

## Versatile and Talented

Slobhan McKinney of Chef O'Neill's Pub and Restaurant  
fame launches 2007 Annual Guide for the Arts • Chicago  
...story on page 32

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## IAHC hosts Ronan Tynan for inspirational speaking

The Irish American Heritage Center is proud to present *Hitting the High Notes: Living Life To The Fullest*, a motivational speech by Ronan Tynan. The event will take place on Sunday, October 29 at 7pm.

Irish-born Ronan Tynan moves audiences like few others can. His stirring performances have brought him international fame, and his personal story of triumph in the face of adversity have made him one of the most sought-after speakers today.

A champion disabled athlete as well as a physician and celebrated tenor, Tynan's life was the subject of an ABC 20/20 profile and the BBC documentary, *Dr. Courageous*. Born with a lower limb disability, Tynan had both of his legs amputated at age 20. Within a year after the operation, he was competing in the Paralympic Games; both in track and field and as an equestrian. Between 1981 and 1990, Tynan won 18 gold medals and set 14 world records, nine of which are still in place today.

Tynan was the first disabled person ever admitted to Limerick's National College of Physical Education and became a doctor

specializing in orthopedic sports injuries. He then set his sights on yet another goal. Less than one year after he began studying music, Tynan won both the John McCormack Cup for Tenor Voice and the BBC talent show *Go For It*. The following year, he won the prestigious International Operatic Singing Competition in France.

From sold-out concerts to speaking engagements, Tynan's career knows no bounds. In 2002 he starred in a PBS concert, *Ronan Tynan: The Impossible Dream*; published his memoir, *Halfway Home: My Life 'Til Now*; and came out with his first solo CD, *My*

### *Life Belongs to You.*

Companies and associations like IBM, GlaxoSmithKline and Coldwell Banker have invited him back repeatedly, captivated by his sense of humor, lively spirit and inspirational message about overcoming obstacles and living life to the fullest.



Tickets for *Hitting The High Notes: Living Life To The Fullest* are \$35 and \$25, with group and corporate rate discounts available.

and can be purchased by calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10. For more information call or visit [www.irishamhc.com](http://www.irishamhc.com).



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### Hitting the High Notes *Living Life To The Fullest*

a motivational speech by Ronan Tynan  
Sunday, October 29 at 7pm

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Tickets: \$35 and \$25 – Group and corporate rate discounts available

Friday, October 20 at 8pm

Tickets are \$20 – \$15 for IAHC members

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**On the Cover**

Siobhan McKinney was born in County Kerry, Ireland and is one of ten children raised on a farm in the area rich in music and dance known as Sliabh Luachra. She emigrated to the United States in 1990.

She received her Bachelor of Arts at Crawford College of Art in Cork Ireland, and her Masters in Fine Art at Chelsea, London England.

She is married to Brendan McKinney and together they own and operate Chief O'Neill's Restaurant on Chicago's Northside. In her spare time she is a licensed



insurance broker in property, casualty, life and health.

She is the proud mother of Kieran 10, Anluan 8, and Etain 6.

Now Siobhan has taken on publishing and has just released the Annual Guide For The Arts Chicago.

The Annual Guide for the Arts Chicago was developed with the

goal of creating a compendium of annual schedules of performing arts organizations, theatres and museums in Chicago. To wit,



to provide an easily accessible, portable, and elegant guide to the Chicago arts scene that has year-

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**We Get Letters**

Dear Editor,  
The country is awash with money, and this week, awash with wealthy golfers and their fans who are flocking to see them practicing their art. While the world 'oohs' and 'aahs' at Tiger Woods' birdies, the behemoth that is the Ryder Cup will consume vast sums of money from the budgets of various Councils and arms of the State, such as the Gardaí.

As a Kildare local, it is quite bemusing to see members of the police force out cutting hedges and directing traffic at night-time (when there is no traffic to direct). I have no doubt they will earn their overtime when the weekend is out. It's just refreshing to see so many, even if they are not there for my protection, perse. I hope some of them might stay on for a while, but I do hope the astro-turf is removed from around the train stations.

And what of Bord Fáilte Ireland's budget? How much have they spent on the whole affair?

Even Fianna Fáil must be envious of the number of lamp-posts covered with promotional material. Perhaps when they have finished with their orgy of advertising, they might spend a few quid looking after a few of our own monuments; monuments that actually will be around for a few years to come (unless they have the misfortune to lie in the path of a motorway).

I'm thinking in particular of Tara, which is routinely over-

looked from a tourism point of view. Not by the National Roads Authority, though. They seem to be able to target the area quite well. What say you, the good men and women at Bord Fáilte Ireland? If the Ryder cup is a 'hole in one' opportunity for promoting Ireland, then the planned carnage at Tara is an own-goal.

Yours sincerely,  
Declan Kenny  
Mill Lane Leixlip  
011-353-1 624 5354



*Pictured left to right is Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Maureen Connors, Ed McElroy, host of "Community In Focus" and Commissioner Maureen Murphy of the Board of Tax Review. Judge Maureen Connors of the Circuit Court of Cook County Probate Division (and former President of the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago) and Commissioner Maureen Murphy of the Cook County Board of Tax Review were the guests of Ed McElroy on his channel 19 Comcast TV show "Community In Focus".*

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# Tinker's Dam

By



Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley

Irish volunteer remembered 1916 Easter Rebellion

"It was to let the world know that Ireland wasn't dead," said the old Irish rebel who remembered Easter Week of 1916 when a small force of Irish Volunteers joined with the Irish Citizen Army to free Ireland from British control. The rebel who remembered well was Michael J. Shanley, a member of the Fingal Irish Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, then a teenager, and my father. It was the start of the "Troubles" which would eventually give Ireland "Free State" status. But the task was more than difficult.

"They all knew the rebels couldn't win - even the rebels knew it," added Shanley. "First of all, the rebels had blown up the Great Northern Railway bridge between Skerries and Dublin to keep off the troops from Belfast. Next they blew up or obstructed most of the rest of the ways into or out of the city.

"The rebels didn't have enough food available to hold out very long - it was all over in a week."

Or so the "Sassenach" (English) thought; Michael Shanley didn't really believe this.

Joining the Volunteers

As a young Skerries grocery clerk, he and ten friends joined the Fingal Irish Brigade, named for the area between Dublin and Meath. They skirmished with the British in Skerries while the main British Army troops drove to reinforce the siege in Dublin.

"They called it the 'Schoolteachers

Rebellion' - Pearse, DeValera, Collins, Tom Ashe - they were all teachers or professors. It was doomed from the start. But when Padraic Pearse read the proclamation

(Poblacht na hEireann) proclaiming the Irish Republic, we knew what the rising had been for," he added.

The fighting broke out on Easter Monday. By Thursday, Shanley was a prisoner of the British Army. The rebels held out in the General Post Office on O'Connell Street until Saturday, then surrendered to the relentless British juggernaut.

"The old comrades are now passing daily from us, and I hope that the people of Ireland will never forget that it was these men, men like your father, who secured for them the freedom we now enjoy."

President Eamon de Valera (4/17/69)

Teenager Michael Shanley remembered with bitterness the march through Dublin to Arbour Hill Military Barracks and eventually to Wakefield Prison in England.

"The people just didn't understand. They jeered and spat at us. It almost broke my heart."

In the aftermath of the 1916 Rising, the British made no promises to the Irish. They knew their only hope, with World War I still raging on the Western Front and elsewhere, was to crush the rising quickly, and if need be, brutally. Inevitably, atrocities occurred, and initially the people blamed the rebels.

"They took us to Arbour Hill Barracks and from there, after the

fighting was done, we could hear the periodic fusillades early every morning in Kilmainham Jail across the Liffey. These told us the executions were taking place."

But the British were in a terrible war in France, Belgium and on the seas. One reason for the start of the "Trouble" had been British threats of conscription even though one-third of the British Army at the front was Irish. Now the British grew afraid that a "war at their backs" would undo them. A general amnesty was proclaimed and, among hundreds of others, Michael Shanley was freed. This was in May of 1917.

After he returned to Ireland, Shanley joined the Dublin Brigade

southern part of Ireland with information and instructions for other rebel "flying" columns. During this time, he also served in the bodyguard detail to protect the then Irish leader Eamon de Valera.

"He was so tall and sharp-featured," added Michael Shanley, that it was difficult to disguise him."

Shanley remained active as a rebel guerrilla until the Anglo-Irish phase of the war ended in 1922, with the partition of Ireland into the Irish Free State and the six counties of part of Ulster. Then came the bloody Irish Civil War in which he refused to take part, even though offered a commission in the Free State Army.

"I just couldn't fight against my old comrades in the IRA," he explained."

Off to America

In 1926, he married his young sweetheart, Mary O'Neill, a great nationalist herself, at Fairview Church on July 12. After a brief honeymoon in Youghal, he took ship for America and a new life. His bride followed the next year, and they settled in Jersey City, N.J. where they raised four sons: Raymond, Desmond, Kevin and Michael. He remained active in Irish groups until his death in 1968. The family received a letter of condolence from the then Irish President Eamon de Valera:

"The old comrades are now passing daily from us, and I hope that the people of Ireland will never forget that it was these men, men like your father, who secured for them the freedom we now enjoy. (4/17/69)

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of the Old IRA, and continued to "go out on jobs" during the Anglo-Irish War of Independence (Black and Tan War) from 1919-21. He was captured again in Dublin one night after the 7 p.m. curfew. He was trying to get home after a rebel meeting. Without much evidence against him, the British soon released him.

As a signal repairman for the Great Southern Railroad in Ireland, Shanley was free to move about the



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## Advice to Irish citizens traveling in Thailand

From Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern, T.D.

"While no reports have been received of violence or of danger to Irish citizens, my Department is advising Irish visitors already in, or about to visit, Thailand that Martial Law has been declared throughout the country;

- while the situation on the ground in Bangkok is calm and its airport is open, Irish citizens in Bangkok should stay indoors to the extent possible; exercise caution if traveling around the city; avoid any street demonstrations which might take place, and stay away from Government buildings;

- Irish citizens should closely monitor

the situation locally, including in regard to announcements about possible restrictions on movement throughout Thailand.

Irish citizens should also refer to the advice published on the Department of Foreign Affairs website [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)."

We continue to advise against all but essential travel to, or through, the far southern provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla, where there is continuing violence due to insurgency and civil unrest. Since January 2004, there have been regular attacks including bombings and shootings. The Thai Government has declared a serious state of emergency in the provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

## Ode to Ireland

As I yearn for the ole' sod  
I have to sit and ponder  
how did such a beautiful land  
get all the grace and wonder

From the green rolling hills  
and all the shades of green  
it truly is a miracle  
that these old eyes have seen

From hearing the wailing  
of banshee's in the wind  
and fairies in the candlelight  
dancing with whistles made of tin

With the leprechauns and the pot of gold  
and the luck from the Irish it brings  
it never ceases to amaze me  
when the Irish music sings

With the jigs, reels and hornpipes  
and the pride that was instilled in me  
I'm proud to say I'm Irish  
and this I know you see

To all the lads and lasses  
if you're Irish or not  
I hope some day you get there  
and see what I fear not

So here's to Ireland  
and to the call  
and may God bless you  
one and all

By Tammy M. Donahue-McGing

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## Carmelite Center offers Irish/Celtic history class

Now you can learn a bit about the Emerald Isle before you visit again!

The Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois is offering a course in Irish/Celtic history entitled "Creative Celtic Peoples: Founders of Modern Europe" through October 30th. The Monday course is offered in two sessions each presentation day: 10 am to noon, or 7-9 pm.

The Rev. Kevin O'Neill Shanley, a noted Celtic scholar, is conducting the six-week course with lectures, videos and personal insights about the triumphs and failures, pathos and exhilaration of these unusual Celtic peoples who had such a great influence on the continent of Europe and the British Isles, and Ireland. The course is open to the public.

The Carmelite Spiritual Center is located on the Stevenson Expressway (I-55) at Cass Ave. North in Darien, IL. For information please call 630.969.4141.

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# Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

## We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



### PATRIOTS ALL

You are no longer considered unpatriotic if you oppose the war in Iraq, but "You are wrong," said President George W. Bush. The war on terror must continue! Still the Republican attack dogs have been eviscerating everybody who speaks out against the war.

Equally frustrating is the fact that the Democrats are not unified in their opposition to the war. The Democrats do not have a strong presidential candidate. Somebody has to emerge as a leader! If the Democrats don't regain the majority in the House and Senate this time around, they never will!

Now we have it officially! There was no connection between Iraq, Al Qaida and the events of 9/11. Anybody who doesn't understand this war is about nothing but oil, and that it has benefitted companies like Haliburton, formerly run by Vice President Dick Cheney, no bid

contracts for all the Republican fat cats and no accountability... If you don't understand all of that, you are flat out dumb!

Poorly equipped U.S. troops in Iraq are lacking the armor to make the Humvees safer and bulletproof vests, add helmet liners to the mix, the sins of omission are endless. Military brass relish armed conflict as there are lots of opportunities for promotion. Enlisted men are less than enthusiastic because they are more likely to get killed or maimed. Nonetheless, the right thing to do is to support our troops.

The real fight takes place at the voting booth on November 7th. If you don't exercise your right to vote, you're flat out dumb! I wouldn't dream of telling you how or who to vote for; you need to think for yourself. Think about the needs of our country. Why are we out of sync with our allies, primarily the

European Union? Tony Blair is on his way out because of Iraq, and I remind you again Iraq is all about oil. Meanwhile, British Petroleum in their greed to maximize profits has failed to properly maintain the Alaskan pipeline. Did you ever notice that BP has the highest gas prices? I wouldn't buy their product unless I was flat out desperate. While working on the column on the anniversary of 9/11, President Bush seized the opportunity to politicize the commemoration and justify the war.

I have a close friend whose son is headed for Fallujah. We will worry about him and pray for his safe return. Think of all the troops out there, many of whom have had their tour of duty or enlistment extended involuntarily.

The next key date is 11-7, remember it! Remember the national debt. Remember the bureaucratic bullshit, the outright lies and deception. Remember Iraq!

Samuel Johnson, a prolific English writer during the last half of the 18th century is famous for having said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." James Leroy Wilson made the following observation on August 1, 2001, "Perhaps Samuel Johnson's most famous quotation is "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." The point, as I have always understood it, is that appealing to loyalty to one's own country is the act of the demagogue, of one who will say and do anything to gain public approval and political power. Primarily, it casts those who disagree as unpatriotic, hostile to the institutions and interests of their own country. Honest disagreement becomes character assassination. Underneath the appeal is the exploitation of bigoted or prejudiced feelings of the masses." Sounds like the Karl Rove manifesto, the Republican Party credo.

### GENEVA CONVENTION

President George W. Bush wants the authority to continue the abuse of

prisoners of war. Abu Ghraib Prison and Guantanamo Bay are a stain that will take years to wash out.

**CHOCOLATE CO. COOK**  
While in Kenya, Barack Obama said "my own city of Chicago has been the home of the most corrupt local politics in American history over the years."

Referring to government corruption he said, "Here in Kenya there is a crisis... that's robbing honest people of the opportunities they fought for."

Hasn't corruption effected the honest people of Cook County? The patronage jobs, the hiring freeze that "thawed out quickly" last spring? Obscene pension plans, and double-dipping, while Cook County heads for a \$300 million deficit. Bobbie Steele, interim president of the Cook County Board, had John Stroger's patronage chief Gerald Nichols evicted from his office. He had a position with no job description paying \$114,000 a year. Bobbie Steele had to make a move because the heat's on.

Enter Todd Stroger, now vowing to cut spending, although he's been feeding off the system for years. Forest Claypool is on the outside looking in, or is it on the inside looking out?

Senator Obama while in Kenya also said, "Ethnic based politics has got to stop." There are roughly 42 ethnic groups in Kenya. We have at least that many or more here in Chicago, is anybody in Chicago listening? A strong suburban backlash at the voting booth could put a stop to this.

### CONGRESSMAN JACKSON

Now Jesse Jackson, Jr. wants to run for Mayor of Chicago. Maybe he should run for mayor of Peotone, Illinois out near the airport. Why is his rhetoric always so full of righteous indignation? Example, Mayor Daley's veto of the Big Box ordinance.

Boyle the Kettle is on board with

Mayor Richard M. Daley on this one. Nobody starts at the top. Jobs, no matter how menial, get people off the welfare rolls and lets them learn some basic skills.

### TOPINKA

In a word, tactless!  
Obama for President?  
He's an impressive man, but first let's see how he does as Senator.

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Soon to be former Senator... not capable of making an impartial decision on Iraq.

### POPE BENEDICT XVI

Silentium est a rectum.

### TIM SHEEHAN BENEFIT

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Officer Tim Sheehan

was critically injured on February 15, 2006, when a drunk driver hit his squad car head on. His injuries are both neurological and orthopedic. Rigorous physical therapy is a daily occurrence. His needs at home require making the home handicap accessible. The benefit will take place Friday, Oct, 20, 2006 at 7 PM in the Million Dollar Room at Arlington Park Race Track. Tickets are \$30. Call Jim McGrath 847-368-5390 or Marty Quill 847-456-3358 for more information. Make checks payable to Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 80. Mail to P.O. Box 674, Arlington Heights, IL 60006. Raffle prizes and silent auction items are needed.

### TONY O'FRIEDMANN

My friend Tony O'Friedmann is now in hospice care, my wish for you Tony .....

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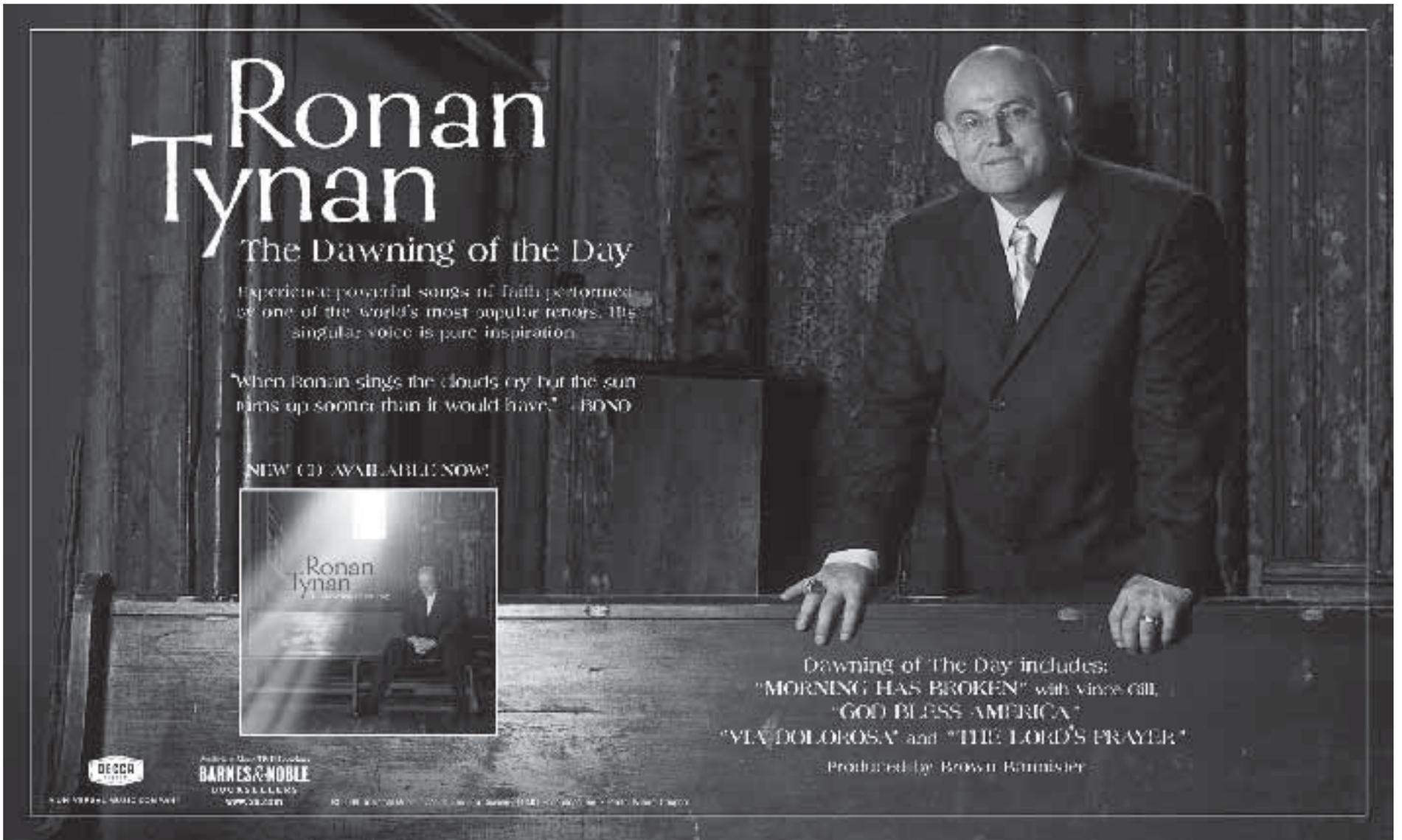
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# Irish Books & Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST



Eugene O'Neill said, "The critics have missed the most important thing about me and my work, the fact that I am Irish."

O'Neill was very proud of his Irish heritage. In this scene from *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, The Tyrone family enjoy this story of a bank Irishman. It is quoted from *The American Irish* by William F. Shannon.

"Edward [who is O'Neill himself] recounts the triumph of his father's brutal thugocracy in a quarrel with Harber, a Yankee millionaire concerning some pigs which have broken through a fence and wandered into Harber's pond. Edward tells what happens when Harber comes to complain: "Somebody got a few drinks under his belt and was waiting at the gate to welcome him. He told me he never gave Harber a chance to open his mouth. He began by shouting that he was no slave Standard Oil could tempt me. He was a King of Ireland if he had his rights, and soon was soon to him, no matter how much money it had stolen from the poor."

Mary: Oh, Lord! (But she can't help laughing.)

Father: The damned old scoundrill! By God, you can't beat him! (He laughs then stops abruptly and scowls.) The dirty blaggard! He'll get me in serious trouble yet. I hope you told him I'd be mad as hell.

Edward: I told him you'd be tickled to death by the great Irish victory, and so you are. Stop faking, Papa!

This review is experimental because it blends the experiences of both books and the theater.

I recently saw Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece play *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. The Gift Theater Company produced it. I've seen several productions of this wonderful play, but this one was outstanding, powerful and sensitive.

The Gift will give out this play through October 15th at 4802 N. Milwaukee, across the street from the Jefferson Park Blue Line stop. 773.283-7071.

I had read several articles about O'Neill over the years, but to prepare to see this play and write this review I read a biography, *Eugene O'Neill*, by Olivia Coolidge. (published by Charles Scribner's Sons.)

Other biographies from the late 1950's and early 1960's (O'Neill died in 1953) are *O'Neill* by Barbara and Arthur Galka, and *The Tempering of Eugene O'Neill* by Davis Alexander.

The American Market TV series recently published a video about his life and work.

O'Neill lived from 1888 to 1953. He

wrote over thirty plays, all based on his own life and experiences. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1936, and also won four Pulitzer Prizes. He wrote the wonderful comedy *Ah, Wilderness*, which helped win the Nobel Prize because it helped show the extraordinary range of his playwrighting talents: from serious, almost grim dramas to this delightful comedy.

*Long Day's Journey Into Night* is his masterpiece. It was written between 1939 and 1941. Out of concern for living relatives it purposely wasn't produced until the mid 1950's. It won the Pulitzer in 1957.

The *Encyclopedia of World Biography* says about the great dramatist Eugene O'Neill: "His main concern was with the anguish and turmoil that wrack the spirit of sensitive people."

O'Neill grew up in a family that developed his "inner anguish" and made him extremely observant of people and their actions.

His play, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, is a best case day in the life

of his family. He shows their incredible complexity, fears, enthusiasms and why they made the decisions they did.

His father, James, was a talented, handsome actor, but he had been ruined in grinding poverty and he could never escape this experience.

He bought the rights to *The Coast of Monte Cristo* and presented this play for over thirty years. He became a wealthy man, but at the cost of his talent. He only played that one role for so long that he could not play anything else.

His upbringing in poverty made James always desperately afraid that he could lose everything and end up in the "poorhouse." Because of this fear he pinched pennies. He didn't want to hire good, experienced doctors who might have helped with his wife and son's health.

A mediocre doctor prescribed too much morphine to his mother when Eugene was born. She became addicted and made the child Eugene feel that somehow he was to blame.

His brother could have become an actor with plenty of talent, but instead became a hopeless alcoholic.

About his grim family life, O'Neill says in the play, "Who would look at life as it really is, if they could help it?"

Fundamentally, he had great compassion for humanity. Often we are caught up in situations beyond our control and

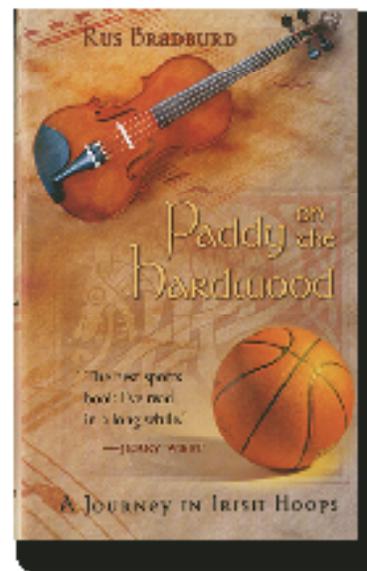


Eugene O'Neill

## Paddy on the Hardwood by Russ Bradburd

Coach Russ Bradburd thought he would go to Ireland to finish a book and maybe do a little coaching. Boy, was he mistaken.

Bradburd did a lot of coaching. When he arrived in Tulsa, the Tigers were in last place, and most of the



team's players—a crowd bunch of misfits and underachievers—were more interested in their day jobs, football, and Guinness. After a successful freshman season in the NCAA, Bradburd was unaccustomed to losing. In Tulsa, he turned to his love of fiddling and traditional Irish music to get him through the depressing season.

In *Paddy on the Hardwood*, Bradburd recounts the struggle to transform Tulsa's Tigers into a team of winners. Along the way, Bradburd comes to realizations about his own life as a writer and fiddler and his career on and off of the court.

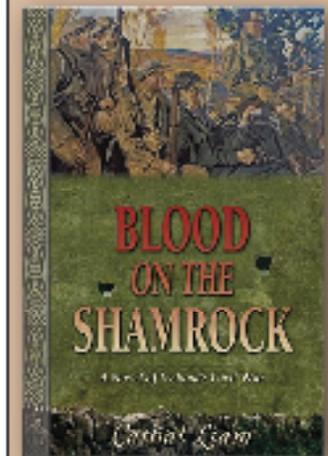
Russ Bradburd, a Chicago native, was an assistant basketball coach at the University of Texas, El Paso, and at New Mexico State University. Available at bookstores or from the University of New Mexico Press. 800-269-7737 or visit [www.unmupress.com](http://www.unmupress.com). University of New Mexico Press, 2004. (8-226)-4824-1; 200 pages; \$24.95 hardcover.

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Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Ireland's cultural movement, was founded in 1951 to promote traditional Irish music, song, dance and language. Currently, there are 400 branches worldwide and up to 2 million people attend Comhaltas functions each year.

This year's Echoes of Erin tour starts in Dublin on October 8, travels through Canada and North America and wraps up in Chicago in late October. Thirteen Irish and British-born musicians and singers, as well as 4 dancers, will take the stage on fiddle, harp, flute, accordion, banjo.

The line-up for the Tour is as follows:  
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 Nóra Butler (Tipperary) – Singer  
 Geraldine O'Callaghan (Cork) – Fiddle  
 Ronan Greene (Galway) – Fiddle  
 Sabina McCague (Monaghan) – Harp

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 Sarah Flannery (London) – Dancer  
 Carly Adams (London) – Dancer  
 Patricia Ward (London) – Dancer

Katy Flannery (London) – Dancer  
 Brendan Reilly (Laois) – Tour Manager  
 John Barrett (Laois) – Singer  
 Echoes of Erin is Friday, October 20th, 2006 at 8 PM. Tickets are \$15 for IAHC members and \$20 for the general public. Please call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 for further information.

## "Abie's Irish Rose", A Comedy in Three Acts, at Gaelic Park starting November 3, 2006

Gaelic Park Players Fall Show is Abie's Irish Rose Gaelic Park Players are proud to announce their Fall Show for 2006 will be "Abie's Irish Rose", A Comedy in Three Acts, by Anne Nichols. The show will be directed by long time member of the GPP's Mick Kenna. This is Mick's directing debut and he is wished all the best. Producer is Lisa Kreuger and Assistant Director Georgina Chapman.

"Abie's Irish Rose" was first produced in New York on May 23, 1922 by the author Anne Nichols. It was a tremendous hit with audiences and ran for more than 2,300 performances. The play deals with the ups and downs that come with mixed marriages, in this case the plight of Jewish born Abie and Catholic born Rose Mary.

The two have secretly been married, but now must face the task of telling their families. "Abie's Irish Rose" is a heart-warming comedy, with plenty of unexpected surprises and a cast of characters that will make you laugh.

Show Dates: Fridays, November 3rd, 10th & 17th 8:00 PM; Saturdays, November 4th, 11th & 18th 8:00 PM; Sundays 5th, 12th & 19th 3:00 PM.

Tickets are \$10.00 for Theatre Performance only. Tickets are \$20.00 for Dinner/Theatre Combination-Sundays Only. Reservations are a must for Dinner/Theatre. For Tickets & Reservations call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323. Gaelic Park-6119 W. 147th St.-Oak Forest, IL 60452 [www.gpplayers.org](http://www.gpplayers.org).



Sean's Bar, Athlone, Co. Westmeath was the sight of the official launch of "Parting Glass," a new book by Eric Roth with Eileen McNamara, celebrating the traditional pubs of Ireland. Pictured (l to r): Padraic Dunne; owner of Loughree Publishing, Timmy Donovan; proprietor of Sean's Bar, Susan Victoria; Senior editor design & architecture of Metropolitan Home Magazine, and Cliff Carlson; publisher of Irish American News (Chicago), and founder of the Irish American Media Group (USA). Eric Roth, a Boston-based photographer, pays tribute to the "real" Irish pubs of Ireland in *The Parting Glass*. There are about 10,000 pubs to choose from, and the book had limited space, so he picked 43 representative establishments to capture on film. Eileen McNamara, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe columnist, went along for the trip and provided the text to support Roth's images. Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.beerbooks.com](http://www.beerbooks.com) and [www.bestwebbuys.com](http://www.bestwebbuys.com).



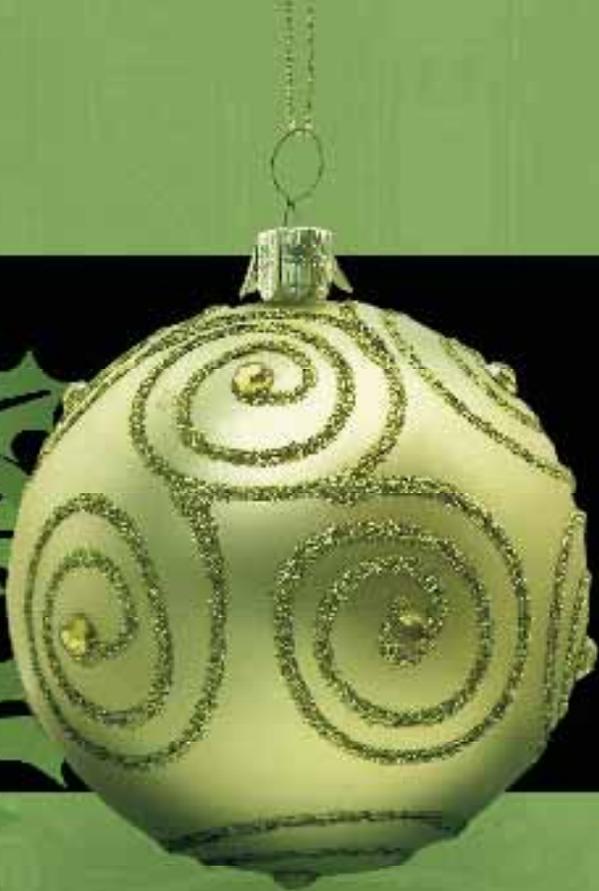
(l to r): Larry Coughlin, Tom Kearney, Noel Finnerty and Barney Farrelly rehearsing for "Abie's Irish Rose."



## Pillowman at Steppenwolf through November 12

Ensemble members Yasen Peyankov and Jim True-Frost in "The Pillowman" by Martin McDonagh, directed by ensemble member Amy Morton. The production plays in the Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre through November 12, 2006. For tickets, visit [www.rippenwolf.org](http://www.rippenwolf.org) or call 312-335-1888.

Photo: Michael Brosilow





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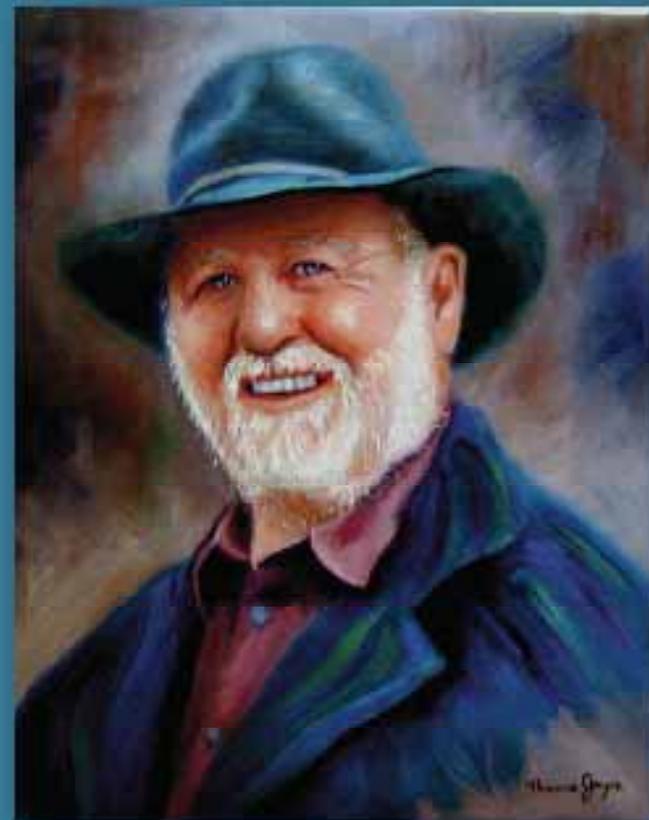
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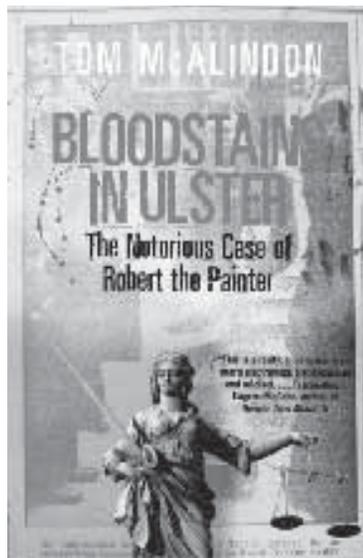
## Bloodstains in Ulster: The notorious case of Robert the Painter

by Thomas McAlindon

On Easter Saturday, 1949, a middle class Catholic woman, Mary McGowan, was brutally attacked in her home. Despite the assailant's best efforts, she survived and was able to name her attacker, "Robert the Painter." Her statement was made to no less than three witnesses and the man in question, Robert Taylor, a young, lower class Protestant man, was quickly arrested for assault. When Mrs. McGowan succumbed to her injuries two days later, the charges were elevated to murder and the already volatile atmosphere of 1940s Belfast was swept into a sectarian frenzy, with little regard for justice.

In all Robert Taylor faced three trials, one hung jury, one found him guilty in less than 40 minutes, and one judge looked through Orange eyes to find Robert a way out. The circumstances of his appeal, and subsequent release, were controversial at the time, and McAlindon, a Belfast native who lived through it, suggests that it was more than a simple mistake, but a combination of a conniving manipulation of the jury, and sectarian leanings at the highest levels of the law.

Released on the anniversary of his



second trial, Bloodstains in Ulster looks carefully at Robert's ordeal, both the particulars of the case, and the public and media reaction which became a microcosm of the Troubles to come. McAlindon looks at the sectarian lines of Belfast, already clearly drawn in 1949 and the way in which they let a horrible crime go unpunished. He concludes with updates on the critical players, the victim's daughter and Robert himself, who became an almost myth after his moment of notoriety.

Bloodstains in Ulster: The No-

torious Case of Robert the Painter by Thomas McAlindon. The Liffey Press; Publication Date: October 24, 2006; Exclusively distributed in the US by Dufour Editions Inc. (1-904148-91-3); 174 pages, \$16.95; info@dufourEditions.com.

## Battle of the Boyne site gains planning permission

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern, T.D., confirmed that the government will bring forward development of the Battle of the Boyne site in close consultation with all traditions on the island.

"This is a welcome and important development. The ceremonies this year marking the anniversaries of the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme – and the public response to them – have shown how our past can act as a powerful force for reconciling the traditions on this island, where previously it divided us".

"Work on development of the Battle of the Boyne site has been brought forward in close consultation with representatives of the unionist tradition and has benefited greatly from their advice and input. This consultation will continue as we bring this important project to a successful and early conclusion".

## Mayo Dinner Dance and Mass

The Mayo Association 16th Annual Dinner Dance and Mass will be held at Chicago Gaelic Park on Saturday, October 28th, 2006.

Gaelic Park's Chaplain, Fr. Melody, will celebrate Mass prior to the Dinner Dance at 5:00 pm.

Cocktails will be served at 6:30 pm; dinner will begin at 7:30 pm. Music will be provided by the Jerry Gleason-Ted Healy Band. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Make reservations by calling Tess Reaney at 708.424.4995.

## IAHC Continues Discussion Series

The IAHC Library continues its discussion group this fall. Great Irish American Books and Authors runs through May 2007 in the IAHC Library on the second Sunday of the month at 2pm. The discussion is free and open to the public.

The discussion is led by moderator, Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. Gibbons has taught at Oakton Community College since 1989, as a writing and ESL teacher. She has taught Modern Irish Literature and Chicago literature. Gibbons is a member of the Geneva Writers' Group and holds a B.A. from Loyola University and an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Northeastern Illinois University.

Some of the books discussed will be In the Castle of the Flynns by Michael Raleigh, Pearl by Mary Gordon and Hour of the Cat by Peter Quinn.

For information on the Great Irish American Books and Authors discussion group, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 19.

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# CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



## Chicago Gaels Bring Home 4 National Titles

A large Chicago contingent of Gaels traveled with their teams to Philadelphia over the Labor Day weekend and brought home four national titles amidst great excitement and jubilation. The winners are Senior hurling. Harry Bolands, Senior Football, Wolfe Tones, Junior A. football, Parnells, Senior ladies football, and St. Brigid's. Congratulations one and all and of course to the Juveniles who are always in the winner circle. Sorry we have no more information at this time, but feel sure that they all upheld great tradition of Chicago gaeldom, established back over 50 years ago, when the Harry Boland hurlers captured the first Midwestern title.

In other Chicago GAA news, the countless friends of Tom Byrne, outstanding footballer, impartial referee, and superb football coach of the your program, bid "Farewell and God Speed" to "Big Tom," his

charming wife Joan and family as they left recently to take up permanent residence and begin a new life in Ireland.

"Big Tom" provided great leadership in every job that he undertook in promoting the National game of Ireland in Chicago and indeed in the United States. His leadership in many areas but especially in the youth program will be missed, especially now when it looks as new proposed U.S. immigration laws will almost virtually exclude the Irish immigrants to life and work here permanently. Now more than ever we need coaches in hurling and football for our young Irish-American Gaels who will eventually take over leadership in playing and promoting.

We join with the countless friends of Tom and Joan in wishing them every success in their new life in Ireland. Chicago's loss is Ireland's gain no doubt, "Big Tom" will take up in some lucky county where he left off here.

Slainte a cairde agus beannact Dc at an oibre.

## Irish Harvest Day

Eamon Malone, a household name at Gaelic Park and his fine committee had everything in readiness recently as Chicago Gaeldom for the annual Harvest Day Festival. Old Timers, like myself enjoyed all the fun and games as we recalled the old steam engine wending its way up the long "boreen" to be greeted by "a bunch of lads" waiting for the action. During the action the "Craic" (fun) was mighty. A drop of Guinness made the evening as soon as we were at the crossroad, dancing the long evening away. Those were memorable times.

Eamon Malone and countless others like him do much to make Chicago Gaelic Park an ideal location to maintain the glorious heritage of our homeland in promoting its games, language, heritage, and the song, dance, and music of the Gael. One of the many social attractions on the program for the fall and winter months is the popular "Celtic Supper," providing an ideal occasion for groups to celebrate holidays, special occasions, such as family get-together dinners etc. Fine food and entertainment is available each Sunday evening for the very minimal price of \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children

under 12. The dinners start at 4 in the afternoon and music and dancing is from 6 to 9 in the evening. The Hennessy Clan will get together this November for it's 6th annual dinner. See you at the park, God willing.

## Chicago-Irish Policeman Still Being Deprived of His Honor!

Last issue we wrote about a Chicago-Irish Police officer, "Constable" Quinn, who was being deprived of his rightful honor of being named and honored as the first officer killed in the line of duty in 1853. Despite all the evidence presented according to reader Richard D. Barrett, the "Police Brass," named Casper Lauer, who was killed less than a year later and honored him September 18th at the 152nd anniversary when the \$5 million Chicago Police History Museum opened on the lakefront.

Mr. Barrett first discovered the "mistake" when he was checking records for his own family roots. He immediately brought it to the attention of the police only to be told, that Quinn's death "was not in the line of duty," despite the fact the records show Mrs. Quinn, the widow of the slain police officer received compensation for the death of her husband, "killed in the line

of duty." The Chicago City Council of that day, even recorded it, and recorded the compensation to the officer's widow.

Mr. Barrett brought it to the attention of Alderman Ed Burke, who scheduled a meeting at which William Bazarck, Police General Counsel, promised to review all the evidence saying, "From what I have this is certainly a compelling case. Absolutely."

Mr. Russell Lewis, Chief Historian of the Chicago History Museum has led a team of researchers and they have spent most of the summer conducting an independent verification and validation of Mr. Barrett's research on Officer Quinn. They were expected to conclude this study in September, hopefully before the opening of the Police History Museum and then deliver it to the Chicago City Council Committee on Fire and Police. Alderman Beavers is chairman of that committee and Alderman Ed Burke is on the committee as well. Hopefully they will determine the "mistake" and correct it in the interest of justice. People ask no more but deserve no less.

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*Alexander's Ragtime Band*  
*Oh, You Beautiful Doll*  
*Babyface*  
*Ma! He's Making Eyes at Me*  
*Zing! Went the Strings of my Heart*  
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Govern, Development Officer, Br. Rice High School, who graciously forwarded a copy of "Footsteps-Walking with Edmund," telling about all the wonderful work that is being done in establishing the Edmund Rice Heritage Centers in Ireland. Ten years after beatification by Pope John II and two centuries after the first community school opened in Barrack Street, Waterford City, work is underway there to transform "Mount Sion" and other Rice Centers, throughout Ireland.

Other Rice Centers include his ancestral home in Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, O'Connell School in Dublin, and the Presentation Brothers Heritage Center in the famed Mardyke, Cork City. Upon completion followers of the "Brothers" will go to Ireland to view and enjoy the many Centers in honor of their beloved founder, Br. Edmund. That will be a historic day as will his canonization. Le conum De (please God.)

Br. McGovern also directs an appeal to all followers to help the Retired Brother Fund. We all have our memories of favorite Brothers, at home in and in exile and we must not forget them now in their well-deserved retirement. Please send your donation to Retired Brothers Fund, c/o Br. Donald McGovern, Development Officer, P.O. Box

42903, Evergreen Park, Illinois, 60805.

Other news from the Edmund Rice Associates is "Our Heritage Day," October 28th at 3:30 in the afternoon at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, by the Edmund Rice Monument and the celebration of Holy Mass at 5 in the evening at St. Laurence High School in Burbank, Illinois. A light dinner will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

For more information call Br. John Dorubas at 1-773-445-4988.

**First Bloody Sunday**

The first "Bloody Sunday" in Ireland occurred on November 21, 1921 when 14 leading members of the British Secret Service, with the British Army were killed in Dublin in action with the Irish volunteers, fighting for freedom for their country. These men were spies sent to Dublin on a special mission to counter the activities of the Volunteers and "get" Michael Collins "dead or alive." British revenge was swift and it happened in a few hours.

An estimated 10,000 spectators were watching a football game between Dublin and Tipperary at Croke Park when an aeroplane circled the stadium, fired a Verey Light and a burst of machine fire in the crowd below. This apparently was the signal to start the

reprisal as Black and Tan tanks and trucks burst open the main gates and immediately opened fire into the inoffensive crowd. As the thousands attempted to get out of harm's way, they raced for the exits or other spots only to be fired upon by the outraged Black and Tan soldiers. Dead and wounded lay on the ground as armed men raced into the stadium using rifle butts to beat up the crowd. It was a terrible scene.

When it was all over 14 men, women, and children lay dead on the ground with hundreds wounded. One of the dead was Michael Hogan, the Tipperary goalkeeper, who lay in his goal, shot in the mouth. People trying to aid the wounded were attached with rifle butts, including two brave priests who were trying to administer Last Rites. It was one of the worst attacks on unarmed men, women, and children in the sordid history of the British occupation of Ireland. Croke Park stand was named after the dead Tipperary player. Michael Hogan. Heroine of the day was a Sligo girl, Annie Burke who remained kneeling whilst Father Patrick Crotty, OSA administered the Last Rites. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.

**Two Great All-Ireland Finalists Televised into**

**Gaelic Park**

Courtesy of Chicago GAA and the Park's Board of Directors, two great All-Ireland finals, hurling and football were beamed in live from the scene of action, Croke Park in Dublin. Renovated and considered one of the finest sporting stadiums in Europe, if not the globe, sell-out houses, over 80,000 at both events testified to the attraction of Ireland's national pastimes.

At Gaelic Park, Harry Costello (man for all seasons) and Joe Begley, former Chicago GAA chair-

man, had everything in readiness and a large crowd for both games enjoyed all the facilities and the countless thrills and skills of the players.

In the hurling final, Kilkenny striving to prevent Cork from winning three in a row came prepared to take the Liam McCarty cup back to the Noreside, whilst Cork the champions were quietly confident of winning the three in a row, and restoring the coveted title to its place by the Lee. It was expected to

*Continued to page 19*

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# Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.  
Senior Partner



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

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). [www.HealyLawFirm.com](http://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.

## Frivolous Lawsuits

As trial lawyers representing seriously injured individuals, we are frequently questioned about the nature of lawsuits. The term "frivolous lawsuit" has become a catch phrase. The most frequent example used is the McDonald's case. It is almost ten years since the McDonald's case. Most individuals are of the opinion that the case was the worst example of our civil justice system gone awry.

A close examination of the facts beyond the myth shows that rather than being an example of a civil justice system gone awry, the McDonald's case is in fact an example of a civil justice system designed to present equal protection to all parties whether you are a 70 year old retiree or a billion dollar corporation.

The McDonald's scalding coffee case has become the poster child for frivolous lawsuits. No one is in favor of frivolous cases; however, it is important to understand some points that were not reported in most of the stories about the case.

McDonald's coffee was not only hot, it was scalding - capable of almost instantaneous destruction of skin, flesh and muscle.

## Facts Of The McDonald's Case

Stella Liebeck of Albuquerque, New Mexico was a 79-year-old grandmother seated in the passenger seat of her grandson's car when she was severely burned by McDonald's coffee in February of 1992. One of the more prevalent myths about this case is that Ms. Liebeck was driving the car or that the vehicle was in motion when she spilled the coffee. Neither in fact is true.

Ms. Liebeck's grandson pulled up to the drive-thru window, and received his order. He pulled his car forward and stopped momentarily so that Ms. Liebeck could add cream and sugar to her coffee. Ms. Liebeck placed the cup between her knees and attempted to remove the plastic lid from the cup. As Ms. Liebeck removed the lid, the entire contents of the cup spilled into her lap.

A vascular surgeon testified that Ms. Liebeck suffered third degree burns to her inner thighs, groin, perineum and genitals. The sweat pants she was wearing absorbed the heat and held it next to her skin. She was hospitalized for eight days during which time she underwent skin grafting and debridement treatments, which is a nice way of describing the surgical removal of tissue. Ms. Liebeck offered to settle her claim for \$20,000.00 before filing suit. McDonald's refused. The case was filed.

In every civil law suit there is a process called discovery wherein both sides produce documents that are pertinent to the case. In the Liebeck case, McDonald's produced documents showing more than seven hundred claims by people who had been burned by their coffee between 1982 and 1992 including some claims that involved third degree burns substantially similar to that of Ms. Liebeck.

McDonald's admitted that they had known about the risk of the serious burns from the scalding hot coffee for more than ten years. McDonald's admitted that up until that point it did not warn customers

of the nature and extent of the risk and could offer no explanation as to why it did not. Ms. Liebeck's treating physician testified that her injuries were one of the worst scald burns he had ever seen.

McDonald's quality assurance manager testified that a burn hazard exists with any food served about 140 degrees. McDonald's training manual recommended that the coffee be brewed between one hundred and ninety five to two hundred and five degrees Fahrenheit and held at one hundred and eighty to one hundred and ninety degrees Fahrenheit. The quality assurance manager testified that the company actively enforces a requirement that coffee be held in the pot at 185 degrees, plus or minus 5 degrees and further testified that while burns do occur, McDonald's had no intentions of reducing the holding temperature of its coffee.

Coffee served at the one hundred and eighty to one hundred ninety degree Fahrenheit temperature, if spilled, causes third degree burns in two to seven seconds. The skin is burned away down to the muscle, fatty/fatty tissue layer. Third degree burns do not heal without skin grafting, debridement and whirlpool treatment that cost tens of thousands of dollars and result in permanent disfigurement, extreme pain and disability of the victim for many months and in some cases years.

In a survey of coffee taken in the fast food industry, no fast food service came closer than twenty degrees in temperature to the McDonald's coffee. As an additional factor it should be noted that prior to the Liebeck case, the prestigious Schrieners Burn Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio had published warnings to the franchise food industry that its members were unnecessarily causing scald burns by serving beverages above one hundred thirty degrees Fahrenheit.

McDonald's claimed that customers buy their coffee on their way to work or home intending to consume it there. However, the companies own research showed that customers intended to consume the coffee while driving. The testimony of Mr. Christopher Appleton, a McDonald's executive, did not help the company. He testified that McDonald's knew that their coffee sometimes caused serious burns, but had not consulted burn experts about it. He also testified that McDonald's had decided not to warn customers about the possibility of severe burns even though people wouldn't think it possible. Finally he testified that McDonald's did not intend to change any policies or procedures saying, "There are more

serious dangers in restaurants".

McDonald's words came back to haunt them. Juror Jack Elliot was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying the case had been about "callous disregard of the safety of people". McDonald's called as a defense witness, P. Robert Knaff, a human factors engineer who several jurors testified did not help McDonald's case either. Knaff told the jury that the hot coffee burns were statistically insignificant when compared to the billions of cups of coffee that McDonald's sells annually. The jurors stated that Dr. Knaff seemed to be saying that the graphic photos they had seen of Ms. Liebeck's burns didn't matter because they were rare. One juror said, "There was a person behind every number and I don't think the corporation was attaching enough importance to that", said juror Betty Farham.

The jury awarded Stella Liebeck \$200,000.00 in compensatory damages. This award was reduced by twenty percent due to the comparative negligence of Ms. Liebeck. This reduced the award to \$160,000.00. The jury determined that Ms. Liebeck was twenty percent at fault. The jury also awarded 2.7 million dollars in punitive damages which equaled about two days of coffee sales.

## Conclusion

Following the trial of Ms. Liebeck's case, the judge who presided over it reduced the punitive damages award to \$480,000.00, even though the judge called McDonald's conduct reckless, callous and willful. Punitive damages often do not go entirely to the injured party. In Illinois, at the trial court's discretion, they are divided between the Illinois Department of Human Services, the plaintiff and plaintiff's attorney. The reduction in compensatory and punitive damages is a corrective feature built in to our legal system. In the end, both parties agreed to a settlement of the claim for a sum reported to be much less than the judges reduced award.

Here, the plaintiff received compensation for terrible injuries. And, McDonald's changed its policy about warnings and reduced the temperature of the coffee to help prevent future serious injuries. So, in this case and in the vast majority of cases, the civil justice system really does work.

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

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## Chicago Gaelic News

*Continued from page 17*

be a nail biter and it was all that and more.

The pace and intensity of this thriller from start to finish had to be seen to be believed, and if anyone attempts to tell you that this is not the "fastest game in the world" don't believe him. Kilkenny forwards were a puzzle to the star Cork back line from the start with sharpshooters changing places frequently, and with the lads from the Lee being unable to cope, the Noresiders held the upper hand from the start. Fogarty's flash goal just before halftime left Kilkenny leading by three points.

Cork could never get on terms after the break with star, Tommy Walsh, and others breaking up every attack. And going into the finish Cork did scrape through with a good goal, but it was too late and the cup went back to the Nore midst great jubilation. Congrats to both teams for a wonderful display, one of the best seen in a long time. My thanks to the great gael, Mike Kenny who called "the good news" immediately. Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde gael.

The minor final between champions, Galway, heavily fancied to defeat Tipperary, suffered another surprise, loosing by 7 points in another thriller. Congrats to all concerned. Our thanks to Martine Hughes. Managers of TJ Maloney's Tavern at the Star Radisson Hotel in Merrillville off Highway 30 for a private family showing on Monday night.

The All-Ireland football final between Kerry and Mayo, was anything but a thriller as the Kingdom's power house won pulling up, 5-15 to 3-5. The lads from Mayo fresh from a great victory over Leinster champions Dublin a few weeks back were expected to at least give Kerry a good hard fought game. But, they failed to even live up to Dublin game form and to many pundits "never got off the ground." In a great Minor final, Roscommon and Kerry drew, 14 points each.

Tradition is a big asset, especially against football powerhouses like Kerry who bring up their players through the ranks; schools, minors, under 21, and senior. Usually the team that beats Kerry wins the all-Ireland. Congratulations to both teams senior and minor. Our congrats also to Chicago-Kerry stalwards, Mike Kenny, Johnny Lynch, Ty Murphy, Riordan's, Jim Barton and so many others.

## Judge Peter Flynn: High thinking, common sense

by Bob Blackwood

Judge Peter Flynn of the Cook County Circuit Court, Chancery Division, reminds you of the term used for the people in President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's cabinet: "the best and the brightest." Indeed, he graduated with a BA from Harvard and a LLB law degree from Yale. And, yes, he even joined the Peace Corps in 1967 and worked in Nigeria—both as a lecturer in a Nigerian law school and as a worker with a Yoruba tribe who helped the tribesmen to build their own water sanitation plant. There is a story there.



As Judge Flynn explained, Nigeria was a kind of a "reality shock" for a young man fresh from college. "In my youthful enthusiasm, I told the local Yoruba chief that the infant mortality rate would be cut in half with a new water sanitation system. A few meetings went by before the chief expressed any interest. I knew that if this project did not go over with his people, the chief would be out of a job. Finally, the chief asked me: 'How am I going to feed twice as many people? I don't want to have trouble with my neighbors because we need more land to grow crops.'"

He answered the chief by bringing in two agricultural specialists who advised him how to increase crop yield and how to diversify his crops. Then, the chief agreed to build the sanitation system, which his tribe was able to service and probably still maintains.

You see, Peter Flynn not only is bright, he has common sense too.

If you see him speaking to community groups, Judge Peter Flynn may be saying something that others are not. "Our civil law system needs some reform. The courts should be part of a dispute resolution system." In other words, lawyers should stop just challenging each other. Instead more lawyers should be

looking for ways to resolve problems for their clients.

In Flynn's terms, lawyers should be "dispute resolution professionals" rather than exclusively advocates of one side's position in a law suit. They should use arbitration and mediation as well as lawsuits—whatever is the best means of solving that particular problem. "Lawsuits aren't about law, they're about solving problems. If we're not trying to solve the problem, we're not doing our job."

Judge Peter Flynn works in the chancery division, dealing with a broad range of big and small disputes. Some are really big, like asbestos insurance cases involving 50 or 60 insurance companies and policies written as long ago as 50 years. Some are small, perhaps two or three family members arguing over who owns the house. But they all need solutions that work. His attitude towards his courtroom is that it is his job to create an environment in which the litigants can work out their problems in civil cases. "Nobody does their best in an atmosphere of intimidation," Flynn says. He feels that the attorneys, and the parties, can do a lot to solve their own problems if they are assured that they will receive a fair hearing and the judge is open to their views. This Democrat feels that the legislative branch of government, as well as the Judicial Branch, may be able to do more than they currently do to assist the resolution of many complex problems.

When you meet Judge Peter Flynn, you know that you are talking to a man with a great memory. Mention an author—Shakespeare or Charles Dickens—and he often will give you a quotation from his or her work, though he does this in a way that tells you he also appreciates the author's style. He reminds you of those Irishmen of an older generation who can recite poetry for hours, though Flynn condenses his thought. There is nothing of the showboat in his manner. Rather, he seeks to make you feel comfortable and at home by his comments.

On a personal note Flynn is married to the former Mary Foley. They live in the Beverly neighborhood today, though in the late 80's, the judge was a village trustee in the Village of Olympia Fields. Judge Flynn likes the Beverly neighborhood and the people that he meets in it.

When asked about this Irish ancestry, Judge Flynn notes: "My grandfather was an Irish railroad labor union organizer, at a time when

that was a dangerous job." To the best of his father's recollection, his grandfather's father emigrated from Ireland to the U.S. Judge Flynn's father was a publisher of magazines, including Popular Science and Show.

Should you be at a political gathering, you may see and hear Judge Peter Flynn comment on the court system. He is no ideologue, however, rather he is a man who makes sense.

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



"Fred C. Dobbs" was just one of the many aliases used by the man who lay in his coffin in the party room of Jenny's Steakhouse.

Dick Doody, an old pal from around the mahogany of Ken's bar on Western avenue,

had croaked and left a last will and testament that provided for a final party. He picked the location, paid for the drinks, and his corpse was saluted with toasts all night long. It was The Southside event of the summer.

I'd known him for years as a jovial chum, but his wake revealed tales of a shady past. Dick was 72. The Southtown said he died of "unknown causes".

His cousin Larry told me stories of them as kids on the south side, but that didn't explain how he went on to become one of Chicago's most infamous sportsmen.

I spent a day with Fred C. Dobbs at the track and watched him win five grand on a trifecta while juggling his cell phone and taking action on the football games. The guy just really loved sports.

I asked an ex-cop at the wake about Dobbs's past and he told me, "He lived in Vegas for years, moved back here about 15 years ago. I think he's still wanted for something in Nevada."

Rollie Keane said Dobbsy apologized to him late one night in Ken's. "He said he was sorry for sticking up a Keane gas station early in his career."

Dick was a fan of the John Huston classic film, "Treasure of the Sierra Madre", a story of greed and murder among gold prospectors. Humphrey Bogart played Fred C. Dobbs, a

man who loses his mind and morality in the hot sun. Dick Doody would quote Fred C. Dobbs throughout the night as he sat at the bar.

When Dobbsy's glass was empty he would just sit on his stool and shout in a booming voice, "Thirsty!"

The other doppelganger for Dick Doody was the character played by Jimmy Cagney in "White Heat". Early in the morning, after a long night at the bar, Doody would become "Cody Jarrett", screaming from the top of a water tower with guns blazing, "Top of the world ma!"

Dobbs bought the farm in bed, and in the nightstand drawer was a note with instructions for his wake. Put me in the party room at Jenny's Steakhouse. Call Carl Courtwright the owner; he'll set it up.

Carl told me, "Yeah, he originally wanted to be sittin' up in his coffin with a drink in his hand." The village of Chicago Ridge got wind of that and said ixnay. The Mayor insisted that Dobbsy's casket be closed and in a room away from the food.

of Ellie Riley Delaplaine as she toasted her old friend. As you can see, her image is ghosted in the pic, just like all the others I took that night. How did you meet Fred C. Dobbs, Ellie?

"He went on my honeymoon with me."

Dobbsy was laid out by the fireplace and on the mantel was a copy of a poem an old pal had written. Fred C. Dobbs was his hero, and he stayed out of the way of Cody Jarret.

I grabbed a beer at the bar and Bill Gainer said to us, "Fred C. Dobbs was an honest man."

On the next stool, policeman George Gobel agreed, "He was brutally honest!" A fitting epitaph.

It was a happy group of south-siders at Dobbsy's wake. Jack Casto, Jimmy Sexton, Skip Carey, and Jack Wright shed no tears for their old buddy Dobbs. He wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Billy Gainer announced, "This could start a whole new trend, 'wake and steak'. I might do this for my wake. I'm lookin' forward to it!"

Gobel deadpanned, "Yeah, we can't wait."



The Mayor didn't want dead Dobbsy anywhere near the food. Plenty of folks were mingling around the casket with drinks in their hands though. It was a great atmosphere to reminisce about our old friend.

I grabbed a ham sandwich in the back of the room and washed it down with beer and it never tasted better than that night in Dobbsy's presence.

Andy McGann handled the prep for Dobbs' wake and Jenny's was jammed with friends and admirers of Fred C. Dobbs. I snapped a photo

James T. Goff walked into the wake and ordered a drink. The legends are dying off but we've still got Goff. He's got the DNA of a New York City cockroach. You walk into the lounge in Hell and Jimmy Goff will be sittin' at the bar.

"Goff balls" and Frankie Mo toasted Dobbs and we all clinked our beers. Thank you Dobbsy, for the great time and for the drinks. Mo raised his glass and pronounced, "To Fred C. Dobbs, he was a sport 'til the very end!"

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# B Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan



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If you're lucky, you'll have Niamh waiting behind the bar for you. With experience spanning back to the Dunloire pubs just outside of Dublin, her smiley face and ability to pour great Guinness will be worth the trip alone. She was 100% correct in recommending the excellent Brady's Irish Brie as a starter. The wedges are dipped in bread crumbs before being lightly deep fried

and served with brown bread and cranberry spread. The usual suspects are featured if you're not up for a fancy cheese plate. Wings or cheese chips will start you off in a good direction, or bundle them all together with the Kitty's combo of potato skins, onion rings, cheese sticks and chicken fingers.

Enjoy your seasonal fruit/yogurt plate or your salad along with the last of the good weather dining al fresco right on Michigan Ave. while you watch the world go by. Kitty offers a standard yet palatable selection of salads and sandwiches along with turkey chili daily and potato leek and soup du jour. The prime rib sandwich topped with grilled onions and cheese or lean Celtic corned beef sandwiches are two great selections from the sandwich board. You won't be disappointed in the Emerald Isle chicken salad or Waterford veggie burger, either. The turkey BLT, tuna salad and

Blarney burger vary the sandwich menu, making it attractive to any palate.

Sing along with house band Moore and Broaders, while eating your Shepherd's Pie, corned beef and cabbage, beer battered fish and chips or County Down lamb stew. Accompany your authentic hot tea with a sweet ending such as a layered chocolate mousse cake, or the excellent bread pudding.

Kitty's is a great central location to meet friends, while also having quiet corners to conduct business if necessary. It's authentic decoration and beautiful mahogany wood bar along with music six nights a week make it a cozy and relaxing place to visit after work or on weekends. Check out the website ([www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)) and click under Kitty O'Shea's) from time to time to keep informed of events, or call the pub at (312) 294-6860.

Stop by between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. for regular menu or after the concert or show for appetizers between 10 p.m. and midnight.

Visit Kitty O'Shea's on the first floor of the Chicago Hilton hotel, 720 South Michigan Ave., red line stop Harrison or bus #6 Jackson Park express, #3 King Drive express or #147 Outer Drive express.

Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer and columnist living on Chicago's Gold Coast. [callahanmaureen@hotmail.com](mailto:callahanmaureen@hotmail.com).

## Psychological thriller "Boxed" released on DVD

A courageous priest stands against IRA terrorists to defend a man he doesn't even know in the psychological thriller *Boxed*, available on DVD from Lightyear Entertainment.

Father Brendan (Tom Murphy, 48 Angels, Adam and Paul, Man About Dog), a young Catholic priest full of idealistic beliefs and unending faith, finds himself the victim of mistaken identity when he is kidnapped from his church by IRA terrorists. The group needs one of their "pocket priests" to hear a confession from and perform last rites for an informer awaiting execution.

However, Brendan turns the tables on his captors, securing himself in a room with the prisoner and forcing a tense stalemate. He must now decide just how much he's willing to risk as the terrorists are forced to question what lines they are willing to cross.

Based on published reports never denied by the Church, this suspenseful thriller explores explosive and ethical

conflicts on both sides of an all-too-timely crisis situation.

*Boxed*, which won "Best Feature" at the 2003 Boston Irish Film Festival, co-stars Brendan Mackey (*Touching the Void*), Jim Norton (*Oyster Farmer*, *Conspiracy of Silence*), Darragh Kelly (*Trouble With Sex*, 48 Angels) and



Catherine Cusack (*Conspiracy of Silence*, *Finding Neverland*).

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year-old girls, adults reading the books can enjoy the obvious satirical elements throughout the stories. Any parent who has attended a feis can appreciate Liffey's desire to win her first Gold medal!

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For more information or if you have any questions, call John McCann at 847-825-7134.

## Horoscopes

By Theresa

**ARIES:** There is a planetary pile up in the last degrees of Libra during the new moon of October that should make life interesting. The new moon meets in conjunction with the cosmic lovers Venus and Mars. Since Mars governs the Sign of Aries you may be in on something "good" at this time.

**TAURUS:** Just after the new moon of October the planets move from the sign of Libra into Scorpio. This occurs directly opposite your sign. As stated in the message for Aries, Venus and Mars are the cosmic lovers. This is all happening opposite your sign. Make sure your significant other is not fooling around behind your back!

**GEMINI:** You will notice the new moon of October! It comes with Venus and Mars in tow in the last degree of Libra. This could be a mixed bag for you because soon after all of the four planets involved crowd into Scorpio. Watch your friends Aries and Taurus closely they will be greatly affected by this.

**CANCER:** If you were born at the beginning of the sign of Cancer you will have very fortunate events around the new moon of October! When this occurs will be between the dates of Oct. 21st and Oct. 24th. There is one fly in the ointment, however; this is a nasty square between Jupiter and Saturn. Tread carefully.

**LEO:** Your case is a difficult one. There is a multiple and somewhat rare quad conjunction of Sun, Moon, Venus, and

Mars in square to your sign. Also there is a nasty 90 degree aspect between Jupiter in Scorpio against grumpy old Saturn in Leo. So, if your significant other is a Scorpio, watch out! (See Taurus Message.)

**VIRGO:** You fall through the cracks where the planetary weather of October is concerned. You should feel somewhat insulated from the fireworks occurring around you. Unless, of course, you have planetary placements that are affected by the multi conjunction.

**LIBRA:** If you were born around the time of the new moon of October 2006, you are in for a roller coaster ride. This is between October 21st through October 24th. You can expect the unexpected at this time.

**SCORPIO:** You are not one to turn and run away from a challenge. This time if you face the fire, there may be a significant reward for you. You are harboring a beautiful secret that may embrace you in a way that you hope for. Don't fear the unknown, take the opportunity.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You need to help others hold themselves together. This new moon of October will be a bridge builder and a bridge burner at the same time for all. Like Virgo, you may be somewhat insulated from the fray.

**CAPRICORN:** You are somewhat spared from the planetary activity of October 2006. Your ruler Saturn is involved in a tense square off with Jupiter, the planets that usually helps us. This means some sort of disagreement. Try to hold it together.

**AQUARIUS:** You are an unwitting target of the planetary pile up going on at the end of October 2006. It is a little like dancing to dodge metaphorical bullets. There are no less than four planets congregating at the end of the sign of Libra, and commencing into Scorpio, but a bad news aspect between Jupiter and Saturn as well. Good luck!

**PISCES:** You are, like some of our astrological brethren, somewhat insulated from the fireworks of the planetary weather of October 2006. The quad multi conjunction on the Libra-Scorpio cusp is sparing you, as the square off of Jupiter-Saturn looms. Thank the good Lord for small blessings!

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# Careers

by James F. Fitzgerald, CPA

## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA

### You can always tell an Irishman

There's an old expression: you can always tell an Irishman, but you can't tell him much.

A recent quote in the Chicago Tribune said: "Because he was a Ford, people were afraid to tell him the truth. There was a level of coddling that has no place in a CEO's office." This quote is attributed to Rebecca Lindland, a Global Insight analyst, speaking after struggling Ford Motor Co. said Boeing executive Alan Mullay will replace Bill Ford as CEO. Now one might ask, is there a connection between the unwillingness of Ford executives to challenge their CEO and Ford's stated belief that their share of the market will shrink from 25% of the domestic market to 16.8%, per the Chicago Tribune, September 16th. What do you think?

For those of you who follow my column you may recall that in my August column, I addressed the unwillingness of many of us to speak up to our bosses. We simply don't want to accost our boss with our perception of the truth. Even if we see evidence of problems or indiscretions, we remain silent. The general unwillingness of people in authority to listen is so obvious. Aren't kids always saying that their parents don't listen to them? If you work in a factory, isn't it commonly stated that the foreman doesn't listen to us working stiffs? Or on a more global scale, do you feel that your opinion is heard by your mayor, governor or Congressional representative? Do you have a sense that the people in Washington are listening to your views on important matters?

I have published over 120 articles; yet, I find that after refining an article and re-reading it, I struggle to find any "great truths" or "gems of previously unknown truths" or "pearls of wisdom". After editing the same piece five or six times, I wonder if it will speak to any of my readers. I am delighted to say there were a substantial number of responses regarding my last column. I thought I would share some of them with you.



Greg Fream, a former neighbor and pal, now the president of a company in Whitewater, WI said "Good article as always. I have lived my life by being a person that would always tell my boss what I thought,

while recognizing that I could be wrong. I would also advise him of my assumptions. Doing this got me fired once but I will not change. I just realize in the world we live in and the dynamics of changing ownership, you are one phone call away from being removed in spite of your track record". As usual Greg is right on the money. What's the sense of kowtowing to the boss, when he may fire you the next day? Don't you want your integrity to be intact? What price Honor! There is another old expression that says, An Irishman can tell you to go to hell in a way that will have you looking forward to the trip. By the way, I grew up in a wonderfully diverse neighborhood, so I am also sure that many other ethnic groups besides the Irish possess those skills.

Jim Kacena, another long time pal, who is a successful consultant, said "Another good article. You seem to be getting more insightful with age—but then again, wisdom does come with age. Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list. I always look forward to your "wisdom". No surprise that Kacena would express such profound thoughts in such a matter of fact way. There are no wise young people; because wisdom comes with age. That's no knock on younger people; it is as appropriate as saying that arthritis or dementia comes with age. One needs to experience some of life's struggles and trials before they can grasp them.

Pat Hrbacek, an attorney friend in Denver and former college basketball team mate of my son, Damon wrote: "Thanks for the article—definitely thought-provoking for me! Having only been at my current job a few months, I am still being initiated into the firm culture here, so the article was timely for me. I also appreciated the last paragraph—I have no doubt Damon had little fear voicing his opinions! A fond basketball memory of mine is when Damon let our J.V. coach know his lack of appreciation for how much running we were doing at practice one day".

My wife, Sandee, and I always encouraged our children to speak their minds. We also chal-

lenged them to do that respectfully. One needs to be cognizant that rank, age, and position has its privileges. One cannot yell at a superior and then expect to have their ideas taken seriously. What's been your experience, did you ever yell at someone and then have them embrace your ideas with enthusiasm?

Note from another old friend, Ron Wolf, a retired financial executive, who lives in Texas: "A great article. You did, though, lose some of your credibility in the last paragraph when you proclaimed your role as CEO of your family. In two beautiful marriages, the best I could ever attain was co-general partner. Has Sandee seen this article, or are you too chicken to show it to her? Or, perhaps, in your family, there is also a Chairman of the Board?"

Eileen Keeler, a human resources officer at the Harris Bank, said: "Good column—guess I should stop being so hard on our leaders, but it still feels to me as though they are accountable for what goes on within the organizations they oversee. Encouraging people to speak their minds goes hand in hand in appreciating their honesty and courage in speaking up. Being willing to listen to bad news as well as good is an important characteristic. Being willing to deliver bad as well as good is a rare characteristic—one that needs to be cultivated." Do you cultivate this trait within your family or company?

One of the real challenges of being the boss is knowing when to listen. There are some people who are professional critics, they see problems everywhere. But there are also a great number of people who are smart and competent who do see real problems. If you are in a position of authority, you need to work on your ability to discern one from the other. If you are a person without authority, you need to develop the skill to deliver the message without any anger or personal animosity. You need to recognize that your passion for a particular point of view is not always going to be persuasive. What do you want to accomplish? Do you want your opinion to be accepted or do you want the problem to be seen for what it is? The motto of the Christopher movement is: It is better to light a tiny candle than to sit and curse the darkness. Does that motto speak to you? If it does, it could help you to change a lot of things in your life. Do people come to you for an informed opinion or are you seen as the perpetual critic or cry baby?

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of

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

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# Voice of the Immigrant

By John W. Kearns, Attorney at Law

**IMMIGRATION UPDATE:** Let's take a break from our current series on financial planning to check what is going on in immigration law. Everybody knows there have been some big pro-immigration reform marches lately and we are all waiting to see what effect this is going to have on the voters when the November elections come around. You will remember the House very quickly and overwhelmingly passed an extremely anti-immigrant, pro-enforcement bill last December 2005. This Spring, after the President expressed support and leadership on the issue, the Senate, after a strong debate, passed a bill by about a two-thirds majority that, despite strong enforcement and border security provisions, does contain both earned legalization and guest worker programs which would be open to undocumented immigrants. The Senate immigration bill is S 2611. The House bill is HR 4437. Readers can check the contents and status of these bills on the net at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

The current legislative proposals continue to be locked up by the conservative House Republican leadership, led by Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois, in hearings before House committees. House Republicans are also crafting new bills to crack down on illegal immigrants, based on field hearings members have conducted over the summer in their home districts to both gauge and persuade voter opinion. If the bills are approved, Republicans can go into midterm elections November 7th



saying they took action on illegal immigration, in order to appease conservatives who oppose giving illegal immigrants a chance at citi-

zenship, which they view negatively as an "amnesty" or reward for law-breakers.

The reason they view an amnesty as negative, is because when they tried it twenty years ago, they legalized five million aliens, and that was supposed to be the end of it. But then Congress took away the ability of immigrants to obtain legal status in the 1996 law (IIRIRA), creating a legal underclass of workers, who could neither leave the country nor legalize their status here. So, while they thought they were going to "solve the problem" with the Reagan legalization program in the 1980's, they now estimate 11 or 12 million illegal aliens, possibly many, many more, are present in the U.S. The anti-immigrant conservatives feel that another amnesty will not "solve the problem" now either, but will reward blatant law-breaking and will merely "open the door" or encourage more illegal immigration. And they are probably right, in the sense that something is only illegal if there is a law against it. Pro-immigration reformers see the underlying economic realities and realize the so-called "problem" will not go away until laws are passed permitting people, who want to come here to work and obey the laws to achieve legal status, or until the home economies of those immigrants are made healthy and attractive enough that they will want to stay in their home countries. By the way, pro-immigration reformers are organizing masses and marches on a National Fast for Immigrant Justice Day on September 30, 2006, to mark the 10th anniversary of the enactment of IIRIRA.

The House "solution"? What are they working on now? House leaders and Republican committee chairmen have proposed border security measures based on what they learned from field hearings they conducted over the past month, Hastert said. Some possible ideas include voter identification cards and safer Social Security cards, he said. The package also will include some immigration spending added to pending defense and homeland security appropriations bills that will then go to the Senate. Congressional leaders want to

get those bills to President Bush this month before adjourning to campaign for the November elections.

**THE NEWS:** Last week, the House passed a new border fence proposal which provides for construction of a more than 700 mile double-layered fence to be built along the nearly 2,000 mile border with Mexico. House leaders say the fencing will help secure our borders, but the bill does NOT provide for a way to pay for it. Estimated cost may exceed \$2 billion and could be as much as \$7 billion. The Senate bill (S.2611) passed in May, included approval for construction of 370 miles of fencing. Seventy-five miles of that fence has been built so far. While this appears to be just so much expensive symbolism to show off for the voters, with the election coming up, Speaker Dennis Hastert has pledged that there will be no House action on comprehensive immigration reform until the issue of border security is addressed. "We have to come to grips with the fact that our Border Patrol agents need a border fence on our southern border ... where we're now facing infiltration by members of terrorist organizations like Hezbollah," said Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif.

We believe that the conservative House Republican leadership intends to "run out the clock" if they can, on immigration reform. In other words, don't expect anything before the November elections, and then after that only if the voters indicate a strong rejection of the conservative agenda. Immigration reform opponents are extremely vocal and hostile, so expect to see this issue heat up. Unless there is strong political leadership on the issue and something gets passed before next January, all pending legislation will die of natural causes.

The recently-elected Mexican President has pledged to push for U.S. immigration reform, but it appears that, although that is probably one thing he and his opponents can agree on, he is going to be kept pretty busy trying to unify his opposition after the close election.

**WHAT ELSE?** As the issue heats up, several local towns across the U.S. have passed municipal ordinances that deny undocumented immigrants the right to rent or reside in their towns or to obtain business licenses, etc. Other cities, such as San Francisco and Chicago, have declared themselves "sanctuaries," meaning that local authorities are prohibited, as a matter of policy, from enforcing immigration law or inquiring about the legal status of residents.

(The pending House legislation would deny federal funds from such "sanctuaries.") Cook County officials currently have before them a hotly contested resolution to make Cook County a "sanctuary," so we will be seeing more on that issue in the papers.

**Question:** I am a single parent of a small child born in the U.S., but I have a final Order of Deportation. Deportation is knocking on my door. What do I do?

**Answer:** Having a dependent minor U.S. citizen child has long been considered NOT a remedy from deportation or removal. Legal precedent is against it, and immigration law does not provide for it. Nevertheless, a prominent immigration activist in Chicago, with a small U.S. citizen child and a Final Order of Removal, has taken refuge in a local church, and is fighting the government on that very issue in federal court in Chicago. We are watching the case.

**NEW PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS:** Current U.S. passports must be carried by U.S. citizens traveling to and from Canada, Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Island nations (formerly exempt). This requirement has phased in over the past couple of years, and will include all air and sea entries from Canada and Mexico after December 31, 2006, and all land entries after December 31, 2007.

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

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

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### Fitzpatrick Hotel in Manhattan adds outdoor patio

If you visit New York, the Fitzpatrick Hotels in New York's midtown neighborhood celebrate Irish culture, fare and sports throughout the year. A grand opening for the Wheelhopper Pub's new 1600 square-foot outdoor deck kicked off recently at the Fitzpatrick Grand Central. Outdoor heaters make the setting very comfortable right through the Fall.

You are invited to paint the Big Apple green anytime you visit The New York Fitzpatrick Hotels. Each offers grand Irish pubs with excellent food and drink which you can enjoy whether you stay in the hotels or not, all the while experiencing true Irish hospitality with an American accent.

Fitzpatrick's offers two locations: The Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel, 687 Lexington between 36th & 37th, Phone: 212-784-2360 and The Fitzpatrick Grand Central, 141 E. 44th Street at Lexington, Phone: 212-351-6800. Visit [www.fitzpatrickhotels.com](http://www.fitzpatrickhotels.com).

### "To Hell or Barbados," the Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland

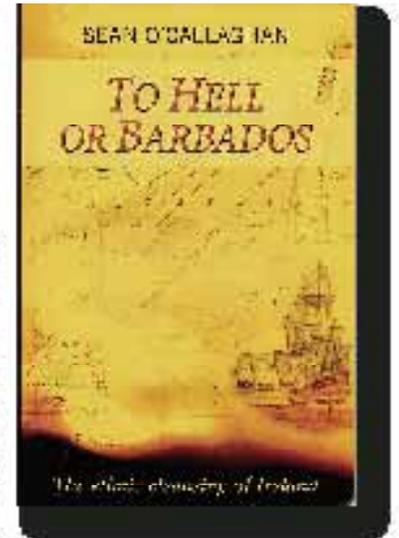
By Sean O'Callaghan, Reviewed by Ed Lewis

The term "ethnic cleansing" doesn't usually enter into Irish consciousness. Yet, following a reading of Sean O'Callaghan's 2000 study of "The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland," in his monumental book "To Hell and Barbados," one realizes how this contemporary concept of mass extermination, murder and enslavement of a people applied to 17th century Ireland.

Unfortunately, O'Callaghan died before the book, which was published in Dingle, County Kerry, could receive the recognition it richly deserved. It's a book for our time because, with the substitution of the word Arab or Tatar or Jew, the techniques were much the same under the Cromwell occupation of Ireland as they have been in our mid 20th and 21st Century history.

Beginning with the invasion of Ireland by English forces under Cromwell in 1641, Irish men and their resistance was crushed by the overwhelming force of the British who fielded a much larger and better trained army. The Irish Catholic fighting men were exported to the service of these friendly Catholic countries including Spain, Belgium and Poland. That left the women and children to starve in a land whose property was expropriated in the name of the Commonwealth. What to do with these unfortunate leftovers?

He tried first to send them to the North American colonies of Virginia and Massachusetts, but settlers there refused to accept this group. So, beginning in August of 1652, Cromwell packed them into slave ships for shipment to the West Indies and particularly the Barbados where they were sold to land owners and used in the fields to cultivate sugar cane and tobacco. It was cheaper from the British point of view to send the Irish women and children to the Indies than it was to capture and ship black slaves from Africa.



In the five-year period from 1632-37, an estimated 90,000 Irish women and children were shipped into slavery in the Barbados. Living conditions faced by the arriving Irish were worse than primitive. They learned to survive from the African slaves who had preceded them, building huts of sticks and stalks and learning to cook subsistence meals from the few crops that could be supported in the villages that they created. They were mistreated by the English landowners whose Puritanism did not step from from abusing alcohol and the women in equal measure.

Many of the male Irish who, after reaching maturity, were able to escape the yoke of slavery, became members of the crews of pirate ships that plied the waters of the Caribbean and took as prizes many of the gold-laden Spanish ships headed toward Spain. These Irish pirates showed no quarter toward British ships they captured and were especially hard on the sailors who fell under their swords.

O'Callaghan's story is bleak; its tale is one of misery, suffering and exploitation. Yet there is something of the undented Irish spirit that seems to rise from the pages which allow the reader to imagine another chapter in the Irish history of the New World. It's a book that should be a part of every library not only for its glimpse into history, but for its understanding of how a people came to be what they are today. Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

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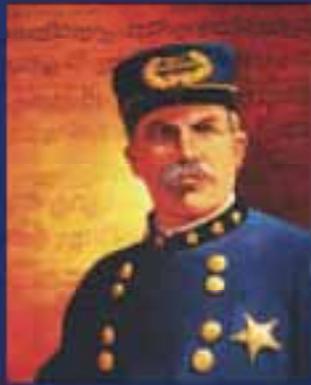
### Gift Theatre presents *Long Day's Journey Into Night*

The Gift Artistic Director Michael Patrick Thornton will direct *Long Day's Journey Into Night* by Eugene O'Neill, August 31-October 15, 2006 at the Jefferson Park theater.

Winner of the 1957 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this play "of old sorrow, written in blood and tears" focuses on the turbulent Tyrone family's heartbreaking disintegration over

one summer day. Considered one of the greatest plays of the 20th century, it was also considered so autobiographical, its publication was banned until twenty-five years after O'Neill's death.

The Gift Theater is located at 4882 N. Milwaukee (at Lawrence) in Chicago. Call for reservations, 773-283-7871 or buy online at [www.thegifttheatre.org](http://www.thegifttheatre.org)



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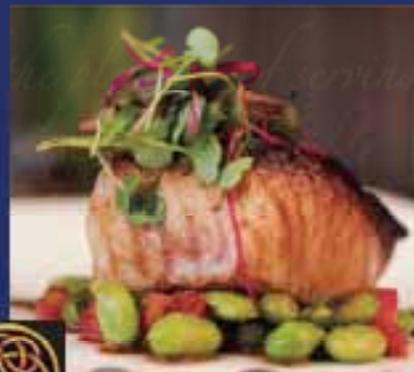
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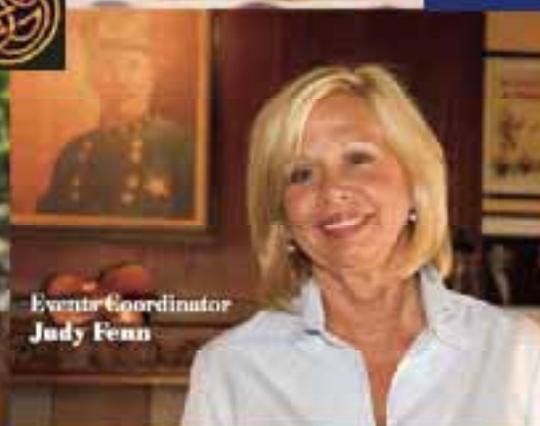
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**Gaelic Golf Society  
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A little over 15 years ago a group of Irish builders got together to form the Gaelic Golf Society. The idea was to meet socially and master the game of golf. The outcome was that they excelled at the social aspect but sadly none of them is going to challenge Tiger Woods in

the near future. The group has now expanded to include Irish/American and Americans (who want to be Irish) and a token English fellow (a great asset, caddy and ball retriever!). They decided to have one major outing each year, held on the Friday before Labor Day. Over the years this outing has developed into one of the best outings around the Southside and has a waiting list for people who want to play in it. The object of the outing was to gather enough sponsors to enable them to buy a prize for each golfer, the top prizes have always been Irish Crystal.

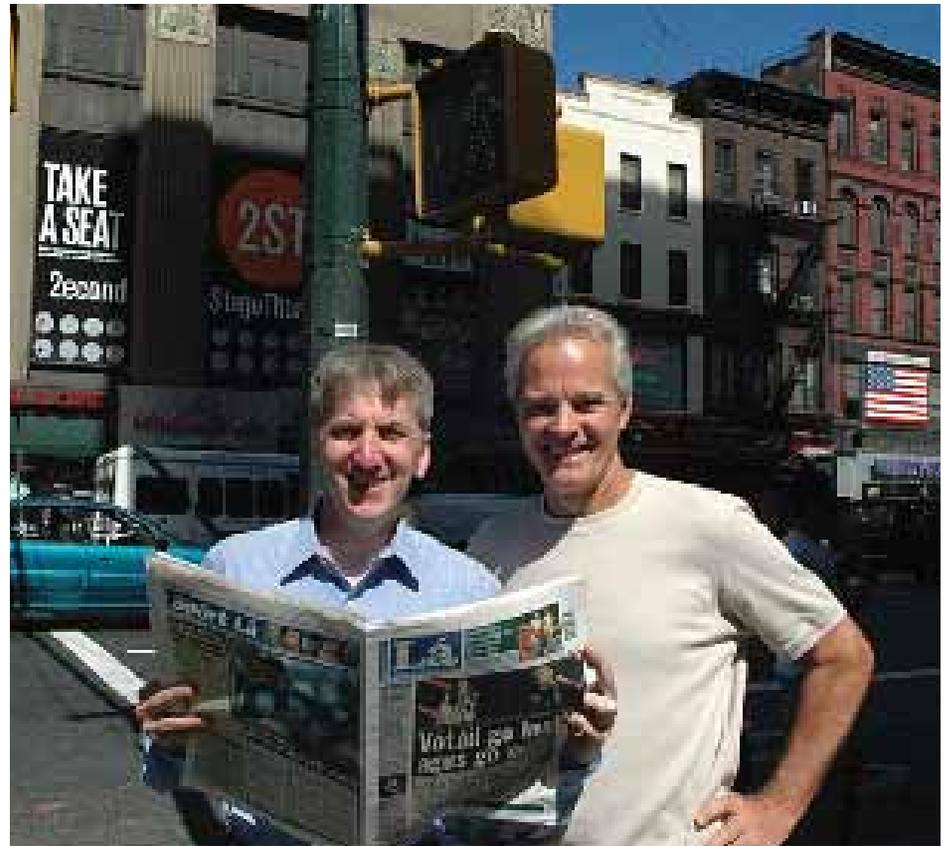
While attending the meetings the idea of helping some of the local charities or fund raising events was discussed. The outcome was that each year the group picks some local charities that will receive a donation from the Gaelic Golf Society. This year has been the most successful yet and over \$20,000 in donations to local charities such as "The Mulliganeers" (giving kids a second chance) & "The Blue Cap Organization (in Blue Island)" were made.

Many thanks go to their consistent and very generous sponsors, and the committee of the Gaelic Golf Society who work hard to ensure that financial goals are met so such needy charities can benefit.

A big thanks to all for making 2006 a very successful year.



*Tadgh O'Reilly presenting a cheque to Pdraig Conway from the Mulliganeers for \$5000.00.*



*Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, publisher of daily Irish language newspaper Lá and a host of other newspapers in Ireland, met up with Cliff Carlson in New York in August to discuss media opportunities with the American Irish Media network. The Belfast publisher has recently attended a week-long media internet think-in at the Babson School of Entrepreneurship in Boston and is keen to develop web links between Irish newspapers and their US counterparts. Lá is the only newspaper in a Celtic language and has been published continuously since 1984. It numbers many students and speakers of Irish in the States among its readership and can be downloaded free daily at [www.nuacht.com](http://www.nuacht.com) (nuacht being the Irish for news). Carlson, publisher of Irish American News, and founder of the American-Irish Media Group, is keen to explore mutually beneficial advertising and editorial opportunities with publications and individuals in Ireland.*

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# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard

## Immigration Reform When?

One thing is abundantly clear, the business of achieving immigration reform is not for sprinters, it is a game for long distance runners. I use the term game deliberately because in the view of many political commentators the present congress continues to play political games with the whole issue of immigration.

This is so frustrating for many people who have invested large amounts of time and energy to bring about a just, sane and workable reform of our immigration laws. A powerful group in the House of Representatives continues to turn a deaf ear to the wishes of the President and the vast majority of supporters in their own party. Here are some facts worth noting: Fact; polls among conservative voters consistently favor, a guest worker program. Fact; the majority want the 12 million undocumented living and working in the U.S.



to earn the right to become citizens by following the plan proposed by the U.S. Senate.

Fact; Immigration is good for our country. And two-thirds of American voters say they support bills that include a temporary worker program or path to citizenship, rather than one that focuses solely on border security. We need to create a temporary worker's program... to fill labor needs. By providing a legal, enforceable way for immigrants to enter, we would take pressure off of our borders."

"The other reality we must confront is that we have 12 million people who are in the country illegally. The President has said that deporting 12 million individuals wouldn't be wise, practical, or humane. The other extreme is amnesty. The President does not support amnesty, and it's not accurate or fair to call his solution to this problem

amnesty."

Fact; America is a nation of immigrants; this fact is so often forgotten in the current debate.

"An important point that President Bush makes is that we are a nation of immigrants, and we must honor the great tradition of the melting pot. It is a false choice to think the immigration debate is a battle between America being a welcoming society and being a nation of laws... Many countries today... have declining populations. We can avoid this problem and build a vibrant, diverse country in part through immigration... I ask you to commit to comprehensive immigration reform. The longer we wait, the bigger the problems we are passing on to a future generation."

(The quotations above are taken from testimony give by Commerce Secretary Gutierrez at the SJC Hearing on July 12 in Washington, DC.)

Immigration A net gain for U.S.

Below are excerpts from last month's open letter to President Bush and Congress on the economics of immigration. Sponsored by The Independent Institute, the letter was signed by 500 scholars, including five Nobel Prize winners in economics.

"People from around the world are drawn to America for its promise of freedom and opportunity. That promise has been fulfilled for the tens of millions of immigrants who came here in the 20th century.

Throughout our history as an immigrant nation, those who were already here have worried about the impact of newcomers. Yet, over time, immigrants have become part of a richer America, richer both economically and culturally. The current debate over immigration is a healthy part of a democratic society, but as economists and other social scientists we are concerned that some of the fundamental economics of immigration are too often obscured by misguided commentary.

Overall, immigration has been a net gain for American citizens, though a modest one in proportion to the size of our \$13-trillion economy. Immigrants do not take American jobs. The American economy can create as many jobs as there are workers willing to work so long as labor markets remain free, flexible and open to all workers on an equal basis.

In recent decades, immigration of low-skilled workers may have lowered the wages of domestic low-skilled workers, but the effect is likely to have been small, with estimates of wage reductions for high-school dropouts ranging from 8 percent to as little as 0 percent.

While a small percentage of native-born Americans may be harmed by immigration, vastly more Americans

benefit from the contributions that immigrants make to our economy, including lower consumer prices. As with trade in goods and services, the gains from immigration outweigh the losses.

The effect of all immigration on low-skilled workers is very likely positive as many immigrants bring skills, capital and entrepreneurship to the American economy.

Legitimate concerns about the impact of immigration on the poorest Americans should not be addressed by penalizing even poorer immigrants. Instead, we should promote policies, such as improving our education system, that enable Americans to be more productive with high-wage skills.

We must not forget that the gains to immigrants coming to the United States are immense. Immigration is the greatest anti-poverty program ever devised. The American dream is a reality for many immigrants who not only increase their own living standards but who also send billions of dollars of their money back to their families in their home countries -- a form of truly effective foreign aid.

America is a generous and open country, and these qualities make America a beacon to the world. We should not let exaggerated fears dim that beacon."

Let us hope that our elected representatives will see the sense that these 500 highly respected professionals are making and do something to end the present impasse and pass meaningful just and humane legislation.

Welcome! Sean Farrell, Consul General Of Ireland

Sean Farrell returns to Chicago as Ireland's new Consul General after a long career in the Irish Foreign Service which began with an assignment as Vice Consul in Chicago from 1973 to 1975.

His most recent assignment has been at Headquarters in Dublin, where he has been for the last two years the Director of the Irish Abroad Unit, of which he was the first head. In that position he had a coordinating role in official Irish programmes and assistance for the Irish communities living outside Ireland, including those in the USA. The period has seen a rapid increase in the funding available for programmes to assist Irish communities outside Ireland and to help those communities to express their Irish identity. Over the past year Mr. Farrell has had a particular focus on the issue of the undocumented Irish in the USA

Mr. Farrell returned to Dublin in 2004 from Estonia, where he had been Ireland's first resident Ambassador, opening the Embassy in 2001. His period as Ambassador saw a deepening

of Irish - Estonian relations as Estonia gained accession to the European Union; cultural contacts in particular were expanded and deepened. Mr. Farrell also served as Irish Ambassador to Moldova in the same period.

Prior to Estonia Sean Farrell was Head of the Irish Foreign Ministry's Foreign Trade section, dealing in particular with relations in the WTO and US-EU trade disputes as well as taking part in economic dialogue with the countries of Latin America and the Europe-Asia dialogue through ASEM.

From 1995 to 1999, Mr. Farrell was the head of Foreign Relations in Ireland's Mission to the European Union in Brussels where he headed up the Irish delegation during the first years of the Enlargement negotiations which saw the countries of Central and Eastern Europe join the European Union. Mr. Farrell specialised in relations with Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. During Ireland's Presidency of the Union in 1996 Mr. Farrell piloted through the negotiation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia and the EU Action Plan for the Ukraine.

Sean Farrell served from 1992 to 1995 as Deputy Joint Secretary in the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in Belfast before and during the IRA cease fire. His particular speciality was the economic and cultural condition of the nationalist minority within Northern Ireland. Prior to Belfast he was a Peace Monitor in Croatia during the wars surrounding the collapse of Yugoslavia. His previous posts include spells as press officer in the Embassies in London and Washington D.C. as well as a posting in the Irish embassy in the Netherlands.

Mr. Farrell is married with three children and three grandchildren (all US citizens). A historian by training, his hobbies include reading, music and chess as well as a passion for football of all types.

We at C.I.I.S. are happy to welcome Sean Farrell back to Chicago and wish him, his wife and family a pleasant stay among us.

Golf

I wish to take this opportunity to say a very sincere thank you to all who came to support our annual golf outing. The competition hosted at Fresh Meadows, Hillside on September 2nd saw 120 people participate on the day. A special thanks to all our golfers, sponsors of tees, greens and ad book. Without your help this would not have been such a great success. We look forward to meeting all of you at future events.

Any comments, questions etc. please feel free to contact me at 312-337-8445 Cell. 773-677-5341 or E-mail: siochan@catholic.org.



Kevin Malee Sr., and Maureen O'Looney.

Michael Carey, Mark Harbinson, Fr. Michael Leonard.



Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's sixth annual golf open took place in Fresh Meadows golf course on Saturday September 2nd. The bad weather that spoiled their initial June date was nowhere to be seen as the golfers enjoyed the splitting sunshine and craic. CIIS has served the needs of the Irish community in Chicagoland since 1998 and the success of this event will keep their doors open for another year. They would like to thank all golfers and sponsors who helped make the day possible.

## Michael Londra a hit in Korea and Haiti too!

Michael's album CELT, has been re-released in many countries in Asia over the past month. Out of the blue it appears that it's a bona fide hit in South Korea where the album made the charts of many World Music sites, making No. 1 for 3 weeks running on one of the biggest charts.

The album crossed some borders over there (not the border you're thinking of!) by entering the top 20 of the pop charts online with the likes of Jessica Simpson, Justin Timberlake, Pussycat Dolls and Ronan Keating!

Michael is planning a trip to Asia in De-

ember and a longer tour in mid 2007.

He is currently in the studio recording new material with a less Celtic feel. He is also putting finishing touches to a single to be released at Christmas coinciding with a new campaign for Concern. His version of Oiche Ciuin/Silent Night and a new remix of Beyond the Star will be available from Mid November.

## Return to Haiti for Concern Worldwide

Michael has just returned to the island he first visited a year ago as ambassador for Concern Worldwide. This amazing organization works in 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Central America and Eastern Europe, providing emergency relief and long-term assistance.

Michael visited the remote island of La Gonave witnessing absolute poverty, all the more exaggerated by the fact that the island is a one hour flight from Miami. The main problems on the island are access to clean water, sustainable income and the complete absence of infrastructure making transport almost impossible.

Go to Michael's website for some more pictures at [www.michaellondra.com](http://www.michaellondra.com), and go to [www.concernusa.org](http://www.concernusa.org) for more information on this wonderful group of people.

## Saw Doctors Hit U.S. For Fall Tour

The Saw Doctors, the Irish folk rock band who built their reputation and world wide fan base with their raucous live shows and sing-a-long songs, return to the U.S. for a fall tour in support of their new, most reflective album to date, The Cure. The October tour will take the band from Philadelphia on October 5th to the metro in Chicago on October 24th.

With The Cure, Saw Doctor mainstay song-writers Davy Carton and Leo Moran deliver more wistfully flowing songs, about getting older, the wisdom of youth, loves and losses, carefully situated in between the comfortable and familiar terrain of their much beloved, hummable, infectious tunes.

Hailed as "Wistful Irish Folk-Rock" by The New York Times and "one of the world's most appealing roots-rock outfits" by The Washington Post, the band has oft been compared to U2, The Pogues, and Bruce Springsteen and the East Street Band but distinctly, "revel in pure Irishness, that laughing-crying-then-laughing-again... sense of trying to live life to it's fullest despite adversities."

The Saw Doctors feature a new line up that includes Fran Breen (Ex-Lucinda Williams) on drums, and former Waterboy, Anthony Thistlethwaite on bass guitar and piano player and singer Kevin Duffy.



Michael with the kids at school in Anse A Galets.

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# Investment Ideas

By David Gaffney



## Exploring the Advantages of Exchange-Traded Funds

The world of investments offers a wide array of choices to suit a variety of investor needs. Diversification is a very basic rule of thumb to keep in mind when setting out to establish a portfolio of investments. To help you spread your investment dollars over a broad range of options, one investment class you may want to consider is a group known as exchange-traded funds, or more commonly by their acronym ETFs.

Simply put, ETFs are passively managed funds that trade just like stocks on major stock exchanges, and they are usually designed to track the performance of a broad market or sector specific index. ETFs – introduced in the early 1990s – trade primarily on the American Stock Exchange (AMEX), but they are also traded on the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq Stock Market. Some ETFs follow very broad, diverse indexes, while others are designed to track indexes with a more narrow focus, such as sector specific ETFs. Keep in mind, when you invest in ETFs, you can take on the risks associated with investing in a narrowly focused group of stocks. So, you still need to be careful which kind you choose, and you should always look to diversify your holdings.

ETFs offer several advantages over more traditional investments. For one thing, the holdings within an ETF will be the same as – or very close to – the composition of the underlying index it is tracking. Unlike traditional open- or closed-end mutual funds that disclose their holdings on a semiannual or quarterly basis, ETFs disclose their holdings on a daily basis. This makes them much easier to keep track of, giving you timely information on this portion of your investments.

Another advantage of ETFs is their relatively low expenses. ETFs give investors some of the lowest expense ratios available in the fund industry today. Additionally, as a result of low turnover in the funds' positions, ETFs pass few capital gains to shareholders, making them a relatively tax-efficient investment vehicle. What's more, because investors are trading shares in the fund and not the actual securities that make up the fund, buying and selling shares of an ETF does not result in the sale of the underlying securities. Such selling in traditional mutual funds can result in realizing taxable gains that must then be distributed to investors, but ETF investors can avoid these expenses altogether because of the nature of their investments.

Finally, ETFs offer greater pricing flexibility than traditional mutual funds. Traded on the stock exchange, ETFs can be bought and sold throughout the day, whereas the typical open-ended mutual fund sets the price once a day based on that day's closing net asset value (NAV), which refers to the per share value of a mutual fund. With ETFs, you can trade anytime during the day based on up-to-the-second prices, and trades work much like they would with any other share of an individual stock.

Now that you know a little more about ETFs and what they are, you may be wondering just how they might fit into your own investment strategy. Because of their previously mentioned low expense ratios and tax-efficient nature, ETFs can make a good addition to your core holdings. They also give you an easy, cost-effective way to either build a customized portfolio or add selected exposure to an existing portfolio. An investment in ETFs will fluctuate such that shares when sold may be worth more or less than the original investment. But with their broad appeal to many different types of investors, exchange-traded funds are one investment that is definitely worth looking into.

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## Allen Gogarty Releases New CD "Creature"

Allen Gogarty was born into a musical family in a small village in north county Meath in the Republic of Ireland in 1974. From a very young age Allen has been playing music in one form or another, from traditional Irish music on the tin whistle, fiddle and mandolin; to percussion, accordion and glockenspiel in marching bands. As music and song were part of everyday life in the Gogarty household, it wasn't very strange when at the age of fifteen, Allen started to learn the guitar and write his own songs. His very first professional performance was at the local pub when Allen and his two sisters, welcomed in the new year of 1990. The family band named "Saoirse" went on to perform for the next couple of years in hotel lobbies, pubs and lounges in the northeast of the Ireland.



On September 23rd, Allen Gogarty released his CD called "Creature" at Arlene's Grocery in NYC. Gogarty's influences include Bob Dylan, Christy Moore, Horslips, The Black Crows and traditional Irish music. "When I am writing I try and take as many tips from the greats such as Paddy Kavanagh, Yeats and Wilde in the respect that I try to incorporate imagery and the rhythm of language and the rhythm of the music...," says Gogarty, "All the songs I have written on this album are snapshots of my life and what I observe in the world around me."

Currently Allen's band is known as "Allen Gogarty and the Wadds" including Dean Marchi on bass, Wilson Montouri on lead guitar, Dave Hingerty on drums.

For further information contact Daly Communications, 212-772-0852 or [anitadaly@yahoo.com](mailto:anitadaly@yahoo.com) and [www.AllenGogarty.com](http://www.AllenGogarty.com).

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## Time to 'move on'

### - Thomas Murphy leaves his ward for the bench

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In December, Thomas Murphy will no longer be a practicing attorney, which he's been since 1979, and he will no longer be alderman of the 18th Ward on the Southwest Side, which he's been since 1991. "Alderman was never a job I intended to have forever," says Murphy, 52. "I just wanted to have a positive impact on the community and move on."

His life will change when he wins a November election - he's running unopposed - for judge in the Third Subcircuit of Cook County. "I'll start like all judges start - in Traffic Court at the Daley Center," he says.

He was born and raised in the then all-white Chicago Lawn neighborhood, the middle of three children. His father, an insurance adjuster, died when Murphy was attending Hubbard High School, where he played football. Thereafter, he lived with his grandfather, a former professional boxer named "Stockyards" Tommy Murphy.

"He fought twice for the middleweight championship, and Jack Dempsey used to visit our house," he says. "And a lot of teachers and coaches took me under their wing when my dad died. I am in the Hubbard Hall of Fame, but it sure wasn't for good grades," he says, laughing.

Still, he graduated from Northern Illinois University and was later a substitute public high school teacher while attending John Marshall Law School. His first taste of politics came when he was in college and he volunteered in the presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy and George McGovern. He would later campaign for Richard M. Daley.

But his first race for alderman in 1991 was against a City Hall-backed candidate: "I knew it would be very difficult. I did it with 75 straight days going door to door. And luck. I won the runoff by some 100 votes."

His ward was then 60 percent African-American and 40 percent white. After winning re-election in 1995, he became the only white alderman to represent a ward with a majority of African-American residents. He won

again in 1999, even though a remapping (making the 18th Ward 80 percent African-American and 7 percent Hispanic) put his home into another ward and eventually forced him to move (to see a map and photo go to [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org) and click the "Your Ward and Alderman" link.)

"I respect the people who looked beyond color and looked for what they thought was in the best interest of themselves and the ward. They judged me on record and not the color of my skin," he says. "That's how things should be in this city, and though I think things have improved in terms of race, there are many people, elected officials, who regularly grandstand on issues of race because they think that endears them to their communities. That's not true. People respect public officials who get the job done, who listen to them, and treat them with dignity and respect."

Murphy won his 2003 election with 83 percent of the vote.

"I'll miss my staff and the ability to help shape the community," he says, citing capital improvements in the ward that include a new library and the Hayes Park Natatorium on West 85th Street. "But as a judge I will be able to stay involved in the law and still be a public servant."

Murphy, who is divorced, is the father of Brendan, who will be a sophomore this fall at the University of Illinois-Champaign, and Nora, who will be a senior at Mother McAuley High School and is active in Irish dancing.

His phone has been ringing recently, not just with the



Alderman Thomas Murphy

usual constituent problems that tie up every alderman's lines, but with calls from people who want his job.

"I've talked to seven or eight people interest in running," he says. "My plan is to put together a committee and see if we can find a person I can recommend to the mayor [who might decide to fill Murphy's seat before next year's election]. I want someone who will be good for the ward, because I'll still be living here."

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## Gan Bua to launch "Live at Martyr's" CD

Come join the highly acclaimed traditional music group, Gan Bua, at the Irish American Heritage Center Auditorium on Saturday, October 28th, at 8pm.

Hailed as "powerful, simultaneously pure and innovative trad music at its most exciting," by IAN reviewer Bill Margeson, the outstanding quintet is launching their second album, "Live at Martyr's." Gan Bua's lovely blend of "stimulating instrumentals and spellbinding songs" leaves audiences wanting more. Tickets are \$15 dollars, reception to follow.

Brian Miller (guitar), Jackie Moran (bodhran, percussion), Brian Hart (vocals, conertina, tin whistle), Christy Bain (fiddle), Sean Gavin (flute, pipes, tin whistle)

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# T

radition  
In Review

By Bill Margeson



Well, time for a CD Slam! First up is the new Gan Bua treat, Live At Martyr's. Gan Bua is the creation of the ever-present Chicago Ambassador of Percussion, Jackie Moran. This is the group's second album, and features a new line-up of really good players and singers. Okay. We admit it. We root extra hard for anyone from Chicago. But, trust us on this one. Wherever you are from, you will love this collection of tunes and songs. Gan Bua is one of those groups that is very trad and very cutting edge at the same time. We have discussed this trend in this column ad nauseam. Suffice it to say, you gotta be real good to pull this off. Gan Bua is real good. Real good. Usually, we despise live albums, as they seem to sacrifice everything to some mythical "live experience", which is really an excuse for a lousy sounding album, hastily thrown together. Not here. It IS live—and yet, sounds as if it were done in a studio. Chicagoans are familiar with the Lincoln Ave. club, Martyr's. Good crowd, great music, and an even better album! A definite winner for this talented quintet with kudos all-around—including the technical end of things. Trad meets young, great Chicago musicians. Really terrific stuff. Google Gan Bua, or check out CD Baby. Great! Rating: 3.5 Harps

We love Millish. What is a Millish? A gifted, young quartet out of Michigan. And, the title of their new album. All instrumental. Think Flook—one step further. Very jazzy trad. Very fusion-like. Wonderful musicianship. We listened to this album sitting next to Ireland's best guitar player, Mike Galvin of the Bridies, who was just back from touring with the iconic Cathie Ryan. It is hard to

Jazz. Two! Two! Two mints in one! Wow! Rating: 3.5 Harps

We have another admission. Since Milwaukee's Irish Fest we have gone daffy for a lot of the music out of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Let us recommend to you all of the Celtic Colours albums. Celtic Colours is the name of the yearly (October) festival with 48 venues of great Celtic music from all over the world. The venues are scattered among the musical sites and venues of both Cape Breton and Nova Scotia. Every single musician we have talked to raves about this Festival, and the people involved. Canada at its best—and Celtic music at its best. Each year they produce an album representing the top groups and acts at that year's Festival. Magic. Google Celtic Colours, and find out how to order ANY of these albums. There are 10 or 12 of them or more. You can't go wrong. These albums do not contain just the acts from Nova Scotia or Cape Breton—although that would be fine! You will find the aforementioned Flook, Cathie Ryan, Brock-McGuire, Liz Carroll—the best of the best. Any one of them. You cannot make a misstep here. Promise. Rating: Each of the albums gets 4 Harps!

Many of the best albums out of Ireland are being distributed and promoted by Copperplate, based in London. You have heard us rave before about Alan O'Leary and his fab organization before. The best. We know anything that shows up from Copperplate will be special, indeed. So, we opened the new Michael O Raghallaigh album with eagerness. Alan had told us to really watch for this one. Holy Moley! This is a master concertina player—with a great, great album. Michael's people are from Meath. Lots of great musicians around there. What style! We have heard a lot of concertina players. We are most partial to Jackie McCarthy out of Orranmore, and now, Michael O Rallaigh. If Gan Bua and Millish are not for the purist, this album, Inside Out, is. It is hard to imagine the concertina being played better. There are lots of concertina and button box players who have plenty of technique. O Raghallaigh has soul. The innnyaaaaah. Down to the socks, this is a stunner. Get thee to the Copperplate site and order it. This is Irish music in its best and most soulful expression. A gift. Rating: Four Harps

Speaking of brilliant concertina players, now comes Edel Fox on the box and Ronan O'Flaherty on fiddle. Edel is from Clare, and Ronan is out of Galway. So young. So gifted. What a future. We can never figure out how some of these musicians are so young with such musical poise and maturity. It sometimes seems to be in the Irish water supply—and never more clearly in evidence than with these two. The album is simply entitled, Edel Fox and Ronan O'Flaherty. We honestly don't know what to say. They have guest musicians on the job—but this is so special and unique, we have listened straight through several times. These two have been playing together for years. And, what are they, 20? 21? 18? We remember sitting next to the iconic Michelle Mulcahy, a young lady redefining the Irish harp as we write this. She told us she was 19. We never felt older, or more gobstruck. These people are so good so early, we can only wonder, what next? Well, this album is also the pure drop. There are 13 selections for the true trad lover. Forget the whole age thing. Just Google it, get it, sit back and enjoy it. The deal. Rating: 3.5 Harps

Compass Records has released John McSherry and Donal O'Connor's, Tripswitch. Really, really good. REAL good! John McSherry joined Michael McGoldrick in winning last year's Instrumental Album of the Year with At First Light. This is McSherry's follow up effort containing eight instrumental tunes that showcase him as one of the world's great pipers and low flute players. Donal O'Connor is a wondrous fiddler. The whole album is filled with a unique take on the tradition, and real depth. These guys are good musicians. Lot of them around. The difference here is that they are blending trad and some newer approaches. Each is done with taste and style. And, far most importantly, understanding. These guys get it, and Tripswitch is an instant contender for Instrumental Album of the Year—McSherry in the hunt again! Brill. Rating: 3.5 Harps

Reviewing Kieran Munnelly's new album (yes, Dave's brother) next month. It is incredible.

Don't forget to listen to Shay and my weekly PRI music show, Blarney on the Air. Mondays, 7-9 pm., WDCB. 90.9FM—or catch it online at www.wdcb.org. You'll have a ball. \*Ta!



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recall who was more enthused about the group, Michael or us. This is a stunning, major debut of a new force on the scene. No. This is most definitely NOT for the trad purist. This is for the lovers of the form who relish all the innovations and ever-increasing scope of tunes based firmly in the tradition—yet new. Fresh. 2006. It is all well and good to say that the group has guitar, mandolin, percussion and fiddle. Doesn't cover it. And, if some of it seems a little far out, relax! These guys have energy, a great sense of music and a very, very bright future! Lots of jazz added to the trad. Trad jazz. Trad.

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The Landing Step is the second album from the innovative young Irish ensemble Gráda, a band poised at the brink of international recognition for their multi-faceted



take on traditional Celtic music. Taking their influences from Irish, Breton, eastern European and other diverse regional styles, Gráda compliment their instrumental virtuosity with an elegant, timeless vocal style. Produced and engineered by Lúnasa bassist Trevor Hutchinson, The Landing Step brilliantly balances original, contemporary, and traditional elements to create a sound that is at once accessible and refreshingly distinct.

Flautist Alan Doherty is now being widely heralded for his solo performance on the film score of The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Between them they have played with such a diverse range of performers as Damien Dempsey, Louis Stewart, Damien Rice, Bill Whelan and Coldplay's lead singer, Chris Martin.

Gráda (Irish for "illustrious") has toured heavily, continuing to broaden and refine their sound. In addition to traditional songs and tunes, The Landing Step boasts material drawn from Emily Saliers, Oscar Wilde, Linda Thompson, and New Zealand songwriter Greg Johnson.

Information [www.compassrecords.com](http://www.compassrecords.com)



Musicians, singers & dancers of the Comhaltas concert tour "Echoes of Erin" pictured in Dublin at rehearsals, prior to departure for their North American Tour. Appearing at Chicago Gaelic Park on Saturday, October 21, 2006.

## "Echoes of Erin" Concert appearing at Gaelic Park

Chicago Gaelic Park is proud to be one of the venues that will host the 2006 Comhaltas concert tour of North America, a major cultural event, featuring the best in Irish traditional entertainment. This time the Irish cultural and recreational facility is sponsoring Echoes of Erin, the 34th annual Comhaltas concert, on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at 8:00 pm at Gaelic Park, 6229 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, Illinois. Admission to the concert is \$15.00

The 2006 North American tour group has already thrilled audiences in Ireland and Britain with their exciting and authentic Traditional Irish Entertainment. Participants in the groups are from various parts of Ireland and Britain; Limerick, Cork, Monaghan, Leitrim, Tipperary, Galway, Antrim, Armagh, Laois, London and Birmingham.

Tickets are now available and you can reserve yours by calling Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323. Doors open at 7:00 pm, concert starts at 8:00 pm. For more information, please call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323.



### The New Standard Quartet

will be playing inside the Cottage at Irish Times on Thursday, October 12th starting at 7:00 pm. This event is hosted by the Brookfield Jazz Society.

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Sept 21	The Kelly Brothers & Friends Duo
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# F or The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



WHAT DO WE OWE our communities, if anything, beyond energetically and legally earning our way and paying our taxes? For years it seemed to me that our gov't runs on automatic pilot, self-cleansing, that it automatically marginalizes, arrests and punishes corrupt officeholders. Like essentially all of my cohort I held pols and bureaucrats in contempt on two counts: 1) that though their collective product is generally positive they are in it for personal gain, and 2) that they are idlers compared to free-market workers on whose taxes they live. It seemed to me that the energetic pursuit of livelihood fulfilled, as Adam Smith indicated, most of our obligations to the community. Our earlier religious training, when faithfully adhered to, would even obviate gov't; at least the coercive aspects of it. Thus it seemed to me that only "busybodies" involved themselves in matters of policy.

"DO-GOODERS" and "little old ladies in tennis shoes" is how the news media tended to label them. We were repeatedly informed that Vietnam War protesters were "commie symps" and "pinkoes who hate America" and ought to "love it or leave it." The "domino effect" was the guiding slogan, with "nations falling to the Reds one after the other like dominoes." It was "either stop the Reds in Vietnam or ultimately face them on the streets of the US." What persuaded me that the protesters were wrong was my belief in our leaders' integrity and the logic that if the protesters were right our gov't and most of our news media would have to be a criminal conspiracy. That, to me, was impossible. Alas for America and us all, we "patriots" who "supported the troops" had been deceived. American generations to come will ultimately pay that war debt, at least the financial part of it.

OUR DUTY TODAY. First; the challenges that our news media cover up or downplay; and what, if anything, we are obligated to do about them.

TORTURE. Today, for the first time in our proud two-century history we are officially a torture nation. By one vote the Supreme Court recently rejected the notion that we could continue torturing prisoners at our base in Guantánamo. Bush has responded by pushing the US Congress to enact a law to 1) give the color of law to that vile practice, 2) to give retroactive impunity to our torturers, especially to himself and the CIA, and 3) by allowing all torture other than a specified few; waterboarding, use of dogs, etc.

Bush & Co's guilt is fully established by the legal documents his gang wrote to "legalize" torture. They did so by redefining torture down to "resulting in organ failure." Thus, according to Bush & Co law, to be alive is "proof" that one wasn't tortured. The thirty-nine who died under interrogation (as of more than a year ago) can be explained away by other means. If the US Congress goes against the Supreme Court and sides with Bush & Co it will be the official beginning of the US Empire and the end of our republic. If that happens you will be safer to have sided with Bush & Co. Those who stand with our republic and oppose torture will face severe danger from the Bushies. The outcome is unknown. Now is a good time to remember that in republican Greece one of the definitions of "child" was "one uninvolved in establishing the policies of his time." If you are a true patriot, one who supports the US Constitution, now is the moment to act.

OUR TORTURE GULAG has been known to the world for the past two years. This column has reported their existences and the violations of US and international law perpetrated in them. Last week Bush, for the first time, stopped covering up their existences. But while he admitted their existences he denied all responsibility and avoided the word "torture" by referring to "alternative methods" instead. Some gov'ts, including Ireland's and Portugal's are likely to fall once their complicity in granting landing rights to "extraordinary rendition" planes is fully established.

"THE SUPREME CRIME" was first defined as "the waging of unprovoked war" at the Nuremberg Tribunal (which the international community and we set up at the end of WW2). The Nazi perpetrators of the Supreme Crime of that era were hanged. Yet, in explicit contravention of that tribunal, Bush & Co bombed, invaded and are occupying Iraq. They do so based upon the same kind of lies ("we are in danger") that Hitler used to invade Czechoslovakia. The only lawful basis for such warfare, the "threat to America" posed by Saddam's WMDs, was conjured up by Bush & Co out of the most outrageous fabrications. This column refuted them at the time by among other things, identifying the British supplier and the purpose of the trucks that were "spun" into the "mobile WMD factories" of Colin Powell's infamous speech to the UN Ditto the weather rocket tubes that Bush & Co

"spun" into "nuclear centrifuges."

SUPREME CRIME No. 2 by Bush & Co is their munitioning of Israel's criminal bombing of Lebanon. The extent of the damage has horrified the world and has deepened our pariah status. Even Ha'aretz newspaper (Israel) reports; "In Lebanon, we covered entire villages with cluster bombs; what we did there was crazy and monstrous," testifies a commander in the Israel Defense Forces' MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) unit. Quoting his battalion commander, he said that the IDF fired some 1,800 cluster rockets on Lebanon during the war and they contained over 1.2 million cluster bombs. The IDF also used cluster shells fired by 155-mm artillery cannons, so the number of cluster bombs fired on Lebanon is even higher. At the same time, soldiers in the artillery corps testified that the IDF used phosphorous shells (as we did in Fallujah), which many experts say is prohibited by international law. According to claims, the overwhelming majority of the weapons mentioned were fired during the last ten days of the war. The news yesterday (9/19) reported that these leftover bombs killed four Lebanese children the previous day. They are our bombs. Our taxes paid for them. Who will clean them up?

ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE is yet another Bush & Co crime against all Americans. It directly violates the 4th Amendment of the US Constitution.

HARBORING TERRORISTS. We all remember Bush equating those who harbor terrorists to actual terrorists. We also agreed with him (provided that he wouldn't misidentify the terrorists). Most probably agree that among the most heinous of all terrorists are those who bomb civilian airliners. When Cubana flight 455 from Caracas to Havana via Barbados, was bombed out of the air with the loss of all 73 aboard the crime was universally condemned. The two who placed the bomb aboard the plane have already served their long sentences. Two others, CIA operatives Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch, were arrested for masterminding that atrocity and were incarcerated in Caracas pending trial. They soon escaped and have since been swanning around Miami openly feted as heroes by its anti-Castro community until international pressure mounted on Bush last year to stop harboring terrorists. After some time he placed them in "protective custody," refusing to extradite them to face trial in Caracas. "Venezuelan authorities might torture them," said our Torturer-in-Chief. As asked here in May and November of last year, what will Bush do? Will he continue to harbor terrorists, perhaps

"pardoning" them, or will he begin to support the US Constitution and our international treaties by duly extraditing the two to Caracas as requested? So far, Bush is proving tough on "suspected terrorists," Katrina survivors, organized labor and the poor while reserving his official "compassion" nearly exclusively for the two alleged airliner bombers. It is now reported that Bush has effectively "pardoned" the two fugitives; that he will not extradite them but will release them to live among us in the US.

GOV'T BY THE PEOPLE lives! – in Hungary. As this is written the people of Hungary have taken to the streets to remove their president. Why? Because he lied to them about the economy in order to win the presidency. By their actions the Hungarians have demonstrated the vitality of their democracy. But we have a president that lied us into the Iraq war, and this is indisputable fact, not opinion. He arranged his torture policies and then denied that prisoners in US custody were being tortured. For two years he stonewalled about his international torture gulag. Finally, just last week he admitted it but claims it was necessary in order to defend us. Simultaneously he attempts further deception by spinning torture – "alternative methods" is what he calls it. Earlier, through ethically challenged underlings John Yoo and Alberto Gonzales (now USAG) he defined torture out of existence in all cases except when the victim dies.

IS DEMOCRACY DEAD here? Are we all "good Germans" who "had no knowledge" of our gov't's crimes? Readers of this column were being informed of the lies that got us into the Iraq war even before the invasion. Bush's entire criminal rap sheet has been printed here. Nobody has denied the facts. Dear reader, it is time for all patriotic Americans (and Irish-Americans are deeply patriotic) to play their parts in "gov't by the people." "A Republic, if you can keep it" is what Benjamin Franklin replied to the woman who asked him what he and the other Founding Fathers had wrought. Can we keep it? It is very late in the day to start. Our republic has already been partly transformed into an empire – our Constitution already gutted. Our beloved nation is now reviled throughout the world for its Supreme Crimes in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine and other war crimes, its mass murders, tortures and blatant lies.

WE ALL KNOW the list of crimes. Bush & Co have made us complicit, and we are their criminal accomplices unless we publicly declare otherwise. America's acquiescence has made the whole nation Bush's accomplices. The world asks; "Where are the decent Americans?" Are their any? Why don't

they speak up?

ACT NOW! Do it out of self-respect, or patriotism, or admiration for what the Founding Fathers wrought, or for the benefit of coming generations, or out of your religious faith, but do act now. At least contact your political representatives. Tell them to vote against torture and against impunity for torturers. Courteously demand an end to our criminal complicity in Israel's genocide of the Palestinians. Even if you have never contacted a pol in your life do it now. You have three that matter; your congressman and two US senators. Phone them. The two Senators are Dick Durbin (312/353-4952) and Barack Obama (312/886-3506). Tell them (through the aides who answer) to vote against torture in any form; to stop further violation of the Geneva Conventions as written.

IRELAND'S HOLOCAUST\*. We must do all in our power to both respect the Dead and oppose gov't policies of genocide by observing its annual commemoration on November 3. It was on that date in 1845 that a delegation of Irish notables visited Britain's viceroy, Lord Heytesbury, in Dublin to urgently request that he stop the impending genocide. They urgently requested that he stop the Food Removal (in which 200,000 British soldiers, militia and constables removed Ireland's abundant food at gunpoint to the ports for export) and cease distilling and brewing to leave more grain available for human consumption. He promptly read to them from a prepared letter. By ignoring the Food Removal and focussing upon potatoes which had failed on the continent the previous year and had just failed in England and Ireland (a failure he questioned), Heytesbury established two things; 1) he tacitly confirmed as gov't policy the genocide that the Food Removal was beginning to cause, and 2) he initiated the myth of "potato famine" to cover up the true cause of the food shortage. Thus officially began an ethnic cleansing of Ireland that "disappeared" 6,350,000 innocents of whom 5.25 million were murdered. A book is underway; for more info now see [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org).

WHO ARE the terrorists in the Anglo-Irish conflict? See [www.terrorismireland.org](http://www.terrorismireland.org).

Corrections of fact are always welcome. Let me know how the pols respond to your calls and of your Irish Holocaust Masses or other commemoration of it. Reach me at 312.664.7651 or [fogarty@ix.netcom.com](mailto:fogarty@ix.netcom.com).

\*\*"Holocaust" by precedent; it was so designated in contemporary publications. Shoah commemorators adopted "Holocaust" in the mid-1960s. "Genocide" is of WW2 coinage.

## Scotland's Jim Malcolm in Woodstock

Jim Malcolm, one of Scotland's finest traditional singers and songwriters, is bringing his award-winning music to Stage Left Café, in Woodstock, IL on Sunday, October 22nd, 2006.

Malcolm, who has twice been booked to sing for Prince Charles, was voted Scotland's Songwriter of the Year in 2004 and was a finalist for the "Scots Singer of the Year" award in 2005. He has been described as "one of the most outstanding talents to emerge from the Scottish folk scene in years."

Malcolm, who was frontman for the much-loved Old Blind Dogs until August of this year, plays guitar and harmonica and sings songs from the Scots tradition, as well as his own award-winning compositions. His successes have led to the recording of his fifth CD, *Tam o' Shanter & Other Tales*.

Malcolm's first CD, *Sconeward*, released in 1995, was acclaimed by critics and chosen as one of the year's best by Radio Scotland's folk programs *Travelling Folk* and *Celtic Connections*. The album established Jim as one of the leading songwriters

in the traditional idiom in Scotland and he was dubbed: "The new male voice of Scotland."

In January 1999, Jim joined one of Scotland's most popular international folk acts, the Old Blind Dogs, and has since worked with them all over the UK, in France, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Germany, USA, Canada and Bulgaria. His song *Battle of Waterloo* was recorded on their sixth album, *The World's Room* and



Jim Malcolm

another of his compositions, *The Wisest Fool*, is on their eighth album, *The Gab o Mey*.

To date, career highlights also include solo tours in England, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Uganda, the US and Canada, and Jim has been featured on a number of radio shows in Scotland, as well as Chicago radio station WFMT's *Folkstage*. His song "Neptune" was featured on an award-winning documentary about a North Sea oil spill. He was one of twelve leading Scottish singers who performed Andy Thorburn's epic work *Tuath gu Deas*, and is featured on volumes four, five and six of Linn Records' exemplary *Complete Songs of Robert Burns*, produced by Dr Fred Freeman.

Jim Malcolm will be appearing at Stage Left Café in Woodstock, IL, October 22, at 7:30 pm. Ticket price is \$15.00. For reservations, or more information, contact Amy at [adixonko@mac.com](mailto:adixonko@mac.com) or (847) 989-8863. Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets early!

For more details, see Jim Malcolm's home page: [www.jimmalcolm.com](http://www.jimmalcolm.com)

## "Ain't We Got Fun!" Variety Shows coming soon for young at heart

You are as young as you feel, and you feel especially young when you attend one of Pat and Kathleen Gilhooly's variety shows designed specifically with Seniors in mind.



Swing with the Gilhooly's

When you combine Pat Gilhooly's "Irish gift of gab," comedic timing, and showmanship, with the lilting voice and dance of his lovely Irish lass, Kathleen, you have a dynamic show of music, song, dance and comedy by Irish folks who really enjoy what they do! Anyone who has been to Ireland

knows that "having a good time" is a high priority of the Irish people. With a vaudevillian flair, Pat and Kathleen deliver that good time to their audience with much more than just Irish favorites. Add Polish, Italian, German, American Swing, and sing-a-longs to the mix of story telling, joking and teasing, and you've got a great wholesome show anyone can enjoy.

"We tailor our show to our audience. When we do shows for Seniors, we fill them with songs and music that we know will remind them of their special era," said Kathleen. "Many in the audience get up and dance because they are truly enjoying themselves. We've been told by many of our guests that we send them home feeling young again!"

For the more active Seniors, Pat and Kathleen invite you to waltz across Ireland on the "Jolly Bus," in the Fall of 2007.

Kathleen has recorded four CD's. Three covering her vast Irish song collection, and her latest, "Happy Hour," featuring many well-known favorites of the 20's, 30's, 40's, and 50's. To hear samples of her music go to [www.kathleengilhooly.com](http://www.kathleengilhooly.com). 708-361-6067.

## Calling all Joneses

Wales is calling all Joneses to gather on November 3rd at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff to break a new Guinness World Record for the largest same family name gathering. Sweden holds the record with a gathering of 583 Norbergs.

Production company Cwmni Da is staging a Joneses extravaganza to air on Welsh television station S4C. The show, called *Jones Jones Jones* traces the Welsh family name through music, dance, comedy and competitions and feature special appearances of famous Joneses.

In conjunction with the November 3rd attempt to break the record there is five-night "Jones Tour" of Wales from October 30-November 5, 2006 for whom the driver and guide are aptly both named Jones.

The Jones Tour of Wales is priced at \$975 per person, double occupancy and includes 1st-class accommodation with full Welsh breakfast, welcome and farewell dinners, entry to all events and attractions including a seat at the Jones Jones Jones show, luggage handling of one bag per person, VAT 17.5% and service.

To book the Jones Tour of Wales, call Undiscovered Britain toll-free at 1-866-508-8804, visit [www.rarebits.co.uk](http://www.rarebits.co.uk) or email [info@rarebits.co.uk](mailto:info@rarebits.co.uk). Flights are additional and can be arranged by Undiscovered Britain.

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## 100 Years On, A Firmer Understanding of the Legacy of GAA Founder 'Citizen Cusack'

By Daniel McCarthy / TheWildGeese.com

Ennis, County Clare, Ireland æ Venerable Gaelic Athletic Association founder Michael Cusack is gaining new scrutiny, in this, the centennial year of his passing. As well as picking up his own website in September, next year an exhibit will open on "The Citizen" in his native Clare.

It's hard to overestimate the unique national and sporting legacy of this Irish sporting legend, who died in 1906 at age 59. To appreciate his achievements, it is vital to understand the physical, emotional and intellectual environment that conditioned him. For it was the heart of Clare that beat in Michael Cusack æ "Rugadh mé i bparóiste an Chairn, Boirinn, Contae an Chláir" æ he proclaimed to all and sundry in his 32 years living and teaching in Dublin.

Cusack was born in Carron on Sept. 20, 1847. He was a proud Clareman, and few if any of the many famous people from the Banner County have brought greater honor to it. Michael was fortunate to see the light of day within The Burren, a strange but beautiful lunar-like region that is petrified forever in carboniferous limestone. Here, Michael would have seen many unusual plants, from the cold Arctic, the high Alps and the warm Mediterranean, growing side by side and in profusion.

He grew up surrounded by one of the largest turloughs (seasonal lakes) in the world, dolmens, stone forts, many ruined churches, caves, wild goats, unusual birds, butterflies and animals. Michael spent the first 17 years of his life in a university environment, where he

had many impulses from sources that were to benefit him later. The ancient O'Davoren law school at nearby Cahermacnaughten was the Yale (or the Harvard) of the old Gaelic order, and Annals of the Four Masters had to be brought before the ollaimh (historians) of Killeedy for their seal of approval. From his parents, who both died when Michael was a child, he received a deep Christian faith and an enduring love for the Irish language. It is believed that Cusack did not speak English until 12 years of age.

It is true that when Cusack founded the GAA, he was operating not in a national vacuum but in a continuum of a tradition in which he was steeped. The young Cusack, a member of the Fenian Brotherhood, would have been acutely aware of stories of the United Irishmen's resistance in Clare in 1799. References elsewhere in the National Archives to Cusack's uncle, Martin Flannery of Drumcliffe, Ennis, place him at the head of 25 Fenians charged in Clare in 1867. Cusack himself later wrote in the United Irishman, of March 25, 1899: "I resolved to be a Fenian. In order to be a Fenian, I had to be a hurler." The grievances that led to the 1799 Clare uprising remained even then, and continued to trouble the county until independence 23 years later.

Though the visitation of the Great Famine nearly eliminated native traditions and pastimes from the Irish countryside, Cusack did recall how he played the game of hurling in his youth:

The size of the hurling field did not bother us. I played hurling in a room and I played it with the goalposts a mile apart. We made little of stone walls and roads and other obstacles. We played with sticks

of Irish nationhood. I knew that Michael felt it so himself, and hence his remarkable power and enthusiasm to the last day of his life æ an enthusiasm which was something more than a mere game as a game could ever have evoked.

Crucially, Cusack gained acceptance from the establishment in pre-independence Ireland, bolstered by his education, his bilingual prowess, his internationally reputed academy, his national achievements with the shotput, general sporting prowess and his commitment to better the existing sporting structures of Ireland. Nevertheless, this son of a Clare herdsman despised sporting and social exclusiveness. "The idea of doing something for our national pastimes what my colleagues were doing for our national language was taking firmer hold of me day after day," he later reflected in his Celtic Times newspaper.

It was Cusack's custom to greet people as "Citizen." This sporting republican sought to formalize an organiza-

tion that recognized all athletes as "gentlemen," rejected unfair handicapping and wagering, and anglophilic, urban-centered, and sabbatarian leanings, which held that sports profaned Sunday, the only day free of work for most of the Irish populus. Indeed, Cusack, despite often being portrayed as a combustible character, had the political foresight to persuade such establishment figures as Dr. Hugh Auchinleck, of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, to become president of the Dublin Hurling Club, a precursor of the GAA, in 1883. The club drafted a set of 12 hurling rules, adopted in the college that year. Sean McCague, president of the GAA in 1983, stated at a function to mark the centenary of the adoption of these rules that the action of the club "saved hurling from extinction."

Yet Cusack knew that it would ultimately take a codified national structure, modelled on the parish system, to rejuvenate the post-Famine Irish peasant who by now in his own words "wasted his

idle hours in smoking and card playing." The Cusack of the early 1880s was acutely aware that if a new sporting initiative was not undertaken soon, Ireland would be permanently despoiled of the bricks of nationality. This new association would in effect represent a sporting reincarnation of the pre-Famine Catholic Emancipation and Repeal mass-movements. Cusack himself admitted that "every social movement in Ireland is to a certain extent necessarily political."

A carefully choreographed sequence of letters published in the national press, culminated in a short letter appearing Oct. 27, 1884, jointly signed by Maurice Davin, the famed Tipperary world champion athlete, and Michael Cusack. It invited readers to attend a meeting in Tipperary in Thurles on Nov. 1 to form an association for the "preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes and for providing national amusements for the Irish people during their leisure hours."

In November 1884, the Gaelic Athletic Association was born. Thurles was its cradle; Maurice Davin, the true father of Gaelic Football, was its president. That the Ard Stiúirthoir (Director General) of the GAA today, Liam Mulvihill, can trace his post back to the GAA's first general secretary testifies to both the scope and the success of Cusack's great aising (vision). That post was held by Citizen Cusack.

An anonymous account from a Clare Association journal in the Archives of Irish America at NYU states of Cusack:

"Seldom has an institution and the man who conceived it been so absolutely the reflection of each other. Through many vicissitudes, Cusack saw it grow and saw it attacked from within and from without. ... Irishmen and Irishwomen all over the world revere the name of this great Clareman for he preserved for them the gems of Irish culture, our Gaelic Games. ..."

Clare-based author and historian Daniel McCarthy is currently story-lining the forthcoming Michael Cusack exhibit at the Cusack Memorial Centre and Homestead in Carron, County Clare opening in early 2007. For more information about Cusack, visit the official Cusack commemorative website, [www.michaelcusack.ie](http://www.michaelcusack.ie). McCarthy can be contacted via e-mail at [boruculture@msn.com](mailto:boruculture@msn.com).



Michael Cusack

without bosses and we played with hurleys. We played when there were only two of us and we played when there were more than sixty of us locked in deadly combat.

In Cusack's world, it was not men but giants who played, people cut from the limestone plateaus of the Burren. It was this world, which he did not create, that he preserved for the Irish nation. He was acting in a continuum of a tradition bequeathed to him from the Gaelic poet Brian Merriman's era and before. For it were the qualities of skill, and bravery that got one a game, and it was where one lived that determined whom one played for, not the class distinction that Cusack raged against in the 10 years before the GAA was founded in 1884. The first President of Ireland, Douglas Hyde, said of Cusack:

The establishment of the Gaelic Athletic Association by my old friend Michael Cusack æ I was one of its earliest members æ was an enormous step in the direction

### Ireland pays tribute to Michael Cusack

In 2006, the centenary year of the passing of Michael Cusack, the Clareman is being commemorated in a fitting perpetual way. Nicky Brennan, Uachtarán, Cumann Luthchleas Gael, turned the sod on a perpetual memorial that is going to house an exhibition on Cusack and his times, so as to introduce visitors to the newly restored Cusack Homestead in scenic Carron, County Clare.

An Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn launched the Michael Cusack Centre's website, [www.michaelcusack.ie](http://www.michaelcusack.ie) in Dublin's Croke Park on Sept. 25. A specially commissioned TV documentary, to air next year, is going to explore his life and achievements. The famous Merriman Summer School in late August focused on Cusack. To ensure that he will not just be commemorated, but celebrated, the founding father of one of the world's great sporting and cultural organizations is also set to be honored by an International Academy of Gaelic Games established in his name, part of the overall memorial project undertaken by the Michael Cusack Development Co. æ [TheWildGeese.com](http://TheWildGeese.com)



## Day of The Dead/Samhain exhibit

The Irish American Heritage Center will host its second annual Samhain/Day of the Dead art show this fall.

This year's exhibit, A Celebration of Ancestors: Celtic Samhain, Mexican Day of the Dead and Other Cultural Memorial Rituals is co-sponsored by the IAHC and Windy City Arts and runs in conjunction with the City of Chicago's Artists' Month 2006. In October, Chicago Artists Month will celebrate its 11th annual celebration with 250 exhibitions of emerging and established artists. The IAHC is honored to be a part of this vibrant city-wide event.

This year's exhibit will take the exploration one step further as Chicago artists and cultural institutions display paintings, sculpture and installations which present the similarities and differences between Celtic Samhain, Mexican Day of the Dead and Japanese Obon, all events commemorating one's ancestors.

The purpose is to bring people of different backgrounds together to view familiar rituals in new ways. Artists include Laura Coyle, Mario Castillo, Saren Thorne Hauser, Pauline Kochanski, Charlie Thorne, Laura Piazza and County Cork Ireland photographer, David Creedon.

David makes his American debut with his new exhibition "Ghosts of the Faithful Departed" at the prestigious mk Chicago restaurant which is regarded as one of the top "50 hottest restaurants in the world". The show opens on October 12th at the restaurant, and then heads to the Irish American Heritage Center.

"Ghosts of the Faithful Departed", looks at the isolation, loneliness and decay in rural Ireland set against a backdrop of the mass emigration of the 1950s to the 1980s.

Emma Whitlock of the Lupe Gallery in London has described "Ghosts" as a stunning body of work, and one that nearly moved the gallery director to tears, while Lauren Heinz of the prestigious E18HT magazine in the UK which showcases challenging and inspiring photo stories by many of the world's leading photojournalists has said that Creedon's work totally "blew them away". And they intend to do a six-page spread on the portfolio in

November.

Sarah McCarthy, who originally hails from Kanturk but now lives in Illinois is organizing the American exhibitions. She came across David's work while visiting her sister Mary Johnson at Carrigaline Framing shop and was immediately taken by the power and beauty in the images.

The photographs are very emotive and a number of people who have viewed them have become visually moved and found them to be beautiful and heart-rending. They seem to evoke memories of their youth and remind them of their own parents' homes that they may have left years ago.

David is also well known for his Black & White portraits of musicians which have a film noir style to them, amongst the many people he has photographed are Hazel O'Connor, Philip Chevron, Mick Hanley, The Saw Doctors, Johnny Fean, Barry Devlin plus many more.

His work can be viewed at [www.david-creedon.com](http://www.david-creedon.com)

The exhibit runs from Sunday October 15 through Sunday, November 12, with an opening night reception on October 15 from noon to 5pm. Viewing hours are noon-5pm on Saturdays and Sundays and during the week by appointment.

*Hiram Morgan and John McCavitt: The Nine Years War (1594-1603)*  
For information, call 773-282-7035, or visit [www.irishamc.com](http://www.irishamc.com)

Two Irish historians recount events surrounding the Anglo-Irish "Nine Years War" (1594-1603), including the role and tactics of Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone; the watershed battle of Kinsale in 1601; and the eventual "Flight of the Earls" in 1607. Morgan is lecturer in Irish History, University College, Cork; McCavitt is a schoolteacher in Newry, County Down.

This program is part of a two-day (November 4-5) symposium at Loyola University on early seventeenth century Ireland in the context of counter-reformation Europe, sponsored by the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago in association with the British and Irish Consulates General.

For information, call the CHF ticket office at (312) 494-9509.

## Tim Ryan documents disaster in New Orleans

In a new approach to telling stories from the front lines of post-Katrina New Orleans, the New Orleans Video Access Center (NOVAC) is producing a series of short documentaries and a one-hour program for free viewing. The entire series has been posted on the world's 15th most viewed website, YouTube.com.

A painful irony of post-Katrina New Orleans is how few people throughout the country understand the extent of what has happened to the city. Many people do not realize that, nearly 11 months later, things are not back to normal in New Orleans as the city continues to struggle for survival.

"In many respects, New Orleans is alive and kicking. People are moving home, schools are opening, cultural activities have returned and, in some neighborhoods, life has a sense of near normalcy; however, all it takes is a short drive outside of the French Quarter or Uptown to witness extensive loss and devastation. The magnitude of flooding was incomprehensible and New Orleans still has many challenges to overcome. Through this community-based documentary project, we present stories from a local point-of-view. We hope this effort will garner continued support for the rebuilding of a great American city," says Tim Ryan, NOVAC's executive director and participating filmmaker.

Tim is originally from Chicago. He worked for the Chicago Tribune, Anderson Consulting, and United Airlines. In 2004 he and his wife, who is originally from Louisiana, moved to New Orleans. He does freelance video production and runs a non-profit organization (New Orleans Video Access Center) that teaches video production to children and adults. His wife is an actor, personal trainer and waiter. They are currently living, with their two dogs, in a FEMA trailer while they struggle to reach a fair settlement with their insurance company (12 months later!).

Shortly after the hurricane, Tim and his wife began interviewing people in Baton Rouge where they were evacuated. It was her idea to interview people as she realized that it was a way in which they could channel their fears and anxieties while capturing important and possibly historic stories. While in line applying for emergency unemployment and Red Cross support, they interviewed fellow evacuees for several days. Upon return to New Orleans, Ryan was approached by a member of his non-profit's board of directors to create a documentary on the most devastated neighborhoods in New Orleans. They wanted to capture short stories on the people and culture of New Orleans that make it a city worth rebuilding.

The NOVAC short documentary series takes an intimate look at the culture, people, neighborhoods and spirit that make New Orleans an American city worth rebuilding. The shorts are between 5-12 minutes and are all directed by local filmmakers and are continuously uploaded to Internet video sites.

NOVAC is also producing a one-hour program titled *The Drive* as an alternative to seeing the mile after mile of devastation first-hand. *The Drive* provides a raw visual and narrated tour through four of the most devastated neighborhoods in New Orleans and is supported with extensive footage, maps, interviews, digital imagery, and an original musical score by Emmy nominated composer, Gil Talmi.

Tax-deductible donations will continue to be accepted to support ongoing production.

The series is available for free viewing via Internet websites including YouTube (keyword "NOVACDOC"). The entire series is available on DVD at cost (\$4.75 + shipping) through a partnership with Amazon's Customflix.com.

For links to the series and information on supporting this production with tax-deductible donations, visit [www.novacvideo.org](http://www.novacvideo.org).



a planning and resources guide for the perfect Irish vacation

# diy Ireland



do it yourself – make it your own style and save!

## Cruising on the Irish waterways

*“Come away O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world’s more full of  
weeping  
Than you can understand”*  
William Butler Yeats  
From Stolen Child

Any tourist who have driven in Ireland appreciates what a daunting experience it can be. It is not for the timid.

I propose another method of transportation and a unique perspective on Ireland, coming in the back door if you will. Ireland is quite watery we will all agree however in their wisdom, the Irish have channeled all this liquid gold into navigational channels that crisscross the country. There is the Grand Canal that extends from Shannon River (County Offaly) to Dublin and the Royal Canal that once linked Dublin with the Shannon River (County Longford) and which is in the process of being restored. In addition there are numerous lakes, rivers and canals which make up the Irish waterways. (See sidebar.)

We planned a family vacation to Ireland and contacted Waterways Ireland [www.waterwaysireland.org](http://www.waterwaysireland.org) for details on the logistics of such an adventure.

We contracted with Locaboats, a French company that has had a presence in Ireland for more than five years. (There are several other cruise line companies available including Quayside Boating Holidays, Emerald Star and Belleek Charter Cruising).

Our family of four that included

two college-age characters (BoBo and Yogi) arrived in Ballinamore public marina to pick up the boat. (We had rented a car at the Shannon airport however most of the cruise lines will pick you up at the airport or arrange transport if car rental is not desired).

The Locaboat was what Americans would call a cabin cruiser, 44 ft. long, 12 ft. wide and including three bedrooms, two baths with showers, kitchen/dining area and outdoor seating both front and rear. After a tutorial on how to drive the boat, navigate through the locks, empty waste receptacles and add water we took a test drive through the nearby lock. We learned how to use the waterways credit card to facilitate filling and emptying the lock and how to tie up etc. while in the lock.

We stocked up on groceries and left Ballinamore heading north on the Shannon-erne Waterway canal system through Garadice Lough (lake) which boasted Swan Island Animal Farm with petting zoo and excellent fishing. We continued on through Woodford Canal and several other smaller lakes to spend our first night at BallyConnell, a small town with a charming pub called, Lizzie Buggies where we played pool and talked to the locals. BallyConnell is known for spectacular scenery especially around Brackley Lake near the Cuilcagh mountains of West Cavan. The next day we cruised the Woodford River and went around numerous islands that featured ruins and old castles. The famous Crom

Castle, which is on this route, has a tea shop and walkways for visitors. This route included the Corraquill Lock so we could practice the necessary teamwork to keep the boat on course. The scenery was beautiful and with the unhurried pace of the rivers and canals, Irish tunes on the CD, with cows on the banks for quiet company, it was a truly enchanting experience. We ate almost all our meals on board. We were struck by the miles and miles of waterfront with no development and found out later this was due to the planning councils in the various counties along the waterways banning building on the lakeshore.

We next landed in Enniskillen, a bustling northern city, located in County Fermanagh and with 11,500 people, third in population to Belfast and Derry. We tied up and met some of the other tourists exploring Ireland by boat from France, England, Germany and Denmark. We enjoyed excellent pizza at Franco’s, got our laundry done and explored the town, which had lots to offer:

- Boston Quay Crafts
- Sheelin antique Irish lace museum,
- Butter Market (master crafts people in their workshops)

Enniskillen offers numerous craft workshops and galleries with a diverse selection of contemporary and traditional crafts featuring photography, jewelry, textile art and traditional sculpture and paintings.

We enjoyed Enniskillen so much that we stayed an extra day to see more of the sites, which included The Clinton Centre, a business con-

ference facility with a restaurant, art gallery and lodging. The Centre was built in 2002 in honor of President Clinton’s dedication to peace and prosperity in Ireland. The historic Enniskillen Castle, built in the 17th century and once home to the Gaelic Maguire Chieftains, is located on the Erne River. It hosts the Fermanagh County Museum and the Museum of the Royal Enniskillen Fusiliers. I can also attest to a wonderful massage at the New Health Centre located next door to Turning Heads Salon.

The colleges and universities had just concluded for the year so the streets were filled with young folks heading to the disco. We asked one young man on the street where we could go for a quiet drink and he insisted that we come with him and his group. We ended up at the Crow’s Nest which had an Irish trio playing American country music. We were soon joined by a group of Danish sport fishermen who our host, Jody, had also befriended. It was a great international evening listening to American country music in an Irish pub with Irish students and Danish fishermen.

After reluctantly leaving Enniskillen we wound our way past Castle Coole, one of the treasures of the National Trust. It is a magnificent neo-classical structure that was the family home of the Earls of Belmore. The beautifully appointed castle includes gilded mirrors, inlaid woodwork and a Chinese sitting room. The castle is beautifully sited on grounds worthy of the magnificence of the house.

Next up was Belturbet which houses one of the most extensive collections of railway memorabilia as well as audio visual displays from train travel in the

1950s. We then headed back to Ballinamore past the Hare Krishna Centre on Inish Rath and back to Ballinamore. We felt like we were home.

We had dinner on the boat and then explored some of the sites of Ballinamore, home of Irish patriot, Ned Gird and the site of the mysterious disappearance of an author and two Loyalist soldiers. The village had music in every pub and disco that some of our group enjoyed.

We discovered the boat holidays that are available on other parts of Waterways Ireland. It was a great way for a family to spend time together while learning about Ireland. We depended on each other as we needed every hand on deck while landing and taking off as well as going through the locks. The voyage created greater respect for the unique talents and organizational abilities of the crew both individually and collectively. Navigation of the channels and rivers as well as figuring out when we would arrive at our safe harbor for the evening was also a family affair. The boat was large enough for quiet reading or napping and the evenings provided the opportunity for walks and sociability with other boaters and the townspeople.

After having time to reflect on the trip, I find myself returning to the utter peacefulness of gliding through the canals with no other humans or buildings for miles and feeling that we had Ireland all to ourselves. These images remind me of the essence of Ireland and why people return again and again. As Hal Boyle said, “What makes a river so restful to people is that it doesn’t have any doubt it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn’t want to go anywhere else.”

## Book to go with the cruise....

Before you start a waterways journey in Ireland the first thing anyone should do is get a copy of the book, “Ireland-the Inner Island”. This is a so called coffee-table book with photographs of towns along the waterways and castles and many of the sights you will see while on a waterways boat trip. There are views taken from planes that show the full landscape area of canals, rivers and lakes.

All eight navigations and canals of Ireland have a section of their own in the book with maps and histories of the area’s waterways. In these magnificent photographs you sense the mood and atmosphere of Ireland’s rivers, lakes and canals from the Lee Navigation in the south to the Erne Navigation in the north.

The photographs reveal the beauty and tranquillity of the Barrow, the Grand and Royal Canals, the Shannon and its lakes, the Shannon-erne Waterway, and the less obvious waterways such as the munster Blackwater Navigation. You are taken on a page-by page journey on the waterways and you also see the beauty of countryside, villages and towns of Ireland.

The author/photographer, Kevin Dwyer captures it all. You will yearn to travel on the Waterways of Ireland system after you complete this book.

Available from Irish gift shops or direct from Irish Books and Media at [www.irishbook.com](http://www.irishbook.com) 612-871-3505.



The Shannon Princess II holds up to 10 guests and can be chartered privately. They offer golf itineraries as well as normal cruising itineraries. [www.shannonprincess.com](http://www.shannonprincess.com). 011-353-87-2514809.

## More on cruising Ireland's waterways

Cruising the waterways of Ireland is a unique form of holiday that presents an opportunity to see different parts of Ireland only accessible by boat. A cruise makes for a wonderful, relaxing, get-away break. The waterways are dedicated to boating and fishing, and no commercial traffic uses the open water. It is a splendid way to enjoy the unspoiled countryside immersed in its heritage, at a very leisurely pace.

There are almost 300 miles of navigable waters on the Shannon-Erne Waterway. This water system is a connection of rivers and lakes, and a short canal. They form a continuous navigable stretch of water. It is the longest natural waterway in Europe. The Shannon-Erne Waterway flows from the town of Belleek, in County Fermanagh on the northwest coast of Northern Ireland to the Shannon estuary, at Killaloe in County Clare in the Republic of Ireland. The waterways are made up of The Erne Lakes and River System, the Shannon-Erne Link, the North Shannon, and the South Shannon. On the Shannon-Erne Waterway, there are six locks, and 16 automated electric locks.

Cruising is open to anyone over the age of 18 and in good health. You don't need to be registered as a captain of your own ship. A license is not required. You do not have to have experience. All of the fundamentals can be taught in a relatively short period of time, which can occur when you arrive to pick up your cruiser. You can take a one way cruise, starting at one point and ending at another, or a round trip cruise starting and ending at the same point.

In planning your cruise, there are a few items to consider:

- amount of time you have for your holiday
- time of year you want to travel
- number in your group
- are you flying into Ireland?
- Belfast Airport, Dublin Airport, or Shannon Airport
- are you taking a ferry from the UK or the continent?

Once this information is determined, you can choose from a variety of cruise itineraries and companies from which to hire your cruiser.

Most of the cruise companies offer a pick-up service from Dublin and Shannon Airports. This would eliminate the need for car rental and a one way cruise could be advantageous. With this option you could explore more of the surrounding areas and enjoy more of the waterway. If you take the car ferry from the UK or continental Europe, a round trip cruise may be better. Utilizing this option you have the opportunity to explore more in depth the area of your travel.

The waterways are segmented into four sections. The River Erne and Erne

Lakes flow northwesterly from Cavan to Lough Erne in Baniskillen. This area features forests, islands, excellent coarse fishing, wildlife sanctuaries, and monastic ruins.

The Shannon-Erne Link consists of lakes, an open river, and canalized parts of the river. This area has the 16 electric locks through 37 miles of waterways.

The North Shannon is the upper part of the Shannon and the lower part of the Shannon-Erne Link. The main town in this area is Carrick-on-Shannon and a very popular mooring point. This area features excellent fishing and an abundance of wildlife. There are four locks with lock-keepers.

The South Shannon includes Lough Derg and many bays and inlets. This area features the town of Athlone, and Clonmacnoise, a renowned monastic site. There is one lock and lockkeeper.

The basic configuration of the cruisers is:

- the aft-cockpit cruiser
- the motor-cockpit cruiser
- the forward-drive cruiser
- the flybridge-style cruiser with dual helm

From two to ten people can be accommodated on the various cruisers. Some offer more amenities than others. Rentals usually take place from Saturday to Saturday, or a 7-day rental. Many companies do offer shorter rental periods for a 'short-break' holiday. It is advisable to book your cruise as early as possible, especially if planning your holiday for July or August.

Rental prices vary from economical to high, but are comparable to spending a week in a major city hotel. Usually a 25% deposit is required when booking your reservation. Additional costs would include, but are not limited to, a refundable damage security deposit, or a non-refundable damage waiver fee, fuel, mooring fees (many are free), cancellation insurance, insurance for personal loss, theft or damage to personal possessions, provisions for on-board, and an electronic 'smartcard' for the Shannon-Erne Link. Many of the cruise companies can provide a market or shop for you to purchase your provisions, and they can be delivered to your cruiser prior to departure time. If you have your car, parking usually is available at the cruiser base.

One of the advantages of cruising the waterways of Ireland is traveling at your own pace. A cruise is one of the most relaxing and unburied types of holiday you can experience.

For those who choose NOT to be the 'captain of their own ship', there are passenger cruisers available. You can still enjoy the tranquil waterways by combining them with sightseeing tours.

## North American Celtic Buyers tradeshow

NACBA's annual tradeshow held in Lombard, IL in September introduced new lines of Celtic merchandise as well as many established companies to buyers from around North America. Items below

can be obtained from participating Irish import and specialty shops. If your shop is not carrying these products yet, ask them to!



A new line of Irish wedding watches were introduced by Glycine & Claddagh Promotions Inc., the Irish Friendship Watch Co. located in Dublin.



Robert Hall Originals featured some beautiful pewter Celtic dinner knives, bagpipes, letter openers, and jewelry. Call 519-448-1236 or 800-360-2813 for a dealer near you.

The big news out of the show was that Dollywood will open an Irish import store in April, 2007! Thanks in part to the hard work of (l to r): Marlene Robinson; Visual Coordinator - Dollywood, Marie O'Malley; Enterprise Ireland, and Dave Anderson; Director of Special Events - Dollywood.



Randi Curtis, representing Photofuse™ is set to launch an exciting new photo gifting company at selected import and specialty stores across America November 1, 2006. The company prints your photos on just about anything with the best quality we have ever seen. For more information or a location near you call 888-584-7105 or 718-554-6951.



# Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN

October marks the time each year when the leaves come down and the winners of the Nobel Prize go up. Last year, there was a surprise. For only the fourth time, a playwright was the laureate for literature. The award went to Harold Pinter, an Englishman. As far as I know, Pinter has no Irish family connections. That was the surprise. The three previous Nobelists all had Irish blood flowing through their veins. They were George Bernard Shaw (1925,) Eugene O'Neill (1936,) and Samuel Beckett (1969.)

Of the three, Irish-American O'Neill led the most colorful life. He was born and died in a hotel room, shipped out as a merchant seaman, suffered from debilitating illnesses, was married three times and was estranged from his three children for years. Despite all that, or perhaps because of it, he produced the most original dramas ever to come out of America.

O'Neill first stepped onto the world's stage in New York in 1888. He was the son of James O'Neill, a Shakespearean actor born in



Killmorkett, who if nothing else, was totally committed to his career. She was a former actress with good looks and grand aspirations — she had been crowned Miss California 1907. But her acting talent was not up to her theatrical ambitions. When

opted for an alternate role in show business. She followed O'Neill to Maine and cast him as actor in his direction. As a result, O'Neill took up with Carlotta and ditched second wife, Agnes. The divorce from Agnes, mother of O'Neill's only daughter Oona, who married Charlie Chaplin, was a drawn out affair. It took two years before Carlotta and Eugene were wed in 1929. If the couple did not always live happily ever after, Carlotta found happiness enough in managing just about ev-



the two first met, she was berated by O'Neill because she had adlibbed his lines. After calling Eugene "the roughest man she ever met," Carlotta

anything about the playwright's life and career. That apparently was bias enough for both.

Carlotta and Eugene had crossed

the country to San Francisco around 1909. While they were there, news arrived that O'Neill had been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. Eugene was too sickly to travel to Stockholm for its presentation, so the prize was delivered to him in hospital instead.

Flush with the prize money, O'Neill and Carlotta bought a 136 acre spread across the Bay and a range of coastal hills from San Francisco. There, they built a dream house and called it "Tao" after the Chinese philosophy for the right way. O'Neill said it would be his last dwelling place.

When I visited the home earlier this year, I found it well preserved as an unusual blend of Spanish colonial, adobe and oriental architecture. It is located halfway up a golden brown hill surrounded by stunted green oaks in the sun drenched San Geronimo Valley. This mix of vegetation gives the landscape an irregular mottled appearance. Tao house with its honey locusts, junipers, a variety of shrubs and angular walkways cutting across the front courtyard stands out as an oasis in all of this.

In O'Neill's day, the valley, which is now the town of Danville, consisted of farmland.

Their nearest neighbor was more than a quarter of a mile away. So, the place was isolated and tranquil. Each day when Eugene awoke he gazed out on the majestic slopes of Mount Diablo, a nearly 4,000 foot peak

on the other side of the valley. It is hard to imagine a setting more conducive to reflection, creative thought and writing.

While he was at Tao House, O'Neill wrote *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. He also tried his hand at a series plays about the evolution of America including the role of Irish. But none was finished. When O'Neill vacated the Tao House in 1944, he burned his remaining manuscripts. He did not want anyone else finishing them.

Today the Tao House is managed by the US National Parks Service which is trying to return the home to its original state. They are doing a good job but it is a slow process. They even retrieved the author's tank bed which was once a Chinese opium table. It took intervention by actress Katharine Hepburn shortly before her death to get it back. The bed along with other memorabilia such as O'Neill's books and writing desk are on display.

To visit Tao House, one must make a special advance appointment and take a shuttle. Both shuttle and admission are free. Call 925 838 8249 or go to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



## Discover the Magic of the Emerald Isle

Ireland's rich beauty comes alive the moment you enter The Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel. The lobby, decorated with rich colors and mahoganies, stained glass, inviting leather armchairs, enveloped in the enchanting sounds of Celtic melodies are reminiscent of the Emerald Isle. Soothing views of the countryside from the W.H. Yeats Library mirror the magic of Ireland.

Relax in a luxurious suite or stay in a well-appointed guest room featuring complimentary high-speed Internet and gourmet coffee.

Includes a traditional Irish breakfast buffet, complimentary to registered guests every week end. Featuring Kilties, Smokies, Black Pudding, White Pudding, Minicakes, Cream Battered Tomatoes, Potatoes, Flapjack, Sausage and Brown Bread.



Experience the true feel of Ireland in Frank O'Donnell's Irish Pub. Designed and hand-crafted in Ireland, it is Ireland's most dynamic entertainment venue with Irish Dancing and live acts, live entertainment every weekend. Frank O'Donnell's offers a complimentary star glass, appetizing green beer and domestic and imported beer selections second to none.



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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

## Defending Tom Cruise



There's something irritating me. Well, a lot of things irritate me but this is one of those in a nagging minor key — an annoyance that, while it doesn't exactly ruin the sleep, does make one wonder again at the fickleness of the mob.

I'm not sure how bad it is on the American side of the pond, but over here a cottage industry has been created that seems to consist of people lining up to put the boot into Tom Cruise. I don't make a habit of overburdening my limited number of brain cells by worrying about overpaid superstars; but in this case the sheer pettiness of the attacks is baffling. This week alone (second week in September) I've come across a full three-page article in one of the broadsheet supplements, a full page in one of the dailies and numerous snide remarks littered throughout the rest of the press. And it all seems to be roughly because he:

(a Jumped on Oprah Winfrey's couch and generally showed that he was in love.

(b Is short in stature.

(c Has a religious belief that

people think is mad.

(d Waited five months before he showed a photo of his child to the world.

(a So what? Did you never behave irrationally when that great feeling kicks in? Didn't you feel like announcing it to everyone, no matter how supposedly uncool it made you look? If the answer is 'no' then I'm sorry for you. All you have to do is open up any newspaper and you will have ample opportunity to wallow in hatred and depravity. Switch on the news and look at the images that the death merchants are burning into your retinas. Take your pick from war-of-the-week. Yet you sneer and make fun of someone for saying he's crazy about his partner. Shame on you.

(b How about being short on decency? I'm thinking of the clown who referred to Cruise and Katie Holmes's baby as The Spawn of Tom; or the smug film critic who laughed at his height and had a go at his acting ability! I'll just mention two great, very different performances: the money-grub-

bing yuppie who grows into a caring brother in Rain Man and the definitive Lestat in Interview with the Vampire. (For the sake of my argument I'll draw a veil over the hideous 'Oirish' film Far and Away.)

(c His personal beliefs? Again, so what? As far as I know Scientologists believe that our psyches were messed up because some Galactic Federation exploded hydrogen bombs 950,000,000 years ago, releasing the souls of some race called Thetans. These souls will infest us until we reach a 'clear' stage. It all sounds rather barmy to me but then again I've never found the idea of a man walking on water too normal either. In Ireland and the UK recently (I suspect it was much worse in America) thousands of people entered their religion in the census as 'Jedi'. I defend their right to believe in Yoda if they wish. I don't want them living next to me, mind. I've enough problems without looking at light sabres being waved over the hedge. Let's keep perspective here. Gullible people have lost money to Scientology, but for years the collection boxes rattled here and no one knew where it went. Now, in a dishonourable few cases, we do know. Nor are Cruise's beliefs comparable to the recent Islamic march through London where banners calling for the beheading of Unbelievers were waved.

The main gripe most people have seems to be the silent birth scenario. I checked up on it rather than just jumping on the 'let's lynch the woman-hater' bandwagon. I discovered that their stance is "if the mother herself wants to say something or if she feels like screaming, there's no intention to keep what needs to be done from being done". I also read that while they think "silence should be maintained as far as humanly possible" they add "it is doubtful if any woman could give birth without making any noise at all". Not quite the fascism I'd been led to expect.

(d They can't win. He gets ac-

cused of publicity-seeking because he jumps on Oprah's couch; but because he waits for five months before showing his beautiful child to the world he is castigated. Why don't you save your barbs for the greedy stars and their million-dollar deals who have their child in front of the cameras two days later?

Read proud mum Katie Holmes's words: "I was overjoyed being pregnant, and then had to withstand ridicule about my pregnancy when it was the most normal, non-controversial thing imaginable". Now go hang your heads and let this couple get on with their lives.

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## Cancer benefit for Lisa at Gaelic Park

Lisa (Pollard) Bukowski is 35 years old, the mother of a five year old daughter, a life-long resident of the village of Oak Lawn, and a graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School. In June of this year, Lisa was diagnosed with Stage III colorectal cancer. She has undergone one major surgery, radiation treatment, and is currently receiving intensive chemotherapy. Lisa will be unable to return to her position at the Oak Lawn Public Library for the indefinite future and will soon face another major surgery.

A Fund has been established to aid Lisa and her child with the medical and living costs of her devastating illness. Donations may be sent directly to "A Lift For Lisa" Fund, State Bank of Countryside, 6053 W. 79th Street, Burbank, IL 60459.

Please join us for a Cancer Benefit at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois, on Sunday, October 29, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. – 10 p.m.; buffet-style dinner starting from 5:30 pm; cash bar available all evening. There will be a Silent Auction, Door Prizes and Raffles. Irish dancers, live music with Billy Leathem, and a DJ!

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the door or in advance by contacting [lift4lisa@yahoo.com](mailto:lift4lisa@yahoo.com)

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**Chicago: Friday, Oct. 20 at 8 p.m.**      **Irish American Heritage Center pb 773-282-7035 x14**  
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# A Word With Father Boland

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



## Respect Life: Aiding Women to Nurture Life

As Catholic Charities prepares to celebrate October as "Respect Life" month, I am happy to announce a new collaboration to better serve women experiencing crisis pregnancies.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, through our Maternity/Adoption Department, has affiliated with a respected and experienced not-for-profit, abortion-alternatives, pro-life organization, Aid for Women, Inc., in order to further enhance our comprehensive services to pregnant women in the greater Chicagoland area.

Catholic Charities has been dedicated to helping pregnant teens, women and their children since our founding in 1917 to support very poor families, widows and orphans. For decades afterwards, we collaborated with St. Vincent Orphanage in Chicago to care for abandoned infants and children, and the pregnant, unmarried women who sought refuge there. Since 1921, Catholic Charities has been licensed to place children in need of homes with loving adoptive and foster parents.

Now, Catholic Charities has joined forces with Aid for Women, Inc. to reach out to pregnant women who may be isolated or in crisis, without support, as they prepare for the new role of parent or to make a plan of

adoption for their child's future.

This affiliation brings together two highly experienced and specialized non-profit agencies with different but complementary strengths. Since 1978, Aid for Women has operated an accessible, well-advertised, first-call "Hotline" for abortion-minded or undecided women to review their pro-life options. They train volunteer counselors who assist each hotline caller, or each client with whom they personally meet, to make the healthiest decision for herself and for her child. Last year, Aid for Women, Inc., counseled 2,600 women one-on-one at their Chicago center or through their client hotline. An additional 1,800 women were helped to access community resources such as food and medical care.

Catholic Charities offers specialized multi-level Maternity and Adoption services to meet the many needs of women, children and their families for medical aid and professional counseling as each family plans the future of each child. In addition, Catholic Charities can connect the family of each caller with our entire system of comprehensive social services. The heartbreaking first question from women is often: "How will I feed my child?" Catholic Charities can provide low-income single moth-

ers and families with nutritious food, clothing, housing and job assistance as well as baby needs, setting them on the path to self-sufficiency.

Together, we will now be able to offer an expanded "first contact" outreach to women, plus comprehensive follow-up services for the health and future of the mother, child and family. Catholic Charities and Aid for Women want to be available to pregnant women at this critical time of their lives with a compassionate, life-giving option for them and their children. We want to say to each pregnant woman, "You are not alone!"

In order to set this plan in motion, we are recruiting a number of new hotline volunteers to begin an intensive training program, beginning in the Lake County and Northwest Suburban areas. Future training programs will be conducted throughout the Archdiocese.

Each volunteer will need a solid commitment to the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception to natural death, a strong desire to serve women in their pregnancy needs, and the ability to gain enhanced communications skills and knowledge of pregnancy-related issues. Each volunteer will be required to attend four in-depth training sessions at St. Patrick Church in Lake Forest during October, under the direction of Aid for Women and Catholic Charities.

I ask your prayers for the success of this new "collaboration for life" to help women who are facing crisis or unplanned pregnancies. May God bless you and your families.

If you are interested in supporting now or in the future call Aid for Women, Inc. at (312) 621-1101 or Catholic Charities Maternity/Adoption Department at (312) 655-7071.

## Judges up for retention November 7

### Judge Maureen E. Connors

A graduate of Loyola with a BA in June 1972 and IIT-Chicago - Kent College of Law Juris Doctorate in 1979, Judge Maureen Connors has extensive judicial experience spanning from her days in Traffic Court in 1988 to her present seat as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County Probate Division.

She has been a member of the Task Force on Illinois Domestic Violence (1991-1992); a tutor for the Mercy Home for Boys & Girls (1991); President and board member of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago; a Constance Morris House Domestic Violence Service Award recipient (1991,

1992 & 1993); and a member of the Queen of Peace High School Board of Directors (1994-2002).

Judge Connors is a member in good standing of the Chicago Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association. She has lectured and moderated at CBA seminars on "Guardianship Proceedings and Related Matters" (1996-2005); Lectured and been a Panelist at the National Institute for the National Association Elder Law Attorneys; member of the Special committee of the CBA Elder Law Committee (1999); and a member of the CBA Probate Bar Committee & Young Lawyers Committee.

### Judge Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman was elected to the bench in 2000.

While only a law student, Joyce served in the Legal Research Division of the Chief Judge's office assisting some of the most respected judges in Cook County with research and writing for their opinions. During that time she was selected by Presiding Judge Sheila M. Murphy to be the researcher and writer for the sixteen judges sitting in the Sixth Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

After moving to the Sixth Municipal District, she was elevated to the position of staff attorney. Only one-year out of law school, Joyce became an associate of Adamski & Conti, a high-profile firm which hosted the popular radio talk show Chicago Law on WGN.

Joyce established her own firm, Joyce M. Murphy, P.C. near her childhood home in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. She was nominated for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court shortly thereafter and elected to the position in 2000.

Her very early tenure was spent in the Chicago Traffic Center. She

proved to be an effective and versatile judge in serving in every position in the Traffic Court, including the jury trial call.

After only two years on the bench, she was selected to head her own call in the civil non-jury trial section of the First Municipal District. Today she presides over a case load of 15,000—one of the single largest case loads in the state of Illinois. Despite her demanding call, she disposed of thousands of cases per year. She has heard hundreds of trials involving breach of contract and torts. In addition to her trial work, she also hears oral arguments on legal issues prior to trial.

An important component of her work involves resolving disputes between non-attorneys. She works closely with Northwestern University Law School mediation program which recently recognized her for her contribution to theft mediation program.

While sitting in the First Municipal District, Judge Murphy Gorman became the Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Municipal Department committee, which is concerned with the operations of all six Municipal Districts in Cook County.

### Judge Francis J. Dolan

Judge Francis J. Dolan of the Circuit Court of Cook County, which is the largest judicial court system in the country, is assigned to the 1st Municipal District of the Circuit Court.

On becoming a lawyer, he served six years as an assistant Chicago corporate counsel. In 1978, he headed his own Chicago law firm focusing on business and commercial litigation for the next 18 years.

In October of 1999, Dolan was appointed a judge of the Circuit Court by the Illinois Supreme Court. In 2000, he was elected to that position for a 6-year term.

He currently presides over civil jury trials and does a remarkable job in that capacity.

Judge Francis Dolan was born in Chicago, is married and has 3 children. He is a graduate of Benedictine University and De Paul University College of Law.



Third Annual Oyster Festival at Irish Times - The Irish Times in Brookfield held its Third Annual Guinness Oyster Festival on Saturday, September 16th. The event featured plenty of oysters, mussels, and smoked salmon along with samples from the 'Pony of Guinness' and a chance to get their picture taken with the 2006 Oyster Festival Queen. All this was backed up by music from the Dan Hamilton Trio and captured by the event photographer Marc Kritzer. See the event from start to finish, check out the 2006 Oyster Festival pictures on the official Irish Times Image Gallery website at [www.ITPubEvents.com](http://www.ITPubEvents.com). Photo taken by Marc Kritzer.

# Get Your Irish Up ...North!

By James McClure

## The Irish Red Baron

There's nothing more native to summertime Chicago than the Ferris Wheel, river bridge lifts and the ultimate rite of warm weather passage, The Chicago Air and Water Show.

The two day fly fest had an unknown Irish accent to it... in of all things a stunt plane honoring a German legend while touting a Italian food made even more famous in the Windy City.

Enter 44-year old Bryan Regan... at about 2,000 feet, twisting and twirling as Lead Pilot of the Red Baron Squadron... the vintage biplane air force of Minnesota-based The Schwan Food Company. The three other stunt-performing biplanes get their every move by keeping pace alongside Regan as he does stomach-turning maneuvers to promote a premium frozen pizza product. Red Baron debuted in 1976 when few options were available to consumers.

"This comes easier to me than most anything else I've ever done," says Regan, a merry faced bearded redhead whose resume includes a host of jobs that don't exactly scream "pre-aviation." He studied computer science and switched to pre-veterinary studies, also worked as a bartender, bouncer and as a manager on a Louisiana ranch.

## When Irish Eyes Are Flying

"You think about the Irish in America and they often become adventurers or farmers or both," observes Regan, whose heritage traces back to 1840's New Orleans and a great-great-grandfather who arrived there from the Old Sod. "A lot of Irish-Americans moved West and that's true of my family." Regan has two cousins he visits in Chicago whenever he flies in air shows here and he has settled in Gilbert, Arizona.

The dream of flying began for Regan at a very young age, as it does for many little boys and girls. To confirm that, just walk down the flight line of any aviation show and look at the faces of the younger attendees. Of course that's also true for adults and especially news media joining the various flight acts for a special media preview day at Gary, Indiana Municipal Airport. This is the home away from home for the various



and saw recent small screen notoriety as the personal hobby plane of David James Elliott's naval aviator-turned-lawyer Harmon Raab in the popular series JAG. As our engines wind up to full throttle I'm forced to contemplate whether basketball's Benny the Bull will fare as well as I since I'm not wearing a hot furry red suit. Hockey's Tommy Hawk, football's Staley the Bear and the WNBA's Sky Guy will have to fend for themselves.

We take off from Gary just as the F/A-18 fighters of the Blue Angels land. We swoop over the steel mills

transformed into the Tokyo of the famous Dolittle 30-second raid in the recent movie Pearl Harbor. And indeed you feel transported back in time to the beginnings of World War II with the staccato hum of the pulsing engines you feel in the seat of your pants and up a spine covered by a large parachute pack. As with my previous instruction in how to eject from a NASA T-38 trainer jet, I'm convinced more than ever that a crash landing is preferable to any possible chance that I could remember to do three successive steps involved in bailing out.

Fortunately as in earlier aviation adventures neither air bailing nor air sickness bags were required. With the Lake Michigan waters gleaming 2,000 feet below us in the late morning sun, Lead Pilot Regan now begins the flawless maneuvers of stunts that pilots on either side of him track and duplicate. Strict safety and discipline standards require the team to follow Regan through the loops, rolls (barrel, snap and slow) and half-cubans, an abbreviated figure 8 in the sky over the Indiana-Illinois border.

These are all classic maneuvers that every stunt and military pilot learns today, and hearken back to the days after the World War I aces like the German Red Baron, Baron Manfred von Richthofen. Days when "barnstorming" became popular as military veterans would buzz farms across the American landscape in the 1920's and 30's with opportunities to watch or experience flight firsthand.

## The Right Stuffing

The demonstration is as flawless as the tactile feel of wind and pistons is exhilarating, more so than any run I've ever experienced in a high-performance jet aircraft, save for perhaps catapulting off an aircraft carrier. But that doesn't include

the actual feel of wind whipping by you at well over 100 miles an hour. Another Red Baron Squadron pilot, Travis Aukes, the sole "local boy" from Aledo, Illinois, notes that "pilots get a real pure feel for what flying is like from these aircraft, and if you think about it even some of the first astronauts in the space program trained in these. There is a real love for the Stearman."

Regan agrees. "Oh yeah, the Blue Angels have been up with us on more than one occasion. They really get a kick out of it." Serving in the squadron requires a real commitment. It involves 12 hour days and more than 200 days a year on the road for their many appearances. "The day usually begins around 7 a.m. with an air show briefing followed by our team running through our routines mentally as a group," says Regan. Regan and Aukes, along with Matt Losacker of Arizona and Jayson Wilson from North Carolina, perform their own ballet imitating themselves as their airplane as they walk through the stunt routines on the ground and again mentally in their minds as they drive from the

hotel.

The Red Baron Squadron aircraft are fully restored historic Stearman biplanes built between 1941 and 1943, originally for military pilot training then later crop dusting. After restoration in 1979 these planes began towing banners to promote Red Baron Pizza. Within five years the team's aerobatic skills became a big hit with routines for many air shows and community events.

Bryan Regan learned to fly in 1986, joined the squadron in 1992 and joined the performing team in 1996. He's never looked back in 10 years, save to consider his adventuresome Irish heritage. "I've dreamed of doing this all my life," says Regan. As he banks the team expertly in an overhead approach that individually breaks and separates each of the four planes, it's clear that his Irish eyes, and those of the many he entertains, will be smiling for years to come.

*James McClure is a freelance print and broadcast journalist who writes for Irish American News. He may be reached at JimMcClure71@aol.com*



Bryan Regan

huge C-130 Hercules of the United States Marine Corps which supports the traveling contingent of the Navy's Blue Angels Flight team. Other military acts for 2006 included the Army's Golden Knights Parachutists and the volunteers of the single-wing World War II trainers of the Lima Lima flight crew. Come Saturday and Sunday some 2 million lakefront visitors near downtown Chicago will see these and a wide variety of military jets and helicopters from the Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Army.

## Pizza Pie in the Sky Performance

So who's going aloft in the four planes of the Red Baron Squadron? Save for this intrepid Irish American News correspondent, the demonstration flight will include mascots from all of Chicago's pro sports teams. My best friend, who happens to be a Navy flight surgeon, a flying doctor who sees to the welfare of fighter pilots and astronauts alike, assured me that I should be prepared to get sick in the aerobatic biplanes of the Red Baron Squadron. The early 1940's era Stearmans trained a whole generation of Navy and Army pilots

## Milwaukee Irish Fest Sweeps International Festival Awards

Irish Fest Named as One of the Top Events to Visit in 2007

Milwaukee Irish Fest announced today that the festival was awarded top honors at the 51st Annual International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) Convention & Expo in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Irish Fest took home second place in the organization's top honor, the Grand Pinnacle Award and received four Gold Awards including Best Community Outreach, Best Media Kit and Best Campaign for its 2005 marketing campaign. The festival also took home silver and bronze awards for promotional clothing, brochures and an on-site radio broadcast.

"It's a great honor to receive this kind of international recognition. So many volunteers work thousands of hours to make the festival and all of its marketing efforts successful each year - this is a great reward, said Jane Anderson, Executive Director of Irish Fest. "All of the awards we have received recently underscore our mission to promote and celebrate all aspects of Irish culture to festival-goers from around the world," Anderson added.

The IFEA is the premier association supporting festival and

event professionals world-wide. It was established in 1955 and each year hosts a convention for representatives from events and festivals from 38 countries and five continents.

Recently, Milwaukee Irish Fest was also named one of the Top Events to Visit in 2007 by the American Bus Association (ABA). Every year a committee of ABA-member motor coach and tour operators select the Top 100 Events for the subsequent year, based on five criteria including: Wide appeal to motor coach and tour groups, newsworthiness, and close proximity to othersight-seeing experiences for tour-goers.

Milwaukee Irish Fest is the world's largest celebration of Irish music culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainers annually at the four-day, 16-stage event at Henry Maier Festival Park on Lake Michigan. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Milwaukee Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities and genealogy at the festival and through yearlong programming.

# WISCONSIN



## The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Chapter Elects Board

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's Milwaukee Chapter recently held elections for their 2006-2007 board of directors. The new board is as follows: Brian Witt, president; Peter Fleming, Vice President; Marianne Fisher, treasurer; Dawn Fleming, secretary; Kathy Donovan, sergeant at arms; Tom Smith, membership chair; Ed Mikush, parliamentarian; Julie Smith, past president; and trustees: Del Canon, Noreen Barclay and Patrick Fitzgibbons. Their terms are from July 1 until June 30, 2007. The new board was installed on July 13th.

The chapter will again be a part of the Milwaukee Irish Fest. Volunteers will be working their sales booth in the Grafton Street area, as well as staffing the information table in the Cultural Area.

The Shamrock Club also proudly sponsors the Shamrock Club Griffins in the Milwaukee Hurling Club. The team is headed up by captains Mike Larson and Dan McAullife. The Griffins are currently in first place in the Harp Division standings, and are the only undefeated team in the MHC.

The club has listings of Irish and Celtic events, including music, plays, dances and lectures for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Upper Midwest, (Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio). Go to <http://shamrockclubwis.com> for links to all those, as well as information

on the Shamrock Club. The Shamrock Club now has a listing in Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Go to

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamrock\\_Club\\_of\\_Wisconsin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamrock_Club_of_Wisconsin).

The Shamrock Club is based at the ICHC, mailing address: Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Contact their 24-hour activities line at 414-77-IRISH, (774-7474).

## Kohler Food and Wine Experience

The 2006 Kohler Food & Wine Experience in the Village of Kohler, Wisconsin will showcase nationally renowned celebrity chefs, wine experts and regional restaurateurs for its sixth consecutive year on October 27-29, 2006. Co-sponsored by Food & Wine magazine, the event offers a weekend full of flavor with culinary demonstrations, tastings, and food and wine seminars.

Jacques Pépin, one of America's best-known food columnists, authors and teachers, Rick Bayless, chef/owner of the world famous Frontera Grill and Topolobampo restaurants in Chicago and host of PBS's Mexico-One Plate at a Time, and Walter Scheib, former Executive Chef of the White House for eleven years, are among the celebrity presenters that will be showcased. Past favorites participating in this year's event are cheese and wine expert Laura Werlin and New-York based sommelier and

journalist Anthony Giglio. Together with these national celebrities are local experts and presenters from Destination Kohler including Ulrich Koberstein, The American Club Executive Chef.

The weekend activities include gala wine tasting events, wine & spirits seminars, chef demonstrations and perfect pairings, artisan cheeses & gourmet food makers, and specialty shopping.

The schedule of events and tickets for the 6th annual Kohler Food & Wine Experience are now available online at [www.DestinationKohler.com/foodandwine](http://www.DestinationKohler.com/foodandwine) or by calling 1-800-344-2838. There is a combination of both ticketed and complimentary demonstrations and activities.

Hotel packages and tickets are available at The American Club for the Kohler Food & Wine Experience.

## Cedarburg Irish Set Dance Classes & Ceilis Schedule

As we mourn the completion of Irish Fest in Milwaukee, there is a bright light shining in Cedarburg!

The following is the upcoming Class and Ceili Schedule. Mark your calendars...

Fall 2006 Classes  
Mondays, Sept. 11 - Oct. 30;  
Caledonian Set, 7-8:30pm; \$45  
Battering Steps for Reels, 6:30-7pm; Fee \$10

Holiday 2006 Classes  
Mondays, Nov. 6 - 20; Doubling for Sets, 7-8:30pm; Fee \$15

Winter 2007 Classes  
Mondays, Feb 12 - April 2; Kilfenora Set, 7-8:30pm; Fee \$45  
Battering Steps for Jigs, 6:30-7pm; Fee \$10

Spring 2007 Classes  
Mondays, April 16 - June 11 (no

class May 28); Newport Set, 7-8:30pm; Fee \$45

Ceili Schedule - Live Music Featuring Athas ([www.athasmusic.tripod.com](http://www.athasmusic.tripod.com)); Admission \$9  
Saturday, Oct. 14 - 8-11pm  
Saturday, Dec. 9 - 8-11pm  
Saturday, Mar. 3 - 8-11pm  
Saturday, June 9 - 8-11pm  
Featured Set of the Evening Taught at 7pm

Classes and Ceilis are held at the American Legion Post, W57 N481 Hilbert Avenue, Cedarburg, WI. Pre-registration for classes suggested - download a registration form at <http://sets.sulliasociates.com>. Thanks to Joanna Dupuis for teaching! Phone Teri Sullivan for more information at 262.302.7854. See you on the dance floor!

## Fundraiser for Louie's Last Regatta raised over \$2k

Chicago Sailing would like to thank all who helped raise just over \$2000 in aid of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Special thanks goes to Tim Kent who traveled down from Wisconsin especially for the night. Special mention must also be made to all donors of the wonderful prizes. Thank you to the Mystic Celt for allowing us such a great space and all of the wonderful

staff (especially Hazel who donated all her tips for the night). Thank you also to Soothyoursenses.com, Heineken USA, Stella Artois USA, The Blue Bayou Bar and Grill, Cullen's Bar on Southport and The East Bank Club for their generous raffle donations. And last but not least we would like to thank Tim Flemming, Garret Woods, PB&J and DJ T-Cozy for providing all the music.

We would also like to thank those of you who have donated online and would like to encourage those of you that have not yet done so to please donate what you can. Remember it's all for the kids!

Louie's Last Regatta - <http://www.milwaukeebrewing.com>.

If you would like to, you can still donate online at - <http://www.firstgiving.com/bumblebee>.

## San Patricios Celebration at ICHC

October 21, 7:30pm - \$15. The Story of San Patricios will be the focus of the evening. We will celebrate a group of Irish immigrants who began fighting in the US-Mexican War of 1846 on the US side only to switch allegiance and become allied with the Mexicans. Come find out why and learn about these men who

have become legends. Their story is still celebrated in Mexico and Ireland more than one-hundred-fifty years later. This evening will begin with an introduction, followed by a 42-minute documentary, and end with Irish and Mexican music.

Other events are a Samhain celebration, October 31, 6pm

- 9pm at UWM Hefter Center, 3271 N. Lake Drive, Milwaukee. On November 13, Judge Tom Cooper and State Senator Dave Berger, St. Andrew's Society of Milwaukee Board Members, will give a lecture of the judicial system in Scotland.

Reception 6:30pm, lecture at 7pm, at the UWM Hefter Center, 3271 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee.

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## Bad, Bad Rory Markham

By John Mooney

"The Southside of Chicago is the baddest part of town.

And if you go down there you better just beware of a man named Leroy Brown..."

The late Jim Croce wrote the lyrics to "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" over 30 years ago. Had he lived long enough to meet Rory Markham, he might have given the song a different title.

A native of the Southside, the 24-year-old is one of the rising stars of the International Fight League (IFL), which bills itself as the first team-based professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) league. Each of its eight teams based in New York, L.A., San Jose, Seattle, Portland, Quad Cities (Illinois-Iowa), Toronto, and Tokyo is coached by a mixed martial arts World Champion.

The 6'0", 170 lb. Markham fights for the Quad City Silverbacks based in Bettendorf, Iowa, a 2.5 hour drive west from Chicago. The team is coached by Pat Miletich, who holds black belts in karate and Brazilian jiu-jitsu and is the founder of a school that has produced 11 World Champions.

Markham's MMA record is 8-1, 0 Fighters may use a combination of jiu-jitsu, karate, judo, kick-boxing, wrestling, and boxing. Maneuvers such as hair-pulling and eye-gouging are not allowed.

A graduate of Marist High School, Markham got into fights and received detentions almost every day. He reveled in being the toughest kid in school and tested his skills against everyone willing to challenge him.

"I had so much JUG ("Justice Under God") that the Dean of Discipline and I were on first name basis," Markham laughed. "I had such a reputation that he once asked me to help make sure there was no uproar after the dean had to expel a particularly disruptive student. I owed him since he had gone out of his way to keep me in the school."

In fact, he became so much of a local legend that tough guys from the public high school would come looking to fight him. After graduation, he attended Eastern Illinois University – a collegiate academic career that lasted just nine days. Surprisingly, he never worked as a bouncer for the simple reason that his former girlfriend didn't want him to.

"Honestly, fighting is the only thing I ever wanted to do," said Markham, who told his mother as a child that he wanted to be the best fighter in the world. "I tried to get into my first street fight in diapers. Another kid was picking on my older brother, so I chased him down the block. I'm born a fighter."

He has trained as a boxer and mastered kung fu, karate, kickboxing and jiu-jitsu. He believes the window of opportunity for him in MMA is much greater for him than it would be in the boxing game. The fighter moved to Iowa three years ago to train with Pat Miletich, whom many consider the best mixed martial artist in the world.

"I went there to train for a week. On the second day, he told me everyone from the gym was going to hang out and not to worry about changing clothes," Markham recalled. "I got in the car, and he told me, 'You're fighting tonight.' I knocked the guy out in first round."

The mixed martial artist trains between 3-4 hours a day. His regimen includes running, hitting pads, weightlifting, and circuit training. He can bench press 300 pounds and runs 3-5 miles or more each day. He usually listens to the Dropkick Murphys, Radiohead, or Pearl Jam on his iPod when he runs. While he stretches, he listens to the Chieftains or The Pogues.

The result of all the training is a powerful physique on a 170 lb. frame. He eats five meals a day, starting with a shake after he runs in the morning. His meals usually consist of a chicken breast, rice, broccoli, and an apple. Sometimes he substitutes salmon for the chicken ("If I'm feeling frisky.") He doesn't drink when he's in training, and since he has three fights upcoming before the end of this year, the pints of Guinness are put on hold.

"Rory has great work ethic and is always looking to improve. He is still very young and has finally started to realize his potential as a world class fighter," his coach and mentor Pat Miletich said. "Rory has a combination of striking and elusive movement that makes him dangerous for any guy in the world to fight."

His discipline comes from his mother, Colleen (nee Mahoney), who is a full-time nurse practitioner, runs clinic and works at maximum security prison on weekends. She raised two boys, Rory and his older brother Ryan, now an EMT with the Chicago Fire Department.

"I know if I can work half as hard as

she does, I'll be a champion," Markham said of his mother, whose family has roots in Co. Tipperary. "She went two summers ago and visited with cousins. Part of me wishes I could have gone. I haven't been to Ireland yet. I want to make sure that I go when I have enough time off from training to have a few pints."



Rory Markham

His parents have been divorced since he was a toddler. The fighter describes his relationship with his father as "on and off," and never consistent enough to be a true father-son relationship. His dad has not seen him compete, but feels he has plenty of surrogates whom he respects.

The Silverbacks, with a 7-3 record, are a particularly close knit team. "We have a unique relationship. We're like brothers. That's why we're the best," Markham says.

The IFL pays him enough money so that he doesn't need to have "real job." The league gives him a monthly stipend, and fighters can make \$10,000 or more per bout. While he wasn't specific, Markham says that headliners can make enough from one fight to live for a year. Since joining the IFL, he has gone to places he thought he'd never visit, including Hawaii, the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, and Fort McMurray in northern Canada, where he went to participate in a MMA seminar.

"When we fight, it's a nice chunk of change. You know your job in the morning. When I'm running, I'm

working. By getting better, that's how I make more money," said Markham who is single following a split with his girlfriend who wanted to get an apartment and settle down.

He joked that he hasn't met any IFL groupies yet, but he wouldn't mind if there were some. He drives home every weekend to visit his mom (yes, he brings his laundry) and see his two dogs, an English bulldog and boxer mix, appropriately named Dempsey. His social life consists mostly of "some craic with the boys" at local spots such as Town & Country (TC) Pub and Cork & Kerry. "My buddies are all union guys; you won't catch me downtown with pomade in my hair."

So what drives Rory Markham? Is it anger? Competition?

"Fighting is just something that I've always liked to do, and I won't stop until I get it out of me. That might not be for a while," Markham replied. "I have both physical and mental goals. You find out more about yourself in one fight than in living five or six years. I can't really give that up."

"Most people don't understand it. They're afraid to take risks."

(LATE NEWS: Rory Markham's last bout was Sept 23. He won in the first round. As a result his team advances to the finals on November 4 at the Borgata in Atlantic City. [www.ifl.tv](http://www.ifl.tv) to learn more about Rory and the International Fight League. Record now 9-1-0.)

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## Irish Heritage Singers Present 20th Anniversary Concert

The Irish Heritage Singers are proud to present, Hearth and Home, a 20th Anniversary Concert at the IAHC this fall. The concert, Saturday, November 18th at 7:30pm, features the 50-voice choral ensemble, the Legacy of Erin Children's Choir

and guest artists.

The Irish Heritage Singers formed in the late 1970's as the Gaelic Choir. In the mid 1980's, when the Center opened, the Irish American Heritage Singers Choral Group was formed under the auspices of the IAHC.

Between 1986 and 1999 the group grew to 22 members and began to broaden its repertoire to include pieces involving four-part harmony. In 1996, the group changed its name to the Irish Heritage Singers.

Since 2000, the group, under the direction of Chuck Kessell, has grown to 50 members of all ages and performs 15-20 times per year. The group sings traditional Irish and Irish-American music and is one of the only Irish/Irish-American choral ensembles in the United States.

The Singers have performed at Irish Fests throughout the Chicago area and on the main stage at Milwaukee Irish Fest. They have participated in park district summer concert series and have performed for two Presidents of Ireland. In 2003, they represented the United States at the Sligo International Choral Festival and placed 3rd out of more than fifty choirs competing from Europe.

Tickets are \$12 for IAHC members or with advance purchase and \$15 at the door. Free parking is available and The Fifth Province will be open for refreshments before and after the performance. Tickets are available by calling the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

## Broadcast of UEFA Champions League games available at Setanta

Setanta Sports, the Dublin-based television network which has beamed international soccer and rugby to U.S.-based fans since April 2005, today announced the start of the UEFA Champions League. There are four ways to follow the action:

Setanta Sports Channel - One live and two same day coverage matches of the UEFA Champions League are broadcast on game days. The Setanta Sports Channel also features live English Premier League, Euro 2008 Qualifiers, International Friendlies, Eredivisie (Dutch), Le Championnat (French), Scottish Premier League, Asian Cup Qualifiers, Asian Champions League, German FA Cup, MUTV, and Chelsea TV.

Setanta Sports Broadband -

New soccer broadband offerings this season include a minimum of 55 UEFA Champions League matches; among them Manchester United, Real Madrid, Barcelona Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, AC Milan, and Bayern Munich.

Setanta Sports Premium - The premium channel will be showing Live UEFA Champions League matches, Live Rugby, and Live GAA in pubs and other venues across the US and Canada.

Setanta Sports Mobile - Fans can also access UEFA Champions League scores, previews, and reviews on Setanta Mobile, available through Verizon Wireless, Cingular and Sprint in the US, and in Canada through Telus Mobility, Bell Mobility and Fido.

For more information go to [www.setanta.com](http://www.setanta.com).

## Mercy Home for Boys & Girls installs new president and CEO

On Sunday, September 17, 2006, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls officially installed Rev. L. Scott Donahue, a Catholic priest, as the eighth president in its 119-year history at an outdoor mass on its Chicago West Loop campus, 1140 W. Jackson Blvd.

More than 800 supporters and friends of the Home joined the Very Reverend John Canary, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago, in celebrating Fr. Scott as he assumes leadership of the venerable youth home. Cardinal Francis George named Fr. Scott the Home's new president and CEO following the retirement of Rev. James J. Close, who oversaw the Home's unprecedented growth for 33 years.

Fr. Donahue, who currently resides at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Chicago, has worked under the mentorship of his predecessor, Fr. Close since 1990, when he joined Mercy Home's Board of Regents. After accepting an invitation from Fr. Close in 1993 to work directly with the young men and women of the Home, Donahue, with the blessing of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, became assistant to the president. "I could tell shortly after meeting him as a young priest that Fr. Scott had

the intellect, the insights, and the good common sense that will make him a great leader for the Home," Close said. "I'm confident that Fr. Scott will carry on our tradition of care and of good stewardship of our resources, and that he will look back one day on a long record of accomplishment."

In 1996, Fr. Donahue was named the Home's associate president, a position he held for 10 years, during which time he helped Fr. Close preside over the largest expansion of the organization and its services in its history. In 2000, Close and Donahue launched Mercy Home's Legacy of Miracles campaign to raise \$10 million and to expand and open more homes for at-risk youth. As a result of the campaign and the leadership of the two priests, the Rev. James J. Close House was opened on Mercy Home's West Loop campus in 2003. The new building houses eight new homes for boys and expanded the range of services provided for young people in need.

Fr. Donahue assumes full leadership of the Home well-credentialed in running a best-practice organization like Mercy Home and caring for young people. In addition to a total of 16 years involvement with Mercy

Home, he holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Loyola, as well as two others, one in theology from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, and one in applied spirituality from the University of San Francisco.

Fr. Scott said that he has built his priestly ministry around a passage from scripture that reads: "What has been given to you as a gift, give as a gift." Donahue said, "I am thankful for the generosity and goodness of so many wonderful people who make it possible for us to help youth change, grow and prosper." Donahue assumes responsibility to help the Home continue to cultivate support from donors for an institution that is more than 98% privately funded.

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

## Cusack and Joyce: Pair may well have reshaped modern Ireland

By Daniel McCarthy / The WildGeese.com

For Dublin-born author James Joyce, history was a nightmare from which the Irish people were trying to awake. GAA founder and fellow Dublin resident Michael Cusack was acting in a continuum of a declining civilization. Cusack obviously made an impact upon the young Joyce's psyche. He appears in "Stephen Hero" as the football fellow in the knickerbockers and in "Finnegan's Wake" as Sir Nicholas de Cusack, and is alluded to in "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" as "Davin, who had sat at the feet of Michael Cusack the Gael."

Joyce determined that he must "fly the net and forge in the smithy of (his) soul the conscience of (his) race." It was Michael Cusack's fate to forge the conscience of the Irish people on the hurling and football fields of Ireland. In so doing, Cusack became irretrievably entangled within the net of the Gaelic renaissance of the late 19th century.

Michael Cusack's crowning achievement, the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association, was the culmination of a personal 10-year odyssey. Yet his voyage was to continue beyond Thurles, for there was to be no Ithaca for old man Cusack, no final, happy destination. For his was a journey that was to continue on a downward social trajectory until his death. His beautiful young, County Down wife, Margaret Woods, mother of their six children, died in 1890, and his famed Civil Service Academy which had brought in a then considerable income of at least £1,000 a year, folded on account of his neglect during the establishment of the GAA.

It was the Citizen Cusack that raged against this slide whom Joyce encountered, and caricatured with the figure "The Citizen" in his novel "Ulysses." Maybe it was the paralleled decline in the fortunes of Joyce's that sparked the writer's intrigue with the ailing Clare schoolmaster. It has been mooted that Joyce did see a reflection of his father in the GAA's father æ in their support for Parnell, alcoholism and latter-day poverty. Joyce wrote to his brother Stanislaus from Zurich in 1907, "I suppose you saw old Cusack is dead" soon after Michael's death from chronic kidney disorder, a condition which Cusack's predilection towards drink certainly did not help.

The odd smattering of Cusack's idiosyncrasies does emerge in Joyce's brilliant gifts of observation. The line in "Ulysses" where the citizen "spat a red bank oyster out of him right into the corner" is a play on the English translation of Carranroo Bay oyster bed, less than 10 miles from Carron, Cusack's birthplace in Clare.

The Clare poet and founder of Burren Perfumeries, Brian Mooney, makes convincing claims for both Cusack and Joyce as the most influential figures of modern Ireland æ Joyce for his reconstruction of the English language, Cusack for his reconstruction of Irish nationalism. Mooney writes, "In spite of the diverse nature of their achievements, one thing unites them: Each in following his own intuition was being singularly true to that peculiar genius of the Celt to reshape, shift or reinvent old forms ... the life-blood of a culture is its openness to meaningful change."

Perhaps it was Cusack who was the ultimate modernist in that he was the first Gael to take on the modern world while being true to the traditions that molded him. Cusack gave his own "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man":

When I reflect on the sublime simplicity of the game of hurling, the strength and swiftness of the players, their apparently angelic impetuosity, their apparent recklessness of life and limb, their magic skill, their marvellous escapes and the overwhelming pleasure they give their friends, I have no hesitation in saying that the game of hurling is in the front rank of the fine arts. Let me explain. Tolstoy says that "art is a human activity, consisting in this that one man consciously by means of certain external signs, hands on to others feelings he has lived through and that the other people are infected by those feelings and also experience them. My father passed those feelings peculiar to the hurling field on to me. I shoved them a stage further at least, and now I am luxuriating in the manful enjoyment of those who have taken my place. It is a consolation to me to know that in the "calm eve of my life" that I have been an artist. I was quite conscious of what I was doing all along, but I was not aware until recently that I was an artist. Now I submit that every good hurler is an artist of the finest type.

# Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



The floodlighting of Croke Park is expected to be in place for the start of the National football League in February next year and already suggestions have been put forward for the new lights to be used for a possible meeting between Dublin and newly crowned All-Ireland champions Kerry. The new floodlighting is being installed at present at GAA headquarters for the International rugby and soccer matches next year. Croke Park have agreed to host the rugby and soccer internationals games while Landsdowne Road stadium is being re-developed. The decision to allow rugby and soccer to be played at Croke Park was very much welcomed by all units of the GAA with the possible exception of one or two counties.

It would have been a farcical situation if the Rugby and Soccer matches were exported to England because there was no other venue capable of staging the games in Ireland. A lot of goodwill has been generated between the three sporting bodies- as a result of the sporting gesture by the GAA. Naturally, the GAA will be suitably recompensed as the rent to be paid to them will be around five million Euro.

The installation of the flood lights brings another dimension to Croke Park for the GAA's own use for their matches.

It is obvious that a major attraction will be needed to bring followers to the popular venue to test the use of the lights, As Dublin and Kerry are both in the same premier League group, an opening League tie under lights appears to be the logical step for the February 3 engagement. It stands to reason such an arrangement will be subject to both counties agreeing. There is also the question of the local residents who may object to a Saturday night 'Lights' fixture. A League game between Dublin and Kerry would bring a huge crowd to Croke Park considering the fact that 70,126 packed Croke Park for the League final between Dublin and Down in 1964, which Dublin won. A Dublin-Kerry meeting could beat that record if it was to take place in Feb next year.

More importantly for the GAA is the question of crowd control at

Croke Park. on a major occasion. Efforts to keep the crowds off the Croke Park pitch on Leinster hurling final day backfired badly. There was no stopping the Kilkenny and Cork fans from swarming onto the pitch for the cup presentation and a lot of after match repair work had to be performed to have the surface right for the football final. However it is fair to say, the stewarding was adequate enough, for the football final, the few fans who got onto the pitch at cup presentation time were dealt with by the stewards. The GAA have warned counties that further intrusions by spectators onto the pitch will force them to put barriers around the "Hill" 16 end of the field, a trouble area for pitch encroachment.

The problem of post-match invasions I'm sure never entered the minds of GAA people when they sat down to redevelop Croke Park into the massive stadium that it is today. "You live and learn" goes the old adage. Presenting cups and medals in front of the Hogan Stand has been a tradition in the GAA but since the new stadium has replaced the old, the whole concept has now been changed. The biggest invasion problems occur at the Hill 16 end, where 13,000 people are standing on a terrace.

If even 3,000 attempted to come on to the pitch, the discomfort, not to mention the danger, for everybody is obvious. The GAA decided to retain Hill 16 as a terrace for a number of reasons, including maintaining the distinctive ambience of Croke Park as opposed to overseas venues. But, if even one person were to be seriously injured or-God forbid -killed in a mad post-match crush the health and safety authorities would no doubt close it down. What is not too well known, the GAA has to deal with a regular stream of insurance claims, lodged by people who either injured themselves climbing over a barrier or while engaging in over exuberant behaviour on the pitch.

That's one solid reason why the GAA insist on keeping people off the pitch during the post match ceremonies. In previous years, and less litigious times, when supporters took their chances, they were responsible for their own

well being if they invaded the pitch after a game. The long term future of the Hill 16 will now depend on the supporters who fill it at match time. If they refuse to co-operate with the stewards in the arena the GAA will be forced to erect really high fences around the perimeter.

That would be a sad day for the GAA. This practice will have to be stopped before the rugby and soccer bodies fulfil their international engagements when they play their matches there in 2007. Crowd invasion during any of those visits would have serious repercussions for the associations staging their games.

Staying with the international scenario. The violence which erupted during the International Rules games between Ireland and Australia last year in Melbourne will not be tolerated by the GAA, should there be a repeat of these incident. An Ireland player nearly suffered a major injury in an over zealous challenge from an Aussie opponent. Senior GAA officials were appalled over the sheer effrontery of the Rules body, who

having watched their players indulge in gratuitous violence, didn't even have the good grace to apologise, not initially anyway.

However after a summit meeting between the AFL and GAA last April, it was agreed to continue

with the link -up, albeit under much tighter disciplinary procedures. It was made clear from a GAA viewpoint it was last chance saloon for the series which would be very much on trial in the series in November.



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# MICK

By Mike Morley



Ireland Secretary Peter Hain assuring Attorney General Gonzalez that Irish-Americans opposed to Britain's policies in Ireland were not the target of the treaty changes, the fact

In part, the time is ripe because of the country's focus on terror. But Britain may also be trying to get ahead of some bad news headed down the pike.

Secretary Hain is also predicting that a report being prepared by Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan on how police handled a UVF murder is going to be, in his words, "extremely uncomfortable for the British state". Could it be more uncomfortable than O'Loan's report on police conspiracy in the murder of civil rights attorney Patrick Finucane? (Oh, if any of this UVF, Diplock, Finucane talk is new to you, Irish reader; imagine how unbelievable it must sound to those who get their news only from American papers and TV. How can that change? - Only by input from Irish who buy the papers and watch the programs. If they don't care, why would anyone else? If you want something covered in the daily press where your senators and their supporting voters will see it; you have to make noise.)

Anyway, the murder investigation Hain says is going to be a hot one for Britain concerns 22 year old former RAF man Raymond McCord Jr., who was beaten to death in November 1997 in Newtownabbey, north Belfast, and his body dumped in Ballyduff quarry. His father, Raymond Sr. claims a UVF man is involved in the murder, but has been protected by crown police by virtue of being a police special branch agent. A retired RUC Criminal Investigation Division detective, Johnston "Jonty" Brown, who handled police informants, including Ken Barrett, leader of the Protestant death squad that murdered Pat Finucane, has now himself turned informer and claims the former UVF commander was responsible for the murder of McCord and a dozen others, including Sharon McKenna, a 27-year-old single Catholic taxi driver from Newtownabbey.

She was shotgunned dead by two UVF men while cooking dinner for a friend, a Protestant pensioner just released from the hospital.

Brown now is now a target of the death squads and had to move when his home was bombed by British Loyalists. He and his wife are looking at places in France, Spain and Greece, hardly leading Protestant areas.

Secretary Hain also warns the upcoming report should not be used as an excuse by Sinn Fein to continue its refusal to join the Police Board. He said Raymond McCord was murdered "a long time ago". (Incidentally, Lady Sylvia Hermon, MP told newsmen that Hain fallen asleep more than once during a meeting with Raymond McCord, Sr. to express his concerns about the murder investigation.)

I guess "a long time ago" implies "Let's forget about it" like all the other horrors over 300 years we're encouraged to forget. But not that November, 1997 when the murder was done, was 4 months after the IRA's cease fire. And the Loyalist UVF, along with the other Protestant para groups, still retain their stockpiles of weapons barely a month before Northern Ireland must form a government.

The lantollah Paisley, Britain's stalwart defender of the faith for its first and last colony isn't interested in forming a government. The North Antrim MP believes in law and order and insists Sinn Fein must support the police before joining the government of the 6- county statelet. Perhaps he means law and the (Orange) Order.

Paisley, along with his heir is Assemblyman Ian Paisley Jr., holds sway over northern politics from their home base in Ballymena. Festooned with union jacks, the town center is considered a no-go area for Catholics. On May, 15 year old student Michael McIlveen was cornered by a Protestant mob then kicked and beaten to death.

Nearby Ballymoney is where British Loyalists firebombed the home of 29 year old Chrissie Quinn, a Catholic mother of four boys. Three of the Quinn boys - Richard, 11, Mark, 9, and Jason, 7 - were asleep in their beds when a gasoline bomb was thrown through a window in the early morning. The boys all were burned to death.

The Quinns lived in the predominantly Protestant Carnary estate, but believed they were accepted by the community and attended a Protestant school. Mrs. Quinn's boyfriend, Raymond Craig is also Protestant. The murders were committed while Orange Order Protestants were demanding the "right" to march to their church at Drumcree, taking a route through a Catholic neighborhood that didn't want them there again.

There have been attacks on Catholics this year in Ahoghill, a town that many Catholics abandoned in fear following last year's firebomb campaign. The police response then was to issue Catholics smoke alarms and "fire blankets". What a fire blanket does, I don't know. Perhaps you can attempt to sleep under it during the bombings. Or maybe you use it to make smoke signals and attract the attention of authorities.

This year police have been monitoring school buses carrying children from Ballymena after a group of British Loyalists gathered at the bus stop when the children arrived. There have also been several fire bombings, and Catholic churches and homes have been hit with paint bombs. Last month Paisley the younger had the brass to announce on the BBC: "a considerable amount of the attacks recently carried out in North Antrim are not only self-inflicted by republicans but are part of an orchestrated effort to stir up sectarian activity to discredit the local unionist community." That would come as a great shock to poor Michael McIlveen, were he not in his grave today. What's next- a claim that the boy kicked himself to death?

So that's where our senators will soon be sending Irish and Americans, who may end up in a nightmare situation like Maher Arar, an Ottawa computer consultant falsely labeled "dangerous" by Royal Canadian Police, who were under pressure to come up with some terrorists for the boss. They had the US put both Maher and his wife on the al-Qaeda "watchlist", claiming he was in Washington on Sept 11. While traveling through NY he was grabbed at the airport by the men in black. Questioned for 12 days, he was then sent (extra-ordinary rendition is the word) to, of all places, "Axis of Evil"- Syria, where he was beaten into saying he had been trained in Afghanistan. He was locked in a compartment "the size of a coffin" for ten months, and then released. An inquiry led by Ontario Justice Dennis O'Connor found "categorically... no evidence" against Arar.

Is there anyone out there really thinks it's a great idea to weaken the discretion of American courts in extradition cases? Would you vote for him?

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## Diplock anyone?

August's column (archived at [http://www.irishamericannews.com/col\\_gbrd.htm](http://www.irishamericannews.com/col_gbrd.htm)) concerned changes Britain wants made to US/UK extradition law, and what dangers that might pose to Irish and Americans. I e-mailed a copy to every senator on the Foreign Relations Committee, and some other political names in Illinois, but received no replies.

The revised treaty has now been passed out of committee to the Senate floor. The vote was unanimous. I don't know if committee member Obama would have cast his vote against, since he arrived in the committee room after the vote was taken.

Except for a few frontline critics, notably U of I Law Professor Francis Boyle and his brother Jerome, the Irish American Unity Conference, the AOH and the ACLU, Irish Americans aren't very vocal on this treaty. But it's clear Britain wants it passed in the next few weeks. Visiting Washington, Justice Minister Baroness Scotland wrote to each member of the Foreign Relations Committee, saying Senate approval was of "paramount importance" in order to maintain "the British/US relationship" and keep the US as a "trusted partner". She said: "The concerns about the treaty raised by certain Irish-American groups are groundless." Groundless: that's the position of a hanged man.

And what is of such "paramount importance" as to endanger the relationship the world's only superpower has with its former colonial master? Despite letters from the British Northern

remains that the senators are being asked to reduce federal courts to a minor role in the process in favor of the White House and its appointees in Justice and the Attorney General's office. The "political exception" will be gone. It will no longer matter whether US judges believe defendants will be subject to cruel or unfair treatment in a Northern Ireland court, or whether their civil rights will be violated there for taking part in legitimate political activities. It will no longer matter if a US court suspects that charges are just a pretext for punishment based on race, religion, nationality or political opinion. In Northern Ireland's Diplock courts the accused will have no right to silence, no right to a presumption of innocence, no right to a jury.

And Baroness: speaking of groundless; your courts there routinely accept the groundless word of crown police and anonymous, hidden witnesses as fact. In short, defendants there have absolutely no right to a fair trial as we former colonials understand the phrase.

This treaty also allows Britain to seize the estate of anyone, living or dead, suspected of "crimes" that carry even a one year sentence. Americans can be held without trial for up to 60 days. And here is no statute of limitations- you can be prosecuted for actions that were not extraditable before the treaty is ratified. And ratified it will be, unless Americans wake up fast and smell the tea.

But why is Britain pushing so hard to get your senators to enact this law now?



Among the 71 non-partisan Cook County judges who are running for retention in the November general election are Irish-American judges (sitting, from left) Garritt E. Howard, Margaret O'Mara Frossard, Patrick J. Quinn, James D. Egan, Kathy M. Flanagan, and Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman, and (standing, from left) James F. Henry, Joan Margaret O'Brien, Maureen Elizabeth Connors, Matthew E. Coghlan, Maura Slattery Boyle, and Daniel A. Riley. Information about the retention campaign, as well as biographical information about each retention judge, can be obtained at [www.retentionjudges.com](http://www.retentionjudges.com).

NTDTV's

# CHINESE NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR

全球華人新年晚會

2007

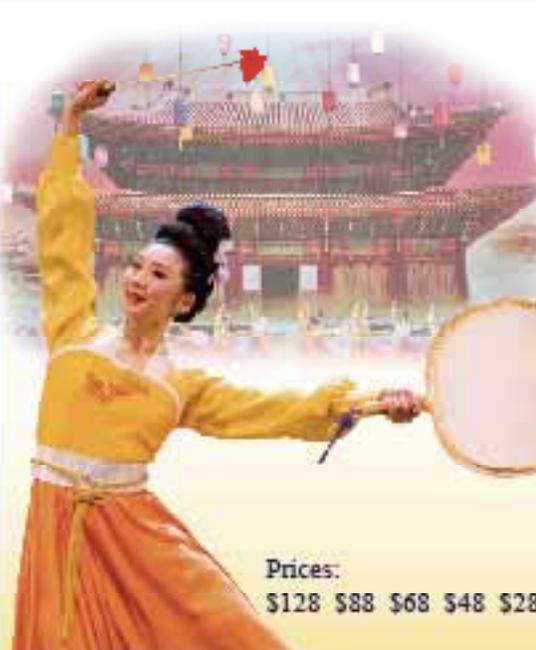
MARCH 3rd, 2007  
AUDITORIUM THEATRE  
50 E. Congress Parkway (Chicago)  
2:00 PM, 7:00 PM  
<http://gala.ncmtv.org>

New Tang Dynasty TV brings the divine beauty of the ancient East to life with its now legendary Chinese New Year Spectacular!

NTDTV's annual show used to be called the Chinese New Year Global Gala, but this year, along with a new name comes all-new songs and dances and a full, live orchestra!

This event is the fourth annual Chinese New Year Spectacular. The first one was hosted by 5 cities in the world, and the second, by 7 cities. This year the celebration expanded to 17 cities in Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. In 2007, we will bring the Spectacular to 25 cities worldwide.

For one magical evening, set your worldly cares aside and allow yourself to be transported to a realm where the stories of honor and virtue are uplifting, where giant drums roar like righteous thunder, and tender fairy maidens are full of grace. At times joyous and festive -- as with the lively rhythms of a Mongolian plain dance -- at times soulful and poignant -- as with world-class musician Xiaochun Qi's mastery on the two-stringed Erhu - the 2007 NTDTV Chinese New Year Spectacular is a show truly not to be missed.



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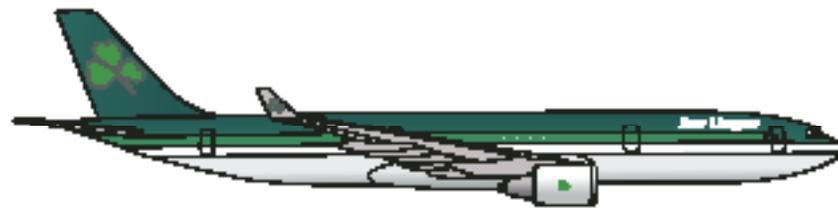
Prices:  
\$128 \$88 \$68 \$48 \$28

OperaOnline.us calls the Spectacular "a subtle reminder of the commonality of mankind's quest for spirituality and goodness...A tantalizing and fascinating evening that made me want to stay and see more. In a word, I was simply captivated!"

For one magical evening, we invite you to believe!

**"Celebrate the new year with the people who invented it!"**





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