



**Neil Hartigan**  
Proud Irish Eyes on the World

cover

mcnally's full page

## Large Turnout for Ervine Funeral

Thousands of people turned out in Belfast on Friday, Jan. 12 for the funeral of Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine (53), who died in hospital after suffering a heart attack, stroke and brain hemorrhage on Monday.

Ireland's Foreign Affairs Minister, Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, chief constable of the Northern Security Service and among mourners.



Representative of the Republic who attended included Government adviser and Senator Martin Mansergh and Progressive Democrat deputy leader Liz O'Donnell. Former Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble attended, as did paramilitary leader Jackie McDonald from the Ulster Defence Association. The Northern Ireland Office security minister David Hanson was also present.

Convicted of driving a bomb for the UVF in the 1970s, he became involved in politics and was one of the moving forces behind the UVF's ceasefire in 1994.

Methodist minister the Rev. Dr. Gary Mason paid tribute to the East Belfast man's desire for peace during the ceremony. A screen inside the church showed a photo of the outspoken politician standing by

the sea.

Mr. Ervine was a Progressive Unionist Party assemblyman and councillor for the area, and the trade unionist's son was known for his defence of the underprivileged and his desire to combat sectarianism.

## Help Me Find My Ancestors

My family hails from Count Mayo and probably came here 1890-1900. I haven't had much luck in tracing them but I do have names and one year of death here. I have no living relative to assist.

I wish to establish dual citizenship in Ireland, and maybe go over and teach some nursing.

My grandmother, Julia Lydon, dob 5/15/1871, Kilbilcken Parish, Diocese of Galway Father; Patrick and mother, Mary Hernon . My grandmother died 7/20/1945 in Boston. Ma.

She married J. Frank Laughlin a US citizen in 1905 and my father was born John Henry Laughlin in the city of Boston on 3/20/1906.

Anyone with info on where to begin can email me at JPeter-son129@comcast.net .

## Hibernian Leader Praises Sinn Fein Policing Vote

National President Jack Meehan praised Sinn Fein leadership for their stand on policing and justice in the North of Ireland. "Time and again in this peace process we have seen Sinn Fein leaders take bold leadership positions on the cessation of hostilities, participation in elections, and governance. But none is more crucial than their stand on police and justice." Meehan

## Enjoy Papal Opera on President's Day

In honor of the Tenth Anniversary of H.E. Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, who is scheduled to attend, the McKenna Ensemble will present the western hemisphere premiere of the Roman Baroque Opera, La Comica del Cielo (ovviso La Baltasara) by Giulio Rospigliosi/Pope Clement IX. The opera was created at the Roman Carnival of 1668. The performance will take place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii (Reverend Richard Fragomeni, Rector), 1224 W. Lexington Street (Racine and Harrison/ UIC Campus), Chicago on Monday, February 19, 2007, at 7:30 P.M. Offering \$20.00 (tax deductible)

For more information, contact Reverend Edward J. McKenna, Director, fr\_ed\_mckenna@hotmail.com or call 219-874-7609.

continued: "It was by corrupting the police and justice powers that loyalists crushed and silenced the Catholic minority for over 50 years and provided their version of "...a Protestant state for a Protestant people."

The Hibernian leader also noted that the motion to be considered by the Sinn Fein Ard

Fheis on January 28th demands once more that the British government accept responsibility for their murderous and illegal deeds in N. I. as well as in the Republic. "We ask that Britain also step up and show some leadership by opening its files and its purse to compensate the victims of their cruelty with justice."



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## The other side of war

Sgt. John Gebhardt in Iraq. His wife, Mindy, related that this little girl's entire family was executed. They intended to execute her also and shot her in the head, but they failed to kill her. She was cared for by Sgt. Gebhardt's hospital and is healing, but has been crying and moaning. The nurses said John is the only one she seems to calm down with, so John has spent the last four nights holding her while they both sleep in that chair. The girl is coming along with her healing.

## The West Suburban Irish Celebrate in 2007! Come Join Us!

January 10: 7:00 p.m.  
**Quiz Night at Quigley's Irish Pub**  
43 East Jefferson Street, Naperville

February 17: 6:00 p.m.  
**The Emerald Dinner**  
Seven Bridges Golf Club, Woodridge

March 15: 6:30 p.m.  
**The Irish Mass**  
Saints Peter & Paul Church, Naperville

For more information, visit our webpage:  
[www.wsirish.org](http://www.wsirish.org)

**March 17**  
14th Annual West Suburban Irish  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
Downtown Naperville  
10:00 a.m.

WEST SUBURBAN





(ISSN #1085-4053)  
(USPS #013454)

February 2007 Vol. XXXI # 2

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Cliff Carlson

Art Director

Walt Kennedy

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Elizabeth Kelly  
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Contributing Editor

Susan Victoria

Advertising Sales

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Books - Frank West

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Irish Rover by Jim McClure

Celtic Scribes by Ray Cavanaugh

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Larry Kirwan,

Joan Moody,

McKenna Byrne,

Katie Hamilton

Irish News, Inc. is published monthly for \$20 one year, \$35 for two years and \$45 for 3 years in U.S.A. \$75 abroad, \$35 in Canada by Irish News Inc., 7115 W. North Ave. #327, Oak Park IL 60302.

(Periodicals Postage Paid at Palatine, IL and additional mailing offices.) POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

Irish News, Inc.

7115 W NORTH AVE #327

OAK PARK, IL 60302

708-445-0700 fax 708-445-2003

e-mail to:

editor@irishamericannews.com

**PUBLISHERS STATEMENT**

The opinions and statements expressed in this newspaper are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect in any way the opinions of Irish American News.

**Distribution  
25,000**

**Gaelic Park's February Events**

Gaelic Park is offering many events to make the winter month of February a little more interesting:

Direct from Dublin to Gaelic Park on Saturday, February 3rd, 2007 are The Merry Ploughboys performing Irish rebel songs, ballads, and more in a highly anticipated show with doors opening at 7:30 p.m., show beginning at 8:30 p.m. The cost will be \$20 per person. The Merry Ploughboys are Irish enthusiasts and enjoy classical as well as contemporary approaches of music making. With the sounds of the fiddle, bluegrass banjo, bodhran, bass guitar, piano accordion, and the distinct sounds of the mandolin, The Merry Ploughboys will definitely rouse the crowd's high spirits with not only music but also a reverence for Ireland.

An exciting evening will be had at Gaelic Park, on Friday, February 23rd, when The Wolfe Tones come to town. The doors for this show open at 7:30 p.m. with an 8:30 p.m. show time. For over 40 years, this rabble-raising group has inspired many to fight against the injustices in Ireland with their poignant, powerful and unsurpassed style of music. In the past years the group has become the biggest selling artists in Ireland and in 2001-2002, sold more albums than the ever-popular U2. The Wolfe Tones also have had double and triple platinum albums and recently released a new album "The Troubles" which holds 32 tracks including brand new songs. Show goers will enjoy Wolfe Tones ballads such as On the One Road, Boys of the Old Brigade, Come Out Ye Black and Tans and the classic -Celtic Symphony. Tickets to this much-anticipated show will go quickly as the last appearance at Gaelic Park did sell out. Tickets are on sale now for the price of \$20 per person. Reserve by calling Gaelic Park. More information on the Wolfe Tones can be found on their website at [www.wolfe-tones-officialsite.com](http://www.wolfe-tones-officialsite.com).

Gaelic Park will sponsor an essay contest open to all good standing students in 6th grade through high school. The essay should address the topic "What Does It Mean To Be Irish?". Requirements for grades 6 through 8 are a maximum of three typed pages (8 1/2 x 11) with awards of \$1000, \$750 and \$500. High school students are required to submit an essay of a maximum of five typed pages (8 1/2 x 11) with prizes of \$1000, \$750 and \$500. A random draw awarding a \$250 prize will

reward the efforts of entrants and give recognition to other than the six winners. Essays must be received at the Gaelic Park front office by Wednesday, February 28th. E-mailed essays will not be accepted. Winners will be announced at Gaelic Park on Sunday, March 11th, at the 9 a.m. mass. Awards will be presented Sunday, March 25th at the Celtic Supper. The essays cannot be returned. Winners will be notified by phone, and the awards are issued to both students and parents jointly. Essays will be evaluated by an independent academic committee.

Gaelic Park's popular Celtic Suppers are the perfect meeting place for large groups, and for only \$16, a buffet including soup, salad, main entrée and dessert is served. Children are welcome; under 12 years old admission is \$9. This month's musical guests will be John Gleason on February 11th, Velvet Green on February 18th and Sean O'Donnell on February 25th. There will be no Celtic Supper on February 4th, which is Super Bowl Sunday.

Come to Gaelic Park for their monthly Musical Luncheon to be held on Wednesday, February 7th, beginning at noon. Dancing music provided by Velvet Green. For the modest cost of \$13, the Musical Luncheon includes an afternoon of lively entertainment, a delicious sit down lunch that includes dessert. Reservations are required.

This month's entertainment at the Carraig Pub includes;

Joe McShane, Friday February 2nd;

Donna Finn, Saturday, February 3rd;

Bernie Glim & Country Roads, Friday, February 9th;

Mulligan Stew, Saturday, February 10th;

Katie Sullivan, Friday, February 16th;

Jerry Eadie, Saturday, February 17th;

Velvet Green, Friday, February 23rd;

Gerard Haughey, Saturday, February 24th.

Also at the Carraig, every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. bring in the whole family to hear the traditional music session given by the students, friends and families of the Irish Music School of Chicago. Super Bowl Sunday the Carraig will be in full swing for the big game, enjoy great food and a wide selection of drinks. Watch for more details.

Every Sunday night from 7

to 9 p.m., broadcast direct from Gaelic Park, is Harry Costelloe, Mary Hackett and Mary Riordan on WCEV 1450 AM to hear all the week's Irish news and sports direct from Ireland, and all the latest events and goings on at Gaelic Park. The program can also be heard live over the internet at [www.wcev1450.com](http://www.wcev1450.com), once you enter the site click on the Surfer Network located on the left hand side of the

screen and listen from there. Call (708) 687-9330 to request a song or dedication.

For further information on any of these events or to reserve seats for any show, lunch, or supper, please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323. Also visit our website at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org) to check out more on the latest events



Mayor Richard M. Daley welcomes Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, His Excellency Michael McDowell, T.D., to Chicago at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, on Wednesday, January 10, 2007.

His Excellency Michael McDowell was visiting Chicago to exchange ideas about police and security initiatives. Chicago enjoys a close relationship with Ireland, which is reinforced by its sister city relationship with Galway, signed in 1997.

Photo by: James Peterson, City of Chicago



**F.O.P. Distinguished Service Awards**

Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, and William Dougherty, 1st Vice President, recently presented Distinguished Service Awards to Chicago Police Officers Thomas McNichols and Michael Chuchro.

Responding to a call of a structure fire Officers McNichols and Chuchro observed a female and her baby, and others, trapped and yelling from a second floor window. Upon entering the apartment the officers were able to locate a 20 year old victim lying unconscious on the kitchen floor and carried him to safety down a rear staircase where he was treated and regained consciousness. Both officers and the victim were taken to area hospitals and treated for smoke inhalation and released. Pictured, left to right, William Dougherty, 1st Vice President, Officer Thomas McNichols and Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7.

## Irish Books and Plays in Review

By Frank West

### Books for Irish Americans for '07

There are many more books being published now by Irish or Irish American authors than when I began this column thirty years ago. Then it was difficult to get a book to review for each month. Now, I'm happy to say, there are many excellent books being published. There are so many that it is difficult to choose ones I believe readers would like to see reviewed.

The first book suggested for 2007 was featured in a full review in the January issue. That outstanding book is *Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America* by James Webb. Broadway Books, New York, 2005. ISBN 0767916891; 372 pages; \$14.95. [www.broadwaybooks.com](http://www.broadwaybooks.com).

James Webb is the new Senator from Virginia. He ran as a Democrat, but he was Assistant Secretary of Defense and Assistant Secretary of the Navy under Ronald Reagan.

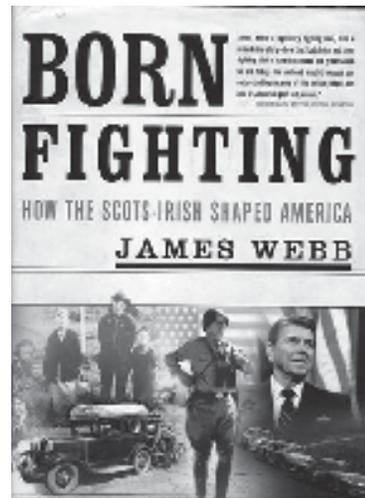
He was a highly decorated Marine; received a law degree from Georgetown University; has written six best-selling novels; and was an award-winning journalist. These are highlights of his many accomplishments.

He shows the history of the Scots-Irish people and their profound impact on America. Who are the Scots-Irish people? These are some famous Scots-Irish: John Wayne, Mark Twain, Edgar Allen Poe, Andie MacDowell, Ulysses Grant, Andrew Jackson, Audie Murphy, George Patton, Robert Redford, George C. Scott, and Johnny Cash.

They are the descendants of Presbyterian Scots who were moved to northern Ireland by the English in the 1500's. Despite their shared Protestantism, the English treated them as badly as they treated Irish Catholics.

I have always advocated in this column that Irish Catholics should accept Protestant Irish as fellow

Irish Americans. They are fellow Celts and our cultural cousins, only with a different view of Christianity. But they are Irish Americans just



the same.

In the 1700's the Scots-Irish emigrated from Ireland and came to America. Their strong desire for personal independence, and the memory of their treatment by the British, made them strong supporters of American independence. They made up about half to two-thirds of Washington's army.

Tom Wolfe says of the Scots-Irish that they have "... created the core beliefs of democracy American style: our rights come from God, not the government; all of us are equal and 'born aristocrats' don't exist..."

Census data show that more and more of these people identify themselves as simply Irish.

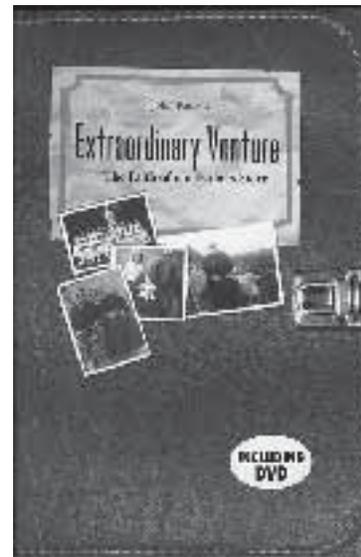
The second oldest St. Patrick's Parade began in 1824 in Savannah, Georgia. Last year 400,000 people participated in it—an all time high!

*Born Fighting* by James Webb is a clearly written, powerful and purposeful book. Webb has an eye for the dramatic event, as well as for the small, but telling detail. This is a highly readable book.

*Extraordinary Venture: The Faith of Our Fathers* by John Kearns.

Foreign Media Music, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, 2006. ISBN 90-8734-002-8; 130 pages; \$29.95.

This book features a DVD of a show filmed in Dublin in 1997. "It features the deeply spiritual ... sounds of the monks of Glenstal



Abbey, Frank Patterson..." and many others.

Among the songs featured on that DVD are: Holy God We Praise Thy Name; Tantum ergo; Queen of the May; Salve Regina; Regina caeli; Panis Angelicum and many, many others. This book and DVD are for Irish worshippers, but I sang these songs as a child here in America.

These are the songs of the Catholic Church militant: the heady days of the Church during the 1940s and 1950s before Vatican II changed everything. They reflect a simpler, unquestioning time when people were completely trusting. This was before scandal shook the trust and faith of millions.

These songs free powerful emotions in the listener. If you have happy memories of the events that featured these songs you will love the book and DVD.

The author made an observation that was personal and powerful. I

wonder if he knows the implication of what he says? "One of the characteristics of Irish people when I was growing up, was that there seemed to be more emphasis on understanding one's limitations and flaws rather than one's innate capabilities... Thankfully the newer generation of Irish appear to have successfully escaped this..." This is true of American Catholics too.

This is a well-written book with a beautiful DVD. They are enormously thought and emotion provoking.

When I was a young man I visited  
Continued to page 43

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## Ireland's Very First Emigrants Were Mostly Faith-bearing Monks

### Introduction

Many Americans of Irish descent recognize the Great Famine ("An Gorta Mor") of 1847-50 as the major factor of the Irish Diaspora that forced from 3-4 million Irish to the United States in the latter half of the 19th Century, and tens of thousands more to other parts of the globe. Forced from their cottages by economic necessity and starvation, over a million of them had died in Ireland, they brought little with them besides their religion, political acumen, and a hatred of England. They found in America a place of hope and hard work.

But few people, Irish or otherwise, realize that these starving emigrants weren't the first to leave the land of their birth. Roughly from the 6th to the 12th centuries, hundreds of Irish monks set out on missionary journeys to bring back during the Dark Ages the Christian Faith and secular scholarship that Europe had once possessed. Many felt that it was only fitting that the Faith and scholarship brought by St. Patrick in 432 A.D. should be returned to Europe.

### A New Martyrdom

It is an accepted fact that Ireland had virtually no martyrs in the process of converting to Christianity. The Irish monks, therefore, decided that they needed to experience some form of a self-inflicted martyrdom to remind themselves of those in other lands who had given their lives for the Christian Faith in what was accepted as "red" martyrdom.

They decided to call their act of Faith a "white" martyrdom, and said of it, "This is a white martyrdom to a man when he renounces everything he loves for God; this is a green martyrdom to him, when by fasting and labor he does penance."

These early Irish monks believed that the supreme act of penance was to leave the home and land they

## Tinker's Dam

loved passionately. With great fortitude, they renounced their ties to home and family. Thus they spread Faith and knowledge to other parts of the British Isles and the Continent of Europe, and eventually as far north as Iceland, as far east as Kiev in Russia, and to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

### First Great Journey

Irish History records the first great journey of these intrepid monks was that of St. Colmcille in 563 A.D. With twelve monks, he founded the island monastery of Iona off the southwestern coast of Scotland. An ecumenical community of Christians still gathers there for prayer and study.

Centuries later the great English writer Dr. Samuel Johnson praised Iona as the very model of learning and sanctity.

It is also noted that St. Colmcille of the great Donegal O'Donnell Clan of Ulster, undertook his journey as an act of penance and reparation for his part in a family feud in which some 3,000 people died. In addition to the founding of Iona, St. Colmcille brought the Christian Faith to the Picts of Scotland. He never visited Ireland again.

Another famous exile was St. Columbanus who left Ireland and brought Faith and learning to France, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. When he was over the age of 60, he walked across the Alps to Italy where he established the great monastery of Bobbio in 613 A.D. Centuries later Pope Pius XI, a great scholar himself wrote, "The more experts study the most obscure problems of the Middle Ages the clearer it becomes that the renaissance of Christian learning in France, Germany and Italy, is due to the work and zeal of St. Columbanus."



### Seeking No Earthly Reward

It goes without saying that these itinerant Irish monks sought no earthly reward for their outstanding work. They were readily accepted by the people to whom they brought divine and earthly wisdom. Aventius, a Bavarian annalist, wrote: "They were the favorites of everyone. And with one mouth the whole people spoke loudly in their praise; kings and nobles built monasteries for them, and invited them east and west."

Even to this day, their memories and monasteries are sacred to many European communities such as St. Gall of Switzerland, St. Killian of Wurzburg, St. Cathal of San Cataldo, St. Donatus of Fiesole, and St. Fursy of Peronne.

When the great ruler of France, Charlemagne, set up a school in his court, it was two Irish monks, Clement and Albinus, in the court of Charles the Bald in the 9th Century. Considered "The greatest thinker of his age," Scotus translated the Greek writings of the pseudo-Dionysius the Aeropagite.

### Breaking the Tradition

Irish monks were the mainstay teachers of the court schools in Europe until the Norman invasions of the 12th Century. Then the age-old tradition of Faith and learning, overshadowed by the recurring invasions of the Vikings and Normans, was broken.

But Kuno Meyer, the great German scholar, paid the great tribute to these Irish scholars when he said: "Her sons, carrying Christianity and a new humanism over Great Britain and the Continent, became the teachers of whole nations, the counselors of kings and emperors."

## The David Munnely Band at IAHC

The David Munnely Band, one of Ireland's top young groups featuring some of the most exciting established and rising stars of Irish music, will appear at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 8:00pm.

The band has been making waves on both sides of the Atlantic and their style is reminiscent of the Irish American dance halls of the 1920's. In 2006, The David Munnely Band delighted audiences across the country, headlining at numerous festivals including Milwaukee's Irish Fest, Chicago's Celtic Fest, Pennsylvania's Musikfest, Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival, and Michigan's BlissFest. In Europe they headlined at Ireland's Ballyshannon Festival, Belgium's Dranouter Festival, Denmark's Skagen Festival, and the Liverpool Irish Festival. In 2006, the group also returned in concert to The Kennedy Center, where during their 2005 US Debut Tour, they were met with standing ovations and calls for several encores.

Born and raised in County Mayo, David Munnely is a charismatic young Irish button accordionist and an award-winning composer. He toured with The Chieftains from the age of 21 to 25, and is featured on their CD, Water from the Well. From the same talented family that gave the world Riverdance fiddle sensation Eileen Ivers, David Munnely is the latest member to take the international music scene by storm. He was honored as the 2004 and 2005 Composer of the Year in Ireland. The band has appeared worldwide on specials on BBC, PBS and NPR.

Tickets are \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

## We Get Letters

### Licensed to Kill

Americans who have consistently seen through the thick fog of British propaganda shrouding events in northeast Ireland were not the least bit shocked when Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan recently reported that former officers in the British Special Branch had used paid informants in the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force to murder Irish nationalists, and to engage in bombings, drug dealing and extortion.

Of course the Anglophile press will insist that there is no proof that Special Branch police directed the UVF members in their employ to kill Her Majesty's enemies in Ireland, but I am tired of giving them the benefit of the bloody doubt, because there is no doubt.

If there were any exculpatory evidence that would exonerate retired Special Branch agents who worked with UVF informants and double agents, then British state prosecutors would have reopened one of the dozens of cases from the 1990s to prove that ex-officers had not covered up their own crimes when they were covering-up their informants'.

Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern said the report demonstrated that Special Branch agents "had lost all moral compass at that time." Good God, not their moral compass! Did they ever bring one of those to Ireland? Ahern also said the British state had "failed in one of its primary duties - to protect its citizens". Actually, they didn't fail in their duties - they succeeded. After all, they

used hired killers to dispose of their enemies, and got away with it.

Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Hain, said that both UVF veterans and former police officers should stand trial. He is safe in saying that because he knows it will never happen. Why? Because British agents "deliberately failed to keep, or later destroyed, all documentary evidence on their relationship with their informants." Home free.

Another "shocking" report on collusion was delivered on April 17th, 2003 by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens. His government-appointed police inquiry into government-assisted collusion and murder in Ireland was repeatedly blocked, wrecked by arson, manipulated, and delayed for 14 years!

He finally concluded that, "members of the RUC and Army colluded with the largest loyalist paramilitary group, the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), to murder Catholics" and, he said: "informants and agents were allowed to operate without effective control and to participate in terrorist crimes".

Tony Blair and his government responded to the 3,000-page Stevens Report with absolute silence. Ministers made no apology, offered no defense, admitted no guilt, and announced no new investigations or impending arrests.

Let the truth be told and, God-willing, believed: the Irish who were murdered were the victims of British state-sponsored terrorism.

James Mullin

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## KEARNS COLUMN

Comprehensive immigration reform:  
what can we expect from the new congress?

Voters have consistently placed the immigration reform issue as a distant fifth on their list of priorities: after Iraq, terrorism, the economy and health care. The American public wants tighter enforcement of the laws but also realizes that the system now in place is unworkable. A consistent two-third majority of voters favor a comprehensive overhaul that would include tighter enforcement, but also guest-worker visas and a path to citizenship for illegal workers already in the country as of a certain date. There is a good chance for this package to be passed sometime in the next two years by the new 110th Congress. After all, how many issues are there today on which George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, John McCain, Ted Kennedy and Rudy Giuliani all agree? It seems very likely that we will get a package of comprehensive immigration reform legislation passed sometime in the next year or year-and-a-half, that will be along the lines of that currently pending.

If you are one of those many people who may be able to benefit from immigration reform legislation, now is the time to get ready. Here is my prediction, in order of priority:

1) Strong enforcement of the law: Whatever the law will become, they will enforce it, and seal the borders. Immigrants will have to completely change the psychology of trying to slide around or ignore a law that does not work. Fraud, criminal activity, and overstays will get special attention. Employers of undocumented workers will face crackdowns and criminal prosecution. Those who go out of status will be tracked down and removed, the technology, funding, and manpower are there. Everyone who is here will have to be legal. After a certain point, everyone who is here illegally will have a good reason to be afraid.

Backlog reduction: All of those who have followed the law, and applied for legal status, and are on a waiting list for their priority dates to become current, are ahead in line of those who are illegal and would benefit from a legalization program. It is just not fair to let the illegals go ahead of those who are waiting, some for 14 years. To first grant permanent residence to all of those currently waiting will create a population explosion in this country. Do not expect a legalization program to happen overnight. There will be a lengthy phase-in.

2) Earned legalization: All those

present on U.S. soil as of a certain date may be eligible. Right now, the date specified by Senate Bill 2611 (which passed the Senate May 25, 2006) is April 5, 2006. Those applying will be subject to specific requirements to qualify, including the payment of large fines and fees. The proposed fine now is \$2,000 per person, so start saving your money.

3) An ongoing guest-worker program: To address the economic realities of the immigration problem, people must be permitted to come here to work. Most immigrants who come here to work don't really want to become Americans, adopt American culture and ideals, learn English, defend America, raise their children as American; they just want to come here and make money and work as long as possible. The hardship is they cannot go back and forth. For those who just want to work, they will be able to, but at the end they must leave. For those who want to stay, there probably will be some way for them to stay and get a green card if they are here legally.

Immigration Fees To Increase By Spring: The fees immigrants pay for citizenship and permanent residency petitions will rise as officials try to prevent more backlogs in the system, the director of the nation's immigration service announced in early December. Applicants could see the new fees for immigration petitions go into effect as early as April.

Don't forget USCIS processes applications for citizenship, permanent residence, work permits and other immigration documents. During the past few years, the agency has been working through a backlog that kept some immigrants waiting up to three years for green cards or citizenship. (Our experience is that the backlogs are caused by caps or limits on the numbers of visas available, background security checks by the FBI, and internally-conducted investigations into suspected fraud.)

The USCIS is mainly funded by application fees and some appropriations from the federal government for specific programs. It has a \$2 billion budget, but USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez said that's not enough. (Now, that is big business.)

Gonzalez says the additional money from higher fees would fund hiring more staff to work through applications, training current employees, renovating buildings and improving technology. We understand that the

USCIS will have to prepare for the passage of major new immigration reform that will cause millions of people to file applications for legalization, but we also know that the mission of strict and even stronger law enforcement continues.

Citizenship Test To Get Much Harder: Besides harsher enforcement of ever stricter immigration laws, prospective immigrants can look forward to another theme in immigration procedure, regardless of whether legalization gets passed. All immigrants who seek legal status here will be encouraged to learn about, identify with, and embrace the fundamental concepts of American democracy, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and the basic values that we all share as Americans, starting with learning the English language.

The USCIS has just announced it is revising the naturalization test to create a test and testing process. As part of the test redesign, USCIS will conduct a pilot program in ten cities beginning in January 2007 before fully implement the new test nationwide in 2008. The pilot program will run in 10 randomly selected cities (not Chicago): Albany, NY; Boston, MA; Charleston, SC; Denver, CO; El Paso, TX; Kansas City, Mo.; Miami, FL; San Antonio, TX; Tucson, AZ; and Yakima, WA.

How will the new test be different? First of all, rather than a list of redundant and trivial questions based on memorization, the new test will focus on concepts, such as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It looks like the questions can be reworded or rephrased to test understanding of concepts rather than ability to memorize. The questions will ask "why?" more than "what" to test understanding of the question. More than one answer can be correct.

During the pilot program, applicants will be able to refuse to take the new test and may then take the old test, but the new test should be fully implemented by 2008. A list of 144 sample questions and the range of acceptable answers for each have already been released.

The current test asks such basic questions as "What are the colors of our flag?" and "What was the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?" But the new test debuts questions like "What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of limited powers?" and "Why do we have three branches of government?"

The test was redesigned, to once again quote Emilio Gonzalez, the USCIS director:

Because, "when you raise your hand and you swear allegiance to the U.S., you really ought to know what you're swearing allegiance to. You really ought to internalize by that time the very

values that make this country what it is, the very reason why you're raising your right hand. Not running in and trying to figure out, 'OK, the flag has 50 stars, the flag has 13 stripes.' That's test-taking. Citizenship is more than test-taking."

Once again, for those who are eligible now, why wait?

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.

*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. See advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper.*

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## Early Music Education at IAHC

The Irish Center for the Arts at the Irish American Heritage Center, in association with the Suzuki-Orff School for Young Musicians, will offer Early Childhood Programs for children this spring at the IAHC.

The music programs, called Baby STEPS and Suzuki Instrumental, are for children between the ages of 6 months to 5 years old and are designed to bring young children and their parents together in a joyful and nurturing atmosphere. Through sequentially based music and movement, students build a foundation of skills which allow self-expression and creativity to emerge. Classes will include the Suzuki Method and Orff Approach of instruction. The IAHC's first semester begins February 20 and runs through May 10. Classes will take place Tuesdays from 1 to 5 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 to 1 p.m.

Several classes are offered for ages from 6 months to 5 and up and range from 30-60 minutes per week for 10 weeks.

The Center is located at 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago with free parking and easy access to the city's highways. 773-282-7035 ext. 10.

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The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into Beginner, Intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music, and making new friends.



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# Quiche Me, I'm Irish!

By Mike Kilpatrick

I stopped in to O'Connor's Deli up on Devon Avenue recently, for coffee and a chat with owner Mary O'Connor, who's hard at work preparing for March. As I was leaving, she asked if I wanted to take along a sandwich for later. "How about the Dubliner" she suggested.

"Sure, why not?" I left with the sandwich, but no pop, thinking I'd eat it later at home. But, as soon as I cranked the ignition and hit the headlights, the aroma emanating from the takeout bag got to me. I did have another stop to make before heading

home. So: "Let's have just a sample bite while it's warm," I told myself. I peeled back the wrapping and lifted the warm creation to my face.

"Hmm... Tasty... and interesting- What is that meat? That's not corned beef, is it?" I thought the menu had mentioned corned beef. I hit the courtesy light and looked through the menu flyer. There it was under "Baked Sandwiches", Dubliner: lean corned beef and Swiss cheese, generously served, topped with, etc. I peeled off a thin slice of meat, held it up, and dropped it on my tongue. Did I get the right sandwich? What IS that taste? Then it came to me. "It's BEEF!"

I'd been expecting standard corned beef: something disguised as meat but tasting like a dill pickle: wet, barn-red slabs with quivering seams of fat that I'd have to excise and banish to the edge of my plate. But this sandwich was lean and subtle, with fresh tomato, lettuce, red onion and a hint of horseradish. So I sat there behind the wheel and went through it like Grant went through Richmond.

Mary had told me O'Connors has its beef corned according to its own recipe. I tried to guess who was making it, but struck out with all the likely suspects. She's keeping it to herself. Perhaps she has a friendly rabbi out back.

Mary was born at St. Anne's on the west side, in Our Lady of the Angels parish, the day after the nightmare of all fires occurred there. Her family later moved to Immaculate

Conception parish. After managing restaurants downtown, and earning degrees in nutrition and business, she and a partner, Mary Ellen Stanton began a catering business out of their moms' kitchens. Three years later they were able to buy a butcher shop. They sold Irish meats and sausage from the store and ran the catering business in the back. Seven years later Mary bought the current property at 7280 W. Devon Ave., gutted it, and expanded not only the catering business, Unforgettable Edibles, but added the Blackthorn Manor banquet hall, and O'Connors Deli and Market.

Mom and the family helped out along the way. "In March, between making corned beef and baking Irish bread we're here 'round the clock. We cater the Irish Heritage Center and the Emerald Society dinner for St. Patrick's. And again our families step in. I'm still payin' them back. I'm cookin' every holiday."

What strikes you first about the Blackthorn is its intimacy and warmth. It seats about 150 people comfortably and features a large fireplace. The friendly wait staff adds to the feeling of attending a family, neighborhood party. You won't be pushing through somebody else's wedding on the way to the restroom. The hall is tucked away on Devon, just off the Kennedy's Harlem Ave. exit. And so far, the Edison/ Park Ridge Irish have been keeping it a secret.

The Deli bakes soda bread, brown bread and scones daily. Soups and pies are homemade. O'Connor's offers Irish sausages, shepherd's pie, and other favorites, with newspapers

from many Irish counties. During St. Pat's week, corned beef dinners are a nightly feature. For Lent: fish & chips every Friday.

And besides dishes like your mom made, there are ones you wish she'd made. Sample the quiche of the day; or try a sangwich like the Naples wit' Italian meats, cheeses and garnish. How about a Beefy Cheese Foccacia? Or build your own, if you like. You can choose from 10 meats, 9 dressings, 7 cheeses, 6 breads, 6 toppings, and 5 extras. 9 ladies dancing maybe you could get too, if the staff's in the mood. Wouldn't hurt to ask.

For daily dishes and hours at O'Connor's Deli and Market call 773-631-0747.

For party catering by Unforgettable Edibles, or for luncheons and banquets at Blackthorn Manor, Call 773-774-4001. Or look on the web: [www.uecatering.com/](http://www.uecatering.com/)

and [www.blackthornmanor.com/](http://www.blackthornmanor.com/)

## Flook at Ballydoyle

Ballydoyle Pub, 5157 Main Street in Downers Grove, Illinois, has announced that Flook, the band voted Best Group by the BBC in 2006, will perform live at Ballydoyle on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. They will be joined by the Trinity Irish Dancers. (9:00 show; \$10.00 Cover.)

Flook Haven, the band's newest CD, was voted the Instrumental Album of the Year at the Annual Livies Awards. This group continues to stun, amaze and delight. Unique. Flutes, guitars and bodhrans.

For more information, visit [Ballydoylepub.com](http://Ballydoylepub.com) or call the Pub directly at 630-969-0600.



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Headquarters for O'Connor's Market, Unforgettable Edibles, and Blackthorn Manor at 7280 W Devon Chicago IL 60631. If you are on Harlem, turn left and cross the railroad tracks. Then look right!



Flook will appear at Ballydoyle Pub March 6th

Part of the Blackthorn Manor Dining room adjacent to O'Connor's Market.



## We Get Letters

### Quitclaim Deed, a Trap for the Unwary

The Quitclaim deed is a popular document in real estate parlance. Both lay and professional persons use it for a variety of purposes in the real estate industry. However, in spite of its popularity and its benign appearance, it has an insidious history of abuse and misapplication where the unwary falls victim to its subversive character. To appreciate the character of the quitclaim deed we must compare it to its first and second cousins and its collateral relatives. The first cousin to the quitclaim deed is the Warranty Deed or as it is popularly known "General Warranty Deed." The General Warranty Deed possess all the character traits that a bargained for conveyance of real estate should have, i.e.,

1. Warranty of seisin. The grantor guarantees the grantee the right of possession;
2. Quiet enjoyment. The grantor guarantees that no one will encroach upon or challenge his possession;
3. Defense of Title. The grantor guarantees that he will defend all challenges to the title prior to the grantees conveyance;
4. Freedom of encumbrances. The grantor guarantees the property to free of liens etc., at the time of conveyance; and,
5. Right to convey. The grantor guarantees the grantee the right to convey the property.

And, the guarantees are from the beginning of time to current. The Special Warranty Deed is the second cousin. This document differs from the General Warranty Deed in one respect, its' guarantees are limited to the period in which the grantor held title to the property. The quitclaim deed possesses none of the guarantees or warranties of the General Warranty Deed or the Special Warranty Deed. The grantor of a quitclaim deed conveys to the grantee exactly the interest he or she has in the real property, "if he or she has no interest, they convey no interest." The grantor of a quitclaim does not guarantee warranty of seisin, quiet enjoyment, defense of title, freedom of encumbrances or the right to convey. A quitclaim deed is really an instrument of release. An example would be where one spouse disclaims an interest in property of the other spouse, or where in a divorce one spouse releases his or her interest to the other spouse. Or, where there is a need to correct title, a quitclaim deed is used. In most common law jurisdictions, a quitclaim deed is not considered a deed

at all. And, in some jurisdictions a buyer who receives a quitclaim deed is not considered to be BFP (bona fide purchaser for value). Instead a quitclaim deed is considered to be an instrument of estoppel, which means it estops or prevents the grantor of the quitclaim deed from later claiming that he or she has an interest in the property. Remember, the grantee of a quitclaim deed receives no better title than what the grantor possessed. This is reason enough for cause and concern when executing or receiving a Quitclaim Deed.

Respectfully Yours,  
Eugene "Gene" Moore  
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

Dear Editor,

I write to tell you of my utter disgust with the article of Charles Brady in your January issue. (Maybe his name, Charles, shared by an English prince, gives us a clue as to what his real background is!!!) He attempts to make us believe that Robert Geldorf Senior was disgusted with Archbishop McQuade AND Blackrock College... Maybe Mr. Charles Brady could then explain why it was when Bob Geldorf Sr. chose a college for his son Bob to attend, he chose Blackrock college. Remarkable, Mr. Brady... I write this because my family and I are deeply indebted to Archbishop McQuaid. Many years ago my parents lived in an impoverished section of Dublin. However the good Archbishop established a new parish and thriving school in the area for which the residents were so grateful. This quality school was the springboard for myself and my siblings to gain a fine education which led to each of the six of us moving on to successful careers in our adult lives. We will be eternally indebted to Archbishop McQuade and we are aware that this was one of many schools he established throughout the city. The legacy still lives on... But Charles Brady takes over from God and condemns this good priest to "the ninth circle of hell"!!! There was one sentence in that article that made sense. Mr. Brady asked that we call him a simple moron. Amen CHARLES. That indeed you are. A simple moron, and I would also guess bitter and bigoted. My new year's wish is that this simple moron's article be cancelled from future issues of this respected paper...

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# Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

## We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



### St. Patrick's Parade

The Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be Francis Cardinal George, and the theme of this year's parade will be centered on Irish-American military chaplains.



James Sullivan

Our motto will be "Pro Deo Et Patria"... for God and Country. Jim Sullivan is the general chairman of the parade and also the business manager

for Chicago Journeyman Plumber's Union Local 130. The guest of honor has yet to be announced. The Parade this year is on the day itself, Saturday, March 17th, so get out your green sash, blackthorn walking stick and put on your marching shoes. When you hear the pipes and drums of the Shannon Rovers and the Emerald Society your hearts will beat a little faster and you will feel that sense of Irish pride. Don't forget the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen contest.

### Denis Daly Sr.

One of the greatest supporters of the Irish American Heritage Center, Denis Daly Sr., passed away on January 17, 2007. He was born in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ireland, September 22, 1934.

His father was a banker, and the family lived in different towns in Ireland including Listowel, Co. Kerry and Salthill, Co. Galway.

Denis emigrated to Chicago in 1957, where he furthered his education and went on to a very successful career in banking.

While serving as Chairman of the Board and CEO of West Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, Oak Park, IL from 1975 to 1995 the Irish

American Heritage Center applied for a mortgage. Because of his trust in the Irish community the mortgage was granted. No other financial institution was willing to take the risk. Denis had been generous with his support throughout the years, helping the Center to thrive.

Now, as a final gesture, his wife Dorothy and his children have requested that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the Irish



James Sullivan

American Heritage Center.

Thank you Denis for your remarkable life of community service. On behalf of the Irish American Heritage Center may I offer our condolences and heartfelt gratitude to the family.

A funeral mass was held at St. Francis Xavier Church in La Grange, IL Saturday, January 20, 2007.

### Marty Cooney for Alderman

Martin P. Cooney well known to the Irish community is making a bid to become Alderman in the 47th Ward, taking on the incumbent Alderman Gene Schalter.

Marty is a funeral director by profession. The Cooney family operates two funeral homes, one in Chicago near Irving and Pulaski and the other on Busse Highway in Park Ridge, Illinois. Marty's mother, Peggy Dockery's family are from Ballinameen, French Park County Roscommon, and his father, Martin J. Cooney's family are from Athenry, County Galway. Good luck Marty!

### George Bush

When you don't like what the generals are telling you, just reassign them and bring in those who agree with you. President Bush fancies himself as a brilliant military strategist. Sorry! Almost everybody is opposed to a troop surge. Now for the first time, soldiers who have already served two tours of duty, and some three tours, in Iraq and Afghanistan who have been honorably discharged



Martin Cooney and his mother, Peggy Dockery.

are refusing to return to duty. I can not imagine a soldier not wanting to serve under a "Commander In Chief" with such an impressive military record in the Air National Guard. The coming months will be a litmus test for our new Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Congress. This brings to mind a popular song from 1960 titled, "Please Mr. Custer, I Don't Want to Go." Paraphrasing the words to this old song:

"Please Mr. Bush, I don't wanna go. Hey, Mr. Bush, please don't make me go. I had a dream last night about the comin' fight. Somebody yelled "Attack!" And there I stood with a bullet in my back. (That same brave voice with the trembling word rang loud and clear) What am I doin' here??" Please Mr. Bush I don't wanna go Listen Mr. Bush please don't make me go There's Al Queda awaitin' out there Just fixin' to blow me apart!

### Austin, Texas

I finally found a Texas city I like. In December the landscape is still green and the Mesquite, Cedar, live Oaks and Pines dot the hillsides. I was in Austin, Texas visiting my niece, Debbie and her husband, Mike Carroll and my two grand-nephews, Carson (10) and Cooper (8). Sitting at the breakfast table on Monday, Dec. 18th I read an article in the Austin American Statesman by Ken Herman from the Washington bureau. Excerpts from the article: "Danger: Bush post-presidency protection limited to ten years" Former Secret Service Agent Chuck Vance foresees many problems and said the President will be a target. "He is the only president that invaded a country without provocation and without it being started by the other side. I think he has gained a lot of enmity.... There are a lot of people who resent this president, both externally and

internally, some of whom have lost sons and daughters and had people injured in the war in Iraq."

There have been numerous newspaper articles of late predicting dire consequences for some of our presidential candidates, including Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama. Hopefully, the lunatic fringe will be held in check by our law enforcement officers, be they federal or local.

### Kilkenny Kats

Nine of my cousins, the Marnells, Brennans, and Cooneys, and two of their friends are coming to Chicago for St. Patrick's Day. Most of them are from Cuffes Grange, Co. Kilkenny, and one is from Mullingar, Co. West Meath. None of them have been to the States before and they very excited about the trip. My house will be a very busy place during their stay. Two more friends of mine from Co. Cork are also coming, Rowena and Louis O'Regan from Carraigtoohill.

### Obama Running?

I think Barack Obama will make a bid for the nomination as the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party. I will have to hear more about his plans for the future of this country, if he is to be nominated and ultimately elected. I bought his book, "The Audacity of Hope", but haven't had the time to read it. The time may be right for an African-American President. It would send a strong message to the world community about the evolution of our society which used to be described as the "melting pot." At the start of the 20th century a Jew from England named Israel Zangwill wrote a play whose story has long been forgotten, but the theme has not. "The Melting Pot" and its message still holds a tremendous power on the national imagination—the promise that all immigrants can be transformed into Americans, a new alloy forged in a crucible of democracy, freedom and civic responsibility."

## APPEARANCES

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T J MALONEY'S  
not here yet



Pictured are: Kevin Scheer (Clarendon Hills), Rory Chole (seated, Burr Ridge), Bridget Lynn (Lemont), Maddie Jeffers (Hinsdale), Kristen Scheer (Clarendon Hills), Molly Griffin (seated, Geneva), Emily Moog (Burr Ridge), and Kara Scheer (Clarendon Hills).

### Murphy Roche Entertains Seniors

Students from the Murphy Roche School of Irish Music performed December holiday concerts at Sunrise (Willowbrook) and Brighton Gardens (Burr Ridge) homes for seniors. The occasion was St. Stephen's Day (December 26), a traditional Irish day for enjoying music with family, friends, and neighbors. Murphy Roche friend Father John Kane commented, "As we all know so well, Christmas has become increasingly commercialized year after year... What a tremendous example of Christmas and its true

meaning the admirable young people displayed by their personal gift of love to others."

Founded in 1997, the Murphy Roche Irish Music Club (Burr Ridge, Illinois) is a non-profit organization for people of all ages and skill levels who perform, want to learn, or just enjoy Irish traditional music (630 662-8611). The club is affiliated with the international organization of Irish Musicians, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (pronounced "kol-tus kyol-tori air-in").

### Catherine O'Connell Returns to World Folk Music Company

In 2006, Catherine O'Connell was scheduled to perform a pair of sold-out "Valentine's Weekend" concerts at the World Folk Music Company on the South Side. On her way to the first of these shows, she was involved in a terrible car accident that landed her in intensive care, with a severely damaged arm and two neck fractures. Less than two months later, she underwent 7 hours of surgery to repair ligaments in her neck after doctors discovered they were separating from her spinal chord.

With recovery still in-progress, the "Celtic Diva" will return to the World Folk Music Company on Friday and Saturday, Feb 9 & 10—the "one year anniversary"—to finally perform the pair of "Valentine's Weekend" concerts that she was on her way to last year.

She says she's going to walk to the show from her brother's house. Ms. O'Connell recently returned from a trip to Ireland that included Tralee, Tourmakeady and Dublin (and later, India!). She made a New Year's Day visit to see former Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan (now with the Finance Department of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin) and his wife, Alice and their daughters.

Catherine capped off the New Year's Day by stopping by a nightly music session at renowned Dublin music spot, O'Donoghue's. You could hear a pin drop when she did "Red is the Rose" to a thunderous reception and amazed and tearful applause.

*(l to r) Tanya, Charles, Lara, and Alice Sheehan with Catherine O'Connell, and the Sheehan family cat in Ireland, January 1, 2007 at the Sheehan home in Dublin.*



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# F

## or The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



YOUR CALLS are appreciated. This column will continue to report what is covered up elsewhere. The Iraq problems now being debated in the US Congress were exposed here while they were being created. The lies that got us into the war were exposed here at the time. Gen. Frank's speech upon entering Baghdad; "We come as liberators, not as conquerors" was exposed here by quoting the nearly identical speech made by the British general upon entering Baghdad in 1917. You read here of the Iraqi deaths, destruction and other losses caused by that massive Brit crime, and Lawrence of Arabia's letter, printed in The Times (London) a few years later in which he contrasted that blood-bath to the much smaller number of Iraqis killed by the Ottomans from whom the Brits claimed to have liberated them. The Bush gang's killings of Iraqis have far surpassed even those of the Brits earlier; but there is oil now. The only oil area known to exist then was partitioned off of Iraq by the Brits in 1920 (the year they criminally partitioned Ireland), given to el-Sabah, the local warlord, and called Kuwait. Through a lucrative protection racket the Brits kept the el-Sabah clan in power as sole local beneficiaries of Kuwaiti oil income. To control the rest of Iraq the Brits armed one of its smaller sects, the Sunnis, who kept the Kurds, Shias and others terrorized into submission. This continued through the 1960s when the US wrested control of Iraq from the Brits by backing Saddam Hussein. The CIA removed his political rivals. When, in the late '80s, he stopped being a US puppet like the Saud and Sabah families, our Texas oilmen (and Israel) decided to get rid of him. While the US abetted the Saudi and Kuwaiti "royal families" grab of their nations' oil revenue which they kept in mostly US banks, Iraqi oil money was used by Saddam to create a well-educated, middle class nation. Perhaps the last straw was Saddam's decision to denominate Iraqi oil in Euros. Saddam was a tyrant who murdered for his US handlers. The obscenely opulent palaces that the news media have construed as uniquely exemplifying his corruption were actually built by the Brits long ago when Iraqi oil was found and started to flow under Brit control. Once the US grabbed control of Britain's Middle East protection rackets they, Texas oilmen, built for their puppets even more-obscene palaces. Saddam was the last of our Iraqi puppets (until Nuri al-Maliki). It was at US insistence

(and with US arms and munitions) that Saddam attacked Iran in a war that took three million lives. Thusly did the US punish Iran for rejecting the Shah that our CIA had imposed on them after removing Muhammed Mossedeq, their democratically-elected president. It was with US complicity (and German gas) that Saddam wiped out Kurdish Halabja. While Mary and I participated in protests against these crimes, Donald Rumsfeld flew to Baghdad to be photographed shaking Saddam's hand. How revealing it is that Saddam was executed for killing people of a village where he had been ambushed and was lucky to survive, but was not tried for any of his major crimes; his gassing of the Kurds and his Supreme Crime, his unprovoked war against Iran. The reason? - Any trial of Saddam for these major crimes would have revealed the US's primary role in them. So Bush & Co silenced Saddam, permanently.

ARAB "TERRORISTS" In Chicago federal court last week I attended parts of the trial of two "Arab terrorists." Suburban Bridgeview grocery owner M. Salah and university professor A. Ashqar. Both are permanent US residents who, years ago, had fled Israeli terrorism in their native Palestine. Years later during a visit to Palestine they were abducted by Israeli officials who imprisoned and tortured them into signing a prepared confession. After some years, international pressure forced Israel to release them, whereupon they were taken to Germany for trial for terrorism. When the German gov't refused to prosecute a case based upon tortured confessions, they were taken to a less scrupulous Chicago US court. The noble characters of Salah and Ashqar were inadvertently revealed in evidence the FBI used against them and were matched by the magnificent defenses by their attys, Deutsch and Moffit. It echoed the trials of so many similarly noble Irish republicans; but here there was a jury, so in this case justice may prevail. It depends upon whether the jury will discern the case's facts through the blinding fog of Anti-Arab propaganda that blankets America. The prosecutors did all in their power to incite any Anti-Arab bigotry in the hearts of the jurors. By the time you read this the verdict will be rendered. May these good men be restored to their families and compensated for the crimes perpetrated against them. See the memorable [www.Free.Ashqar.org](http://www.Free.Ashqar.org).

THE OMAGH BOMBING cover-up is beginning to unravel. How

supremely ironic that the cover-up's collapse is occurring at the very "prosecution" that would have copperfastened the cover-up. The bombing took the lives of 29 and occurred back in August 15, 1998. It might have been an Irish republican device (I suspect it was); but it was co-opted by Brit spooks including MI5 with Chicago FBI agent Buckley and his partner-in-crime, David Rupert.

SEAN GERARD HOEY, the 37 year old Jonesborough, Co. Armagh electrician now being tried under 58 counts for that atrocity, is almost certainly innocent. How can one know? - because, even if one didn't know of MI5/FBI involvement, were Hoey its perpetrator, the prosecutors would not have had to frame him. In a replay of the FBI's fabrication of evidence against us in Chicago the "evidence" against Hoey "went missing" for years, the date on an evidence bottle was inexplicably changed, testimony was mutually-contradictory, and they used a forensic lab known to be incompetent at best. (Of 1,200 samples of the lab's completed work, error was found in 455 of them. Most revealing of all is that the prosecution's main "witness" is the infamous David Rupert whom The Times (London) lauds as "credible."

DAVID RUPERT Of the scores of Rupert's acquaintances that Mary and I interviewed in Rupert's Upper NY home-towns of Massena and Madrid not a single one referred to him as "credible." Nearly all had been defrauded by Rupert, and all described him as a scam artist who lived by defrauding people. A Massena truck repair shop owner claimed a record as the only Massenan to ever have dealt with Rupert without getting defrauded. The NY State police provided a sworn affidavit stating that Rupert is a "lifelong criminal." Rupert is also a serial bankrupt and in all four of his Chapter 7 filings he perpetrates additional perjuries, federal crimes. In the name of the Friends of Irish Freedom but without its authorization or knowledge Rupert set up a web site and solicited money to be sent to his P.O. box at 41st and Halsted. I mention this only because The Times lauds Rupert's "credibility," and justice for Mr. Hoey depends upon Rupert's honesty. Nobody's freedom should ever be subject to a monster like Rupert. That Rupert is the key witness against Hoey indicates the depth of corruption of the court. Ditto; the fact that it is a one-judge, no jury, British trial.

IN CHICAGO, the same kind of paid perjury and evidence fabrication was used against supporters of freedom for Occupied Ireland. Rupert's boss, FBI Agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley, working for MI5, framed me for the murder of the Langert family in suburban Winnetka and later locked up my wife Mary, Frank O'Neill, Tony McCormick

and me. But as political as Chicago's federal court is, once we proved that agent Buckley's testimony was perjured and his evidentiary audiotape criminally fabricated, Prosecutor James Fleissner successfully pled Judge George Lindberg to be allowed to drop all charges against us. Though Judge Lindberg had no choice but to free us, he winked at the crimes perpetrated in his courtroom and rejected our demand to report them to law enforcement. In Chicago Buckley also testified that he was not involved with MI5, but a few years later his close collaboration with his MI5 handlers was openly flaunted. He even got his fellow criminal Rupert onto MI5's payroll. It is probably a measure of the different levels of British subversion of the judicial systems of the US, Ireland, and Occupied Ireland that MI5/FBI dared to use in the latter jurisdictions what had failed in Chicago. In any event, MI5/FBI's evidence fabrication and perjury that had failed against us were later successfully used in Dublin against Michael McKeivitt and are now being used in Occupied Ireland against Hoey.

IRISH-AMERICAN activists have long been trying to implant in Occupied Ireland the civil rights guaranteed us by our US Constitution. But instead of our expanding the success of 1776 the reverse had occurred

THE LARGER PATTERN of official crime is blazingly evident. For example, the relatively clean IRA have been forced to surrender their arms as "terrorists" while the perpetrators of six-sevenths of the murders keep their murder weapons. Rather than end Britain's vile record as Europe's most-convicted State torturer, its torture is openly adopted by Israel against Palestinians, and throughout Bush & Co's international gulag. Perhaps the essence of terrorism is the murder of children. Of the 172 children murdered in the recent phase of the Anglo-Irish conflict, 152 of them were murdered by Brit forces. Yet, it is the Irish families and neighbors of those 152 dead children that have been labeled the "terrorists." Likewise, though Israeli forces murder four times as many as Palestinian forces the latter are labeled the "terrorists." Britain's new grip on the Occupied Irish is touted as the model for Iraq and Palestine. But hope lives! - Adams & Co are now as isolated as Bush & Co.

TORTURE OF PRISONERS that Britain inflicted on Irishmen in the 1870s and 1880s routinely killed them or drove them insane. Similarly, in Bush's gulag many innocents are tortured to death or insanity. A Guardian newspaper (Jan. 9th) report is headlined; "After Five Years of Torture, Bisher is Slowly Slipping into Madness." The sub-headline is; "False Allegations from MI5 Put My

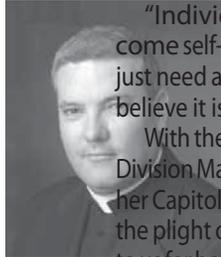
Clients in Guantánamo Bay and the British Government Has Failed Them Miserably." The report starts; "The day after tomorrow marks the confluence of two ignominious anniversaries. The first is the five-year anniversary of the opening of the notorious prison camps run by the US at Guantánamo naval air station in Cuba. In the five years since the US started shipping prisoners from around the world to Guantánamo, approximately 99% have never been charged with any transgression, much less a crime. Approximately 400 prisoners, characterized by the Bush administration as "the worst of the worst," have been released without charge, many directly to their families. That any prisoners have been released is due almost entirely to the outrage of the civilized world." The lengthy report goes on to detail how two utterly innocent British citizens were framed by the CIA after MI5 falsely notified the CIA that two UK-to-Gambia passengers were "Islamic terrorists." The two are Bisher al-Rawi and Jamil el-Banna. After pages detailing the forms of torture inflicted upon them, and describing Bisher's advanced stage of insanity, the writer continues; "Almost a hundred prisoners that we know of have died in US custody; 33 of these deaths are formally classified as homicides by the military. Not since WW2 when the US imprisoned American citizens of Japanese descent, has this country experienced such a constitutional nadir."

"OUR IRAQI ALLIES" is how Bush & Co describe Iraqi collaborators. Perhaps the pay chasm has narrowed, but not long ago the pay rates were as follows: US construction workers in Iraq got \$1,200 per day while their Iraqi counterparts working alongside them got \$2 per day. US security guards in Iraq got \$1,300 per day while Iraqis working alongside them got \$2 per day. "Our Iraqi brothers in combat" are being asked to take the lead against insurgents. We used to see them on TV (when Iraq was still safe enough for US reporters to go outside the Green Zone) often directed by US officers. Who could fail to notice the vast gulf between the US and Iraqi soldiers. US soldiers are finally well armored. Their armor plated bodies travel within armored personnel carriers, while their Iraqi "brothers-in-arms" are hauled around in the open, in the back of pickup trucks without armor of any kind. The Iraqi police and army (US puppets) now play the role in Iraq that the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) once played in Ireland, as abettors of the invaders. Britain robbed Ireland of its resources for illicit gain and to pay the armed forces that abetted the robbery. Similarly, we are now robbing Iraq of its oil to pay for our criminal war against it.

Continued to page 39

# 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



"Individuals and families that we serve want to become self-sufficient... they want to take care of themselves. They just need a little help. Help that we can give them together. We believe it is a great investment."

With these words on January 10, Maureen Murphy, Associate Division Manager of Catholic Charities in Lake County, concluded her Capitol Hill briefing to policymakers and the press, detailing the plight of the thousands of working poor families who come to us for help, and the support they need as they work to become self-sufficient members of society.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago was privileged to play a prominent role in this historic event with many partner organizations, including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Catholic Health Association.

The major goals of this multi-year initiative are: to call upon government to do more to serve the 37 million Americans living in poverty; to improve budget and policy decisions such as health care, housing, nutrition and economic security that strengthen and support families; to educate policymakers and the public about the struggles of the poor – and the good work of those who serve them in local communities throughout the country.

Each year, we see an increase in the number of people seeking help for basic necessities. Last year, Catholic Charities in Cook and Lake counties helped 895,000 people – many of whom are the "working poor" who cannot support, much less lift their families out of poverty on their minimum wage salaries.

Low wage-jobs and the shortage of affordable housing are the most significant reasons people must seek assistance. Catholic Charities helps thousands of families monthly with emergency food, clothing, shelter, rent or utility assistance to make ends

meet, but it is not enough, because the cost of housing currently requires the breadwinner to earn at least \$17 an hour at a full-time job to afford a two-bedroom apartment. A living wage, not just a minimum wage, is needed.

Since 1984, Catholic Charities has worked hard preparing families to break out of the cycle of poverty in many programs. Last year, 190 single-parent working families participated in our long-term, intensive Lake County Family Self-Sufficiency Program: 619 mothers and children. It is a program that positively impacts and strengthens the entire family that bears the painful marks of poverty: few work skills, little or no education, unstable family systems, lack of childcare resources and child support, inadequate health and dental care. These problems could prove insurmountable without Catholic Charities.

For up to five years, each family has a case manager who becomes their counselor, advocate and coach; and a human resources specialist to help the parent find and keep employment. We journey with the family, assisting them in the design of a comprehensive plan for education and/or employment. Priorities are set, a timeline is developed and a disciplined approach is established to move the family toward their goal.

The family is stabilized through intensive individual counseling, financial assistance for housing, utilities, child care and transportation and regular group meetings that provide mutual support. They receive training in critical areas such as budgeting, financial management, and parenting skills. With great determination and hard work, these parents do eventually reach their goal of financial independence, educational certification and degrees, full employment at a living wage with benefits, permanent housing and family stability.

And at their graduation from the program, their children hug them and give them that greatest of all compliments: "I'm proud of you, Mom!"

In November, we had the joy of showing others how to replicate this highly effective program when 18 of our Catholic Charities social service colleagues from 10 states and Alberta, Canada; and CCUSA staff from Alexandria, Virginia, visited our sites and our clients in Lake County.

This is the story of what the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America is all about: assuring that all families, especially those mired in poverty, have the opportunity to achieve economic security and a life of dignity and fulfillment for themselves and their children.

Our Catholic tradition teaches that society, acting through government, has a special obligation to consider first the needs of the poor. Please pray and advocate for the Campaign's success. Urge Congress and the Administration to protect and expand programs that provide needed health care, affordable housing, nutrition assistance and economic security for the poor and vulnerable. To read more about the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America and the position paper, visit [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org).

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# CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY

## Re-Elect Mayor Richard M. Daley

The forthcoming election for Mayor of Chicago brings to mind many such elections that we participated in since Richard J. Daley, legendary father of the present mayor, was first elected in 1955. Some of us newly arrived immigrants who arrived here in the late 40's had just received our citizenship papers and were voting in our first American elections.

Clerk of the County in 1952, Richard J. Daley was one of the guests of honor on the reviewing stand for the first South side St. Patrick's Day parade in 1952 and again in 1953, so we had the pleasure of meeting him then and—when he announced that he was running for the office in 1954, needless to add he was "our man" and we signed on as workers for the party.

His great election as Mayor of Chicago in 1955 was greeted with much enthusiasm especially by Irish-Americans because of his Old Parish, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford connections. He became one of our own and over the years that he governed in Chicago he became a world renowned figure and the city became a global metropolis. Needless to say, the Irish walked tall as a result of his expertise at governing, and visitors to our city were amazed at its "cleanliness and beauty," for which it won national titles as "cleanest and most beautiful big city in the nation." All this led to a more vibrant city, even world wide as visitors in the millions came to admire "The Windy City" with its countless attractions.

When the Mayor and Mrs. "Sis" Daley visited the ancestral Old Parish in the 70's they received a "tremendous welcome," according to then Fr. Victor Power, who told us later in Chicago that the Mayor was especially pleased to see so many family resemblances to his own family. "His mother was a Dunne, second generation from the Old Parish Daley's, and local people speculated on how the neighbors' children should meet and marry in the New World of Chicago."

Like father, like son, the present Mayor is a chip off the old block, a proud Irish-American who has carried on his father's great tradition of making Chicago one of the greatest cities in the world. He loves his city and continues to make it better than the way he found it.

Chicagoans have re-elected Mayor Richard M. Daley time after time, most times by greater majorities and that in itself indicates how confident they are in his leadership. They sense his unflinching dedication to their city, and the charitable way that he deals with his critics. Instead of gloating, he does like



his late father did, express his gratitude humbly to God, his family and friends.

Always the pragmatic politician, he knows that good politics is good government and he runs his city on that sound basis, allowing little for his critics to criticize. Although most Chicagoans know that his reelection is almost certain, nevertheless he is running like he has formidable opposition. He needs a big victory to complete his many projects for the betterment of the city. And wise Chicagoans know that his reelection is for their benefit. Vote to re-elect Mayor Richard M. Daley.

## Thank You American Soldiers

With thousands of Americans we watched the coverage leading up to the execution of Saddam Hussein, former president of Iraq and listened attentively to the thousands of words spoken by the various commentators as they described what was happening and what was about to happen. But, never once in the couple of hours that we watched the show did we hear any mention of how all this came about and how the tyrant was captured by brave and heroic U.S. soldiers under the direct command of our un-assuming Irish American native of Chicago, Col. James B. Hickey, who directed his men of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army on that historic night.

Apparently because of good information gathered over a period of time Col. Hickey and his men conducted raids on three farmhouses in an area that night. They knew that an underground facility existed so they were prepared when they made each raid. Raiding those houses was not as easy as it sounds. Any one of them could be a death trap for the soldiers. The first two raids produce nothing, but the third one was a jackpot. One of the soldiers noticed a trap door in one of the rooms and was

about ready to throw a grenade into the opening when a hand appeared and a voice said words to the effect, "I am Saddam Hussein, president of Iraq." He surrendered without a fight but was armed when searched.

Col. Hickey is the son of James and Ann Marie Hickey, who own and operate an Irish import store named "The Irish Way" in Naperville, Illinois. They and their fine family are former Chicagoans. Other members of the family include Maureen, Moran, \_\_\_\_\_, Patrick, Ken, and Colleen. James Hickey Sr.

*Continued to page 33*

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# Raised On Songs

By Shay Clarke



I just can't believe its Sunday morning, it's snowing and I'm going home to Ireland this afternoon to see family and friends. It's been two years since I've been home...the longest I've ever been away and I'm excited at the prospect of seeing everybody, especially my new granddaughter Alex who was born five months ago.

I can see it all before me; I can almost taste my mom's Irish breakfast, a pint of creamy Guinness in Grogans, a whirlwind week of family and catching up with local craic. I will spend the week in Dublin, maybe a quick trip to Waterford and I suppose I will be shocked by the changes in my beloved city in the last few years...but that's the emigrants tale-- there are always changes and I will share them with all of you next month.

So, with the Clarke household in its usual Sunday morning buzz, breakfast cranking, Conor, my son, and his friends just in from Mass, lastminute laundry churning for my trip, passport and tickets beside me on the table, coffee in hand, I finally sit down to write the February column,

The words have been buzzing around in my head for weeks. Traci, the missus, has reminded me many times, "What about your column." But I just could not put pen to paper. Yep! I still write it all down... can't type for nuts! I must read Rita Emmett's book "The Procrastinators Handbook." She gave me a copy of it years ago and it's by my bedside in the "must read" pile. Maybe it's not too late. Perhaps even at this stage I can change and get things done on time...or, perhaps not.

When I've finished writing I have to find somebody to type it up and email it. Problem! I can hear it now. "I did it last month." "I've got to go out right now." You see, I write the way I talk. And twenty five years ago I could write beautifully with things like syntax, punctuations, capitals in the right place, perfect spelling etc. Now it's a mess and an argument every time.

I find myself bargaining with my daughter Saoirse, "I will drive you over to Andy's house if you type up my column"... She agrees and when the time comes there is always some other pressing teenage emergency or issue...they are growing up and I am driving them bats. That's what daddies do best.

Anyway -GO BEARS- I will be watching the game at O'Hare before I head off to Dublin. Did I say I was excited? You better believe it. Breakfast is nearly ready and I'm still penning drivell. I do have some things to tell you about as we fast approach the St. Patrick's Day season. Lots of stuff. After a quiet January, February is full of concerts festivals, and Irish events as we continue to expand our Patron Saints Day (oops—I said Saints—who are playing the Bears at Soldiers Field today but its O.K. I said Bears—yes that should be OK.)

Switchback, Brian and Marty are in Ireland with their annual tour. I will be seeing them in Dublin—Whalen's of course—on next Tuesday night. I'll tell you all about it next month.

I would give anything to be in Johnny Fox's pub in Glencullen on March 4th when The Elders take the stage, one of my favorite bands in one of my favorite pubs. If you are in Ireland in March—do yourselves a favor—be there. It will almost be a home gig for Ian Byrne whose family lives just the other side of the mountain.

Breakfast is ready, Saoirse is typing and I haven't even packed my bags. My friend Declan Sheridan just called to wish me luck "have a pint for me" says Declan. Of course I will and now that I have promised many to hoist a pint for them, that maxes about 50 pints. That's about 7 pints a day—I'll never make it, but I will give it a try.

I promised you last month that I would tell you my favorite albums and here they are.

- Damien Dempsey—Shots
- The Elders—Live at the Gem
- Barley Juice—6 Yanks
- Gaelic Storm – Wellies
- favorite festivals of '06
- Milwaukee Irish Festival
- Dublin Irish Festival
- Cleveland Irish Festival
- Favorite New Festival (new to me, that is)
- Kansas City Irish Festival
- Prettiest Irish Festival (palm trees and flower beds)
- West Palm Beach Irish Fest
- Favorite Little Fest (great food, craic, people)
- Weston Missouri Irish Festival
- Favorite Free Celtic Fest (great entertainment free)
- Dayton Ohio Celtic Festival
- Favorite Highland Games
- Oakbrook IL. (beautiful setting, good weather)
- Estes Park Co. (huge, majestic, but very wet)

As I've said before, I make my living from Festivals and Irish Events. There are hundreds of them all run by Irish organizations and volunteers dedicated to keeping our culture, music and traditions alive and again I take my hat off to all of them. Readers, you can help by supporting these events. They are family friendly and you will have a ball. See you at the fest sometime this year.

### Best Selling Albums

I spoke to two of the major national retailers of Irish music Jack Baker of Rampant Lion, and John Barry of The Irish Boutique about their best sellers and was amazed by what they had to tell me. Both agreed on the two best selling albums of '06. Celtic Women and Gaelic Storms Wellies Album, but then they differed on almost everything after that. Next month I will tell you all.

### Mark your Calendars

Natalie McMaster at Hemmens. Goddess and flamboyant at fiddle player Nat Mack is at Hemmens Elgin, IL on March 11th.

The Elders at Ballydoyle, Downers Grove March 30th and 31st, for tour info see theelders@kc.rr.com.

### March Madness at McNally's

McNally's in St. Charles have a whole week of events planned starting with a St. Patrick's Day parade on March 10th. That evening the Dublin City Ramblers are on stage and the gigs just line up after that. Joe McShane, Switchback (just back from their Irish Tour) and The Wolfe Tones. Throw in the Trinity Irish Dancers and you know it's going to be a fun week. For a full schedule see McNallysirishpub.com

It's now time (1 hour left 'till pickup) to pack my bags and head for the airport. My brain is on overload, I'm sure to forget something. Cant wait to get back to Dublin to be spoiled by the Mammy for a few days and to spoil my grandchildren—I am so looking forward to this trip and will talk to you all next month.

I gotta go now—  
Shay



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Wednesday, 2/21	The Deady Brothers
Friday, 2/29	The Clancy Brothers
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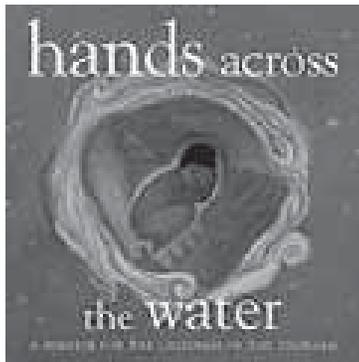
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First, let's look forward to next month. Yup! That time already--the annual March announcements of The Top Tir Awards. These are the recognitions of the very best artists who have released albums in the last year: March to March. The "TIR" in The Top TIR is the acronym for the column, Tradition in Review. Desperately clever, hey? Well, many years ago it was the best name editor Cliff and I could come up with after several pints. And, the "Tops" are now one of the oldest, major market Awards in Irish music. So, be sure to check in next month!

On to the work at hand. This month, four more reviews. First up is a huge deal from Compass Records in Nashville. Hands Across The Water. It is a collaboration compendium featuring



some VERY heavyweight Irish musicians and American country and western artists. The names pour forth in this stunner--Altan, Jackson Browne, Paul Brady, Rodney Crowell, Michael McGoldrick, Brock-McGuire Band, Sharon Shannon, John Prine, Flook and Alison Brown to name only a smattering of the headliners. A wonderful album, and the profits are being used right! We are not sure of the percentages here, but the vast lion's share of the profits are going to Tsunami Relief. As all our individual clocks keep ticking, we move on to the latest crisis, and forget that just a short while back, thousands upon thousands died with entire areas laid waste by the tragedy. Each one of us can do very little individually, but we can sure do a lot together, and this album is Compass' effort to do what it can to help. As you buy one, you are getting some really fabulous music, with the profits going to the very best of places. Leave it to Garry West, Alison Brown and the rest of the Compass gang to put out a great album, while doing a lot of good at the same time. Everybody wins. Shouldn't be hard to find. This album has been around a while, and shame

on us for coming to it late. But, better late.... Rating: Four Harps for the album, and 100,000 Harps for the cause!

Island Heart Records and the non-stop Deanna Griffin have sent us Who? by the very gifted, Darren Maloney. A young tenor banjo player out of Ireland, this well-produced gem offers us a new and major figure on the scene. We like to tell you about these artists first--so be aware. Heads up! This is a wonderful musician, and a gifted interpreter of the music. All-instrumental, this album joins Maloney with three other musicians in a delight. Full range of tempos, ambiences and styles. This is a very, very good musician we are meeting here. Maloney is also heard playing a tasty mandolin. These banjo albums can get very boring very quickly, depending on the artist, and his or her taste. Well, this guy's taste is pretty impeccable, as far as we can hear. We would, however, beg him to shave before the next album cover. It is kind of like Elvis Costello meets the plectrum. But, let us not quibble here. Darren Maloney sounds ready to be put right up with Ireland's best banjo players, Enda Scahill and Gerry O'Connor. Google the name, or Google Island Heart Artists, or check Cdbaby online. A lot of you love this stuff, and so do we. A new breeze blowing into town, with some wonderful chops. Enda, Gerry! Battlestations!! Rating: 3&1/2 harps

The regular reader knows well of our admiration for the group, Danu. These guys really forged a place for themselves, and were--for a long time--the hottest band in trad. Personnel changes have happened, and each of us Danu fans is still considering the impact of those changes. Danu's

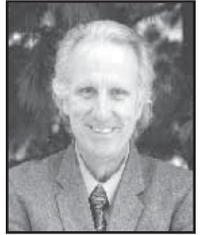


President Mark Donahue of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, has announced the appointment of Detective Tom McDonagh as a Trustee of the organization. McDonagh has been a member of the Chicago Police Department for many years.

fiddle player, Oisín McAuley, is now out on Compass with a new album, Far From The Hills of Donegal. This is a really ambitious album. There are a ton of different styles, and some work better than others. What is not in doubt is McAuley's prodigious talents on fiddle. Among the guest musicians is Shane McGowan on guitar. Now, some of the tunes, like the opening, Quebec Reels, hit us as derivative. In this case, the playing reminds us a lot of Liz Carroll and John Doyle. It could BE Liz and John, for all that. The sound is not distinct, and it all seems too easy for Oisín in this opener. And, as long as we are being snooty, we're not partial to Mary's Waltz, either. Oisín's liner notes tell us that this waltz was written in a very open fashion as to allow a lot of improvisation. Good enough. But the tempo, certainly 3/4 as a waltz, seems buried in the improvisations and the accent rhythms. We lose it as a waltz, and the whole cut struggles. We want to be able to dance to a waltz. With a special woman! This brings to an end the whining portion of this review. We find the rest of the album wonderful on several levels. Constant throughout the project is McAuley's musical sense and taste--almost flawless. His bowing style remains redolent of the Irish northwest, as he also adapts other styles and flourishes. Lots and lots of good, wonderful--even great stuff here from an important artist. McAuley is widely admired among the thousands of international Irish fiddle aficionados, and this album will show you why. Taken all in all, it is a terrific showcase for this young man, whose future remains as bright as ever. Being on Compass Records means it is easy to find. Well done! Rating: Three Harps

Few labels guarantee a great album, but Ireland's Clo-lar-Chonnacta comes close. Here's another winner. Marcas O Murchu's Turas Ceoil is just the best. This flute player has gathered some of the tradition's great players around him, ranging from Altan's Ciaran Curran on guitar and Oisín McDiarmada on fiddle to Ben Lennon on fiddle, with the great Seamus Quinn on piano. There are more, but the trad buff gets the drift. This album is really filled with the northwestern style of flute--you know the deal--Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim. Polkas, reels and jigs abound. One complaint.

## T radition In Review



By Bill Margeson

There are only two airs, with one thrown overboard too quickly in favor of adding a hornpipe. We have long argued against recording a gorgeous air, only to have it turn half-way through into an up-tempo piece of business. It is as if the musician does not trust the audience to cherish the air, hold



it close to the heart, and make it a part of their soul. Rather, it seems to say, "Okay, we won't bore you any longer with this. We know what you want, hear comes some faster stuff." Shame. BUT--that is only nitpicking! This is a great, great album by a master musician. Flute players the world 'round know about, and respect, this brilliant interpreter of the staccato, yet flowing style that marks his geographic style of playing. We are rapidly losing the regionally stylistic features

of Irish traditional music for a number of reasons frequently described here. The point is that these styles can still be found, thanks to labels like Clo-lar-Chonnacta, and true-to-the-bone musicians like Marcas O Murchu. This is a great album. Not very good, mind you. Great. Rating: Four Harps

Are you listening to Blarney on the Air every Monday night from 7-9, Chicago time, on WBCB, 90.9 fm? If not, why not? The best in Irish music, and lots of fun, besides. You can also hear it on [www.wdcb.org](http://www.wdcb.org) Even Editor Cliff is listening!!

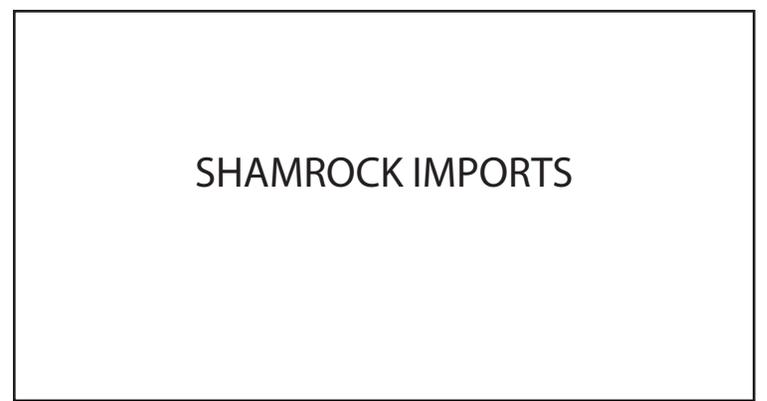
## Conference Of Celtic Women

A completely new web page for Conference Of Celtic Women is up and running now. It is entirely new with complete conference information including speakers for this year, historical records of past conferences, registration information, First Friday Lecture schedules and records.

There are more than 200 photographs included, taken at the conferences and lectures.

To see the new site, just go online to <http://www.conferenceofcelticwomen.org>

## SHAMROCK IMPORTS



# Investment Ideas

By David Gaffney



## Choosing Tax Efficient Investments

Managing your portfolio wisely can help control your tax bill. As always, you should consider many different factors when choosing investments, but for some individuals, tax cost may be one of the more influential factors in selecting their investments. Let's look at some points to consider when evaluating the tax efficiency of different investments.

Bonds. There are two main types

of bonds: tax-advantaged and taxable. Municipal bonds, which are issued by state and local governments, pay interest that is usually exempt from federal income taxes. However, income from certain types of municipal bonds may be taxable for taxpayers subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Taxable bonds are typically issued by the U.S. government or a corporation and they are generally federally-taxed, but certain government bonds

may be tax-exempt at the state level, subject to state law.

When evaluating which bond is most appropriate, one factor to consider is its yield. First, you need to calculate the taxable-equivalent yield for the municipal bond. Taxable-equivalent yield is the yield that a taxable bond would have to provide to match the yield on a bond whose interest income is exempt from federal (and state) income taxes. For example, assuming you are in the 25 percent federal income tax bracket, a corporate bond would have to provide a 5.3% yield (excluding state tax) to match a 4% yield on a municipal bond. A decision between these two bonds would be tax neutral at these rates. Keep in mind that if bonds are sold before their maturity, their yields and market values will fluctuate and they may be worth more or less than their original cost.

Stocks. If your goal is tax efficiency, you may want to choose a stock that pays little or no dividend in order to reduce your current taxable income. Investors who don't need the dividend income usually hold these stocks for their growth potential. The stock grows tax-deferred until sold. By determining when you sell your

stock, you are able to manage your gains and losses. Also, if you hold the stock for more than one year, it will be eligible for the long-term capital gains rate (maximum 15%), which is lower than the ordinary income tax rates applied to stock held one year or less.

If you need an income-producing stock, you can choose one that will pay dividends that qualify for the reduced dividend tax rate (as compared to your ordinary income tax rate). These qualified dividends are currently taxed at long-term capital gains rates.

It is important to remember that the return and principal value of your stock, upon redemption, may be more or less than the original investment, based on changing market conditions.

Mutual funds. You may be able to reduce your taxes by choosing funds with minimal yields and low turnover. The yield will provide an indication of the amount of interest and dividends distributed by the fund. The turnover ratio measures the fund's trading activity. Funds with higher turnover ratios typically

in mutual funds involves risk and you should be aware that your principal and investment return in a mutual fund will fluctuate in value, and may be worth more or less than its cost, when redeemed.

Just because an investment offers tax advantages doesn't necessarily mean it's appropriate for your portfolio so before making any decisions, you should consider your goals regarding your return on investment, your time horizon and your risk tolerance. Your financial consultant can also help you decide what investments best fit into your overall portfolio.

A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer, but may act as an investment advisor on designated accounts, and the firm's obligations will vary with the role it plays. When working with clients the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To better understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards on [agedwards.com/disclosures](http://agedwards.com/disclosures).



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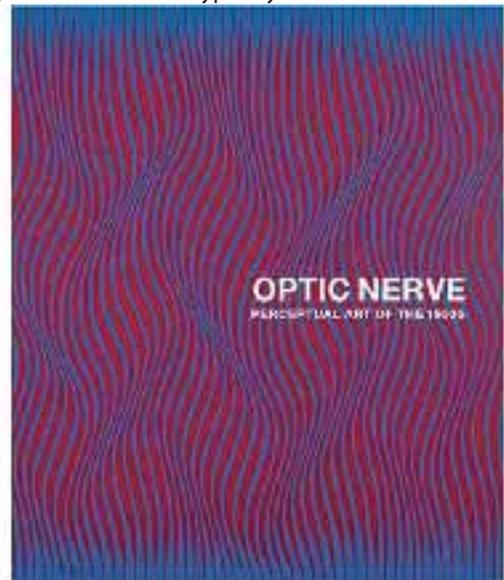


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# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard

## USCIS Warns of Potential For Immigration Fraud

Although Congress has been debating immigration legislation, all customers should be advised that currently no temporary worker program exists for aliens unlawfully present in the United States. Congress has not passed any legislation that would create a temporary worker program. Therefore, there are no benefits currently available because this program does not exist. Customers should not pay any fees or fines to any person or organization claiming they can help apply for or receive benefits for a temporary worker program. Be wary of persons or organizations that claim they can assist in applying benefits that do not exist.

## Citizenship

We have had call recently about the new pilot scheme, which, U.S.C.I.S. has been using, in a number of U.S. cities. Chicago is not included at this time. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is in the process of revising the naturalization test. It is hoped that the result will be an improvement on the current test and create a one that is standardized, fair and more meaningful. At present U.S.C.I.S are piloting the new testing process in ten different sites around the country in an effort to evaluate the test and to remedy any problems that arise. Questions that are not successful in the pilot will be dropped, narrowing the list to 100 questions, the same number as the current exam.

We are therefore, once again encouraging anyone who is in a position to apply for citizenship to do so a.s.a.p. Please note that our office is only too happy to help with any questions you may have and also we provide the forms etc. needed, free of charge.

## Senator Durbin Visits C.I.I.S.

Senator Dick Durbin who has taken over the number two position in the democratic leadership in the U.S. Senate recently visited our office. Billy Lawless chairman of the Chicago Celts Immigration Reform arranged the meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. Sean Farrell Counsel General of Ireland.

The Senator spoke very positively about the possibility of real reform of the Immigration system happening



this year. He thanked the Chicago Celts for their hard work locally and also mentioned the important contribution made to the debate by the churches.

It is important that we continue our efforts to call, write, or e-mail our elected representatives and ask them to support comprehensive immigration reform. It was encouraging to read recently that the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate has included Immigration reform in their top ten to do list for this year.

## Just A Thought

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box. There are 5 things you need to know, he told the pencil, before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.

One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand.

Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.

Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

Four: The most important part of you will always be what's inside.

And Five: On every surface you

are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now replacing the place of the pencil with you; always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.

Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but you'll need it to become a stronger person.

Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

Four: The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside.

And Five: On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties.

By understanding and remembering, let us proceed with our life on this earth having a meaningful purpose in our heart.

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

## Properties Welcomes John Cleary

John P. Cleary has joined @properties, Chicago's largest real estate brokerage firm and the city's leading firm for sales and marketing of new construction and conversion developments. He can be reached at his Lincoln Park office located at 1586 N. Clybourn, tel. 773-817-5646 or [www.JPCChicago.com](http://www.JPCChicago.com).

## Sean-Nós Milwaukee Feb 16-17

February 16th and 17th, 2007, will be an exciting weekend celebration of old style 'sean-nós' singing and dancing at the Fine Arts Recital Hall located on the campus of UW-Milwaukee near Downer Ave. and Kenwood Blvd. at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 16th and will be followed by an oíche airneán or nighttime gathering at the Knickerbocker Hotel located at 1028 E. Juneau Ave.

Saturday's events will include a keynote address on the life and work of the noted singer Joe

Heaney, and day long singing and dancing workshops at the Hefter Center. A lunchtime gathering at the Pabst Theater and an evening dinner followed by a session at the County Clare Inn & Pub will also afford participants the chance to interact with this vibrant singing and dancing community. All are welcome!

Contact the UW-Milwaukee Center for Celtic Studies website: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic/> email: [celtic@uwm.edu](mailto:celtic@uwm.edu) or call: 414-229-2608/6520.

## Lecture Series Highlights Irish Boxing and Dance

The Irish American Heritage Center's library is presenting a series of lectures highlighting the history of Irish dance and Irish boxing in Chicago.

Irish Dance in Chicago will be presented at the center, located at 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2:00 pm by Kathleen Sullivan Flanagan, who has directed the Flanagan School of Irish Dance for the past 35 years, and Peggy Roche Boyle, daughter of Irish dance

legend Pat Roche. They will focus on the early years of Irish dance in Chicago from 1893 to 1953.

On Sunday March 4, at 2 p.m., Former Illinois Commissioner of Boxing, Sean Curtin and National Golden Gloves Hall of Famer, Mitch Levine will present The House that Paddy Built: The Chicago Stadium and Irish Boxing in Chicago. Tickets are \$10 for each lecture and receptions follow both events. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

## Beverly Area Planning Association Presents 34th Annual Snowflake Ball

The 34th Annual Snowflake Ball, featuring live dance music by the City Lights Orchestra, will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Saint Xavier University Shannon Center, 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA), a not-for-profit organization that serves the Beverly/Morgan Park community with programs in housing, business development, school support, community safety and more. For tickets or information call 773-233-3100 or buy online at [www.bapa.org](http://www.bapa.org).

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**"Faith Healer" at Chopin Theatre**

Uma Productions will present Tony Award-winner Brian Friel's Faith Healer at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago. Faith Healer follows an Irish faith healer, his long-time lover and his devoted manager as they tour from town to town until their fateful return to Ireland. A fresh and riveting look at the lives of three people compelled by their art and propelled by their faith, Faith Healer is a testament to the joy and strife of the artist's journey, the delight found in the everyday poetry of human relations and the life affirming properties of a shared theatrical experience.

The Chopin Theatre is located at 1543 W. Division, Chicago, IL 60622 and offers street parking; CTA accessible (Division Blue Line "L" stop). The show opens Thursday, January 11th, 2007, and will run through February 10th.

For tickets please call 773.347.1375 or [www.umaproductions.org](http://www.umaproductions.org).

(l-r) Chris Hainsworth, Danica Ivancevic. Photo by John Zinn



**Sicily with an Irish Twist**

After successfully launching tours into Italy last year, CIE Tours International is expanding its Italian repertoire by introducing a new one—week tour to Sicily, priced from \$898 for land-only, or from \$1,529 from JFK/Boston, or from \$1,656 from Chicago.

Departures are on selected Saturdays, from February 17th through December 22nd, 2007.

Ideal for travelers who have been to the Italian mainland before, this itinerary concentrates on the SW Italian island of Sicily, staying at first class hotels for three nights in Taormina, two nights in Palermo and one night in Agrigento.

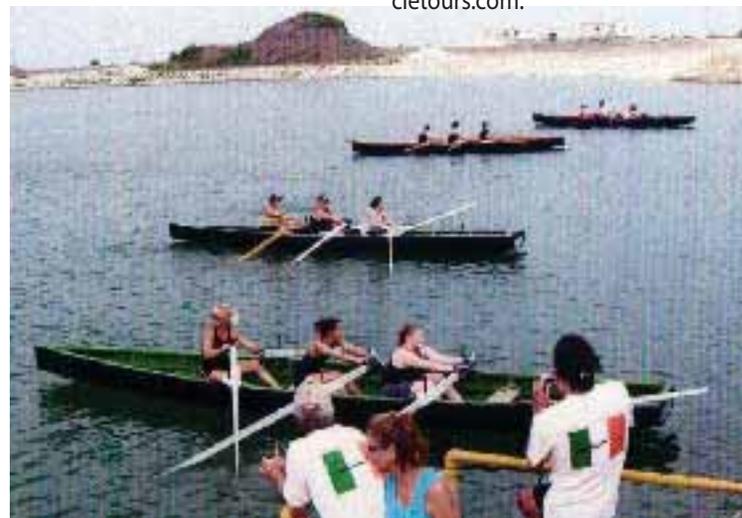
Activities include a tour and wine tasting in Marsala, and visits with local guides to the Benedictine Abbey of Monreale, Valley of the Temples, the slopes of Mt. Etna, and Neapolis Archaeological Park Greek Ruins in the ancient city of Syracuse.

The price includes first class hotels with private bath/shower for six nights; six buffet breakfasts; four

dinner including a farewell dinner at a restaurant in Taormina; professional English-speaking tour escort; and complete sightseeing program via private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach; admissions to all attractions specified in the itinerary; deluxe flight bag, ticket wallet, luggage tags and strap; all local taxes, hotel service charges, and portage for one suitcase per person. For an extra charge, CIE Tours also offers a three-night extension to Malta.

CIE Tours also offers Italian Tradition, an 11-day/9-night vacation that covers the mainland destinations of Rome, the Vatican, Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Bologna, Tuscany, Monte Cassino, Naples, Pompeii, and a boat trip to the Isle of Capri. A third choice is Italian Gourmet Lake Tour, a leisurely—pace vacation that explores northern Italy in depth, with emphasis on gourmet food and the scenic northern lakes adjacent to the Alps and Switzerland.

Contact a travel agent or call CIE Tours at 1-800—CIE—TOUR or [www.cietours.com](http://www.cietours.com).



An Irish fishing rowboat common to the west coast of Ireland, the currach is no longer in use, but races are regularly held in Ireland and here—wherever the Irish are strong. Traditionally covered in an animal skin and tar, or, wooden shelled with either two or four seats, by regulation the boat is 25 feet long. The rowers sit on solid seats and do not slide back and forth as in sculling and the oars are nothing more than 2x4's. For more information on the North American Currach Association, contact Tom McDonnell at 847-870-7588.

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## NWSI St. Parade

On Sunday March 4th, 2007, NWSI will hold its fourth annual "Friends and Family" Saint Patrick's Day parade. The parade will kick off at 12:00 pm from 6633 W. Raven (Onahan School) and will run south on Neola Avenue. To Northwest Hwy / West on Northwest Hwy to Harlem Avenue. The NWSI review stand will be set up at Northwest Hwy and Raven with live entertainment starting at 11:00 am.

This year's parade will be honoring Lt. Governor Pat Quinn as 2007 "Humanitarian of the Year" for his endless efforts in assisting American troops and American veterans and their families. He has also been invited to be the Grand Marshal for the parade.

NWSI is also hosting a drive with Operation Support Our Troops. Items for care packages for the troops in Iraq will be collected at specific drop spots on the day of the parade. For more details on what items are needed please go to [www.ostil.org](http://www.ostil.org). There will be a drop spot located at the review stand on Northwest Hwy and Raven. Operation Support Our Troops will also be accepting monetary donations on parade day. Additionally, The Norwood Park Family Restaurant located at 6101 N. Northwest Hwy will have a drop box from February 1st thru March 4, 2007.

The NWSI Queens contest will take place on Friday, February 10, 2007, at 6:30 pm at the Local 734 Bread and Bakery Hall at 6643 N. Northwest Hwy. Candidates must be 21 years of age and over and must be of Irish decent. For more information on our Queens contest please contact Eileen Duffy at 773-848-8421.

Friends of NWSI are hosting back to back fundraisers in support of the cost of the parade. To support these efforts, the public is asked to join NWSI for food, drinks, raffles and entertainment at Trinity Pub (5943 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, 773-763-0095) on February 10, 2007 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and at Jet's Public House (6148 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, 773-792-2440) on February 24, 2006 from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

The official Northwest Side Irish parade party will be held at the VFW hall at 10 W. Higgins Road (Higgins at Canfield) in Park Ridge. Ticket cost is \$20.00 per person that will include live entertainment, food and beverages (alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages). Ticket cost is \$5.00 for children ten years old and under. Children five years old and under are free.

Contact Elizabeth Murray Belcaster at 773-640-8221.

## Shamrock Club of Wisconsin

New Dublin Celebrates St. Patrick's Day the week of March 12 including Irish Entertainment, the 2007 Irish Man and Irish Rose; Grand Marshal, and the Irish Lad & Lassie; and Finnegan's wake, traveling across New London in our "funeral" service. The Grand Parade and Irish Fest is March 17, Admission \$5.00 (920) 982-3891, 982-5892 – Irish Fest Booths and Entertainment.

NE Wisconsin The Shamrock Club of Green Bay and NE Wisconsin will meet February 19 at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Green Bay at 7 p.m. The Shamrock Club Library is located at Trulley's Irish Gifts, 124 N. Broadway (2nd floor), DePere ((920) 330-0103). Club member Mick Gleason's novel, The Lord be with You, is at Trulley's.

La Crosse The Shamrock Club of La Crosse congratulate Tom O'Brien and Jeannine Nolan, the 2007 Irish Man and Irish Rose. The next event is the meeting on February 21, at the Cedar Creek Country Club, at 7:00 p.m. Details on our March events, will be released soon. 608-787-2832.

Lafayette County Raffle tickets are ready. Meeting is at Annies in Darlington on February 11 at 1 pm. Our parade will take place in Darlington on March 17. South Central News Shamrock Club. On March 10, 2007 we will hold our Irish Man and Irish Rose of the Year Banquet at the Voyageur Inn and Conference Center in Reedsburg. The banquet starts at 5 p.m. Contact Dana at (608)

## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help and show me, herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer three consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

524-6821 if you wish to attend. Sean Michael Dargan, a delightful Irishman, will be our entertainment, on the bagpipes. Visit Sean at [[www.seanmichaeldargan.com](http://www.seanmichaeldargan.com)].

Meetings for the S. Central Shamrock Club for 2007 are: February 18 at Farm Kitchen, Baraboo, WI; April 15 Meeting at Longley's Restaurant, Reedsburg; and June 10 Meeting and Election of Officers, at Longley's Restaurant, Reedsburg; guest speakers at the meetings. Memberships are due. Contact Dana Horkan-Gant at

610 Vine St, Reedsburg, WI Shamrock Club of Rock County St. Patrick's Day Party at the Janesville Senior Center, March 13.

Milwaukee Mass in Honor of St. Patrick, 41st annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, and Post Parade Party. Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Mass honoring Saint Patrick will take place at 8:30 am at St. Patrick's congregation, 725 South 2 Street, Milwaukee. Shamrock Club's 47 birthday party March 1 at the ICHC [www.shamrockclubwis.com](http://www.shamrockclubwis.com).

Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums march in the March 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, GA

Milwaukee Hurling Club February 16, the MHC will present Late Night Catechism at the ICHC at 8 pm. It will be a fundraiser for the Milwaukee Hurling Club for the Youth League trip to Ireland. Proceeds defray costs for the MHC Youth League and their families. [www.hurling.net](http://www.hurling.net), 414-384-8012.

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



They're having a Hooley at St. Margaret of Scotland parish. This parish has been good to me. The church sits on 99th Street at Throop and it's a gateway to my South-side when coming in on the

St. Margaret's.

The parish hall was the hub of the neighborhood back then. Boxing night was an annual sell out at the parish, and they'd have cops on duty with doctors and nurses in case anybody really got their lights knocked out at the church fundraiser.

Father Dan Mallette is pastor of St. Margaret's now, has been since 1977. He's on the square; a tough guy priest who ain't ashamed to talk candidly about his battles with booze. A scrupulous old lady overheard one of the AA meetings at the church one night and demanded to speak with the pastor about the man using the foul language. "Lady that IS the pastor."

Father Dan says a mean mass. It ranks up there with Iggy McDermott's masses for speed, efficiency, and inspiration. The parish community now is a melting pot of neighborhood black folks and families sprinkled in with old Irish parish expatriates. They get along well together,

humbly, no mink coats at these masses. Praying with them on a Sunday is rejuvenating.

So I try to get out to St. Margaret's for a Dan Mallette mass every now and again, when I'm up early. We filmed several scenes from my new movie "Tapioca" in St. Margaret's, so the church has particular significance for me.

The best St. Margaret of Scotland mass of the year is coming up on Saturday night February 24th. It just so happens the mass is right before the St. Patrick's Day party in the parish hall. Folks come from all over the south side returning to the old parish that night, sharing memories and toasting the future of St. Margaret's. Last year I saw friends from forty years back and made new ones too, like former FBI agent Pete Wacks who invested in Tapioca.

I told you the place had good vibes.

I'll be there this Saturday night February 24th. Try and catch the 6:00 PM mass before, it's excellent. The choir that night is made up of choirs from parishes all over the south side. After mass they've got Frank O'Hara and his "Right Material Band", Sean O'Donnell, The O'Loughlin Irish Dancers, beer, wine, set-ups, corned beef and cabbage, the works. It's a great night. It's only twenty bucks and every buck they raise is matched by their old pal Richard Driehaus.

Gene Earner and his wife Donna have been putting on this party for years, helping their old parish pay the bills. Donna went to heaven last May, so the party this year is dedicated to her memory. Gene will be there with all 12 of his kids. Call Gene for tickets at 708-636-8827.

In the film "Tapioca" I play a homeless guy who stumbles into St. Margaret's and meets St. Peter. The church looks beautiful in the film, a warm and loving sanctuary. I found salvation there. Maybe you will too. Hope to see you there.

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## Yeats Lecture

The Irish American Heritage Center will present a lecture, Transforming Ireland Into A New Nation: the Yeats Family Sunday, March 25 at 2pm, is a part of the ongoing Irish Artist Series, sponsored by the IAHC's Cultural Committee. Tickets are \$10 and includes admission and refreshments.

Part 1, a slide presentation on the artwork of John Butler Yeats (1839-1922); Jack Butler Yeats (1871-1957) and Anne Butler Yeats (1919-2001). John was the father of Jack Butler Yeats and William Butler Yeats and Anne was the daughter of William.

Part two led by Redd Griffin, is called "In Search of Yeats' Spirit" and examines the poetry of Yeats in his life and work. Redd Griffin, is an instructor at Triton College and has written and developed courses and programs on authors, including James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, Sherwood Anderson and G.K. Chesterton. He is a founding director and past chair of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park and serves on the community advisory board of WTTW 11. 773-282-7035.

## Irish Sopranos in Concert at IAHC

On Thursday, March 1st at 8pm, the Irish Sopranos return for an evening of world-class Irish music at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago. Tickets are \$25.

According to the Center, the trio's 2005 appearance at the IAHC was a smash-success and the Irish community has begged for a follow-up appearance. The group has been hailed by critics as instrumental in popularizing classical music in the manner that the Dixie Chicks brought the country genre to a wider audience.

The Irish Sopranos; Kay Lynch, Wendy Dwyer and Deirdre Masterson have toured extensively in Ireland and throughout the world. Their performances showcase great versatility, ranging from operatic selections and traditional Irish favorites to Broadway and international medleys. For tickets or information call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

## Academy of Irish Music Classes

The Academy of Irish music is resuming adult group classes on Wednesday evenings at the IAHC. The group classes will concentrate on learning how to play in an Irish style. They will play different types of tunes and learn how to group these tunes in medleys. Later we will develop suites that are suitable for performance. You will have the opportunity to have input into developing these suites.

A background of ensemble playing in quartets, orchestra, Suzuki, or bands might be helpful. At first, sheet music of the basic melodies will be provided and in no time you will be having fun playing from memory. Second line players will enjoy developing harmony lines and rhythms appropriate for the music. Send me an email to Noel Rice <nrice@interaccess.com>. 773-282-7035 x10.



# Concerts



## Waterson:Carthy

Friday, February 23rd 7:30pm  
\$29, \$18 Old Town School Members, \$16 Seniors & Children

Markus Carthy is regarded as one of the finest players and interpreters of British traditional music and his brother and highly respected guitar player was featured as a member of both The Dubliners and The Chieftains. The Carthys were also the first and only band to be named after their lead singer and songwriter, Bruce Watson and the Carthys, both having their first recordings and several albums in the same night.



## Karan Casey & Crooked Still

Saturday, March 10th 8pm  
\$29, \$18 Old Town School Members, \$16 Seniors & Children

As a member of the great Irish band, Karan Casey has been critically acclaimed all over the world as one of Ireland's greatest players. "One of the most dynamic talents in Irish music today, Casey has led several and taught dozens to carry on along with the spirit." - IRISHMUSIC.COM  
Casey's first "solo" album was the most important folk group to emerge from Dublin... "one of the most important steps in the development of American traditional music's roots-rock genre." - Boston Globe



## Lúnasa & Dervish

Saturday, March 24th 7 & 10pm  
\$22, \$20 Old Town School Members, \$18 Seniors & Children

Lúnasa are an Irish traditional Irish group. In the same year as the formation of Dervish, Lúnasa made an album with the title of "The Sound of the Mountains" which was a landmark in Irish music. Lúnasa were the first Irish band to be signed to a major label. The members of Dervish playing in Lúnasa are: John, Gerry, and Paddy. All topped off with their own solo careers. Special thanks to AF MacCarthy and Associates.



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BEYOND THE ABBEY COLUMN

Review of Doubt A Parable by John Patrick Shanley at La Salle Bank Theatre, Chicago

A parable is telling a simple story to illustrate a parallel but separate moral point. Doubt A Parable by John Patrick Shanley, is certainly that. But this play is also much more. On the surface, the presentation is a taut ninety minute courtroom thriller of the "is the defendant guilty or not guilty" genre, so popular on television. But underneath, the drama ploughs much deeper depths. For one thing, the trial to establish the defendant's innocence or guilt does not take place in any court of law. Instead, it occurs at St. Nicholas, a coed Catholic parochial school serving mostly Italians and Irish in the Bronx in 1964. For another, the prosecutor is no district attorney scoring subtle or not so subtle legal jabs. Instead, she is Sister Aloysius (Cherry Jones), a physically frail but mentally tough-as-nails nun of the old school type, who is principal of the school. She is pitted against Father Brendan Flynn (Chris McGarry.) He is a charismatic priest of the new church order and a teacher at the school. Like the ham between the sandwich, Sister James (Lisa Joyce,) is a neophyte nun who is caught between the two. She is dedicated to teaching and at first sees things one way and then another. But Sister James is not the only juror in this play. The audience is also cast into that role which is one of the strengths of this engaging, multifaceted work.

The story line of Doubt A Parable is now jaded and trite after years of real-life revelations about predatory pedophile priests. But playwright Shanley provides some new twists. In this play, Sister Aloysius is depicted as both interested in the wellbeing of her pupils and also worldly wise. The author twice lets us know that she has been married and that her husband died in WWII fighting Adolf Hitler. She suspects that Father Flynn has an unhealthy interest in young boys but has no firm evidence to go on. She admonishes Sister James to be on the watch for any suggestive actions that could confirm her suspicions. When Sister James tells her that one of her students displayed unusual behavior and smelled of alcohol following a private session with Father

Flynn, Sister Aloysius becomes convinced of Father Flynn's guilt. She sets out to confront and convict him. What follows is a riveting cat and mouse struggle for high stakes: the moral high ground for the wellbeing of the students on one level. But on another, for control and the courage to stand up to entrenched power to do what is right and live with the consequences. But there is a nagging question - what if your suspicions are wrong? Therein lies the doubt and the genius of this play.

In the play, Father Flynn has a perfectly innocent and even altruistic reason for befriend-ing the boy. The student comes from a troubled home and needs help. This is acknowledged by Mrs. Muller (Caroline Stefanie Clay) the boy's mother who has a go-along-to-get-along attitude. The boy's father has rejected and beaten him and Father Flynn has stepped in to assume a paternal role. This is good enough for Mrs. Muller who thinks it should suit Sister Aloysius as well. But it does not. In the end, the guilt or innocence of Father Flynn is never clearly established and the audience is left to decide for itself.

While the play is well constructed and keeps the audience wondering long after the final curtain, it has some shortcomings. For instance, Sister Aloysius' motivations in trying to destroy Father Flynn are never made clear. She does not like him for several reasons such as letting his fingernails grow long, wanting to include a secular song in the Christmas pageant and he is friendly with the children, especially the boys whom he coaches in basketball. Sister Aloysius has the view that teachers should be remote and is not displeased when she is told by Sister James that the children fear her. But none of that seems reason enough to want to destroy Father Flynn with all the venom she displays. One is left to wonder if she is embittered over the death of her husband while fighting against tyranny, if she is striking a blow for the emancipation of women within the Catholic Church, if she is fearful and fighting a rear-guard action against the reforms of Vatican II or possibly something else? Again, therein lies the doubt.

John Patrick Shanley, who lives in New York, is a prolific screen writer with about a dozen credits. He wrote the screenplay for Moonstruck and received an Oscar for it in 1987. But he is not well known as a playwright even though he has written more than a score of plays. In fact, Doubt A Parable is his first commercially successful play. He received a Tony

and Pulitzer Prize for it in 2005. Shanley was born in the Bronx in 1950 and grew up there. He is one of five children born to Nicholas and Frances Kelly Shanley. His father immigrated to America when he was 24 from the Town-land of Clonlost, Killucan, Co. Westmeath in Ireland. His mother was Irish-American. As a young man, Shanley had problems with school authorities and was suspended and kicked out of various Catholic schools. He made it to college but dropped out to enlist in the Marines. Apparently, his two year stint in the Corps straightened him out because following military service, Shanley returned to New York University via the G.I. Bill. He graduated in 1977 as valedictorian.

As a youngster Shanley had no great ambition to become a writer but started doing it, like Charles Dickens, to make money. He hit pay dirt with Moonstruck. "I was living in a tenement in Washington Heights at the time, with broken mail boxes and dog shit on the floor. I went down to my broken mailbox one

my life just changed" Shanley told an Irish newspaper last year.

Doubt A Parable, the first of a trilogy of plays, will be made into a movie by Miramax later this year. John Patrick Shanley will direct the movie and he is now hitting pay dirt on the stage as well as the screen.

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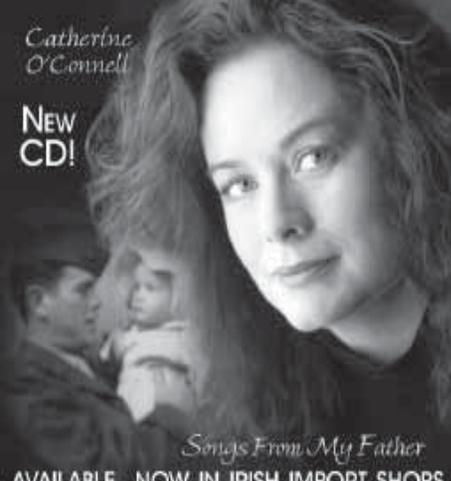
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**Be Not Afraid**  
 As we become engaged in this new year, some of us will approach it with gusto, excitement and enthusiasm. Others, perhaps many of us, will approach it with some apprehension and real concern. Our society has become so frightened and paranoid in recent years, one wonders if there is an active conspiracy to achieve that state of anxiety. One of my favorite hymns is called Be Not Afraid; it says we can do all kinds of things without fear (cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall travel far in safety though you do not know the way. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.). I would like to propose that song as a new national theme song.

We have all heard the famous pronouncement by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." There is profound wisdom in that statement. Yet, after 70-80 years, as a society, we seem to have become captive to our fears.

As you may know, the actor Jimmy Stewart flew bombers out of England during World War II. He was a highly decorated combat command pilot who flew a number of missions over Germany. Mr. Stewart stated in the May 1993 edition of Air Classics magazine that "Fear is an insidious and deadly thing. It can warp judgment, freeze reflexes, (and) breed mistakes. Worse, it's contagious. I knew that my own fear, if not checked, could infect my crew members." Clearly Colonel (later General) Stewart had seen the incredibly negative effects of fear.

"I took the view that I'm going to do the best job I can and if they don't like it, I'll go work someplace else" This quote by Harry Kraemer, former CEO of Baxter, in a recent Chicago Tribune article speaks volumes to me. Perhaps it touches me because I believe I have lived my life with that same belief; I owe my employer my commitment to do a fine job, but the company will never own my soul. Obviously one could read this statement as a belief in proper life-work balance. I am convinced that it goes deeper than even that balance issue; it goes to one's courage or sense of fear.

When watching the Weather Channel, they may tell you that there are no tornadoes

or hurricanes on their Doppler radar screen currently, so they will show you a tornado or a hurricane that happened a month ago or a year ago. The voiceover will tell you that it could happen to you and your town soon. We all know that legitimate announcements about such impending calamities are vitally important to our communities. But really, do they have to rehash the past? What value is served by doing that? Or do they simply do it to raise your anxiety level? It's not uncommon to see some TV reporter standing in a very windy, stormy spot reporting the fact that it is windy and stormy. If the weather is really that bad, what's this reporter doing out in it?

This "conspiracy" of fear is so pervasive on TV it even suggests that we should always be afraid of wet roads, power failures, all kinds of diseases, medications, etc. Often the medications we purchase carry frightening warnings about drops in blood pressure, chest pains, back pains, sores in your mouth, etc.

Recently, as I walked by a building in downtown Chicago, I saw their "Falling Ice" signs out in front of the building. Has anyone seen any falling ice this whole winter with the exception of a day or two? And, if you are a pedestrian, what can you do about falling ice? Cover your head with your briefcase? Run past the building? If the building owners were really concerned, wouldn't they block off the sidewalk and force pedestrians over to the sidewalk on the other side of the street? Are the signs an attempt to mitigate any potential lawsuits? Are they also an indication of some (remote) danger? Again, don't the signs signal to pedestrians that the very act of walking down this street is fraught with some danger?

I ride the Metra train when going to downtown Chicago. Recently they have been playing a recorded message on every train saying that Metra is on heightened alert, so please notify a crewman of any suspicious packages or conduct that you observe. This (twice) daily reminder tells all passengers that it could be unsafe to ride their own trains. Don't you think that repetition of such messages have an impact on people? Aren't we always saying that the violence on TV programs has an affect on our children? Do the Metra announcements have the same effect on us adults?

Does this sense of fear affect the way we conduct our jobs? I am convinced that it does. We are just that much more reluctant to speak up within our organizations. Our unwillingness to speak creates an attitude of mediocrity.

We say we are committed to excellence but not if we have to say anything that is contentious. We might be criticized. I continue to be amazed when I talk to client executives and they express a real fear of speaking up to their superiors. Consider this notion in light of two additional comments by Mr. Kraemer, "actively encourage people to challenge your opinion" and "never forget how bright everyone is in your organization."

When there is an opportunity to speak up in your organization, I encourage you to consider doing it. If you do it articulately and respectfully, you may find that your superiors will be receptive. Even if they don't accept your input, they know you have some sense of commitment to the company and some worthwhile ideas. When you do speak up you will enhance the climate of your employer. Don't you find that debate and discussion results in better outcomes? What steps can you take to minimize your fears in your workplace?

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. Phone: 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net. If there are any subjects regarding careers or the job search process that you would enjoy hearing more about, please let me know. I would like to thank my wife, Sandee, and my brother, Joe, for their valuable assistance in helping me to prepare my columns.

## Valentine's Hooley

A St. Valentine's Day Hooley on Sunday, February 4, in the Fifth Province Lounge will include dancing, singing and refreshments. Entertainment features Joe McShane, Jerry Carey and Kara Kinsella. There will be a variety of dancing, consisting of set, Ceili, waltzes, quick steps and jives.

To celebrate the holiday, there will be a Lisdoonvarna corner. Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, is home to the 150 year old Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival, where each year, swarms of singles travel to meet that someone special. The IAHC's foray into matchmaking will be set against the backdrop of the Fifth Province's fireplace, where there will be facilitators available to make that perfect match.

The Hooley begins at 5pm and ends at 9pm. The cost is \$12 and includes sandwiches, salads, tea and soda bread. A cash bar will be available. For more information on the St. Valentine's Day Hooley or to purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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# sharing a pint

Mornings and I don't get along. I've never liked them.

My hours are more comparable to that of a vampire with a journalism degree. Call me before 11 a.m., and I'll kill... I need to stop myself. I really shouldn't be threatening people, so just don't call me before 11 a.m... or else.

So when Malachy McCourt—the author, actor, playwright, politician, etc.—said he was available at 9 a.m. on a recent morning for an interview for Sharing a Pint, I hesitated. My entire body froze, but somehow my mouth still squeezed out, "Sure."

I've always liked Malachy, but I began to think differently. Maybe I had the wrong McCourt? I'm sure Frank would have set the up the interview for noon.

Still, I followed through the interview. 10 minutes had already hit the snooze on the computer and ran.

"Hi, Malachy, it's Scott doing?"

"Still above ground. The to be," he said in his jolly

After that, I forgot it was as always, was entertained nearly an hour, and I ended of it.

As I've done before you like to paraphrase him. views on running for politicians in general, "Brilliant" commercials, the Chicago and more.

**On politicians:**

"They always say I'm going to fight for this, fight for that, I'm going to fight for the other thing. Who are you fighting asshole? I don't see anyone. I see Hilary Clinton saying, 'I'm fighting against taxes.' It's nonsense. Their language is misused. It makes me laugh." On his race for New York governor:

"I said I wasn't running for office. I said I was standing. I didn't want to be a runner-up. I found that people get puzzled if you don't use clichés."

**On his budget:**

"The Republicans spent \$2.5 million. The

Democrats spent \$4 million. We had to run our campaign on \$42,000. It worked out to a dollar a vote for us."

On doing the Guinness "Brilliant" commercial, although he doesn't drink anymore:

"Guinness is giving me back all the money I spent on them."

**On future plans:**

"I'm thinking of a book about the effects of song on people's lives. I ask people do they sing. If they're pressed about it, they say they do. Two-thirds sing in the shower, another third in the car. I'm not sure the biologists or physiologists would dispute me, but I think when you sing you draw in more oxygen and you're more lively. You introduce new things into your head and your mind.

They said there's no evidence I'll come back. I'm said I'm different. I'm good for it. I'll even return the money if I don't come back."

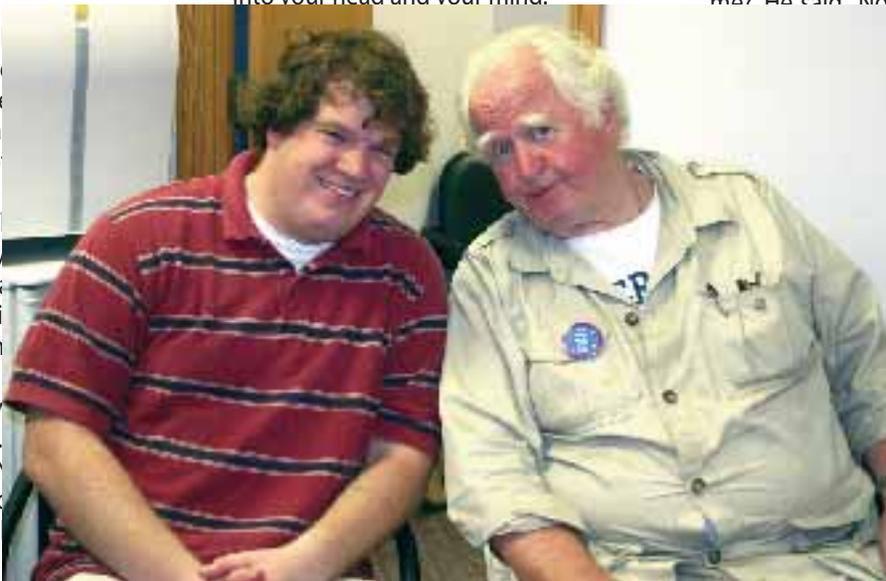
**On what he still wants to achieve:**

"I'm curious about death. I don't want to do that, but I will have to. That's one thing. The other thing is about my past. I would like to change it. I can't do anything about that either. I'll have to stick with the present. I'm just fine on a daily basis.

"I've never thought about my career. I've never had one. I'm like someone that's a smorgasbord. I'm taking a bit of this and a bit of that. I don't think I was destined to do anything. I don't think I was destined for anything in Ireland. I was told that God doesn't look kindly upon on anyone with ambition. I knew if I got to America all things were possible."

**On religion:**

"I look at organized religion like organized crime. Organized religion isn't compassionate, though. They doom you if you eat sausage on Friday. I asked God, 'Would you do that to me?' He said, 'No. I won't condemn you for breaking your fast before God is Ok.' I don't need any priests."



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City to me. It always has a special place in my heart. Share that with the people of Chicago for me."

He hung up with final words, and I went back to sleep.

\*Read more from Malachy McCourt at [www.malachymccourt.com](http://www.malachymccourt.com).

\*If you have a comment or suggestion for Sharing a Pint, contact Scott Powers at [sharingapint@](mailto:sharingapint@)

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Surface Appearances

In the modern-day Ireland we are all judged by what we possess. This is the legacy of the Celtic Tiger, of our new-found wealth. It's the reason people like actor John Hurt have left the country; that the likes of Liam Neeson don't express a wish to return until the nonsense has died down. It was the reason why I left Dublin five years ago for a quieter life in the village of Oranmore, a few miles outside Galway. Yet even here the judging of people by their appearances; what they wear; what make and year of car they drive; how much they earn; whether or not they have a second home in the sun—even here these superficial ways of telling whether or not you want to associate with a fellow human being have crept in.

He lives in a council estate? Not one of us. Dresses differently? Not one of us.

I read a few days ago about the sad break-up (and isn't every break-up sad?) of the rock singer Marilyn Manson and his wife Dita von Teese, who married here in Ireland just last year. Whatever the reasons, there are two sides to any story, and no outsider can really judge what goes on in a marriage. But of course, because of who he is and how he looks, judge-

ment was immediately delivered. Indeed, one particularly and unnecessarily cruel editorial in a local tabloid had to drag in Satanism—as usual without putting it into the context of the man's thinking—and making fun of his fans who were described as face-painted freaks.

I'm a reasonably conservative man of forty-eight who last year did a small piece on Manson in the lead-up to his marriage and was amazed to discover—starting with his appearance on Michael Moore's "Bowling for Columbine"—that here was an articulate and insightful man. Yes, he may have his own demons, as do we all, but he showed far more compassion than goons like Charlton Heston did concerning the dreadful events of that day. At least he cancelled the last five days of his tour rather than turn up like the Spectre of Death that Heston was ("From my cold dead hands!") when he held his vile gun rally ten days later.

In the course of finding out what made Manson tick I met two fans who live in the village—Joelene Guinan and Francis Tierney. I would have previously described them as Goths but as Joelene pointed out, they don't believe in labels; and how refreshing it is to see the sentiments of the '60s cult television show "The Prisoner" still alive with a couple in their twenties. (For those unfortunate souls who have never seen Patrick McGoohan's superb series, the point of it is the importance of keeping our own individuality, with its memorable catch-phrase—"I am not a number; I am a free man.") Having read the despicable aforesaid editorial I decide to call them to ask them to join me for a drink. On our previous outing we had met in a bar where the reaction to them was reminiscent of the redneck behaviour in "Easy Rider". Something along the lines of "The freak show is in town!" Still, coming from the clowns behind it, I hope they took it as a compliment.

In reality they are as smart, bright and lovely a couple as anyone could wish to spend an evening with. Joelene is astonishingly beautiful and if people can't look past the piercings, tattoos and wonderful black clothes—the girl should be modelling them on a catwalk—then it's their loss. Her partner of five years is witty, infectiously enthusiastic about life and plays in a local Celtic Metal

band. Any parent would be proud to have them as their children. Yet they encounter wariness and hostility on a regular basis. Interestingly enough, Francis told me that the worst place they found this to be was on a visit to France—why that should be I have no idea. I just mention it because it surprised me. Coming through Nice airport in the South of France on a recent visit I saw the great Johnny Depp walking through departures. He was wearing what appeared to be an old man's cardigan over some sort of indescribable shirt, a pair of trousers that were a complete mess and the most battered hat in the history of civilization, yet he was the sheer epitome of cool. He had the look of a man who knew he had shed loads of loot in his bank account, couldn't care less what people thought of him, and I couldn't help but admire the man. And he scarcely drew a look from anyone.

You see? It's all down to surface appearances. Don't forget that the crooks in Enron and the ghastly crew in the White House at the moment wear suits, shirts and ties.

Would you buy a used car from them?

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The quiz is a a General Knowledge quiz, each team will choose a county in Ireland as their team name and win the title of all Ireland Champions!

We are hoping to make this an annual event at Gaelic Park so gather your team and come along for a night of fun and brain teasing.

Proceeds will go to defray the cost of GPP's trip to Ireland in March 2007.

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## Gaelic News

Continued from page 17

is a native of Coolclare, County Clare and with this brother, John Joe, played some great gaelic football for St. Brendans—in Chicago back in the 60's. His wife, Anne Marie, is a native of Sligo, Ireland.

Col. Hickey is a graduate of the Irish Christian Brothers St. Laurence High School, on the southwest side of Chicago and also of the Virginia Military Institute. He has been in the army for 20 years and is married to Maureen, a resident of Fort Hood, Texas.

Col. Hickey needs no accolades from me, but humble congratulations are in order for him and his brave young Americans, who are fighting a tough fight against an unknown enemy in a strange land. They and others put their lives at stake each and every time they appear in public. They ask no thanks, only our prayers and good wishes and at least to be remembered when they do something above and beyond the call of duty. This historic feat deserves our congratulations any time the opportunity present itself. So congratulations Col. Hickey. Chicago Irish are proud of you and your fine family. Gur a mile mait agat agus beannact De leat. (Thank you very much and God bless you.)

Our thanks to Maureen O'Donnell, of the Chicago Sun Times, who wrote the original story, entitled "The capture of Saddam."

### Thatcher Meets Her Match

A bill to honor Maggie Thatcher, former Prime Minister of Britain, was being discussed in the House of Representatives recently and was well on its way to passage in a sub-committee, backed by a large majority of Republican members, when Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat, on a "procedural objection" sank it. It was then withdrawn from further discussion, according to a fine story by Sen. Editor Ray O'Hanlon, in a recent copy of The Irish Echo.

The bill named "The Margaret Thatcher Congressional Gold Medal Act" was presented by well known Illinois Republican Mark Kirk, who was an aide in the British House of Commons during the period 1981-1983, when ten heroic young Irishmen led by Bobbie Sands went on hunger strike, after refusing to wear the garb of criminals. They were detained on the single word of a policeman and were refused trial by judge or jury.

In addition to other facts mentioned by Congressman Frank leading up to the withdrawal of the bill, including the Battle of the Falklands in 1982 and the

sinking of a British nuclear submarine of a Falklands warship with the loss of 323 lives, Mr. Frank related the facts of the hunger strike in a Belfast prison saying, "Thatcher is a very controversial figure, who I didn't like." He is certainly not alone in that opinion.

During the terrible period of the hunger strike, more than 5,000 Chicagoans protested against the action in one the largest protest meetings ever held in the Civic Center, which included relatives of the hunger strikers and their Dail representatives who came over from Ireland. More than 5,000 letters to Mr. Garrett Fitzgerald, An Taoiseach of the Irish Dail, seeking his aid to influence then President Ronald Reagan to mediate a settlement and stop the killing were delivered to Mr. Fitzgerald in Dublin early in September 1981.

Mr. Fitzgerald did help and as a result of his action and that of Chicago Republican Congressman Derwinski, the Reagan Administration agreed to meet at the White House with a Chicago delegation. Four members of the newly formed Chicago Organizing Committee, John and Mary Cannon, and Jim and Margaret O'Connell traveled to Washington, D.C. and were well received. But despite their strong pleas for a U.S. Envoy to mediate the problem and stop the killing, the Reagan administration stuck to the same old story that "The problem is a British internal one and we cannot interfere."

Unlike the Reagan in-action, when President Bill Clinton came to the White House he appointed former U.S. Senator George Mitchell to be his personal Envoy to meet with the two parties and arrange a Peace Process. Mr. Mitchell spent more than a year on this assignment and, indeed, not only got the two opposing parties to sit down in the same room, but hammered out a strong Peace Process. This showed

a promise of better things to come including the ultimate re-unification of the country, all 32 counties. Unfortunately, piece by piece, Loyalists were allowed to tear it asunder, under Republic administration including the George W. Bush government.

Our humble congratulations to Congressman Barney Frank for preventing this miscarriage of justice, honoring a lady who allowed ten brave young Irishmen to die on hunger strike, agonizing deaths, when she could have stopped it. And if Congressman Kirk wants to show his gratitude at being allowed to work as an aide in the British House of Commons, he showed poor timing in presenting his bill on the 25th Anniversary of such a tragedy.

### Christian Brothers in America

The centennial of the arrival of the first Christian Brothers in America was celebrated recently in New York where they landed September 10, 1906. Brothers Ryan, Curtis, Kelly and Molloy joined Fr. James Power, Pastor, All Saints, in funding a teaching ministry that has now spread throughout the U.S. and over 30 countries.

In 1920, they branched out to Chicago and settled in St. Leo parish, on the south side of the city. They opened their first school at 79th Street and named it Leo High School. In 1956 they opened Bro. Rice High School, also on the south side, at 10001 So. Pulaski Road. Some years later they opened St. Laurence in Burbank just outside of the city, again on the southwest side.

The large alumni from these three excellent Catholic high schools combined with others from over 30 countries all over the globe no doubt have produced thousands of prominent citizens, indeed leaders of many professions such as law, medicine, religion, education, public service, police, fire

and many other high positions. But most of all they have learned from dedicated Brothers.

Edmund Rice was born on June 1, 1762 to Margaret and Robert Rice, just striving to live in those terrible times in Ireland. Unlike most of their neighbors, the Rice family was a tenant. They owned a house in the town of Callan. By the time of Edmund's life some of the harsher penal laws were being relaxed. Some Catholics were even allowed to be traders, merchants and shopkeepers. Most of the population was illiterate or unskilled workers for the Irish tenants.

He grew up as most young boys and girls did. Played his favourite game of hurling and even made camans (or hurleys) for the poorer kids so that they could play the national game of Ireland. He attended a "Hedge School"

(schools set up by traveling teachers for parents who could afford to pay.) Later he attended a commercial school in Kilkenny City.

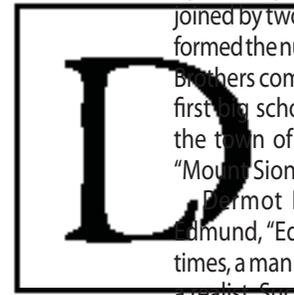
At 18 he became an apprentice for his uncle who was a merchant in Waterford, a nearby city in another county. He became owner of the business at age 24. He soon married his Irish colleen, Elliott. She died in childbirth, and daughter Mary, being born prematurely and of frail health, was taken care of by the Rice family.

Edmund was a staunch Catholic attending mass almost every day and prayed silently at home. He was greatly concerned about the many poor boys who roamed the streets uncared for. Finally in 1802 after much talk and preparation, he sold his business, provided for his daughter, making sure that she was in good hands, and opened up his first school. He was

joined by two other teachers and they formed the nucleus of the first Christian Brothers community. He later built his first big school on a hill overlooking the town of Waterford and called it "Mount Sion"

Dermot Bush wrote of Blessed Edmund, "Edmund was a man for all times, a man of action, a visionary, and a realist. Such a type come seldom."

Pray for his canonization. As Blessed, his feast day is May 5th each year.



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# MICK

By Mike Morley



## Black Humor

Some "funny" headlines have been appearing lately. Often you have to dig for them. And a strong sense of irony will help to appreciate the humor. Here's one:

### British Troops Arrest Iraqi Police

Basra, (UPI) -- Seven Iraqi police officers were arrested Friday in Basra by British troops on suspicion of corruption and operating a death squad. The operation, which allegedly involved more than 1,000 coalition troops backed by tanks, was the first stage of a plan to dismantle Basra's Serious Crime Unit, the BBC reported. British authorities in the Iraqi city said the unit was being used as cover for death squads and criminal activities controlled by police commanders.

### Police Involved In Collusion

"A report by the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman (Watchdog) Nuala O'Loan has confirmed collusion took place between police Special Branch and loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) murderers."

Now there's another topic you don't see a lot of in our free press: collusion. (Actually, I like the term "conspiracy". Collusion sounds like something you do to an egg to mix it with your beer.) We spoke with Mrs. O'Loan after she addressed the Irish American Unity Conference in Chicago a couple months ago, and she promised some hot potatoes. The report shows that a number of Royal Police Special Branch officers abetted UVF murders, as well as the dealing of drugs, guns and explosives. Downing Street reportedly "has been warned that the fall-out... will be enormous and deeply, deeply embarrassing for authorities in the North." Really?

These "revelations" are not news to anyone who has cared to look beyond their daily papers and news shows for information about Ireland. And, despite the fact that most people in 26 counties of that island keep their noses pointed south; at some point a stubbornness bred through centuries may yet yield as they acknowledge the elephant standing behind them.

In that little area of the world there are 3,268 unsolved murders being examined by a special investigations unit. British headlines were focused instead on the 1/2 million

poundward offered for information leading to the capture of "the new Jack the Ripper". The reporter quoted an official: "This sort of thing just doesn't happen in

Britain." The same was said of the other big murder headline:

### Russian Spy Poisoned

Alexander Litvinenko, former agent in the FSB, (the old KGB) had defected to Britain and wrote a book claiming that the FSB had bombed Russian apartment buildings in 1999 so they could blame it on separatists as a pretext to resume the war in Chechnya. (I know. We'll get to Dublin-Monahan in a moment.) Litvinenko got real sick after a meeting in London to discuss suspects in the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya a month earlier. She had been exposing alleged human rights violations by Russian forces and their Chechen government allies.

What he got at a sushi bar was a huge dose of rare and expensive radioactive polonium-210, "at least 100 times" more than needed to kill a person. On his deathbed, he blamed Putin for the 7 million dollar meal. Putin got real PO'd at the headlines, and said Britain should have gagged the ex-spy. He saw the affair as "a carefully orchestrated public relations stunt". (Litvinenko didn't live to enjoy the results of his "stunt".) Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, in typical British understatement said the Russian government had "taken exception" to the deathbed letter. Another minister said: "It caused some alarm that this case is obviously causing tension with the Russians. They are too important for us to fall out with them over this." Home Secretary John Reid told the cabinet "not to make assumptions", saying Litvinenko was "involved with" organized crime, the KGB, Chechens and exiled Russian oligarchs. Not long ago the Home Secretary would have thrown in "The outlawed terrorist IRA" for a couple extra points. Tony Blair closed the cabinet meeting saying "the most important issue" was Britain's long-term relationship with Moscow.

The story then dropped from the radar screen like Francis Gary Powers. But it may yet land on the big screen. Variety says Johnny Depp will be making a movie about the liquidated defector, and may assume the starring role. But there's many a slip twixt the eye cup and the lip sync; and if Johnny gets a hint he can't refuse, he might have to zoom out. Perhaps he'll be offered the lead

in yet another Hollywood thriller on the "terrorist IRA". Harrison Ford is really a bit long in the tooth for his action BS (British Scripts) like "The Devil's Own" and "Patriot Games".

### Reiss To Step Down

Mitchell Reiss is to stand aside after three years as special envoy to Northern Ireland. He is being replaced by senior State Department official Paula Dobriansky, a prominent neo-conservative who is the serving Undersecretary of State for Domestic and Global Affairs at the State Department.

Gerry Adams criticized Reiss last year saying, "I don't have high regards for Mitchell Reiss's input into this process" and "If it is he who is advising the president, it's very, very bad advice." We wonder if Gerry's going to have any higher regard for the new envoy.

Ms Dobriansky was Senior Vice President of David Rockefeller's Council on Foreign Relations. She is a member of the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) and one of a group of right wing Republicans urging Bill Clinton to attack Iraq and its WMD stockpile. The PNAC roster includes: Richard Armitage, William Bennett, Jeb Bush, Ellen Bork, Dick Cheney, "Scooter" Libby, Richard Perle, Don Rumsfeld, and Paul Wolfowitz. To boot, Dobriansky is also member of Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission, a group along with the Council on Foreign Relations that is arguably heir to Cecil Rhodes' Round Table, which sought to create a Federal World Government, led by the British Empire and the USA.

But Irish up north might take heart from her 2005 pronouncement that promoting human rights is "the bedrock" of U.S. foreign policy, and President Bush is committed to "stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those who live in tyranny and hopelessness and struggle for a better life."

Speaking of old Cecil, Rhodes Scholar Billery is again educating Americans on proper usage. "There are more and more people who think they can get what they want by shootin' or settin' off these roadside bombs, rather than engaging in politics. And when that happens, others take up arms in defense... That IS the normal definition of a civil war." Clinton, CNN 11-30-06. Of course, that depends on what your definition of "is" is.

My favorite from BC: "I may not have been the greatest president, but I've had the most fun eight years."

Meanwhile Britain's DUP-e and defender of the faith Ian Paisley, with not one but two phony pre-

nominals (Reverend and Doctor) continues to demand Sinn Fein forfeit the game before it's over by pledging allegiance to the police or MI5, and wants to freeze the party out of the Justice ministry.

### Trimble Will Not Seek Re-election To Assembly

An underwhelming headline. Duh! Why would he? To get his butt kicked again? He's been granted the Queen's reward and will polish that butt in London as LORD Trimble. In a move that many saw as political (It's Nobel, not noble) UUP leader Trimble, along with SDLP leader John Hume, won a Nobel Peace Prize for bringing about the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. Meanwhile the prime mover behind the peace, aside from Gerry Adams, has finally been given a modicum of recognition. Although it won't be blazoned in the press, we will bold-face it here:

### Fr Alec Reid Receives Aisling Award In Belfast

Father Reid received the Person of the Year accolade at Belfast's Aisling awards. The annual ceremony, "Calling the Champions of the Changing Island", is to honor a significant contribution to the community. The Redemptorist priest from Clonard Monastery in west Belfast witnessed IRA weapons decommissioning last year and urged Basque separatists to call a ceasefire. He played a central role in the early stages of the Northern Ireland peace process by secretly bringing Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams into contact with former SDLP leader John Hume and the Irish Government. That led to the 1994 IRA ceasefires, and eventually the Agreement.

The Anglo press (here and overseas) gave Reid some negative attention last year when he responded angrily to a Unionist heckler, and likened Unionists to Nazis in their treatment of Irish people in Northern Ireland. But the reverend is in good company there. Irish President Mary McAleese, expressed similar views on RTE two years ago.

### Pressure On British To Investigate Collusion

(Tell me you read THIS in your morning paper)

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was being urged to pressure Tony Blair to assess evidence presented by an international panel of human rights experts in a report on killings on both sides of the Irish border in the 1970s. The report presented considerable evidence that the British army and police were involved in no less than 25 loyalist atrocities. The incidents occurred on both sides of the border and resulted

in 74 murders, including the May 1974 Dublin/Monaghan bombings (33 dead) and the Miami Showband massacre in July 1975. The report found the conspiracy was known to senior Royal police officials and met with their approval, and that "London officials had enough information to intervene" and did not. Heading the investigation team was University of Notre Dame human rights law Professor Douglass Cassell who said the British government was duty-bound under international law to investigate.

The report was issued in Dublin as well as Belfast, since half the murders were done in the Republic. That was in November. Did anybody "read all about it"? Why am I not surprised you didn't hear or see it? Because as far as the entire "free" press corps of the continent of North America is concerned, it did not happen. Google it. Search all you please. It's been balled up and tossed into the memory hole. The story was reported, though; but only selectively, where it could not be ignored: BBC News, Ulster TV, Irish News, Guardian Unlimited, Irish Examiner, Belfast Telegraph, Andersontown News, Sunday Business Post.

Professor Cassell is to hold talks with European Ministers and human rights groups, as well as US government representatives. But judging by what happened last May when the U.S. House of Representatives called on Britain to honor its agreements with Ireland, I wish the professor luck. Congress then had voted 390-5, urging a full "independent public judicial" inquiry into the 1989 murder of Northern Ireland civil rights lawyer Pat Finucane, gunned down in his home in Belfast in front of his wife and three children. The murderer, Loyalist Ken Barrett, had testified to the planning and assistance he received from British forces. There again, not one news outlet in the entire US reported the story.

I'd really rather read about this stuff in "our" "free" press and spend more time writing "funny" stories of the "ha-ha" kind. But that's not in the cards. It's a joke deck-stacked. We'll see you mushrooms next month.

Watch IRISH JOURNAL TV Chicago- All cable systems: Channel 19: Monday 7PM, Tuesday 2PM Comcast- (Elmhurst bills) 41 West suburbs- Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30 PM Comcast- (Skokie bills) 24 North suburbs - Ch. 19 (or 35): Tuesday, 6PM

E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net © Mike Morley 2007

### Bradfield and Arranmore Concert

Donegal based singer/songwriter Marian Bradfield will be joining Arranmore as their special guest at Arranmore's St. Patrick Day (March 17th) concerts at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Opening the concerts that day will be the McNulty Irish Dancers. The two shows will be

held at 1 and 4pm at the theater located at 111 W. Campbell St. in Arlington Hts. Marian Bradfield's albums are distributed in Ireland by Claddagh Records at mailorder@crl.ie

For more information on the March 17th concert, please contact the Metropolis box office at 847-577-2121.



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 The Prodigals are one of the most successful bands to emerge from the East Coast Irish scene. The band members grew up largely in Ireland; their original songs blend a funky and anarchic energy that is sure New York will have a genuine passion for the traditional music of Ireland. They have played throughout the United States, from Los Angeles and Las Vegas to Chicago, Boston and Maine, as well as abroad in Canada, Germany and Ireland, but they remain firmly rooted in Manhattan.

**The Wolfe Tones - Derek Warfield (Irish)**  
**Saturday, February 24 @ 9:00 pm \$5 cover**  
**Saturday, March 17 @ 10:00 pm \$10 cover**  
 Derek Warfield is a singer, songwriter, novel historian and a charismatic founding member of the legendary Wolfe Tones. Accompanied by an excellent five piece group, Derek continues to tour the world, taking with him the story of Ireland, which he has championed for over 40 years. Derek Warfield's shows are as energetic now as ever, his passion for the Irish ballad stronger than ever.

Voted Best Irish Pub, Casual Dining, Open Mic and Overall Restaurant by readers of *Suburban Nite Life Magazine*. Voted Best Irish Pub by *West Suburban Living Magazine*. Rated "3 Forks" out of 4 by *Chicago Tribune*.



### The Prodigals (Celtic Rock)

**Saturday, February 3 @ 9:00 pm \$5 cover**

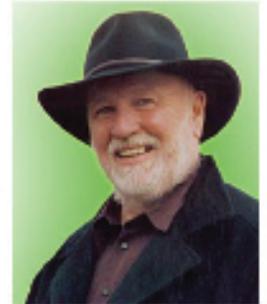
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# Chicago's Irish Eyes On the World: Neil Hartigan

By Jim McClure

You walk toward the chairman's office of the World Trade Center Illinois past a long row of flags from around the globe. It's no accident that the flag that marks the end of the walk is that of Ireland.

Chairman and CEO Neil F. Hartigan has worn many hats: Deputy Chicago Mayor, Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Lt. Governor and Justice of the Appellate Court.

But he wears none more proudly than Irish-American. When he and wife Margie were honored by the Ireland Fund, which promotes peace and reconciliation in Ireland, he remarked "People talk about the Luck of the Irish—I have known what it is to have a wife like Marge and our kids, if that's not the luck of the Irish I don't know what is."

## Luck and Loss

That luck and subsequent loss, Marge to lung cancer in 2003 and a daughter, Bridget Hartigan Routh to another form of cancer just last July are very present for Hartigan as he reflects on his more than forty years in public service.

Justice Hartigan stepped down from his ten year appointment in 2002 to the appellate court so he could care for his ailing wife and would later take in his daughter to oversee her care and travel for possible treatments. "Bridget went through 12 operations and brain surgery. She was tough as nails and gentle as a saint."

It's clear that family and roots (his Irish clan hails from Limerick), are everything for the 68-year old Hartigan. He lives just two blocks from the house he grew up in Rogers Park. The house defines the grief he still feels for wife and daughter. "It's incredibly lonely. What you notice most is the sound, or lack of it. The silence in the home, you can barely hear a thing now." But he's far from alone.

"No I'm really blessed. My son John lives across the street and my daughter Elizabeth is just down the street." He says family keeps him going, and in many ways a sense of family and neighborhood got him started on a life of public service. "When I grew up I didn't have one set of parents I had fifty." The wisdom and love of that older generation would prove to serve him well as

he grew up. "My dad told me 'If you want to change things you gotta be in the room.'"

## Chicago Government

Hartigan applied that advice after getting his law degree and becoming involved in city politics and taking on a variety of roles within the administration of the first Richard Daley. "I remember when I was first introduced to the Mayor. He asked me 'Do you want to be involved in government?'" Although in the 1960s it was especially intimidating to be suddenly standing before arguably the second most powerful Democrat in the country, one Irish American told another of family and responsibility. "I've always believed and was taught by my parents that you are given certain gifts in this life and that the best way to give back is to government. You can help people who aren't being treated fairly."

The answer was good enough for Daley. Hartigan would become a jack of all trades. He served as an administrative aide for Daley, legislative counsel for the city in Springfield, counsel of the park district and counsel for the health department.

That job he had learned from the ground up. While attending law school at Loyola he would go to class in the mornings and shovel coal in a part time job in the basement of the health department building in the afternoon and evening. But it was the time in Springfield analyzing issues in the state capitol that would serve him the most in years to come.

## State and National Initiatives

At age 34 Hartigan would become the youngest lieutenant governor in the country and would later serve two terms as attorney general. He lost a narrow race for governor in 1990 to Jim Edgar before returning to the private sector. "I've always been a student of the legislative process," notes Hartigan. "With every bill I've ever done I always do it on economics."

Rather than high-minded public concern backed by platitudes, Hartigan would emphasize the public benefit, such as programs for the disabled that got them back in the workplace and contributing to themselves and society. "You don't have to raise taxes if you've got people working."

Such emphasis on tangible

public benefits highlighted his successful effort to the first state department on aging in the country during his tenure as lieutenant governor. "We looked at every aspect of a senior's life, from healthcare and public safety to transportation and nursing home reform." He then spread the initiative throughout the coun-



Neil Hartigan

see how devastating globalization can be. Why isn't government doing a lot more to get small and medium sized businesses into international trade? This is job creation!"

Hartigan notes that only 400 U.S. businesses account for 80 percent of the international trade. "When you think about it, an employee at Boeing is doing that a guy in business in Rogers Park says the issue is information and people at the World Trade Center Illinois and the country can help with trade assistance and

taking webcams and putting them on the desk of trade missions. Then you put that on top of the local business and the overseas contact through visits and have electronic matchmakers," says Hartigan, whose contacts may include contacts with a visiting emir from Qatar or trade missions from Dublin to Thailand.

On the local business level, precise needs are identified and matched with overseas businesses to make trade missions working sessions of business-building activity rather than mere ceremonial and cultural exchanges. "Now it's serious business," emphasizes Hartigan. "If you put the small business into international trade you're keeping people working and adding jobs."

Much of the World Trade Center initiatives that Hartigan heads with his staff emphasize education through partnerships

zation hosts a major economic seminar between Ireland and Illinois, often hosting an Irish Minister of Commerce.

On a private trip to the ancestral home in Limerick he visited a cousin there who is a teacher with a house on the Shannon River. Here a lady of the house gave Hartigan perhaps his most cherished accolade: "He's one of us, Michael. He's a fine man!"

His green necktie that he wears in business, and the tie that he proudly wears in the parade every year, is an outward symbol of the ties of Ireland and family that have served him and the public Neil Hartigan serves so well.

The Hartigan Clan



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### Irish Books & Media Closing Soon

Irish Books and Media, run now by Ethna McKiernan, was established by her father, Dr. Eoin McKiernan, as a small offshoot of the Irish American Cultural Institute he founded in the early 1960s.

While shows such as Riverdance and the advent of the Celtic Tiger infused money and interest into the American Irish community, Irish Books & media came under pressure from corporate giants swallowing up smaller publishers or raising order minimums to 100 copies. The declining dollar, the rise of the Euro, and the tripling of freight costs set the stage for the curtain to come down.

As part of the closure process, thousands of titles have been listed on line at 50% off. If there is a book or two you are interested in, get online and make yourself a deal, while helping Ethna stave off creditors. [www.irishbook.com/vindex.htm](http://www.irishbook.com/vindex.htm)

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### WSI Hosts Emerald Dinner

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St. Baldrick's Foundation raises money and awareness to beat children's cancer. ([www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org))

Naperville Responds is helping rebuild a community devastated by Hurricane Katrina - Pass Christian, MS - by raising funds to rebuild homes and lives. ([www.napervilleresponds.org](http://www.napervilleresponds.org)) [www.wsirish.org](http://www.wsirish.org).

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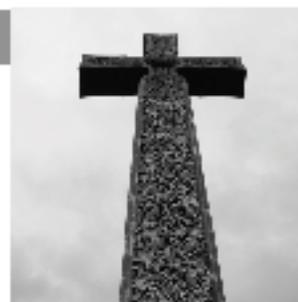
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## Gaelic Park Essay Contest

Gaelic Park will sponsor an essay contest open to all good standing students in 6th grade through high school. The essay should address the topic "What Does It Mean To Be Irish?" Requirements for grades 6 through 8 are a maximum of three typed pages (8 1/2 x 11) with awards of \$1000, \$750 and \$500. High

## The Wolfe Tones at Gaelic Park

The Wolfe Tones will appear at Gaelic Park on Friday, February 23rd, The doors for this show open at 7:30 p.m. with an 8:30 p.m. show time. Tickets to this much anticipated show will go quickly as the last appearance at Gaelic Park did sell out. Tickets are on sale now for \$20 per person and reservations can be made by calling Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323. More information on the Wolfe Tones can be found on their website at [www.wolfe-tones-officialsite.com](http://www.wolfe-tones-officialsite.com).

For information call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 or [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org).

school students are required to submit an essay of a maximum of five typed pages (8 1/2 x 11) with prizes of \$1000, \$750 and \$500. A random draw awarding a \$250 prize will reward the efforts of entrants and give recognition to other than the six winners. Essays must be received at the Gaelic Park front office by Wednesday, February 28th. E- mailed essays will not be accepted. Essays will be evaluated by an independent academic committee.

(708) 687-9323 or visit [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org).

## For the Republic

*Continued from page 15*

war against it. Another similarity between Britain in Ireland and the US in Iraq is that the indigenous death rates were not alone huge but are aggressively covered up by the occupying power and their local collaborators.

BRITONS are ahead of us re Iraq. Being less deceived by their gov't and news media than we were by ours, millions of them protested against invading Iraq.

US/UK/ISRAEL constitute a true axis of evil. They all employ torture, all are now genocidists, perpetrators of the Supreme Crime. All are robbers of the resources of other nations, all three

routinely employ deception, all have assassination teams and perpetrate atrocities to be blamed upon others. All three clothe their crimes in the vocabulary of democracy while claiming to represent the moral high ground. Their crimes are coordinated. Last summer Bush & Co munitioned Israel's criminal destruction of Lebanon. Blair added soldiers to Bush's invasion of Iraq (though all remaining Brit forces in Iraq have retreated to the relatively safety of their base at Basra airport. Ex-Brit army Colonel Tim Spicer, who sprang his subordinates after they were convicted for murdering McBride in Belfast, has transferred his dubious talents to Iraq where he has a \$400 million contract from Bush & Co. Now news arrives of the death of Palestinian Jamal Sarahen (35) in the Israeli desert prison of Naqab. He was abused and then denied medical attention.

TAKE HEART! Good shall ultimately triumph. But we must each stand up. We must contact our two US Senators and our US Congressman. If we believe in the rule of law; if we won't allow ordinary murderers to roam freely, we absolutely must impeach and prosecute Bush & Co for perpetrating the Supreme Crime, their unprovoked wars on Iraq, Lebanon and, soon, Iran. Corrections are always welcome; contact me at 312 664 7651 or [fogarty@ix.netcom.com](mailto:fogarty@ix.netcom.com).

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*This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us. The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.*

**Irish & The Construction Trades**

Chicago has a well-earned reputation as being a "working mans' town". Many Irish tradesmen have come to Chicago to seek their fortune and most have been successful in providing for their families through the construction industry. Traditionally Chicago has always had a strong construction environment, and even in times of construction recession

throughout the country, it seems Chicago has always had work available for those who were anxious to do it. Today, a brief walk around the Loop, or even a review of its skyline will confirm that there are many construction projects going on with several cranes dotting the sky. The Irish have contributed more than their fair share to the building of

this great city. Unfortunately, from time to time, construction workers get injured.

There have been various methods of recovery for an injured worker in the State of Illinois. Originally, the common law provided recourse for the injured worker by simply stating that employers or persons in charge of construction sites had a common law duty to exercise ordinary and reasonable care to keep individuals working on the site free from injuries. However the defenses of contributory negligence, assumption of risk and the fellow servant rule made it nearly impossible for individuals that suffered injuries while working on the construction site to recover damages from persons in charge of the work.

**Structural Work Act**

As a result of these difficulties, The Structural Work Act, commonly known as the "Scaffold Act", was enacted in 1907. Quite simply, a violation of the Act occurred when a dangerous condition on a construction site caused injury to a worker engaged in extra hazardous work and the person having charge of the work either knew or should have known that the dangerous condition existed. Contributory negligence, assumption

of risk and the fellow servant rule were not defenses. However in 1995, a change in the political climate in Springfield resulted in the repeal of the Structural Work Act.

**Workers' Compensation Act**

The Workers Compensation Act became law in 1911 and provided employees injured in the course of their employment with a remedy against their employers without regard to fault. The Act is alive and well and remains in effect today. However, an injured worker is limited to specific amounts they can recover under the Act. A third party lawsuit can provide further compensation.

**Section 414**

In Illinois after the repeal of The Structural Work Act the current basis for pursuing what is known as a third party claim is Section 414 of the Restatement of Torts. Under section 414, full compensation can be had where the company other than the worker's employer (e.g., general contractor, subcontractor, or owner of premises) had control of the work involving dangerous circumstances and where the worker is found to be not negligent.

Section 414 imposes a duty on contractors who retain a right to control any part of a subcontractors work, to exercise that control with reasonable care. The focus of any section 414 analysis is on whether the defendant, be it the owner, general contractor, or independent contractor (depending on what the case may be) retained the right to control sufficient amount of the plaintiffs work thereby establishing a duty.

Illinois Appellate Courts have considered the following factors in determining whether the right to control the work was retained:

1. The right of the party to stop work for safety reasons
2. The Authority to implement safety rules/procedures
3. The employment of a safety consultant who is consistently present on the job site
4. The consistent supervision of the work
5. The consistent direction of the work
6. The consistent coordination of the work
7. The responsibility for insuring the employees with safety precaution at the job site
8. The authority to issue change orders
9. The holding of meetings in which safety issues are discussed
10. The ownership of the equipment used at the work site
11. The authority to order removal of unsafe equipment.

If the owner, general contractor or independent contractor is involved in

at least some of the eleven factors listed, they may be held liable for injuries suffered by workers on their job site. Here is an example.

Michael is a plumber on a high rise project. ABC is the general contractor. Paddy's Plumbing is the plumbing contractor. Michael is injured when Sammy Steelworker is hauling steel from one floor to the next and negligently drops the steel onto Michael's foot, breaking his right foot.

Michael has a Worker's Compensation case with Paddy's Plumbing. He probably has a third-party lawsuit against Sammy's Steel. He may also have a third party lawsuit against ABC, if some or all of the eleven factors listed above, pertain to ABC's role in the performance of Sammy Steel's duties. In other words, what control, if any did the general contractor (ABC) retain in the performance of the independent contractor's (Sammy Steel's) duties.

The issues involved in any construction accident are frequently complex and always involves facts specific to the particular case. If you, or anyone you know is injured on a job site, we advise that an attorney be contacted immediately.

Jack Cannon  
The Healy Law Firm

Jack Cannon was raised in Ireland and is a member of The Healy Law Firm. He has been representing injured parties in the State of Illinois for over 25 years.

**Pogues Reunion Tour in Chicago**

The Pogues Reunion Tour hits Chicago this time around with 2 shows at The Congress Theater March 5th and March 6th. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com for other info contact The Congress Theater at 312-923-2000 // 2135 North Milwaukee Avenue.

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## US Residents Urged to Vote in Irish Elections

US residents entitled to vote in the Irish Senate elections have been urged to secure their vote by checking that they are correctly registered.

Seán O'Connor, (pictured) who is standing as a candidate for Senate on the Trinity College Dublin panel said: "There are over 5,000 registered voters resident outside of Ireland. Because the Senate elections are carried out by postal ballot, many people fail to receive their voting forms if they have moved since they graduated. By contacting the Alumni office at Trinity and notifying them of your new address, you can secure your vote and make sure that Trinity graduates can, again, be the catalysts for change and maintain a proud tradition of service and leadership."

Seán O'Connor is a successful businessman who has worked in the field of sports marketing, promotion and management for a number of years. A native Dubliner, Seán is grandson of former Irish Taoiseach Seán Lemass.

He is campaigning on a reform platform because his research shows a massive waste of taxpayers' money in both the NUI and TCD constituencies during elections. A passionate environmentalist, he believes Ireland can become world leaders in sustainable environmental practice. He also believes that government should improve investment in sport in order to ensure the future health and success of the entire community.

The deadline for change of address notifications is February 26th and details of how to contact the Alumni office can be found on <http://www.vote4reform.com/voters-info>

## IAHC Features Paintings of Artist Julie San Felipe

The Irish American Heritage Center, located at 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago, is showcasing the artwork of New Berlin, Wisconsin artist Julie San Felipe this winter in the IAHC Art Gallery.

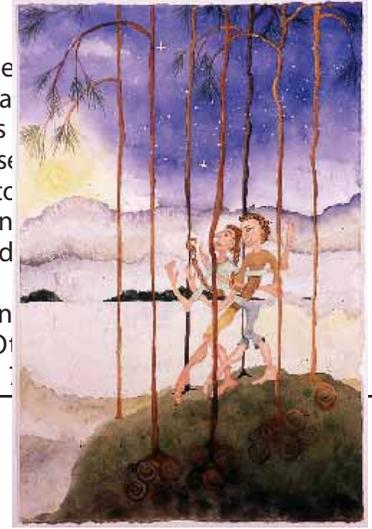
The Pull of The Moon and Other Musings runs through February 25, 2007. There will be a free reception on Friday,

February 2 from 5-8pm. Gallery hours are Saturday from 12-3pm, Sunday 1-4pm and during the week by appointment.

The Pull of The Moon and Other Musings features watercolor and calligraphy paintings by San Felipe. The art of Julie San Felipe goes beyond illustrating poetry, uniting her art and

words as one, bringing the additional dimension of literature to each piece. Her visions and emotions from reading verse are as intimately integrated into her paintings as the text is woven into the surroundings and melted into the fabric of the paper.

For more information on Pull of The Moon and Other Musings, call the IAHC at 282-7035, ext. 10.



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## The Irish Rover

By Jim McClure

### The Problem Is Not With Your Set

Television news is rapidly dying.

And as I return home to Chicago from Alaska from my second stint in this fascinating business of covering history as it happens, I have to say the trend is self-inflicted and has little to do with audiences lost to the Internet and other forms of communication.

In an era when the hottest topics are pictures of Britney's and Lindsay's pantaloons (or lack thereof), we've lost the ability to find and tell stories of real worth. For myself I'm afraid I've become Charles Kuralt in a Geraldo world... the art of storytelling in TV news is little valued, nor is experience or expertise.

I trace it to the first time I returned to Chicago to become a public relations executive after

a stint in the news business back in 1988. Shortly after news consultants started emphasizing the "impact" of "live" coverage of "breaking news."

It wasn't that live coverage wasn't already a staple, minicams and live mobile trucks had been available for truly newsworthy stories since the 1970s. One recalls the gripping coverage when Bill Kurtis of WBBM-TV rushed to the scene of an L train that had fallen off the tracks at State and Lake in 1977, or the deadly DC-10 crash at O'Hare in 1979.

But what started the slippery slope in the 1990s was the idea that a news station must go live to hold the attention of viewers. And most recently this has degenerated to going live on almost every story. The anchor shouts "live!", the on-scene reporter shouts "live!" and in case you missed it, so do the graphics with a whoosh and a flash.

The only aspect that's been left out, in many cases, is the news itself. If the mantra of television news is "Live, Local, Late-breaking!" the endearing symbol is now a reporter (the younger, cheaper, and inexperienced the better) standing by a crime scene tape where something happened the day before, or standing in front of a building where something might happen

the next day.

"It could have been much worse," is the cliché expression of the imagined almost-disaster. Along with this comes the anchor-ization of all news. What used to be a stable of experienced and talented reporters covering specific beats (on occasion beating the newspaper on stories) has become a superficial march of twenty-somethings who do little more than "anchor" their live introductions and closes to a very brief piece with little or no narration and almost no insight.

Indeed in Chicago and other major markets a close inspection of the young reporters hired will find that they usually were anchors in their other smaller markets. In short this has become a business where anchors never report and reporters are anchors. As viewership and ad revenue decline from middle-aged viewers leaving in droves a desperate and ill-founded attempt to garner younger viewers by hiring inexperienced journalists and mere newsreaders only worsens the disparity of information and interest.

Last I checked there were more than a few Irish-American males in Chicagoland. You'll find almost none in television newsrooms here. Nationwide the situation is much worse for Asian males—there are barely a handful in the industry.

Males have left the news business in droves as fewer positions are available for them and the overemphasis on female viewers and Oprah-matching stories have given male viewers little motivation other than to switch

over to ESPN for sports. Journalism schools report a shocking lack of males enrolled and two-female anchor teams are becoming the standard in many a morning or evening newscast. It's not uncommon now in Chicago to see a weekend morning show with female news, sports and weather anchors and a female lead reporter as well. What happened to newsroom balance? The encouraging move toward female equality and newsroom diversity of 30 years ago has turned into little more than a graduate school for young attractive females more concerned with "being on TV" than telling a story or witnessing history.

It's no coincidence that beauty pageant contestants speak of "television anchorwoman" as a job they aspire to. It's an insult to the many talented women journalists that have earned their keep at the local and national level by paying their dues, developing their sources and getting great stories. And with no penchant for looking into a studio camera and reading lines someone else has written for them.

No, this isn't the same business it was 20 years ago and of most concern, even what it was a year ago. Network and cable news divisions are undergoing massive cuts. New charlatans of corporate cost-cutting have added the growing trend of "backpack journalists" or "video journalists" now being hired in major markets as well as smaller outlets. The one-man band of a beleaguered freshman reporter trying to function as both photographer and reporter has now reached San

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## Books in Review

*Continued from page 5*

the largest of the Aran Islands – Inis Mor. The ship docked at Cill Ronan, and I walked the few miles to the impressive Bronze Age fort of Dun Aungus.

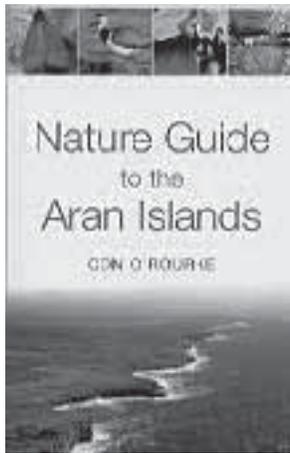
The landscape was impressively beautiful—small green fields separated by gray stone walls, few trees but an abundance of bushes, small plants and gorgeous flowers.

Now Dufour Editions brings us a book that explains the beauty of what I saw. *Nature Guide to the Aran Islands* by Con O'Rourke. Sitric/Lilliput Press/Dufour Editions, Chester Springs, PA, 2007. ISBN 610-458-5005; 184 pages; \$36.95.

The Aran Islands are blasted by the Atlantic storms and seem to be mostly barren stone with some patches of pasture. But they actually teem with a vast number of flowering plants, lichens and vines. A huge variety of birds, butterflies and moths live there. And in the sea are many kinds and shapes of seaweed.

This handbook would be a useful reference for tourists and biologists, as well as for the people who live on the Aran Islands.

Do you like history? Do you love



a mystery? I love both and they are combined in this marvelous book. *Billy Boyle: A World War II Mystery* by James Benn. Soho Press Inc., New York, 2006. ISBN 1569474338; 286 pages; \$23.00.

The mystery is set in World War II England. The time is a few days after Pearl Harbor and American entry into the war.

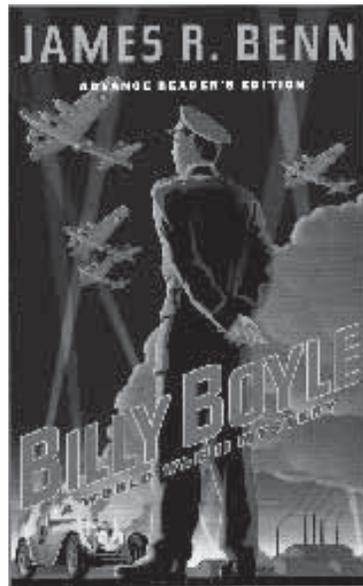
British forces and small contingents of foreign troops (Free French, Free Poles, a Norwegian battalion, etc.) are all that stand in the way of complete Nazi victory.

Billy Boyle is a 22-year-old Irish American from Boston, who has just joined the American army. In civilian life he was a detective with the Boston police department. Shortly before America entered the war he had been promoted from patrolman

to detective.

His detective skills—and family connections—get him posted to General Dwight Eisenhower's staff. Boyle's relatives think he'll be safe there. But then the General is appointed Commander of U.S. forces in Europe. And he wants Boyle to investigate a sensitive matter for him. Boyle's relatives don't know the dangers he will encounter as he relentlessly pursues this assignment.

The Norwegian government in exile sponsors the Norwegian Battalion. This is composed of soldiers



dedicated to returning to Norway and freeing the country from Nazi control. They are ethical, high-minded, and dedicated soldiers. The Norwegian king escaped from Norway's invaders and lives with this small army in England.

There is one problem. There is a spy, or traitor, among the Norwegians. The spy is close to discovering then plans of the Allied forces for the invasion of Norway.

Billy Boyle, the street smart detective formerly with the Boston police, is assigned by General Eisenhower to find the spy.

*Billy Boyle: A World War II Mystery* was suspenseful and realistic—altogether a gripping read that I enjoyed to the last page. And I hope James Benn writes another outstanding World War II mystery.

### Record-Breaking Play "Doubt" Coming to Chicago

The Irish American, John Patrick Shanley, wrote the play *Doubt*. It won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. It is the largest grossing play in the history of Broadway!

This article is based on an interview with Shanley that appeared in the February 2006 issue.

Shanley grew up in a very Catholic Irish American family in the Bronx neighborhood of New York

City. Military service was a tradition in his family, so after leaving school he joined the Marines. He is now 55 years old and has written 25 plays. He lives in New York City and is engaged to Paula Devicq.

During the interview he was "boyishly funny" but could quickly become "unnervingly direct."

The play reflects the attitudes of Catholics about the Church in the pre-Vatican II days of the early 1960's. We had unquestioning trust in the Church's authority. But says Shanley, "The style of the Catholic Church was about to change."

The playwright goes on to say, "In *Doubt* I'm dealing with the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and how it deals with a problem that is not really modern, but one that has come to light in a dramatic way only in recent times."

"*Doubt* is set in the 1960's in a Catholic school in New York City, where a nun becomes suspicious when a priest begins to take too much interest in the lives of the young male students."

"Most of the time, what prevents us from taking the right course of action is not a lack of intelligence, but a lack of courage."

I can't wait to see this emotionally powerful play.

It will be presented at the LaSalle Bank Theatre, 18 W. Monroe in Chicago. The box office number is 312-902-1400.

## Crippen:

### A Novel of Murder

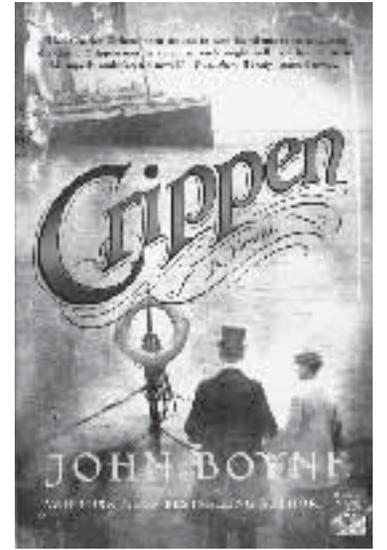
By John Boyne

In the basement of 39 Hilltop Crescent, high-ranking Scotland Yard Detective Walter Dow discovers the piecemeal body of one Cora Crippen, a modestly famous music singer and socialite. There are two things missing: her husband... and her head.

Upon discovery of Cora's body, it was realized that Dr. Crippen and his mistress had fled the domicile and perhaps the country. Meanwhile, the SS *Montrose* prepares to set sail on a two-week voyage from Antwerp, Belgium to Canada. Among the 1,300 passengers are the unassuming Mr. John Robinson and his young son Edmund. But there are a few suspicious eyes watching, knowing not everything is the way it seems...

With acrobatic storytelling and vibrant dialogue, John Boyne masterfully weaves together what is sure to be one of the most captivating historical mysteries of our time. Based on a legendary murder case from Scotland Yard, *Crippen* is a recreation told in haunting, personal detail, from Dr. Crippen's sordid beginnings to his bitter end.

*Crippen: A Novel of Murder* by John Boyne. A Thomas Dunne Book/Griffin Trade Paperback, 2007. ISBN: 0-312-34359-0; 352 Pages; \$13.95. [www.stmartins.com](http://www.stmartins.com).



## Quiz Night - IAHC

The IAHC has hosted this challenging trivia night for nine years and last year's quizzes were more popular than ever. The monthly quiz is a fun way to test your trivia knowledge. There is a different quizmaster each month, so the styles of quiz vary.

The 2007 Nights will be held on January 19, February 16, March 23, April 20, and May 18.

The quiz costs \$30 per team, with no more than six players per team. There will be prizes each week for the top three winners. Food and drink is available in the Fifth Province. For more information on Quiz Night, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10, or [www.irishamhc.com](http://www.irishamhc.com).

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## Welsh Aphrodisiac: More Romance, Less Money

In Wales, romance comes three weeks earlier than the rest of the world as the Celtic land celebrates the life of a fifth century princess, St. Dwynwen, the Welsh Patron Saint for Lovers, on January 25th each year.

As legend has it, Dwynwen, the prettiest of the Welsh King Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters, fell deeply in love with a Welsh prince Maelon Dafodrill, but her father forbade her to marry him. Maelon was so outraged by this that he left her. She begged God for help to make her forget him and was then visited in her sleep by an angel who gave her a sweet drink designed to erase all memory of Maelon and to turn him to ice. When she awoke she prayed to God again for help and was granted

three wishes. She wished that Maelon be unfrozen, that she never marry and that God answer all requests made by her on behalf of lovers - all three wishes were fulfilled and she devoted her life to God.

Wales' finest hotels and spas are adding a modern-day aphrodisiac and extending the season of romance beyond the traditional day for lovers with sensational savings, romantic meals and free his-and-herspa treatments.

Sir Bernard Ashley's flagship 23-room hotel Llangoed Hall is offering a rate of £99 (+\$192) for two including full Welsh breakfast. All rooms and suites are included in this offer, even Paulton's Suite which features an eight-foot by eight-foot four poster bed on which several celebrities, world leaders and royals have rested their heads. Welsh designer Laura Ashley's original desk can be found in Room 7 among the antique furnishings. Accommodation at this exquisite country house hotel usually ranges from £195 - £400 (+\$380 - +\$777), so think of all the chocolates, flowers, perfumes and champagne one can buy with savings of up to \$587. This romantic deal is valid now through March 10, 2007. Visit [www.llangoedhall.com](http://www.llangoedhall.com)

For those who find the notion of relaxing at a cliff-top marine spa romantic, St. Brides Spa Hotel is the place to go. Perched on a headland above Saundersfoot Harbour and Carmarthen Bay, the St. Brides Spa Hotel in Pembrokeshire, South West Wales, is offering discounted winter rates, upgrades to sea-view rooms with balconies and a complimentary three-course meal or a 25-minute spa treatment for guests staying two nights. Visit [www.stbridespahotel.com](http://www.stbridespahotel.com)

The eight-room Manorhaus in Ruthin, North Wales' newest boutique hotel, restaurant and art gallery all in one, is offering a one-night St Dwywen break (January 25) from £135 (\$262) per couple. This includes dinner, bed and breakfast, use of their Finnish dry sauna and hammam steam room. For those who can't make it on Wales's day

for lovers, the chic hotel is offering savings all winter long for guests staying two nights. [www.manorhaus.com](http://www.manorhaus.com).

For tourist information on

Wales please check [www.visitwales.com](http://www.visitwales.com), email [walesinfo@visitbritain.org](mailto:walesinfo@visitbritain.org) or call, toll free, on 1800 462 2748

NOTE: The exchange rate used is GBP £1:\$US1.94

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# Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



When the need for flood lights arose for the Rugby and Soccer Internationals to be played at Croke Park this month, the Government stepped in with a grant of 3.5m Euro to meet the cost. This was an exceptional gesture by Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern on behalf of the Government. The GAA's response was indicative of the great bond that has developed between the two parties. This would not have happened had the GAA not amended its controversial Rule 42 which prohibited the playing of soccer and rugby on GAA grounds. The ground breaking decision to open Croke Park to rugby and soccer has met with universal approval with sports followers throughout the country.

Otherwise, those international matches would have been played at a British venue, something which would have caused resentment in Ireland. Speaking about the decision to open up Croke Park to soccer and

rugby, GAA president Nicky Brennan said "The association will have to be sensitive to everybody's needs. He also said that aspects of the "pageantry" surrounding international games had been finalised, as well as the matter of protocols. It has been agreed that the sensitive issue of National anthems will allow the playing of the "God Save the Queen" the British anthem, at those fixtures involving British teams, but the "Union Jack" flag will not be flown. It will be replaced by the "St George's" flag.

The GAA will be hoping that there will be no adverse reaction to the playing of the "foreign" games on the hallowed sod of Croke Park this month. So far there is only good will being expressed at the decision to open up the National stadium to other sports. There could be another

bonus for the GAA should the games go off satisfactorily. It has been hinted by president Nicky Brennan that the use of Croke Park for "exhibition matches" is to be discussed by the GAA shortly and that will generate more finance for their coffers. It goes without saying that the new Croke Park is undoubtedly one of the finest stadiums in Europe and possibly in the world.

Media organisations unfamiliar with Croke Park that will be covering matches there this year, have visited on match days last summer and according to park officials were "blown away" with what they had witnessed. They had a visit from the BBC who were amazed with what they saw. They see it as a hidden jewel that they didn't know about. Stadium manager Peter McKenna said "It's a glorious opportunity for the association to show what it's about to a much wider audience." And so say all of us!

Armagh football manager Joe Kernan and Tipperary hurling boss 'Babs' Keating have been appointed to a special committee that will make recommendations to the Rulebook Task Force, whose proposals will come before Congress in Kilkenny in April. Under the chairmanship of Cork county secretary, Frank Murphy the Task force will deal with various anomalies that currently exist in the rule book.

The players will be represented by Eoin Kelly (Tipperary) and Paddy Christy (Dublin): Dave Coldrick (Meath) and Aodain MacSuibhne (Dublin) will offer the refereeing perspective on a committee that also includes Dan McCartan (Down); Frank Burke (Galway); PJ McGrath (Mayo); Pat Darcy (Tyrone); and Paddy Collins (Westmeath). Wexford football boss Paul Bealin has confirmed that dual star Redmond Barry will be lining out solely for the football squad this season. Bealin had talks with the St Anne's forward and has been given assurances that he will be concentrating on the big ball code this year. Bealin said "I believe it is impossible to combine both codes but if a player wants to play hurling and football, I would not stand in his way". Former Clare football manager Donie Buckley has been drafted in by Peter Ford in a bid to boost Galway's fortunes this year. Buckley, who was joint manager with Clare last season with Barry Brennan, has taken over as forward coach with the Westerners. The scale of the task was emphasised a few weeks ago

when Galway forward shot 19 wides and beat lowly Leitrim by 0-7 to 0-4 in the FBD League.

There was good news for Wicklow's new manager Mick ODwyer, who has welcomed two former Wicklow players—Keith Byrne and Barry O'Donovan back to the fold. Byrne was one of the county's best forwards but opted out last year. Donovan was a great performer and is delighted to be part of Dwyer's squad in training.

Former Derry boss, Kevin McNaughton, has been appointed the new manager with the Tyrone hurlers. He led Derry to two Ulster swior hurling titles, and will try and gain promotion from Div 3 to Division 2 this year.

Waterford hurler Eoin Kelly's bitter dispute with Mount Sion finally came to an end recently when he completed a club transfer to intermediate side Passage. The former All Star has been in dispute with the county champions, for whom he has plied all of his life, since he was dropped for the Munster club hurling final against Toomevara (Tipperary). Kelly vented his anger in a newspaper interview, and as a result was suspended by his club, Mount Sion.

## Duddy's Garden Bout Announced

Irish Ropes Promotions announced in press conferences in Boston and New York City on January 22 and 24, respectively, plans for the March 16th return of IBA World middleweight champion "Ireland's" John Duddy, headlining a live pay-per-view event, which will be broadcast live all over the world, including on pay-per-view in North America from The Theatre in Madison Square Garden.

"Ireland's" John Duddy of Queens, NY via Derry, N. Ireland has a record of 18-0, 15 KOs and is rated WBO #7 & WBA #9.

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## Irish Running Legend Launches Online Fitness Training Programs

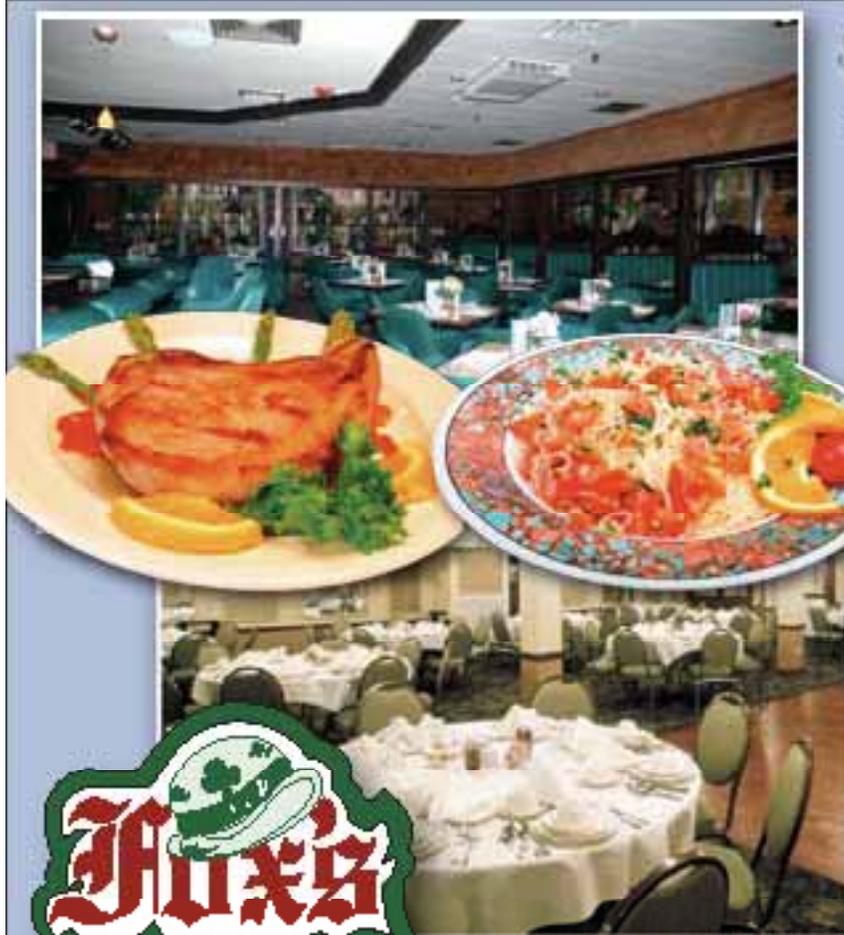
Getting fitter can be far simpler than you ever thought. Everything you need lies right outside your front door. That is the message from one of Ireland's greatest ever athletes, Sonia O'Sullivan, who says improving and maintaining fitness can be simple. Sonia explained: "Many people think they can't exercise or think exercise is not for them. You may think you are not fit enough to start, that it takes up too much time, or that you'll need lots of expensive equipment. Other people are put off by thinking it will be too painful, too boring, or too much of a lonely battle. The truth is that exercise is highly accessible. Walking to the front door is exercise! It uses muscles and burns calories." Sonia says that the problem is often due to people seeing or trying inappropriate exercise. The mother of two says: "Your exercise has to be suitable for your lifestyle, your diary, your level of fitness and what you want to achieve."

Sonia has produced her own online exercise system that allows people to exercise at their own level, to achieve their own goals, on a timetable that suits them. She says, "The first thing you do is choose your goal and fill out a profile. This means we can set the right type of exercise on the right days for you. The training is then emailed over so you can just print it off and follow it on each of your exercise days." "You can choose whether your training is based on walking, running or both. Then just follow the simple instructions for each exercise session. All you need is a space to walk or run and a watch to time yourself." If your circumstances or goals change you can just update your profile and your next week of training will be adjusted accordingly. Exercise programmes range from a '1st Steps' walking schedule and a weight loss programme through to training for a 5K event or marathon. All these are tailored to your level of ability and your diary.

Sonia's exercise schedules are priced from €18 per month for the standard package. After signing up at the website [www.sports-fitness.com](http://www.sports-fitness.com), each week you will receive your exercise schedule. Instructions and frequently asked questions arising from the exercise sessions are available at [www.sports-fitness.com](http://www.sports-fitness.com).

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