 25 years experience stated in regard to this immunity (1999): "... Barristers are well paid and immune to actions for negligence... They cling to their immunity from actions for negligence – an unjustified privilege which protects incompetence from being sued."

27. Some barristers can earn as much as £3 million (\$5.4 million) in a year. They may be highly skilled, but their main value to clients may be in the huge fees they charge. English courts can and frequently do make the losing side pay some or all of the other side's costs. Parties will settle rather than face costs that could bankrupt them.

28. Combine the barrister's immunity with his wealthy client's power of financial intimidation and there is very little that can't be done to destroy the chances of any opposing party. In England, money decides legal matters.

Failure to Prosecute for Corruption

29. Robertson said about corruption; "I meet colleagues from other countries who are 'special prosecutors', putting behind bars Mafia bosses and masters of the Wall Street universe, or who head commissions which catch by their white collars corrupt politicians and public servants and policemen. But in Britain, you still have to be pretty stupid to end up in prison."

Shortage of space, alas, bars items No. 30 through 81 of this historic affidavit. Many of the items are brilliant and were excluded here only to maintain numerical order. Seekers of the complete affidavit can contact me for it at Tel. 312 664 7651 or fogarty@ix.netcom.com.

Sporting Log

By Sean
Og. O Ceallachain



This is the time of year when counties take stock of their activities and in some instances, address weaknesses which arose during the playing season. That has always been the practice in many counties who may have been unhappy in their progress levels. The trend in Ireland at top level especially, is the acquisition of a proper team manager or coach with the Midas touch. It is extraordinary when such an individual comes along and lifts a team to heights of greatness never previously attained. Conversely, it doesn't follow that a new broom will perform magically and achieve instant success and that can have a deflationary effect as well.

One man who appears to have the magic touch is Kerry's Mick O'Dwyer and he has a record to prove it. He played in 10 All-Ireland finals (including one replay); Trainer/Manager of Kerry senior team in 10 All-Ireland finals (won 8); trainer of Kerry Under 21 team in four consecutive All-Ireland finals, won 3 in a row, lost the fourth

by a point. He won three Kerry County medals and a Railway Cup medal and there is no one that I can recall could equal or beat that record. When he stepped down from the managers job after a very fulfilling career, he added further to his laurels by taking over the coaching of the Kildare footballers. He led them to a Leinster crown in 1998 for the first time since 1956 and on to a first ever All-Ireland final appearance since 1928. Moving on to Laois and again success attended his coaching efforts when Laois captured Leinster senior honours in 2003 for the first time since 1946.

He opted out of coaching with Laois after they failed to advance in the All-Ireland Quarter finals series earlier this year. It is said that newspapers will never refuse ink and there were many stories doing the rounds concerning O'Dwyer. His name was linked with a number of counties which were all figments of the minds of young reporters.

And as the great man told me himself - they were amusing guesses.

Perhaps the most important stage of his managerial life was in the 70's which coincided with the appointment of Kevin Heffernan as manager of Dublin footballers. That was to prove one of the greatest rivalries in the game of football. The battle between the two coaching stalwarts helped to revolutionise the game and it attracted thousands to Croke Park to see the respective counties do battle.

Football was always the winner and the records will show that when drawn against each other on the occasion of a major test, attendance records were broken. Every time. Not alone that, the atmosphere, the colour, the commitment and the sheer intensity of the contest made it an occasion not to be missed. The rivalry stretched over a ten year period which was reckoned as the best ten years of Gaelic football.

Heffernan retired from managership of Dublin after the 1976 defeat of Kerry in the All-Ireland final when the team assembled for a dinner to celebrate that famous victory. But the players were shocked when Heffernan announced his retirement from office. He explained that business pressure was the cause. He found he was neglecting his job and trying to cope with the team manager's

role was far too demanding. Efforts to make him change his mind fell on deaf ears. He was adamant that the time had come for a break. He had accomplished his mission. For his contribution to the resurgence of Gaelic football in Dublin, Kevin Heffernan was honoured as the "Texaco" Award winner in 1974. But he was invited back in an advisory capacity by Tony Hanahoe.

He remained in that role until 1983 when Dublin captured the All-Ireland title against Galway for the 21st time. But Mick O'Dwyer still stayed at the helm in Kerry and in 1989 completed a remarkable -player/manager- fact file 1953/1989 inclusive (37 years). That record will never be surpassed. The scene is so different nowadays. The tenure of managers remains at the most two to three years. The only other exception is Sean Boylan who stayed as manager of Meath for over 16 years. He is currently the manager of the Ireland team for the International Rules series against Australia. Ironically, Mick O'Dwyer, the most influential and title-bedecked manager in the GAA was never invited to fill the managers role in the International series.

At present managers are coming and going at GAA level and the big surprise was the stepping down of Kerry's manager Jack O'Connor and his selectors

Johnny Culloty and Ger O'Keeffe and team trainer Pat Flanagan. The decision was taken a few weeks ago and it came as a bombshell to the county Board and followers of the game. They had been three years in charge and brought Kerry to three all-Ireland finals, winning two - in 2004 and this year. In both years they recorded League/All-Ireland doubles. O'Connor is getting out on a winning note, a rarity among GAA managers. The last time a football manager quit on the back of an All-Ireland senior title was Dublin's Pat O'Neill, in 1995.

John Meyler has been ratified as the new Wexford hurling manager for a three year stint, which will be reviewed annually - something which has become a prerequisite with County Boards at present. In Laois, the new team boss in football is Liam Kearns and he will have under 21 manager Sean Dempsey, and Tommy Conroy as his selectors. In Offaly, hurling manager John McIntyre has appointed two of Offaly's 1981 All-Ireland winning team as his selectors, Paddy Kirwan and Aidan Fogarty.

The 51,000 capacity Limerick Gaelic Grounds is set to get Floodlights, pending permission from the local County Council. The Munster Council and Croke Park are prepared to contribute 750,000 Euro each towards the cost.

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Chicago Doesn't Have a Currach - Yet



Built of a latticework of laths, covered with sealskin, and tarred, Currachs have served Irish fishermen for centuries. Today they're covered with canvas and painted.

And they're not just in Ireland anymore! Here, they are raced by clubs of the NACA (North American Currach Association). There are clubs in Milwaukee, Albany and Annapolis, Boston, Cleveland and Columbus, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Chicago must have a Currach Club! We are holding an organizational meeting Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 P.M at the

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago, IL.

Remember, Saint Brendan discovered America in a currach [kuhr-uh].

We need strong men and women to power the mighty currach oars. We need organizers and fundraisers. We need cheer leaders. We need one and all. We need you!

Contact Harry Ward at 630 469-8723 (after Oct 20 Tom McDonnell at 847 870-7588) or at Currach.Chicago@yahoo.com. Visit our website: geocities.com/currach.chicago/

We Get Letters

Editor

The October edition celebrates an intellectual blow with Tom Boyle's empty-headed ignorance in heading a five paragraph piece on black politicians and corruption, 'Chocolate Co. Cook.' Outside any measure of liberal political sensitivity, I am absolutely dumb-founded that Mr. Boyle would continue riding New Orleans Mayor Nagin's comments to justify his own racist posturing. This crap has no place in the Irish tradition. It is an embarrassment to the countless generations of our ancestors who fought foreign wars against the bigotry of the British monarch. It as well spits upon the spirit of NICRA, and is a disgraceful slur towards the tens of thousands of non-Irish who line the streets at both St. Patrick parades every year participating with genuine enthusiasm for our cultural celebration. /Cead mile failte/, my ass.

Additionally, the reprehensible publication in this same issue of an obituary for a gentleman who is very well alive indeed is shocking. There is no excuse in this age of mobile telephones for failing to verify empty rumors which have such a terrible ability to hurt those close to the person. I am curious from where author of this piece received his information.

niall fennessy
niallfennessy@comcast.net

Dear Sir/Madam

Riverstown F.C. is a juvenile soccer club in Glanmire, a suburb of Cork City in the Republic of Ireland. It was founded in 1994, (during the World Cup in the U.S.) when a group of us noticed that there were so many boys and girls playing soccer in public parks, playgrounds and streets but had no local Club in which they could play with.

So it was decided to put a team together at Under 12 age group and enter the Cork Schoolboys League. The result was a great success and from then on the numbers began to grow.

Now 12 years later we have teams playing in all age groups from Under 8 up to Under 18 in the local leagues as well as girls teams in the Schoolgirls League and also a very successful Senior Women's side. Most of these teams are playing in the Premier Divisions of their Leagues and many of the players and former players have gone on to represent their county, province and even country at various levels.

At present we have approx. 250 boys and girls from all walks of life in our Club which is respected throughout the county and country.

Now you would imagine that with this success we would have the best of playing facilities, with our own grounds, changing rooms etc.

Unfortunately this is not the case. Over the years we have tried on a number of occasions to get our own ground but each time have been knocked back. We have been let down by local authorities, bad local planning and general bureaucracy.

We have a great voluntary committee of hard working men and women who believe in the Club and the dream of owning our own ground, and who keep getting back up after each knock.

Now at last we have a chance of purchasing some land to develop our Club but have been dealt another blow, as we are unable to secure from the financial institutions the full amount required to attain same.

What we urgently require is a major benefactor / sponsor who will back our bid to achieve our goal. We are continually going to the parents who have always been generous but this only succeeds in financing the yearly expenses of the Club.

It is with this in mind that I am writing to you in the hope that you might put our appeal out amongst the general Irish / American population and maybe attract somebody who could and would be willing to help us and who might like to forge links with the Club and the community. We would do our utmost to fulfil any obligations that such a benefactor would ask of us.

We can be reached at the following

address:
Sean Murphy (Secretary)
122 Elmgrove Sallybrook
Glanmire, Co. Cork
Rep. of Ireland
Telephone: 00353851672857
Our website is www.riverstownfc.com

Thank you for your attention and we appreciate any assistance you can give us.

Yours in sport,
Eamon Breen
Honorary President
Riverstown F.C.

To the editor:

I wish to thank your columnist, my friend Pat Hennessy for allowing me the unique opportunity of reading my own obituary from this side of the vale. And a fine one it is. The only disservice



Frank O'Neill

you've done me is that, to ensure I live up to it, I will now have to labor many years past the 110 I national games... culture, language and song, dance and music of the Gael."

I did try to follow your "Ar dheis De go rainbhn an ainin" advice, and grab a good spot at the right hand of my maker, but was told in so many words to: "Get the hell out of here and don't come back until you're called." Instead I am proud to find myself

still here, and standing in high-class company to boot- at the right hand of Sam Langhorne Clemens, who had the pleasure of replying to his obit in the New York Journal: "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Pat, please don't think that you may have offended me; that's far from the truth. I must thank you sincerely for the pleasure it gives this old warrior to take part in yet another rising.

Frank O'Neill



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The gang at Johnny O'Hagan's held a golf tournament in early October, and raised money for charity at the same time. Once again, the group enjoyed perfect weather.



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F or The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



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