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Mike Murphy 1976-2008

Remembering Murph ...Pages 5 and 24

“What’s the Rumpus?”

Gaelic Storm's New CD...Page 32

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God Bless Tim Russert 'Bogside Mural is a True Honor' – Hume

by Sean Canniffe

God Bless Tim Russert. And God Bless America or as Tim used to say with unbounded enthusiasm and glee: "What a country!" For it was in America, warts and all, that Tim's forebears found a home and in Irish America that they found a community that protected and nurtured a collective sense of family, duty, honor and the value of the truth, all hallmarks of the Irish American psyche, a psyche that Tim personified, perhaps as much as any other.

Tim Russert never forgot his roots, working class Irish, and it showed in his work ethic and in the professionalism with which he brought us the important political stories of the day. Those who invited Tim into their living rooms every Sunday morning did so because they appreciated his unflinching resolve to get to the bottom line; because, in his unique way he made the news accessible, educational and entertaining, and in no small part because they regarded him as a 'friend.' America trusted Tim Russert, if he said it it was true.

In his career, both in politics and as a newsman, and in his relationships with those he loved, Tim Russert was always sincere, principled and guided by a moral compass that was faultlessly accurate. He was quintessentially Irish American, he was one of the best of us. Slán abhaile Tim, safe home.

John Hume has spoken of his pride at being included in a mural of humanitarian leaders which is to be unveiled by the Bogside Artists today at 1pm in Glenfada Park off Rossville Street in Derry.

Speaking in advance of the unveiling of the mural, Nobel Peace Laureate John Hume said, "I am truly honoured that the Bogside Artists have decided to depict me alongside some of the most inspirational figures of the past century on this mural. I think it is very significant that this image has been unveiled on the 40th anniversary of the Caledon housing sit-in because for many people that protest saw the start of the civil rights movement. I was always convinced that the civil rights movement must remain totally peaceful and it was very successful in achieving its goals until the later outbreak of widespread violence that only served to increase distrust as well as result in so much injury and loss of life.

"For me personally I am proud that this mural is located in the heart of the Bogside in the city which I love very much. Of course, we looked at other parts of the world for ideas to deal with the injustice that we faced. From day one, I was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King and his message of total non-violence to achieve

civil rights and human rights. Mother Theresa lived a life where she served the poorest of the poor and showed that a girl from Albania in Eastern Europe who went to school in Dublin could bring about change in the developing world. Nelson Mandela must not only be admired for standing up to the inhumanity of apartheid, but for leading South Africa into democracy and especially to a shared country where barriers were broken down. Our society can learn from them all.

"I would also like to thank Bishop Daly for unveiling the mural today. He is respected throughout our city and our whole country and served the people of Derry so well in leading them through very dark times."

SDLP Leader and Foyle MP Mark Durkan added, "John Hume has been honoured and recognised internationally for his contribution to civil rights, equality, justice and peace. "This mural now represents a very visible recognition in his home town, coming in the year celebrating the 40th anniversary of key civil rights events and the 10th anniversary of his Nobel Peace Prize.

"It is a timely expression of appreciation for the service, leadership and inspiration which he has offered."

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The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



Ancient News

Pat Hennessy claims he qualifies as ancient! He celebrated number 88 in April (26th) to be exact!

Still hand types his column monthly with very few typos. Journalism, sports and Irish culture are in his blood. He's had a column in this paper since its date of inception, and his dedication to all things Irish is incredible.

Thank you for everything you do Pat!

Ambassador

Michael Collins

If you ever want to see where Chicago's local Irish spend the summer, throw a party for the Irish Ambassador to America and you will learn that they all stay in Chicago!

Consul General Martin Ruiane, and his wife Mary, held the swoi-

ree at their new home on Superior Ave. Most guests ended up where? You guessed it. The kitchen! No wonder. Mary O'Connor of Incredible Edibles served up great food and drink with the help of her talented crew. The large kitchen spilled out onto at least one outdoor deck. Ambassador Collins fielded questions from those gathered, Maureen O'Looney in particular, and posed for photos with several in the crowd. We will be posting pics on our website at www.iannews.com.

Auld Dubliner

It's time for me to check out the Auld Dubliner in Bolingbrook. Art Chamberlain is the general manager of the spacious new pub/restaurant at 641 E. Boughton Rd #152, Bolingbrook IL. He tells me that its going well since they opened in the dead of Winter! But,

it could always be better! The Auld Dubliner is one of a chain of nine in California, Nevada, Arizona, and the one here in Illinois. They have live music Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. From the looks of their website, www.auld-dubliner.com, the place is spacious, entirely imported from Ireland, and the food looks great.

Better Go Online This Month!

Too much information to put into the paper this month, so be sure to check out our website at www.iannews.com. It's a nice problem to have!

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Big Newspapers Ought To Be Ashamed

Many large newspaper behemoths are crying the blues. Seems their print advertising is down. So what do they do? They send the message that readership is down because of the internet. Many, like The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Chicago Sun-times, and The Chicago Tribune downsize their papers physically. they lay off, fire, and don't replace their help. Many of them good help. They blame the economy, and anyone else but themselves.

I believe it all started around 2000 when many of them threw large chunks of money at an internet they didn't understand, and they had no clue how to make money from it. They let their sales people communicate by fax, phone, and email. Whatever happened to face-to-face meetings? They reported more distribution than they had. When business slowed they took it out on their own papers! All the downsizing, and crying sends one message to the public. You won't get a fair bang for your buck. They got lazy. They took care of shareholders today, with no view of tomorrow. They spread this message of doom and gloom, and the public bought it.

They had better get back to the basics and embrace the web.

Get Well Maureen

Maureen O'Looney fell on the stairs of the Irish American Heritage Center. Two broken ribs, a broken ear drum, bruises galore, and she's at work as I write this!

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Mike "The Murph" Murphy 1976-2008

by Shay Clarke

Our condolences to Jim & Mary-Ann Murphy from Southside Chicago, to Sue Pfeiffer his girlfriend and to all the family, friends and fans of Mike Murphy who was tragically taken from us last month.

I knew Murph as a member of the Larkin and Moran brothers and like

everybody else who knew him, loved the guy. His smile and joy in his music endeared Mike to everybody.

I asked Mike Larkin to supply me with some details for this column and when he did, I realized that no words from me could measure up to what Mike Larkin had to say about his "brother" Murph.

Murph's Tribute from his Band of Brothers

Mike Larkin and the rest of the Larkin & Moran Brothers

Born: Michael J. Murphy July 20, 1976 to parents James and Mary Ann Murphy, raised a Southside Irish Catholic boy, Murph went to 2 or 3 grammar schools and then went on to Polaris school in Oak Lawn, Ill. (referred to by many students as Pie) from what I was told it was a school for the gifted with a great music program. Terry Moran was the first to meet Murph both were in local bands (metal bands) and played at most of the same places (The Thirsty Whale, Champs, O'Malley's...etc.) Murph was only 17. Murph had played with several bands over the years and joined us just before the release of the "LIVE at the Kerry Piper" CD in 2000. Up to that point Murph was already a fixture at many of the family parties. Brother Dan had an idea one day that we were missing something at the big festivals, a driving bass. Terry suggested Murph and talk about a perfect match, the rest was history. Murph had been taking lessons for some 20 years and his first love and passion was his band "Leave". With friends Jim Latsis, Joe Hermann, and Terry Keating they achieved some great success playing in California and The Cavern Club (where John Lennon and The Beatles played). Murph had left us for a brief stint to follow up with recordings with Leave. At that time

we recruited young Kevin Moran to play bass and when Murph returned he was playing mandolin and accordion. Everything was really coming together for Murph. He had his house in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago and a great steady girlfriend Sue Pfeiffer. Murph was also a teacher for The Music School in Oak Lawn with friends Chuck Murphy and John Ciciora. Murph taught many people ranging in a variety of ages and backgrounds including my kids Erin 9, Mick 8, Conor 7. Murph's life was music. He was playing in 4 bands (The Larkin and Moran Bros., Leave, Week Back, and Joe V.) and teaching around the clock. His loving parents had supported Murph's love for music and had traveled to see as many shows as they could. Murph was an only child but you would never know it because we were his brothers and he was at every baptism, communion, birthday, or wedding we had as a family. We are scheduled to leave for our tour of Ireland Thurs. June 19, 2008. It is going to be very difficult without our friend. Murph was taken from us June 6, 2008. Knowing Murph's love for the music I believe he would have wanted the music to continue and hopefully the next time we play I'll be able to picture one of his famous Murph smiles smiling down at all of us.

Winners of Gaelic Park's Essay Contest

The winners of the recent Chicago Gaelic Park Essay Contest, "An Irish Person Who Has Influenced Me", are as follows:

High School — 1st Place: Marty Malone, St. Rita High School, 3rd year; **2nd Place:** Robert Galvin, Marist High School, 4th year; **3rd Place:** Bridget Leiser, Mother McAuley High School, 4th year.

Elementary School — 1st Place: Annie Myren, St. Catherine of Alexandra School, 8th

grade; **2nd Place:** Amanda Kass, Bridgeport Catholic Academy, 6th grade; **3rd Place:** Shane Bigus, Ascension Grammar School (Oak Park), 8th grade.

Winners of the random drawings were Caitlin Carroll, Mother McAuley High School, 1st year and Hannah Galveston, Queen of All Saints School, 6th grade.

Judges for all of the contests were from various area elementary and high schools.

Gaelic Athletic Association Games

The GAA hosts Gaelic games of football and hurling each weekend at Chicago Gaelic Park.

Gaelic football is a fantastic sport, resembling some elements of basketball, rugby and soccer with the rules of the game intentionally designed to keep the game moving quickly. The first record of Gaelic Football comes from the Statute of Galway in 1527.

Hurling, the fastest field game in the world, is played by the ancient Irish rules, with very skilled players, a "hurley" stick made of ashwood, and a very hard ball called a "siothar" (pronounced slitar).

The object of Hurling is for players to put the siothar between the opponents goalposts either over the crossbar for one point, or under the crossbar into a guarded goal, for three points. Body checks, side-to-side shouldering and shirt pulling are common as well as slashing at the siothar. No protective padding is worn and helmets are optional.

Admission is \$6.00. Refreshments such as sausages and chips, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream are available at all games for a small price. Call for times and games.



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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



Gaelic Park Festival Success Despite Weather

The 22nd annual Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Festival featuring some of the best Irish entertainers in the US scored another success here recently despite less than ideal weather. The weather varied over Memorial Day weekend, but traditional Irish song, dance, and music lovers came from all over the Midwest. Judging by the applause at the various Irish acts—they loved what they saw and heard.

During the four days of tip-top Irish entertainment including, our own Liz Carroll with John Doyle, brought “the house down” with some of the finest Irish music this side of Ireland. Other stars included The Bridies, New York Showband, American English, Seven Nations and others who contributed to a great Irish afternoon. Our thanks and congratulations go all around to the many workers who made it all possible. Legendary Frank Bradley once again brought in the best, even though he was hospitalized for a brief period before it all began. *Tan cun De* (Thanks to God) he is up and around. His able deputy, Eamon Malone, was an ideal representative. The many “volunteers” are commended, without whose help the

show could not go on. Congratulations to all. “The Irish Culture Tent” was something new, presenting such acts as *The Irish Music Archives*, an exhibition promoting Irish culture. The dog exhibition was also a novel act featuring the many different Irish breeds and of course the Connemara Pony, known all over the world. Kathy O’Leary, Oak Lawn Librarian, discussed various ways and means of finding your “Irish Roots” and no doubt was popular with the large attendance. Berni O’Donnell, from Donegal, showed the attendance how to knit the various and popular Aran patterns. And nothing Irish would be complete without some of the best Irish music with the “around the floor and mind the dresser” refrain, heard in many Irish kitchens as “the lads” danced in the kitchen long, long ago. “How to pour a good glass of Guinness” was also on the show.

This annual Festival is one of the main fundraisers scheduled to maintain and keep Chicago Gaelic Park “the finest Irish GAA and Culture Center outside of Croke Park in Dublin,” words spoken by Irish President Mary McAleese on a visit to the park some years ago. But if the great lady was to return today she would be pleasantly surprised to see all the many renovations completed in order to make

the surroundings more attractive. And if you haven’t been out lately, you too will be surprised. So come on out any Sunday afternoon and witness Ireland’s national pastimes. Men and women competing in hurling and gaelic football games, considered “the fastest ground games in the world.” If you don’t believe that—come on out and see for yourself.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL; 708-687-9323. Call any one of the fair colleens for more information on schedules, etc.

Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to John C. Griffin, dynamic President of Chicago Gaelic Park for the past several years, who was recently named as Judge in the Cook County Circuit Courts. John will make an excellent Judge, one that we can all feel proud of. *Beannact De leat a cara agus ar an oibre.* (God bless you and your work.)

Death of Well Known Chicago Irish Lady

The death recently of well known Chicago-Irish lady Tess Rainey, beloved wife of the famed Chicago gael Paddy Rainey, native of Co. Mayo, was mourned by Chicago’s entire gaeldom who knew her as a very active worker and promoter. She succeeded John Crean as president of the prestigious and enterprising Chicago-Mayo Association, a position which she held with distinction up to her untimely death.

The late Tess Rainey was also a very active member of Chicago’s Gaelic Park Ladies

Auxiliary Club and here again her Herculean work on behalf of the promotion of Ireland’s national games, hurling and Gaelic Football, and the song, dance and music of the gael merited much praise from other members and Chicago gaeldom.

Above and beyond all of this great work, Tess and Paddy Rainey welcomed visiting gael from Ireland back in the 60’s and 70’s when All-Ireland champions, Tipperary, Kilkenny hurlers and champion football teams came here to play exhibitions against Chicago all-stars, at Rockne Stadium and Shewbridge Stadium, when there was no Gaelic Park. Their hospitality and that of several other Chicago gael is still remembered back in Ireland and indeed will never be forgotten by those of us who promoted the games of the gael back then.

Someday the Chicago GAA will compile the record of such visits and the Chicago gael who made it all possible by their hospitality so that those who follow in the years ahead can see and hopefully appreciate the great work of men and women like Paddy and his beloved wife Tess and countless others who by their sacrifices made Gaelic Park possible. Such a record should be on display in Gaelic Park for all to see and appreciate.

The huge crowds of Chicagoans who gathered at Sheehy’s in Orland Park for the wake of this great lady testified of her well earned popularity over the years. Her funeral mass at Our Lady of the Ridge and interment at Holy

... continued on page 15

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Drawing will be held at Andy Cooney's Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration at The Irish Coffee Pub in Islip, NY on Wednesday evening, September 18, 2008. Send your entry to Mill Pond Music, Inc., P.O. Box 3409, S. Farmingdale, NY 11735.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Forget Being Irish

Michael, the little boy from Ireland, “looked at his [guardian] and noticed again the fine lines all around her mouth, like a string purse with the string pulled tight.”

“There would be no kindness or affection from this woman. She was incapable of being kind or of loving anyone. The only human emotion she could express was self-interest. She was in her upper 60’s, worked hard a dress maker, was a “good” woman who read the

Bible daily. But she couldn’t love anyone.”

How did this little boy from Ireland, Michael Kelly, have been put into this situation? This is the sequel to Ann O’Farrell’s *Norah’s Children* (reviewed here last August).

About that book the author says, “*Norah’s Children* is a novel which has, at its least, a truth. There was a Norah... Norah did have five children, and five different families ultimately took in these children... How these children were actually reared, I do not know. I heard whispers long ago and, like the fine silk of a spider’s web, they clung to me. I finally gathered those fragile threads and wove them within a story of ‘how it might have been’.”

When Norah died in the 1920’s, her children were separated and sent to different foster homes. O’Farrell says: “They go to different families and have very different experiences.” About those experiences, she says, “I don’t believe they spoke much about their separate lives.”

Two were raised by caring relatives in Ireland, And three were sent to homes in England.

It was thought that if they were adopted by Catholic English people that this would be good for their upbringing. Unfortunately this was not so, because the people who adopted them were unable to be kind or generous. In a word, they were not affectionate people.

To make the situation worse, they treated the children as unpaid servants. They constantly reminded the children of their origin, and demanded their gratitude by falsely claiming that if they hadn’t taken them in, they would have been put in an orphanage.

The foster parents referred to their relatives in Ireland as “Irish riff-raff” and “Irish gypsies.” Their guardians worked to make them “English” and to forget their relatives. They even burned the letters to Michael from his brother and sister in Ireland.

The author of this provocative book shows us what is necessary to become a mentally complete human being.

Human beings need affection. Children need affection to develop as psychologically healthy adults. Adults need affection too. Most problems of human relations are caused by this lack of affection.

What is affection? It is unequivocal acceptance of who we are. Affection is also kindness,

friendliness, and yes, love for ourselves and for others.

Michael is a dutiful boy, a hard-working student, and always respectful to his guardian.

As a teenager he comes to know the family of a boy at school. This family is relaxed, friendly, and cheerful—all the things he doesn’t have at home.

Michael spends as much time as possible with this family, especially after meeting his friend’s sister. “They all followed [their father] into the house, though Michael hung back waiting for [his friend’s sister]. He winked and smiled at her and she smiled back. He loved this family. He wished they were his.” We are with him as he falls in love with that girl who brings joy, light, and happiness into his life.

The period is the late 1930’s and early 1940’s. Michael lived his teenage years against the backdrop of war. World War II comes to Britain with air raids, bomb shelters, the Blitz, rationing, and service in the armed forces.

When the father and son are killed in an air raid, his guardian asks Michael why he had to be with the grief-filled family.

“I had to go, they needed me. I told you they were both killed in that raid on the aircraft factory.”

“I fail to see what use you could have been to them.”

“He looked into cold, angry eyes. ‘I was just there, if they needed me.’”

“Well, that’s nice for them.”

He decides to join the air force, and begins the rigorous training to serve on a bomber. Before joining, he worked in a clothing store and tell his boss [his guardian’s brother] he is enlisting,

“This war’s not to end soon... I’d rather choose what service I go into... If you’re prepared to take me back when the war’s over, I will be very grateful. If you don’t, I’ll just have to get another job.”

“Well if that’s all the gratitude you have, you can be off. I hope they take you in the service, lad, because there’ll be no job for you here if you come crawling back.”

Michael’s relatives in Ireland are delighted to meet him—he loves their open-hearted, human warmth. They even tell him, “this is your home.” They are deeply puzzled by the meanness that explains why the letters they sent never got to him.

Michael shows the reader the importance and beauty of affection and generosity of spirit.

The author, Ann O’Farrell, so develops the book’s characters that they become like real people. She makes that difficult accomplishment seem effortless; some of those fictional characters I would really like to meet.

I didn’t want the book to end.

Michael by Ann O’Farrell. iUniverse, Inc., New York, 2008. 272 pages; \$17.95. www.iuniverse.com.

Ann O’Farrell lives with her husband in Florida. She lived most of her life in Dublin.

She will visit the Chicago area in July. For her book-reading appearance nearest you, see her banner on the IAN website or go to her website: www.annofarrell.net.



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Beverly Theatre Guild Returns to Morgan Park Academy Arts Center

The Beverly Theatre Guild will perform three productions of its 2008-2009 Season at the Morgan Park Academy Arts Center, 2153 W. 111th Street, Chicago. The season begins with Brian Friel's acclaimed Irish drama, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, on October 17, 18 and 19. The raucously funny musical, *The Full Monty*, recently released for community theatre presentation, will be performed on February 6, 7 and 8. Ken Ludwig's hilarious comedy, *Twentieth Century*, completes the season on May 1, 2 and 3.

The Beverly Theatre Guild is Chicago's oldest community theatre organization, performing continuously since 1963. "Performing again at Morgan Park Academy is like going home," says BTG President Barbara Moore. More information on the Beverly Theatre Guild season can be obtained at www.beverlytheatreguild.org or by calling 773-BTG-TIXS (773-284-8497).



Bill Adams, Headmaster, Morgan Park Academy and Barbara Moore, President, Beverly Theatre Guild

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ShawChicago's Scogin Gets Crystal Award

ShawChicago Artistic Director Robert Scogin received The Chicago Drama League's Crystal Award at its Spring Gala Luncheon, held May 22nd at The Union League Club of Chicago.

Scogin recently announced ShawChicago's 15th Anniversary season: *The Apple Cart*, by G. B. Shaw, October 18-November 10, 2008 at the Ruth Page Theater; *Holiday Show*, December 19-21, 2008 at the Ruth Page Theater; *John Bull's Other Island*, by G. B. Shaw, February 7-March 2, 2009 at the Ruth Page Theater and *Ghosts*, by Henrik Ibsen, April 18-May 11, 2009 at the Chicago Cultural Center's Studio Theater. www.shawchicago.org

Me And My Dad Stories at Live Bait Thtr

Solo Performers: Martie Sanders, Tom McNamara, & Gerrit O'Neill with guest artist Charlie Sanders.

Some of Chicago's best solo artists tell unforgettable stories about a wide assortment of fathers. An Irish boxer (McNamara), an optimistic gambler (O'Neill) and, last but not least, a 79-year-old Charlie Sanders who

pulls out his tap shoes after 40 years and joins his daughter Martie on stage. Three striking monologues about three loveable yet complex dads.

Tickets, \$15. Students & seniors, \$10. Call 773-871-1212 for reservations.

Live Bait Theater, 3914 N. Clark, Mainstage and Bucket. www.livebaittheater.org.

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U.S. Navy, Marines Showcase Their Best During Fleet Week

By John Mooney

It was an offer I couldn't refuse: an overnight stay on the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge.

The Kearsarge sailed up from Norfolk, VA, transporting 1,200 sailors and Marines along with tanks and equipment. The ship supports Marine landing forces by both sea and air. A huge gate at the stern of the 40,500 ton ship enables landing crafts to swiftly transport personnel onto beachfronts. Longer than two football fields, the ship can also launch a variety of helicopters and the Osprey, an aircraft that can hover and fly long-range missions.

Heavy rains put the kibosh on the helicopter flight to the ship, so media and USO visitors rode on a small boat with an armed Coast Guard patrol boat alongside. Captain James Gregorski greeted the guests as they came aboard.

Scott Parker, a blond, 23-year-old sailor is our escort. He points out the markings on the flight deck, various types of helicopters, and color coding of the life vests.



"How do I address you," I ask.

"Just call me Parker," said the Mechanicsville, VA, native, one of 10 siblings in a military family. "I wrestled at Montclair State for a year, but college wasn't for me. My parents told me I couldn't just hang out. I joined the Navy because I like the operations part of things."

Parker is responsible for taking photographs and sending them to Navy news staff and the Department of Defense. Also a firefighter, he has sailed to the Persian Gulf and to Bangladesh for a humanitarian effort to bring water to people. His enlistment ends later this year, and he has not decided on his plans. Making the rank of E5 (enlisted 5th rank) will have a bearing, since it means a \$1,100 raise. Parker earns every penny; his days often start before 6:00 a.m. reveille.

"Make him show you his tattoo; he's got a clover on it," says a fellow communications specialist named Hawks, who knows my story angle. The reluctant Parker rolls up his sleeve to display a Celtic knot on his muscular right bicep.

Dublin-born Marine Becomes U.S. Citizen

Later, I meet Gunnery Sergeant

Chris Farrell, a Dublin native without a trace of an Irish accent. Tall with an intensity one would expect of a drill sergeant, he explains that his family came to the U.S. in 1990.



"I got into a lot of fights," he explained in a voice that now has a hint of a southern drawl. "I graduated from high school and enlisted 16 days later."

Since then, he has been a drill instructor at Paris Island, SC, and Camp Lejeune, NC. Recently, he spent months training the fledgling Iraqi police force in Baghdad and will go back in two months.

"We're definitely making a difference," said Farrell, who passed his

U.S. citizenship test in April. "The Iraqis are friendly, especially the children, who always want chocolate or anything we have for them."

I ask him what he'd like Americans to know about Iraq. He pauses.

"It is a dangerous place. I want people to know the sacrifices Marines make. It's admirable for a 19-year-old to leave the comfort of home and go into harm's way voluntarily," explained the 32-year-old, who sports Claddagh and shamrock tattoos.

"Leaving my wife and three daughters – that's the toughest part."

"I wanted to do something to earn the right to be an American."

Caleb Hayes of DuBois, PA, joined the Marines on his birthday, Sept. 11, in 2005.

"I love this country. I wanted to do something to earn the right to be an American," said Hayes, who has a neon smile and was stationed in Iraq for 13 months.

Hayes, like many of the Marines I met, feels it is unfortunate that the public doesn't believe the U.S. should be there.

"I was on the security team in Fallujah. When I first got there, you got shot at. Today, you can walk down the street without a flak jacket," Hayes explained. "They're rebuilding, but they still need us. No matter who wins the Presidency, leaving immediately would be a big mistake."

A Taste of Military Life

Media are stationed in officers' quarters. I take the top bunk for the first time since college. It's tight, but compared to where the Marines sleep (in long rows stacked 4 bunks high), it is luxurious. I wake up several times banging my feet on the bottom of the bunk and think, "If I'm only 5 ft. 10", how does a 6 ft. 2" Marine fit?"

Level 2 is not far from the flight deck. The roar of the helicopters landing and the rattling chains awake me before the lights go on 6 a.m. I've already been up for an hour because of the noise and the thrill of the experience.

After breakfast, we visit the crow's nest to see the spectacular view and also make our way down to the boiler room many decks below. I wonder who would want to work there and then realize the Kearsarge is indeed a floating city with its own executives, restaurant workers, doc-



tors, firefighters, mechanics, pilots and p.r. people.

Parade of Ships

The Kearsarge has the honor of sailing last in the 2008 Parade of Ships. Marines and sailors line up alternately and stand at attention as the other vessels pass. Passing the Statue of Liberty is the highlight, an impressive site on a glorious sunny day.

As the ship docks, the Marines are ready to take Manhattan. They will visit the Empire State Building and Ground Zero and will score plenty of free drinks from grateful civilians.

Second Lt. Charlie Shaw, a Columbus, OH, native was among those anticipating his first New York visit. The college graduate said joining the Marines was something he had to do. Unlike some of the servicemen who joined because of the economy, the 23-year-old strikes me as someone who would have no problem finding employment; he probably could be an Abercrombie & Fitch model, if he wanted.

"I grew up playing baseball and football. This country means a lot to me. So I decided to be an officer candidate. It was right for me," he says as he readies to stand at attention.

Later at lunch, I don't initially recognize him because his hat is off and dress uniforms don't have the names on them.

"You said you're righting for an Irish paper... my family comes from an Irish and Scottish background," he says, pointing to his chest.

It's enough to get him in the story and an honor to include him. The military uses Fleet Week as a chance to showcase it best. They did a fine job.

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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.

How the Pleasure of Swimming Can Turn Into a Life Changing Event - Part II

Last month we wrote about the case of a 22-year-old carpenter from Derry who was rendered quadriplegic after jumping into a swimming pool on the south side. As you may recall, it was the first time this gentleman had been in this swimming pool. He dove into a pool that had an unusual configuration. It was six feet deep in the middle, with two shallow ends. It had shallow entry stairs going across one entire width of the south end of the pool. The north end had a typical deep-end ladder. Unfortunately, the deep end ladder was in two and half feet of water. The actual deep end was in the middle of the pool!

The supervisor for the manufacturer of the liner of the pool admitted that the pool had seven design defects under the standards promulgated by the National Spa and Pool Industry (NSPI). There were motions filed by the defendants in the matter to prevent the case going forward. The motions were based on previous Illinois cases which state that the dangers of diving into open bodies of water are open and obvious, therefore, that injured party should be prevented from taking his case to a jury. Our office opposed



By Jack Cannon

the motions based on the admitted design defects in the pool. Further, under existing case law the question of whether or not a design defect is open and obvious is a question for a twelve person jury to decide. Essentially, we wanted our client's day in court. The defendants felt otherwise. Unfortunately, a circuit judge agreed with the defendants. He dismissed our claim without explanation. We then immediately filed an appeal to the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court heard argument on February 27, 2008. The defendants claimed they did not owe plaintiff any duty of care because the pool was a body of water and, therefore, posed an open and obvious danger. The Appellate Court ruled in favor of our client and overturned the trial court ruling stating that our injured client was entitled to his day in court. In doing so, the court cited an Illinois Supreme Court ruling that said "the existence of an open and obvious danger is not an absolute bar to finding that a defendant who owns, occupies or controls lands has a duty to exercise reasonable care. The factors to be considered are:

- The likelihood of injury;
- The reasonable foreseeability of injury; and
- The magnitude of guarding against the injury and the consequences of placing that burden on the defendant."

There was evidence that one of the defendants had provided depth and no diving warning signs to the owner to place on the edge of the pool. The owner never did it.

We presented to the court the testimony of a swimming pool expert with 25 years experience to examine the pool. That expert testified that the design of the pool was very unusual and was unsafe for the ordinary pool user who expects the typical pool to have both a shallow and deep-end. The expert stated that the problem was compounded by an optical illusion of a deep end created by placement of a classic deep-end ladder in two and a half feet of water at one end of the pool and the placement at the opposing end of broad steps typically associated with a shallow end. Indeed, all parties in the matter testified that the ladder in question was a deep-end ladder even though it was placed in shallow water. The injured worker had testified in his deposition he thought he was diving into the deep-end. He dove toward the ladder. The court also pointed out the contractor of the pool stated it would be a very good idea to post no diving signs in the pool but that he left the decision to the customer. The court stated that in cases involving a manufacturer the Supreme Court has held that the open and obvious nature of a danger is just one factor in evaluating the claims. The policy reasons behind rejecting an absolute bar to recovery was a desire to encourage the consideration of alternative safer designs on the part of manufacturers.

The Technical Support Manager for the manufacturer testified that printing warning signs on the liner itself make them unattractive to the buyers. He agreed that National Spa and Pool Institute set industry standards for residential pools and that the design of this pool did not meet NSPI standards; he acknowledged that the manual issued by his company guaranteed that the liner was in conformance with the Standard.

Based on all the foregoing, the First District of the Appellate Court of the State of Illinois has stated that our paralyzed client should be entitled to his day in court. The defendants have now filed for permission to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court in an attempt to prevent our client from presenting his case to a twelve person jury.

We will continue to keep you updated.



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a bitch with no job, sitting on that jury thinking, "Hmmmmm, I'll be fricked if I'm gonna let another Irishman take the rap and go to prison cuz the MAN don't want him on the streets, Don't ya worry Kelly my lad, we Irish stick together! And maybe you can fix me up with some of them hot young gals after we get you acquitted? Ahh Begorra Kelly, you're a good man!"

There are rumors on the street that Kelly paid off the family of the alleged underage girl in the porno video. Supposedly Kelly bought her family an Irish Plumber franchise and also set up the girl's mother in a corned beef catering company. That's the real reason she never testified. Kelly gave her plenty of cabbage.

Racetrack Jack Kelly told me he was on the golf course the day R. Kelly's verdict came in and somebody called him on his cell phone to deliver the news. Jack told his pals, "Well, at least somebody in the Kelly family got lucky today!"

R. Kelly's next album will celebrate his Irish heritage and include tunes like, "I'll Tell Me Ma", "It's the Same Old Shillelagh" and we're hoping to hear a duet with R. and Snoop Dogg on "Danny Boy".

Yeah homeys, that will be the izzle with the sha zizzle.

service by trying to whitewash jokes, stories, or news items that celebrate diversity.

You're going to see and hear a lot of that censorship now that Obama is running for President. We won't be able to make any cracks at all about the guy without some grand stander playing the race card. You don't actually think we've heard the last of Fr. Michael Pflieger, do you?

Sometimes merely stating a fact can be interpreted as racist or culturally offensive. Take for example this creep, R. Kelly. Do you think he would have walked if he didn't have that Irish name?

The whole R. Kelly circus is just more proof that the Irish can get away with anything in Chicago. The judge was Irish too! He delayed that trial for six years while that bum Kelly threw tons of dough at his attorneys to obfuscate the entire process.

And don't think there wasn't at least one shanty assed Irish son of

I heard that Skinny Sheahan bumped into Snoop Doggy Dogg at the pool of the Palms hotel in La Vegas recently. Snoop is a tall thin African American rapper and he was traveling with his posse of even taller African American bodyguards. Skinny saw the entourage and said, "Hey Snoop Dogg, can you sing Danny Boy?"

Of course Snoop Dogg wouldn't know Danny Boy from Danny Davis. That just goes to show you how different we Irish are from other cultures. And as an Irishman Skinny Sheahan certainly wouldn't know how to sing any of Snoop's hits, including, "Ain't No Fun (If the Homies Can't Have None)" or be familiar with Snoop's acting in films like "Girls Gone Wild Doggy Style"!

Sometimes cultural differences make for funny stories. But when goo-goo's get involved they quickly label any politically incorrect scenarios as "racist", and I think they are doing all cultures a dis-

Go to Bat for Mikey!

The MJS Fund has been created to benefit the future medical needs and related costs for the care of Michael J. Sheahan, who has Cystic Fibrosis (CF). CF is a progressive disease that affects the respiratory and diges-



Skinny Sheahan with
2007 St. Pat's Parade Queen

tive systems requiring intense daily treatments, periodic hospitalization, lots of medication, and, in the long term, a lung transplant. Mike is a regular 22-year old college student from the South Side, but breathing is something that he has never been able to take for granted. He's a great guy who fights this genetic disease with incredible strength, determination and humor.

The MJS Fund will hold a fundraiser on Sunday, July 20th, from 1-6pm, at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th St, in Merrionette Park. Tickets are \$30.00 and include all you can eat and drink.

Contact 773-305-2795 or go to www.michaelsheahan.org or email mjsfund@yahoo.com.

"Massage for the Cure" Benefit

On Monday, July 28, Illinois-Massage Envy clinics throughout Chicagoland will host their first annual "Massage for the Cure" event all day, offering free one-hour therapeutic massages to help in the fight against breast cancer. 100% of the customer donations collected that day will benefit the Chicagoland Area Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The suggested donation is the value of the massage (\$78), but any amount will be accepted.

The event is open to the public and requires an appointment at any of the 14 Chicagoland Massage Envy clinics. Several vendors will donate their products and numerous therapists will donate their tips for the day. Appointments for "Massage for the Cure" can be made beginning Monday, July 21 and are limited to one reservation per person. Contact any Chicagoland Massage Envy clinic directly at 866-922-ENVY or visit www.massagenvy.com.

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



The variety and excellence of the 71 submissions to the IAHC's 2008 one page play contest is remarkable. Their content is amazingly diverse, ranging from goings on in the mists of mythical Ireland to the present day Irish in America and how they got there. Emotive themes range widely as well. There are happy plays and sad plays and funny plays and plays that make you think. And some are deeply moving—all surprising in works that are, after all, so short. In fact, it is likely that some of the entries will make a deeper impression on audiences than more full length productions.

Entries are as varied as the authors and come from as far afield as Europe, Canada and the four corners of America. Plays range from single monologues to

work featuring 4 characters, all penned on a single page without any noticeable cramming. Authors include professional playwrights and people seeking a first production, college professors and students, an expatriate American living in Italy, a retired lawyer, a home-maker and others.

Playbill

There is a play entitled *Wake* by a Professor of Philosophy. This takes an incisive look at the amity and enmity to be found in that ancient Irish obsequy. There is another entitled *Lady Leprechaun*, about a light fingered lady. She talks herself out of a shoplifting charge by conning a security guard into believing she is a female of the little fairy type. A play, *The Hannigans of Beverly* is remarkable for its scope and

depth. It is a five scene, four generation drama about the circle of immigration in America and upward mobility beginning with the Irish. Then, there is a hilarious piece called *Proverbs*. This witty work is set in an Irish village pub. In it, Fiona has just split with Enda and comes to the pub in a dither. There, Michael the proprietor and Moira, a patron, offer Fiona the practical advice she needs—all delivered in pithy proverbs. The pick of the plays are scheduled to be staged at Irishfest at 7pm on Sat., July 12, in the auditorium on the first floor of the IAHC.

AIITF 2008

Conor McPherson, 37, the Dublin born playwright, appears poised to assume the mantle of Ireland's greatest living playwright, taking over from Donegal's Brian Friel. Certainly, if the playbill at the 15th Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival in Rochester, NY, is any indication, it may have occurred already. Previous festivals generally had at least one play by Friel but that was not the situation this year. The ten entry festival which

ran for five days in May featured two plays by McPherson—*A Christmas Carol* and *Shining City* and none by Friel. That was a big change.

For all his theatrical success, Conor McPherson might aptly be nicknamed "Mono" McPherson since his work consists mostly of monologues. These are stories written in a richly dramatic penetrating style which are essentially recitations performed by one character. This was the case with *St. Nicholas*, a fantasy about a vampire-stricken Irish theater critic or *The Good Thief*, a tale of a small time Dublin lowlife. The latter was brilliantly portrayed by Michael Thornton at The Gift Theater last year.

Uhs and Yeahs

Whenever McPherson includes additional characters, they are placed on stage mostly as props. Their lines generally consist of "uuh" grunts or muttered monosyllables of "yeah" and they seldom have real parts. It would appear that they are there just to give the main character a chance to catch his breath before continuing on. Such was seen in Tara Players of Winnipeg's presentation of the three character *A Christmas Carol*, a play penned in 2000. In the play it is the Eve of Christmas and John Plunkett, an assistant to an undertaker, is spewing out his lifetime of dysfunction due to alcohol. As he does, he slurps himself stiff. In the play, John's wife, whom he hasn't seen in years, is terminally ill and he debates, mostly with himself, if he should go to see her one last time. In the end, his good intentions fail and alcohol wins.

Robert Wall as John was extraordinarily impressive—neither understated nor over the top. He captured the pathos of compulsive alcoholism better than any professional actor I have seen. For his intense and moving portrayal, Robert received the award

for Outstanding Actor in a Major Role. Wall was surprised that he has come this far as an actor. For one thing, he did not start on the stage with acting in mind. No, he went to The Tara Players 30 years ago when he was a young carpenter fresh from Ireland hoping to build stage sets. "But they short of males and I was asked to try out. I read and got the part," he said with a grin. Of his performance in *A Christmas Carol*, Robert stated, "This wasn't too hard for me. I'm from Marino (in Dublin) and grew up where it's set. I know the place and people well." It took a lot more than growing up in Dublin to make his performance memorable.

Other Winners

The award for Outstanding Actress in a Major Role went to Grace Perry as Alice, the befuddled yet still-with-it mother of two scheming children in Bernard Farrell's family comedy *Happy Birthday Dear Alice*. This light-hearted production by Holding Court Theatre, Dublin was adjudicated the Outstanding Overall Production. In this play, Alice is getting on in years and her two adult children want to place her in a nursing home pretending it is in her best interest. But they really want her out of her house so they can get their greedy hands on it. In the end, Alice outwits the pair and is able to keep her home. The Outstanding Actor in a Supporting Role award went to Danny Sullivan as Mossy Plunkett in Toronto Irish Players *The Muesli Belt*, a play by Jimmy Murphy about disrupted relationships due to a new housing development. The equivalent award on the female side went to Kathryn Waters as Neasa in McPherson's *Shining City*. That play by Liffey Players of Calgary was about a bisexual psychotherapist who had more trouble sorting out his own problems than had any of his patients. Next year's festival will be in Winnipeg.

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Chicago Gaelic News

... continued from page 6

Sepulchur was further testament of the tremendous volunteer work that this great lady and her husband performed for the promotion of Ireland's culture in the Chicago area, since the reactivation of the GAA here back in 1950.

We join with the entire Chicago gaeldom in offering our sincere sympathy and condolences to the fine Rainey family and to assure them of our prayers for the happy repose of their parents and for strength and consolation for them as they carry their heavy cross. "O those lovely Irish mothers going from us one by one, who will write the story of the good that they have done." *Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.*

Fund Raiser for Young Athlete

Twelve-year-old Chris Doherty was a star member of his St. Symphorosa football and soccer teams until in 2007, when he developed Hodgkin's Lymphoma. His immediate treatment meant emergency surgery and the insertion of a catheter in his young heart. From then on it has meant constant hospitalization, home treatment, scans, more surgery, chemo treatments, etc.

In order to help defray some of the huge bills incurred so far, family and friends are hosting a huge fundraiser named "KICKN 4 CHRIS" at Hawthorne Racecourse, 3501 So. Laramie Ave. in Stickney, IL on Sunday, Sept. 28th from 4-10pm.

Readers can help in a variety of ways including sending a check to Fifth-Third Bank, 5235 West 63rd, Chicago, IL 60638, c/o KICKIN 4 CHRIS, or visit www.kickn4chris.com for more information. Chris is the son of John and Debbie Doherty. Chris's grandparents are Jack Doherty, one of the legendary firefighters of the Chicago Fire Dept. His grandmother is one of our favorite nieces, Christine.

Hillary's Victory in Defeat

Never before in the history of our great country has a woman ventured to become the Democratic nominee for the presidency. And never before as her opponent been a brilliant young Harvard graduate, Junior U.S. Senator for the State of Illinois. The lady's name is Hillary Clinton, former first lady of our country when her husband Bill Clinton served two very successful terms as president. And the young man's name is Barack Obama, of African-American ancestry.

Almost from the start both cam-

paigns differed with Senator Clinton out ahead in name recognition and Senator Obama with his followers waiting to unleash a national fundraising effort that would surpass any ever seen in the country. Via the internet, Obama raised \$35 million in the 1st qtr of 2007 from 104,000 donors. This unique plan would escalate as more than 1.5 million supporters donated from all over the country.

Senator Clinton also collected in the millions, of course, but was unable to match her opponent. Nevertheless, she battled the tremendous financial fundraising effort capturing several big states including New York, California, Ohio, and others by her far superior experience gained as a first lady, and familiarity with the troubling situations all over the world. She worked behind the scenes for the president and his 'man' in Ireland at that time, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, working on "The Good Friday Agreement" in Ireland.

All through the long campaign Senator Clinton faced unfair criticism by the national media, especially the channels CNN, and MSNBC. Most of the commentators from these two stations and the "panels" they brought in were not only anti-Clinton but disgusting in their crude remarks about her and her husband. Even to neutrals their remarks were very unfair and at times one had to wonder why all the criticism, whilst her opponent was treated with kid gloves, almost untouchable? One also had to wonder where their managers were, or were they too in on the smears displaying a typical sexism. Where was the FCC who are expected to prevent such unfairness in the press?

But despite all of the criticism Hillary took the high road and for the most part ignored the "chatter." Her tenacity amazed even her op-

ponents in the media. They couldn't understand how a woman could fight on with a smile all the time looking towards the future.

This outstanding lady made a magnificent run for the nomination and women all over the world admire and respect her tremendous struggle. She opened wide the door for future candidates in our country, who no longer need fear that they are not electable because of their gender.

Facts About Ireland (Cont'd)

The first Government of the new state was headed by William T. Cosgrave of the Cumann nan Gaedheal (Later Fine Gael). Cosgrave set about establishing the new state or "Free State" which would enable the recovery from the ravages of war. The founding of the Electricity Board in 1927 and the opening of the Shannon hydro-electric scheme marked an important stage in the country's economic development.

Eamon deValera led the Fianna Fail party which drew support from those who opposed the Treaty as they won the election and came into power in 1932 with deValera as the head. A dispute with the British government over land payments led to the Economic War of that period. Trade with Britain was restricted and a lean period ensued. In 1937, deValera introduced a new constitution declaring Ireland to be a sovereign state, independent and a democratic state or country.

Ireland remained neutral during World War II, 1939-1945, and although the war time period was full of shortages and difficulties, the country was spared the worse effects of the war.

Fianna Fail and deValera lost office in the 1948 election. The new head was John A. Costello heading an inter-party government led by Fine Gael. In 1948 the Republic of

Ireland Act was passed, severing the last constitutional links with Britain. Unfortunately Britain held on to the province of Ulster (called Northern Ireland).

Costello lost power in 1951 after a controversy over the future direction of social policy. DeValera led his party to power for the next three years and Costello returned in 1954.

Ireland was admitted to the United Nations in 1955 and Irish delegations played an active role in UN affairs over the years. From 1958 Irish troops have been involved in a large number of U.N. peacekeeping operations all over the world.

Fianna Fail regained power in 1957 and deValera resigned leadership of the party in 1959 to serve as President of Ireland. He was succeeded by Sean Lemass under whose leadership the country began a period of rapid economic expansion. (Sean Lemass has often been named as the man who put Ireland on the economic map.)

The signing of the Anglo-Irish free-trade agreement in 1965 led to significant developments in trading patterns and to industrial expansion.

Even more importantly, Ireland became a member of the European Economic Community in 1973. In the years since 1969 the crisis in Ulster (northern Ireland) has affected the Irish State. Successive governments have sought to bring peace and stability. Profound changes affected the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country in the intervening quarter century.

The official name of the state is Eire with Ireland as the name of the state in English language texts. The national flag is tri-color, green, white and orange. It represents the Gaelic element, the Protestant planter stock, and of course the white represents peace, which presently prevails. The flag was the emblem of the Young Ireland Movement in 1848. Thomas Francis Meagher brought the flag from France and presented it to the Mayor of Dublin. It was on display with pride in the glorious Rising of 1916. The national anthem is the *Soldiers Song*, (*amhann na bh fiann*). It was adopted in 1926 and was written by Peadar Kearney. Patrick Heeney composed the music.

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Dancing At Lughnasa Outdoors in Oak Park

Brian Friels' award-winning *Dancing at Lughnasa* will open outdoors in Oak Park on July 25 in Oak Park's Austin Gardens, adjacent to the village's downtown. It is one of the summer productions of the Oak Park Festival Theatre, and will run through August 23.

Widely recognized as the Irish

author's masterpiece, the play features the five adult Mundy sisters, living together in County Donegal during the 1930's.

We meet the sisters at the time of the festival of Lughnasa, which celebrates the pagan god of the harvest with revelry and dancing. The sisters' traditional, bare



existence is interrupted by colorful bursts of music from a new invention, the radio, and by the

temptation of the festival. These become their link to the romance of the foreign outside world.

Pre-show Irish activities will be featured before a number of performances. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 7pm. Ticket prices are \$17 to \$27. www.oakparkfestival.com or 708-445-4440.

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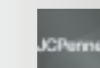
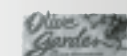


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We Get Letters

June 22nd 2008 Lower Coyne St.
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Phone: (056) 7725543

Attn: Letters Editor
Dear Editor,

It was with mixed feelings that I read recent reports about the Christian Brothers handing over their schools to a new Trust.

Mixed because, on the one hand, the Christian Brothers have got a pretty horrendous press in recent years owing to highly publicised stories and allegations of institutional abuse.

I have read Peter Tyrell's harrowing account of his days in *Letterfrack, Founded on Fear*. His ordeal bears comparison with life in a gulag or a concentration camp and indeed Peter says he found his stint in a German POW camp in World War Two easier to bear than *Letterfrack*!

The film *Song for a Raggy Boy*

depicted some of the terrifying and in inhuman treatment meted out by some brothers in the industrial school system.

Over the years, brothers have been accused, some rightly and others falsely, of abusing their authority as teachers and bringing the ideals of their founder, Edmund Rice, into disrepute.

But then there is another side to the story of the Christian Brothers, as there is always to every story.

Among the brothers who appeared in a photo that accompanied one newspaper article on the schools handover were at least two I had known. These taught me at the CBS here in Callan, Co. Kilkenny, a town that happens to be the birthplace of Edmund Rice.

One taught me English in first year secondary, and the other art in leaving cert. To say that both of them were competent teachers would be a most

begrudging understatement.

They were, in my recollection, infinitely superior to the lay teachers by virtue of their innovative and enthusiastic approach to their profession. No pupil was neglected and these men went out of their way to help every pupil overcome learning difficulties or obstacles.

They brought their subjects to life and the classroom buzzed with their charismatic presence from the moment either of them set foot into it.

True, many teachers in primary and secondary schools used corporal punishment up to the day it was banned in 1984. But I can honestly say that the Christian Brothers I remember resorted to it a great deal less than their lay colleagues.

Being a native of Callan I will be dismissed as biased on this theme, but I believe that when a thoroughly researched, objective history of the Christian Brothers in Ireland is written, it will vindicate their enormous contribution, not just in the field of education, but to laying the foundations for the Celtic Tiger economy we have today.

They started with hedge schools, giving the poorest of our people the advantage in life that only a sound education can provide. Through dark days of poverty, mass emigration, and recession, they kept alight the flame of knowledge. The brothers were educators with attitude. They cared about the progress of pupils.

Internationally renowned artist,

Tony O'Malley was, like Edmund Rice, born in Callan. While acknowledging that the brothers could be "tough", O'Malley was adamant that they were also "fair", and that as a nation we owed them a huge debt of gratitude.

I agree with him, and I hope the

remaining brothers will find solace in the achievements of their Order... despite the saturation media focus on the failings of a small and unrepresentative minority.

Thanking you,
Sincerely,

John Fitzgerald

Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: You may have plans to make adjustments in our home life. A move or real estate purchase are strongly starred for you. Some Aries natives may do some home improvements this month. If your circumstances have been less than optimal, you may be able to find ways to save your home from foreclosure by a refinancing program.

TAURUS: You may get an opportunity to learn a new skill or subject that will assist you in your job or academic career. The new information will open doors to a better income or peace of mind in some way. If you are taking exams, you should do well if properly prepared.

GEMINI: Your finances are taking center stage this month with the Sun, Moon, and Venus lining up in your financial sector. A bonus or dividend could come your way. It may be a good time to buy a lottery ticket. For those who don't gamble, perhaps a raise is due.

CANCER: You are in the spotlight this month of July with the New moon and Venus traveling together. You will attract a lot of attention and praise from others as this trend is in your first sector of self. It would be a good time to take a vacation around the fourth of July.

LEO: You are preparing for your next birthday with the New Moon and Venus in your twelfth sector of consolidation. You are about to enter a new year and a brand new start to your affairs. Many endings and new beginnings are in store. Stay tuned.

VIRGO: Your eleventh sector of hopes and wishes are being highlighted this month. You will be more involved with friends and groups around the holiday and may begin a new romance

with someone younger and quite unusual. Have fun!

LIBRA: Your efforts and hard work will surely be noticed by your superiors. You may be the hardest work horse in your professional environment. A raise or promotion or both may be in the offing. You could also have an opportunity to start a romance with some one older and very attractive.

SCORPIO: Your sector of higher mind and travel are highlighted this month. You are also in a time when you could also meet new people from another culture or who are from very far away. Also you may be come interested in other religions or gain an interest in astrology.

SAGITTARIUS: You will be dealing with tax and insurance issues. You could see the long drawn out battle end in a settlement or some agreeable conclusion. For once you could have a real vacation from the fray.

CAPRICORN: Your seventh sector is activated this month in a very agreeable way. You will be happily engaged with romantic activities and possibly meeting people that might end up being important to you in the future. Enjoy yourself!

AQUARIUS: You should have a great time this July and feel great as well. The New Moon and Venus are in your sixth sector of health and well being. You are likely to have a positive outlook on life due to your new found vigor.

PISCES: If single, you may begin a significant romance with an unlikely candidate. You may have met someone who may already have a child and somewhat older than you. You may decide to proceed with this affair because of the unusual affinity that you have with this person. If attached you may welcome an addition to your family!

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Father Pfleger

When I was a child sometimes a bible tent would come to town. They set up the tent in a field next to our house on Prairie Ave. in Des Plaines, IL. We lived in the middle of town right behind St. Mary Church. You

can imagine the excitement and the opportunities this presented for mischief. The older boys had their fun. One night just for devilment they threw a log up the center aisle while wearing sheets. The younger kids, including me, would stick our

heads under the canvas sides of the tent and watch what was going on inside. One night the preacher was having people come up on stage and talk about their sins. I remember a sailor in uniform talking about killing Japanese soldiers in the Pacific, WWII was still on. We were much too young, seven or eight years old, to make much sense of it.

Can we make any sense out of Father Michael Pfleger's performance at Trinity United Church of Christ. Was he mocking Hillary? It goes way beyond that, his resentment for the white community was evident. He spoke of "white entitlement and supremacy." He said, "you have enjoyed the benefits of what your ancestors did." The implication here is that our ancestors had exploited the blacks. This is a most conspicuous reference to slavery. Then he spoke about whites having 401K pans and trust funds as though that was unfair. It doesn't matter that the people who have them worked hard, saved their money, invested wisely and didn't live extravagantly. Somehow he construes that the fruits of that labor was borne on the backs of slaves. The following email was sent to Father Pfleger:

Dear Father Pfleger,

I have long admired your work in the community you serve. Your crusades against tobacco, alcohol, drugs, gangs, guns and all the ills of society are an example for everyone to follow. I could hardly

believe your rancorous performance at Trinity Church of Christ blatantly condemning the white community. You have single-handedly widened the racial divide that exists in this Country, perhaps that divide is even greater than I imagine. My parents were Irish immigrants arriving here in 1927 just in time for the great depression. Were they, or are we responsible for the woes of the black community? I'm not impressed by Senator Obama and probably would not vote for him, I would support him if he won. Now I wonder what might happen if he is elected. I've never been sold on the woe is me mentality. The pulpit is not for politics but for psalms and proverbs.

Respectfully,

Tom Boyle

2016 Olympics

There's lots of excitement over the possibility that the Olympic Games will be held in Chicago in 2016. If that happens the Irish will have already celebrated the 1916 Easter Rising in April. The 100th anniversary of the Rising will stir the imagination of those whose ancestors fought for Irish freedom.

1932 Olympics

In 1932 the Irish Olympic team was heading for Los Angeles to compete in the games. The Chicago Irish American Athletic Club sent out a letter to their committee to attend the meeting July 8th at 8pm at the Morrison Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to plan a reception for the Irish Olympic team when their train arrived in Chicago. The Irish team had four members: Dr. Patrick O'Callaghan (hammer throw), Bob Tisdall (400 meter hurdles), Eamon Fitzgerald (hop-step and jump), Michael Murphy (steeplechase). O'Callaghan was from Derrygal-lon near Kanturk, Co. Cork and practiced medicine in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Bob Tisdall was raised in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Eamon Fitzgerald was a Kerryman and Mike "Sonny" Murphy was from Co. Clare. On Monday, August 1, 1932, the Irish team won two gold medals, with O'Callaghan winning gold in the hammer throw and Tisdall winning gold in the 400 meter hurdles in world record time; 51.7 seconds. The record time was not allowed because he toppled the last hurdle, a rule that no longer applies today. Eamon Fitzgerald missed the bronze medal by only one inch in the hop-step and jump. Mike Murphy did not place in the steeplechase. Two gold medals and a fourth place finish by a four-man team was an outstanding effort by the Irish team.

Presidential Politics

We are all weary of the long, long contest between the Democrats. Now Barack Obama is the apparent victor and standard bearer for the Democratic Party.

It will take more than erudite euphemistic speeches to beat the Republicans or convince the voting public you're the man for the job.

The news media is now comparing Barack and Michelle to John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline, it's a bit of a stretch for me.

The Republicans may be sharpening their knives for the Cook County Democratic Party where corruption is commonplace, not to mention the scandal brewing in the Governor's office. Of course, we can't forget the impasse in the Illinois State Legislature. Diogenes is still roaming around Illinois during the day with a lighted lantern looking for an honest man; finding only rascals and scoundrels. On the Republican side, John McCain is probably already collecting social security. We must admire his military record. Beyond that he doesn't inspire me. Who's the Libertarian? Who are you going to vote for?

Bloomsday 2008

The 9th annual Bloomsday celebration at the IAHC was held on Monday, June 16th. The program was brilliantly done, conceived by Josephine Craven and Frank Gleeson, titled as usual, the "Rattlin' of the Joists." Special guest Tim O'Reilly, Vice-Consul, Irish Consulate of Chicago, did the reading for the ending of "The Dead" from Dubliners. The all-star cast included Kevin Cassidy, Mike King, Vera Kelly, Brendan Gregg, Aine Meenaghan, Frank Gleeson, Josephine Craven, Bridgid Geraci, Tenor Mark Piekarz, and Harpist Aislinn Gagliardi. There was great attendance at the affair and it was a wonderful way to celebrate Bloomsday.

National Museum of Mexican Art

On July 4th, an exhibit titled "A Declaration of Immigration," curated by Cesareo Moreno, will open at 10am. The exhibit will continue through Sept. 7th. Twenty different ethnic groups will be participating in the exhibit including the Irish American Heritage Center whose exhibit will focus on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The National Museum of Mexican Art is located at 1852 W. 19th St., Chicago, IL 60608.

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By Julianna Leber

The Cool and Sweet Tastes of Irish Summer

Years ago when I was walking with friends along Grafton Street in Dublin, we found an ice cream shop on a busy corner in front of the St. Stephen's Green shopping center. I remember looking at the flavors: pistachio, dark chocolate, cherry, black raspberry. I was familiar with all the offered flavors but wanted to try something new. It was a warm day during the summer and my friends were eagerly picking out their favorites. I ordered the black raspberry and it was delivered in a small, crisp wafer cone. The first thing I noticed was the color of the ice cream. The berries were mixed into a vanilla and yet the only color was from the crushed berries. Then I tried a bite. I was amazed at how true the berry flavor was. It didn't taste artificial or syrupy. The ice cream also melted quickly, demonstrating the lack of pre-

servatives. We all enjoyed our treats and I definitely wanted to remember the location. Each time I returned to Dublin, I made sure I visited that shop, checking out the new flavors. And each time I found something I liked about Irish ice cream.

In Ireland, much care goes into any food produced by artisans, or skilled craftsmen. The ingredients, even more that the final product, get the attention and scrutiny from the cook or artisan because they realize that the best cream, vanilla, freshest fruits and other high quality ingredients result in great tasting food. All of these high caliber products are becoming more the standard in Ireland. The people are asking for the artisan foods and products and the cooks, farmers and others are working to provide for the demand. When it came to the ice



cream I had in Dublin back then, I noticed a sign inside that proudly advertised, "Fresh Irish cream. Ice cream made here!" The shop owners knew their product and were proud to display their source. For me, it was impressive that this little corner shop actually made their own ice cream. It was a tiny place, but they understood the process in making ice cream. And they did it well.

Ice cream itself is a delicate dish: too much or too little of any number of elements and the dish may form ice crystals, turn lumpy or grainy. Care must be taken with the treatment of the ingredients and how they are combined. Once that process is complete though, thoughts of the other ingredients, such as berries, nuts, caramel or chocolate can be combined and then all frozen together in a cylinder ice cream mixer. Then after a few hours, refrozen and then enjoyed.

There are so many different recipes and versions of making ice cream. Even the initial technique of a straight custard versus reduced sugar ribbons folded into a cream mixture can be selected or rejected based on level of ease. Either way, choose your ingredients wisely and carefully and your finished ice cream will be the

best you've ever had.

My version of great Irish ice cream is combining the best quality ice cream with something that stands out as true Irish, brown soda bread. I recently had a food booth at a local Celtic festival and served Guinness stew and brown soda bread ice cream. It was a hard sell, serving stew in 90 degree weather. However, people were intrigued with whatever made ice cream 'Irish'. I knew I couldn't make so many loaves of bread for the ice cream. Plus, the bread would

get hard and not crumble or caramelize easily. So I took the hearty ingredients from the bread: oatmeal and wheat bran and toasted them then caramelized the batch. It's a mélange from several recipes and I really like the simplicity and ease of this version. I made a version of this at school for our Thanksgiving dinner and it was a big hit, though the following recipe uses high quality store ice cream. It's all about the great ingredients, whether a corner shop or a summertime picnic. Enjoy!

Brown Soda Bread Ice Cream

*1/2 gal quality vanilla ice cream,
softened 10 minutes
1 C old fashioned oats
1/2 C wheat bran
2 T salted butter
1/3 C packed brown sugar
Caramel sauce*

In a large skillet, melt the butter and brown sugar together, stirring and letting it bubble slightly. In another large skillet on med-high heat, combine the oats and wheat bran. Stir and watch until lightly toasted. Pour the oats and bran into the bubbling sugar and stir until all is combined. Spread on cookie sheet until cool. Take ice cream out of freezer while oats cool. When ice cream is soft, not melted, pour into large bowl and add oats. Mix and put in sealed container and freeze for at least 2 hours. Serve with caramel sauce.



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Tradition In Review



We were going to review several albums this month in one of those, "clean up the attic and catch up" moments. That plan is out the window. There is only one album to discuss this month. *Beal Tuinne*, out on Tara Records. It is the most beautiful Irish album we have heard in our 25 years of writing about Irish music. The most beautiful. It is to the deepest core of what it is to be Irish. Perhaps we should explain?

About a month or slightly more

ago, we were sitting in front of the computer in our normal half-conscious, somnambulant state. The phone rang. Alan O'Leary from London and the fab Copperplate Distribution calling. "Have you heard *Beal Tuinne* yet?" Whaaa?? "*Beal Tuinne*. It is the most amazing album I've heard in my years in the business. Have you heard it?" We had not. But—suddenly—excitement was in the air. Says Alan, "I'll mp3 you one of the songs immediately." True

to his word, he sent me the cut of *Ciúmhaís Charraig Aonair*. To say we were bolted to our office chair through all 20 immediately repeated playings would be an understatement. Stunned. Immobile. Shattered.

Shaun Davey is Ireland's greatest composer. How many years ago did we first hear the iconic *Brendan Voyage? The Pilgrim—Granuaile—The Relief of Derry Symphony?* A symphonic composer employing Irish instruments, themes and melodies of such exquisite taste and genius, we have been among his biggest fans for years. Decades, really. And, his wife! Rita Connolly first transfixed us with her voice in *Granuaile*. A voice from heaven. Shaun Davey has been emulated, copied and idolized for years. Bill Whelan of *Riverdance* fame and fortune, as well as others knows well what they owe to the likes of Sean O'Riada and Shaun Davey. Yes. We include Shaun Davey in the same sentence as Sean O'Riada. The number of films, television shows, documentaries and other projects for which he has written the music can only begin to be grasped by a visit to his website. Perhaps best of all, he also wrote the anthem for the worldwide Special Olympics hosted by Ireland a few years ago.

On with the story. He and wife

Rita bought a summer home on the Dingle Peninsula a few years ago. Shaun and Rita, like everyone of us who has ever been there, had fallen in love with the The Dingle. They bought a summer home. Upon moving in for the summer, the inspiration took hold, and Shaun started writing music. But, to really, truly and deeply reveal the spirit of the place, ordinary lyrics would not do the trick—and so the search began.

The regular reader knows well the name of Eilis Kennedy. She is one of the great singers of Ireland and her two solo albums have both won her Awards here, as well as through other venues in Ireland. One of the immortals!! Eilis, of course, lives on The Dingle, as the regular reader also knows. She and her husband, John, own and operate one of the great pubs in the west, John Benny Moriarity's. It also turns out that Eilis' father was Caoimhín Ó Cinneide (Kennedy). Her family was of the Blasket Islands. He was, in a way of thinking about it, perhaps, the poet laureate of The Dingle. Is that too grand? Eilis blushes at it, but it is not far off the mark.

After he passed away, his poems were collected in a small volume that had been out of print for some time by the date that Shaun and Rita

arrived on the Peninsula. Fortunately for Irish music, someone brought the volume to Shaun, and it began. Caoimhín's wife and Eilis' mother, Eithne, encouraged and helped in the entire production. We can only imagine Shaun's thrill at the involvement of Eilis herself, as the voice of her father surely speaks through her (he was also a noted singer, as well as poet). Add to that another iconic Irish musician and singer from the Dingle, Seamus Begley and the forge was cast for something amazing.

Rehearsals. Meetings. Notes. More rehearsal—reworkings, changes—and then, more rehearsal. And, then, it all came together on a magic evening in September of 2007 at the small St. James Church in the town of Dingle itself. The RTE was, by this time, involved, and the concert and lead up time are all part of a documentary. There are surely more concerts scheduled for the future for this wonderful octet of musicians and singers. This *must* become a major part of the biggies like Irish Fest in Milwaukee and others. Our American readers can get this album by calling The Rampant Lion at 630-834-8108. In Ireland—and the States, you can also call Claddagh Records in Dublin—from the States, dial 011-353-1-677-8943, or order it through LiveIreland.com.

If we could own only one Irish album, this would be it. Don't screw this up. Get it. It will touch your ears with a gentleness equaled only by its caress of your heart and memory. It is a masterpiece—and all the poems (lyrics) can be found in the English translations online at the *Beal Tuinne* website—just Google it.

It has never, and will never, be done better than this.

Rating: *Perfection*

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What's The Rumpus? Gaelic Storm

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1. What's the Rumpus?

Title track, What's the Rumpus?, sets the tone for the whole album, it's a party and a wild party at that, with everybody on board and involved. Murphy on vocals tells the story as only he can do. Great energy from Jessie Burns on fiddle and Ryan on drums. Pat even throws in the "cupla fochal as Gaeilge", "Cad é an scéal á buachall" meaning "what's the story boys?" I can hear Gaelic Storm fans singing the chorus already. A rollicking start to the album.

2. Lovers Wreck

Great song from Twigger. A seafaring song of love and loss. Great guitar, banjo and fiddle. Magic stuff.

3. Darcy's Donkey

More Murphy madness as Pat tells the story of a banjaxed donkey who becomes a thoroughbred after a sip of Potéén. Pete Purvis on pipes, Jessie never falters, the donkey wins the race, "raise a glass to Darcy's ass". Great stuff altogether.

4. The Mechanical Bull

A traditional tune, given the Storm treatment. Jessie's on fire on this one. I told you all last year that Jessie Burns is a major player and a huge bonus to the Gaelic Storm lineup. Even traditionista, Bill Margeson, my radio partner and fellow music critic loves this one. You can all take a bow.

5. Human to a God

Murphy takes the lead on this ballad, a prayer actually. Great harmonica and guitar, but, me darling Pat cannot resist interjecting some great humor into this pretty love song.

6. Slim Jim and the Seven Eleven Girl

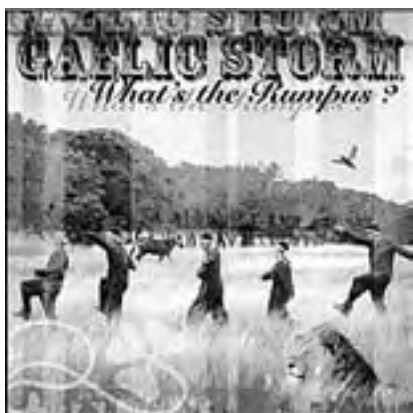
Twigger at his best, all of his influences come into play. Lively energetic stuff with all involved, I think I hear Jessie on backing vocals.

7. Don't Let the Truth Get in the Way (Of A Good Story)

This is what Gaelic Storm do best. It's autobiographical madness from the songwriting team of Murphy, Twigger and Wehmeyer, who manage to combine their musical talents with their life experiences, both real and imagined. Another winner.

8. The Samurai Set

Traditional instrumental featuring our Jessie on fiddle with Pete Purvis blazing away on pipes and whistles all held together by Ryan's amazing percussion. The Samurai Set showcases the diversity of talent that is Gaelic Storm.



9. Beidh Áonach Amarách

WOW! This is without a doubt my favorite song on this album. It's a true Gem. The song is a traditional Gaelic song, a song we learned at school, but I never expected to hear it played like this. Pat must have been listening in school at the time, as he delivers it with due reverence. But it's the amazing arrangement that lifts this song. Lots of Jessie, Ryan, Pete and Twigger behind Pat's best vocal performance. Another gem. I really looking forward to hearing this one performed live this summer.

10. Death Ride to Durango

Another superb traditional arrangement. A toe tapping rollercoaster of a tune. Gaelic

Storm have taken traditional music to a higher level, they have infused it with an excitement that will appeal to yet another generation of Celtic music fans.

11. Faithful Land

Another beautiful ballad from Twigger in this contemporary song that will strike a chord with anybody who lives a long way from home. Pete's talent on whistle and pipes hold it all together and this is absolutely my favorite Twigger song.

12. If Good Times Were Dollars

Twigger on vocals, with Pete Purvis on trombone, make this lighthearted ditty a sure favorite. It's vintage Gaelic Storm and reminds me of the Small Faces and music from the late 60's. Fab!

13. Floating the Flambeau

Jessie and Pete take the honors for this traditional piece. Ryan Lacey also features on this blistering nod to our Celtic cousins, as it has a distinctly Scottish flavor. Well done again.

14. The Night I Punched Russell Crowe

No lie. Pat punched "the Gladiator" and lived to sing about it. You know, this album started with a mad party at Murphy's place and ends with more of his madcap adventures. Pat Murphy is the glue that holds this amazing band together and all that I can say, is that I hope that this loveable rogue never grows up. It would be a shame. Fair play to you Pat.

In conclusion I must say that "What's the Rumpus" is truly Gaelic Storm's best album ever, by far. The creative talents of this lineup allow them opportunities to take the band in almost any direction, and although we have enjoyed them as the preeminent headliners at Irish festivals around the USA for many years, Gaelic Storm are now a world class band and have their best years ahead of them.

This milestone album has it all, both musically and lyrically. It's unique, fresh and exciting and I can tell that a lot of effort and hard work went into its making.

Gaelic Storm are:

Patrick Murphy - Vocals, Accordion, Harmonica, Spoons

Steve Twigger - Vocals, Guitars, Bodhran
Ryan Lacey - Drums, Vocals, Background Vocals

Pete Purvis - Pipes, Whistles, Trombone
Jessie Burns - Fiddle, Background Vocals

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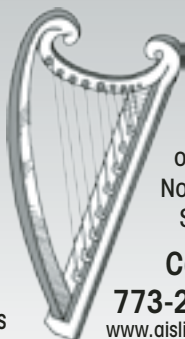
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Chicago Mourns the Loss of a Local Music Icon: In Loving Memory of Michael J. Murphy

By Maureen Callahan

I begin this column with a disclaimer. I've never written a memoir, and I have no experience with memorials or obits, either. But when I learned of the sudden passing of a Chicago music icon a few weeks ago, I wanted to be sure everyone knew him. The truth is, I am heartbroken. I know I'm not alone. And so when I was asked to say a few kind words about Michael J. Murphy, I agreed, since when referencing Murph, I don't know what other kind of words there might be.

I refer to Murph as an icon, because here in Chicago, he is. During my days immediately following college, I served at a pub where The Larkin and Moran Brothers was the house band, so to speak. Just about every weekend, I served while they played. Eventually, I came to know them. Although Murph was somewhat quiet at first, his lead guitar spoke for him. He had a smile of

extraordinary kindness. I once served him the wrong order. I didn't realize it until much later. Rather than call it to my attention, Murph never mentioned it, and tipped twice the standard. That's just who he was, a gentleman start to finish.

If I were to ask him right now, he might not even remember me... but I remember him.

Anyone who knew Murph knew at least one thing about him... music. It was truly in his heart and soul. Growing up in the Merriquette Park area of Chicago's southwest side, he first took up the saxophone in grade school. It was all downhill from there... he had found his life's purpose. Graduating from Polaris Magnet High School, he managed to master the guitar, bass, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica, accordion, keyboard and drums. He was also learning the violin,

which he fondly referred to as a "rather unfor- giving instrument."

Most of us would tire at the thought of the schedule he kept for his musical passion. A member of three bands, he taught most days from about 3-10pm. It would not be unusual to then practice or be in the studio recording with one of his bands, often until the wee hours of the next morning. He also periodically worked side jobs such as construction or electrical contracting to support his music career.

Of the three bands he played in, Leave, a Beatles-esque band influenced by The Stones, Led Zeppelin and Chuck Berry, to name a few, was his main focus. Fellow band members Jim Latsis, Joe Herrmann and Terry Keating agree that, he "fed such positive energy into the band. Into our lives, as well. He could write the music to a song while holding a conversation with you, never looking down."

Leave was the product of long discussions about music that he and Latsis shared when they met while working together at the Merc shortly after high school. Murph loved everything about the creative process of writing, singing and playing music. He would stop doing anything to listen to a tune—he would be lost in the moment. *Leave on a Happy Note*, Leave's appropriately named latest album was played on XRT's Sunday night local new music segment on June 15th.

For the thousands of lives he touched, it is amazing that he lived only thirty-one years. Murph, an excellent music teacher, was particularly proud of his students, which numbered between 40 and 60, both at the Music School of Oak Lawn, and those he tutored privately. He had a way of building them up by inviting them to play at the weekly Open Mic night he started at Quigley's Pub in Mt. Greenwood. He would get his students, and sometimes total strangers, on stage and accompany them, to get them used to playing in front of people. The students loved it as it was for most their first time in front of an audience, and the strangers he encouraged to join in rarely remained strangers. "You sound great," he always assured them.

Though he had many fans, there were no bigger fans than his parents, Jim and Mary Ann Murphy. As their only child, he was their everything. "I went to every show he played. We

always had fun, especially when Leave played at The Cavern in Liverpool," Mary Ann says. "Knowing the Beatles used to perform there made it the biggest day of Michael's life. His dad and I loved to listen to him play and watch him perform. He had been teaching me guitar the last few years and was so patient. "That sounds good, mom, but try it this way," he'd say. "Take it one verse at a time. He always built his students up."

It wasn't only students who garnered this confidence. In fact, everyone I spoke to for this column said the same thing. "Murph was constantly reminding others how well they were doing," Mike Larkin recalls. "Even on nights when we were a little off, you'd never know it from him."

In life, those of us who are lucky have two families—the one we are born into, and the one we choose along the way. If this is the case, then his band members became that family. "For an only child, he certainly had a lot of brothers," Murph's mom, Mary Ann, insists. "Leave was his passion, but The Larkin and Moran Brothers was his fun," says Dan Larkin. He came to every graduation, christening, birthday party, etc., Terry Moran recalls. "No matter what, Murph was there, and on the rare times he could not make it, the gift was always there waiting. He had a young personality with the wisdom of a 90-year old man. Our kids were big fans." Murph's other great fan was his girlfriend Sue, who was with him at the time of his death. Friends tell me Murph had been shy to ask her out at first. "It wasn't easy to have a relationship, with his schedule, but she understood him, and he loved her for it," Kevin Moran says.

Murph was not only generous with gifts, but with himself, as well. "Once people met him, they wanted a bit of him," Mary Ann remembers, "and he would try his best to give it to them." He hugged everyone hello, even if he was in a hurry. If he asked you how you were, he looked you in the eye and waited for the response. He was a gentle soul who took the time to listen to people—all kinds of people. If grandparents told him the same story over and over, he never minded. "It's like listening to a great record again and again," he'd say. He loved so many, and made sure they knew it.

I have a feeling Murph, that if you were able to have your say now, you'd leave us in the words of Flogging Molly (another Irish band). "If I ever leave this world alive, I'll thank you

for all the things you did in my life. I'll come back down and sit beside your feet tonight. I'll take on all the sadness that I left behind, the madness that you feel will soon subside. So, in a word, don't shed a tear. Wherever I am, you'll always be more than just a memory."

Keep the music playing in your new place, Murph, with a new band that you're no doubt already heading up. Bring joy to a whole new audience, and encourage your new students, until the rest of us claim our seats at that show.

In loving memory of Michael J Murphy. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*



Maureen Callahan is a freelance Chicago writer and IAN columnist.

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Michael J. Murphy Scholarship Fund

The family of Chicago music icon Michael J Murphy, have established a scholarship fund in his memory. Michael passed away suddenly on the night of June 6, 2008 in a tragic accident while walking his dog. Jim and Mary Ann Murphy would like to honor the memory of their son and his music career through helping others to learn music and achieve success in this way.

The intent of the Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund is to provide for those who have the desire and promise to succeed in music, but do not have the financial means necessary to afford lessons and the instrument(s) that will allow them to turn their desire into fruition.

"There is no truer truth obtainable By Man than comes of music."
~Robert Browning

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Sharing a Pint



By Scott Powers

You'd think writing a column once a month, a vacation really wouldn't be needed, but for some reason I've found myself requiring one.

I took last month off (not sure if anyone noticed) and this month I'm still feeling a bit lazy. So instead of your ordinary *Sharing a Pint* column—I do promise to start featuring interesting Irish-American people, at least more interesting than myself, for August—this month is more of a notebook than anything.

I got married to Anne Farr on April 25, 2008 in Spiddal, Ireland. She's American, but her family has half Irish/half British roots, so I say half of me loves her and half of me hates her. There were 19 of us total who made the trip over. Thank you for everyone who did. Anyway, it rained on the morning of the wedding, but it stayed away the rest of the day, allowing many—maybe too many—outdoor photos to be taken. If anyone else decides to get married in the West of Ireland, I'd highly recommend Judy Mullins as a wedding planner. We were very pleased with her.

One person I do have plans on sitting down with for a few pints in the coming weeks is Fast Eddie. Once the owner of my favorite pub—nothing beat a Sunday night at Fast Eddie's—he is a fixture on Chicago's Northwest Side music scene and has recently released a live CD that was recorded at Galvan's. I just picked up a copy myself and it brought me back to those great nights at Fast Eddie's.

One of the great music venues of all of Ireland is The Crane in Galway. It's the perfect intimate place for music. It's where I first saw JT Songs and Niall Connolly—both incredible musicians—back in October. This time around I discovered the music of Ian Whitty and The Exchange. It's worth checking out his music at myspace.com/ianwhitty. I want to personally thank Neil McCarthy, a poet/promoter/good drinking buddy, for introducing



these bands to me.

I'm looking forward to the Irish Fest at the Irish American Heritage Center from July 11-13. It's one of my favorite summer weekends. It'll be good to see my friend

Tony Duggins and The Tossers out playing on that Friday night. Hope to see many of you there.

Two CDs I recently had passed on to me were Gaelic Storm's new album, *What's the Rumpus*, and Fionnuala Gill's *Whispers of Love*. Both are certainly worthy of a listen.

Not sure how many people are familiar with it, but CelticLounge.net is great place to listen to Irish music along with read plenty of interesting articles. It's the creation of Larry Kirwan and Mike Farragher.

I sure love a good drawn pint of fresh Guinness. To me, it's a bit of an art form. Unfortunately, I've never been a bartender, so I've never experienced pouring one myself. While in Galway for the wedding, I stayed at Ward's Hotel and Pub in Lower Salthill. Up late one evening—we were up late every night I think—the owner, Anthony Finnerty, was nice enough to give me a lesson on pouring a pint. I was a natural, at least in my own eyes, and I started pouring some pints for the pub's patrons. One gentleman, a man from Dublin, wanted his pint for free because he wasn't sure if I knew what I was doing. Anthony charged him anyway,

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and he actually charged me too for my own pint that I poured. No hard feelings, that's just good business to get the public to pour their own pint and then pay for it.

I'm always looking for interesting people in the Irish-American community to feature in future columns. If you have any recommendations, please write me at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

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Irish Stew

By Frank J. Mahon



it's on a stage, or in a classroom, or just chatting with her, Brigid is out to teach you something. And she apparently can't help herself.

for his family, but Annette never got a chance to enjoy it. She became ill and passed away a year to the date after they came to America. But she saw to it that her daughters had opportunities that she never had.

Brigid was 10 years old when her mother passed away; her youngest sister Kathy was only two. Her dad was in his 60s by then. "Things were rough," she says, "but people were awfully good to us."

Brigid attended St. Andrews Elementary School, run by the Sisters of Providence. She worked in the Convent and when she graduated, the sisters paid her tuition so she could attend Immaculata High School. She went on to Mundelein College, and then the Goodman School of Drama.

So, how did she get into acting? "You'll laugh," she said. "I used to love to go to the movies with my sisters and my friends on Saturdays. And I loved Esther Williams movies. And I thought that's what I want to do. I want to be in movies someday, which of course is insane." She took acting classes in high school and landed the leads in some of the plays. Her drama teacher got her students jobs as ushers at the downtown theatres, so they could see all the big shows and study the greats. Brigid kept learning as she saw the likes of Elaine Strich, Helen Hayes, the Lunts. The Lunts returned the favor a few years later by coming to see a show that Brigid was in—Eugene O'Neill's *Ah Wilderness!* with Richard Kiley and Barbara Bel Geddes.

Brigid had wanted to go straight to the Goodman School of Drama from high school, but her drama teacher thought that "everybody there was a little too freaky or too weird." And so Brigid went to Mundelein College of Loyola University and majored in Theatre. "Four more years with the nuns."

After graduating from Mundelein, Brigid finally got to the Goodman, where she worked with professional actors for the first time. While there, she won the Sarah Siddons Scholarship, which, along with The Friends of Drama, took care of her tuition. After finishing her studies at the Goodman, Brigid was invited to join American Conservatory Theatre (ACT), then in Pittsburgh.

While she was still in school, she also met a young actor named Charles Gerace while she attended a class at Theatre On The Lake. They started dating, "but I didn't tell my father that I was going out with a Sicilian,"

she says with a laugh.

Brigid and Charles did summer stock together in Hayward, Wisconsin. "It was a very on-a-shoe-string summer stock. The guy had one lightbulb for us to put our makeup on." One set featured a staircase with a banister made out of toilet paper rolls. "So you didn't dare lean on anything." But there was an upside to it, says Brigid. "You learned a lot. You had to do a show a week. There were only four in the company, so there were a lot of lines for everybody."

When Charles was drafted during the Vietnam War, and was sent to Berlin in 1967-68, Brigid went overseas with him, and there they were married.

In 1974, Brigid appeared in Friel's *Freedom Of The City* at the Goodman. Friel was on hand during the production, and she got to know him well. There was only one female role, and that went to a star. Brigid was her understudy and the dialect coach. "So he and I were the only ones with very little to do, so we had a great time."

"He's a devil—an absolute devil—full of mischief. "I was over in the cafeteria (at the old Goodman Theatre in the Art Institute) having a bowl of soup, and he came over to me and he said, 'I'm so glad I found you—they're searching for you—she broke her leg—you've got to go on.' I said No! and he said, 'Hurry up!'" Of course she didn't break her leg. He's not to be trusted. His grandchildren play with my niece's kids. I think he's wonderful."

For the past 10 years, Brigid has played Mary Todd Lincoln at the Chicago History Museum, teaching children storytelling. She performs. She teaches a class at Northwestern. She does dialect coaching. She has grown children and grandchildren. Full plate you say?

Recently, Brigid and Charles worked together on *Bread and Salt*, poems by Carl Sandburg selected by Charles to depict a day in the life of Sandburg. He leaves on a train from Galesburg and comes to Chicago for the day. The poems reflect Sandburg's response to the architecture, to the people, the injustice, the opportunity, and the fun of it all. Originally presented as an ensemble piece at the Irish American Heritage Center last year, directed by Charles Gerace, *Bread and Salt* will be part of the 2008 Humanities Festival.

Does she have any advice for young actors? With a laugh and a glint, Brigid Duffy says, "Listen! Just listen! And you'll know exactly what to do."

Educating Brigid - Part I

The first time I ever saw actress Brigid Duffy, she was performing in Irish Rep's production of Marina Carr's *The Mai*. That was about ten years ago. The play was good. Brigid was great. Since then, I have gotten to know Brigid a little at a time, first as an actress, then as a tireless supporter of the now-defunct Irish Repertory of Chicago, and now as a friend who has helped me to get our play *The Quiet Man Tales* up and running.

But Brigid is not just a gifted actress. Brigid Duffy Gerace is an educator. Whether

Brigid Duffy was born near the town of Granard, Co. Longford, in the Irish Midlands. Her father, James Duffy, was a farmer. He emigrated to America—to New York in the 1920s—and worked on the Empire State Building as a carpenter. When the Great Depression hit, he returned to Ireland. Brigid's mother, Annette Donoghue, came to America about the same time as James did and worked in Evanston as a maid. When the Depression hit, she too returned to Ireland. James met Annette, they fell in love, and decided to get married. He was a "typical young Irishmen in those days," according to Brigid, "52 years old." Annette was much younger. They had four daughters, which is "disappointing if you are a farmer," says Brigid, their eldest daughter.

Neither James nor Annette was well educated, but they didn't want anyone to ever say that about their daughters. Annette felt that her girls would have better educations and an easier life in America. So back they came, this time to Chicago.

In those days, an alien needed an American citizen to act as a sponsor for that person, someone who had a job waiting for that person. Brigid's Uncle Joe had a business as a painter here in Chicago. He sponsored James and found him work as a carpenter. In just a few months, James was able to buy a house

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MICHIGAN

News Around Michigan

History of Michigan Irish Published

by Neil Mullally

Michigan State University has recently published *The Irish in Michigan*, a history of Irish immigration and settlement in Michigan. The co-authors are the husband and wife scholar team of Professors Seamus P. Metress and Eileen K. Metress of the University of Toledo. This book is the latest published by the Michigan State University Press in its series entitled "Discovering the Peoples of Michigan."

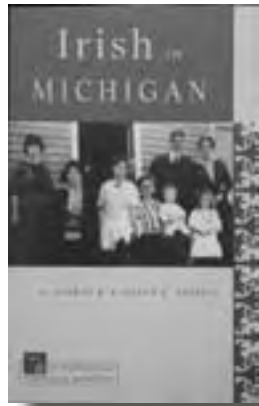
The co-authors cover the five general periods of Irish immigration from 1640 to the present: the Colonial (1640-1815), the Pre-Starvation (1815-1845), the Great Starvation (1845-1855),

the Post-Starvation (1855 -1920's), and the Post-Independence (1920's - Present). The writers trace the Irish settlement of the urban Detroit area, the state's rural farming areas, the Great Lakes fishing communities around Mackinac and Beaver Islands, the upper peninsula mining towns, the railroad and canal construction routes, and the cities that sprang up with the great boom-and-bust timber industry. (After

the Great Fire of 1871, Chicago was rebuilt with Michigan lumber, much of cut, milled, and shipped by Irish immigrants or their descendants. The Great Chicago Fire created more than a few Michigan Irish millionaires.) As in other areas of the country, the Irish

were leaders of the labor movement, especially in the Michigan auto industry. Irish immigrants Pat Quinn and Pat Rice played important roles in the development of the United Auto Workers Union in Detroit.

The *Irish in Michigan* is a short book, only 92 pages. But it tells the long story of the generations of our



Mona Shores Fiddlers on Ireland Concert Tour

By Neil Mullally

Question: What do you get when you bring together a group of young, classically trained, exciting, and enthusiastic violin players who love Irish music?

Answer: The Mona Shores Fiddlers of Norton Shores, Michigan. And for the first time in their twelve year history, the Fiddlers, along with the Mona Shores High School orchestra, have just traveled to the Emerald Isle for their first concert tour in Ireland.

On June 22 they presented their first concert on the main stage of St. Stephen's Green, where their performance was part of the Dublin Summer Fest.

The next day the Fiddlers and orchestra played a program of classical and sacred music at St. Anne's

Church on Dawson St. in Dublin. That evening the Fiddlers put their trad hats back on and played at the Brazen Head Pub, Ireland's oldest public house, dating from 1198.

The next concert stop was Waterford, where they returned to their program of sacred and classical music in their performance at Christ Church Cathedral in the city center.

The group's final performance took place on Friday, June 27, when the orchestra and Fiddlers played a special concert in Dublin's Stephen's Green Mall to benefit the Children's Research and Medical Foundation of Ireland.

Of course, the goal of the Fiddlers and orchestra was not only to perform before Irish audiences, but also to tour Ireland itself, since most of the

musicians and their parents had not been there before.

And so their motor coach and guides took them to the historic spots of Dublin, and other locales like Meath, Cashel, Blarney, Kilarney, and the Ring of Kerry. They then took the Dublin ferry across the Irish Sea to Holyhead, and traveled on to London.

Under the direction of Tim Staudacher, the Mona Shores High School orchestra program is one of the most respected in Michigan.

In 2005 the Fiddlers released their CD, *Fiddlers First*.

For more information about the Mona Shores Fiddlers, go to www.monashores.net.

Tim Staudacher can be emailed at atstaudact@monashores.net



Photo by Jay Jurkas - Realistic Photography

people who overcame unspeakable oppression at home and extreme discrimination here, to achieve freedom and become a major force in American life. Readers need not have ties to Michigan to enjoy this book. Its story is universal, just like the Irish.

Seamus Metress, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toledo, is the author of more than thirty books, including *The Irish-American Experience*, *The American Irish and Irish Nationalism*, *The Irish in North America*, and *Outlines in Irish History*. Eileen Metress is Professor Emeritus of Public Health at

the University of Toledo. She is the author of several books and articles on health in Northeast Ireland and Irish funeral customs. In 2005 she was the recipient of the National Irish Freedom Committee's Pearl Flannery Spirit Award of Freedom. She is also a powerful public speaker and singer of traditional and rebel Irish music.

At a cost of about \$12, *The Irish in Michigan* can be purchased directly from the Michigan State University Press at www.msupress.com, or from Amazon, Borders, Barnes and Noble, and other booksellers. Its ISBN number is 9790870137647.

Great Lakes Irish Music Festival

The Great Lakes Irish Music festival has been scheduled for Saturday, July 19, in Grand Rapids, MI. The event's MC will be comedian George Casey, and the headline acts are Cathie Ryan, the David Munnelly Band, Stephen's Green, and Craic Wisely.

Joining that stellar line-up will be one of Michigan's premier dance schools, the Quinn School of Irish Dance. An Irish Market will be set up, and a number of family and children's activities will be held. A session tent will be available to musicians who wish to bring their instruments and "jam" informally.

The venue for the one day festival is the Fifth Third Ball Park, home to Grand Rapids' professional baseball

team, the West Michigan Whitecaps.

The admission price is just \$12.00 per adult for a full day pass, and children under twelve are admitted free. Lodging specials are being arranged with area hotels, and those will be listed on the festival website.

The festival is scheduled to start at noon and gates will open at 11am. Tickets can be purchased online at www.whitecaps-baseball.com, by calling the Whitecaps ticket office at 616-784-4131 or by stopping by the Fifth Third Ballpark Box Office during normal business hours (M-F 10am-6pm and Sat. 10am-2pm). More information about the festival is available at www.greatlakesirish-musicfestival.com.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



July Festivals

July is a month that contains three of my favorite festivals, two in the Chicago area and one 5 hours away but definitely worth the trip. Our festival month begins with the **Irish American Heritage Festival** at the Irish American Heritage Center at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. The festival runs Friday, Saturday & Sunday, the 11th, 12th and 13th of July. Featured acts this year are Gaelic Storm, Solas, the Tossers, Seven Nations, The Makem & Spain Brothers and the Young Dubliners. In addition to this great lineup of talent, over 25 additional groups from the Chicago area will be performing. A tremendous amount of music for one of the lowest prices, only \$8 for a presale ticket. Can't beat that for a full day of music. But music isn't all there is at this festival, there's great food, one of the greatest Irish pubs in Chicago, the only Irish Museum (definitely worth a visit), the Library, special activities for kids, dancing and, need I add, a lineup of the best Irish vendors from the area and across the US. Yeah, we'll be there in our booth selling CDs but I wouldn't miss this one even if I weren't working. This is an important function for the Center, a major source of fund raising. So if you've never visited the Irish American Heritage Center, here's your chance. Find out how much the hard-working staff at the IAHC offers to you, join up and have a fun time. In addition, I understand Kim Bigler will be playing bodhran with the band "Dyed in the Wool," a great band gets even better. For more information on this festival you can check out the website at www.irishfestchicago.com or call the center at 773-282-7035.

Our second festival in July is the **9th Annual Arlington Heights Irish Fest**. This lovely little gem of a festival is held

on the grounds of the Arlington Heights Historical Museum on Friday and Saturday the 18th and 19th of July. Now the museum alone is fun to visit but on this weekend you can visit the displays, eat wonderful food provided by Peggy Kinnane's Restaurant, see dancers and pipe bands, shop at quality vendors (yeah we'll be there, too) and see Brigid's Cross on Friday night and Elevation (U2 tribute band) on Saturday night. Here's a chance to savor a fun local festival without driving too far. For more information, you can call the museum at 847-255-1225.

We end the month with one of the rarest types of festivals, a free one! The **Dayton Celtic Festival** in Dayton, Ohio is set up along the river in downtown Dayton and runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 25th, 26th and 27th of July. Well organized and run by some of the nicest people, this festival has a lot of surprises for the first time visitor. They usually manage to surprise those of us who have been there before. There's always something new and fun. These folks work hard all year long getting this show together and it always shows. They have the best lineup of food vendors you've ever seen. We always eat good there. Gaelic Storm, hottest band on the festival circuit, headlines the bill this year plus a bunch of other performers. Also performing this year is one of our personal favorites, Dulahan. This band is made up of four guys who know how to harness the elusive harmony and use it properly. That would be enough in my book but these guys write their own songs, all original and all great. Check them out at www.dulahan.com they will not disappoint. They'll be playing at Dayton and, as usual, I'll hear "Hey, De's guys are great!" and they are. To learn more about the Dayton Fest, you can go to their website at www.unitedirishofdayton.org/festival. Hope we see you there.

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July 2008

Saturday, 7/5

The Dooley Brothers

Friday, 7/11

Irish American Heritage Festival

Saturday, 7/13

Irish American Heritage Festival

Sunday, 7/13

Irish American Heritage Festival

Friday, 7/18

Joe McShane

Saturday, 7/19

Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane

Friday, 7/25

Matt Stedman Band

Saturday, 7/26

The Paddy Homan Band

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New CD Releases

New CDs have been rolling into the store with astonishing regularity in the last month. Nice to see that artists are still producing new and exciting music. Kind of makes our national situation a bit easier to stand. Then again, isn't that what music is for—celebrate the good times and help us through the bad? Enough philosophy, half-baked and otherwise; on to the music.

I'm always happy to see a local band hit some success and that's what has happened to a great bunch of folks from the Milwaukee area. RiRa has released their second CD, called *Mischievous Merriment & Other Noble Sentiments* and the quality is as long as the title. Featuring Ed Paloucek on fiddle and bouzouki, Kathleen Congleton on piano, Jack Congleton on bodhran and snare with Suzanne Hayworth on cello and Stuart Mitchell, tenor, this group reminds me of the music I heard as a kid on the West side of Chicago played in the back rooms of taverns on Saturday nights. Lovely music played by people who loved their music and when Stuart Mitchell cranks up that beautiful tenor voice of his... it makes me stop what I'm doing

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and just listen. They'll be playing at the Milwaukee Irish Fest this year and they are a group you'll want to hear. Their first CD *Return of the Day* is nearly sold out, so they tell me, and understandably so, but there are still a few copies around.

A wonderful surprise came to me in the form of an email from Niamh Ni Charra, who wanted to know if I'd be interested in carrying her new solo CD. "You bet I would" I told her and shortly thereafter a package came carrying her CD titled *From Both Sides*. This young lady who toured with *Riverdance* for 8 years as their fiddler and introduced Riverdance audiences to her skill with the concertina has returned to her home in Ireland and produced her first solo CD. I've got to tell you, I like this CD and while I'm sure that my comrade, Bill Margeson, will do a much better job of reviewing this very trad recording, I just wanted to get my two cents in also. Her fiddle is superb but it's her concertina that grabs me. For my money there's not enough good concertina being recorded and this CD makes a good start on rectifying that problem.

From the highlands of Scotland (sounds like the start of a travelogue doesn't it?) comes one of the finest voices ever recorded with a new CD in his long career. Ronnie Browne, surviving member of the folk duo, The Corries, continues to apply his dynamic voice to Scottish classic folk songs. His new CD *The West Highland Way Song Collection* features songs associated with the area in Scotland that runs from Milngavie along Loch Lomond, a bloody long lake I might add, into Glencoe and on to Fort William and Ben Nevis. This is one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland and home to some of the most magnificent red stag I've ever seen. Luckily for us, this recording has also been released in DVD format so we can see the sights as well as hear about them. Yes, the CD will play on your player; it's a two-sided disc, PAL on one side and NTSC on the other. A unique solution.

The last new release I want to talk about comes from Green-trax records in Scotland and is the recording of a live concert held in 2007 called *A Celebration of the Music of Gordon Duncan*. Aside from being a great piper, Gordon Duncan wrote some of the best music and this concert has some of the finest musicians in Scotland performing those unique tunes he wrote. Too late we see the scope of his genius but at least we have this bit of work to treasure. All label profits from the sale of this CD go to the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust. To learn more about the Trust go to information@gordonduncan.co.uk.



West Suburban Concert Band

There will be a few more chances in July to see concerts featuring bagpipes and Scottish dancers. The band will be playing an arrangement of "Amazing Grace" for bagpipes and concert band. The guest pipers and band will also perform "The Glendaruel and Atholl Highlanders" as members of the Thistle and Heather Highland Dance Troupe dance to these traditional tunes. The bagpipes will also add an extra something to the final strain of the Stars and Stripes Forever!

The concerts will be held at:

7:30pm, Wednesday, July 2nd at the Memorial Park Amphitheater

3:00pm, Sunday, July 13th at Cantigny Park in Wheaton

7:00pm, Wednesday, July 16th at Ridgewood Park in Western Springs

Performing pipers will be Dave Johnston, of Chicamba Bagpiping Services, www.chicago-bagpiper.com, and Matt McKee of the Chicago Stockyard Kilty Band, www.sykb.com. Information about the Thistle and Heather Highland Dancers can be found at www.thistleandheather.net. The home page of the West Suburban Concert Band is www.thewscb.com, where more information can be found about the concerts.

As I sat typing this I heard the bad news about Kathleen Keane's father passing away on Father's Day; our prayers go out to her and her family for their great loss.

I hope to see you at some of the excellent festivals

in the area. It's been truly gratifying how many folks have come up to me in the booth or at the store and commented on the column. You've all been wonderfully kind and don't stop letting me know what you think. *Sláinte*.

I can usually be found hiding out at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 South Villa Avenue in Villa Park, Illinois, 1 block North of the old Ovaltine Plant, or give me a call at 630-834-8108.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Break the Silence: Report Elder Abuse

For 91 years, Catholic Charities has cared especially for the most vulnerable of God's people—children and the elderly—with God's own compassionate love and respect for his people in need. In fact, we broke ground in May for Catholic Charities' twenty-first residence for low-income seniors: St. Francis of Assisi in Palos Park. This beautiful building will

provide apartments where seniors can live independently in dignity in a safe, comfortable environment.

At Catholic Charities, it is our privilege to honor and serve the needs of elderly people with compassion and professional expertise through many other supportive programs, including case management, senior centers and adult day services, home-delivered

meals, home care and homemaker services.

So I find the topic of elder abuse very difficult to write about, much less comprehend.

But July is Elder Abuse Prevention Month in the state of Illinois, and unfortunately, the possibility of abuse requires year-round vigilance on the part of the families, friends, neighbors and caregivers of seniors.

Seniors who do not have a good support system of family and friends can be susceptible to abuse, neglect or exploitation, so it is important that family and friends are alert to the signs that a senior living alone is no longer able to manage his or her life.

If a senior is living alone, and children or friends are only "dropping in" occasionally to check or visit, they may not notice consistent patterns of self-neglect, confusion, loss of memory or mental disability. But the signs may be reflected in the state of their finances, their personal care, and their surroundings. For instance, 78-year-old Mrs. "L," had notes all over her house, but did not know where to find necessary information such as her daughter's telephone number. Another senior in her own home had disconnected her stove; and an elderly gentleman allowed anyone who came to the door, even strangers, into his house.

Sadly, elders can also be the victims of their own children or caregivers. A 75-year-old woman and her 89-year-old husband were living with their 46-year-old daughter and her husband in the parents' home. The daughter and her husband both had gambling addictions. The daughter, who was managing the elderly couple's finances, took out credit cards in her mother's name without her consent, and used her mother's ATM card near the casino to withdraw large sums of cash. The daughter did not pay the mortgage

and, as a result, the parents' home went into foreclosure.

The parents were unaware of this until other family members became involved. The Catholic Charities caseworker worked with the parents, other family members and the local police. The mother refused to follow through on pressing charges, and the parents, unable to live alone, moved to a distant state to live with their son and his family.

Other signs of physical abuse or financial exploitation can be untreated injuries, such as sprains, scratches and cuts; sudden change in behavior or withdrawal in social settings; dehydration or malnutrition; or sudden changes in bank accounts or banking practices, and abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents.

Fortunately, Catholic Charities Senior Services can bring hope and healing into these seniors' lives through the Catholic Charities Elder Abuse Program. Authorized by the state of Illinois to investigate reports of mistreatment of seniors age 60 and over living in domestic situations, and to provide services to victims of elder abuse, Catholic Charities serves all of Lake County, and much of Cook County: including the Northeast and Northwest Sides of the city of Chicago, and the South and Northwest suburbs.

When a call to the Illinois Department on Aging's 24-Hour Elder Abuse Hotline is received, the Catholic Charities case worker, who is an advocate for the elderly, works with the senior to arrive at a possible solution. All reports are kept confidential and anonymous reports are accepted.

Protecting and assisting our senior family members and friends is everyone's responsibility. During July, please keep vulnerable seniors in your prayers, and break the silence of elder abuse.

Anyone who suspects that an older person is being mistreated by someone should call one of the following numbers:

- The Illinois Department on Aging's 24-Hour Elder Abuse Hotline: 1-866-800-1409; 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

• For non-elder abuse issues: the Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) from 8:30am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

• For information re: services and provider agencies in your community, visit: www.state.il.us/aging/1directory/elder_abuse.pdf
Remember: All reports are kept confidential and anonymous reports are accepted.

What is Elder Abuse and What Are Its Signs?

Elder abuse refers to any negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Illinois law defines abuse, neglect and exploitation as:

• **Physical Abuse:** inflicting physical pain or injury upon an older adult.

• **Sexual Abuse:** when the older person is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened or physically forced.

• **Emotional Abuse:** verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment or intimidation.

• **Confinement:** restraining or isolating an older person, other than for medical reasons.

• **Passive neglect:** the caregiver's failure to provide an older person with life's necessities, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter or medical care.

• **Willful deprivation:** willfully denying an older person medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device or other physical assistance, and thereby exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm—except when the older person has expressed an intent to forego such care.

• **Financial Exploitation:** the misuse or withholding of an older person's resources by another, to the disadvantage of the elderly person or the profit or advantage of someone else.

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We Get Letters

To Letters to the Editor:

As July 4th approaches, Americans should know that Irish participation in the American Revolution helped make American independence a reality.

One must wonder why tens of thousands of old Gaelic names of 17th and 18th century Irish immigrants appear with astonishing regularity in completely verifiable colonial records, yet any reference to them almost totally omitted from

standard American histories, including the American Revolution. A few following documented facts will reveal accurate history of Irish participation in the American Revolution.

Battle of Lexington (4/19/1775), 174 Irish were present.

Battle of Bunker Hill (6/17/1775), 698 Irish were present.

A prominent American, Joseph Galloway, also an English Tory, on 10/27/1779 told the English House of Commons that one-half of Washington's Continental Army was Irish.

On 4/2/1784, Luke Gardiner, afterward Lord Mountjoy, told the English Parliament, "America was lost by Irish emigrants... I am assured that the Irish language was as commonly spoken in the American ranks as English. I am also informed it was their valor that determined the contest..."

Many Irish, banished by England, came with Lafayette; 637 were killed at the Siege of Savannah.

*From: Robert E. West
Irish American Unity Conference
Author and Historian*



Sporting Log

Sean Og. O Ceallachain



The lucrative value of sponsorship of Gaelic Games was reflected recently, when the GAA announced the approximate amount of money taken in to the coffers, for distribution to all the County Boards throughout the country and beyond. Over seven million euro will be paid out to provinces and county boards at the end of the 2008 championship under the GAA's new sponsorship deals and television rights. The press conference was prompted following a request from certain County boards over how the new sponsorship deals and television rights would impact

on their own advertising deals. The total television and sponsorship payments to provinces will exceed 3 million euro, up from 1.9 in 2007. A similar payment to counties will exceed 4 million euro up from 3 million in 2007. Part of these payments is the new bonus of 20,000 euro per year for each county signing up to the new sponsorship presentation charter, which gives the GAA's new headline sponsors exclusive rights to pitch side advertising on three sides. In addition any county that hosts a live championship game in full compliance with this charter will receive a

once off of 40,000 euro a year. Most of 0 these payments were in operation last year. There are increases and each province now receives a basic dividend of 140,000 euro for each county. That was provided for in the new budget at the start of the year, and represents significant enough increase on last year. Each province now also receives event specific television payments for live broadcast games in the provincial championship. Payments range from 65,000 euro to 100,000 euro, depending on the stage of the championship and adherence to presentation criteria.

My good friend, Eamonn Kelly, of the North American GAA Board will be interested to know that the potential value of championship match programmes became increasingly evident at a recent auction in Dublin of rare and collectable GAA items. I know that, *mo chara*, Pat Hennessy,

former Kilkenny star hurler, might like to know that the 1918 All-Ireland hurling final programme between Kilkenny and Tipperary, was sold for 3600 euro. All eight pages were in remarkable condition and the match itself was historic for several reasons. It was the first final, where the teams were reduced to 15 players aside, with Kilkenny's Mooncoin beating Tipperary's Toomevara by 2-4 to 1-2. An original printed ticket for a football challenge match between Dublin and Tipperary at Croke Park on November 21st, 1920 was sold to a private collector for 7,900 euro. But that was no ordinary game; as British soldiers infamously stormed into Croke Park and started firing into the crowd indiscriminately killing 12 spectators and wounding 60. One of the Tipperary players, Michael Hogan was shot dead as he tried to escape from the pitch. The

Hogan Stand is named after him in Croke Park.

The exceptionally rare All-Ireland football winners medal from the first championship final of 1887 was put up at the auction and there was stiff bidding for it. It was said it was sold after auction for 37,000 euro. Croke Park Museum paid 10,000 euro for a rare collection of letters and documents concerning the early history of the GAA in County Laois.

14th Annual Catskills Irish Arts Week

July 13-19 will see another sensational week in the historic Irish American hamlet of East Durham in upstate NY for the 14th Annual Catskills Irish Arts Week hosted by the M.J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Centre. www.eastdurham.org/irishartsweek.

NACB News

By Eamonn Kelly, PRO – North American County Board

With the 2008 championships just under way in most of the major cities, the North American County Board of the GAA held its annual pre-playoff meeting recently at Boston's Irish Cultural Center, the venue for this years finals. The main focus of the meeting was for the National Board to meet the local host playoff committee to review the plans already in place for the 2008 playoffs and make the draws for the tournament.

Besides the North American County Board officers, all divisional boards around the country were represented at the meeting with the exception of the Midwest division. Based on team affiliations from the various divisions at least 18 cities, some with several teams, are expected to be represented at the finals. Consequently, it is anticipated that over a thousand people from out-of-town will be attending the games over the Labor Day weekend, August 29th thru. September 1st. Given the huge success of youth programs around the country it is expected that under age teams from some of these cities will participate in the NACB Youth championships.

As part of the nationwide campaign to promote Gaelic games among American born players, two all-American championships, comprising of American born players in hurling and football will be added to this years tournament (an all-American camogie championship is also being considered). In ladies football, an intermediate football championship will be part of the schedule for the first time, while the junior B shield competition, introduced last year, has been discontinued. With a record 18

championships on the agenda, the 2008 playoffs may well emerge as the biggest NACB playoffs in the history of the board, potentially presenting a serious facilities challenge to the host playoff committee in Boston.

Before the playoffs draws were made, there was the usual discussion on how to avoid teams getting a bye to the finals where only three cities were involved in competition such as senior hurling and football. The hosting Northeast division volunteered to enter second teams (divisional championship runner-up) to fill the void in these competitions.

Typically, the winners of each divisional championship will represent their division in the playoffs but there will be cases where two teams from the same division will be entered in the same grade. In some cases, the defeated divisional finalists will represent their divisions in a lower grade in the playoffs. Since there are teams from several cities competing for divisional championships in various grades it may not be known until mid-August what clubs or cities will be participating in the playoffs in any a particular grade.

Since there is only one senior camogie club and several junior grade clubs in the NACB the camogie draw was tabled pending recommendations from a camogie committee.

Following is a list of the divisions and the cities that were entered into the 2008 NACB Playoff draw: NORTHEAST: Boston metropolitan area, Hartford, CT, Concord, NH. CENTRAL: Chicago metropolitan area, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Minnesota Twin Cities, St. Louis. WESTERN: San Francisco metropolitan area. PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia metropolitan area

MIDWEST: Akron, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Rochester.

SOUTH EAST: Atlanta, Charlotte.

SOUTH WEST: Austin, Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego, NORTH WEST: Portland, Washington - Seattle, Spokane, Utah.

MIDATLANIC: Washington DC, Baltimore.

See www.iannews.com for the draw for the 2008 NACB playoffs.

The Continental Youth Championship (CYC) Tournament which was a huge success when staged in Chicago Gaelic Park last year will be held in Philadelphia this year. The big event is scheduled for the weekend of July 25, 26 & 27 at the Greater Chester Valley Soccer Association Fields.

A total of 205 games were played at last years tournament and it is anticipated

that that number will be exceeded at this years event. Over 100 teams from cities across the US and Canada and London, England will be competing in the tournament. Various hurling and Gaelic football championships at under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 age groups will be staged. A special attraction this year will be the participation of a U16 hurling team from Belfast, comprising of players from both catholic and protestant neighborhoods.

The tournament will get underway with the staging of a gala welcoming parade by the host city on the Thursday night. Several GAA officials from Ireland have committed to attending the tournament including President Nickey Brennan and International Committee Chairman Sheamus Howlin as well as officials from O'Neill's Sporting Company, the tournament sponsor.

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Mike Morley



Hitchens Post

Columnist Christopher Hitchens appeared to be poking his nose outside the democ-religion box when he confronted icon of democracy, Nelson Mandela, in a NY Times Syndicate column reprinted June 14 in the Sun Times.

Mandela, hero and retired elder statesman of South Africa (former home of apartheid and now murder capitol of the world) and turning 90 even as you read this, was taken to the woodshed and given a journalistic whipping for failing to speak out on the bloodletting in Zimbabwe, formerly the British colony of Rhodesia. Hitchens, British-born socialist and atheist feels: "It is the silence of Mandela, much more than anything else that bruises the soul. It appears to make a mockery of all the brave talk about international standards for human rights, about the need for

internationalist solidarity and the brotherhood of man, and all that."

"Internationalist solidarity"... Hitchens tends to measure world leaders against his personal hero, a man he terms "a prophetic moralist", Leon Trotsky. Hitchens is also an avowed enemy of religion, Catholicism in particular. So while he blasts Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe for state-sponsored terror and starvation, he holds the Catholic Church (and Mandela) to blame for the situation. "Mugabe benefitted from two things" he believes, "the indulgence of the government of South Africa and the lenience of the authorities in Rome, who allowed him to attend a U.N. conference on the world food crisis- despite a five-year-old ban on his travel to any member of the European Union."

Hitchens says he "has a bit more respect for the old lion (Mandela) than

to imagine that he doesn't know what's happening in next-door Zimbabwe." But just as surely: Hitchens knows that his column falsely and dishonestly equates Rome with the Vatican, and the United Nations with the Church. Perhaps it's unfair to say the Sun Times endorses his views, but Hitchens did have a full page in the editorial section, right under the names of the CST publisher and editors, with no balancing comment or disclaimer.

Fact is, Mugabe is not barred from travel to UN events, be they in Europe, or in the U.S. for that matter. Hitchens must know that African leaders threatened to boycott that UN conference if Mugabe had been barred. Yet he goes on: "(Mugabe) bears a charmed life in Rome. He was there only recently as a guest at the funeral of Pope John Paul II and was able to claim that he was on Vatican soil, rather than Italian territory." (Note: "Only recently" is three years ago.)

Far from the closed service for a cabal of conspirators painted by Hitchens, the Pope's funeral was an inclusive event marked by rare and spontaneous feelings of harmony among world leaders. Here's how the NY Times described those who came to pay their respects: "heads of state or government from more than 70 countries, an unprecedented collection of power for a papal funeral... the first American president to attend a pope's funeral, George W. Bush... Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and Prince Charles... Mohammad Khatami of Iran and Moshe Katsav of Israel all attended, along with five kings and six queens, as well as the United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan. There were representatives from all the world's major religions. In fact, the funeral's guest list alone stood as a distinctive testament to John Paul: that such a wide spectrum of people, many of whom normally would not be in the same room, all found themselves sitting together."

President Bush sat near leaders from the "axis of evil" and Cuba, but made no gestures towards them. Tony Blair avoided any contact with President Mugabe; but Prince Charles shook his hand. Charlie later had to apologize for the gaffe.

The biggest surprise was when Israeli President Moshe Katsav decided to shake hands and chat with Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iranian President Mohammed Khatami. The brief moment was hailed as "a monumental step in Mideast diplomacy". Later however, when the magic of the time and place faded away, Khatami denied the handshake ever happened.

China did boycott the funeral, not

on account of Mugabe, but because Taiwan's President Chen was there. The Vatican is the only nation in Europe to recognise Taiwan.

Hitchens rails on: "What is it going to take before the Catholic Church has anything to say about the conduct of this member of its flock? Mugabe has been a devout Catholic ever since his days in a mission school in what was then colonial Rhodesia."

Devout? How many politicians don't attend some church or other for the photo op with book, preacher and neatly scrubbed family?

Hitchens fails to mention of the Easter pastoral letter "God Hears the Cry of the Oppressed" issued last year by Zimbabwe's nine Roman Catholic bishops. They blamed Mugabe for: "a crisis of governance and a crisis of leadership... None of the unjust and oppressive security laws of the Rhodesian State have been repealed; in fact, they have been reinforced by even more repressive legislation... Soon after Independence, the power and wealth of the tiny white Rhodesian elite was appropriated by an equally exclusive black elite." The bishops urged that Mugabe resign or face a popular revolt.

Hitchens instead focuses on the resignation of Archbishop Pius Ncube last September after he was captured on video doing the deed with a married woman. "You might think the church would have been glad of a bit of heterosexual transgression for a change" mocks Hitchens, "but a dim view was taken of the whole thing in spite of the fact that it bore all the marks of a setup..." He berates the Church for accepting the bishop's resignation, and again for not condemning Mugabe.

Now, it is known that priests in Africa often do not follow the Church's teaching on celibacy, and that the Church may turn a blind eye to the practice; but it is also true that adultery is illegal (if rarely prosecuted) in Zimbabwe, and the husband of the woman in question filed suit. The woman admitted the affair; the bishop failed to deny it.

And no Father Pfleger he, Ncube seems cut more from Father Murphy cloth. He went so far as to call on Britain to invade Zimbabwe and remove Mugabe from power: "I'm ready to lead the people, guns blazing, but the people are not ready," he declared.

In their pastoral letter the bishops charged that repression by Mugabe's government had led to widespread anger, putting the nation in "extreme danger". But Mugabe retorted that he foresaw danger also: "the bishops have decided to turn political. And once they turn political, we regard

them as no longer being spiritual and our relations with them would be conducted as if we are dealing with political entities, and this is quite a dangerous path."

If Mugabe begins treating the clergy as enemies, who's the Pope gonna call—the Swiss Guard? With Cecil Rhodes long ago in his grave, do you think Britain will rally to Ncube's call and rush back in, banners flying? Some Rhodes Scholars could be helpful, maybe. Or perhaps we'll see a band of Hitchen's Henchmen coming to the rescue, their namesake trotting at the head. Any day now.

Meanwhile, back in the states: Chris Swider, a good friend of mine on the faculty at Columbia College, has completed a film documenting yet another atrocity willfully erased from history: the Massacre at Katyn Forest near Smolensk in western Russia, the site of a mass execution in 1940.

Six months after he and Hitler agreed to carve up the country up between them, Josef Stalin, then the darling of America's Left, tasked his ruthless NKVD secret police chief Lavrenti Beria to butcher an estimated 21,000 Poles. The murders were done at Katyn and two Soviet prison sites. Some 8,000 victims were military officers taken prisoner during the 1939 Soviet invasion; the rest were Polish citizens: intellectuals, priests, doctors, Boy Scouts; anyone thought capable of exercising leadership. They were charged as "intelligence agents, gendarmes, spies, saboteurs, landowners, factory owners, lawyers, priests and officials."

Poland's draft system made the task easier. It required every university graduate not exempt from service to become a reserve officer. The Soviets aim was to wipe the Polish elite from the face of the earth, and transport the rest. Some 1.5 million Poles were sent off to Siberia.

Chris's film "Children in Exile" was shown at the Chicago International Documentary Festival in April. Swider's father was a Polish Army captain sent to a Soviet slave labor camp days before the NKVD began their slaughter. He later joined Polish battalions fighting in Italy alongside U.S. and British troops.

E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net
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June Events at the IAHC

23rd Annual Irish Fest July 11-13 (see ad on page 2)

Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Ave in Chicago.

The festival features three days of music on five stages, featuring headliners Gaelic Storm, and many others. Other highlights include the ever-popular Mashed Potato Eating Contest, the endearing children's singing contest, the Irish Idol Competition and the Hooley Happy Hour. The Hooley is also a singles event with traditional Irish matchmakers on hand to help people mingle and maybe find their perfect match!

The fest continues its expanded cultural offerings with its program, Continuing Traditions: From The Past Through The Present. This programming provides fest-goers opportunities to experience Irish literature, poetry, art, music and drama, including Irish language lessons, a book sale, author readings and signings, one-act plays, art and museum exhibits, film shorts screenings and more.

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

Tickets: \$12 per day; \$8 in advance until the end of day on July 10; seniors \$7, and children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid adult. Hours: Fri., 6-midnight; Sat., noon-midnight; Sun., noon-11pm. 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Art Program For Youth at IAHC

Reservations are now being taken for Urban Journaling, a five-week art program designed for children ages 8-13 from July 8 to Aug 7, 2008. Classes are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. In this fun-filled program, children learn new artistic skills, self-expression and a whole new way of seeing the world around them. They learn simple techniques of sketching and photography and to keep a journal of the urban landscape. Tuition is \$275 per child with discounts for families and includes art materials, four field trips and daily snacks. 773-282-7035.

Annual Amateur Youth Singing Contest Teams Up With Radio Disney AM 1300

Back by popular demand, the Center will hold the Irish Idol contest at Irish Fest July 11-13. Radio Disney has joined the party. Just like the world-renowned reality TV show, contestants will perform for the fest's own version of Randy, Paula and Simon. The contest consists of two divisions:

SHAMROCKS – Teens between the ages of 13 and 18

CLOVERS – Children under the age of 12

Preliminary auditions will begin at 2pm on Saturday, July 12 and will be judged by a panel of judges. Radio Disney's Road Crew will reveal the four finalists from each division on Saturday at 5:30pm. Everyone can join the Road Crew for music, games and cool prizes from 5:30-6:30pm.

On Sunday, July 13, the sing-off takes place at 2pm. Grand prizes include an Irish Idol VIP Package, with limo transportation and dinner in downtown Chicago, the opportunity to record a Public Service Announcement for the IAHC that will air on Radio Disney AM 1300, Disney prizes and more! Runners-up will also receive prizes.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

- Amateurs Only. Participants must be 18 years old or younger and parental permission is a must.
- Sign up at www.irishfestchicago.com/irishidolcontest.aspx or by phone at 773-282-7035.
- Forms due by Saturday, July 12 at noon.

All contestants are required to Perform an Irish song of their choice (traditional or modern) or a version of their song that must be under 3 minutes long. Finalists must be available to perform on Sunday, July 13 for the singoff at 2 pm as well as Grand Finale at 4 pm.

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October 1 **White Eagle Banquet Hall** - Niles, IL (See details below)

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Fire and Water in the City of Lights

It's a slow Saturday morning in the City of Aurora but Fire Captain Michael McCue is already hard at work on a training exercise.

"Yeah some people think all we do is sit around, play cards and pet the dog," laughs McCue, who is hard at work hand-training local U.S. Naval Sea Cadets in the art of firefighting.

It's work he could delegate but

prefers not to. "I love working with children, that's the best part of the job."

The Sea Cadets from the Aurora Division are high school aged and are preparing for a firefighting competition against cadets from five other states. "We teach them nautical skills and citizenship in a drug-free environment," says Lt. (j.g) Catherine Cabe, who

commands the local unit and will see some of her cadets go on to service in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. "Real-world training like this from professionals like Captain McCue is invaluable for us. We really appreciate the time the Aurora Fire Department spends with us."

"Oh, it's really a pleasure," adds McCue. "School groups come through all the time, and we especially like the Sea Cadets. They pay attention and have fun learning."

As McCue demonstrates various techniques for beating down a fire with a stream of high pressure water, local citizens stop and look at the group of teens and adult volunteers in naval uniforms. One Navy veteran overseeing the training is Sea Cadet Corps Regional Director Lt. Commander Dan Wayeshe, a 24-year veteran of active and reserve duty.

"Everybody in the Navy has to do firefighter training," notes Wayeshe. "It's part of their 'D.C.' ... Damage Control." Many times it is the firefighting ability of sailors that saves a ship that has been mined, torpedoed, or struck by a

missile, as happened to the U.S.S. Stark, a frigate which almost sunk after being hit by a mistakenly targeted Iraqi Missile in 1987 during the Iran-Iraq war.

Guided by McCue, the Sea Cadets take turns individually and in groups of three using different pressures and types of spray.

"If you've got a lot of heat you open up the fog," says McCue as he aims an arc of water droplets to cascade down onto the target area. "If I get into a bad spot I can do this, it absorbs the heat and gives you some protection."

McCue also demonstrates and lets fly with a high pressure stream, which the cadets use to practice targeting a safety cone and moving it down the alley. "This a fraction of what we use in a real fire." At 90 pounds of pressure it has quite a kick and a single adult needs a shoulder harness to control the full-strength spray, which can go up to 125 pounds per square inch.

Firefighting is not a business for the weak of heart, or strength. "It is a young man's job," remarks the very fit McCue, who has been doing this for more than two decades.

Fire training for regular firefighters is no cake walk.

"We have the consumption test where you carry a ladder for fifty feet and put it back on the truck. Then you drag a dummy for the length of the course." Sounds tough? Try the next step.

"You have to carry a kit we call the 'High Rise Bundle', a heavy coil of hose four flights up and down and then drag a sled 100 yards," says McCue.

Now most everybody's heard that firefighters eat well. And the Captain has to pitch in with the cooking to fuel all the needed energy when the fire bell rings. This is one area where Michael McCue's Irish heritage comes in handy.

"I make corned beef and cabbage every St. Patrick's Day. Nobody else in the firehouse knows how to make it!"

In addition to working with the Sea Cadets Aurora also has an Explorer program of teens aged 14 to 19 who are interested in the firefighting service and learn the profession after school.

"Ever since I was little I wanted to be a fire fighter. It's a profession where you can help people and protect them."

McCue, who once rescued cap-sized canoers clinging to life near a bridge, has a ready answer for the hardest part of the job. "Dead children," he says with a grimace and a shake of his head. "That 's always the hardest to deal with."

It makes sense then that on this day spent with laughing young sailors in training that McCue is the happiest firefighter in the City of Aurora.

"This time with the kids is the best," he grins with smiling Irish eyes.

E-mail Jim McClure with comments and ideas at IrishRoverJim@aol.com



Aurora Fire Department Capt. Michael McCue teaching Naval Sea Cadets.

WHY SHOULD AMERICANS FUND BRITISH PERSECUTION IN IRELAND?

Americans are now being asked to invest their tax/pension dollars in the British-controlled Northern Ireland, but are being told the truth of what is going on there?

Some months ago the British government announced that none of its soldiers or police operatives will ever face prosecution for their involvement in the killings of Catholic civilians, either directly or through collusion with Loyalist paramilitaries during the conflict known as "the Troubles." Yet, ten years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement when everyone is being asked to celebrate and "move on," **the British government continues to hound and prosecute Irish republicans for incidents that allegedly occurred decades ago during those same Troubles.**

Last year Tyrone man Gerry McGeough stood as an Independent Republican in the March, 2007 Assembly Elections. As he exited the vote-counting center in Omagh following the poll, McGeough, who is the editor of THE HIBERNIAN magazine, was arrested in a major RUC/PSNI operation with the mass media only yards away. The very public arrest was an act of blatant political intimidation. Gerry (www.freegerry.com) was interrogated and charged with the wounding of a British soldier during the Hunger Strike of 1981. More than a year later, his movements are severely restricted, surveillance terrorizes his family, and no evidence has been presented against him.

While the British government immunizes mass murderers of the Occupied Irish, it continues to harass, frame and imprison Occupied Irish innocents, and the US government continues to treat Pol Brennan (www.polbrennan.com), and other honorable Ex-IRA men as if they had perpetrated heinous crimes like the immunized British. Ditto the "Irish" government re Michael McKevitt (www.michaelmckevitt.com) and others. How does such injustice nurture Peace? Wouldn't any American rebel against it? **Above all, why should any American fund such crime?**

Please ask Sen. Barack Obama, 312-886-3506; Sen. Richard Durbin 312-353-0150; NY City Comptroller Wm. Thompson 212-669-3500, Fax 212-669-2707

For the identity of the terrorists, see www.terrorismireland.org

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Irish Immigration Centers Warn Travelers of Tighter ID Rules

Irish Immigration Centers have warned travelers in the US that security at checkpoints will tighten considerably from May, as part of an overall security measure to catch those on "watch lists." The Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration issued statements last week announcing "greater clarity" on the types of identification that will only be accepted from May at checkpoints in the United States.

The new measures will require that travelers produce official state-issued or federal ID to pass through checkpoints as of May 26, 2008. From that date onwards, all adult passengers aged 18 and over, will be required to show a US federal or state-issued photograph ID that contains their name, date of birth, gender, expiration date of the ID and a tamper-resistant feature. Official ID Documents that have acceptable features include Driver's Licenses, US or foreign government-issued passport, US passport card, DHS "Trusted Traveler" cards (NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST), US Military ID, Permanent Resident Card, Border Crossing Card, DHS-designated

enhanced driver's license, State-issued driver's license (from a state that received REAL ID extension), a Native American Tribal Photo ID, an airline or airport-issued ID (if issued under a TSA-approved security plan, a Canadian provincial driver's license and an Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) card.

Samples of acceptable documents can be found at: http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/apis_documents.pdf.

Non-US/Canadian citizens are not required to carry their passports if they have US-issued documents or individual state's, such as driver's licenses or Permanent Resident Cards. Those people who do not have US-issued documents are now expected to be carrying their passports while visiting the US. In a statement explaining why the new measures were being enforced, the TSA said: "This standardization of the list of accepted documents better aligns TSA with other DHS components, including Customs and Border Protection, and REAL ID benchmarks.

Increased scrutiny and the additional requirements for government issued-identification by TSA while flying within the US carries the risk that foreign passports may be closely examined and result in further inquiry about immigration status. While there is no uniform policy or procedure in place by the TSA in this regard, there have been instances where individuals suspected to be undocumented have been turned over to the immigration enforcement authorities by TSA.

Handwritten passports or passports issued within the US without entry stamps may be considered red flags and lead to further questioning

A Declaration of Immigration

This is an exhibition that depicts many of the experiences and viewpoints within U.S. immigrant communities. The works of over 70 artists will help visitors increase their understanding of this complex issue by providing immigrant perspectives that are seldom included in the national debate. As a vital part of the democratic process, artists and community based institutions play a critical role in any civic dialogue and struggle for social justice. Immigration is indisputably the foundation upon which this country was built. The National Museum of Mexican Art has a responsibility to take a proactive stance, and provide a platform from which many immigrants can speak out—especially at a time in our history when once again; countless immigrants are being scapegoated and blamed for many of the nation's problems. This exhibition will launch the Museum's three-year commitment to immigrant centered programs. (Tom Boyle, a board member of the Irish American Heritage Center has prepared a display for the exhibition which chronicles the Irish contribution to the building of the Illinois Canal.)

The exhibition will open July 4th, 10am–5pm, and continues through September 7th at National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th Street, Chicago, IL 60608, (312) 738-1503.

Change in Visa Waiver System

The visa waiver system which currently is in place for 27 countries and which allows Irish citizens to complete forms for entry to the US after they have boarded their flight is to end from the beginning of next January, the State Department has confirmed.

From January 12th passengers wishing to travel to the US will have to register their personal details, as well as details of their travel plans for their time in the US, at least 72 hours prior to departure. Until now Irish citizens were given visa waiver forms during their flight which they returned to immigration officials on arrival.

The new electronic system will allow the US department of homeland security to do a security check on visitors before they board a flight. Those whose online applications are rejected will not be permitted to board aircraft.

The homeland security secretary Michael Chertoff said the new system would better protect both US citizens and airline passengers.

"Getting this information in advance enables our frontline personnel to determine whether a visa-free traveler presents a threat, before boarding an aircraft or arriving on our shores."

New levels of security were essential he said, but this system would prevent citizens of friendly countries from having to apply to US embassies for visas before travel.

"It is a relatively simple and effective way to strengthen our security, and that of international travelers, while helping to preserve an important program for key allies."

Filling out a form during flights was "outdated", particularly in the post-September 11th world, Mr. Chertoff said. The visa waiver program had been designed in the 1980s with economic issues in mind, but security was now the top priority.

As yet we do not have exact details of exactly what information intending passengers would be required to submit online but sources at the State Department say that the online form would be very similar to the current in-flight form.

The new system should in fact make it easier for frequent travelers to the US as passengers will only have to complete the online questionnaire once every two years, or until their passport expires, whichever comes first. There will also be a facility to allow people to register in advance of travel without including any flight details, to facilitate any journey which may need to be taken

at less than 72 hours notice.

The online form would also bring an end to the practice where people were deported when they reached the US, if the information on their forms revealed them to be "unsuitable" for entry, the spokeswoman said.

"If the information submitted online shows that the passenger is unsuitable, they simply won't get that far."

Golf

Sat., June 14th was a truly beautiful day for golf and 168 players showed up for our annual golf tournament at St. Andrew's Golf & Country Club in West Chicago.

The good weather and the beautiful conditions of both courses led to some hot scoring on the day.

The Winners on Course 1 were Kevin Malee Sr. & Kevin Malee Jr. with a score of 42 points.

The Winners on Course 2 were Gavin McNeill & Frankie Bradley with a score of 44 points.

The winner of the Ladies' competition with a score of 35 points was Geraldine McGlennon.

Once again, we take this opportunity to say a sincere thanks to all of our sponsors, both to those who took ads in our book as well as those who sponsored tees and greens on the course.

Eagles in a Storm

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us—and all of us will experience them—we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down; it is how we handle them.

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me @ sliabhanoir@yahoo.com. Or 312-337-844



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Would These Five "Rules" Work For You?

One of the really nice parts about writing a newspaper column is that you get mail from your readers. Fortunately most of the emails I have gotten over the last several years have been positive. But they tend to be "atta boy" type comments. I don't get a great number of specific suggestions or comments about future columns. However, in response to my May column, I did get such a specific recommendation.

A dear friend, Maureen Kane Wade, who has been a teacher and career guidance counselor for a lot of years, said she made it a point to tell "her" kids that there were five "things" they needed to do to keep their jobs. As the kids say, damn straight stuff:

1. Show up everyday
2. Be on time.
3. Follow directions
4. Get along with your co-workers
5. Be able to be trusted.

Show Up Every Day

If you are fortunate, the majority of your (fellow) employees show up at their work place most days. What if they don't? You lose the ability to interact with them. You don't have access to their best thinking. You don't have the continuity of action/reactions that is present when you review yesterday's decisions/deliberations with your fellows.

The absence of an employee upsets the cohesiveness of the team; the absentee needs to be brought up to speed when s/he returns to work. At some level, that is a waste of valuable time. Had the person been at work the previous day, you wouldn't have to dedicate your time to playing "court reporter". Think about any set of circumstances when a key player is missing; the team simply doesn't operate the same.

Should attendance be a hiring criterion when people are being interviewed? Don't you think you should be exploring the interviewee's work ethic? Even if a person is a great performer isn't his/her contribution to the team significantly lessened if you don't know if they cannot be relied upon to be there.

Is the employee 'PRESENT' when they are physically present in a meeting? Shouldn't you at the supervisor expect them to be fully invested in the immediate conversation?

Be On Time

Timeliness has been a fetish of mine for as long as I can remember. It fascinates me how lovely; thoughtful people can be oblivious to other people's time. Obviously one interpretation of a person's late arrival is their disdain for the other person's time; my time is clearly more important than yours. I had a client who was "always" late for staff meetings. His team saw it as a lack of respect problem rather than a time management problem. The boss was "dissing" his staff. Even when he did in fact have something more important to do, he was not forgiven for his tardiness. The presumption was that he is always late anyway, why should I believe that he was really more gainfully occupied with some other matter this time?

Once you get past the lack of respect being evidenced, you have the practical considerations. If a person is late by 15 minutes, it might mean that you now have 15 less minutes to handle the scheduled agenda items. Alternatively, the tardy person has put the squeeze on the other person(s) in attendance.

Commonly people will say, s/he is always late, plan for it. Sounds nice, but it is the rationalization of an enabler. A friend of mine has a 15 minute rule; if the other person is late by more than 15 minutes, he leaves the rendezvous point. He says he refuses to be held hostage by another's insensitivity. What's your experience, do you think a 15 minute rule would be helpful in your dealings with others?

Follow Directions

Again, an issue that seems so obvious, how could it be a problem? Well, it is for many people. To start with, giving understandable directions is a challenge. We may be telling someone to do something that we know backward and forward, how could the listener not know what is meant? Try to describe to another intelligent person how to change a baby's diaper. Many of us who have changed hundreds of diapers normally don't think about how it is done; we just know. But obviously if you have to explain it to someone else, they don't know.

So you need to work on your ability to either give or accept understandable directions.

If the direction giver is not clear in his/her expectations, ask for clarity at the front end. Don't wait until both of you are frustrated by the explanation. If you don't agree with the directions, respectfully ask for clarification, it will minimize the chance of misunderstanding. Better to annoy the direction giver at the beginning of the process, than later on, when a lot of time has elapsed, at which time you are also fighting a significant time problem.

Get Along With Your Co-Workers

One of the biggest problems with people being properly integrated into a new job situation is their inability to get along with their fellow employees. To a very large extent, it can be facilitated by your decision to get along. Not to roll over, but to get along. Frequently new hires don't establish alliances with their fellow workers. They haven't acquired the support of their fellows. Instead they believe that the deciding factor of their success will be the product of their work or their industry knowledge.

Think of the people who have been successful in your own organization. When the boss asked how the "new person" was doing, s/he received positive feedback because the new employee had acquired support, not because s/he had sold the biggest order in the firm's history. On the other hand, if the response to the boss' question is timid and reserved, that probably will be perceived negatively by the boss.

To acquire the support of one's fellow co-workers does not require you to be a panderer or unusually solicitous, but rather you need to be true to yourself. I heard someone say, "I don't know what it will take for you to be successful, but I do know what it takes to fail; trying to please everyone".

Need To Be Trustworthy

Some people are defined by their trustworthiness; even their enemies know that you can "go to the bank" with their word.

Examples of trustworthiness have to be "demonstrated" not just stated. Many of us want to see evidence. Will these people do what they say they will do? Are you seen as a trustworthy person? If a fellow employee tells you something in confidence can they be comfortable in believing that you will hold this matter in the strictest of confidence?

Well, what do you think of Maureen's admonitions to her students? How do they apply to you and your employees? Maureen's comments could be useful for individuals at any level in an organization, but the thrust of them seems to be directed towards the new employee, perhaps a recent high school or college graduate just entering the work force.

Two other friends have offered to provide other perspectives. In my upcoming column in September, Bob Ward, a very accomplished executive search consultant, with his own firm headquartered in Naperville, will provide a view of what clients tell him they want in their new employees. In my November column, Tim Corry, Vice President-Human Resources for Jewel Food Stores, will provide his perspective as an employer of a large number of people at all levels.

In addition to the five rules Maureen Kane Wade has suggested to her students, I would add one more. As professor and author, Jeffrey A. Timmons, says, "ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU ARE GOING TO DO. It is the glue and fiber that binds successful relationships." It seems to me that this rule could be the synopsis of all the above five. *Carpe Diem.*

James F. Fitzgerald, president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and senior executive career transition firm. Phone: 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net

Summer painting classes

The six week summer class session will begin the week of July 7th. The Tuesday night class will be an oil painting class. www.edhinkleystudio.com.

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For The Republic

Chris Fogarty



HERE ARE MORE facts the news media conceal or twist.

IRELAND SAVES EUROPE!

On June 13, by a margin of 53.4% to 46.6% Ireland saved democracy for the 480 million Europeans, at least temporarily. The citizens of Ireland (the 26-Counties) voted down the Lisbon Treaty which would have stripped all Europeans of their national sovereignties. The Internet (but not the news media) is full of European praise for the Irish who were the only ones allowed a referendum vote on this issue. Ireland's pols and news media monolithically favored passage. A Republican Sinn Fein press release reads (in part); "By voting NO we have not turned our backs on Europe but rather have given voice to the hundreds of millions of people denied a vote including the French and Dutch whose vote against the EU Constitution in 2005 was ignored by the EU political establishment. We have voted NO to the creation of an undemocratic super state, increased militarization and further erosion of neutrality, privatization of public services and subversion of workers' rights."

IRELAND'S ARMY, instead of freeing Occupied Ireland or, at least, protecting its people and Ireland's oil-and-gas resources, is risking life and limb for the UN. An Irish infantry battalion, deployed by the European Union force in Goz-Beida, Chad, recently came under fire from rebels opposed to Chadian Pres. Idriss Deby.

BERTIE AHERN, Ireland's ex-Taoiseach, was recently ousted for accepting large, regular deposits of UK£ into his personal account. Why would Brits be making such payments to him other than for betraying his own country in selling them the 6-Counties? His secretary was in tears when, under oath, she admitted the deposits. Despite (or due to?) betraying his nation for money, on St. Patrick's Day the White House welcomed him, and pols and news media feted him.

BRIT POLICE STATE is set. Abetted by Paisley's DUP, Britain's parliament reduced its kingdom's already-thin freedoms. By 315 to 306 it increased to 42 days the time one can be jailed without charge. It is tragic for Britain but it's not as blatantly criminal as Bush's indefinite detentions without charge. The difference is that, unlike the Brits, we have a Constitution, and our Supreme Court is beginning to uphold it against Bush's criminal policies just as the Brits begin to imitate them.

NUCLEAR WASTE to be dumped

in the 6-Counties? The Brit gov't says that local councils will benefit by permitting nuclear dump sites in their communities. It comes within days of the appointment of the pro-nuclear power DUP MP Sammy Wilson as Minister of the Environment. Sin Fein said that he should immediately rule out any northern council volunteering to take in radioactive waste, calling the plan a dangerous attempt to bribe cash-strapped areas. (Thanks to reader Matt McDermott for this article.)

BUSH NOT WELCOME signs sprouted across London during his visit this week. A Stop the War press release reads; "We condemn the decision of the British government and police, acting on behalf of the criminal US administration to deny the British public the right to peacefully demonstrate. We also denounce the brutal conduct of many police officers towards demonstrators in Whitehall. This evening's events highlight both the growing menace to freedom in Britain and also the fear that George W. Bush and Gordon Brown have of being prosecuted for their disastrous war policies." Andrew Murray, Chair.

PRES. McALEESE, according to BBC and Irish Independent reports, will attend the 15th anniversary commemoration in Warrington, UK of the only two children murdered in Britain by the IRA. McAleese announced Ireland's €5,000 donation to the memorial. Her predecessor, Pres. Robinson had attended the funerals and subsequent anniversaries of the deaths. Meanwhile both presidents adamantly refuse to meet parents of any of the 152 Irish children murdered by the Brits. Both refuse to publicly acknowledge, much less commemorate, those murders in any way. Within days of that 1993 bombing the Irish gov't and news media promoted a massive Dublin protest "against the killing of children." When parents of some 120 Irish children murdered by Brit forces in Occupied Ireland arrived carrying placards of enlarged photos of their murdered children the protest organizers attacked and wrested away their placards and destroyed them. Thus was it made clear; the protest was about the only two English children murdered; definitely not about murdered Irish children. It was later revealed in Britain's parliament that the protest organizers, New Consensus and Families against Intimidation and Terror were created by British spooks to demonize the IRA. But why did Ireland's gov't and news media so aggressively promote such Anti-Irish propaganda?

OUR CONSTITUTION. You first

read it here soon after Bush opened his illegal detention camp in Guantánamo claiming that the US constitution protects only US citizens and only on US soil. I'm no lawyer but the Constitution is quite clear. I had pointed out here that; 1) the Bill of Rights specifies "persons" not "citizens," and thus protects not only citizens but all persons under its purview, and 2) US law applies wherever Old Glory flies officially, whether at US embassies or US military bases such as Guantánamo. In the years since I pointed this out you have heard pols blather on about "the worst of the worst who don't deserve a trial" and you were fed "news" that omitted the brazen criminality of it all, the "judicial black holes" and the outsourcing of torture. At long last the US Supreme Court has issued its third decision, which is that US protections DO apply to Guantánamo detainees.

TORTURE, the Bush gang authorized it, the CIA et al inflicted it, and the FBI and most Americans winked at it. A Salt Lake Tribune headline reads; "America's Road to Torture, and Those Who Kept Silent." The lengthy article ends with "Everyone important in the FBI and Justice Dept. knew what was happening and no one stopped it, no one made a public ruckus. That makes them professionals alright, professional bystanders, with a burdened conscience." (If they'd had one). What has happened to the US? How did so many of us become so depraved as to acquiesce to torture? Why do so few protest against the Bush gang's Supreme Crime (their war of aggression against Iraq)? Why are there so few American patriots? When did the change occur? When did people begin to define patriotism as enthusiasm for genocide and torture instead of vigilant support of our Constitution?

PÓL BRENNAN. The Bush gang's contempt for Irish-America (and the Constitution) is revealed by their wrongful imprisonment of Brennan in Texas. Let's get him out. The following is from his friends/justice-seekers.

Irish Republican Seeks Normalized Status. Pól Brennan was born in 1953 in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Belfast, Northern Ireland. While growing up, he witnessed first-hand the sectarian bigotry that plagued the North of Ireland at the time. In 1972 when he was 19, like many of his friends and neighbors he became a civil rights activist. He fought to end British attacks on the nationalist population. The British had unleashed Loyalist paramilitary death squads on ordinary Catholics with horrendous results.

Pól was interned without trial in Long Kesh prison. He was sentenced in 1976 and immediately joined the blanket protest against the new policy of criminalization of political prisoners.

With many of his fellows, he refused to accept the criminal label and thus rejected the prison-issue uniform. For a time, he shared a cell with Bobby Sands and participated for a short while in the first hunger strike. During his internment ten of his friends and comrades died on hunger strike against criminalization. In 1983 Pól was among the 38 who escaped from Long Kesh which was claimed to be one of Europe's most secure prisons.

Pól made his way to the US and settled near San Francisco where he met and married Joanna Volz. They lived quietly for 9 years until federal agents arrested him on a British extradition warrant. He spent the next 7 years fighting extradition, 3 of them from prison. The British withdrew their extradition request in 1996.

Meanwhile, in Ireland, the IRA had ended its war. Sinn Fein, the main republican political party, had agreed to govern Northern Ireland alongside the pro-British political parties. As part of the agreement, the British released most of the political prisoners. They also withdrew their extradition requests against the H Block Three. Pól, Joanna and her daughter Molly settled down to a peaceful, normal life in the Bay area. Pól worked legally as a carpenter, Joanna as a legal clerk. Pól enjoyed his passion for astronomy and volunteered at the local planetarium.

On January 26, 2008, while en route to relatives in Texas (a trip they had made many time before) Pól and Joanna were stopped at an immigration checkpoint 100 miles inside the US border. Pól had an expired work authorization, and they were detained. Pól was able to reach his lawyer who faxed the Border Patrol agent documentation of his pending asylum case and pending work authorization. Despite this legal proof of status Pól was arrested and incarcerated in the Port Isabel Detention Center where he spent more than 3 months in solitary confinement. He was released into the general population only last week due to pressure prompted in part by his website, www.polbrennan.com.

Pól has been refused bail on the grounds that he is a "flight risk" and a "danger to the community." Pól is fighting to stay IN the US, which demolishes the notion of "flight risk". He is a valued member of his community who are fighting to allow Pól the right to live among them. All Pól seeks is that Homeland Security drop its opposition to bail and allow him to defend his case in court in a fair manner. This article is endorsed by Pól Brennan and compiled from information available on his www.polbrennan.com, Seán Maguire, webmaster.

Let's each phone our Congressman and Sens. Durbin (312/353-0150) and

Obama (312/886-3506 and ask them to release Pól Brennan, an honorable man, especially now that Britain has immunized all of its perpetrators of the vast majority of atrocities in Occupied Ireland including the murderers of 153 of the total of 173 murdered children.

IT'S NOT ONLY BUSH. Many Americans, including McCain and Obama, acquiesce to torture and war crimes. Both parrot Bush's illegal threats of war against Iran. Patriotic Americans are stunned that our Congress and White House work for Israel instead of the US. Many of our fellow citizens are sunk in other depravity. The 15Jun08 NYT Best Seller List of hard cover fiction gives a one-sentence description of each book fifteen of which comprise a wide range of perversions, especially sexual ones.

CAN IT BE? The four Catholic, pro-life justices on the Supreme Court have dissented from the majority decision that upholds the US Constitution against Bush's "Legal Black Hole" in Guantánamo? What is going on? How can pro-lifers favor torture and permanent illegal detentions? The Constitution was upheld against Bush by a vote of only 5 to 4. Had he placed another Catholic "pro-lifer" on the Supreme Court would his destruction of the Constitution have been upheld? Why are so many of my fellow pro-lifers so tolerant of torture and other grave crimes? The question is not rhetorical; how can it be? How can Catholic-educated, pro-life Supreme Court Justices fail to oppose Bush's Guantánamo crimes?

U.S. CRIMES IN IRAQ humiliate American patriots. Now, despite assurances to the contrary, the Bush gang is usurping Iraq's oil and building 58 permanent military bases there. It also demands that Iraq's semi-puppet gov't immunize all US soldiers and employees against all criminal charges including murder and rape. The Independent (UK) reports a further US crime of extortion in a lengthy article headed; "US Issues Threat to Iraq's \$50 Billion Foreign Reserves in Military Deal."

TAKE HEART and act. Let's do what we can for America. We are obligated to contact our US congressman and Sens. Durbin (312/353-0150) and Obama (312/886-3506) and courteously ask them to uphold the US Constitution against torture, war crimes, illegal domestic surveillance, etc. And let's be sure to phone the above to not alone free our valiant ex-IRA men but to honor them.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See terrorismireland.org.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See irishholocaust.org. Contact me at 312-664-7651 or fogartyc@att.net.

Arlington Heights Irish Fest 2008 Schedule

Friday, July 18, 6:00-11:00pm

Doors open 5:30pm. All events take place on the outdoor the Main Stage.

6:00	Gavin Coyle	www.gavincoyle.com
6:00-8:00	Air Brush Body Art	
7:30	McNulty School of Irish Dance	www.mcnultyirishdancers.com
8:00	The Glengael, bagpipe band	www.glengael.com
8:15	Lucky Lass Drawing	
8:30	Brigid's Cross	www.brigidscross.com
11:00	Fest Closes	

Saturday, July 19, 4:00-11:00pm

Doors open 3:30pm. Events take place throughout the Museum grounds.

4:00-7:00	Irish American Heritage Center Northern Illinois Chapter of Crochet Guild of America Wee Folk Tent open	
4:00-8:00	Air Brush Body Art	
4:00	Paddy Homan	www.paddyhoman.com
4:30-7:30	Balloon Creations-Jane Harris	
5:00	Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society	www.copsinkilts.com
5:30	Ceili Workshop by McNulty School of Irish Dance	
5:45	The Larkin and Moran Brothers	www.celticratpack.com
6:00	"Finding Your Chicago Irish" by Sharon Bossard	
7:00	Best Legs in Kilt contest	
7:30	Trinity Irish Dancers	www.trinity-dancers.com
8:00	Irish Raffle drawing	www.ahmuseum.org
8:30	Elevation	www.tribute2U2.com
11:00	Fest Closes	



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