



photo by Nathan Kirkman

John Powers:
Being Different Is An 'Odditude'!

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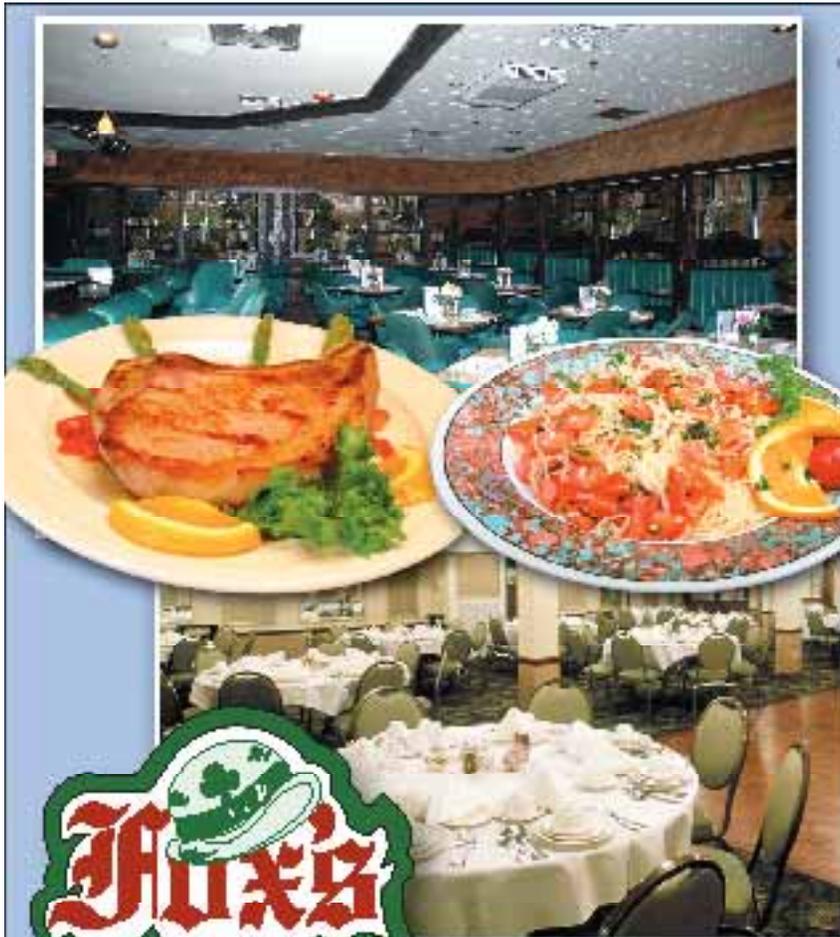
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We Get Letters

Statement On Paisley-Adams Meeting and On The Dublin/Monaghan Report by National President Of The Ancient Order Of Hibernians.

The recent meeting of Northern Ireland political leaders Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams is certainly a positive step but its significance has yet to be determined. We should hardly be grateful that a functioning democracy has been delayed yet another six weeks or that that loyalists finally have recognized the political mandate of Sinn Fein.

With few exceptions, the American media has rarely portrayed the conflict in the North of Ireland correctly and it would be a mistake to presume a photo opportunity such as the Adams-Paisley meeting is anything more than symbolic of progress. Mr. Paisley represents political thought that is colonial and racist in its origin and a community that has yet to be held to account for its unspeakable crimes in defense of those beliefs, the Dublin-Monaghan bombings, the Nelson and Finucane killings, and the hundreds of collusion killings testified to by the Relatives for Justice. If there is any need for loathing let Mr. Paisley do so while addressing the official slaughter, the corruption of law and justice and the tormenting and spitting on 8 years old girls going to Holy Cross School in the Ardoyne.

There is no mistaking the deeds done by the Nationalists in response to this official mayhem which they have acknowledged and have paid for, many with their lives. We have supported the process of dialogue long before the 1998 Agreement but there are many in the DUP who do not and who will do what they can to destroy even this modest progress. We remain hopeful that the next few months will see not only a functioning democracy but the fruit of accountability and justice which is true peace.

The investigation of Barrister Patrick MacEntee into certain questions regarding the conduct of the Irish government and An Garda Siochana in response to bombings of Dublin and Monaghan Towns on May 17th 1974 is, at best, a disappointment. It does, however, make some interesting revelations.

On that fateful day the Irish nation suffered an attack which considering the size of Ireland and the impact of the attack on the Irish people could be said to be as heinous as the 9/11 attack in NYC. It was conducted by at least 6 loyalist terrorists and, according to the Barron Report, with the full knowledge and possibly with the aid of certain elements of the British Army. The British government refused to cooperate in the investiga-

tion. Now Mr. MacEntee concludes that the Garda lacked much of the basic documentation necessary for a thorough investigation and some of those documents are still missing, specifically, 10 highly sensitive security files. This is indicative of an institution that is disinterested, disorganized and, more importantly, may have something to hide.

Amazingly, the Garda concluded its investigation into the largest crime in the nation's history in less than 6 months, without a single interrogation or arrest of the six suspects sought in the North. The Irish government did not even raise the matter at the U.N. The British documentary Hidden Hand in 1993 actually conducted a more thorough investigation than that of the Garda.

Today in the Christian world we are reminded of the cowardice of Pontius Pilate who tried to wash his hands of the death of an innocent man. With this report, we have yet another attempt to wash the deaths of 34 innocent men, women and children from the conscience of a nation. We prayerfully remember those who died and were injured and their families. Further, we vow to join with others and continue our quest for the truth of Bloody Sunday and the numerous collusion murders that took place during the conflict and that only now are being exposed.

Jack Meehan

Dear Editor,

Fr. Shanley was one of those unforgettable people that you meet and makes an instant impression. He said Mass several times at our Church, St. Bernard's in Homer Glen and his homilies were spellbinding.

I read his column in Irish American News and when I needed a speaker for our local Genealogy society, I contacted him. He was very gracious and accepted our invitation. We had one of our largest turnouts of the year and invited him back the following year with the same results. His knowledge of Ireland and personal stories were incomparable.

To a genealogist, losing a per-

son like Fr. Shanley is like losing a bit of history.

Jim Cahill

Former VP Programs, Tinley-Moraine Genealogy Society
708-301-1329

Dear Editor,

After being at each others throats for the past 400 years it is truly a time to rejoice at seeing hardcore Nationalist and Unionist leaders talk to each other as equals for the first time.

The significance of this event for peace and stability on this island cannot be overstated.

My only fear is that we Nationalists might screw it all up by banging on about a united Ireland.

We must now resist our primeval urge to recapture ancient tribal territory and concentrate all our energies on making friends with our Unionist neighbours.

Yours Sincerely
Dick Keane

Fogarty's column

The Irish American News qualifies as the freest printed press in the country by virtue of its continued publication of Chris Fogarty's column. To my knowledge, there is no newspaper that respects the freedom of political speech as does the Irish American News. You honor the ancestral Irish spirit of freedom and I thank you for it because it refreshes my soul.

Nelson Borelli, MD
Northwestern University,
Medical School
Chicago, Illinois USA

Goodbye Fr. Shanley

Go mbeannaí Dia dhuit, Fr. Shanley. You are a shining example of how no act of kindness, regardless of how small, goes unnoticed. I will miss seeing your kind face and thoughtful homilies at mass on the occasions that we were lucky enough to have you, and reading your thought-provoking articles in the IAN. You left an impression on all who came in contact with you and will be greatly missed.

Maureen Callahan
Assistant to the Executive Vice President
The Field Museum

About Our Cover



IAN's cover for May features John Powers photographed by Nathan Kirkman at the Cloud Gate sculpture in Millennium Park
story on page 7

NANNY - LIVE OUT
Mahler Private Staffing is seeking an experienced nanny to work for an executive father and busy stay at home mom in Chicago and to help care for their baby. If you have a natural love of children, newborn experience and verifiable references, they want to meet you. exceptional salary and benefits package, generally a 5-day workweek including occasional evenings and weekends. Ability to travel is needed. please email your resume or a letter to crbehnen@yahoo.com. No fee to applicant.

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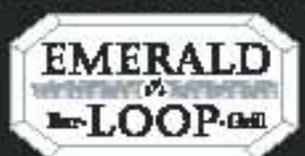


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Shaw Festival: Niagara-on-the-Lake

Join Robert Scogin, Artistic Director of ShawChicago, and Richard Christiansen, Drama Critic Emeritus of the Chicago Tribune, who will introduce you to the Other Shaw Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada.

The tour which runs from Thursday, August 30-Monday, September 3, 2007, includes: Orientation and review meetings; introduction and discussion of the plays led by the host; round-trip airfare on American Airlines to Buffalo, NY; round-trip deluxe coach transfer to Niagara-on-the-Lake; accommodations at Queen's Landing Hotel; luggage handling; daily buffet breakfast; welcome dinner; top-priced tickets to five theater performances and two optional plays; farewell lunch; two post show chats & back stage tour.

5 Days - 5 Plays Plus 2 Optional Plays
Program of Plays: Festival Theatre: "Saint Joan" by Bernard Shaw, directed by Jackie Maxwell on Friday, August 31 at 8:00 pm. Royal George Theatre: "The Philanderer" by Bernard Shaw, directed by Alisa Palmer on Saturday, September 1 at 2:00 pm, "Summer and Smoke" by Tennessee Williams, directed by Neil Monro on Saturday, September 1 at 8:00 pm. The Court House Theatre: "The Cassilis Engagement: A Mother's Comedy" by St. John Hankin, directed by Christopher Newton on Thursday, August 30 at 8:00 pm, "A Month In The Country", After Turgenev by Brian Friel, directed by Tadeusz Bradecki on Sunday, September 2 at 2:00 pm. Optional Plays: The Court House Theatre: "Tristan"

book, music and lyrics by Paul Sportelly and Ray Burvey, directed by Eda Holmes on Friday, August 31 at 2:00 pm, Royal George Theatre: "The Circle" by Somerset Maugham, directed by Neil Monro on Sunday, September 2 at 8:00 pm.

The price for land and air is \$1,645.00 per person, double occupancy, single supplement is \$400.00. \$200 per person will hold your reservation, balance due by July 30, 2007. Contact Irene Kogan (847) 256-3257 for further details or visit www.shawchicago.com.

Conference of Celtic Women Call for Support

Approaching the next Conference for Celtic Women at the ICHC, Oct. 4-6, 2007, the conference has made an appeal for financial support to the community in general.

They will hold a bonfire fundraiser and other events with Sheila Stewart which should be a big draw, and they hope to have their largest audience at the ICHC ever.

But they do need the support of the community in order to continue. Consider doing one of these supportive

deeds... Place an ad in the conference booklet or send a monetary donation to the Conference of Celtic Women, Inc. They are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so the donation will be tax-deductible to you. The ads are \$100 for a full page; \$50 for a half-page; \$25 for a "message". Inside and outside covers are more. Any size donation will be gratefully accepted.

Your help is sincerely appreciated. Contact www.ConferenceOfCelticWomen.org

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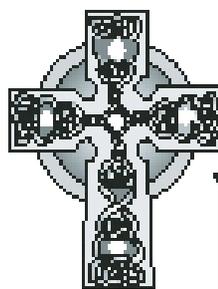
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Careers

by James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Think about it!

How many times last week did someone ask you to think about this matter or that matter? The suggestion sounds simple enough, doesn't it? Hey, we're humans; we all have the capacity to think. What the heck, we have been thinking our whole lives, right?

Tim, a friend of mine, who is a senior executive, recently remarked about how often we are affected by all the interruptions to our thinking process. Consider for a moment, how frequently you are in a meeting or conference and your thought pattern is interrupted by the ringing of your cell phone. Regardless of what you had been thinking, the process has been disturbed by this interruption. Or you are driving to your office or a staff meeting and your cell phone "goes off". The movie, *The Devil Wears Prada*, with Meryl Streep, really demonstrates the omnipresence of the cell phone. Her young assistant's life revolved around phone calls day or night. Sound familiar?

Many times, as soon as you hang up your cell phone, your blackberry or PDA advises you that it has a message for you. Most people will at least check the identity of the caller before deciding whether to answer the device. Again, another distraction in your thought process. Or maybe it is your land line phone that is ringing or your walkie talkie that you have lashed to your hip.

Clearly these interruptions may be significant and highly warranted by the importance of the issue or the caller. All these various communication devices have great value under the right circumstances. But really, do you have to be "wired" 24/7? When is the last time that you took thirty minutes to really think your way through a problem? How many calls do you get that actually demand immediate attention? Do you ever close your door and indicate to others that you are NOT available for the next 30-60 minutes? Perhaps even better would be having a buddy who you could use as a sounding board for your thoughts. Hopefully this person would provoke you to

analyze things even more thoroughly. If you have such a friend, you are indeed blessed.

Some interruptions when you are in a meeting may be a welcomed reprise from a tiresome presenter. How much of your business day is spent on "social" affairs, personnel issues or simply chit chat. How much productive thinking does your employer get from you during a business day?

I just returned from a six week vacation in New Zealand and Australia, so I am keenly aware of my perspective on matters of immediacy. I kept in touch with all my clients, via periodic emails. I did not miss a significant happening as I was walking across the top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge or as I rode out the foam as we went white water rafting in New Zealand. I was certainly out of email range for those three or four hours. I would highly recommend such an extended vacation to everyone. It gives you a chance to truly recharge your batteries.

In recent conversation with a good buddy of mine, a VP of HR for a \$600 million company, he said he was sure that he had NEVER taken more than two weeks of vacation any year of his long career. It seems to me that like many others he is trying to stay indefinitely at a heightened level of attention. Have you ever been successful in maintaining focus on a given matter even for several hours, forget about year after year?

Even if you can only take a long weekend getaway, you need to turn off your tether to your work life. You will find that you will be more productive when you re-engage yourself.

Are there other opportunities, perhaps even just short periods of time that you can use to reduce the pressure on your thinking time? Can you find a local park with a water fall or flowing river to have lunch at and "veg out" for 30-40 minutes? For that matter, if you work in a downtown setting, maybe you can find a plaza near your office, where you can take a 15-20 minutes breather and use the time out for some "heavy duty" thinking?

Even as executives drive from one meeting to another, they are commonly using the time to address immediate issues, i.e. returning phone calls or emails. Should you occasionally pull off the toll way or expressway and get yourself a cup of coffee at the oasis? Then you could unplug yourself from the world and have an uninterrupted 15-20 minutes to think about the larger issues in your life (whether those issues are business or personal).

Many of us seem to spend our lives on "busyness steroids", which lessens the possibility of serious thinking. We are wired to our businesses 24/7. In a recent conversation with another executive, he said he could hardly remember going more than five minutes without some device pulsating, ringing or vibrating. And believe it or not, as he was telling me that, his pager went off. Obviously some people need to stay plugged in, whether surgeons or elevator repairmen like my brother in law, Mark Wask. He felt responsible to be available at every moment of the day or night, because someone might be stuck in an elevator in a high rise somewhere.

Often, we kid ourselves when

we ask people what do you they THINK about this matter or that issue. We are NOT really asking them to think about it, but rather we want an answer or even better, concurrence with our point of view.

My brother in law, John Wall, had an attorney in Albuquerque, New Mexico, years ago, who was a very laid back gentleman. People would ask him to think about something and when he didn't respond for a few minutes, the questioner would want to know if Leyland heard the question. And Leyland's answer was quite predictable, he would say, "Didn't you ask me to think about this issue. Well, that's what I am doing". Do you become agitated when someone doesn't give you an immediate response?

When I am dealing with executives in a professional setting, they are commonly concerned about immediate tactical issues. Often they don't have time to consider the long term strategies for their business. As many public companies have found, their market place dictates that they think in terms of months or possibly quarters.

There was a very thought provoking article in the Harvard Business Review several years ago that dealt with a concept called BHAG, or Big Hairy Auspicious Goals. Clearly this article indicated that you needed to take time to sort out such goals. What do you think, are such auspicious ideas likely to surface in the three minutes between harried phone calls?

I recently heard a story about a mentally challenged youngster who worked as a bagger in a grocery store. A well respected consultant, Barbara Glanz, had challenged the staff of the store to think about how they might better serve their customers. This young bagger took the challenge seriously. He decided to give each customer a piece of paper with his thought for that day. He did research on important quotes and the thoughts of others; failing that, he created his own thought for the day. People would wait to get his "thought" rather than go through a less congested checkout aisle. So if this youngster could come up with a thought for each new day, perhaps he could be an inspiration for all of us. What's been your most recent worthwhile thought regarding your company, its products or its customers?

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



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Dr. James Hogg, an Oak Lawn dentist, is demonstrating the benefits of dental implants to a patient. He states that implants can be used to replace one or several teeth leading to chewing comfort and great esthetic results. The implants can be used to support full dentures, keeping them from slipping and causing painful sore spots. Typically the implant is placed by an oral surgeon in their office and often using only Novocain. Dr. Hogg then places the crown, bridge, or denture four months later. If you have questions, you can reach Dr. Hogg at (608) 422-1900.

John Powers Embraces The Eccentric Within

By Chenier Janiszewski

"What an 'oddball!'" John R. Powers actually prides himself on this potential insult. In his new book, *Odditude: Finding the Passion for Who You Are and What You Do*, the two-time Emmy Award-winning author of four best-selling books, including *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* (that later became a mega hit musical), inspires readers to embrace the eccentric within and the uniqueness that makes each person an individual with their own "odd" characteristics. Powers' life story and successful career as an author and nationally renowned motivational speaker have earned him a place among the best in the business and given him the drive to continue to strive for more unique experiences.

To Powers, *Odditude* is more than a fun, clever word he made up. It is the attitude he adopted later in his life that literally saved him from the ultimate letdown of mediocrity. Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Powers attended Brother Rice High School and initially struggled to complete his studies on the potential path to a timely graduation. His drive began to kick in as he entered his senior year and realized he wanted to further his education, ultimately propelling him onto the Honor Roll for the first time in his life. While he understood the importance of hard work and dedication, he continued to receive rejection letters from universities.

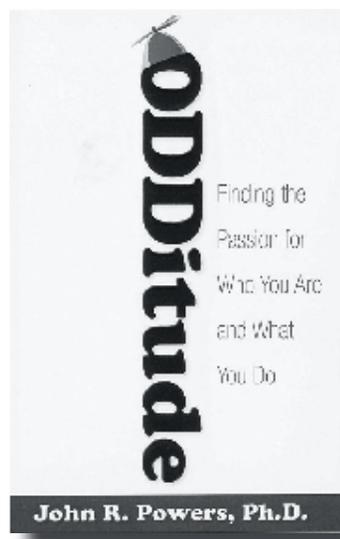
Loyola University Chicago saw the potential in Powers, accepting him into their program and inspiring him to write his first book in what would end up being a trilogy of Catholic fiction, *The Unoriginal Sinner* and *The Ice-Cream God*. The novel, which tells the story of an ambitious young man from a blue collar neighborhood struggling to make it in the world covers conflicts with God, employment, sex and family in a voice that has been compared to the Irish Catholic version of *Catcher in the Rye's* Holden Caulfield.

Following his undergraduate work at Loyola, Powers continued on to earn his masters and doctorate degrees in communications from Northwestern University in Evanston. He then wrote his fourth fiction book, *The Junk-Drawer Corner-Store Front-Porch Blues*, chronicling a 1950's family sticking together to prove that love and courage can overcome sorrow.



John Powers in Millennium Park. Photo by Nathan Kirkman

His experiences have launched him into a career on the speaking circuit as a highly motivational, yet entertaining guest speaker who is well-informed about the organization he is presenting to, including the unique qualities, internal workings and goals. As such, no two presentations are exactly the same, but still focus on the necessary



components of success – humor, leadership, teamwork, creativity, problem solving and effective communication. In 1988, Powers founded the Powers of Motivation Institute and has since spoken to over one thousand major corporations and national organizations on how to succeed in the constantly changing world.

In addition to his successful speaking engagements, Powers has hosted several interview specials for PBS and even created and hosted a PBS television series on effective public speaking. His television work garnered him two Emmy Awards and guest appearances on hundreds of radio and television shows, including Oprah and Today.

In his most current project and first non-fiction work, *Odditude: Finding the Passion for Who You Are and What You Do*, Powers explains that we are all born with *OdditudeE*, the X-factor that separates us from one another and prevents us from being one big population of homogenous drones. The book is a funny blend of advice, inspiration and basic steps on how to unleash the personal energy that makes every life worth living. Featuring whimsical vignettes from Powers' diverse experiences, the hilarious memoir touches on his upbringing on Chicago's south side through lessons learned throughout his life. *Odditude* is a powerful manual on how to assemble a team of support, outline a game plan and pursue a life of happiness. Teenagers to senior citizens will enjoy and embrace this humorous, informative and life-affirming book.

Powers now lives in Lake Geneva, Wis. with his wife JaNelle and his daughters Jacey and Joy, though he frequently travels back to Chicago to present motivational speeches on the south side. Still feeling a strong connection to his roots, Powers committed himself to the rebuilding of Chicago's Mount Greenwood Park, where he spent much of his childhood. In addition to donating his services and the funds already raised, Powers and Loyola Press have collaborated to re-release his novels and contribute portions of the proceeds to the effort to rebuild the Mount Greenwood Park.

Powers goes to prove that being "odd" is not an insult, but rather a reflection of each person's own story. In his case, embracing uniqueness has gained him tremendous success. *Odditude* is available at www.amazon.com and local book stores such as Barnes & Noble.

For more information on John Powers, visit www.johnpowers.com.

Trinity Irish Dancers Win Gold

The 2007 World Championship in Irish Dancing was held April 1-8 in Glasgow, Scotland. Students from Chicago's Trinity Academy of Irish Dance sailed into first place for the Junior Girls Figure competition at the World Championship in Irish Dancing on April 5. Considered to be the "Olympics" of Irish dance, this prestigious event attracts more than 330 Irish danceschools and 4,000 attendees from around the globe.

More than 30 Trinity children from Chicago and Wisconsin traveled to Scotland to participate in a variety of team and solo competitions. The first place team was comprised of

kids from Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin.

Chicago-area team members include: Killian Hlava (Libertyville); Colleen Kenyon (Palatine); Rebecca Staff (Chicago); Sarah Tully (Chicago); Megan White (Elmhurst); and Anne Dziak (Villa Park).

The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance offers classes in 17 locations throughout the Chicago area and in Wisconsin. Chicago locations include the Northwest side, Bridgeport, Lakeview, St. Charles, Western Springs, Downers Grove, Northfield, and Arlington Heights. For more information, call (773) 774-5961 or visit www.trinityirishdancers.com.



The Anit-Defamation League gave a Lifetime of Achievement Award to Charlie Carey (r), Chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, on Tuesday, April 17th at the Four Seasons Chicago. Also in attendance were Mike Houlihan and Fr. John Smyth. Fr. Smyth has accepted the position of President of Notre Dame High School.

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Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.
Senior Partner



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

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

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Made in China

A frequent source of debate in recent years has been the topic of outsourcing jobs. The common complaint is that more and more jobs, particularly in manufacturing, are moving overseas where cheaper labor can be found. Even historically American companies, like Chrysler, have been bought by foreign corporations - DaimlerChrysler in Germany.

Indeed, take a look at many everyday products, such as automobiles, motorcycles, machinery, toys, bicycles, coffee makers, fitness equipment and the like, and one common theme will develop, "Made in China." China, of course, is not the only country offering low cost manufacturing. Taiwan, Japan, India, Mexico and many other countries have become major producers of the goods we use everyday.

This fact can often become a problem when one of those products causes

serious injury, and the injured consumer looks to the foreign corporation for compensation. Often, these foreign corporations will deny they owe any compensation because they are not American companies, and cannot be sued in American courts. These companies attempt to shield themselves from lawsuits in America by operating through several middlemen, such as manufacturers, marketers and distributors, to separate themselves from their products in America. All the while, these same companies earn substantial profit from the sale of their product throughout the United States.

Aim n' Flame Lighters Exemplify the Problem

Recently, much litigation on this issue across the United States has focused on one product—Aim n' Flame utility lighters. The Aim n' Flame lighter is designed by a Japanese corporation, manufactured in Mexico and distributed throughout the United States in many large retail stores. Unfortunately, the Aim n' Flame lighter can be very dangerous, and lacks a simple, inexpensive safety device. As a result, several fatal fires have occurred throughout the country when children came across these dangerous lighters.

Following these fires, many lawsuits have been brought against the Japanese designer of the lighter. However, this company has denied that it can be sued in the United States, because it does not do any business here. In order to file a lawsuit against a person or company, a court must have jurisdiction over them. A state court obtains jurisdiction over someone in many ways. For instance, that company could have an office located within the state, or regularly do business in a state. Also, a court can obtain jurisdiction over a company if that company distributes a large number of products throughout the state.

Courts Split on the Results

The judicial decisions involving this lighter have been split. A court in Connecticut found that the Japanese company was too far removed from the territory to be sued. On the other hand, the Illinois Appellate Court recently found that this company could be sued in Illinois. The court reasoned that this company earns substantial amounts of money from the sale of its product here in Illinois, and should have to answer for the harm its product has caused in Illinois.

A court in Kansas similarly found that this company could be sued in Kansas. Like the court in Illinois, it reasoned that with the number of lighters that have been distributed in Kansas, and caused injury there, it would not be unfair to require the designer to defend its product in Kansas. Many more cases are waiting to be decided and it is clear that the fight is not over yet. Although the Supreme Court of Illinois declined to review the Illinois Appellate Court's opinion, the Japanese designer is asking the Supreme Court of the United States to hear their claim.

Imported Bicycles

Another everyday product that is overwhelmingly produced overseas is the bicycle. Although over 100 million Americans own bicycles, 97% of bicycles sold in America are imported from foreign countries. By far, China and Taiwan produce the majority of bicycles which are distributed throughout the world and particularly in the United States. Currently our firm is issuing three Taiwanese component parts manufacturers who allegedly manufactured defective brake parts in a bike which was eventually sold in Illinois. When the brakes failed, the rider fell to the ground and sustained serious injuries.

Yamaha Motorcycles

Our firm has also pursued claims against a popular Japanese manufacturer - Yamaha. In the past several years, motorcycle riders have approached us to represent them when defective throttles have caused accidents resulting in serious injury, including paraplegia. We have been able to pursue claims in Illinois, Texas, Nevada and Pennsylvania, all of which allowed claims against the Japanese manufacturer.

Manufacturers

Vigorously Defend these Claims on other Grounds

Often, cases involving foreign manufacturers are the most vigorously defended, and more often than not need to be resolved by trial, and sometimes, in the Appellate or Supreme Court. Consider again the case of the utility lighter mentioned above. In a recent case, the utility lighter manufacturer defended its case all the way up to the Illinois Supreme Court. As with the other cases, this case grew out of a fatal fire which took the life of a three year old girl when she was able to find an Aim n' Flame utility lighter.

In this case, the manufacturer argued that it could not be held responsible, because its product worked exactly as expected, and it should not be required to put child safety devices on adult products. Expert testimony revealed that the added child safety feature would only cost a small amount per unit. Nevertheless, the case was dismissed by the trial court.

On appeal, the Illinois Supreme Court rejected the manufacturer's argument and held that only a jury could resolve whether this product was or was not unreasonably dangerous under the circumstances. The court noted that it was foreseeable that children could come in contact with the lighter and that if they did, horrible consequences could result. As a result, a jury trial was warranted to give both sides an opportunity to present their arguments.

Conclusion

These cases are but a few examples of the many problems that develop in prosecuting foreign product manufacturers. As the internet and other technological innovations make the world smaller and smaller, more and more of our dealings will be with foreign corporations. Indeed, in Cook County, one of the largest litigation centers of the country, not only are more foreign corporations being sued as defendants, but more are themselves initiating lawsuits as plaintiffs. It gives you something to think about when you see that sticker, "Made in China."

by Dennis M. Lynch

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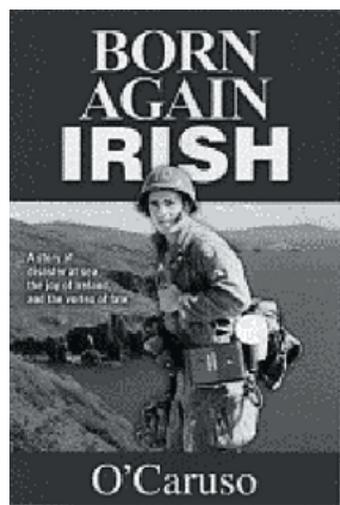
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Irish Books and Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST



Born Again Irish



The passenger plane was forced by engine failure to crash-land in the ocean. When it did:

"The plane broke open, a wing sheered off..."

"It happened about midnight, some 500 miles west of Ireland's Dingle Peninsula during a cold and brutal windstorm... the date was September 23, 1962."

"The water below our wings was a raging, chaotic, moving landscape of jagged, mini-mountains with steep slopes and yawning valleys between."

"Of the 76 passengers and crew on board, only 48 lived to reach land... seventeen were airlifted to Ireland by helicopter, I was one of those fortunate few and thus began my journey."

Thus begins the story of the author's love affair with Ireland.

Born Again Irish: A Story Of Disaster At Sea, The Joy Of Ireland, And The Vortex Of Fate by Fred Caruso. CGI Books, Centennial, Colorado, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-9785471-0-3; 270 pages; \$17.95. www.cgibooks.com.

The author uses the pen name, O'Caruso, and tells the story of his life: born to an Italian family, growing up in New York City, vivid descriptions of neighbors and friends, going to paratrooper school, the disaster at sea, writing for a U.S. Army newspaper, being an army Public Information Officer, marrying an Irish American girl in Butte, Montana, etc. I loved the simple humanity of these stories, as much as the more dramatic crash at sea.

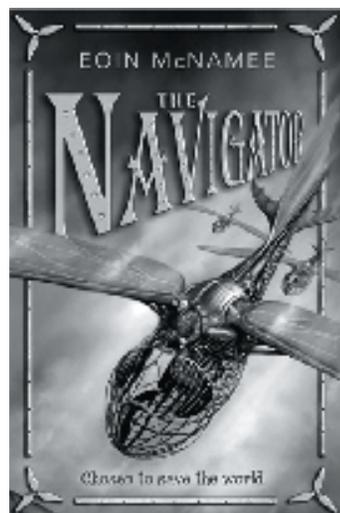
As I read the description of the crash, I kept wondering what I

would have done in the same circumstances. It must have seemed like an eternity of time to the 51 people who made it to a life raft. Caruso describes that period:

"For six frigid and dizzying hours, we tossed and turned, splashed and twirled in the tiny, overcrowded and upside-down life boat designed for less than half as many passengers."

Fred Caruso tells a tale of excitement, bravery, and luck. His many stories, in this marvelous book, are filled with the strength and tenderness of the human spirit.

The Navigator



Time is flowing backwards! Owen, an Irish boy, sees the world that he knows disappearing. This science fiction book is about his struggles to reverse the backward flow of time.

The Navigator by Eoin McNamee. Wendy Lamb Books-Random House, New York, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-375-83910-8 (0-375-83910-0); Hardcover; Ages 9-12; 352 pages; \$15.99. www.randomhouse.com/kids.

The Merriam Webster Dictionary describes time as "...events which succeed one another from past through present to future." But what would happen if time were made to flow backwards? Evil-doers do just that in this science fiction book and slowly everything we know disappears. The world again would become a cold and empty place.

Owen, the hero of the story, comes to meet and understand the evil ones and he explains their actions by saying: "They're jealous of us, they're jealous of the heat and the warmth and the light!" They are

afraid of life and human interaction. "The idea of time flowing backward fascinates and at the same time perplexes readers, yet McNamee "makes the idea believable," states the press release.

Eoin McNamee lives in County Sligo with his wife and two children. He has written acclaimed novels, including *Resurrection Man*. This was made into a film. *The Navigator* is his first novel for children. It is mind-expanding and profoundly imaginative science fiction for children ages 9 to 12. The press release says: "McNamee has the rare ability to catapult readers into a story so solidly that the sounds, the tastes, even the temperatures of the book become real."

The *Irish Times* says: "...don't be surprised to see boys of all ages reading this." I don't know if I qualify as a boy, but the book held my complete attention. I loved the twists and turns of the plot and the descriptions of characters and of nature. This quote is a good example of that. As they approved the vortex of time in the arctic: "The night sky had cleared and every star shone as bright as they must have done at the beginning of the world, the great constellations stretching off into infinity."

Oscar Wilde and Salomé

I was in Ireland for Easter weekend and saw Oscar Wilde's play, *Salomé* at Dublin's Gate Theatre. It was a powerful and memorable theatre experience. Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854. His mother was a nationally known poet and his father was a former eye surgeon. His mother's love and affection were conditional: she wanted him to achieve great things. For her enough was never enough. All his life he struggled with this lack of his mother's unconditional love; it led him into severe problems later in life.

He studied at Trinity College and graduated in 1878 from Oxford with great academic and poetic accomplishments. He toured America during 1881-1882. Yes, he visited Chicago, but he wasn't impressed. Probably because the city was being rebuilt after it had burned down in 1871. Most of his plays, poems, and other literary works were written in the short period of 1888 to 1895.

Oscar Wilde wrote many enduring plays, poems, short stories and a novel. Among them are the comedies *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the short story *The Selfish Giant*,



Wilde in costume as Salome

and the poems *De Profundis* and *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*.

In 1880, he was newly arrived among the artists of Dublin and London and he was becoming quickly known because of his brilliant intellect and succinct observations and sayings. An actress, famous at the time, said: "He has written nothing, he does not sing or paint or act... he does nothing but talk." Obviously, she was not Irish or she would have understood the value and beauty of those words.

In 1895 began the long trials of Oscar Wilde for "gross indecency." He was sentenced to two years hard labor. He was released in 1898 - frozen in health and spirit. He died in 1890. Why is *Salomé* of interest today? Quoting from Vintage Books: "Wilde considered *Salomé* his best play 'enlarging [the stage's] artistic horizon.'" The play was banned by the Lord Chamberlain of England, and wasn't produced for years.

We know the story of John the Baptist. *Salomé* dances for Herod, the tetrarch of Judea, and demands the payment be the Baptist's head on a platter. But why does she demand this bizarre payment? Herod is the Roman puppet ruler of Judea. This is the land where the Christ would soon be born and live. With the protection of Rome's Caesar, his power is absolute. But

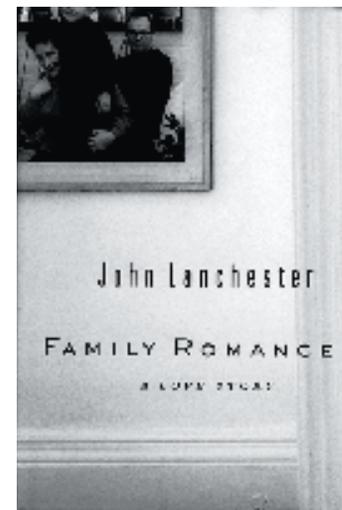
Herod has become self-indulgent and completely debauched. Herod realizes, and fears, that John is reproving him but doesn't harm him "because he has seen God."

Herod's courtiers lead empty, shallow lives and dispute loudly over religious doctrine, such as: "Do angels exist?" *Salomé* has a bizarre sexual attraction to the wild John from the desert. It is easy to see why the Lord Chamberlain banned the play. Was England's court empty, shallow and corrupt? Were it's policies to other countries brutal? Was Victorian puritanism a lie? Was this a time of harsh sexual repression? Did a cruel double-standard exist for men and women? The Lord Chamberlain certainly wouldn't want to answer these questions.

Family Romance: A Love Story by John Lanchester

A surprising, richly textured and deeply affecting memoir about the author's mother and father, in *Family Romance: A Love Story*, Lanchester conducts a captivating inquiry into who his parents really were, as well as how they shaped his life and his decision to become a writer.

Family Romance: A Love Story by John Lanchester. A Marian Wood Book/ G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY, 2007. ISBN 978-0-399-15300-6; \$27.95. www.penguin.com.



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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



Irish Festival At Gaelic Park Bigger And Better Than Ever

This year's Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest 2007 over the coming long Memorial Day weekend promises to be "bigger and better than ever." Over the years some of the finest Irish-American entertainers on the circuit have played to thousands of Chicago and midwest music lovers. But, this year with the popular John McDermott, one of the original Irish tenors, heading the list it will be no doubt "bigger and better than ever," and should attract record attendances. The dates are May 25, 26, 27, and 28 and the starting times are: Friday, 3-11pm; Saturday, noon-11pm; Sunday, noon-11pm; and Monday, noon-8pm.

Some of the other star entertainers include: Tommy Makem (ageless), Black 47, Irish Brigade, Tommy Flemming and his band, Susan McCann all the way from Co. Down, Gaelic Storm and many, many more. 28 all star groups on five stages, with some of the finest local bands and entertainers such as Shannon Rovers Pipe band, Gerry Haughey and the Ramblers, Emerald Society band, and Joe McShane and his Silverbridge Band. All this for the admission price of \$15 general admission, senior citizens \$12, and children under 3 free. Prices include unlimited carnival rides, and of course free parking, adjacent to the park.

Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th. Street, and the entrance can be reached by Cicero on the east, or Harlem Ave on the west at 147th St., Oak Forest, Illinois, on the far southwest side of the city. Other attractions include, Irish Music, traditional and contemporary, theatre, Irish step dances, Celi dancing, Irish import stores, free pony rides, food and refreshments. For more information call Melody or any of the other fair colleens at the front office, 708-687-9323. See you at the park, please God.

Peace Process In Ireland On Track Again

The peace process in Ulster, a province in Ireland, governed by Britain since 1920, got back on track again recently after Tony Blair and An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, laid

down a deadline for the Unionists, led by Mr. Paisley, and Sinn Fein led by Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to comply or lose their salaries and have the province governed by British and Ireland jointly. No doubt Mr. Paisley, not wanting to lose any control in the province, signed on to the ultimatum.

Needless to add most peace loving people north and south, Unionist and Sinn Fein are pleased with the settlement and wish the government every success. But, knowing the difficulties that lie ahead with one party striving for the reunification of the whole of Ireland, all 32 counties eventually, and the other group dead set against any such settlement, the future is not as rosy as it seems. Only time will tell, but in the meantime America should continue their "hands on" approach as started by former President Bill Clinton, pressing at all times for freedom and re-unification... in the words of the great Irish Rising leader Padraig Pearse, talking about freedom, who said, "The fools, the fools (British) they left us our Fenian dead and as long as Ireland holds their graves, Ireland un-free will never be at peace."

Illinois Assembly Honor Marty McLaughlin

Well known Chicago Irishman, Marty McLaughlin, Executive Director of Illinois Lawmakers, WTTW Channel 11's award-winning coverage of the Illinois General Assembly was honored recently by the Assembly. The popular program is entering its third decade of television broadcasts with weekly programs beginning Wednesday, May 2 and continuing each Wednesday (5/9; 5/16; 5/23 and 5/30); starting at 11:00pm.

Speaker of the House, Michael J. Madigan, in presenting the Resolution praised Marty for his efforts, "to go beyond the second bites and news briefs to offer substantive reporting of the issues confronting Illinois, as well as provide the people of the state an unique opportunity to learn more about the legislative process and state government in the words of the members who appear on camera during any given session."

In explaining the format of the popular program Marty said, "Our format is a combination of on-set

interviews and pre-taped reports including a series of video "quotes" from lawmakers is structured so that the Senators and Representatives themselves define the issues. Ninety percent or more of the members appear on camera during any given session." Mr. McLaughlin has been Executive Producer of the program since it's inception in 1987.

Illinois Lawmakers, a production of WTTW and 9 other public stations in the state, is up-linked via satellite and presented simultaneously on all of those stations. It represents the only statewide coverage of the Illinois General Assembly.

We offer our congratulations to our good friend Marty for his dynamic leadership in presenting such instructive programs for the people of Illinois. And our congratulations and best wishes to Mike Madigan for his dynamic leadership through the year for the people of his state. Both men are leaders that all of us Irish-Americans can feel proud of. Beannact De a cairde gael. (God bless you my Irish friends.)

Marty McLaughlin needs no accolades from me. His name and fame like Mike Madigan is household. But I would be remiss if I did not comment on some of the major events that Marty not only was involved in, but did indeed provide leadership. I met the smiling Irishman at the first South Side St. Patrick's Day parade meeting in the basement of Jack Allen's home on South Bishop Street, Chicago in 1952. Marty was a young "Garsoon" then, but his comments at the first meeting were brilliant and just what the committee needed. He was put on the Publicity Committee and was an immediate success.

The Chicago Gaelic Athletic Association, promoting Ireland's national games, hurling, gaelic football and handball, was trying to get off the ground in those days and his Herculean help was invaluable. Later he headed Chicago Irish Family Day, a day-long event to help raise funds for the Irish Heritage Center, the dream of Hugie and Josephine O'Hara. He is a distinguished graduate of Leo High School, C.B.S., and as such with the late brother Al Houlihan, former Judge Marty Berry and others including this scribe, led the very successful Year of Edmund Festivities to promote the canonization of Brother Edmund Rice. This mighty effort rounded up 1500 Alumnus to march in that year's South Side parade, culminating in the celebrating of Mass in Holy Name Cathedral officiated by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin and Bishop John Gorman, also an alumnus.

Marty has direct the St. Patrick's



Michael Madigan and Marty McLaughlin

masses in his own church St. Barnabas in the Beverly neighborhood for the past 25 years. Its purpose is to celebrate a true celebration of the values of faith and family that flow from the heritage of Irish Americans. Dozens of parishes from all over the nation have copied this wonderful devotion and recognition. These and many other successful Chicago events, Irish and other, bear the imprint of Marty McLaughlin. With his countless friends we join in congratulating him and wishing him good health in the future years.

Death of Popular Sheriff's Police Officer

The untimely death of popular Cook County Sheriff's Police Officer Dan O'Brien here recently is being mourned not only by his many friends on the Force but also countless friends throughout the Chicago Irish community. Dan, who was predeceased by his wife Kathleen (Hunt) was also son-in-law of well known Chicago gael and great Nationalist, John Hunt and his charming wife Kathleen. He was also beloved father of brilliant young attorney, Bridget, attached to the Cook County State's Attorney office of Dan Devine.

The huge wake, mass and interment testified to the popularity of this fine law enforcement officer. We join with his many friends in offering our sincere sympathy to his entire family. May his soul rest at the right hand of God. Ar dheis De raibhn An aimn.

Chicago Gets Olympic Vote

Chicago and Los Angeles contested for the right to represent the U.S in the global contest to host the 2016 Olympic Games and our city won. Congratulations Mayor Richard Daley, and his chairman of the

Chicago Committee Pat Ryan and indeed all of the hard working group who presented the successful case. It was a "tight one" but in the end our city emerged victorious because of many reasons.

Chicago won because it apparently impressed the U.S. Olympic Committee—with its enthusiasm, with its leadership, with its superb plan to make the entire Lake Michigan front the location for most of the competitions and with its entire presentation, which from all accounts was superb. Of course another very important plus for our city is that is home to immigrants from every corner of the globe. And unlike other some other cities, they have been assimilated into our society much better.

But this victory though necessary is not the end of the contest by any means. The real tough fight has just begun. We must now convince the International Olympic Committee that our city of Chicago can better present this worldwide event than any of the other competitors which include Tokyo, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and several others. Our Chicago Committee now asks us all to "Sell Chicago to the World." In other words get back to our people, Irish, English, German, French, and others, and convince them that our city is an ideal city for such a major global event and will welcome them all to our "most beautiful and cleanest city in the U.S." And that it plays welcome host to millions of people each year.

Speaking for ourselves, I don't think that any one of us will have any problems selling Chicago to our Irish parents, families and friends. Chicago or "The Windy City" has been home to the Irish since 1836 when they were lured to work, digging the Canals connecting the Great Lakes and mighty Mississippi River. Irish, Germans, Swedes and Norwegians

made up the majority of men who later built Bridgeport and parts on the southside of the city. They helped to reverse the flow of the Chicago River in order to provide clean drinking water for Chicagoans.

Over the years Irish immigrants and their sons and daughters became more influential in the life of Chicago. They became known as hard working, industrious and law abiding citizens. They graduated into important positions in politics, government, police, fire, business and of course in the building industry where they helped to erect many of the skyscrapers that provide the excellent skyline that we have today.

And then in 1955, Richard J. Daley, whose ancestors came from Old Parish, Dungarvan, County Waterford was elected Mayor of Chicago and retained that high position with successive victories every four years until 1976 and his untimely death, and he is De go raibhn an ainm. His long term as Mayor established Chicago as not only a great U.S. city but also a global one attracting millions of tourists to "the most beautiful and cleanest city in the nation."

Today, a son of that great man, Richard M. Daley, occupies that position with distinction, having continued the great work started by his father and even improved upon it. Under his leadership Chicago, now recognized as a great U.S. city, was recently chosen by the U.S. Olympic Committee to represent the U.S. in the world-wide contest to see who will be the host for the 2016 Olympic Games. As the mayor said, "Chicago is a midwest prototype, a city that rose from the ashes of the Great Fire of 1871 to welcome immigrants from around the world. We must all become ambassadors in this great Olympic movement, to bring the Olympic Games to Chicago in 2016."



Chicago Police Chief Resigns

The recent resignation of Chicago Police Supt. Phillip Cline surprised a lot of Chicagoans. Mayor Richard M. Daley, praising him for a job well done, also said "I think it's time for a

change." And from all accounts Mr. Cline had planned to retire later this year after a distinguished career.

Chief Cline always projected an image of a strong leader. And that indeed he was. He was also well liked by the rank and file and that's always a good sign. But, when things begin to happen that reflects on the Force in any way, the chief must take the blame. And when the misdeeds continue to happen then something has to give. But we join with all Chicagoans in wishing Mr. Cline good health and happiness in his well earned retirement.

We differed with Mr. Cline in this column some time back in the case of a Chicago policeman, James Quinn, being deprived of the honor of being the "first officer killed in the line of duty." Casper Lauer was given this recognition even though he died almost a year later, 1854.

Alderman Ed. Burke, Mr. Rick Barrett, James Sheahan, and Mr. Potter Palmer contested this case with good evidence, including the minutes of the Chicago City Council of those days, but to no avail. Mr. Cline even rejected placing officer Quinn's name on the honored list of police officers killed over the years.

We called that a miscarriage of justice then and we repeat it certainly is. We called it anti-Irish bigotry and that apparently prevailed back in those days. But it is difficult to understand why it is allowed to prevail today. Hopefully, this case will be taken up with a new man at the helm.

St. Patrick's Missionaries Society Thanks Our Paper

Seamus O'Neill, Superior General of St. Patrick's Missionaries writes to thank our paper for recent coverage of the 75th anniversary of the start of the famed Order. It all began 75 years ago when a young Irish priest, Fr. Pat Whitney, had a dream about starting a Society that would eventually send heroic missionaries, Irish and others, to Eastern Nigeria. And with God's help and the great support of the Irish people the dream of this dedicated young Irishman came to pass.

I can recall the start of St. Patrick's Society back in Ireland in 1932. And though money was scarce, nevertheless the cause of the mission became a crusade for the Irish people. And if you only had two pennies in your pocket you gladly contributed.

Hundreds of brave men and women answered Fr. Whitney's call not only from Ireland, but from all over the world and today more than 300 priests and students are bringing the word of God to the world. We can all help today by sending a donation

to St. Patrick's Missionaries, 1347 Grandville, Chicago, Illinois 60660. Beannact De ar an oibre, Seamus, a cara.

Are We Allowing Hurling To Die in the U.S.?

The sad news out of New York GAA recently that their all-star hurlers cannot compete in the Irish championship this year because of restrictive U.S. immigration problems paints a bleak picture for the future of the old caman game not only in New York but in other cities like Chicago, Boston, and others. Hopefully, the problem will be at least eased this year if congress and the president can agree on an equitable bill.

We have long advocated at meetings and in papers like The Irish Echo, Irish American News and others that more emphasis should be placed on promoting juvenile hurling in the U.S. If juvenile football can be promoted so successfully, why not the old caman game? We understand the problem of course, lack of money to fund such activity and of course, lack of interest in both boards, New York and the North American Board. But the problem is real and unless it is tackled, the whole future of the GAA in America may be in danger, because one code will not attract the necessary attendances.

But now with some "Irish money" coming from Ireland for the promotion of both games, this is an ideal time to start the ball rolling by compensating hurling clubs for the purchase of necessary hurleys, balls, equipment and of course, insurance for individual players. Hurling is "the fastest and most skillful game in the world," its Ireland's pride and joy. It must never be allowed to die for lack of interest by both boards: New York and the North American Board. Get the necessary equipment, promote the game. Young Irish-American kids and their parents will answer the call.

In the meantime, this is a good opportunity for both boards to start discussions on an All-American intercity championship in both codes. This would mean that the American Board would have to change its method of running its competitions, hurling and football, from inter-club to intercity, similar to that in Ireland. And that in itself would be a change for the better for the North American Board.

The old Midwest Board, the forerunner of the North American Board, successfully promoted both games on the intercity basis, Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Montreal, etc.

The reason for the change is that the weaker cities felt unable to compete with Chicago and Boston in the hurling arena. In other words they were not prepared to promote hurling. And the change did nothing to promote the old caman game by concentrating only on the promotion of football. And it did little for promoting football by taking away "the bite" of representing your own city as an "All-Star" rather than a club member. It's a system that should have been changed long ago by the North American Board.

As one who played the old ca-

man game in Ireland, England, and America I am interested in the promotion of hurling with gaelic football, and indeed handball, our three national games. These games are a bond with the past and should be promoted together, at least hurling and football. One without the other is like a bird with one wing, "it won't fly" because it will not attract the necessary attendance and interest to stay alive. Boards will have to put more emphasis on juvenile hurling if our games are to survive in exile. We can't depend on "new seed" from Ireland any more.

Chicago Easter Commemoration Held At Murphy's Pub in Forest Park



On Sunday April 22 2007 the Charlie Kerins Cumann of the Irish Freedom Committee held a commemoration of the 91st anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rebellion at Murphy's Pub in Forest Park, IL.

The lively and successful event brought in a great crowd on a gorgeous day after weeks of cold and rain. Many new faces and many not seen in a long time came out on a day perhaps spent at the lake or the parks. With the pub doors wide open famed Chicago balladeer Steve Fitzgerald belted out rebel tunes one after the other and entertained the crowd with his notorious banter.

The pub was filled with emblems of Ireland's history for the event. On stage, beneath the tri-color and American flag, two oversize copies of the 1916 Easter Proclamation were positioned. Large black and white photos of the civil rights victims of Bloody Sunday, massacred by British Army snipers 35 years ago this January, were placed against the walls around the pub. These photos were previously carried by members of Chicago's Charlie Kerins Cumann in the 2007 Irish Freedom Committee march at Chicago's downtown Saint Patrick's Day parade. Educational fliers on the history of the Bloody Sunday massacre, and a history of the 1916 Easter Rebellion, were also distributed.

A packed bar signed stacks of cards for Irish Republican political prisoners, after hearing the sobering reports of present conditions for POWs at Maghaberry. Attendees at the event took home Action Requests to send letters and emails to the NIO and NIPS (Prisons Service) to protest the brutal treatment of the POWs over Easter Week. Educational fliers asking for action on the repatriation of Irish Republican POW Noel Maguire to Ireland were also distributed.

Following a report from Deirdre Fennessy on the recent news from Maghaberry prison, a statement from the Maghaberry POWs to IFC supporters in America was read out, along with statements from the republican movement in Ireland. Cards from the POWs to the IFC were also shared with the crowd. Colm Mistéil read out the 1916 Proclamation, and then a raffle for Irish Republican memorabilia and craftwork was held, with all proceeds going direct to the families of Irish Republican POWs.

Steve Fitzgerald's energetic performance continued well into the afternoon, to the delight of all. Departing guests congratulated the IFC on an enjoyable and successful event and all agreed it was an afternoon well spent! We look forward to another successful event in the near future.

Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



Memorial Day

Memorial Day will be here soon, and the religious and civil war still rages in Iraq. The patriotic fervor in the U.S. has ebbed! More people have come to realize the futility of this war. The "Democratization" of tribal cultures and religious sects doesn't seem to be working. College aged students in the Middle East are more inclined to accept "Westernization" especially in Iran. They are weary of the old taboos.

Every week on Friday, the McNeil Lehrer News Hour on PBS ends by showing the faces of the soldiers, sailors, and marines who died in Iraq that week. I always find myself looking for Irish surnames, but as we well know, everyone is represented. They tell you their age, what city, town, or

state they were from. I keep thinking about all of those lives cut short. I keep thinking about the thousands who have lost limbs, and the psychological problems that can last a lifetime. I keep thinking too, about all of the anti-war songs that have such powerful lyrics:

Where Have All The Flowers Gone?
Where have all the young men gone?
Gone for soldiers every one
When will they ever learn?
When will they ever learn?

Private William McBride
Well I hope you died quick and I hope you died clean
or, Willie McBride, was it slow and obscene?

Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ya
Where are the legs with which you ran,
When first you went to carry a gun?
Indeed your dancing days are done.
Johnny, I hardly knew ya.

And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda
Now those that were left, well, we tried to survive
In a mad world of blood, death and fire
And for ten weary weeks I kept myself alive
But around me the corpses piled higher

All The Fine Young Men
For many of those fine young men all the wars are over
They have found peace, it's the peace that lasts forever
When the call comes again they will not answer

Blowin' In The Wind
Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head,
Pretending he just doesn't see?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Viet Nam, 1965

Da Nang
Dear Tom,
Received your letter of the 15th today. Thanks for writing. And thank your mother for her very kind words. It's good to hear from folks who mean a lot to you.
The war has not been going very well, at least not near the Da Nang area. We don't hear too much about the other areas. The monsoons are upon us and the V.C. have started their push. Yesterday I spent from dawn till dusk evacuating wounded and dead Vietnamese soldiers out of a big battle only 20 miles South of Da Nang. I must have carried 50 or 60 myself and we were in a four plane division. The dead were blown to pieces, fragments of arms and legs and torsos. It was a mortar attack. My aircraft took six hits, one in the cockpit, the closest they've come so far. I was scared to death, but was able to fly her home and land safely. I didn't sleep too well last

night. I'm hoping my nerves hold out. I would prefer that some of the things I tell you Tom, don't get to my mother. I try and keep her letters toned down a bit. The less she knows the better. I guess she gets worried enough watching the news. By the way, I have been recommended by my C.O. for my first air medal. It is the sixth highest personal decoration in the Armed Forces and I'm very proud. Two men are up for the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) in the squadron. Their exploits were too hair raising to try and explain in one letter, but they both deserve it. I hope I'm never put in a situation where I have an opportunity to earn one.

Sorry to hear about Lee Fick. Hope all turns out well for him. It must be miserable being cooped up in a hospital. Give him my best. About your married life, well all I can say is I married the right girl and it has worked out to be the best deal I ever made in my life. If and when you find the right girl, don't hesitate to marry her. It it's not the right girl, well, just take your time. I don't think age has anything to do with it.

When you mentioned Paul Anderson and the crib sheets, it brought back many memories of years gone by. We really had a good group at N.I.U. Too bad you weren't there, you would have fit in well. Of course, I never had to use the crib sheets like Paul did!!! I'm glad I got that college degree, though. It'll be a good thing to fall back on if I survive this ordeal. I think I'm getting a lot of experience in this business I'm in. I may never be able to put it to monetary use, but I think I mature one year per day with the things I have seen.

I don't know this Tom Farrell, but if I run across him, I'll pass the word. There are an awful lot of good people in this man's Marine Corps. Well, I have been sitting here on standby and just got the call, so off we go again.

Thanks for the letter, will write again soon.
As Always, Jim.
P.S. Thanks for the visits with my Mom, she really enjoys them.

Taps
Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.
All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh.



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Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN



Acting Irish International Theater Festival 2007 in Milwaukee

This year the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival will be held May 15 through 20 in Milwaukee. Eight different theater groups, including Holding Court Theatre from Ireland, will compete. Chicago's Gaelic Park Players and The Shapeshifters will be there. Performances will be at the University of Wisconsin Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee. Two plays will be staged each day at 2 and 8 pm apart from the first, when there will be only one (8 pm.) Gaelic Park Players, back from their highly successful tour in Ireland, will be the first Chicagoans to perform. They will present *Getting Buried*, a comedy by Peter Cunningham, directed by Larry Coughlin on Wed, May 16 at 8pm. The 8 person cast includes Martin Murphy, Barney Farrelly, Kate McNally and Jeanene Beauregard.

The Shapeshifters will present the following day at 2 pm. Their offering will be *Knocknashee*, by Deirdre Kinahan, directed by Robert Ayres. This 3 person play brings together a physically disabled artist, a recovering drug addict and a lonely misfit on the eve of the May fairy festival in Ireland. For those who cannot make the trip to Milwaukee, this play can be seen at the Heritage Center on the weekends of May 4 and 11.

Sean Callan's email: irishquill@aol.com

IAHC Teams Up With Prop Thtr For Performances of Critically-acclaimed Hizzoner



May 31 through July 1, 2007 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm.

The IAHC and the Prop believe the partnership is an exciting one. Many IAHC members remember first-hand the influence Mayor Richard J. Daley had on Chicago and his ties to the Irish American community. The production is a unique way to bring the play to the Irish community as well as showcase the success of this long-running show.

The Irish American Heritage Center presentation of Neil Giuntoli's *Hizzoner* runs at the IAHC, from May 17-27. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$35 with student and senior discounts available. For tickets call the Prop at 773-539-7838, the IAHC at 773-282-7035, or visit www.propthtr.org, www.hizzonertheplay.com or www.ticketweb.com.

In celebration of its critically acclaimed successful year-long run, The Irish American Heritage Center and the Prop Thtr have teamed up for a 2-week run of the world premiere production of Prop Thtr's *Hizzoner*.

Hizzoner runs at the Irish American Heritage Center at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, from May 17-27, 2007. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. *Hizzoner* resumes performances at the Prop Thtr from

Sunday School Cinema Opens June 3 at Royal George Theatre



Vicki Quade, the creator and co-author of "Late Nite Catechism", has announced the third comedy in her Sister series: "Sunday School Cinema".

In this comedy, Sister reviews movies and gives her own version of thumbs up and thumbs down, using her all-present ruler. You'll never see films the same way again!

"Sunday School Cinema" has its opening performance at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 3. The opening party will also be an event to celebrate two anniversaries: "Late Nite Catechism" starts its 15th year in Chicago, the longest running one-person comedy in the city's history. And Quade's other sequel, "Put the Nuns in Charge!", starts its 3rd year. Both of those shows also run weekly at the Royal George Theatre.

"Sunday School Cinema" is extremely topical and will change week to week as Sister discusses whatever movies are currently running, running her opinion through the filter of Sister's own special view of the world.

"Sunday School Cinema" opens June 3 and will run every Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago. Tickets are \$30, with reduced tickets for students and seniors. 312.988.9000.

Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* was first performed at London's Covent Garden Theatre on March 15 1773, one year before the Irish playwright's death. The comedy became an instant hit. The play's appeal, apart from the Longford man's witty dialogue, is due to multilayered moral messages all delivered with a light touch. These include the notion that appearances can be deceiving, that love knows no societal bounds, that affluence breeds indolence and there is hope for all, including seemingly lost causes. Because of its sound construction, this drawing room comedy has remained popular. It has undergone many successful revivals in the more than two centuries since it was first produced.

The basic story of *She Stoops to Conquer* is one of strangers in a strange land. Two city boys go to the country and get into various mix-ups. They misidentify people and places, such as thinking that the local squire is an inn keeper and his mansion an inn. A not too good one at that! They also are under the impression that his nubile daughter is a barmaid. As a result, the uptight pair acts like they are visiting a different planet. Eventually truth emerges and things happily get sorted out.

Traditionally, the enjoyment of *She Stoops* has come from subtle nuanced humor with understated performances. This is imperative if the play is to work. But alas, that was not the case with a recent revival at the Northlight. In what can best be described as Hee Haw meets Oklahoma, the director moved *She Stoops* from rural England in the eighteenth century to rustic Montana in the nineteenth.

The work benefits neither from the relocation nor other changes. The actors, some of whom are fitted out like rodeo extras, cavort around the stage toting six-shooters and engage in slapstick. In addition, in case the audience does not get the drift of what is going on, guitar strumming minstrels are introduced to explain. These troubadours sing with an affected western twang that affects just about everyone. The net effect generated widespread yawns. By the time the show finally ended, more than one member of the audience

appeared conked to stupor. It's *Wind that Splits the Parley*

In a remark attributed to Irish playwright Brendan Behan, the first item on any Irish political agenda is "the split." Certainly, a serious split led to the death of Kevin O'Higgins, the no-nonsense Minister for Justice in the Irish Free State, at the young age of 35. He was gunned down in Booterstown, a south Dublin suburb, on his way to mass in 1927. His was one of the last deaths in Ireland's brutal post Anglo-Irish Treaty civil war. His demise was retribution for decisive actions that had largely put an end to that vicious strife some four years earlier. Those actions included the summary execution of republican prisoners in Dublin's Mountjoy Prison.

The tit-for-tat executions followed the assassination of Sean Hales, a member of Ireland's Dail or Congress. Included among the dead prisoners was Rory O'Connor, who had fought along side O'Higgins in Ireland's struggle for independence. Not only had O'Connor been a loyal comrade in arms but he had been the best man at O'Higgins' wedding only a few months previously.

O'Connor had taken up arms against the Treaty. He commanded the forces occupying the Dublin Four Courts which set off the civil war. O'Connor had been captured, imprisoned and subsequently was executed by order of O'Higgins. O'Higgins too had not been without hardship. He had been a prisoner in Mountjoy under the British and his elderly father had been murdered by anti-Treaty forces in 1923. No one was apprehended for the murder of O'Higgins.

To gain an understanding of those turbulent times in Ireland and experience a well-crafted film as well, one could do worse than take in *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. Written by Paul Laverty and directed by Ken Loach, a British filmmaker, the movie is set in Co. Cork in 1920-1922. In it, two brothers, Damien and Teddy, get drawn into the revolutionary fight against the British. Following the Treaty, they end up on opposite sides with harrowing results. This powerful film is not for the squeamish. It contains considerable graphic violence.

Voice of the Immigrant

By John W. Kearns, Attorney at Law



John W. Kearns invites immigration, tax, business, and general topic requests by email: jwkearns@hotmail.com. Immigrant Service Professionals of North America (ISPNA) is an immigration service agency with proven success. A professional staff and attorneys are available to assist you, as they have in the past at John W. Kearns & Associates. Consultations by telephone or in the office can be arranged by calling: (312) 738-2529. See advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper.

The Immigration Front

Democratic Congressional Representative Rahm Emanuel, former key political adviser to President Clinton and now current House Democratic leader, joined Representative Luis Gutierrez, sponsor of the current House bill for comprehensive immigration reform, to address a cheering immigrants' rights rally of about 1,500 in Chicago last week. Gutierrez is traveling across the country to drum up support for his bill, filed in March, that is currently the most favorable option for legalization of immigrants, although it will surely be met with strong conservative opposition in the House. This bill would permit a legalization process for immigrants who could prove they entered the U.S. before June, 2006. Applicants would have to pass a background

check, prove employment, and pay a \$500 fine. After six years, they could apply for a green card if they pay \$1,500, learn English, and have not committed a crime. There is also a guest worker program with a limit of as many as 400,000 temporary workers. (Compare this with the Bush proposal and the Senate plan discussed last week.)

Emanuel, the master Democratic strategic planner and powerbroker, promised to deliver at least the necessary 218 House votes, including Republican votes, to pass the bill. "This will be the year we get this done," he promised.

Terror-related Surveillance...

Of Non-citizens (Otherwise Unconstitutional) OK Since 1978. Now: Bush Asks For Virtually Un-

restrained Authority For Spying On Non-citizens.

Last Friday, the Bush administration asked Congress to make more non-citizens subject to intelligence surveillance and authorize the interception of emails and telecommunications within the United States, as an expansion of government surveillance powers under the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA). FISA limited the government to surveillance of only foreign terrorism suspects, but the expansion would permit the government to retain and presumably use information now obtained "unintentionally" even if not relevant to that purpose. As anyone who has studied Constitutional Law knows, that expansion will permit the government the opportunity for unrestricted abuse of whatever limited purpose FISA may still be intended. This is only the latest in a long series of such power grabs by the President's office, which, as you can see, pre-date both Bush administrations and certainly started well before 9/11. Those who defend civil liberties in this country appear to be fighting a losing battle.

American Values

Why do I keep bringing up this subject? The chief complaint the average American voter and the average American legislator have in regard to immigrants, is: Who are these people? They don't come here

to become Americans. They don't have any loyalty to this country or desire to "fit in". They won't even learn English. I, myself, feel that most immigrants have a "vacation mentality," that is, they do not feel that they are here permanently, putting down new roots in the U.S. Most of my readers feel, deep down, that they are here only temporarily, and many of them act accordingly. I have seen many families separated for what was supposed to be a short temporary period, so the father could come here and make some money to support his family, but then the temporary stay turns into two years, five years, ten years - and then the kids are grown. This is a modern-day tragedy!

The immigrants are not to blame. A big part of the problem is that immigration law fails to reflect the economic realities of the job market. We need the workers and the workers need to work. Trying to stop the economic realities of the global job market, like trying to control gentrification in the real estate market, by legislation or an artificial structure of rules and controls, is just like trying to control the flow of a glacier by passing a law to stop gravity - its unnatural and only as good as your powers of enforcement. And I don't choose to live in a police state where the Constitution has been ignored and emasculated. American freedoms are said to grow out of a natural right. This is supposed to be a country of individual freedom and responsibility, governed by democratically-elected representatives who answer to the collective will of the people, in a free-market capitalistic economic system. The only controls that are supposed to be imposed are to protect the rights of the weak and the health and safety of all. But that's not how it is anymore.

Another big part of the problem is the "balkanization" of American society caused by "political correctness" that permits people to maintain their own language and cultural values over what might be considered typical American values. An example of this is the increasingly common transplantation of the custom of female genital mutilation from Africa and the Middle East to America - those people are not asking for the right to practice this barbaric custom, they are insisting on it! It is our duty to be understanding, tolerant, and non-discriminatory, even if those values are not reciprocated by the corresponding culture. Another example is the prosecution of the Chinese immigrant who beat his wife to death because of suspected infidelity. He got only five years probation because the defense persuaded the

court, by the use of an anthropological expert, of how serious infidelity was considered in China.

On the subject of immigration reform, one can see a backlash against this "balkanization" of America. This backlash, although reflected by the average American voter, is, to be sure, led by the conservatives, who I wish would live up to their agenda in other regards of as little regulation and government as possible. THAT's what "conservative" is supposed to mean: an essential mistrust of government and its interference in the affairs of men, coupled with responsibility placed upon the individual to act for the common good in a free market system. But, unfortunately, all we are going to get out of THIS conservative backlash is a lot of anti-immigrant hysteria.

The movement is already afoot for immigrants who want green cards and citizenship to prove they want to adopt American values, to become "American". The citizenship test is being revamped with that goal in mind. Immigrants seeking naturalization should keep in mind not to offend the USCIS naturalization interviewer by answering the question, "Why do you want to become a citizen?" with the answer "Because I want a passport." Immigration is NOT a process of getting a "green card" and then a "passport." It IS a process of obtaining the legal "right" to reside permanently in the U.S., with an INTENT to reside in and make a HOME of the United States, followed by the desire to become a CITIZEN of the United States. Citizenship requires a desire to be involved with the life and affairs of the American people AS an American, to share whatever is our American values, to understand our history and cultural life, to participate in our civic life by voting, by not committing crimes, by paying taxes, and by speaking English. Those who mock this process and try to take advantage of it are the type of people the process will try to screen out.

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

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The Chorito Hog Leg, Book 1: A Novel of Guam in Time of War

By Pat Hickey, Paperback (6x9)
ISBN#9781434302021, Published
by AuthorHouse™ 888.519.5121

Chorito is the name of a cliff overlooking the Asan beaches on Guam. In 1944, the 3rd Marines assaulted Chorito Cliff and Bundeschu Ridge. A Hog Leg is the nickname for an 1860 Colt .45 Revolver.

Within the carnage of battle is a war pitting a young man, Tim Cullen, against his battalion commander over the possession of an 1860 Army Colt .45 Hog leg revolver which can be traced back to Capt. Myles Keogh who died with Custer. The last owner is the doomed Lt. Jack Buck of Giddings, TX. Buck will be killed in the taking of Bundeschu Ridge, but Jack Buck had exacted a promise from Pvt. Tim Cullen of his platoon to keep it from the hands of Major Lucas Opley, an up from the ranks Marine of legend, and return the Colt to his family in Texas.

Parallel to Cullen's ordeals and suf-

fering on Japanese occupied Guam are movie house operator Juan Cruz and his family, as well as an exiled Japanese American Dentist and his movie star wife. Exacting the cruelty is the oafish Boson Otayama and the American educated Lt. Kato. Awaiting liberation are also such historical figures of Guam's history as Father Duenas and Pastor Sablan.

About the Author

Pat Hickey is proud to have been of some service to Leo High School for many years. As Development Director for Chicago's Leo High School, Hickey developed his first book and the main character of The Chorito Hog Leg, Books 1-2, Tim Cullen. A graduate of Loyola University of Chicago Undergraduate (Bachelor of Arts - English) and Graduate (Master of Arts - English) Schools, Pat Hickey has spent most of his life as a high school English teacher.

A native Chicagoan and a career educator, Hickey taught at Bishop McNamara High School, in Kankakee, IL and La Lumiere School, LaPorte, IN. In 1990, he began doing fund-raising work which he continues at Leo High School. Hickey is a free-lance writer for GAR Media, Capitol Fax Blog and is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. His first book Every Heart and Hand: A Leo High School Story has been a Chicago favorite.

In the Fall of 2007, the second book of The Chorito Hog Leg story will follow the adventures of Tim Cullen through the mopping-up actions on Guam, the Iwo Jima Campaign, the sinking of U.S.S. Indianapolis, the Atomic Bombings of Japan, the beginning of the War Crimes Trials on Guam and return Cullen, through the great Pacific Typhoon of 1945, to Chicago. Again, the author will employ the 'intrusive narrator' technique used by William Makepeace Thackeray in his 19th Century historical fictions.

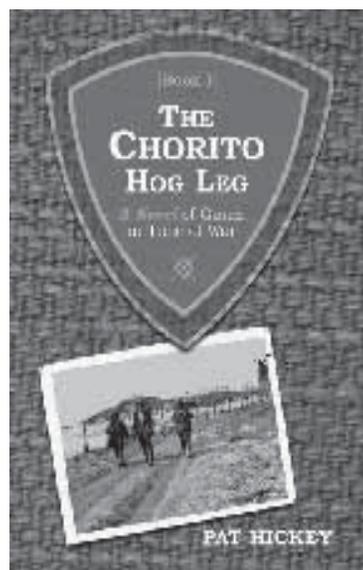
Pat Hickey, widowed (Mary) in 1998, is the father of Nora, Conor and Clare Hickey. The Hickey's live in St. Cajetan's Parish in the Morgan Park neighborhood of Chicago.

The revolver, in its shoulder holster, will be taken from Lt. John A. Buck's

Arranmore - The Collection

The group Arranmore takes its name after an island off the Northwest coast of Donegal in Ireland. Although it started out as what can be best described an Irish pub band, over the last 15 years the group has evolved into what is better described as an Americana/Folk/Celtic music-influenced act.

Arranmore has released several CDs all to critical acclaim. Their current CD "The Collection" is a retrospective of many of the group's best and most requested songs. Their CDs can be heard on many fine Folk/Americana/Country music radio shows both in the U.S. and Europe. www.arranmore.com





Concerts



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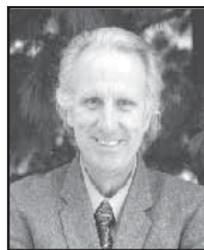
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Newly Remodeled

T radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



We always loved the Celtic Harp. Who doesn't? We used to find it a bit redundant. Listening to very little of it, we studied none of it. It was nice. Pleasant. But, how far could you really take it? How did you tell one harpist from another? It all sounded nice, but really...

Then, we were at Irish Fest years ago in Milwaukee. Our daughter, Mary, came tearing up to us. Had we heard "that harp player"? What harp player?

THAT harp player! (We were thrilled she was listening to any of the music instead of "hanging.") What was even more unbelievable was that she was raving about "that harp player and this guitar guy". What was the name? She didn't remember, if she ever knew—but she DID remember it was a real long Irish name, and we HAD to go see her and the "guitar guy". Noted. Done. No one else we knew had any inkling about harpists, either. So we went to the different stages to check the lineups and WHAM! Found her! Had to be! Maire ni Chathasaigh and Chris Newman. Never heard of them. Ignorance was NOT bliss, but... well... We made a note not to miss the next concert and went on our merry, ignorant way.

We arrived that evening in time to get a great seat. This really had to be something for the kid to have gone nuts. Out walked this demure and lovely lady, with this "guitar guy". Very unassuming. Pleasant. We figured we were in for another pleasant, unassuming harp concert. We were wrong.

It wasn't so much that they started playing. They began. It was something up-tempo. Somewhere around the 16th bar, we were transfixed. The music at the best can do this. It is rare. Flook. Brock-McGuire. Munnely. Altan. Cathie Ryan. Tommie Fleming. You are bolted. As in "lightning bolted". This was something beyond special. This was magic. This was a musically transformative moment. You know. You have had them, too—if you are lucky. Yeah, you know. You look up at the sky and say, "take me now". You know. And, so it was. By the end of the concert, we and rest of the audience were on our feet, and knew, we all knew we had just heard the great Irish harper of the age. More than a wonder. A miracle. And, oh! That guitar guy!!

Finding out all the details on the duo came later. Many conversations. Dinner at Pizzeria Uno in Chicago and some lovely place in Columbus, Ohio. The musical credentials on both are so extensive as to not be needed here. Solo, they are staggering. But, put Chris Newman and Maire ni Cathasaigh together and this alchemy of genius takes over. This cannot be done better. Never HAS been done better. Never will.

We await certain artists' albums like ravenous beasts of prey. Impatiently tapping our foot until we hear the newest "take". The newest reading on the music. The above-listed artists all fill that bill. We know we are going to love whatever they do. The question is only how much. So, a few months ago, our appetites were whetted by an e-mail chat we had with Maire where she told us they would have a new one out soon. We demanded, begged, pleaded and implored we get it first, and indeed, in America we have. See,

dear reader, just stick right here—you'll get the tasty scoops first! If you are in the British Isles or anywhere else in the world, this has been out a short while, and the only reason for you not to have it is that, somehow, you missed the word it was out. It is FireWire. Isn't that a great name? It is the eighth album from the duo. Well, Chris has two solo guitar albums in the previous mix—works of brilliance, really. But, these two are now inseparable in our minds. Anyway. FireWire. Old Bridge Music online is where to find it. Also, CDBaby is a great site, and the best music shops like The Rampant Lion in Villa Park and Paddy's On The Square in Long Grove will either have it or get it shortly. Get up. Go get it.

FireWire is 13 tunes and songs, altogether. There are a couple lovely vocals from Maire thrown in. But, what we are talking about is the harp and guitar here. Oh, they are joined by great guest artists, like Maire's sister, Nollaig Casey on fiddle. How to describe this playing? Well, of course, you cannot. But, imagine fingers flying—literally FLYING, over guitar and harp strings in a perfect unison—so perfect, it is as if there is only one musician playing. You only get this diamond-like perfection from a couple that has been together for years. Think The Everly Brothers on instruments. This is years and years of creativity and genius all in one package. All you gotta do is buy it. Then, it is yours, also. Years ago, in a moment of hubris, we thought we had figured out the secret to Maire's blinding speed. We thought then that she was doing a modulated Travis guitar picking style on the harp from the way she arches her right hand as she played. Truth is, we don't have a clue. You can't explain this. You can only revel in it. Waltzes, reels, airs, songs, jigs, hornpipes, they are all here. We have never heard the iconic air, "An Buachaillín Ban (The Fair Haired Boy)" played more movingly. "Ginny's Waltz" is inexplicable. We have listened to it about 25 times now. Soon, it will be 26.

We've been at this for decades now. We know the Instrumental Album of the Year when we hear it. We've heard FireWire. The rest is easy. Where does it rank in this magical library Chris and Maire have compiled?

It is their best. We would say it will not be done better. But, we know it will. In their next album. This is not only lovely, classy magic. FireWire is genius we can actually hear. Get it. Your ears need it—and so does your soul.

Notes: *There is only one note. You already know it. The radio show. Blarney on the Air—we know. We know. But, we NEEDED a title, and Shay Clarke, my partner, DOES own Blarney Fine Irish Jewelry—so what are you going to do? Anyway, it is on every Monday night. 7-9, Chicago time. WDCB-90.9fm. www.wdcb.org You would have heard LiveWire debuted in America had you been listening. You would also hear us continue our personal and never-ending efforts to educate the most musically clueless person we have ever met—uh, that would be native Dubliner, Shay Clarke. We love him. His taste in Irish and Celtic jewelry is flawless. His taste in music is all flaws—but we love him as you would love a bewildered child found along the road. Anyway, give a listen!

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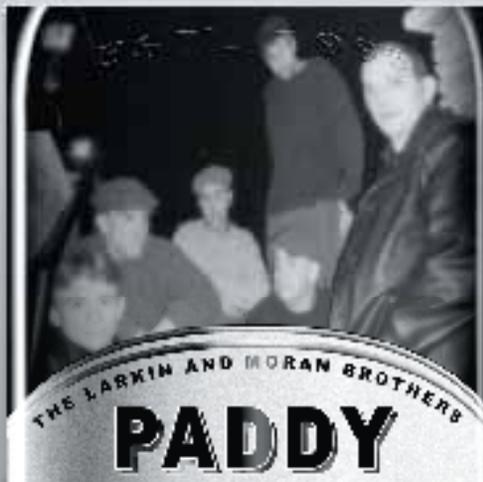
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Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



We had visitors from home for the Easter Holidays. My brother Peter, his wife Susan and their two beautiful daughters, Rebecca and Rachel. It was great to have them for a while. There was a lot of shopping involved, Michigan Ave., Woodfield, Algonquin Commons, and the Outlet Malls, and as I have said before, when you have a strong Euro and a weak dollar, the visitors make out like bandits, it was Hollister Heaven. They went home with bursting suitcases and memories of Easter snow.

I took them to Galena, Dubuque and to The House on the Rock, and then back to Dundee. It was great to see our kids interact with their Irish cousins while Peter and I talked about old times.

We talked about our youth, of wren boys, altar boys and lounge boys, of dogs and dances, of friends and family. We talked about the youth of today with their cell phones, ipods, downloading, text messaging and other technological wizardry. We talked about our own kids and their dreams and aspirations and our hopes for them as they transition from kids to young adults. We talked books and movies, dubs and pubs and Wicklow walks.

Peter is 10 years younger than I am and we have always shared a great love for County Wicklow, the Garden of Ireland. It is the most beautiful of counties with its lakes, rivers, mountains, beaches, villages and towns and awesome countryside and it was all at our back door. Glendalough, Powerscourt, Avoca and Enniskerry were only a bicycle trip away. Magical places like The Devil's Elbow, The Feather Bed, The German Cemetery, The Tin Mines, Bray Head, The Sugarloaf, The Glen of the Downs, and Lough Dan became our weekend destinations. In later years, Traci and I enjoyed "point to point" horse racing on crisp winter Sundays in Wicklow. Great days and great memories.

Peter still walks the Wicklow hills every weekend with his family, sometimes it's just himself and his dog. Weather is rarely a factor, as the beauty of Wicklow reveals itself around every corner, at the crest of every hill and in every season. I envy Peter his weekend walks.

Most American visitors miss out on County Wicklow. They make the obligatory visit to Dublin and then head west and southwest to Cork, Kerry, Clare, Galway, and Mayo.....it's always a good plan and I would do the same myself..... BUT break the mold.....change the plan and

next time you go to Ireland, renew your soul, set your spirit free and take a walk in the Wicklow Hills.

Have I ever steered you wrong?

Avenues to Independence

It has always been our pleasure to support Bob Healy and Peg who have for years hosted the Annual Irish Fest to benefit Avenues to Independence. Avenues has been helping people with developmental disabilities live more independent and productive lives through a supervised work-center and job placement program and many of them now live in Avenues supported homes, apartments, and townhouses.....it's a worthy cause.

This year's bash was held on Sunday March 25th and was a grand affair with musical entertainment provided by Donnybrook and the Irish Heritage Singers. The Weber Dance Company of Chicago were a breath of fresh air, imagine dancers without wigs, makeup or neon costumes. It was nice for a change. Bob, Peg, Mike, and Mary sure know how to throw a party.

Tartan Day Weekend, St. Charles, MO.

Irish Festivals and events are as rare as hens teeth in the weeks after St. Patrick's day-everybody is Irish'd out, but our Celtic cousins from Scotland party on. I found a great little event in the cute town of St. Charles Missouri. The Declaration of Arbroath, Scotland's Declaration of Independence was signed on April 6th, 1320 and is celebrated with three days of craic, with parades, heavy athletics, and sword fights. A great entertainment line up including one of my favorite bands Barleyjuice and Mothergrove, Smithfield Faire and Flower O'Scotland were also there at this hopping event. Fair play to "Jake" McGregor and his team. Lovely people my Celtic cousins.

I also got to hang with my good pal Pete Maher. Pete is the editor, publisher, chief bottle washer and delivery boy for the Kansas City based Midwest Irish Focus. He is a great guy and I hope to see him at the Gaelic Park Fest in May.

The Ultimate Survivor Party - Sun, Sand, Sea, and Songs

Paul, Peggy, and Ritchie of Brigids Cross are inviting fans to join them next year in the Dominican Republic for the ultimate St. Patrick's Day Survivors party.

What a great idea—just when you have had enough—there's more.

Survivors will arrive at an all inclusive resort on March 19th and party hardy with Paul, Peggy, and Ritchie and perhaps The Rooster, till March 24th. Details can be had on Brigids Cross website.

Bill's Banjaxed

Bill Margeson, my radio partner on Blarney on the Air, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. The old knees were banjaxed and we are getting him fixed. We tried other remedies like WD40 to no avail so it was off to the shop with Bill. I can report that the right knee is on the mend and the left knee will be replaced in due course.

God help us, but the thoughts of big Bill tripping the light fantastic and racing me at the studio or anywhere else is a major source of worry.

Next Month

Back on the road again to Carbondale, Milwaukee, Springfield, Dayton Ohio and Chicago's Gaelic Park.

Gaelic Park's Memorial Day Irish Festival is among the top five Irish events in the country and always sports a top-notch lineup. This year John McDermott, Tommy Fleming, Tommy Makem, Gaelic Storm, Black 47, Solas, and Damian Dempsey are among the great entertainers that Gaelic Park have in store for you, along with Susan McCann and The Larkin & Moran Brothers.

I am really looking forward to seeing Damian Dempsey whose album Shots is my favorite album of 2006. I have never seen him play live before (missed opportunities) and his set alone will be worth the price of admission.

This is a great family event over four days. So there are no excuses and as I've said before, grab the wife, the kids and the granny and get yourselves down to Gaelic Park on Memorial Day weekend.

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Shaw's Comedy "Widowers' Houses" Makes Rare Visit

TimeLine Theatre Company completes its 2006-2007 10th Anniversary Season with "Widowers' Houses" by George Bernard Shaw, directed by Kevin Fox. The play runs May 5 - July 1, 2007 at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago. To purchase tickets, visit www.timelinetheatre.com or call 773.281.TIME (8463).



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Ragtime at Porchlight through May 27

Porchlight Music Theatre concludes its 2006-2007 season with the epic musical Ragtime at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont.

Featuring a Tony Award winning book by Terrence McNally, and a Tony Award winning score by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens; Ragtime combines diverse fictional characters with several famous figures of the era to create a stirring musical portrayal of turn-of-the 20th century America. With a score as diverse as the Melting Pot of America, it draws upon traditional Jewish folk sounds to color the haunting music and yearning lyrics of the immigrants, Vaudeville's outrageous style, and Joplin and Jazz to evoke the enlivened spirit of Harlem.

A nostalgic and powerful portrait of life in turn of the century America, Ragtime is based on E.L. Doctorow's distinguished novel. The musical intertwines the stories of a Harlem musician, a wealthy New York family and a Latvian Jewish immigrant, and poignantly explores history's timeless contradictions of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair, and love and hate. For tickets call 773.327.5252 or visit www.theatrebuildingchicago.org.

about the source of his own income. "Widowers' Houses" established Shaw's talent for presenting a romantic feast of social and political ideas delivered with humorous dialogue and colorful characters - a talent that secured his reputation as one of the wittiest and most widely produced writers of his generation.

"Widowers' Houses" opens on Saturday, May 5 at 8 p.m. and runs Wednesdays (5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20 and 6/27 only), Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Sunday, July 1, 2007. Preview performances are Tuesday, May 1 through Friday, May 4 at 8 p.m. Widowers' Houses will run approximately two hours including one intermission. www.timelinetheatre.com



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Judy Collins To Perform With Chicagoland Pops Orchestra

Concert will also feature Chicago premiere of first movement of Paul McCartney's Ecce Cor Meum

Donald E. Stephens, Mayor of the Village of Rosemont and founder of the Chicagoland Pops, along with Brenda Edgar, Chairman of the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra Commission, announced recently that hit recording artist Judy Collins will perform with the acclaimed 55-piece Chicagoland Pops Orchestra, conducted by Grammy winning artist and Chicago resident Arnie Roth, at The Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road on Friday, May 11 at 8 pm. The concert will also feature the Chicago premiere of Ecce Cor Meum, a new classical oratorio by Paul McCartney. The first movement of the piece will be performed by the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra and Chicago Children's Choir.

Tickets to the Friday, May 11th, 8 pm performance are priced at \$49.50, \$39.50, and \$29.50, and are available by calling The Rosemont Theatre box office at 847.671.0300, Ticketmaster at 312.559.1212 or visiting www.ticketmaster.com.



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Gaelic Storm Returns for Irish Fest

The annual Irish American Heritage Festival will be held this summer on July 13, 14, and 15 at the IAHC. Gaelic Storm will return as a headliner-no doubt, the most energetic and exciting Irish music act touring these days, Gaelic Storm will close out the festival in style on Sunday night, July 15th.



As the IAHC firms up the performance schedule for Friday and Saturday, already committed to perform The Makem Brothers, The Mickey Finns and many of Chicago's top local acts will be filling out the rest of the schedule for the weekend.

Scheduled over three days, the festival is a great celebration of Irish culture and entertainment. The festival boasts four stages for music, dance, and other forms of entertainment, a children's area, cultural exhibits throughout the building, shopping, as well as the staples of any good festival - beer and food! It's a great weekend to enjoy with the whole family.

The festival will also highlight and expand several very popular events during the festival; The Irish American Idol Contest (a singing contest for children 17 and under), The Mashed Potato Eating Contest (for all ages), The Pub Quiz Championship and the very popular Happy Hour Hooley, a Friday kick-off to the festival featuring dancing and matchmaking possibilities



Jamie O'Reilly will appear at the IAHC May 13.

IAHC Continues Sunday Evening Music Concerts

The Irish American Heritage Center continues its Sunday evening acoustic/folk music performances this spring. The Second Sunday Concerts take place in the Fifth Province Lounge on the second Sunday of each month, at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door. The IAHC is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago.

for the singles crowd. The festival also features traditional music, ceili dancing, step dancing, Irish theatre and so much more.

Tickets for Irish Fest are \$12 per day or \$8 in advance if purchased by July 12. Seniors are \$7 and children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid adult. Fest hours are Friday from 6-12 pm, Saturday from noon to midnight and Sunday from noon to 11 pm. The IAHC is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. For more information on Irish Fest or to purchase tickets, contact the IAHC at 773-282-7035.

The series continues on May 13th with emcee, local favorite Kat Eggleston who will be joined by Corky Siegel, Jim Tullio and The Jamie O'Reilly Trio. For more information on the Second Sunday Concerts, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, or Gary Tuber at 847-882-9723 or visit secondsundayconcerts.com.

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Milwaukee to Host Irish Theater Fest

Milwaukee celebrates the best in Irish theater from May 15-20, 2007, when nine community theater groups from Ireland, Canada and the US compete in the 14th Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival at the UWM Peck School of the Arts Mainstage Theatre.

"Nine Irish Plays in Five Irish Days" will be performed by groups from Ireland, Toronto, Winnipeg, Rochester, Boca Raton, Chicago and Milwaukee in a frenzy of activity from Tuesday through Saturday, including matinee and evening show times.

Milwaukee Irish Arts, winner of Best Production and Best Male Actor in last year's festival in Toronto will open the festival on Tuesday, May 15th with its production of award-winning play "From These Green Heights" by Dermot Bolger.

Further information about play schedule, ticket reservations, volunteer opportunities, awards brunch, and hotel and airfare promotional rates is available at: www.actiringish.org

"Knocknashee" Shapeshifters Theatre Spring Production

This spring, Shapeshifters Theatre of the Irish American Heritage Center is proud to present "Knocknashee", by Irish playwright, Deirdre Kinahan of Navan, County Meath.

The production runs Friday, May 4 through Sunday May 13 at the IAHC, located at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm and Sunday at 3pm. Tickets are \$12 for IAHC members and \$15 for the general public.

"Knocknashee" is set in a small cottage in County Meath on May Eve, 2001. May Eve is a traditional Irish pagan festival, and Knocknashee is alive with magic, mayhem, merriment and menace. Patrick, a physically disabled artist, Brigid, a single mother and Hughie, a lonely rural misfit are drawn together to celebrate by the forces of this forgotten culture. While these three extraordinary people seek friendship, the magic of May Eve's lore and even love, the unforgiving landscape threatens to reveal a secret of its own.

For more information or to order tickets, call 773-282-7035.



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Dreams: The Ultimate Corrs Collection spanning 1996-2006 contains 20 of the Dundalk-born quartet's finest. Spotting The Corrs' memorable collaborations, Dreams includes a pair of live cuts from 2002 with U2's Bono joining the group for Ryan Adams-penned track "When The Stars Go Blue," and guitarist Ron Wood turning up on The Rolling Stones' "Ruby Tuesday." The album also contains The Corrs' and The Chieftains' rendition of the traditional song "I Know My Love," a track originally released on The Chieftains' 1999 album, Tears of Stone. www.rhinorecords.com.

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St. Brendan's Inn, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, offers lodging accommodations, authentic Irish food, Irish drink and Irish music - all in an elegant yet comfortable setting. Each room offers fine heirloom maple furniture, in-room whirlpool baths, walk-in rainfall showers and a high-speed internet connection are in each of our 28 guest rooms.

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For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



Why Ireland is Unfree, resumed

IT'S ALL OVER for now in Occupied Ireland. Terrorism has triumphed over democracy. Britannia has refastened its grip on the throats of the Occupied Irish. It did so by successfully implementing Brit army General Frank Kitson's LOW INTENSITY OPERATIONS manual the main theme of which is to subvert the judiciary, law enforcement, news media and the Church and to harness them to military purposes. Upon corrupting all four institutions, one of them, the news media, became perhaps the chief accomplice to British terrorists by consistently attributing their atrocities to the IRA. We don't fully know how the Brits managed it, but Ireland's media and the entire American media, including that of Irish America, disinformed the people as to the identity of the terrorists. There is absolutely no excuse for so falsely attributing mass murders and covering for the Brits who implemented them as policy. These mass murderers include the SAS, RUC, Brit Army, FRU, MI5, MI6 and others. Nevertheless, outside of Occupied Ireland the lie's success was nearly universal. Until experiencing Occupied Ireland directly I was just as disinformed as everyone else who relied on the news media. Through what must have been either blackmail or bribery the Brits managed something else unique in treachery: Without firing a shot it managed to get Irish pols to permanently sign over to Britain six of Ireland's nine counties of Ulster. The people of supposedly free Ireland went to the polls and did as they were told; "Vote Yes For peace." Thus, the Occupied Irish, despite having voted overwhelmingly for freedom from the Brits in the 1918 island-wide election, and in 1973 winning a bloodily suppressed five-year campaign for the vote, are back under the old Brit tyranny; permanently. With the sell-out on Brit terms now a done deal, and republican weapons surrendered by Adams & Co, the actual (Brit) terrorists remain as armed to the teeth as ever. Uniformed Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and Orange murder gangs still brandish their weapons against the now-defenseless Irish. The news media call this "progress;" the "peace process." The old Brit rule-by-murder is reestablished and they are now mopping up pockets of suspected democracy. They have

resumed arresting republicans in Occupied Ireland and MI5/FBI have resumed their sinister visits to the homes of Chicago's Irish. .

ON GUARD! As part of the mop-up, two MI5/FBI agents recently visited the homes of two of my South Side friends while they were at work. (MI5 is Britain's FBI with a long history of "dirty tricks" crimes including massacres of noncombatant Irish, to be blamed on the IRA. It was MI5 who, through the supine Fr. Alex Reid, that subverted Gerry Adams. I write "MI5/FBI" because the Chicago FBI are long-time accomplices of MI5 and perpetrate terrorist crimes for MI5 here in Chicago.) After the home visits, the two agents, Patrick Boone and Mark Lundgren pressed both targeted individuals to meet them without an attorney present; but the two South Siders protected their freedom if not their lives by refusing to meet and by naming their lawyers. When one of the lawyers did ask agent Boone or Lundgren what they wanted, they replied; "We only wanted to know their opinion of the 'peace process' in Ireland." So having encountered a lawyer instead of their targets, the agents' zeal evaporated. Never, ever allow the FBI to engage you in conversation. Here's why: Your uttered words give them their opening. They will falsely claim that you made self-incriminating statements. They will fabricate a report that includes "your" self-incriminating words, sign their "attestation" that the report is true, and then use that report to falsely charge you with crime. They will cover for mass murderers, will even supply the weapon to a murderer as part of their plan to frame you for the murder. Later in court they will casually commit perjury to send you to prison for the rest of your life. They will have career criminals "testifying" against you in the hope of leniency for their crimes. It is the settled policy of both MI5 and the FBI to commit such crimes. They perpetrated these crimes and many, many more, also in federal court in Chicago, with total impunity, against me and four others. When FBI-directed North Shore policemen Keel and John Fay asked to meet me one morning at six o'clock I made the error of allowing them into my condo. I did so because they had spent a few days lounging around the lobby of my building telling everyone that a mass murder suspect named Fogarty lives in the building. When I learned this I had faxed a letter to the Win-

netka police station telling them to get serious and pursue the murderer and to stop making politics of it; but without result. I also thought that if they were acquainted with the record of actual terrorist murders in the Anglo-Irish conflict that they would start opposing terrorism instead of abetting it. But they responded to indisputable proof that the terrorists are British, not Irish, by going away and fabricating an "investigation report" that framed me for the Langert murders. In it they wrote that they asked me how I would commit a terrorist murder so as to avoid detection and that I answered; "I would use different type bullets in my gun." Following this was typed: "(Note" Different type bullets were found at the murder scene." Thus, case closed. They "quoted" me with info that nobody on Earth could possibly know first hand except the murderer and the crime scene investigators, and I wasn't one of those investigators. I was doomed had the actual murderer, David Biro, not blabbed through his FBI cover (He had used FBI agent Lewis' gun to commit the three murders). The murderer saved me. So never, never let the FBI into your home. And never, never say a word to them except the name of your attorney.

THE IRS obeys MI5/FBI criminals. While framing me for murder (of people I'd never even heard of) and locking my wife Mary, two others and me into the U.S. Correctional Facility at Clark and Van Buren based upon a massively doctored audiotape, The FBI got the IRS to fraudulently charge me with underpaying my IRS taxes by some \$20,000 (on my IRS-exempt El Salvador-earned income). The IRS illegally extorted some \$14,000 from me but ceased further extortion when MI5/FBI crimes ceased. They still refuse to return my money. Separately, the IRS, under the same MI5/FBI influence, settled for \$25,000 a \$million tax debt owed by life-long criminal and MI5/FBI accomplice David Rupert. Rupert owed the \$million of taxes on the proceeds of his embezzlements and frauds winked at by the FBI. MI5/FBI also reportedly paid Rupert \$millions for his participation with MI5/FBI in the Omagh atrocity and for helping them, along with Ireland's media, in the framing of Michael McKevitt in Dublin. After an impoverished lifetime as a fraudster Rupert finally struck it rich from MI5/FBI. He told them what they wanted to hear for their career advancement and they rewarded him with US and UK taxpayers' money.

POLITICAL ARRESTS have resumed in Occupied Ireland as part of the mop-up. While the FBI interrogate

anti-Iraq-war activists in the U.S. their MI5 counterparts interrogate suspected democrats in Occupied Ireland. On Election Day there recently, the RUC arrested two known democracy supporters outside an Omagh vote-counting center. The two were manacled, hustled away and charged. One is a brother of Aidan McAnespie (RIP) of Aghnacloy, Co. Tyrone whom Brit soldiers shot in the back as he entered the local GAA football pitch on the republic side of the border. They had been threatening to kill him for months prior to doing so. The other arrestee is Gerry McGeough, a political candidate, life-long republican and publisher of Hibernia magazine. Through Brit influence, he was held in an underground prison bunker in Germany for four years until being vindicated and released into US custody where he was incarcerated until being extradited to the Brits in Occupied Ireland. He was finally released as part of the general amnesty. Now he faces another trial while the mass murderers remain armed and in uniform. So many RUC men are serial murderers of the Irish that the very RUC who arrested McGeough and McAnespie could well be murderers. They certainly haven't brought their murderer-colleagues to justice.

THE "GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT" is based on a lie. The lie blames British murders on Irish republicans. The identity of each murder victim are all known and recorded, as are the group identities of their murderers. The facts are known by those who live them. Yet pols, the film industry and the news media have convinced most of the world that "IRA terrorism" has been the problem. For the truth see my www.terrorismireland.org, (which, to date, is completed only as to children murdered), or Malcolm Sutton's AN INDEX OF DEATHS FROM THE CONFLICT IN IRELAND: 1969-1993. The terrorismireland.org web site was begun because even those few media that accurately state the total homicides nevertheless fail to distinguish terrorist murders from killings of armed combatants. This omission is crucial; war and war crimes are two different things. News media tend to label all combat deaths of Brit soldiers as murders, and similar deaths of republicans as "just desserts." Ever since the Thatcher/Reagan era democracy-promoters for the Occupied Irish have been denied visitor's visas to the US. This remains in effect; so red flags were raised about Gerry Adams when Pro-Brit congressmen successfully sought a visa for him. At a Lasalle street bookstore Mary and I placed a letter and a book into

Adams' hands. In it we begged him to win America back for Ireland by exposing the Brit lie about "IRA terrorism, and it also informed him that one of his two constant escorts in Chicago was an MI5/FBI agent provocateur. The book we handed him was the aforementioned "Index of Deaths." in case he needed its specificity for his upcoming TV interviews. He did not get rid of his MI5/FBI escort and it was much later when we learned that his second escort was another MI5/FBI agent provocateur. Then, when he not only failed to use his moments on nationwide TV to truthfully identify the terrorists as Brits but went so far as to "confirm" the Big Lie for the Brits. He smirked his acquiescence to the slur "ex-IRA terrorist" that each show host hurled at him and at all who support Irish freedom. When each TV host labeled him an "ex-terrorist" Adams responded by smirking his acquiescence.

THE PEOPLE'S WILL is central to "...government of, by, and for the people," what we claim we have in the U.S. But undisputed polls reveal that by large margins the following political entities want the island of Ireland to be reunited; its partition abolished; 1) the European community; 2) the U.K (England, Scotland, and Wales; 3) the island of Ireland; 4) Ireland's 9-county province of Ulster; and 5) the Occupied Counties of Derry, Fermanagh and Tyrone and hundreds of thousands in the other three counties (Antrim, Armagh, and Down). The one political entity whose majority wants Ireland's partition to continue is the artificial entity of "Northern Ireland," the six counties that the Brits illegally cut out of Ireland in 1920 while threatening "immediate and terrible war." They called it "a Protestant State for a Protestant People." So, despite the expressed will of the people, the outcome, a permanently divided Ireland, is what we still have.

"A 'STEPPING STONE' to Ireland's reunification." That is what Ireland's people were told about the partitioning of Ireland in 1920. Today supporters of British rule in Ireland refer to the current sell-out identically as "stepping stone." The Good Friday Agreement's sixty-seven pages of text were, excepting one-third of a page, comprised entirely of mutually contradictory statements, aspirational posturings and bafflegab. That one-third page of clarity unambiguously called for abolition of Articles 2 and 3 of Ireland's Constitution. Why such clarity amid lunacy? Why such focus? Why was abolition of Articles 2 and 3 part of the current Agreement? Here's why. Article 2 of Ireland's Constitution reads: "The national ter-

Síocháin Raising Cain in the Midwest

There is a new band on the scene out of Indianapolis, Síocháin (pronounced (she a con) and they are starting to perform in the Chicago area. Although the name may mean peace, the band's entertaining music will do more to disturb the peace! Síocháin blends Celtic instrumentation (bagpipes, fiddle, bodhran) in with the high energy of rock to produce some wonderfully powerful music. Síocháin performs music from a wide range of Irish and Scottish groups, along with their own renditions of some of Ireland & Scotland's finest songs.

Within their first year of existence, the band opened for The Fenians and Gaelic Storm. They've performed at the Indy Irish Festival, placed in the top five for People's Choice Awards for favorite festival band and have quickly developed a strong fan base in the Midwest. The band had a great first year and looks to make year two even better!

Rufus Campbell - Electric/Acoustic Guitars, Bagpipes, Whistle

The "senior" in the group, Rufus was born and raised in South Buffalo, New York. He has performed with various music groups throughout his life, touring as a guitarist. About seven years ago he took an interest in learning to play bagpipes and since then has been performing bagpipes solo and with local pipe bands. He may

have lost most of his hair, but he hasn't lost any of his love of playing great Celtic music!

Claudia Campbell - Vocals, Keys, Bodhran

Claudia has also been a performer for most of her life touring as a vocalist. Her birthplace was San Bernardino, California and she spent a good part of her life on the west coast. She provides the up front presence for the group along with Nathan. In addition to her great vocal chops, she also helps out on bodhran and keys. Keeping the boys in the band in line is also one of her great assets to the group.

Cory Carleton - Bass Guitar

They say that bass and drums provide the solid foundation to any group and this is certainly the case with Cory. Cory's experience with several different local groups has earned him high regard in the local music scene. His great musical chops provide a good deal of the driving force behind Síocháin. And besides that, he's a really nice guy!

Nathan Klatt - Fiddle, Mandolin, Vocals

Along with Claudia, Nathan, an is the up front presence to Síocháin. He adds great energy to the band. You never know how he'll be playing fiddle...behind his back, over his head or where he will be playing fiddle... on stage, on a table top, on the floor... Over his 18 years of playing violin, his



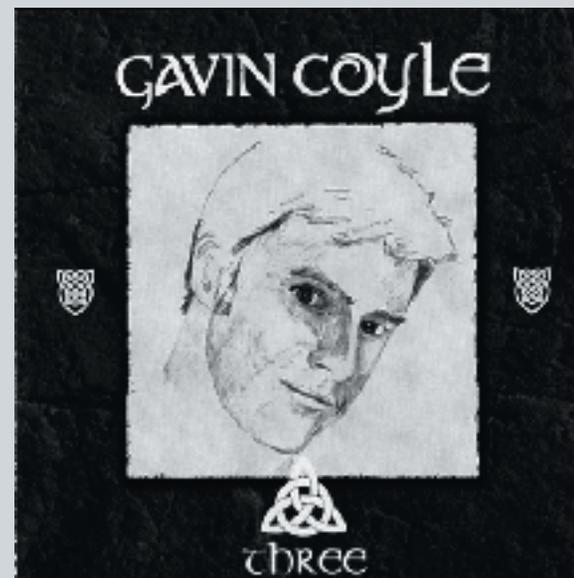
tastes have broadened dramatically, bringing him into the world of Irish music. Ask him what he loves to do and he'll tell you, "I just want to play music!"

Bryan Meyers - Drums, Vocals

Another California native. Talk with Bryan for a few minutes and you'll instantly hear his passion for music. Watch him play and you'll see and experience that passion come to life. Although often hidden behind the band and his drums, you'll always know that Bryan is back there laying down a solid rhythmic beat for the music of Síocháin.

Síocháin, c/o 18085 Kinder Oak Dr., Noblesville, IN 46062-7529, 317-773-8677, 317-450-1995. E-mail: rufuspc@sbcglobal.net

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An accomplished singer and songwriter, Gavin's musical range covers both pop and folk music as well as traditional music from his homeland. His performances often reflect this versatility as he mixes traditional and original compositions. In addition to being an excellent guitarist, he plays several other instruments including the bodhran (an Irish drum) and the flute. www.gavincoyle.com

ritory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas. Its Article 3 reads; "Pending the re-integration of the national territory, and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Eireann and the like extra-territorial effect." Nevertheless, "Stepping stone" is how a Clann na Gael supporter referred to the current sell-out as he entered the Heritage Center this Easter Sunday.

ASK THE QUESTION!! Ask such people, ask Gerry Adams, ask Irish gov't officials, ask one another, ask anyone referring to "stepping stone" or saying that the current agreement will lead to Ireland's reunification. Ask them this; "Exactly how is re-integration of Ireland's Six Counties advanced by abolishing from its Constitution the very two Articles that laid claim to them?"

The Irish must demonstrate that they are not that stupid. The "stepping stone" notion must be decisively and publicly refuted.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org.

WHO ARE the terrorists in the Anglo-Irish conflict? See www.terrorismireland.org.

CAN-TV INTERVIEWS re MI5/FBI crimes and on the Irish Holocaust are accessible by keying in google video section, then Fogarty. Atty. Frank Dávila, a friend of the Irish, interviewed Mary and me. The CAN-TV airing date is not set yet.

PATRICK HICKEY, author of that great book about Leo High School being put to even nobler service has written another. It is CHORITO HOGLEG. Chorito is a cliff on Guam where the Americans were fighting, and hogleg is what the early Colt 45 was called. I hear it is a great read and release is imminent.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Memorial Day Memory

With Memorial Day coming up at the end of the month I thought it was an

appropriate time to honor one departed service member of my acquaintance.

I haven't often thought of Randy McNally, a Northbrook native that I went to school with at Notre Dame.

It's hard to believe that it's been thirteen years since I stood at his freshly dug grave in a small Northbrook Catholic cemetery on a rainy April day. I once attended a military memorial service where the chaplain remarked that when it rains on Memorial Day even God is weeping for the sacrifice.

Everyone was weeping when Randy was buried. He died just weeks prior to a scheduled wedding. His fiancée led the mourners into church. I remember she wore white.

So did Randy, clad in the dress white uniform of a Navy Lieutenant Commander. Rand McNally II... call sign "Atlas" ... was a United Airlines pilot who was killed on Naval Reserve duty when the A-6 bomber he was piloting had a mishap over San Diego. When the aircraft malfunctioned he and his bombardier ejected at the last minute but they were too close to the ground. Ironically an article on flight safety authored by Randy appeared in a Navy publication posthumously.

Standing at the grave that cold rainy day in 1994 I promised myself that I would return to check on him from time to time, but knowing I would have plenty of company. That's the best excuse I can come up with for having never returned the promise.

A Laughing Irishman

I first met Randy on a warm hot August in 1978. We were both in Fr. Miceli's Intro to the Bible class our freshman year at Notre Dame. Randy had an infectious laugh and a constant twinkle in his eye beneath a shock of long red hair and an endless pattern of Irish freckles.

Constantly kidded about his name with the inference that he was an heir to the fortune of the famous map company, his father shared his gregarious good humor. The McNallys lived as neighbors to my uncle in Northbrook and we would run into them at church and family events. His dad, Rand the First, was a

plastic surgeon in town. My father would kid him about the bags under his eyes and say "Why don't you fix them?" "No way," Randy's dad replied. "It hurts likes Hell!!"

Young Randy was the last guy I would have suspected to go into the military so I was quite surprised when I found out he signed up for the Marine Corps officers candidate program near the end of his time at Notre Dame.

He would go on to serve in the Persian Gulf war and like some in his age group, transfer from the Marines to the Navy as available flying slots were reduced at the end of the Cold War.

Moving up the ladder as a commercial pilot and about to be married at age 33, he had his whole life ahead of him. Then it was over without warning.

Birthday Blues

I woke up a few months back on my birthday feeling decidedly low. A job hunt was going nowhere fast and to make matters worse, no one in my family remembered it was my day. That special feeling of a new day and a lifetime ahead was missing for the first time. I felt trapped and had a hard time seeing what made life worth living.

Then it occurred to me. What if I hadn't been granted the chance of a new day? Or the chance to experience marriage or growing older with my parents and siblings?

Randy immediately came to mind and the promise I'd made to return and visit his grave.

Since I was back home in Northbrook I decided I'd go out and pay my respects. I figured after little more than a dozen years clean fresh grave marker would be easy to find.

It wasn't. Fortunately Catholic Cemeteries of

Chicago gave me the exact location of the grave when I called from my cell phone. But I was shocked to find how much time had changed things. The rich green sod had covered over the lower third of the marker along with a pile of stray fall leaves, along with a thin layer of rain water.

I got the impression that there hadn't been a visitor for some time. Hard to believe when there had been hundreds at the funeral, but family and friends had moved away and time marched on for those who had time to mark.

How could I so selfishly feel sorry for myself when someone lay so seemingly forgotten? In this world at least there would be no promise of a new day for Randy. I suddenly realized what a great gift I had.

Clean Sweep

I decided to clean things up for Randy in a spirit of gratitude and reverence for his sacrifice and those of his many loved ones. I swept away the leaves, pulled back the grass and brushed the rainwater aside.

A trip to the local Ace Hardware netted a small U.S. flag and I dropped by the grocery store to purchase a flower. A white rose seemed appropriate thinking of him in his whites.

This Memorial Day if you drive by a cemetery you might pull in and take a look for the flags adorning the graves of veterans. You'll get a sense of the bittersweet contribution of almost every generation. And a renewed sense to become all you were created to be, one day at a time.

Jim McClure is a freelance writer in Northbrook, Illinois. E-Mail: JimMcClure71@aol.com



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Good Fridays and Midnight Choirs

Good Friday. On this day every public house in the country is closed. It's one of those days that, although I always find it relaxing, it also irritates me. Even now, in the 21st Century, the dictates of Holy Mother Church hold sway over the politicians who have long ago been allowed to forget that they were supposed to work for the people. Of course, it's only one day, but I hate orders and the thought that choice has been refused me because of some antediluvian law sticks in my craw. I also wonder what the tourists must make of it. Still, the weather this day is absolutely beautiful, so it's hard to be annoyed. I'm above Oranmore in County Galway, walking through the Renville Woods and as always, as one comes through them to look out over the Bay, it's impossible not to be happy. Even on a cold and misty morning this is a wonderful walk; but on a sunny day like this, and still early, it is truly beautiful. There is a small development here called Renville Village, but apart from that it's quiet and peaceful; and I remember why I came here five years ago from Dublin. Even so, Oranmore is already developing at an enormous pace. At this rate I'll find myself moving to Connemara.

Incredibly, even if some thirsty tourists were allowed to drink in a bar, they wouldn't be able to get ice in their drink. Not unless the owner had brought it in from Limerick, miles to the south. For months now it hasn't been possible to drink the water in the entire Galway area, an area comprising some 90,000 people, as it is so badly polluted. All water must be boiled or bottled. The expense and difficulty this must bring to elderly people living alone doesn't bear thinking about. Even the expense to those with large families must be considerable. In hotels and guesthouses there are signs telling you not even to brush your teeth with the tap water! And this has been going on for months-and, our incompetent masters tell us, will have to go on for many months to come. Perhaps, because this shower of wasters will (hopefully) be booted out in the upcoming election (although, whisper it-who will we replace



them with?) they have just decided to commit some interesting new species of mass political suicide by wiping out tourism in this part of the west of Ireland. Nor are they the only

ones who should be hanging their heads. Take a bow, any farmers who have been dumping their slurry into the fields that give us our vegetables. I may sound angry and if that is so it's only because I happen to find this a wonderful place to live, with people that I like and who don't deserve what the clowns who have been allowed to govern for far too long are doing to them. For the horrific fact is that this need not have happened. Our masters have known about this since 1995 when Dr. Roderick O'Sullivan warned them that samples he had taken showed chemical pollution. Cryptosporidium is what the papers are mentioning most, but apart from this parasite, we're talking about E. coli and untreated human waste. But the County Council? Dr. O'Sullivan must have felt like Chief Brody in "Jaws" as they assured everyone that, "No, it's just a mistake, Chief Brody. The water is fine", before they got hit with something that would make a great white shark look like your best pal. Also reminiscent of Spielberg's classic are the radio commercials: "Galway is open for business." And before you start blinking, rubbing your eyes and wondering if you're down that rabbit hole again, no. This is not some tasteless April Fool number. This is Ireland in the 21st Century I'm talking about. At this rate we'll be seeing the re-introduction of medieval diseases! Even worse, the money has been there to put an end to this for the last five years. As of today nobody seems to know where it is. Maybe the shark took it, Your Honour.

I've been extremely privileged in the last few years that my work has let me travel to a great many countries, but I never thought I would see what I'm seeing this week. There are queues in certain supermarkets that are allowing people free uncontaminated water if they bring along empty containers. Queuing for drinkable water! This is appalling and shameful in a country boasting that it is "awash with money". Then it was confirmed that the Limerick region has experienced an outbreak of a "vomiting bug". Wards are closed off and the public asked to ring Regional Hospital before visiting there. Yet our beloved politicians wring their hands and vent their spleen on the nurses of Ireland who begin

strike action a week from now. In my opinion, justified. You couldn't pay these people enough, especially as we know how much money has been hemorrhaging into the pockets of bent politicians in the last decades.

Perhaps Queen Elizabeth's new Knight of the Realm, given his honorary award last week, could help out with our polluted water problem. Arise, Sir Bono, and look westward! Perhaps not. There's other work for U2's Caped Crusader to do. Work that gives better photo opportunities.

I walked back into Oranmore and thought of the couple of articles I had to have written by evening. Then I made a mistake: I read the opening chapter of Gene Kerrigan's superb novel, "The Midnight Choir" and that was it for the next few hours. Start this and you will not want to put it down. For years Kerrigan has been one of the most fearless and outspoken journalists in this land. He has been unceasing in his attempts to show the reality behind the cosy image of itself that Ireland likes to give. He is also the author of a charming childhood memoir, "Another Country". This is a million miles away from the bitter likes of "Angela's Ashes". Here are memories of a contented, though tough time, and of a loving and loved mother. Last year he showed himself to also be a terrific writer of fiction with "Little Criminals". But with "The Midnight Choir" (Harvill Secker) he has outdone himself. This is writing in the best of the American hard-boiled tradition, yet gives a perfect snapshot of contemporary Ireland: the corrupt politicians, the untouchable crooks in suits, the growing feeling of venal greed and the quiet desperation of the poor who have fallen through the cracks. It follows a policeman who is trying, in his own flawed way, to do the right thing. As well as being

an outstanding thriller it throws up huge moral dilemmas. Highly recommended, as they say.

Now, if you don't mind, I have to go. I have some water to boil.

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Gaelic Park
Irish Festival May 25th
Through May 28th
 Continued from page 5

around for more than 5,000 years, is a physically challenging game, requiring great skill and is very exciting to watch. This year, the Chicago St. Brendan's Football Club and the San Francisco Celtic Football Club face off on Saturday, May 26th, beginning at 2 p.m. with youth games also played on Sunday, May 27th beginning at 1 p.m. The winners of both games will be awarded the Gaelic Park Festival Cup.

Kid's Fun
 This year's Irish Fest offers lots of kid friendly fun at a low price. Have your kids compete in the Red Hair & Freckle Face Contest or enroll your darling in the Bonnie Baby Contest. There are also puppet and magic shows, storytelling, face painting, a petting zoo, free pony rides, and the huge carnival midway with unlimited rides, rides, rides. It's all at Irish Fest to keep your kids busy. All of these activities are included in the kids 12 and under admission price of \$12. Kids under 3 are admitted free of charge.

Irish Dog Exhibition
 Irish Fest celebrates the best in Irish culture

and heritage and this year is no exception with the all new 1st Annual Irish Fest Irish Dog Exhibition.

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This year, Chicago Gaelic Park brings in Irish dog breeds for the 1st Annual Irish Fest Irish Dog Exhibition. All of the breed contestants will participate in a parade after the exhibition throughout Irish Fest for all to see.

Call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more details or visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



became our pet name for her, whenever she wasn't around. Kitty wasn't too impressed with our digs

I watched her on TV when I was a kid, "What's My Line" and "To Tell the Truth". She was the lady in the evening gown whose name, "Kitty", belied her high society sophistication. I never dreamed then that I would some day mortify her guests with my raunchy behavior at a party in her home. Kitty Carlisle was Broadway royalty and as close to the monarchy that I would ever get.

I was tapioca when my sons were born in New York in 1980 and I cooked up a scheme to teach producing to make some quick cash. I put an ad in Variety for my "Off-Broadway Producer's Seminar" and ten suckers... I mean students... signed up for the class. Each student filled out a questionnaire detailing their background in show business and answered a series of my questions to determine if they had any dough. I glanced through them and was pleased to discover that one of my students was the son of the late, legendary playwright and director Moss Hart. Jackpot!

Chris Hart was the same age as me and we became partners in producing and pals for the rest of our lives. I tried to get my hands on his silver spoon and wound up with stardust. I learned far more from him over the years than any tricks I taught. Trusting his taste, I asked him to direct "Goin' East on Ashland". He made it a hit.

Chris and I spoke on the phone just last week when the news hit that his mother, the indomitable Kitty Carlisle Hart, died at the age of 96. She had an astonishing career in opera, theatre, TV, and films, and even appeared as the ingénue in the Marx Brothers comedy "A Night at the Opera". Broadway dimmed their lights in her honor the night after she died.

Back in the early eighties Chris Hart, Frank Cento and I had an office on Broadway, producing comedies and living one as well. I first met his mother, Kitty Carlisle Hart, when she dropped by to check out our space. I was a little intimidated by this doyenne of the American theatre visiting our dumpy headquarters. She was chairwoman of the NY State Council of the Arts then and her power was palatable. Frank Cento dubbed her "The Kittser" that day, and it

but deemed them decent as she gazed out the window looking down on "the street of dreams". She pointed out theatres below where she had starred in some of the all time classics of Broadway. She called each of us "darling" and wanted to know our plans. We had optioned a play about a reunion of Gerry Ford, Nixon, and Gordon Liddy playing poker in Ford's basement entitled "The Basement Tapes". The Kittser rattled off a list of potential investors for us and left Chris with a kiss on the cheek. We were in business, show business!

Basement Tapes opened at the Village Gate in September of '83. Since most of our investors were her friends, Kitty Carlisle hosted our opening night party at her lavish home on Madison Avenue in Gotham. My brother Bobo was in town for the show and he came to the Kittser's house with me that night. We drank with Swifty Lazar and he told us the show had "legs" while Arlene Francis, Martin Gable and dozens of other show biz personalities schmoozed with the cast. That was Kitty's crowd. At her daughter Kathy's wedding I met Claudette Colbert, Betty Comden & Adolph Green, and a guy who introduced himself as "Hi I'm Hugh Carey and this is my wife Angie."

It was none other than the Governor of New York who had just married the Greek condo tycooness from Chicago before discovering

that he was her fourth husband. She looked at me like I was something on the bottom of her shoe and pulled Hugh away into the crowd.

On opening night it's customary to wait for the reviews to come in and the first one was on television. The TV critic, a mope by the name of Stuart Klein, thought he would be funny by doing a Nixon impersonation to open his review of The Basement Tapes. All the luminaries huddled into Kitty's den to watch the review. Klein came on the tube with his Tricky Dick, "Let me make one thing perfectly clear...this show stinks!"

The rest of his review was even worse and the air was sucked right out of that room as we watched in stunned horror. That's when my old south side instincts kicked in and I screamed at the TV, "F--- you! You f---in' #%*^#!"

Jaws dropped collectively.

My lovely wife Mary grabbed me at that point and said, "We better get out of here." As we walked to the elevator, one of Kitty's gentlemen friends said to me, "I don't think those words have ever been uttered in this house."

While I may have shocked her guests that night I never heard a complaint from the Kittser. Chris and I kept on producing flops but the Kittser was always encouraging. I was up for a job in Chicago with the Illinois Arts

Council and she sent them a telegram extolling my talents. She said, "What do you want me to tell them, Houli darling?"

Kitty Carlisle was performing her one-woman show up until just weeks before her death. Show Business will never see her like again, a 96-year-old grand dame singing and dancing her heart out onstage. She touched more than a million hearts and I was lucky enough to be one of them.



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SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers



Tony Duggins stops talking mid-sentence and with his cell phone in hand begins throwing up in the dressing room of the Pearl Room in Mokena.

Of course, I had no idea what was actually occurring. Onemoment, he was talking about playing with The Pogues, and the next all I hear is sounds of coughing, spitting and choking. Duggins returns about a minute later and apologizes. I ask him if he's OK. He is, but quickly leaves the conversation again to finish the job. When he comes back to the phone the second time, he continues the interview as if nothing had happened.

It's ironic that he and I were talking about The Pogues when the incident occurred because it's easy to see that Duggins has a bit of Shane MacGowan in him. When I first featured Duggins about year ago in Sharing a Pint, I began to see some of it. Duggins enjoys a pint and a smoke; he says what's on his mind; he's well-versed in Irish literature, film and music; and his greatest loves are writing and singing music.

Now while interviewing him for the second time—the release of The Tossers' newest album Agony being the reason behind the catch-up—I notice the similarities even more so. Duggins even makes a bit of hiss-like sound when laughing that reminds me of MacGowan.

It's no surprise that MacGowan and The Pogues influenced Duggins and The Tossers.

"When I first heard them, I thought this music was cool," said Duggins with a laugh. "That's how I felt about them. It was beautiful. It was really beautiful."

Duggins had met MacGowan a few times over the years. The Tossers played once before Shane MacGowan and The Popes went on for a show in Chicago.

"He's very nice," Duggins said. "He's very kind. I shot the (bleep) with him. He's down to earth. Whenever I've met him, he doesn't say a lot. He doesn't say what's not worth saying."

With MacGowan and The Pogues reuniting for a March tour in the States this year, The Tossers thought they'd see if there was any



chance opening for them one night. Duggins doubted it because usually The Pogues don't include other Irish bands on their ticket.

This time, though, they decided they would. To make it even more special, The Pogues invited The Tossers to play St. Patrick's Day in New York City with them.

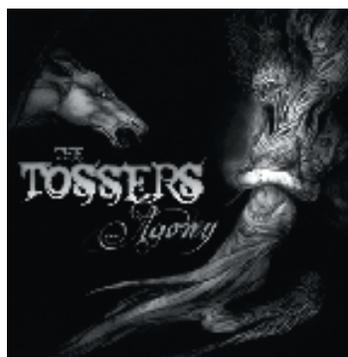
"It was unreal," Duggins said. "It was like a dream. I don't want to be corny about it. I love

New York. It's a beautiful town. The Pogues were there. I love them. I live and breathe them. That sounds corny, too."

It was shortly after this that Duggins began vomiting. Later I discovered, he had spent the previous night on the town drinking with his South Side friends while taking some time off from the band's tour.

Throughout March, The Tossers traveled the country performing with The Reverend Horton Heat and Murder by Death. Duggins described the tour as, "(Bleeping) amazing. It never got boring. I swear to God it was the best tour we've been on. I could tell the band got closer. We enjoyed our company more."

It helped that The Tossers were pleased with their newest album and their fan base is ever growing. On their MySpace page, people's messages range from home in Chicago to Florida to Kansas City.



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Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan



Take in a Chicago Tradition at Butch McGuire's

In every city, there seems to be one place where everybody knows your name. A measuring stick of the pub scene of that particular time and geographic location. The very name of Butch McGuire's is synonymous with Chicago's friendly reputation. A place where regulars have gathered for 45 years and out-of-towners have been assured a warm Chicago welcome by a friendly staff headed up by Butch himself.

Sadly, cancer claimed the life, but not the spirit, of this former-Beverly-turned-north-sider last spring. A little piece of Chicago died with Robert Emmett "Butch" McGuire that day, as mourners walked behind the hearse the five blocks from the pub to Holy Name Cathedral, in true Irish tradition. The biggest funeral the city had seen in decades ensued after the mass, back at the pub, spilling out onto the closed-down Division Street, all afternoon and evening, until the wee hours of the

morning. Visitors like Tom and Nancy Hoffman, who had met at the pub some thirty years before turned out to pay their respects and toast to a man so appreciative of his patrons and visitors, that he is credited with inventing the singles-bar concept, after borrowing \$560 from his mother to open the pub. In the early days, any female customer could be assured a seat anywhere in the pub, per the tone that Butch set. The staff claims that over 6,500 marriages have come out of here.

The memory echoes loudly still, however, through regular regulars (some as long as 40 years regular), but mainly through Butch's son, Bobby, who now manages the friendly and rowdy public house. The place has always had a strong reputation for brunch, and it speaks for itself in the neighborhood between 8 and 4 on Saturdays, and 11 and 4 on Sundays. Eggs are served several different creative ways in the forms of benedict, burritos and skilletts, but most famously the Garbage Omelette, featuring tomato, onion, green pepper, ham bacon, spinach, olives and

four cheeses. The very versatile collection of ingredients can also be made into a burrito. Most entrees are accompanied by corned beef hash, Canadian bacon, Irish hash browns and bread. Veggies can be substituted to lower the carb count.

If you roll in after brunch, however, or during the week, the regular menu is nothing to shake a stick at, either. For starters, check out the combo plate of mini sliders, reubens and mini pork roast sandwiches. If not, the usuals of wings, nachos, quesadillas and soon-to-be-famous cheese mozzarella sticks won't disappoint you.

With 23 drafts, you might have a hard time picking one, since there are a few found on tap here that aren't found everywhere else. Fat Tire, PBR, Old Style and LaBatt's Blue aren't always on the beer menu, so enjoy the novelty of drinking a draft of one of these in an Irish pub. To drain your suds, investigate one of the several sandwiches or excellent burgers (beef or veggie). All meats are off the bone, making them hearty choices...better than your typical pub sandwich, and are served with fries, coleslaw, applesauce or veggies. The chili has green peppers, onions, tomatoes and celery in it, giving it a twist of almost sweetness.

While the food here is above average for this type of place, unless you're here for the weekend brunch, it's probably not what will draw you in. This is possibly Chicago's most ornately decorated Irish pub. Decorations have been made by the same person for the last 40 or so odd years and change three times a year. Paper mache leprechauns and a zillion green lights and other paraphernalia hang from the ceiling. Everywhere you look there is something to notice. The Christmas train, which my parents' generation still talks about, can be seen each holiday season, along with several other thousand decorations. Step into the second room (the one just west of the main bar), to see an impressive nautical theme. Supposedly an antique shop before becoming part of the pub, you'll feel as though you've come aboard an Irish vessel. All dark wood, it echoes quieter fishing days along Ireland's west coast, but can get boisterous when the game-watching crowd files in at night.

For a warm Irish welcome in a true

Chicago tradition, visit Butch McGuire's at 20 W. Division St. (on Division between Dearborn and State) 11-4 daily and 8-5 on Saturday. Red line Clark and Division, bus #36 Broadway (312)337.9080.

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

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 me 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 that 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 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



Vice Consul Hilary O'Brien, Minister Noel Dempsey, Daryl Britten and Mrs. Dempsey prior to boarding the barges for the River Parade in San Antonio, Texas on March 18, 2007. Photo by Joan Moody.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



STRIVE Act of 2007

The STRIVE Act which was introduced last month by Representatives Gutierrez (D) & Flake (R) is a serious and honest proposal to fixing our broken immigration system. This comprehensive approach to what has become a very contentious issue deserves our support. Following is an overview of what is in all a 700-page document! Let's hope and pray that this legislation gets the bipartisan support it deserves to make it become law.

Overview of the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act of 2007

Title I: Securing Our Borders

Sets certification requirements that must be met before implementation of the New Worker Program and the program to legalize undocu-

mented individuals. The Secretary of DHS must certify to Congress that improvements in border surveillance technology are being implemented; that the systems and infrastructure necessary to carry out improvements to immigration document security are ready to use; and that the first phase of the Electronic Employment Verification System requiring the participation of critical infrastructure employers has been implemented.

- Increases border and other enforcement personnel, including port of entry inspectors, immigration and customs enforcement investigators and border patrol
- Accelerates technology and border infrastructure, including unmanned aerial vehicles, cameras, poles, sensors, and other technologies necessary to achieve operational control of the border
- Requires DHS to develop a national strategy for border security and com-

prehensive plan for surveillance of the international land and maritime borders of the United States

- Requires the U.S. to work with Mexico to address border security, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and gang activity.
- Requires DHS to make biometric data enhancements to travel documents and provide Customs and Border Protection officers with training on document fraud detection and identification.

Title II: Strengthening Interior Enforcement

- Expands the types of crimes and increases penalties related to passport, visa and document fraud
- Enhances criminal penalties for aliens associated with money laundering
- Increases criminal penalties associated with firearms offenses for aliens
- Creates new immigration penalties for aliens convicted for drunk driving and gang crimes
- Increases criminal penalties associated with alien smuggling
- Enhances the criminal penalties associated with the unauthorized employment of aliens
- Allows DHS to detain certain aliens with removal orders beyond the 90 day removal period
- Enhances the address reporting requirements under the immigration law
- Requires DHS to significantly increase the number of facilities for the detention of aliens (at least 20 additional detention facilities that have the capacity to detain 20,000 aliens)
- Clarifies the authority of state and local law enforcement to enforce criminal immigration laws

Title III: Bolstering Employment Verification

- Sets up an employment verification system for employers to verify each new hire's authorization to work.
- The new system will eventually apply to all workers and all new hires, and will be rolled out in phases, beginning with critical infrastructure employers and large employers.
- Creates significant civil penalties for employers who do not comply with the requirements under the new system and establishes serious criminal penalties for knowingly hiring unauthorized aliens. Debars employers who repeatedly violate these provisions from government contracts, grants, and agreements.
- Includes privacy safeguards. Limits the data that can be collected and stored in the database and requires the agencies to develop the system with maximum security and privacy protections. Requires the agencies to evaluate impact of system from a privacy perspective and complete privacy

impact statements. Prohibits creation of a national identification card.

- Includes anti-discrimination provisions. Forbids employers from using the new system to discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of nationality. Prohibits employers from terminating employment due to a tentative non-confirmation, using the system to screen employees prior to offering employment, or using the system selectively.

Title IV: New Worker Program That Reflects Realities Of Our Workforce

Worker Visa Program:

Creates a legal channel for future immigrant workers (and their spouses and children) by establishing the H-2C visa, which is valid for three years and renewable for another three. Employers must attempt to hire U.S. workers by first offering the job to any eligible U.S. worker who applies and is qualified and able. To achieve this, employers must go through a rigorous recruitment process. Employers are barred from hiring new immigrant workers if they are located in an area with an unemployment rate higher than 9 percent for workers whose education level is at or below a high school diploma.

The visa program has an initial cap of 400,000 that adjusts yearly based on market fluctuations. Requires H-2C immigrants who are unemployed for more than 60 days to leave the United States. Includes the following labor rights and protections for H-2C workers: fair and competitive wages, the ability to travel outside the United States, whistleblower protections, flexibility to change employers ("portability"), an opportunity to apply for conditional permanent residence after five years of employment and eventual citizenship, if desired, among other protections.

Requirements to be Met by Applicants for an H-2C Visa: Applicants will need to:

- demonstrate job qualifications and provide evidence of a job offer from a U.S. employer.
- complete criminal- and terrorism-related background checks.
- pay a \$500 application fee.
- undergo a medical exam.
- show admissibility to the U.S. (certain bars to admission related to undocumented status may be waived; security and criminal related bars may not be waived).

Earned Citizenship: Provides new workers (and their spouses and children) with an opportunity to apply for conditional permanent residence and eventual citizenship. The immigrant may apply through an employer or by self-petition after working for 5 years and paying a \$500

application fee.

- Requirements for Earned Citizenship
- show physical presence in the U.S. and evidence of employment.
 - complete criminal and security background checks.
 - pay \$500 application fee.
 - meet English and civic requirements.
 - show admissibility (certain bars to admission related to undocumented status are waived; security- and criminal-related bars may not be waived).
- Title V: Reforming A Broken Visa System In A Way That Protects Families**

The STRIVE Act overhauls the family-based and employment-based immigration system to reduce backlogs and inefficiencies. The legislation provides opportunities for high skilled workers to come to, and remain in, the U.S. It also addresses employment needs in shortage occupations, such as nursing.

Title VI: Earned Legalization For Qualified, Hardworking Individuals

Visa Program for Qualified Undocumented Workers:

Creates a new visa program (conditional nonimmigrant status) for undocumented immigrants and their spouses and children in the U.S., which is valid for six years. Provides conditional nonimmigrant visa applicants with work and travel authorization and protection from removal. Provides certain immigrants in removal proceedings, facing removal, or ordered to depart voluntarily with an opportunity to apply for conditional nonimmigrant status. Bars related to undocumented status will be waived (security and criminal bars cannot be waived);

Requirements for Conditional Nonimmigrant Status:

- Establish continuous presence in the U.S. on or before June 1, 2006;
- Attest to employment in the U.S. before June 1, 2006 and employment since that date (and submit related documentation);
- Complete criminal and security background checks;
- Pay a \$500 fine plus necessary application fees (fine exemption for children).

Other Criteria for Conditional Non-immigrant Status:

- The individual must not be ineligible to receive a visa pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- The individual has not been convicted of a felony or three or more misdemeanors;
- The individual has not participated in the persecution of another person on account of race, religion, national-

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In Chicago, Pat performs with the groups Bohola and Moore & Broaders, and has performed and recorded with Liz Carroll, Dennis Cahill, Kat Eggleston, Martin Hayes, Larry Nugent, Paddy O'Brien, Robbie O'Connell and John Williams.

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ity, membership in a particular social group or political opinion;

- The individual has not been convicted by final judgment of a particularly serious crime and there are no reasonable grounds for believing that the alien has committed a particularly serious crime abroad before arriving in the U.S.; and

- There is a penalty of up to five years' imprisonment for anyone who willfully falsifies information in an application for conditional nonimmigrant status.

Earned Citizenship:

Provides qualified conditional nonimmigrants and their spouses and children with an opportunity to apply for lawful permanent resident status (green card) and eventual citizenship. Applicants go to the back of the line for permanent visas; the current immigrant backlogs must be cleared before qualified conditional nonimmigrant visa applicants (and their families) can adjust to permanent resident status. Immigrants who adjust from a conditional nonimmigrant visa (including dependents) to lawful permanent resident status shall not be counted against the worldwide numerical visa caps.

Requirements for Earned Citizenship:

- Meet employment requirements during the six-year period immediately preceding the application for adjustment;

- Pay a \$1,500 fine plus application fees;

- Complete criminal and security background checks;

- Establish registration under the selective service (if applicable);

- Meet English and civic requirements;

- Undergo a medical examination;

- Pay all taxes;

- Show admissibility to the U.S.; and

- Meet a "Legal Reentry" requirement during the six-year period in conditional nonimmigrant status but no later than 90 days before filing an application for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status. Paperwork processing is performed in the U.S. An exit and re-entry through any port-of-entry is required. Limited exceptions apply.

Title VI also includes the DREAM Act of 2007 and AgJOBS Act of 2007.

Title VII: Miscellaneous

The bill also would increase resources for the immigration court system, provides relief for immigrant victims of the 9-11 attacks and their families, and facilitates naturalization for members of the armed forces.

Golf

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support will hold its 7th annual fundraising Golf Tournament on Sat 16th June at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club. St. Andrews is located at 3 N441 Route 59 West Chicago. (1/4 mile N. North Ave. on route 59). Anyone who is willing to support us either by playing on the day or by sponsorship should please contact Brendan Magee at 312-337-8445 for further details. We thank you for your generous support in the past and hope that you can join us for what has become a very popular outing.

Retreat

By the time this article reaches you the reader I hope to be in the midst of my annual retreat. Priests are obliged to make an annual retreat, a time apart to quiet the mind, relax the body, refresh the spirit and recharge the batteries. I realize that this is for many a luxury which you may not be able to take, either because of lack of time or lack of means.

Think of a retreat as a gift to yourself - a way to step aside from everyday concerns to relax and care for your soul. A retreat is a quiet time spent at an inn-like facility usually within a three-hour driving distance from the city. Once you settle in, you will find the surroundings comfortable and homely. You will be surprised how much you have in common with others who join you at the center.

The meals are usually home-style and nourishing. The program is casual and stimulating. The experience is reflective and spiritual. There are an enormous variety of retreat centers settings, from the high desert to the Oceanside. The beauty of the grounds and landscapes will assure you that you are walking on holy ground.

The kind of retreat you are searching for depends on your own personal journey through life. At times we feel a need for solitude and the chance to be alone. At other times discussion and reflection with a group would be more suitable. Sometimes a weekend is all the time available for retreat, and again others need a week or more.

For me I prefer the solitude of a monastery where I can spend most of my time in silence and meditation. It is something I look forward to very much each year and an event I would highly recommend to anyone.

As always should you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at: 312-337-8445 or Cell. 773-677-5341 or E-mail: siochan@catholic.org

Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: Mars will be in your home turf mid-month in May 2007. You will be able to use this energy to further your pet projects well beyond this month into the end of June. Strike while the iron is hot! This unique opportunity will not recur for another two years!

TAURUS: This is your only month all year when a new moon will happen in your home sign of Taurus. You should make the best of this time and foster some activity that is near and dear to your future. If this is your birthday month you should be especially lucky.

GEMINI: Mid-month may bring a welcome but brief respite from the stress of life forming some positive but temporary aspect that will afford you a short respite. You deserve a break from whatever ails you.

CANCER: Venus, the planet of everything sweet, is entering your home sign this month and stays till next month. This will afford you a small vacation from some situations that you find onerous. Nobody can live in a constant state of stress so these times should be a source of comfort.

LEO: Expect the unexpected with the combo of Saturn, Jupiter, and Uranus in perfect combination to form planetary geometry that may result in something extraordinary! The month of May '07 could bring a bonanza of financial or personal areas for you.

VIRGO: The new moon of May 07' will bring you some reprieve from some of the pressing issues that have been dominating your life lately. This is one of only three new moons all year that are so inclined to assist you in this way. Make the best of this time.

LIBRA: The planets conspire in May 07' to bring you some chances for romantic or some pleasure that you may have missed for some time. If you are unattached you may be in for a pleasant diversion. If you aren't you are still in line for a pleasant surprise!

SCORPIO: You will be challenged by the aspects of May. You are no stranger to controversy or less than

optimum planetary arrangements. Take this all in stride. It is all in a day's work. You will be able to add to your fortress of strength with the planetary arrangement of this month.

SAGITTARIUS: Jupiter and Pluto, are in your house for an extended stay through most of the year until December '07. These two titans of the zodiac could bring you unprecedented luck in the area of your choice.

CAPRICORN: This May will bring you a new moon that will help you in ways you would never anticipate. Only twice a year is there an occurrence of aspects like these that help you, and this is one of them. You could go far now.

AQUARIUS: There are challenging but manageable aspects from the new moon of May '07 to the planets in your sector. You will be able to weather these as you have before. You will always be

From the Hills of Donegal

By Oisín McAuley



On his debut solo album entitled *From the Hills of Donegal*, Oisín McAuley expresses his musical ideas in a way that reflects his highly individual and progressive style of fiddle playing. The collection of songs shows his approach to tradition is an eclectic one, infusing his traditional musical styling with jazz, bluegrass, and classical. McAuley has been a member of the band Danu, known for being a traditional band, since 2001, but you will hear some non-traditional on this album. www.compassrecords.com.

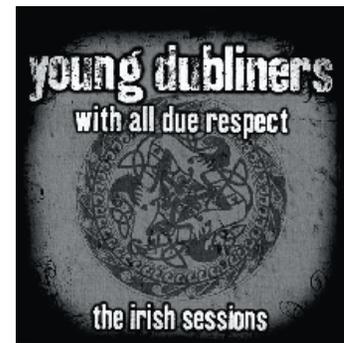
able to come out on top of almost any situation.

PISCES: Like your astrological neighbor Aries, you will soon be bolstered by and influx of new energy from planet Mars. Also your sign is involved in an interesting and helpful combo of several planets. Hurrah!

With All Due

Respect: The Irish Sessions

By The Young Dubliners



429 Records has released *With All Due Respect - The Irish Sessions* which is nothing if not a labor of love for the Young Dubliners. Although better known for their brand of hard-hitting original Celtic rock music, reinterpreting the work of other Irish songwriters takes the band to passionate new heights. What was once a project that seemed to take forever to come to fruition ironically came together in a rapid-fire recording session, retaining a remarkably raw "live" feel. www.youngdubliners.com.

Peacetime

By Eddi Reader



Combining the technique of a classical vocalist with the emotive breadth of a folk singer, Scottish singer Eddi Reader's highly anticipated sixth solo album, *Peacetime*, brings together some of the UK's finest folk musicians to perform a collection of beautifully orchestrated folk-pop masterpieces. The album masterfully melds earthy arrangements with haunting orchestral overtones—all in service of Reader's angelic voice. www.compassrecords.com.

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A Word With Father Boland

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



"There really are a lot of people that must care about me, and that cheers me up. You have helped me so much and I can't thank you enough."

This heartfelt "Thank You" note recently came from a young mother living in one of Catholic Charities' 120 "New Hope" apartments.

I dedicate this letter to you, our readers, because it's not only a mother's story—it is a profoundly touching "Thank You!" to anyone who has ever supported Catholic

Charities. With the advent of Mother's Day and the Catholic Charities Annual Mother's Day Appeal in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago, this "Thank you!" really belongs to each of you.

We'll call her "Annie." Young, homeless, unemployed and escaping an abusive relationship, she and her daughter began a new life—in safety—about a year-and-a-half ago with the help of Catholic Charities' comprehensive support system of excellent services and caring caseworkers.

Annie's "Thank you" letter tells her story: "I never felt like I was truly able to do anything on my own. Over this time (with Catholic Charities), I've learned that my opportunities are endless and I am so excited to keep succeeding."

She has already earned a certificate in computer skills, secured a full-time job she really likes and placed her child in a good, full-time preschool program. With newly developed budgeting skills, she is saving money regularly for the things she and her daughter really need, including a security deposit on their own apartment when she is totally self-sufficient. Annie could not have accomplished these goals on her own without a caring environment and professional guidance.

"I have no idea where I would be right now if I didn't have your help!"

I pass Annie's "Thank you!" along to you, because Catholic Charities cannot do what we do alone. We need your assistance.

When Catholic Charities was founded 90 years ago, during the First World War, our mission was exactly the same as it is

today: to care for the desperately poor families, children, the elderly, veterans, and the homeless and hungry in all the communities of the Archdiocese, regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity, or social or economic background. Individual parishes, even those with heroically hard-working St. Vincent de Paul Societies could no longer meet all the overwhelming needs of poor families, or of the institutions that cared for orphaned, abandoned or abused children or those whose parents could no longer care for them.

Today, Catholic Charities, with the support of the parishes of the Archdiocese, operates 168 programs at 156 locations across Cook and Lake counties, assisting 895,000 people each year. Every hungry family, pregnant teen, homeless individual, or victim of domestic violence or elder abuse who calls for help or comes to a Catholic Charities food pantry, evening supper for the hungry and homeless, child care or counseling center, veterans or senior residence is welcomed and cared for with the charity of Christ.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago serves everyone compassionately, competently and professionally, with the same respect that we show Annie and her child, because the Church believes that human life and dignity come from God. Therefore, we are committed to honoring, preserving and restoring the

human dignity of every person, especially the poorest and most fragile members of the human family.

"Every day that passes I am thankful for your help! I can't wait for the day I am able to help somebody myself."

For 90 blessed years, Catholic Charities has been receiving heartfelt "Thank You's" like Annie's from the people we have helped! Their lives are changed forever. They want to give back. And they never forget Catholic Charities and all the people who helped them.

Yes, Annie, there really are a lot of people who care about you and your daughter!

They are the givers who give from the heart, because they want to serve the poor in a spirit of selfless love. They are the life-givers who treasure and nurture life. It is truly the life-giving generosity and understanding hearts of our donors who enable the work of Catholic Charities to go on. I sincerely thank each of you.

Your charity changes lives and gives new hope to young and old. The miracle of charity is that it changes the giver who gives from the heart. Your charity changes you - and our world - for the better!

Thank you for 90 years of help and hope to mothers and their children! Happy Mother's Day!

For more information about Catholic Charities and its Annual Mother's Day Appeal, visit www.catholiccharities.net

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Jim Sheehy will provide that personal service which only involved and concerned proprietors can offer.

For three generations, The Sheehy Family has prided itself in the service it has rendered to families in one of their most difficult times. As Bob Sheehy has said - "Many families tell us that they never realized that so much was involved. Death is overwhelming for many people and they need time to deal with their grief. They put their trust in us to help them."

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MICK

By Mike Morley

The Celtic Liger

Britain had long warned their man Paisley that March 26 was the final, absolute, "fins", "no nuthin's", make or break, get off the pot, truth or consequences, "we're not foolin' around now, no BS—deadline to agree on entering government; otherwise the fat "peace dividend" carrot would be reeled back in. But when Dr. No pouted that he couldn't possibly be ready until he had powdered his nose a bit longer, Britain escorted him to the powder room and made a big show of drawing up "an emergency bill" and "rushing" it through Parliament. May 8 is the new, new, absolute final deadline.

And, by the time you read this, the wedding should have taken place. Hopes are great for peace and reconciliation—fueled by fat envelopes filled, if not with cash, at least promissory notes, from the proud parents' families. But even before the union is consummated, heralding the birth of the new mule-like cross-species of economic miracle I'm dubbing "The Celtic Liger", there may be glitches. Could the lion be lyin'?

Sir Gordon Brown, the lion's rich uncle and Chancellor of the Exchequer, is dropping broad hints of 'unfunded liabilities' (newspeak for IOU's, with no way to pay them). Sir Reginald Empey of the Orange Lion clan translated for Sir Gordon: "These are in effect unpaid bills which put a dent into the package the Chancellor is offering". All the nominees for Stormont ministries were told on March 22 there were no "unfunded liabilities". Was the British "funny money" holding up the deal?

Paisley seems content. In an April 14 Washington Times interview he said: "If we had more time, I think, we could have gotten an even better deal than we got. But we have got a fairly good deal altogether, considering the great changes that they made to the agreement... And for the first time, the IRA had to swear allegiance to the police. The old-time Republican terrorists had said they would never give allegiance to the police of the United Kingdom."

Asked about the religious issue he said: "Should we be part and



parcel of the United Kingdom, or should we be separated from the United Kingdom and be governed by the majority of the people in the South of Ireland? That is the real issue."

And on Sinn Fein's objective of a united Ireland: "I think that's wishful thinking on their part. They have to say that to try to keep their followers happy... Now that they are prepared to take office in a government that is part and parcel of the United Kingdom and also to take the oath of allegiance to the police, I think they have forsworn general Republican thinking... We have got a deal we were told we couldn't get. It is quite clear to everybody there is going to be no united Ireland for 100 years, at least."

Adams though, is aiming for 2016, the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Speaking of the PSNI (newspeak for RUC) I've been told police have been going 'round warning Sinn Fein councilors about death threats from Loyalist paramilitaries. One of those under threat is a pretty young girl from Ballycastle who spoke at this year's Clann na Gael Easter commemoration—Cara McShane; newly elected councilor for N. Antrim. I can only hope that she and others receive equal protection from the police force they are now choosing to support. Several republicans have been told that documents with details of their police files have been handed over to unionist terror gangs. These groups, unlike the IRA, have not been disarmed.

A factory manager for Wrightbus, Darren Leslie Richardson, has been arrested and charged with UVF membership, and possession of "documents likely to be of use to terrorists"; and a cache of ammunition found at that Ballymena bus plant. In April, Wrightbus won a multi-million pound order from CIE.

CIE?—That's newspeak for Coras Iompair Eireann, or the Irish Transportation System, a corporation wholly owned by the Irish government and run by Ministry of Transport. Will heads roll? I'd suggest transportation, at minimum.

Speaking of Wright (Billy Wright, a.k.a. "King Rat", the insurance salesman, born-again Christian, and UVF founder with the murder of 20 mainly civilian Catholics to his credit) he is at the center of Northern Ireland's first "public" inquiry this month

into "collusion" (newspeak for government conspiracy). Even though the INLA boyos let the air out of Billy just after Christmas of '97, and right in H-block 6 of the Maze Prison, too, he's still able to kick up dust.

Here's how the collusion inquiries, Britain's promised forum for seeking truth and closure following decades of murder, are working: MI5 (the black bag outfit under the well kempt James Bond image) and the British Army are reportedly shredding documents they received from the earlier Stevens Inquiry, which also was supposed to be seeking truth and openness, but after nearly 20 years of investigation, ended up being published as a 19 page "overview". That inquiry, of course, was preceded by the John Stalker inquiry. But not even the title page of Stalker's results was published, and he was later persecuted by the government to boot.

So, we have literally tons of evidence collected over decades, boiled down into thousands of pages of reports which have never seen the light of day, and victims' families still clamoring for some kind of justice from "Great" Britain.

There is "peace", at least on the Republican side, and another "independent" inquiry. What a great opportunity to put it all to rest. The Prison Service, which is suspected of helping the INLA prisoners shoot Wright down, admits that "hundreds of key documents relating to the LVF leader's murder have been lost or destroyed." The Army and MI5 are demanding more documents, but the Stevens team is reluctant, and digging in. Can they hold fast?

Canadian judge Peter Cory headed a commission to recommend what to do about the many murders done by paramilitaries, allegedly with government help. Cory recommended new, fully independent (this time) inquiries. It seemed a victory for the victims' families. But Britain, as always, had another shoe to drop, another card to play. The new catch-22 was the Inquiries Act, signed by the Queen in July 2005. That act gives British ministers broad powers over inquiries.

Judge Cory: "I cannot contemplate any self-respecting Canadian judge accepting an appointment to an inquiry constituted under the new proposed Act". Lord Saville, who headed the Bloody Sunday Inquiry: "this provision makes a very serious inroad into the independence of any inquiry and is likely to damage or destroy

public confidence in the inquiry and its findings...

But the farce and the felonies go on. If the Stevens Team continues to refuse to hand them additional evidence documents, MI5 and the Army may ask Northern Ireland Secretary Hain to withhold the evidence as "secret" under the Inquiries Act.

This is the same MI5 that is going to take over security in the 6 counties this year. Even former FBI Director Louis Freeh is critical, attacking MI5 in the Wall Street Journal for the agency's "long and painful history" in the North, and decades of "secrecy and deception".

This is a new side of Freeh we haven't seen before, since he had no problem cooperating with MI5 while heading the FBI. Perhaps it's just territorial—It's been suggested that what the US needs is its own version of MI5 to combat domestic terror, an idea that would step on tender T-man toes. Freeh didn't score high on playing well with others.

And politics here at home will become ever so dull if Mr. Shakman has his way. He wants to eliminate all favoritism in hiring. So who works that way... the Postal Service? How many of you got your job from the Sunday Trib? No networking now, ladies. No power lunches. Even though cousin Teddy once headed up the Civil Service, FDR fought its entrenched bureaucracy, finding it a stubborn obstacle blocking his New Deal legislation.

So where does a pol go for support when he can't go to friends in his organization he's helped in the past? Unless he's independently wealthy, he seeks out business help. You saw it this year in Chicago.

It's the Brahmins, like before the Irish came over. So that's progress?

We hire presidents every 4 years—very democratic—right? So, in a country of this size and diversity, what do you think the chances are that out of only 43 we'd have even two presidents sharing a surname, much less eight? And perhaps next year we'll round it out to ten.

And as we write, Dems are grilling Attorney General Gonzalez about firing some lawyers who were actually serving at the discretion of the president. So what's the percentage here? Is it political advantage, payback, a stimulating fight, a fat lawsuit? I'd guess perhaps all of the above. I don't think the lawyers were looking for fast

times in the civil service. Do the Dems imagine the average voter gives a flying forfeiture?

These are the guys people love to hate with jokes like:

How many personal injury attorneys does it take to change a light bulb? Three—one to turn the bulb, one to shake him off the ladder, and the third to sue the ladder company.

Why does the ABA prohibit sex between attorneys and their clients? To prevent the client being billed twice for essentially the same service.

How do you get a lawyer out of a tree? Cut the rope.

What do you call a lawyer with an I.Q. of 75? Your honor.

What's the difference between a tick and a lawyer? The tick quits when you're dead.

And my favorite: What's the difference between a lawyer and a duck? Occasionally a duck will stick its bill up it's a--.

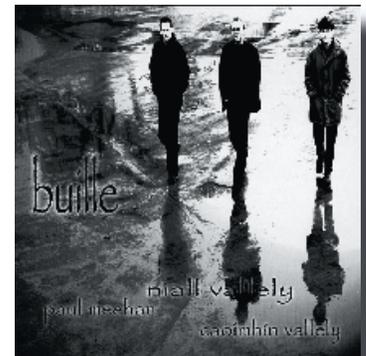
Soon, these too will cease to be PC. I feel the chill from the hill already.

Watch: Irish Journal TV Chicago Cable-can, Channel 19: Monday 7pm, Tues. 2pm
Comcast-(Elmhurst Bills) 41 West Suburbs- Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30 Pm
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Your Guide To The Irish Pubs of Chicago

by Charles Kelley and Jim Molis

This pocket-size passport to the perfect St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl comes to us from Green Line of Boston who announced their premier Chicago edition this year. Extensively researched by the authors, the Guide has food and entertainment write-ups and aside from all the basic information such as location, hours and phone numbers, the book has a popular feature "What's In a Name?" that relates the unique story behind each pub's name. YOURGUIDE™ To The Irish Pubs of Chicago by Charles Kelley and Jim Molis. Green Line Publishing, MA, 2007. ISBN 097030434X; 116 pages; \$9.99.



Jeremy Kittel Band at IAHC

On June 17th, the IAHC welcomes the Jeremy Kittel Band for a concert at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

Fresh from his debut performance at Carnegie Hall, twenty-two year old fiddle player Kittel performs his own captivating blend of Celtic, Jazz, and Bluegrass. He will be joined by his brand-new band, featuring virtuoso guitarist Kyle Sanna, polish-born percussionist Bodek Janke

John Keane Family Benefit

Please assist in aiding a young family facing an uncertain future. John Keane was tragically killed in a workplace accident on September 12, 2006. He is survived by his wife Becky and two young children Aidan and, his daughter, Elizabeth, who was born after this tragedy.

Since this was a workplace accident, it is covered by Workman's Compensation. This state run program which will fall far short of providing a secure future for this young family. There is no third party lawsuit that can be filed.

A benefit to secure the home John worked so hard for, as well as the education of his young children is being held at Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox, Chicago IL on Saturday, June 16, 2007, from 4 P.M. to Midnight.

The evening will be filled with music, dinner buffet, cash bar, raffles, ad book, and silent auction. Please see www.johnfkeane.com.

The Committee is asking for your donation for a silent auction item or to place an ad in the ad book. 773-844-8384 or heneghanl@comcast.net.

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Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



GAA director, General Liam Mulvihill, is the Association's most important figurehead. His comments on matters related to his position always command major attention, especially at Easter. His report covers all aspects of the Association's work during the previous year. Invariably his comments are noted for his common sense approach to the major matters he highlights in his yearly report at the GAA Congress. On the International Rules series he said "I would only be prepared to consider resumption if there are major changes in attitude and in playing rules, where intimidation and thuggery are outlawed and suitably punished. And where match officials are sufficiently qualified and impartial to apply the rules. Proposals are being prepared for the AFL (Australian authorities) and their reaction will probably be the crucial factor in determining if the series is to be resurrected in 2008 or 2009."

On Discipline in the GAA

"My own opinion is that we should

take discipline at inter county level out of the hands of the present administrations entirely and bring in a three person legal Commission to deal with all offences on the field of play. I would retain the DRA to hear appeals against decisions of the Commission. In this way the whole system would be administered more quickly and in a more balanced even handed fashion."

On Time Keeping

"I believe in the next rule change year (2010) that the responsibility for time keeping will be taken away from the referee at inter-county level. The obvious person to carry out this role is the fourth official. I would urge that we consider stopping the clock for breaks in play signalled by the referee for treatment of injured players."

On Hurling

"I believe that the rules of hurling are adequate and that it is a much more fluid game (than football). Probably the biggest discussion relating to hurling will be if it is fair to impose disciplin-

ary rule changes on hurlers which are designed to cope with problems in football. Should we have different disciplinary rules for the two games? Since the rules are set out separately in the rule book, it would be relatively easy to make changes in one and not to do so in the other."

On Sale of GAA properties

"The recent spate of offers being made to GAA units at club and county level to dispose of property in urban centres and to move to an alternative site needs to be given very serious consideration. The initial and understandable reaction is to say that units should cash in on the new opportunity, but a more sober examination of the situation is called for such as location, possible disputes arising from a move, impact on community, available infrastructure and financial matters."

On Club Players

"For the past two years, it has become obvious that club players in many counties were not getting sufficient games and were not getting them on a regular basis. Strenuous efforts have been made to force recalcitrant counties to increase the number for ordinary club players. Even where counties have provided a reasonable number of games, they have been squeezed into a few

months, leaving players without games for months on end."

On Players and Burn-Out

"Over the past few years there has been more and more focus on aspects of burn-out related to inter-county players. There was a serious absence of any empirical evidence on the subject, however, and it is only recently that we started to focus on collecting more evidence to inform our decision making."

On Competitions

"We cannot afford to have the present inter-county Leagues and Championships taking up so much

Duddy Returns To Ring May 18

Fresh off of his 19th victory on March 16 against Anthony Bonsante before a sold-out house in The Theater at Madison Square Garden, "Ireland's" John Duddy returns to the ring May 18, headlining a card against an opponent to be determined at the Beacon Theatre in Manhattan.

The Derry, Northern Ireland-native Duddy (19-0, 15 KOs), rated No. 9 by the WBA and No. 13 by the IBF, is the reigning IBA World and WBC Continental Americas middleweight champion, who now fights out of Queens (NY).

"This will be John's last fight in

time for players who have club commitments. Are we radical enough in some respects in regard to inter-county championships? Has the time come to link the League and Championship and to play the Provincial championships as separate competitions? Should we have a separate season for hurling and football championships, rather than run them concurrently? Should all subsidiary inter-county competitions be discontinued?"

We will not know how the delegates will react to the Director-General's comments until after the GAA Congress in April, at least they have a lot of very interesting suggestions to go with.

the United States for the immediate future, at least until the end of this year or the beginning of 2008," Irish Ropes Promotions president Eddie McLoughlin said. "We've been inundated with requests for him to fight in Europe. Tickets, ranging between \$50.00 and \$300.00, are available by calling Irish Ropes Promotions at 212.835.1582 or TicketMaster at 212.307.7171. All TicketMaster orders are subject to a TicketMaster service charge.

For more information about the May 18th show call Irish Ropes Promotions or visit www.irishropes.com.

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