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Celtic Scribes by Ray Cavanaugh

Celtic Kitchen - Juli Finney

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Kirwan,

Joan Moody,

McKenna Byrne,

Katie Hamilton

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# SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers

All I knew about John Conroy was his writing before we met for a couple pints of water on one of the first warm days of May.

I knew I liked his writing. His book Belfast Diary has been one of my favorites ever since I read it about five years ago. It gave me my first in-depth look into "The Troubles" and sparked what has been a continued interest in understanding the past and present of Northern Ireland. Aside from his book, I had read and enjoyed a number of his features in the Chicago Reader throughout the years.

From his writing and reporting, I knew he was skilled. He interviewed tons of people, researched endlessly and kept thorough details of everything he saw. That's the framework for any journalist. It takes a lot of time and effort to do those things, but any journalist is capable of it.

What separates Conroy from your ordinary reporter is his ability to take those quotes, those facts and those details and intertwine them into a story, a real story. A story you want to read. It's informational, but it's also pleasurable.

The only other info I could interpret to get a possible glimpse of who Conroy was before we met was the topics he covered in his stories. He wrote about Northern Ireland, not the sunniest of tales. He also had a book published about torture, also not the sort of laugh-out-loud stuff. Most of his stories in the Chicago Reader would also be fall under a similar category.

So my thoughts before meeting Conroy were that I loved his Belfast book, respected and admired him as a reporter and writer, but was also fearful

he might be as serious as the material he wrote about. My last column led off about Tony Duggins vomiting in his dressing room before a show. This isn't exactly a space for hard news.

When I walked into Erik's Deli



in Oak Park that afternoon, Conroy was standing near the door and recognized me first. We shook hands, exchanged pleasantries and as we stood a few moments later at the counter ordering I could already tell the interview would go just fine. He was who I hoped he'd be—a good guy as well as a good writer.

The main reason behind my invitation to share a few pints was Belfast Diary. It has been 20 years since it was published and slightly more than 25 since he moved to Northern Ireland to begin his book. Although it must have been strange for him to be asked question after question about something he wrote two decades ago, Conroy answered me as if it was just yesterday.

The strangest part of what I learned from Conroy about his book—the one I was enthralled with as soon as I opened

it—was that it was nearly never published. After being under contract originally with Viking Press, the company decided to pass after one editor summarized it by saying that the book was "not worth the sum of its parts."

"I walked out of there really depressed," remembered Conroy of his visit to the New York-based office. "I really could have walked into a lake at that point."

Other publishers looked at it, but none bit. His first book had to wait a couple years in limbo, but finally in 1987 it was published by Beacon Press.

Now, 20 years later it's still being printed and is used as a textbook in classes.

"When the book came out in 1987 and got great reviews, I wanted to wrap them up and send them to this guy who said, 'It's not worth more... Of course, I didn't,'" said Conroy, 56.

In an interesting twist, about 10 years after Conroy's book came out, that same guy wrote to him asking if he'd blurb another book about Belfast. Conroy couldn't believe it. Still, he kept his class about him. He was about to leave the country when he received the editor's letter and wrote back that he wouldn't be able to get to it before he departed.

Belfast Diary was intended to be a story about the people The Troubles affected. Conroy talked to business owners, people in the neighborhoods and the like. He never planned on inserting himself into the story. Journalists aren't accustomed to writing in first person. But as he spent more and more time in Belfast, he was searched by the British Army like everyone else, had his daily life affected by roadblocks, marches and rioting like everyone else,

and—the topper and what forced him to put himself into the story—his house in Belfast was taken over by the IRA.

It was a life Conroy had to get used to.

"I was scared for a long time," he said. "When the landlady asked me to go in the butcher shop, I was scared. It was just a butcher shop. Why should I be scared? But I knew I was different. I knew I looked different. I was in a place that I wasn't supposed to be. It took awhile.

"I don't think I ever thought, 'Let me see if I can change my plane ticket,' but I did think that what I was doing wasn't worth it, and that someone wiser would have left before I did."

Conroy was in Belfast for most of 1980 and returned throughout the next five years. Belfast certainly looked different then than it does now when Conroy and his wife, who is from Northern Ireland, go back and visit.

"I don't think anybody who read my book now and then went to Belfast would recognize the place," he said. "It's like night and day. I can remember when there was nothing to do there. There was one movie house downtown and one somewhere else. I can remember when an Italian restaurant opened it was a big deal. Now restaurants are all over the place. The Gap, McDonald's, Burger King—they're all there. Shopping malls. It's odd. It's very odd."

The political climate has also been altered, but Conroy doesn't follow it as he once did. His focus now is his family, writing for the Chicago Reader and working on his first fiction novel.

"I'm really enjoying the writing of it," he said. "What I find most difficult about it is I don't know where it's going. As in writing non-fiction, I always know where it's going. ... To make it up and not be concerned whether it's a red car or a blue car or the guy is actually 6-foot or he's not, did he say that word or that word, it doesn't matter. That's terrific.

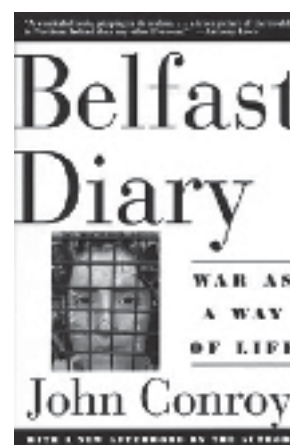
The book does have to do with something he's familiar with.

"It's about somebody who's from Belfast and comes to Chicago," said Conroy, whose family has roots in Mayo and Kerry. "It's loosely based on a story I heard in Northern Ireland and putting a character in that story, which ended in disaster, which brings him to Chicago."

Hopefully, we can share a pint again when it comes out.

\* For more from John Conroy, check out [www.chicagoreader.com](http://www.chicagoreader.com). Also his two books - "Belfast Diary: War as a Way of Life" and "Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People: The Dynamics of Torture" are available at most bookstores and on the Web.

\* Share a comment or column suggestion with Scott Powers at [sharingapint@yahoo.com](mailto:sharingapint@yahoo.com).



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## IAHC Holds Seamus Heaney Discussion

The Irish American Heritage Center will hold a discussion on Irish poet, Seamus Heaney this June. The discussion will be led by Chicago scholar, Claudia Traudt and is Sunday, June 10, 2007 at 3pm. Admission is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the door.

Seamus Heaney was born into a Catholic farming family in Northern Ireland in 1939 and has been a resident of the Irish Republic since 1972. Since 1981, Heaney has spent part of each year teaching at Harvard University and is now the Ralph Waldo Emerson Poet in Residence. Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. His poetry uses all aspects of Irish culture, history, folklore, song, myth, and religion to write poetry that not only describes the Irish experience to the reader.

Scholar Claudia Traudt has taught Irish poetry and prose, Shakespeare and visual arts at the University of Chicago for more than twenty years. In 1991, she received a scholarship to study in the Yeats International Summer School, Sligo. She performs each year in Bloomsday readings organized by Steve Diedrich of the Newberry Library, and lectured for the Center at the Bloomsday Centenary celebration in 2004.

For more information on any IAHC events, call 773-282-7035.



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## Knocknashee at IAHC Thru June 17

Shapeshifters Theatre of the IAHC is presenting Knocknashee, by Irish playwright, Deirdre Kinahan of Navan, County Meath. The production runs through Sunday, June 17. Shows Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for members, \$15 for others. 773-282-7035.

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.

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## John Daly: Man On A Cultural Mission

By Cliff Carlson

Now in his second year at the Irish American Heritage Center, (IAHC) John Daly is a man on a quest to fulfill the Center's mission. "I'm delighted to have the opportunity to further develop the work of our founders and volunteers" said John. "For so many years, restoring the building had to take priority, but now that that has been accomplished, there is nothing but the wide road of opportunity ahead of us. It is our obligation to turn what we now have into a world-class cultural, social and educational organization, and there is no doubt that we are well on our way to accomplishing that"

Daly was already an internationally renowned and respected musician in his own right before accepting the position of Executive Director at the Center. "You can't imagine the privilege I felt when I was offered the job of managing and growing this magnificent place," explained Daly.

His Irish background and notoriety as a musician, complete with business and educational experience make John an ideal person to understand the IAHC and its peo-



John Daly at the Irish American Heritage Center

ple; the ideal person to promote the center based on the expectations, desires, and hopes of its founders and present day members.

In the ten years John has been in America he has been involved in promoting Irish music. He teaches at the Catskills Irish Arts Week every July in East Durham, New York. He performed at the International Folk Festival at the University of

Chicago, teaches master classes at the Swananoa Gathering in Asheville, North Carolina.

In his first days at the IAHC, he was on hand to witness the opening of the \$750,000 library. "I escaped all the years of hard work and fundraising that

turned the dream of a library into reality. It was a proud moment for all of us that day and one that I felt

very deeply. The center had turned the corner after so many years of hard work. The library opening firmly placed another jewel in the crown of the Irish Diaspora. The library enables us to offer a fully coherent literary arts program, comprising poetry readings, play readings, book signings, and other literary events," continued Daly.

John is starting to make his mark in other ways too. He recently opened a new 90-seat theater on the third floor of the Center. The seats were bought from a closed theater and needed some cleaning up. "It may have cost as much to clean those seats up as it did to buy them," laughed Daly. It is your typical black box theatre with raised seating. A lot of thought has gone into this performance space which is located in former rental rooms 306 & 307. It is ideal as a small music venue, for book signings, lectures, and other events that favor an intimate setting. It's no longer, one size fits all in the large 675-seat Auditorium which will now be reserved for larger concerts and events. The new theatre is available for use by our own performers and those not traditionally associated with the IAHC.

"The center can now offer a full-year performing arts calendar. Because I'm a musician that part comes easy to me. Our calendar for the year is almost full and we

look forward to all the new faces this little space will bring. The first group to use the performance space was the Provision Theatre Co. who staged their play, Based on the Moon. We were delighted that the very first theater group to use our new space was awarded a 'JEFF' nomination. Following Provision came the Prop Theater group with their critically acclaimed HIZ-ZONER in which play-write Neil Guantoli plays Mayor Daley One. Needless to say, that show sold out totally, 90 seats per night during a two week run," said John.

Thanks to the founders and volunteers over the last 20 years, the IAHC building is valued at around \$15 million today. But the value to the Irish-American, and Irish community here and the Irish community around the world is immeasurable.

There is no debt and no mortgage on the Center. Daly sums it up well, "Starting with a pile of rubble 20 years ago, volunteers have built the Irish American Heritage Center of Chicago into a 'one of a kind' cultural, educational and social marvel. This place is a strong testament to human perseverance, good will and vision. I believe we are honoring the ideals of the founders in a very meaningful way, and having any involvement with this place is, for me, a much-appreciated privilege" said John.

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## Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Finney

### Our Own Brand of Comfort

Six years ago, I made the decision to direct my life onto a new path: I wanted to attend culinary school. I've always loved cooking, but now I was making it my job, my career. I knew I wanted to 'go away' for my experience of a lifetime. I also wanted a food knowledge that I would be comfortable using for catering clients or family dinners. I found all that at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland.

I traveled to Ballymaloe the winter before my intended semester at the school. While staying with friends in Dublin, I set off for a day trip on the train to my student interview with the owner/instructor, Darina Allen. As the



taxi pulled onto the school drive, I was calm and overwhelmed, all at the same time. The grounds were lush rolling hills scattered with grazing cows. The main 'schoolhouse' was a barn, now painted in very bright, festive colors and large windows, reaching from doorway to rooftop. I walked to the door, watching the hens gather their scattered chicks. Tim Allen, co-owner and Darina's husband, met me at the door and gave me the guided tour. As we walked, Tim told me about the school. I jokingly told him the thoughts of people back home about the 101 potato dishes. He explained to me the school's philosophy and I was sold.

Ireland's food is pure and simple. Local sources of produce, dairy, meats and seafood are abundant, because of the island's size. However, food production had become sloppy, careless and quantity driven. What Ballymaloe taught was concern for the quality of the ingredients using local farmers, fishermen and craftsmen. Knowing those vendors and the sources was the first step in creating wonderful food. The next step was to understand how that food product could be used to make a great dish. And finally, the students learn to prepare dishes using the quality ingredients.

Students came from literally all over the world. For the thirteen week professional course, fifty-six students converged on the campus, most living in renovated carriage and farm houses around the main building. We learned both farm life and gourmet cooking. I was so excited to have the opportunity to learn to cook at a place like this. Their focus was about the goodness of the food and not hurry-up quick. But

more importantly, I felt comfortable there. I knew I would learn more than at another school. So when classes began on September 10, 2001, I was ready for anything.

The next day, right after lunch, Tim came into the classroom where we were learning the essential to any Irish table, breads and scones. He told us about the twin towers. I didn't know anyone at school or if there were any other Americans and felt very isolated. Immediately, I ran to the phone. After hours of trying, I managed to talk with my family in Ohio. They explained what happened, but told me I should stay on at school. I knew I had to and after that day, I made it a very intense goal to absorb Ballymaloe.

It was the food that took care of me. Anytime I thought about things, I walked through the school's three herb gardens, tasting and learning their names. One day, I walked back into my room and found a hen had laid an egg on my bed. I hadn't closed my window that morning, so I guess she wanted to leave something behind.

My best afternoons, as the fall grew cooler, was spent around the kitchen

table inhaling the many loaves of bread we made in class with friends. It was required that each student make two loaves of bread a week, along with the other dishes. That meant we had lots of bread to take back to the cabins. I would sit with my roommates, sipping tea, eating bread, toasted or not, lots of butter and then more tea. It was not usual American comfort food. It was us sharing the food we made together. We were learning food's many roles: that nutrition and sustenance are not only for the body but also for comfort, company, and friendship.

Below is a very simple white soda bread recipe from Ballymaloe. It can be used for bread, scones and pizza dough. The recipe has American measurements, since Irish cooks use metric. The smaller measurements, such as teaspoons and tablespoons were literally that in the classroom, a teaspoon, tablespoon, and dessertspoon from the silver set! I actually bought those three spoons at an antique store before I came home because the US set of tea and tablespoons bought at a cookware store are not exact measurements of the Irish amounts.

### White soda scones

4C White flour  
1 level teaspoon baking soda  
1 level teaspoon salt  
1 3/4 C buttermilk  
Topping  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4 c white sugar

Preheat the oven to 475F. Place the beaten egg in one bowl and the sugar in another. Put aside. Sift the dry ingredients (flour, soda, salt) into a large bowl. Make a well in the middle of the ingredients and pour in all of the buttermilk. Use hand as a claw or use a spoon and mix from inside well to the outside until all ingredients are combined. Dough will be sticky. (Wipe or clean hands if needed.) Flour countertop and place dough on top, patting down to 1 inch thick. Using a 1 inch donut cutter, run the cutter through the flour on the countertop, and then cut out the scones. Gently dip the tops of the scones into the egg, then the sugar and place on an ungreased cookie sheet, sugar side up. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden brown. They are also done by trying to take them off the sheet without a spatula. If they don't come off easy, they're not done.

To make the dough into bread, mound it (4 inch thick) in the middle of a baking sheet sprinkled with a LITTLE flour. Cut a deep cross in the center and bake for 15 minutes, then turn down the heat to 400F and bake for another 30 minutes.

You can also add 1/2 c dried fruit, 1 t. grated orange peel, 1 t. cinnamon or



1/2 c chocolate chips to the mix just by putting it in with the dry ingredients. I added 1 t. orange extract to the scones with the peel. Also, instead of sugar, use oatmeal, sesame or poppy seeds to top. Serve with butter, jam, hot tea and good company.

\*Julianna Finney is a part time personal chef and caterer, while finishing her post baccalaureate degree in nutrition at the University of Akron. In 2001, she received her certificates from the professional culinary course at Ballymaloe Cookery School, County Cork, Ireland. She can be reached at Julileber@hotmail.com.



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# Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.  
Senior Partner



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

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

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

## Workers' Compensation/Repetitive Trauma

Most people recognize that if they have an accident on the job in which they suffer an injury, they are entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits. However, many people do not realize

that if their job exposes them to risks of injury that don't occur in a specific accident, they still may recover benefits under Illinois law.

In some instances, if a worker suf-

fers an injury that is not traceable to a specific accident at work but is due to repetitive motions or overuse of a body part, they are entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits.

Under Illinois law, if work activities cause or contribute to an injury, a worker may be entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits.

Many construction workers use vibrating power tools that after day in and day out use can cause injuries such as carpal tunnel disease, cubital tunnel disease or other types of nerve injuries. Often times a worker notices symptoms such as tingling and numbness in the arm or hand even when not working. As long as the worker's injury can be traced back to his employment, he will have a valid claim under the Workers Compensation Act. Likewise, tendonitis or similar injuries that appear in other contexts, such as clerical workers who spend a vast majority of the day typing, also may have a right to compensation for their injuries. This is the type of claim that is often

overlooked because it did not occur in an industrial setting.

## Occupational Disease Claims

A companion law to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act is the Occupational Disease Act. The benefits under the Occupational Disease Act are similar to those under the Workers' Compensation Act. Occupational disease claims may arise when a worker is exposed to chemicals, pollutants or other types of contaminants that result in a disease.

In order to establish an occupational disease claim a worker must prove they suffered from a disease that has been caused or aggravated as a result of exposure in the employment.

Many occupational disease claims have arisen from hardwood floor refinishers who develop lung problems that are either aggravated or caused by the polyurethane chemicals that are used in their employment. Similarly, workers who are exposed to diesel exhaust fumes that develop lung disease or workers that are exposed to long term noise exposure that results in partial or total hearing loss have valid occupational disease claims. Also, workers exposed to asbestos or silica dust have both claims against their employer and, potentially, claims against the third-party who manufactured the product which caused their injury.

## Arc Welding Can Lead To Parkinson's Like Symptoms

Recently, our office has been contacted by several former and current union welders who have developed a permanent neurological injury which produces Parkinson-like symptoms. Several studies, including one from

the Mayo clinic, have demonstrated a higher risk of this injury after prolonged exposure to fumes from welding using rods containing manganese. Because of the nature of the injury, we have been able to pursue both occupational disease claims on behalf of these clients, as well as products liability claims against the manufacturers of the welding rods, usually based on defective warnings.

These cases have been hotly contested, but both the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, which regulates both workers' compensation and occupational disease claims, and the Illinois Appellate Court have recognized the validity of these claims.

## Prompt Action Important For Injured Workers

Generally, occupational disease claims do not result from a specific accident or incident on a certain day but rather result from everyday work that involves exposure to some sort of material. As a result, an injured employee may not be aware of their injury, and might not learn about it until months or even years after their employment has ended. Once an employee knows of his injury he must provide prompt notice to his employer. If he fails to do so, his action may be barred.

## Conclusion

Repetitive trauma and occupational disease claims provide another example of compensation that is often overlooked by injured employees. As a result, it is important to contact an attorney if you have any reason to believe that an injury or disease may have been caused as a result of your employment.

Kevin T. Veugeler  
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## Irish Books and Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST

### Priest

"We may have got rich, but we never got impulsive. Questions are always suspect. The years of British rule, the years of yes, questions usually posed by a soldier with a weapon in your face, led to a certain wariness. If the truth be told, and sometimes it is, we really want to hit back with two questions."

"First, why do you want to know?"  
"Second, and maybe more essential, how is it any of your business?"

Priest by Ken Bruen. St. Martin's Minotaur, New York, 2006. ISBN: 0-312-34140-7; 290 pages; \$23.95. [www.minotaurbooks.com](http://www.minotaurbooks.com).

Ken Bruen is the author of this powerful crime novel. He was born in Ireland and today lives in Galway. But he has lived in Southeast Asia, Spain, Greece and South America.

Bruen is a prolific writer, who in the last few years has written *The Guards*, *The Killing of the Tinkers*, *The Magdalen Martyrs*, *Calibre*, *Dublin Noir*, *The Dramatist*, and now *Priest*.

His writings have won the Shamus Award and final place for several awards, including the Edgar Award.

The present book, *Priest*, is another in the Jack Taylor series. Jack Taylor is a fictional detective. He had been a Guard, but abuse of alcohol and other drugs caused him to be fired.

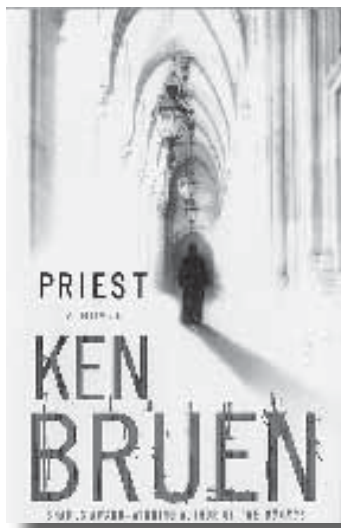
He has conquered both addictions but is still tormented by inner demons. Because of these he associates with down'n-outers and lives in seedy places in Galway.

Ken Bruen uses Jack Taylor to show the noir aspects of Irish life.

What is noir writing? Webster says noir writing is "crime fiction featuring hard-boiled cynical characters and bleak sleazy settings." It is characterized by "a dark, almost hopeless, view of life."

The plot of *Priest* is about the long-term consequences to his victims of the sexual predator priest, Fr. Joyce. His sordid past is exposed during the murder inquiry after he is decapitated.

Bruen shows the immense change in Irish society trusting times of the 1950's and 1960's. One of Fr. Joyce's victims is severely beaten with a belt ("leathered") when he asks his mother for help. He tells her what Fr. Joyce is doing to him but she refuses to believe a priest could do this. She believes in the sanctity of a priest and beats her son.



The long-term effects of sexual abuse are shown in the lives of two of his victims—both also suspects in the murder of the priest. One of the boys—now a man—seems to have grown beyond the sexual abuse. He has become a successful businessman but it's all a carefully constructed façade. Taylor observes he has no family, no friends, and is incapable of any emotional attachment. Needless to say, his sexual life has never developed.

Taylor observes that the other victim has also been unable to develop any emotional involvement with anyone but is more blunt about this complete absence. He empathizes with this because his own life is bleak and empty.

As he investigates the murder, Taylor discovers the cover-up by the Church, its bishops and Fr. Joyce's fellow priests. Oh, the cloven hoof of hypocrisy!

During the investigation of one of these fellow priests, Taylor observes: "Whatever was going on with him, it was making him very nervous. He said,

"I need your help."

"The exact words as before."

"The words near strangled him, he had to force them out between his teeth. I wasn't about to assist, said nothing. Left, as the psychologists say, the black hole, let him fill it. A plain-clothes Garda had once told me that silence is the best interrogation tool. People can't stand it; they have to fill that void."

The nun who knew what Fr. Joyce was doing to the boys could have stopped it but chose not to. When the little boys came crying to her for help, for some bizarre reason she gave them bars of chocolate!

This reminded me of the courageous nun in the play *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley. She took a stand and stopped the sexual predator.

Ken Bruen has written another magnetic book about Ireland. His *Priest* looks at Ireland's past and present. He shows how the present is strongly influenced by the past.

Society changes, people change a little, but courage never changes.

*Irish Tales*, A collection of Irish Folklore, From Mary Dunne Ware of Fitchburg, Massachusetts by Edward C. McManus, Rooftop Publishing, Bloomington, IN, 2006. ISBN: 1-60008-011-1; 260 Pages; \$18.95. [www.rooftoppublishing.com](http://www.rooftoppublishing.com).

*Irish Tales* is a collection of stories as told by an elderly Irish woman to her little American grandson. That little boy is now an adult who understands the formative power of stories and their encouragement of quickness of mind, kindness, and acceptance of people.

Edward McManus is now retired from a business career. He publishes a "comedy newsletter" called *The Jokesmith*. It is used by "business and professional speakers." It is easy to see where he got his love of humor because many of the stories his grandmother told were humorous.

His grandmother was born in Ireland in 1850 and lived until 1956. She lived most of her life in Massachusetts, near Boston.

The little boy was fascinated by his grandmother. He listened intently to her (How many of us pay attention to elderly people?) as she told of her lifetime of experiences and the amaz-

ing people she had observed.

Now all these years later, that little boy is the author of this unique book, *Irish Tales*. Edward McManus remembers her stories because of the vivid language she used to create these imaginative and humorous pictures.

His grandmother, called Nana Ware, was optimistic and hopeful. "She was tough, loving, funny, and upbeat. She realized that the simple things in life offer pleasure if we have the wisdom to enjoy them."

McManus says: "These are little stories, told to a little boy, by a loving old woman who had no wealth or property, so she gave him her time, attention and love... there is no greater gift."

Of the many wonderful stories in this book, this is my favorite. It is an example of quick thinking. My summary is not as funny as the full story in the book. It is called "Aunt Fanny and The Paper Mill."

Aunt Fanny "...was a strong and fiercely independent woman." She loved her job in the laboratory at Fitchburg Paper and worked there until the 1970's—a total of 63 years!

When she was a young woman her future husband had just been mustered out of the Army after the Spanish-American War.

In the 1970's the company merged with a giant corporation and the new personnel manager wanted to pension her off. He told the personnel manager at Fitchburg: "Put her on pension. Just get rid of her... today!"

He called her to his office and told her it was retirement time. "Today."

She saw her personnel record folder on his desk.

"Tell me, how many tardies have I had? Unauthorized sick days? Warnings? Disciplinary actions?"

The personnel manager said: "I see none."

"And my performance appraisals, how have they been?"

"They've all been excellent or outstanding."

"And," she said, "I have been employee of the year several times."

"I think I'm entitled to a copy of that whole file."

"But why would you want it?" asked the personnel manager.

"Oh," Aunt Fanny replied, "I've been reading about all these new women's groups, and what they've been doing for elderly women like me. Women with perfect work records, good performance appraisals, and who are losing their jobs for no good reason." Aunt Fanny chuckled, "I'll bet that I'll be the first Spanish American and World War I widow they ever had to represent."

"The personnel manager turned white. His left eye started to twitch. He felt his whole career leaking away through... his feet."

He called the new corporate personnel manager, who said, "Good lord. It will be in all the papers! On TV! Our major shareholders are rich old widows... and women's groups? They'll be burning their underwear in front of the executive building!..."

When the local personnel manager came back into the office, he asked Aunt Fanny: "What would it take for you to just go home quietly? An improved pension package perhaps?"

"Oh," said Aunt Fanny, "these pensions and benefit packages confuse me. Make it simple. Just continue my pay, insurance and benefit packages, just as though I still worked here. Then I'll go away quietly. I will also look forward to the wonderful party you'll have for me and my friends..."

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# Address By The Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, To Joint Houses Of Parliament Westminster, 15 May, 2007 (Audio Version Available)

## Ireland and Britain

A Shared History - A New Partnership  
Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker, Prime Minister, Distinguished Guests,

I am grateful for your welcome and I am honoured to be the first Taoiseach to speak here at the heart of British parliamentary democracy. But I speak not for myself today; I speak for the Irish people and for the history and the best hopes of our two island nations, yours and mine.

Today, following as it does so many remarkable days, is a new and glad departure in an old and extraordinary relationship.

Ours is a close, complex and difficult history. But now with energy and resolve this generation is leaving the past behind, building friendship and laying the foundation for a lasting partnership of common interests between our two islands.

For over two centuries, great Irishmen came to Westminster to be a voice for the voiceless of Ireland and at times a conscience for Britain too.

I am thinking above all of Daniel O'Connell and of Charles Stewart Parnell, but the tradition is long and noble. And their struggle to further the cause of the Irish nation in this Parliament resonated across the Irish Sea through the lives of every Irish person.

Those who travelled that sea to take a seat in this place believed in the proposition that democratic politics, however imperfect, is not, first and foremost, a career or a means of acquiring power. Rather it was, and is, the surest way to secure and advance a fair society.

This year, Britain commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Act of this Parliament that ended the appalling wrong that was the Atlantic slave trade. This happened despite powerful interests that argued the financial costs of abolition. But in one of the most remarkable examples of a collective political act on moral grounds, those interests were overcome. It was a moment of great moral authority and one of the great stepping-stones to freedom.

In the words of Daniel O'Connell who died 160 years ago today:

"There is nothing politically right that is morally wrong."

And it was this faith too that was turned to the cause of the rights of the Irish people.

It was O'Connell who built a mass civil rights movement to achieve Catholic emancipation, and then to take on the cause of the repeal of the Act of Union. The movement was founded firmly on principles of non-violence, and became an inspiration for peoples everywhere, confirming the power of an idea that again and again has changed the world. That idea is an inspiration to Irish people to this day.

O'Connell was also the champion of a wider and generous liberal tradition which looked far beyond Ireland's shores to right in-

justice and support the weak and the poor.

Two generations later, Parnell and his colleagues used their disciplined mastery of the parliamentary system to force the issue of Home Rule to the centre of British politics and in so doing created the first modern political party in these islands.

We remember too that it was Ireland that first elected a woman, Constance Markiewicz, to the House of Commons – although she chose instead to take her seat in the first Dáil as elected by the Irish people.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

The historical relationship of Ireland and Britain too often seemed as if it could be more accurately measured out in repression and rebellions, over cycles of decades and centuries. Conflicts have become synonymous with years - 1169, 1690, 1798, 1916 and into the recent agony of the Troubles.

It is a litany that too often seemed to confirm the inevitability of conflict between us.

But, it was never the whole story – and now in our day and generation, we have seen the dawning of a new era.

In an act full of the symbolism of new days of hope and promise in Ireland, I had the honour last week to welcome the new First Minister of Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Ian Paisley, MP, to the site of the Battle of the Boyne.

This was a battle for power in these islands and also part of a wider European conflict. Its outcome resounds through the centuries of Irish and British history to this very day. That time marked the beginning of an unbroken period of parliamentary democracy in this country. But its legacy in Ireland has always been a matter of deep contention and division.

It is surely a miracle of our age that the undisputed leader of Ulster unionism can meet with the leader of the Irish Government, on that battlefield, in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

The intertwined history of Ireland and Britain was – let us not deny the truth – in large measure indeed a story of division and conflict, of conquest, suppression and resistance. But, of course, there are episodes in that story which are a source of pride – just as there are others that are rightly a source of regret and anguish.

Last year, I was proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising. It was a hinge of history – and the turning of events has continued since.

Those who fought did so in pursuit of a state which, in the words of the 1916 Proclamation, "guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts cherishing all of the children of the nation equally".

The Rising did not have immediate universal support, and was opposed, at least initially, by many of those Irishmen who served in

this Parliament, just as many in Ireland were shocked by the heavy-handed exercise of power by the British authorities in its wake.

Irish nationalism has its heroes as does unionism. We need to acknowledge each other's pride in our separate and divided past.

In 1998, in a groundbreaking act of recognition of our shared journey, President Mary McAleese and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth jointly opened the Memorial Peace Park in Messines – a requiem to the 200,000 young men from across the island of Ireland, Catholic and Protestant, North and South, who fought in the First World War, side by side. Some 50,000 did not return. Last year we renewed this tribute in Dublin – and paid homage at home to the spirit of an imperishable heroism – through a national commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the battle of the Somme.

In another shining example of how we can engage with difficult chapters of history without descending into spirals of accusation, I remember the brave and generous initiative of the Prime Minister in acknowledging the failures of those governing in London at the time of the Great Famine in Ireland.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

Of course, the subject of Ireland was not always welcome in this place. I recall the words of Gladstone, who in November, 1890, noted that:

"Since the month of December, 1885, my whole political life has been governed by a supreme regard to the Irish question. For every day, I may say, of these five years, we have been engaged in laboriously rolling up-hill the stone of Sisyphus."

Prime Minister Blair and I can certainly empathise with this!

The so-called 'Irish Question' was for a long time shorthand in these halls for a nuisance, a problem, a danger. A recurring crisis that was debated here, but not where its effects were most felt.

Today, I can stand here and say that the 'Irish Question' as understood then has been transformed.

The Good Friday Agreement has delivered peace and promise to Ireland by accommodating the rights, the interests and the legitimate aspirations of all. It represents the triumph of common interests over inherited divisions.

It is not an end of history. But it is a new beginning.

It is an unchallengeable consensus on how any future change in the status of Northern Ireland will be effected: only with consent freely given, and with full respect for the rights of all traditions and identities on the island.

As an Irish republican, it is my passionate hope that we will see the island of Ireland united in peace. But I will continue to oppose with equal determination any effort to impose unity through violence or the threat of violence.

Irish Republicanism is inherently democratic and seeks to unite – in their common interests – Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter.

That is the principle on which I stand.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

None of what has been accomplished in Northern Ireland in the past decade could

have happened without the most beneficial transformation in British-Irish relations in over eight hundred years.

The depth and complexity of relationships between our islands, generation after generation, defy summary or platitudes.

But now let us consign arguments over the past to the annals of the past, as we make history instead of being doomed to repeat it.

Ours must and will be the last generation to feel the pain and anger of old quarrels.

We cannot look back through eras far removed from the standards and promise of today, through the very pages of our common past, and tear out the bloodstained chapters.

But that does not mean we should write them into the story of our future. Violence is part of our shared past that lasted too long. Now we close the chapter, we move on, and it will remain there as it was written.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

I stand before you as the elected leader of a young, modern and successful country. The gathering pace of change in Ireland since independence, and in this generation especially, has been extraordinary.

We have seized our opportunities and honoured our heritage. Ireland is a small country, but today we are one of the most globalised and enterprising in the world.

We have taken a place on the world stage in the United Nations and the European Union. We have built a country of ideas, energy and of confidence.

And it is this self-confidence that allows us, still conscious of our history but not captured by it, to build a new and lasting partnership of common interest that fully respects identity and sovereignty, with you our nearest neighbour.

Today, our partnership in the world is expressed most especially in the European Union. Our joint membership has served as a vital catalyst for the building of a deeper relationship between our two islands. Europe forms a key part of our shared future. The European Union has acted as a potent example of a new political model that enables old enemies to become partners in progress.

On the world stage too we have a shared commitment to democracy, to human rights and to international development.

And we stand together to make poverty history.

I think of the power of our example – of the history we have written together in Northern Ireland. No two conflicts are exactly the same and no two solutions will ever be alike. But the world has watched as we grappled with our past and made our peace with one another. Now our two governments can share our past experience and new found hope with others who are caught up in conflict and feel despair.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

Our relationship is a partnership of people first and foremost.

Not two nations and not two peoples have closer ties of history and geography and of family and friendship.

Emigration was for too long a recurring theme of the Irish saga, from the horrors of the Great Famine, to dark economic times in the 20th Century.

Many Irish people came to this country as emigrants. And today there are hundreds of thousands of Irish-born people living in Britain today. Theirs were stories of dislocation, and stories of aspiration, and then of new lives built, new families created, new strands woven into the fabric of both our national identities.

Today, there are over a hundred members of this Parliament with an Irish background. And there are millions more like them in Britain, who have gone on to new levels of success with each new generation.

And, of course, the tide was not all one way. There are over 100,000 British citizens in Ireland now, a most welcome part of an ever more diverse population.

British settlement, organised and otherwise, has given the island of Ireland a British tradition too – not just in history and language, borders and politics, but in a thriving community of unionist people proud of who they are, where they come from, and what they hope for.

They are a living bridge between us.

The Irish Government fully respects their rights and identity.

We value their voice, their vision and their future contribution to the life of the island of Ireland in whatever way it should develop.

Our economic partnership has always been, and remains, a cornerstone of our prosperity and our friendship.

The origins of trade between our islands is lost in the mists of time itself. And today our trading relationship continues to go from strength to strength.

Irish and British people are driving the economies of both our islands with efficiency and enterprise, regardless of politics or borders.

The scale of our economic partnership is impressive and is immensely important for all our people.

British exports to Ireland alone, are more than double that of British exports to China, India, Brazil and Mexico combined. And Britain takes almost half of our food exports and half the exports of our indigenous companies.

And the achievements we have seen in Northern Ireland will open up still greater opportunities for economic cooperation between both islands and both parts of Ireland.

The people of these islands have woven a rich tapestry of culture over the centuries. This has given rise to a partnership of culture that is renowned across the world.

One of the most creative moments in human history was the meeting between the English language and the Irish people.

It has given us some of the great works of world literature – of Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw, William Butler Yeats, Samuel Beckett, John McGahern and many, many others. Not the least of those was Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who served in this House, was born in Dorset Street in my constituency and is now buried nearby in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey.

They all found their genius in the Eng-

lish language, but they drew on a perspective that was uniquely Irish.

Today, a vibrant cultural life is shared by both our countries across every imaginable field – in music, dance, education, theatre, film and sport.

In culture, as in sport, we share and together enjoy so much.

And in all these areas, too, our endeavours are not divorced from our history, but are built on it.

Earlier this year, the Irish and English rugby teams met in the magnificent headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association at Croke Park in Dublin. It was a match played and watched on what is now a field of dreams, but was once the very earth of past bloodshed.

But it was a match played in the spirit of sport. No one forgot the shadows of history, but everyone was living in the sunlight of that day.

Of all these bonds – of family and friendship, of commerce and culture – the greatest of all is our partnership of peace.

We have shown that even the seemingly intractable can be overcome – that peace is not impossible and conflict is not inevitable.

We have learned, as Seamus Heaney wrote:

“Even if the hopes you started out with are dashed, hope has to be maintained”.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement, the Downing Street Declaration and the Good Friday Agreement: many of you here have been participants and makers of this history. All of you have kept hope.

Peace in Ireland has been the work of a generation. Today, I salute all those who helped to lay the foundations for what has now taken shape. In doing so, I acknowledge the work over so many years of the British-Irish Parliamentary Body and also our great and valued friends in the United States who have been with us at all times on the long journey.

When Prime Minister Blair and I started out together ten years ago, we were able to build on the courageous early steps that were taken by our predecessors.

But the contribution of Prime Minister Blair has been exceptional.

This was not a task he had to take on and not one that promised quick or easy rewards.

Thug an Priomh Aire Tony Blair ana chabhair do Phróiseas na Síochána agus táim féin agus muintir na hÉireann go léir ana bhuíoch dó. Ní dhéanfaimid dearmad ar cé chomh crua agus a d'oilbrigh sé i gcónaí ar son na Síochána.

He took it on simply because there was a chance that a great good could be achieved.

Tony Blair has been a true friend to me and a true friend to Ireland. He has an honoured place in Irish hearts and in Irish history.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

Nine years ago, the people of the island of Ireland democratically endorsed the Good Friday Agreement, a clear command to all political leaders to advance the work of peace.

In March this year the people of Northern Ireland confirmed that command through the ballot box and set their seal on the path of political progress.

There are certain days which define an era. More rarely there are days that define the next, that embody the turn of the tide.

Too many Irish days have done so through tragedy and violence.

Tuesday, May 8th, in Belfast was a day when we witnessed events that will truly define our time and the next.

Shared devolved government, commanding support from both communities and all the parties in Northern Ireland, is now in place. Now at last the full genius and full potential of the Good Friday Agreement will unfold in the interests of all the peoples of these islands.

Yes, there will be challenges ahead. But these challenges can now be faced in a climate of peace and from a foundation of partnership.

There are real issues on which the people of Northern Ireland disagree. Some are the sort that face every government, and it is now the business of their politicians to find solutions based on practicality and compromise.

Others are more fundamental issues of political and cultural identity.

But we are now in an era of agreement – of new politics and new realities.

The world has seen Ireland's economic achievements. There is no reason why a peaceful and stable Northern Ireland should not achieve similar success. We are ready to be a partner and friend on the path to economic growth. Both parts of the island of Ireland will gain and grow.

The Irish Government has demonstrated its commitment by announcing investment in important and practical projects that will support development and growth in Northern Ireland. Chancellor Gordon Brown's financial package expresses Britain's clear commitment. Now let us move forward with strong practical support and increasing political confidence.

The tide of history can both ebb and flow and with it our hopes and dreams. But last week's events are powerful evidence that we are moving with the tide of lasting change.

There is now real strength in the consensus on the way forward.

We know the unique and delicate balance that binds this process together and we are committed to doing everything in our power to protect what has been achieved.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

In our impatience to build a better future we must remember those who have died and remember those who mourn.

The conflict has left over 3,700 dead and thousands more seriously injured during our lifetimes. This appalling loss has left deep scars which cannot easily be healed.

I know that these are not empty words to Members of this Parliament, who have also experienced tragedy and personal loss at first hand. I remember those killed and maimed at Brighton and I remember Airey Neave MP, who was murdered so close to where we are today.

There is a gnawing hunger for the truth about the loss of loved ones. The conflict has left many unanswered questions in its wake. Some of these are the subjects of on-

going or promised inquiries. In these days of hope and promise we know the deep hurt and pain that linger in the hearts of so many and for whom the journey of healing and reconciliation will never be easy.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

The relationship between Britain and Ireland has changed fundamentally for the better. It is and will remain vital for both our countries. The success we have seen – in re-imagining British-Irish relations and in establishing peace in Northern Ireland – is not the end, but only the beginning of what we can achieve together.

Our mutual relations merit priority at the highest level. We must sustain our hard-won achievements on Northern Ireland. Remembering where we have come from, we must never, ever, take for granted the stability and the hope that are now taking root in Northern Ireland.

We have built a remarkable foundation for a whole new level of cooperation between our two countries.

For decades our relations have been filtered through the prism of conflict. Now, building on the peace and progress of the last decade, we can begin to pay greater attention to the wider partnership of common interests between our two islands.

Mr Speaker, Lord Speaker,

We can all contribute to peace, in ways that are great or small, in acts of cooperation and respect, of dialogue and of resolve.

This is a test for all of us.

I call to mind the words of another great Irishman Edmund Burke, who served in this Parliament:

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little”.

So now we look back at history not to justify but to learn, and we look forward to the future in terms not of struggle and victories to be won, but of enduring peace and progress to be achieved together.

In that spirit, I close by recalling the words of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the first American President to speak to the Dáil. He was an Irish-American who had deep connections of feeling and experience with Britain as well.

On that day in Dublin, President Kennedy called Ireland “an isle of destiny” and said that:

“when our hour has come we will have something to give the world”.

Today, I can say to this Parliament at Westminster as John Kennedy said in Dublin: “Ireland's hour has come”.

It came, not as victory or defeat, but as a shared future for all.

Solidarity has made us stronger.

Reconciliation has brought us closer.

Ireland's hour has come: a time of peace, of prosperity, of old values and new beginnings.

This is the great lesson and the great gift of Irish history.

This is what Ireland can give to the world.

Thank You.

Audio version of speech here: <http://www.taoiseach.ie/uploadedfiles/mp3/taoiseachwestminster.mp3>

# Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



## Concern

On February 23rd I attended the Brigid Awards Luncheon, as the guest of Josephine Boyle. The honorees were Mardge Cohen, MD, Carmen Velasquez, and Samantha Power. Although it's been three months, I recall parts of the speeches made by the honorees. Mardge Cohen, MD, a senior physician and AIDS worker at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital is the director of Women's HIV Research at Core Center, which provides outpatient care to people with HIV and other infectious diseases.

She blasted Todd Stroger for the closing of the neighborhood clinics, amongst other things, and the cutback of staff, doctors, and nurses at the county hospital. I doubt if the "Toddler" noticed. He just keeps giving out those high-paying jobs to friends and family.

By the way, I just received my proposed assessed valuation from Cook County Assessor James M. Houlihan, How about a 32% increase? Clean up Cook County government and you can drop the assessment by 32%.

Honoree Carmen Velasquez, Director of Alivo Medical Center, which provides care to the Latino community, especially those who have been unable to access health-care due to language, cultural barriers, and fear of immigration status. Carmen also had a few things to say about the Cook County health system, certainly nothing good. The main emphasis of her speech was on immigration reform, a subject also near and dear to the Irish, especially those from Northern Ireland who sought political asylum in this country. These are working people which hold jobs and pay taxes just as those Latino working people do. Granted, immigration reform is a very complex issue, bogged down by the Republican bureaucrats in Washington. Carmen Velasquez has been recognized for her work on behalf of the Latino community many times, the Brigid Award is another jewel in her crown.

Honoree Samantha Power is the Anna Lindh Professor of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She is a journalist, writer, professor and scholar of foreign policy.

Samantha expounded on the foreign policy of the U.S., or more notably, the lack of it. I'm afraid she

wasn't very kind to George Bush, and I loved every minute of it. Since George Bush took office our foreign policy has been more like knee-jerk reaction to whatever happens in the world community. The only thing we're really good at is providing assistance like we did following the Tsunami.

The recent revelations of the buildup to the war in Iraq were no surprise to most of us! Our foreign policy amounts to "who gets the contract?" Chances are good they're from Texas!

There were many dynamic women in the crowd. Mary Dempsey, Bridget Flannagan and too many others to mention here. Angus Finucane, CSSP, the honorary president of Concern made his presence in the room. Congratulations to the committee for choosing these outstanding honorees. If you would like to find more about Concern, contact [www.concernusa.org](http://www.concernusa.org).

## Mike Kilcoyne

Mike, one of our great volunteers at the IAHC, has been sidelined with a coronary by-pass... get well Mike, we won't let you quit until all the work is finished.

## Gaelic Park

By now the Memorial Day Irish Fest is in the history books. I hope it was a great success. They had a great lineup of talent this year and some new attractions, the various breeds of Irish dogs, and a tug-of-war.

## Hizzoner

I went to see this play written by Neil Giuntoli, who also played the lead role in this production. Hizzoner was presented by the Prop Thtr. The play was staged in the IAHC's new theater and opened to a full house. Neil Giuntoli brought Richard J. Daley back to life.

The play opened with his Honor going to the doctor's office where he would eventually draw his last breath. Waiting for the doctor he encountered the spirit of a childhood friend, Billy O'Donnel, played by Don Schroder.

Talking to Billy, the Mayor revealed who he was, a devout Catholic, devoted father, and the Mayor of "his city" Chicago.

We traveled back in time to the Vietnam War era, the 1968 Democratic Convention, and Jesse Jackson's arrival in Chicago. We revisited the death of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. A multi-media display provided the backdrop for many scenes.

Bill Bullion was brilliant as Matt Danaher, Daley's patronage chief. While Whit Spurgeon played the role of Alderman Tom Keane, who joined Mike O'Brien, playing Police Superintendent Conlisk, when Richard J. Daley gave the "shoot to kill" order for arsonists and "shoot to cripple" for looters.

If you lived through this era in Chicago, don't miss this journey through the past.

I was working at 350 N. Ogden Ave. on the near west side of Chicago when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. The Company I worked for, Berkshire Papers, Inc., which sold printing paper got a phone call telling us to close down or we would be burned out. The President of the company was young and wasn't about to close, so all of the men who owned guns were asked to bring them in. We had an armed camp! The maintenance man was an Area 4 Burglary Detective and he always carried a gun. Fortunately, nothing ever happened. Word spread that everybody had to drive with their headlights on in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or else they would be attacked.

I was meeting a girlfriend for lunch on the North side that day. On the way up there, I was driving north on the Ogden Ave. overpass which has since been torn down, when I got north of Division St. passing by Cabrini Green, a bunch of teenagers jumped up from behind the wall and pelted the side



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of my 1967 Plymouth Fury with rocks. Instinctively, I stopped the car and went after them. They had started running away, but when I realized there were 12 or 14 of them, I jumped back in the car and got out of there in a hurry! The west side was burning.

## Obama

The media keeps pitting Barack Obama against Hillary Clinton on the basis of her vote for the War on Iraq and his vote against it. I would make allowances for the fact that Hillary Clinton was and still is the Senator from New York and her constituency was hit the hardest by 9/11, the attack on the World Trade Center's twin towers. So, move on! Ask yourself who is the best candidate. Ask yourself who can win. There's an outside chance for either one of them to get the Democratic Party's nomination for President, but, more likely, the nomination as Vice President. Somewhere down the road, Al Gore could emerge as a candidate for President.

Meanwhile, the attack dogs are not sleeping. Our old buddy Rush Limbaugh has played a ditty about Barack Obama called "Barack the Magic Negro." Paradoxically

it's done to the melody of "Puff the Magic Dragon." Rush must identify with that song. You can watch it on YouTube, done by Boone Dog Music. Al Sharpton is shown chanting the lyrics on a bullhorn... saying guilty whites will for vote for him coz he's not really black. He's black, but not authentically, because he's not from the hood. A lot of things like this may go unnoticed like some video clips on the internet and various articles from newspapers and blogs. One such article said Illinois Senate President Emil Jones told black democrats they don't owe anything to anyone, alluding to the Clintons. "Obama," said Jones, "is our son." That should work for everybody. Another video clip of black ministers supporting Obama compared his candidacy to crossing the River Jordan. HUH?

Illinois State Senate President Emil Jones is being scrutinized as his ethics are in question over lucrative State jobs held by his wife and son and the contract his stepson John Sterling got from Exelon while Emil Jones opposes the rate freeze for ComEd. John Sterling's company is Synch Solutions. Allegedly, John Sterling has been given millions of dollars

worth of "no bid" contracts with the State of Illinois. Do you think the Stogers and the Jones' go to the same family picnics?

## Mary McAleese Attends Broadway's "The Pirate Queen"

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, was recently on a week-long tour of the U.S. to strengthen links with the Irish community and to promote Irish/US political, education, trade and cultural links through a diverse range of

Fine Art Prints by Roisin O'Shea. Superbly detailed, vibrantly coloured Fine Art prints of watercolour paintings by internationally published Irish artist Roisin O'Shea, from all 32 counties of Ireland, are available at [www.roisinosea.com](http://www.roisinosea.com). All prints from the artist's official website are individually signed in pencil by Roisin. Also available are Roisin O'Shea calendars, notelets and Christmas cards.

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Actress Stephanie J. Block as Grace O'Malley, Ireland's President Mary McAleese and actress Linda Balgord as Queen Elizabeth I, backstage at "The Pirate Queen", Broadway's new musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, presented by Moya Doherty & John McColgan. Online: [www.ThePirateQueen.com](http://www.ThePirateQueen.com). Photo taken at the Hilton Theatre on May 2, 2007 by Lisa Berg, copyright 2007.

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# 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](mailto: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.

With pro-immigration May Day rallies in major cities all over the country, attention focuses once again on the immigration issue, even as times supposedly runs out for immigration reform. Why the pessimism? Lawmakers who back immigration reform feel like the window of opportunity

is closing before an early presidential election campaign season gets rolling amid an acrimonious political mood.

NOW IS THE TIME: While the Senate has no specific bill pending, a bipartisan group of Senators hopes to present this week the outlines of an immigra-

tion plan designed to win crucial support from conservatives. If they succeed, President Bush is expected to throw his support behind the plan, which could be his final chance for a major domestic accomplishment before his term expires. The plan Bush has proposed, as described in past articles, has the support of top House Democrats and moderate Republicans, but is now seen as too liberal to get the support of those House conservatives.

The Senate plan will include the "path to citizenship" and the guest worker program favored by the reform camp, but be subject to a "trigger". So, they would kick-in only once real progress was made toward tougher enforcement. The hope is that this trigger mechanism would attract enough conservatives for the bill to squeak through the House.

Senators expect it to take about 18 months, from the time a bill is passed before the trigger's benchmarks are certified by the Department of Homeland Security and visas begin to be processed. These benchmarks may include an increase in Border Patrol agents, adoption of biometric ID cards for visa recipients and allocation of resources for barriers and 24-hour visual security in specific border locations. The proposal is expected to include

a "Z" visa program enabling undocumented workers already in the U.S. to work toward getting a green card, as well as various guest worker visa categories that could be obtained and renewed every three years for a fee.

The Bush administration recently suggested instituting a 13-year work requirement for guest laborers hoping to apply for green cards, as well as a special category of documentation to allow certain immigrants with incomes at 150 percent of the poverty line and health insurance to apply for special permission to bring their families into the country.

The House bill (we have described in past articles also) introduced by Reps. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) in March also proposed a guest worker program through which immigrants could apply for temporary visas and eventually citizenship. Like the Senate proposal, that House bill tries to lure conservatives with a tough stance on enforcement, but it does not include a trigger mechanism and is not expected to go far in the House, at least not as is.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has promised a Senate debate on immigration in the last two weeks of May. But if no agreement is reached soon, Reid may invoke "Rule 14" on the immigration legislation. This will permit bypassing the traditional Judiciary Committee approval process and bring the matter straight to the Senate floor for a vote if it appears there is enough agreement on the bill to do so. If a bill can be put together in the Senate, there would likely be a vote on the bill by the end of May. The reason the focus is now on the Senate is tactical: where Senate Republicans lead, the administration hopes, conservative House members will follow.

The real challenge, however, is in the House of Representatives, where many Republicans and conservative Democrats are dead-set against / adamantly opposed to any bill that they believe would reward lawbreakers or provide "amnesty" for those who entered the country illegally. That is why House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has told the White House she would not bring an immigration measure to the House floor unless Bush can persuade at least 70 conservatives to vote for it.

This effort comes against the backdrop of those mass marches

and demonstrations supporting immigration rights on May 1st in major cities, including Chicago. In Chicago, the immigrants rights marchers were particularly incensed by a huge raid the week before, where supposedly five dozen SWAT-equipped ICE troopers stormed into and shut down a shopping area in the middle of the day in the center of the Mexican community in order to shut down an illegal ID manufacturing operation and arrested 22 people after detaining hundreds of shoppers and pedestrians. The heavy-handed raid galvanized massive support for the march.

One thing is certain: all the legislative wrestling, wrangling, and infighting on the issue of immigration reform better conclude with a consensus, and a plan, and a bill pretty soon. The upcoming election is sure to become a bitter contest of wills and competing ideology between moderates and conservatives, going across and disregarding party lines. This country has been split by the struggle for the hearts and minds of the voting public for some time. To me, the moderate politicians seem to be terrified and the conservative politicians ready to lead a popular conservative backlash from the people. I don't know where they get this idea, because the last time anybody actually asked the voters their opinions, it was in the midterm election, and the conservative agenda was soundly defeated. The readers can expect either action on immigration reform soon, or to watch the reform effort slowly crash and burn in the face of what is likely to become a bitter election campaign. We should see some progress by the end of May and through the summer. I just hope Congress passes something favorable enough that will get immigrants to cooperate and sign up.

Disclaimer: 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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# Investment Ideas

By David Gaffney  
From A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.,  
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Just to give you an idea, plan types include: SIMPLE IRAs, SEP IRAs, 401(k) plans, owner-only 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans (for tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations), and defined benefit (traditional pension) plans. The best plan for your business will depend on several factors, including the objectives you want to achieve.

One thing to keep in mind is that even if you contribute the maximum to an IRA or retirement plan each year, it may not be enough by itself to provide you with a financially secure retirement. To help you in your goal of preparing for retirement, you should probably have other savings as well. Once you've sized up your retirement savings options, you may choose to invest in an IRA, a qualified plan, a taxable account, or maybe even some combination of the above.

Be aware that the returns on your marketable investments may be less than what you're used to earning in your business, but that may actually work to your advantage. These investments may come with less risk and greater liquidity. They also provide diversification, which is one of the keys to any successful investing strategy.

Your business is definitely one of your most important assets, but it doesn't have to be your one and only. Plan ahead and invest in your retirement as a whole, using a combination

of other assets to complement your investment in your business.

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"Escape" — (right to left Gerrit O'Neill and Joslyn Jones) photo courtesy Live Bait Theater, 2007



## Your Business Shouldn't Be Your Only Asset

If you're a small business owner, you may think of the business itself as your most important tool for building wealth. And to some degree that's probably true - you put a significant amount of money into the business to help it grow, and when you're ready to retire you may be able to sell the business and get your investment back, along with any appreciation in value. But while it may seem like you have it made, don't be fooled into thinking you can rely on just this one source for your retirement nest egg. You need to consider building wealth outside of your business as well.

There are certainly rewards that come with owning a business, but it also comes with plenty of risks. Sometimes circumstances beyond your control can have detrimental effects to the value of your business. Additionally, your business could change dramatically between now and the time you retire. As a result, it's important to have a backup plan

in place in the event things don't quite work out as you had hoped.

One of the first places business owners should start is with a good retirement plan. If you're not already doing so, consider contributing to a traditional or Roth IRA to enjoy the benefits of tax-deferred or tax-free growth on your retirement savings. If your business doesn't have a qualified retirement plan - and as long as your wife is not covered by a qualified plan through her employer either - you can take a deduction on your income taxes of up to \$4,000 (\$5,000 if you're 50 or older) in traditional IRA contributions for 2006. Those amounts will stay the same for 2007 as well. (If your business has a retirement plan, your contributions may or may not be deductible, depending on your income; Roth IRA contributions are never deductible.)

While that's a good start to retirement savings, a qualified plan for your business will let you save much more. There is a wide variety of available plan options, and some can be established with minimal expenses.

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## radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



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**"Chicago's Best Kept Secret!"**

Time for a CD Slam. This is the most ambitious one we have ever attempted. 10. That's right! 10. Fasten up, here we go.

1. Let's get a tad provincial here. As the regular reader knows, Dyed in the Wool is our favorite Chicago band. Period. The group has its second album out. Called, Stranded. It is wonderful, and that has nothing to do with the fact these wonderful musicians are from Chi. We remember Johnny Devens of the group telling us they had a great, new singer. She is Meghan McKown. What a wonderful alto! Of course, the rest of the band is wonderful, as usual. We cannot recommend this group and this album highly enough. They keep getting better and better, and why they are not bigger on the national and international scene bewilders us. Great stuff. Find it. Rating: Four Harps

2. Compass Records has Kris Drever's new album, Black Water out now. From the Orkneys off Scotland, this young man's voice has Scotland through and through it. He is an excellent guitar player (he has backed Cathie Ryan and she can have her pick). The voice is compelling for one so young. The hardest thing to do in this business, by far, is to review someone's vocals. What we love, you may not, and vice versa. We can easily tell you the difference between Liz Carroll and Kevin Burke's fiddle playing, for example. Vocals, on the other hand, are 100% subjective. We really like Drevers' vocals. Wonderful back up musicians. This is a winner. The more we listen, the better and better it gets. A wonderful take on the tradition and the music. Rating: 3.5 Harps

3. Tim O'Shea is one of our favorite whistle players. We really like his singing, and he is an above average guitar player, as well. Multi-talented and all that. New album out is 15 Times Around. Title is from 15 selections gained from previous albums, and some unheard gems, also. This is great music, pure and simple. Very, very creative. There is a real generosity of spirit in these culled selections, as they truly feature some of the other wonderful musicians and singers Tim has worked with over the years. Highly varied, there is a little of everything here, artfully woven together in a brilliant combination of songs and tunes. This is a great compendium album by a wonderful musician and singer. Highly, highly recommended. Rating: 3.5 Harps

4. Kevin Burke and Cal Scott have a new album, Across The Black River. Guest musicians for accompaniment to Kevin's fiddle and Cal's guitar include Johnny Connolly on accordion and Michael McGoldrick on flutes. Can't get better than that. Kevin is best known for his early work with The Bothy Band and Patrick Street. As Patrick Street rapidly ran out of creative steam, there has always been the question if Kevin still has "it". He has, and this all-instrumental album is proof. What a find! On the Loftus Music label. This display of Burke's lovely, light touch goes down like the best ice cream you ever had. Lovely. Perfect, really. Another gem to find, to be sure. Rating: Four Harps

5. We have been meaning to review this for months, and only our total lack of organization has led us to not rave about it sooner. Scottish pianist, Sandy Meldrum has an album on Greentrax called,

Scottish Piano Fusion. This is the best piano album we have heard since Alison Hood's, Celtic Dreams and anything recorded by Limerick's Denis Carey. Meldrum is wonderful. If you love airs, find this album, it should not be hard. No one plays an air better. No one. Rating: Four Harps

6. Niamh Ni Charra was one of the fiddle players with Riverdance for something like eight years. She is from Killarney, and has a new album out, On Dá Thaobh/From Both Sides. It is good. What is brilliant is the fact that she has Brendan Begley along on button box, and Ireland's best guitar player, Mike Galvin in the project, also. Other guest musicians assure a varied boat full of goodies. She is a nice player who needs to develop some more flair. It is as if she left Riverdance behind and settled into this album instead of blazing through it. Very, very good. She can do better, and will. Rating: 3 Harps

7. Well, this is a bit of a surprise! Eleanor Shanley has a new solo album out, A Place of My Own. Google this gal. Most of us heard her for the first time years ago with DeDannan. We have always had mixed feelings. She is wonderful at the 1920's type of Irish-American Flanagan Brothers-type tunes, such as "Tip Top Tipperary Mary." We have also thought that she stretched her voice well out of its range and struggled on a lot of songs. Not here. This is a lovely album, with songs ranging from the standard, "Let Him Go, Let Him Tarry" to less known gems, such as Tim O'Brien's, "The Blackest Crow." The Dave Munnally Band's Paul Kellyhipped us to this album last March, and he is also featured on it. It is terrific, and easily Shanley's best work so far. She has matured, learned to control her range, and she is officially up for Female Vocalist of the Year with this one! Rating: Four Harps

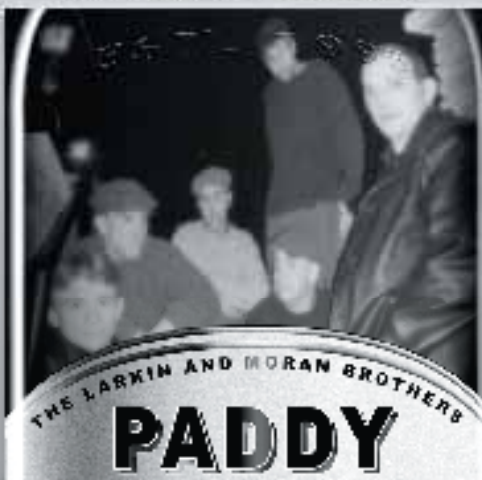
8. Geantraí is, probably, the best of them all, this time around. WOW! Sent to us by the ever-reliable Alan O'Leary of Copperplate in London, this album features some of the very best performances from the show of the same name as the album. On television for the last 10 years on Ireland's RTE 4 channel, it seems as if everyone is here for the party. These performances are all taped in their natural settings of session playing in pubs, and other natural surroundings. We can't begin to tell you the combinations of talent creatively mixed here. Singers meet musicians in some combinations only available here. We WANT to go into detail. Space does not provide. Look. If you really love the music, you have to get this. Google Copperplate. We can't tell you how special this is. This is the core of the music. This is the deal. Rating: Four Harps

9. The great Irish label, Clo-lar-Chonnachta brings us the wonderful, Marcos O Murchu. This album, Turas Ceoil, features the very strong northern and western style of wooden flute and tin whistle playing that has attracted such devotees over the years. He is well known in Ireland. Less known elsewhere. He is wonderful everywhere. Our father-in-law, the legendary Roscommon flute player, Dennis Watson, played like this. This is magic. A full roster of side musicians feature the very best the island has to offer, from Seamus Quinn to Oisín McDiarmada and Ciarán Curran. This is a magical album, of the very best of trad music. Good heavens, you must have this. Listening to this as we write this, we are aware we may well be listening to Instrumental Album of the Year. Rating: Four Harps

10. Another Greentrax Records stunner is the guitar album, Clear Stream. It features the very best guitar players in Scotland and beyond, and that is saying something. This is just lovely stuff, played at the highest levels. Tony Cuffe, Jack Evans, Dick Gaughan, Rob Mackillop, former Musician of the Year, Tony McManus, Alain Genty, Soig Sibert, Brian McNeill and Innes Watson are all featured in the generous 17 cuts. Who doesn't love Celtic guitar, played perfectly? The aforelisted group of artists tells you everything you need to know. If you are not already hip to these musicians, stop lolly gagging and get this cd! Rating: Four Harps

Notes: \*Shay Clarke and I are at it more than ever on our Monday night Public Radio show, Blarney on the Air. We know the title is twee. But, it is what it is. 7-9 p.m. Chicago time on WDCB, 90.9fm and [www.wdcb.org](http://www.wdcb.org) There is a FULL range of Irish music. The great stuff, as we review in this column monthly, and the dross Shay so loves. So, there is something for everyone! Great craic. Join us! \*Ta!

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# Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN



Gaelic Park Players received a special award for their "very entertaining" presentation of *Getting Buried* by Peter Cunningham at the 2007 Acting Irish International Theatre Festival in Milwaukee last month. The performance by the Chicago group was an "insane romp through the upper reaches of Irish lunacy confirming the old showbiz adage of leave them laughing as you go." That was the view of Ray Yeates, Director of the Ballymun Arts and Community Resource Centre (Axis) Dublin who adjudicated the festival. He then presented the award to Barney Farrelly.

The best production prize went to Toronto Irish Players from Ontario. The group performed *At the Black Pig's Dyke* by Vincent Woods, a Dublin based former broadcast journalist. "They did a fantastic job," commented Yeates about the Canadian group's performance. He also noted that with present-day political and social changes in Ireland, this play is rapidly becoming "a period piece."

At the Black Pig's Dyke was written in 1988. It was first performed in 1992 and is set at the interface of Northern and Southern Ireland in a rural backwater known as the black pig's dyke. The dyke, a trench-like indentation and ridge stretching across the country, is both real and symbolic and is a place where nefarious actions occur.

Folklore states that the ditch resulted from a legendary pig rooting out the land. The channel separates people and places of the north and south. This is exploited in the play which in style is commedia del arte. It has masked mummers singing, speaking in rhyme, playing music and dancing as they behave in ways that are intermittently comic, primitive, ritualistic and ribald. There is pageantry and color on stage as the story evolves but in the end the mood is distinctly black. The tale is told through the mummers' interaction with real people—at first as an allegory and then in a way that is both sobering and realistic.

The storyline tells about Lizzie Boles, a Catholic girl who is wanted by Frank Beirne, son of the local butcher and a fellow Catholic. But Lizzie wants no part of him. She has fallen in love with Jack, a Protestant, and goes with him. This sits badly with Frank and others in the community. Lizzie's decision then begets a code of retaliatory tribalism. The actions depicted here are as violent as any resulting from personal or political strife in any age and among previous generations. Inevitably, the outcome is tragic.

This production was flawless and contained astonishingly good musicians and dancers. For her over-the-top performance as the coarse, yet at the same time engaging, Miss Funny in this play, Lucy Carabine received the outstanding female performer award.

David Kyle was adjudicated the outstanding performer in a male role for his performance as Teddy in *Faith Healer*. The best supporting actor in a male role went to Gerry Herbert of Dublin. He played Richard Halvey in *Holding Court* Theatre's production of *Summer* by Hugh Leonard. "He was very comfortable in this rock solid production" stated the adjudicator.

Overall in the festival, there were three plays by Dublin playwright Dermot Bolger and two by Donegal-based Brian Friel. This made up more than half of what was on the playbill. Bolger's work included *From These Green Heights*, a story about the rise and fall of Ballymun, a low income area of Dublin, presented by Milwaukee Irish Arts, *Townlands of Brazil* presented as a reading by students from the University of Wisconsin, and *Walking the Road* by Axis Theatre, Dublin. *Walking the Road* is a journey based on the life of Francis Ledgwick, a poet from Slane, Co. Meath who perished in Flanders in World War I at the age of 29.

The two plays by Brian Friel were *Lovers* (Winners and Losers) staged by Innisfree Irish Theatre Company, Boca Raton, Florida and *Faith Healer* put on by Rochester Irish Players from Rochester, New York. However, none of these plays was able to garner the top prize. Next year's festival will be held in Rochester, NY.

Sean Callan's email is [irishquill@aol.com](mailto:irishquill@aol.com).

## Faith Foundation Golf And Dinner Fundraiser

The Reverend Robert E. McLaughlin Faith Foundation announced they will present their First Annual Award to Father John Smyth.

The presentation will be made at their 3rd Annual Golf and Dinner Fundraiser on Monday, June 25, 2007 at O'Briens Restaurant located at 1528 N. Wells St. in Chicago's Old Town.

For more information please call (847) 825-1552.



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By Mike Morley



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## The Sky is Craicing

"We don't want to see Sinn Féin bums on Ministerial seats just for the craic". What does that mean? Was it Ian Paisley railing at mortal enemies entering Stormont? ("You republican swine; leave those bikes outside. Take your seats like respectable members.") Was it Gerry Adams hoping his ministers won't be run out of the chamber riding a rail?

Actually, it WAS Adams, stating his party was serious in contesting last month's elections in the Irish Republic, and not just in it for "the craic".

By the time you read this, the election will be old news. But if Sinn Feiners made any significant showing in the South, it WILL be news if Fianna Fail invites them into government.

Asked about a possible coalition, Irish premier Bertie Ahern, sounding very much like the Ian-tollah, replied: "No! No! And Defense Minister O'Dea declared he'd rather go into opposition: "anybody but Sinn Fein".

Like an apprentice boy rushing to the gates, O'Dea raised the alarm, saying multinational companies might pull out if "they" were to get into government in "any shape or form". (God help us, they'll melt down the golden tiger!)

For years the Republic has studiously avoided looking North. Now it appears the Soldiers of Ireland (or destiny) fear Burnham Wood has finally come to Dunsinane.

Minister of State Brian Lenihan: "There will be no understanding... no formal agreement with Sinn Fein to support us, or informal agreement with Sinn Fein to support us from outside the government or inside the government or anywhere else. And I don't know how more clearly I can put it. We are not going to put ourselves in a position where they are part of the majority... which elects our leader as taoiseach...we do not believe it is in the national interest of this country." You'd think Huey Long had risen and thrown his hat in the ring. The reverend Dr. No must have been laughing to beat the band, or at least the drum, on that one.

The shimmers are a young, dedicated party, fresh from battle. They offer more than the tired platitudes of "choice", "changing direction", and "moving forward". And they are apparently scaring the old guard shinny by raising banners that Fianna Fail has left behind on the road to prosperity.

They want all-Ireland economic integration, with a single currency; free health care; fair and progressive taxation, an all-Ireland transport network with road tolls abolished; an end to privatizing public services and the return of Aer Lingus and Irish Ferries to public ownership; reduction in class sizes; an end to tax loopholes for tax exiles and millionaires; and "social house-building" (perhaps a bit more modest than the current mini-mansion-castle craze?)

All of this is a tall order and a tall tale no doubt; but unless the tiger has tamed the Irish character, the Fianna will have to swap their cricket bats for hurleys and play catch-up ball. It'll be mighty craic.

Watch: IRISH JOURNAL TELEVISION

Chicago cable- CAN-TV, Channel 19: Monday 7PM, Tuesday 2PM. Comcast- (Elmhurst office) 41 West suburbs - Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30 PM. Comcast- (Skokie office) 24 North suburbs - Ch. 19 (or 35): Tuesday, 6PM. Web: IrishTV. US - E-mail: [IrishTV@ameritech.net](mailto:IrishTV@ameritech.net)

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## Chicago Gaelic Park Busy with June Events

The Chicago Gaelic Athletic Association hosts Gaelic Games held every Sunday, beginning May 20, 2007 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. The 5,000 year-old Gaelic Games are the unique sports of Gaelic football and hurling. Football is a fantastic sport, similar to soccer, but more physically challenging and requires great skill. Hurling, the fastest field game in the world, is played by the ancient rules and with fearless and skilled players. Chicago and Gaelic Park are very lucky to have great competitive teams in both football and hurling. The Champions of Chicago will progress to the North American finals to be held this year at Gaelic Park for the first time since 2002. Admission to all regular season games is \$5.00 and children 12 and under are free. Gaelic Park also offers food, including ice cream and other refreshments while the games are played.

Live telecasts of Gaelic football and hurling championship games will be broadcast live by Setanta every Sunday morning. Admission is \$20.00. Please call Gaelic Park for games and start times.

The Chicago Feis 2007 (Irish Step Dancing Competition) will be held on Saturday, June 16th, 2007. Categories for dancers are beginner, advanced beginner, novice, open and adult beginner. Any dancer placing in first through third places will advance to the Preliminary Championship Competition. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a family admission of \$15 with registration and the competition begins at 8:30 a.m. Step dancing is a great way to showcase Irish heritage. This event is open to the public and all are welcome.

Gaelic Park is also home to the Carraig Pub, the place for a great night out with delicious food. The Carraig serves delicious favorites such as corned beef sandwiches, shepherd's pie, fish & chips, ribs, chicken and many other selections. Music is big at the Carraig with traditional music sessions every Thursday night, which the whole family is invited to attend, as well as free entertainment every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers. This month hear:

Raymond Gavigan on Friday, June 1st  
Gerard Haughey on Saturday, June 2nd  
Dan McGuinness on Friday, June 8th  
Partick Guinee on Saturday, June 9th  
Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, June 15th  
Mulligan Stew on Saturday, June 16th  
Jerry Eadie on Friday, June 22nd  
The Ploughboys on Saturday, June 23rd  
Week Back on Friday, June 29th  
Joe McShane on Saturday, June 30th

Gaelic Park's Monthly Musical Luncheon continues on the first Wednesday of every month through the summer. Beginning at noon on Wednesday, June 6th, 2007 and for the modest cost of \$13, the Musical Luncheon includes an afternoon of lively entertainment, this month by Joe McShane, and a delicious sit down lunch that includes dessert.

Every Sunday night from 7 to 9 p.m., broadcast direct from Gaelic Park, is Harry Costelloe, Mary Hackett and Mary Riordan on WCEV 1450 AM giving you all the week's Irish news and sports direct from Ireland, and all the latest events and goings on at Gaelic Park. The program can also be heard live over the internet at [www.wcev1450.com](http://www.wcev1450.com), once you enter the site, click on schedule and then Surfer Network, located on the left hand side of the screen, and listen from there. Call (708) 687-9330 to request a song or dedication.

For further information please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323. Also visit our website at [www.chicagogaelpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelpark.org) to reserve tickets and for more information on any event.

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(See story The North American County Board - pg. 38) (l to r) back: John Tobin (GAA Tutor); Michael Moynihan (Boston GDA) Middle (2nd row): Joe Begley (Chicago); Tom Dolan (NACB Chairman); Paul Bayly (San Francisco GDA); Front (1st row): Garrett Fitzsimmons (Chicago Chairman); Tommy Dolan, Jr. (Chicago GDA); Liam Hegarty (Philadelphia GDC Chairman); Ciaran Cox (Boston GDA candidate); Patrick Trainor (Philadelphia GDA); Eamonn Gormely (San Francisco GDC Chairman); Mike O'Connor (NACB Youth Officer); Eamonn Kelly (NACB PRO).

## IAHC Continues Sunday Evening Music Concerts

The IAHC continues its Sunday evening acoustic/folk music performances this summer. 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 series showcases Chicago's top acoustic/folk performers, as well as visiting artists. Local musician, Kat Eggleston, emcees the series.

The June performance on June 10 features Kat Eggleston, Kate MacLeod, Dennis Cahill and Sean O'Hare. Call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, or Gary Tuber at 847-882-9723. Visit the website at [www.secondsundayconcerts.com](http://www.secondsundayconcerts.com). The IAHC is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, on Chicago's Northwest side.

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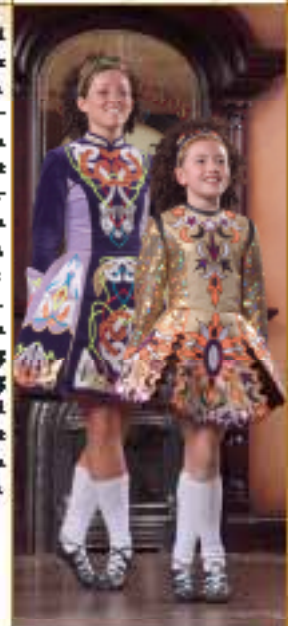
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Mayor Richard M. Daley speaks to the crowd of more than 100,000 demonstrators during the Immigration Rally at Grant Park, on Tuesday, May 1, 2007.

"I'm happy to join you today to lend my voice in support of sensible reform," Mayor Daley said. "I believe all of us have an obligation to work together to send a clear message that immigrants are valued and welcome participants and stakeholders in this country."



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## De La Salle's Kaitlyn Bailey Named Toyota High School Athlete of Week

De La Salle Institute announced that student-athlete Kaitlyn Bailey was chosen as the Toyota High School Athlete of the Week for the week of April 24, 2007. During that span, Bailey recorded 12 hits in 15 at-bats, scored 10 runs, stole 13 bases and added eight RBI.

Each Toyota High School Athlete



of the Week's school receives a \$500 donation for their school's athletic department. In addition, the Athletes of the Week will qualify for the opportunity to be named Toyota's High School Athlete of the Year, which will be announced at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

In addition to her success on the softball diamond, Bailey also thrives in the classroom. A member of the Honors Program, Bailey holds a 3.638 grade-point average and is ranked No. 24 in the 98-member Class of 2007 at De La Salle's Lourdes Hall Campus.

Congratulations to Bailey on her impressive achievements she is wished well in her future endeavors.

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## Celebrate Bloomsday With "Rattlin' Of The Joists"

The IAHC will celebrate the life and works of James Joyce with its annual Bloomsday Celebration, Rattlin' of the Joists, this June.

On June 16, 1904, writer



James Joyce met his wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, Ulysses. Modern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16th "Bloomsday"; a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works.

On Saturday, June 16, 2007 at 7pm, the IAHC's Cultural Committee presents the eighth annual Rattlin' of the Joists presentation

which includes readings, music and song presented by notables from Chicago's theater and music community. The group will perform excerpts from Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners, Ulysses and Finnegans Wake, as well as biographical detail on Joyce's life. Performers include Brad Armacost, Vera Kelly, Brendan Gregg and Tenor Mark Piekarz.

### The Women of Murphy Roche

Just released in January 2007 by the Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, seven young Chicagoland women are spotlighted on the CD, The Women of Murphy Roche. Their music is pure tradition, with solos for tenor banjo, fiddle, Irish flute, Irish whistle, and voice. Ranging in age from 9 to 17, the soloists grace their music with qualities honed from performance tours in Ireland or qualifying and competing for world titles in Irish music. Veteran Murphy Roche musicians back the solos.

Featured soloists are: Cathryn Cowell (fiddle, Riverside, IL); Kailey Falcon (Irish flute, Aurora, IL); Molly Griffin (tenor banjo and fiddle, Geneva, IL); Emily

Directed by IAHC member, Josephine Craven, the celebration is "...a wonderful way to explore and enjoy the fertility, immensity and complexity of James Joyce's genius."

Tickets are \$10 and includes a pre-show reception and can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10. The IAHC is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, on Chicago's Northwest side.

Moog (Irish whistle, Hinsdale, IL); Dierdre Nieto (fiddle, Long Grove, IL); Laura Romaine (Irish whistle, Darien, IL); and Kara Scheer (singer, Clarendon Hills, IL).

Accompanying on the CD are: Patrick Nieto (bodhran—the traditional Irish drum, Deirdre's brother); Mike Chole (guitar and guitar, and CD producer, Burr Ridge, IL); Kate McMillen Muir (piano, Carol Stream, IL); and Joe Martin (drums, Wheaton, IL).

The Murphy Roche School of Irish Music (Burr Ridge, IL) is directed by Kell and Mike Chole. The school has been in operation since 1998. For CDs, booking information or to enroll, please call 630-662-8611.

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## NBC "Today Show" Correspondent Mike Leonard's 'The Ride of Our Lives' Becomes National Best Seller!

By Amy Wasserstrom

If Mike Leonard ever had a chance to speak with Bridget O'Halloran, the Irish immigrant great grandmother he never knew, he might start by thanking her for the gift of a ring. That family heirloom, passed through the generations, impacted the lives of perhaps millions; from Mike's own family to the many viewers who watch this successful correspondent on NBC's "Today Show". In fact, it could be said that this modest ring directly led Mike from obscurity to fame and helped him achieve his creative destiny.

The story of this ring forms the cornerstone of Leonard's best selling book, "The Ride of Our Lives – Roadside Lessons of an American Family". Published in 2006, the best-selling, critically acclaimed memoir's paperback edition will be released next month, just in time for Father's Day.

### The Ring

Born in 1947, in Paterson, New Jersey, Mike Leonard grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago, and first met Cathy O'Brien in the seventh grade at Sacred Heart school. He didn't make much of an impression on her then, but by 1969, when he was a student at Providence College, and a starter on the school's Division One hockey team, the two former classmates were in love. Mike had saved \$1000 from a summer construction job by living at the YMCA for \$14 a week. He'd saved that money for an engagement ring and planned to propose to Cathy on his last weekend at home before returning to school. When he told his family (who by then had relocated to Arizona) of his plans, his grandmother said she wanted him to have her mother's ring – Bridget O'Halloran's ring, left for her heirs. "But I need to propose to Cathy tomorrow", Mike said to his father. Jack Leonard



Mike and Cathy at the Quill Awards

told Mike he'd think of something and he did – something that could never be done today.

The next morning, Jack Leonard called Mike and told him to go to Chicago's O'Hare airport, to meet the incoming flight from Phoenix. Jack had taken the ring to the airport in Phoenix and entrusted it to one of the flight attendants on that flight. No names were exchanged, no contracts drawn up, just a trusting soul of a father, a willing courier, perhaps touched by the romance of the situation, and a young man not sure what was happening, waiting across the country.

Mike hung around the gate, watched all the passengers disembark, and waited some more. Finally, one of the flight attendants walking off the plane saw him standing there, came over to him and said,

"You must be the boy". She handed him the ring, gave him a hug and said, "Have a wonderful life". With that, she turned and went along on her way.

"A diamond ring once worn by an Irish immigrant who trusted fate by sailing off to an unknown land had just sailed across America in the trusted hands of an unknown woman. A day later, I gave that same diamond ring to a pretty girl who believed me when I said that I would find my place in the world," Mike wrote in "The Ride of Our Lives."

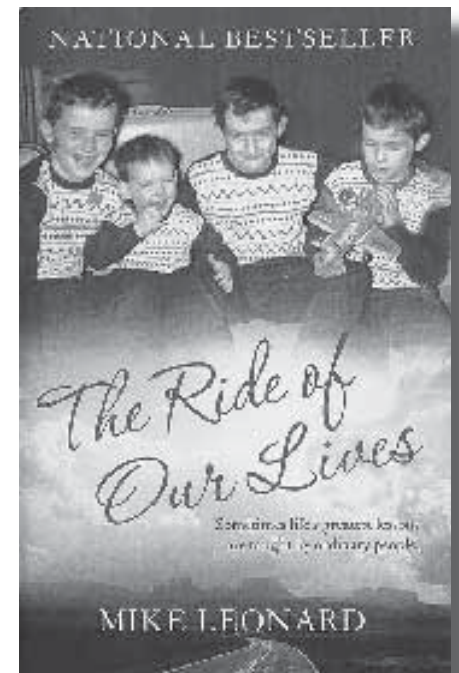
Cathy O'Brien accepted Mike's proposal along with Bridget O'Halloran's ring, and Mike returned to college, with the \$1000 he'd planned to spend on the ring now tucked away in his pocket, but not for long. For reasons he still can't explain today, Mike spent the money on a movie camera. "I always have felt like time is going by too fast", Mike says. "I bought the camera partly as my way of slowing down time, or stopping it, even if just for a moment. At the time, it was a completely illogical thing for me to do but now, I see it was one of the most practical things I ever did."

Mike and Cathy were married following his college graduation, and moved to Phoenix.

Three children, Matt, Megan and Kerry, arrived over the next few years, and provided plenty of material for the budding movie-maker, while a series of dead-end jobs never quite paid the bills. (A fourth child, Brendan, arrived several years later).

"What I really did best was what I did just for fun: making movies with my Super 8 camera. The subjects, for the most part, were the members of my family. By capturing the fleeting moments of childhood on film, then splicing the scenes to a music soundtrack played on a separate tape recorder, I had found a way to slow down time. And I was being creative. Nothing suited me better."

Leonard was 30 years old, with a nose that had been broken half a dozen times, long curly hair, and no television experience when he took the advice of a friend and decided to pursue a career on the small screen. He lugged his projector and tape recorder to news directors at all three Phoenix network affiliates as well as the independent station. All cited his age, lack of experience and lack of journalistic background in their rejections. But the news director at the PBS station gave him a tryout, which led to a part-



time job as a feature reporter. The catch: his new position wasn't included in the budget, but forty bucks a week could be cadged from the petty cash fund. This worked out to less than a dollar an hour. "With a wife, three children, a mortgage, a car payment, and a bunch of other bills to pay ... how could I refuse?"

Within three months, Leonard was



Annie Smith, Mike's Grandmother, lived in this house in Cavan Town, County Cavan, Ireland.



The Family Leonard (l to r): Mike's son, Brendan; (just graduated from Providence College) Jack Leonard, Mike's dad, known as "Spouse"; Mike Leonard, Marge Leonard, Mike's mom, known as "Moose"; Margarita Leonard, Mike's daughter-in-law and Mike's son Matt's wife; Matt Leonard, Mike's son; Kerry Leonard, Mike's daughter. (starts at Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern U. this summer)

hired as a part-time sports reporter at the CBS affiliate. That job soon evolved into a sports anchor job. Soon thereafter, NBC Network News offered him a job as a feature reporter on the Today Show. Less than two years after beginning his television career, Leonard had achieved great success at what he'd always envisioned: being creative with his movie camera.

"I think the urge to tell stories was the Irish in me coming out. As a second generation Irishman, I didn't feel that "Irishness" until I saw a cousin in Ireland that looked just like me. He had 30 cows, no computer, and a humble farm life. Because my grandfather left Ireland and his brother stayed, their children had very different lives. But we share the same looks, the same humor and the same outlook on life."



Marge (Moose), Mike and Jack (Spouse)

### The Journey

"The Ride Of Our Lives" chronicles Leonard's spin around the country with his mother, father, and several of his children. The idea for this journey came to him one night as he worried about his aging parents. Their recent move into a retirement village had been a mistake; they were bored and lonely and lacked the resources to move again. With his eldest daughter Megan expecting the clan's first grandchild in just two months, Leonard decided to take his parents on a month-long trip across the country to revisit the important sites of their lives. The goal: to make it back home to Chicago before the birth of his first grandchild, his parents' first great-grandchild. The resulting adventure is a rollicking, energetic romp that is poignant, memorable and always entertaining. The adventure begins in Arizona,

derails half an hour later with a screech and a crunch of metal, and then proceeds East, through more than a dozen states, meetings with memorable characters, visits to sites both grand and humble, and always, the entertaining wisdom and commentary from Mike and his irrepressible parents.

Caravaning in two RV's, the trip spans not only the country from coast to coast, but a century's worth of family history. Their story runs from deeply funny to deeply moving, and reminds us all that at the beginning and at the heart of every journey is a family with its own richness, lore and memories. Leonard discovers a great deal about the lives his parents lived. He sees glimpses of his mother as a nine-year-old girl, armed only with a dining room chair as her alcoholic father badgers her frightened mother. He sees his father as a 12 year old,

sent back to Ireland by ship, alone, to visit family left behind there, just after the deaths of his brother and baby sister. Along with the happier moments and visits to places his parents never dreamed they'd see again, this once-in-a-lifetime ultimate family reunion creatively weaves together their stories along with Leonard's own engaging memories of growing up and becoming the man so well known and admired by millions of television viewers today.

"The Ride of Our Lives" is a national bestseller, but it has also struck an especially high note within the Irish community. It is a must-read for anyone who enjoys great storytelling about family, adventure, journeys of the road and journeys of the heart. The original hard cover book includes a DVD with video chronicling the trip and the entire original five-part series as it appeared on The Today Show, a bonus that helps to bring the reader along for the ride and greatly enhances the entire experience. And the new paperback edition promises to be one of the most talked about books of the summer.

Today, that fateful ring that Bridget O'Halloran bequeathed to her descendants is worn by Megan Leonard. And what about

Megan's baby, due to arrive as the clan completed their journey? You'll have to read "The Ride Of Our Lives" to find out.

When he is not filing frequently-seen reports as a correspondent for NBC's "Today Show" and Video Blogs (aka VLOG's) for MSNBC.com, Mike Leonard inspires a troupe of film makers and storytellers at Picture Show

Films, a firm that includes son, Matt, son-in-law Jamie Fleischel and brand new addition, Jim Corboy. Their work can be seen and they can be reached at [www.pictureshowfilms.com](http://www.pictureshowfilms.com)

Amy Wasserstrom Cummings is a free lance television producer with Cameralogic, Inc. and a former producer for NBC's "Today Show". She can be reached at [cameralogic2@comcast.net](mailto:cameralogic2@comcast.net)



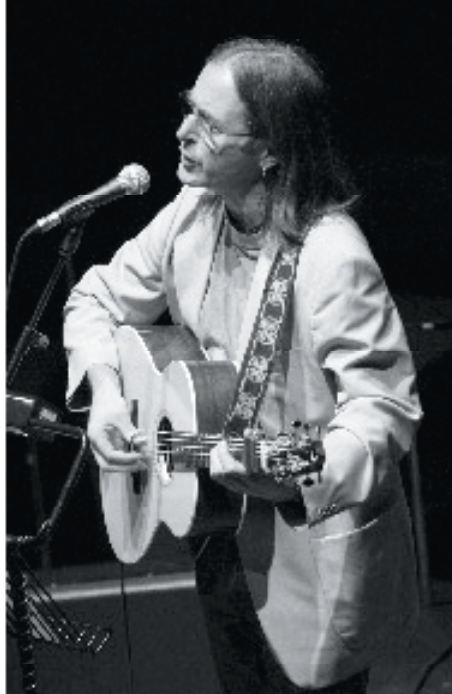
Mike, with his ever present camera, and wife Cathy



Some of the Picture Show Films gang: front left clockwise – Matt Leonard, Jim Corboy, Jamie Fleischel, and Mike



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It had been quite a while since I had been to New York City and then, either as a television reporter or as a publicist touring clients around the news media.

Advantage, expense report. Disadvantage, absolutely no time to do much fun. Which isn't to complain, I'd worked in plenty in the past. Seeing the tops of the World Trade Center and the crown of the Statue of Liberty, both experiences that no one will be able to do again.

But what can you do if you have lots of time and not a lot of greenbacks? Finding low airfare is a snap. I paid \$59 each way. The first hurdle is accommodations. Short of finding a friend's inviting couch, the next option is intriguing: staying at a hotel. At \$38 a night it sounded interesting, but with a few job interviews to cram in, I couldn't see leaving my best duds and luggage in a bunk room populated by young travelers who carry most of what they have in backpacks.

### Bed and Breakfast

Tourism following the 9/11 attacks has rebounded so much that hotel prices are soaring. I expected hundred dollar bargains online and found \$300 plus at some of the least expensive chains, I don't care what William Shatner says on his commercials!

I did find a beautiful little European style hotel in the Upper West side of Manhattan,

right on Central Park. A big goal of my trip was to spend some time in Central Park, I was never able to visit it before. The key is to use the subway to get around, and use that ten minute trip to Midtown as your discount to hundreds of dollars off hotel rooms. As my week progressed I hardly noticed the travel time and the savings allowed me to stay a few extra days.

But what to eat? Plan A was to make heavy use of the Subway sandwich shops and their \$2.69 daily specials. Fuggedaboutit. Not in New York, chain discount specials don't apply. I adapted and overcame by finding a wonderful little corner grocer that was happy to make me sandwiches for a pittance. Nice little place to grab breakfast and a paper to start the day of adventures as well.



### Broadcasting

Free museums and sights are plentiful; a regular stop for me had been the Museum of Broadcasting but this time I wanted to get into THE museum... CBS News. It's lost a lot of its luster in recent years but this was a place I always wanted to see... the place that Paley and Murrow and Cronkite built. It's a dingy dirty little 8-story red brick building on West 57th. My entrée was a friend who works the overnight shift there. I was determined to get inside and see it after two previous failed attempts on business trips.

This third time was a charm, I got to see the national television and radio anchor desks and newsrooms. The highlight was a small section of the 1960's Cronkite set that is still preserved on a wall in an older newsroom. Katie Couric wasn't around but then again I ran into her at an evening event on my last visit. Been there done that.

### Balto

Along with seeing a niece in college on Staten Island (the ferry from Manhattan at night is both a bargain and a visual treasure) I spent a lot of time shuttling between friends in the news business now making their mark in the Big Apple.

The big goal of the trip was to find a landmark in Central Park I saw on a television documentary. It took two or three tries but I finally found it by walking through the center of the park near 67th Street. After spending a year in Alaska this was a must, the statue of Balto the sled dog. Balto is a legend in Alaska and apparently also in New York. Back in 1925, a pack of dogs led by Balto delivered diphtheria serum 700 miles from Anchorage to dying Eskimo villagers in Nome, saving the residents. That epic journey through the heart of the Last Frontier would be recreated and grow today to the world-renown Iditarod Race.

I expected a faded pooch covered in bird droppings but instead found what seems to be a very popular Siberian Husky. Lots of couples and kids surrounded Balto and crawled up to his heightened perch to get a picture. As a tour carriage traveled over the nearby park bridge (one of those arched stone jobs you always see in New York films) the tour guide

pointed out Balto to his customers. Balto's shiny coat and tail is due to admirers rubbing him out of affection. Not bad for a dog that's 5,000 miles from home.

### Broadway

Of course, no trip to New York is complete without seeing a top actor in a play. Not on my budget. But not so fast. I read in the paper that movie actor Ed Harris was appearing in a one-man play off Broadway. A few hours later I found myself six rows from Ed with only a fifteen minute subway ride and a \$15 pricetag as admittance. It doesn't get any better than that—Manhattan by matinee.

The weather was beautiful each day and I enjoyed seeing several sections of Central Park, which I found safe and inviting.

As for not going bankrupt, it truly was a walk in the park.

Jim McClure is a freelance journalist living in Northbrook, Illinois.

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 YEATS

# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

## Brave New World?

Coming back to Ireland after a very pleasant working break in Bulgaria I had thought that this month's column would be all sweetness and light. Which is about as natural a condition for me as it is for Ted Danson as "Becker". Instead, it was to hear the shocking news of yet another school gun tragedy across the water. By the time you read this I expect that tens of thousands of words have been written about this awful horrific incident, so I'll limit myself to just saying that we are as dismayed here as you must be in the States. I think I can speak for the whole country when I say that our thoughts go out to you.

Here it seems as if an entire lifetime of pointless bloody killing may be reaching an end with the extraordinary photographs of former IRA chief Martin McGuinness and DUP leader Ian Paisley sitting down together as Northern Ireland's new First Minister and Deputy First Minister respectively. Not just sitting down and shaking hands but sharing jokes in what was not only a truly historic occasion but also at times a light-hearted one, with even British Prime Minister Tony Blair noting the irony of a 54-year old leaving power just as an 80-year old takes it. And the fact that the wisecrack went down well is a good omen. I truly hope this for the people of the North who have endured so much. I guess I just hope that this is a genuine turning point. Of course, I also wonder why it took an entire lifetime of suffering and the deaths of 3,722 people that we know of (not to mention the endless effect on the families of the bereaved) to reach a stage where some very serious men and women realised that pointless violence achieves in the end, before reasoned dialogue—just more endless and futile suffering. And no, I don't think I'm being naïve. I may be a pacifist but I have also, throughout my life, taken on board the words of the great film director Sam Peckinpah: "I'm not saying that pacifism isn't manly. It may even be the highest form of manliness. But if someone cuts off your right hand, you



don't offer him your left one. Not if you want to play the piano again, you don't."

It will take generations for this country to heal the wounds, but despite the apprehensions I share with so many it is not a day to go into that. Of course, there will be the dissidents and the hold-outs and believe me they are very bitter indeed; but for the moment I'll put cynicism aside and just hope for those young people who don't wish to hear of this kind of nonsense again, that this is genuine change. Finally, all we can hope for is a better tomorrow, no matter how early it is to feel such optimism.

As to Mr. Blair, who now kindly deprives us of his company, (no doubt to hit the lecture circuit with his money-hungry wife), in fairness to him it has to be said that he will be remembered as a good friend to this country. It is very possible that his interest in different faiths helped pave the way to this strange crossroads in Ireland's history. Although an Anglican, he attends Catholic Mass on a regular basis, has apparently read the Koran in its entirety—no mean feat—and has a wide knowledge of many contemporary religions. How he reconciles this with his endless line of spin-doctors, or with his backing of that futile war in Iraq, I can't possibly imagine. He may

have his own doubts in the dark hours before dawn about what he has put the parents of slain British soldiers through, but it is unlikely, I think, that a Prime Minister will be able to do so again. It seems that it will be—and should be—a matter for Parliament in the future. And yet again I wish, though it be a futile hope, that there will never again be such a wasteful war. Also, since I'm in a surprisingly good mood this morning, I'll add that another very dubious though charming character—yes, you've guessed it, your own ex-President Clinton—will also be remembered here as a tireless worker for peace in the North. So many different and very diverse men and women have worked towards this that it is pointless to name them all. But to experience us coming to a place that in my lifetime I felt we wouldn't reach, where we can see such bitter enemies sitting down together is simply astonishing. So, Mr. Blair, at least you're leaving at the right time. For the love of Heaven, you had even begun to walk like your boss George Bush and that was very worrying.

On a side note, I recently saw Stephen Frears' wonderful film "The Queen" in which Michael Sheen does an uncanny performance as Blair, and if the events portrayed are even half-accurate then he was largely responsible for saving the British monarchy after the debacle which followed the death of Princess Diana. If you're remembered for saving the future of that crowd of parasites,

history may not be so kind.

But on this day let's just hope for a Brave New World, one where we can be a little kinder and a little more tolerant of one another.

Right, that's enough. Back to my usual self next month. Promise.

## World Folk Music Wraps Concert Season

World Folk Music Company, 1808 W. 103rd St., Chicago, will wrap its 06-07 concert season with two June concerts: Bohola (Saturday, June 9, 8 p.m., \$20); Dyed in The Wool (concert and CD release party, Saturday, June 23, 8 p.m., \$20).

Bohola—accordion virtuoso Jimmy Keane and remarkable bouzouk player and vocalist Pat Broaders—is Irish music's newest "super-group." "This is a hugely important group and a feather in the cap for Chicago. Jimmy Keane is the best piano accordion player in Irish music. Period. Full Stop. The great fact that hits the listener is how well he has amalgamated a number of traditional styles into his own. Blindly fast, he simultaneously has tremendous phrasing and soul in his playing. No one else is really close. Dublin-born Pat Broaders has a voice soaked in the pub milieu of Chicago.

The sand in his timbre and the directness in his delivery bring an experiential depth." - Bill Margeson, Irish American News. Bohola is at WFMC Saturday, June 9, 8 p.m. (\$20).

Dyed in The Wool, the unique American folk/Celtic band, celebrates the release of their new CD, Stranded, with a concert and CD release party on Saturday, June 23, 8 p.m. (\$20). Featuring the superb musicianship of John Devens (guitar, mandolin, bodhran, vocals), Julia Dusek-Devens (flute, vocals), Jim White (guitar), and vocalist Meghan McKown, Dyed in The Wool consistently wins rave reviews for its stellar live performance style. Their Stranded CD is generating an equally enthusiastic response:

Tickets for all shows can be purchased by visiting WFMC, 1808 W. 103rd St., Chicago, or by calling (773) 779-7059.

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Groucho Marx famously said, "I would not join any club that would have someone like me for a member."

ventures I figured it might help to hang out with rich people even though I wasn't rich myself.

I started working out but mostly just having fun with my kids in the gym or having dinner in the elegant dining room that looked out on the lake. I liked hanging at the Cherry Circle bar too, where I could put on a nice package before heading for the train. And my instincts were right about finding money. I met lots of investors at the CAA who rolled the dice with me on stage and I made tons of friends.

Seventeen years ago I joined the Chicago Athletic Association and now it's tanking. Like a mighty ship run aground on an iceberg, it's taking on water, and rats are scrambling all over the deck.

The CAA was founded in 1890 as a "gentlemen's club", and while that description nowadays is a euphemism for bawdyhouse; the CAA dripped with class for over a hundred years. Members included some of Chicago's most prominent Irishmen who availed themselves of the first class athletic, dining, and drinking amenities provided by the club.

I first entered its marbled stairway when I was ten years old. Jim Havey's dad was a member and he sponsored Jim's pals for the Saturday morning kids program. We'd get up early on Saturdays and hop the Rock Island to LaSalle Street station. We'd walk over to Michigan Avenue and spend the day boxing, shooting baskets, and swimming at the CAA. On the way home we'd all chip in and get one of the sailors in the train station to buy us a Playboy magazine. Those were the halcyon days of our youth.

Those memories of the CAA established an early appreciation for the finer things in life; the history and tradition of sport, the camaraderie of a locker room, cigars and beer. In its infancy the CAA had sent teams to battle on the gridiron with Harvard, Yale, and other Universities. In the early 1900's the CAA sponsored many athletes in the Olympics, and several members to this day are Olympians. The dining halls and locker rooms were adorned with trophies from past triumphs and this kid thought it was just about the coolest thing he'd ever seen.

When I was 40 I dropped by the CAA to reminisce one day while walking down Michigan Avenue. It was just as I remembered it and I decided then and there to apply for membership. To my surprise they let me in, maybe because I had clout-heavy sponsors in Tom Gibbs and Phil Rock. The dues weren't exorbitant and since I was in the business of raising money for my theatrical



But things started to unravel after about ten years. I was able to finagle an office in the CAA building itself and now I could work, nap, swim, and drink all on the same day in the same building.

I was sitting pretty until I tried to hook up my phone service. Turns out two members of the CAA board of directors, let's call them Klinger and Vlasic, had some sort of monopoly on the phone service. They sent their fat secretary to my door one day and she handed me a bill and screeched at me for the shoddy workmanship of my phone installer. Of course I told her what she could do with her invoice and also sent her bosses a letter telling them I had no intention of paying, with what I thought were some amusing comments about their gal Friday's girth.

They were not amused and one of these twits pounded on my door with a butter knife in his hand and threatened to cut off my phone service. Things were getting ugly at the CAA and they just got worse from that day on. I never paid them and Klinger and Vlasic put a motion before the board to oust me from the club citing me as a "sexist". Wow, that was a real news flash.

The board, in its wisdom, voted no. It might have been the only sensible thing that board of directors ever did. Years went by and the CAA

suddenly announced to its membership that the club was almost broke and needed an emergency infusion of cash. If you paid a couple grand you became an A member and retained your vote; or you could not pay and remain a non-voting B member. I decried this class warfare at the annual meeting and proclaimed, "You are creating an aristocracy!"

"Tut-tut" were the words of the majority and they went ahead and created the new class system. I paid up only to protect my vote because I still remembered those blagguards trying to blackball me. Then things got worse.

An investigation of the board revealed that Klinger and Vlasic had been stealing from the membership through an intricate set of nefarious rent and telephone deals and the club was on the brink of bankruptcy. They were expelled from the CAA, oh sweet justice!

But they had left a gaping wound that could not be healed.

The building was put up for sale and now the venerable old CAA is in its final days. Lawsuits are flying in all directions with B members suing for a piece of the pie and it looks like attorneys will wind up eating all but the crumbs. It's all going to go, the furniture, the trophies, the spittoons, the history of a grand old club where Chicago's Irish spilled booze over their lace curtains.

What killed it? The end of expense accounts? Smokers and drinkers becoming pariah? I know those bastards Klinger and Vlasic had a lot to do with it, but in the end I guess all the members should blame themselves for not keeping a closer eye on the people running the joint. I think we were all just having too much fun to pay that much attention.

I guess Groucho was right after all.

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## Top Area Soccer Coach Paul Keenan Named Notre Dame H.S. Head Coach

Notre Dame High School has hired two-time Illinois state champion soccer coach Paul Keenan to be its new head soccer coach effective immediately. Keenan, who most recently spent three years as head coach at Leyden High School in Franklin Park, has a 450+ record of wins as a head coach since 1987. With his selection as NDHS' head coach, Keenan comes full circle since he started his career as a head soccer coach here in 1987.

"I'm very excited and looking forward to the challenge of coaching at Notre Dame. It's kind of like coming home since I began my head coaching career there. I was head coach there for one year before coaching at Palatine for four years after that," said Keenan who has also been head coach at St. Charles and Barrington high schools.

"Notre Dame has always been close to my heart. I went to a Catholic boy's school when I was younger and I feel very comfortable at Notre Dame," he added.

A standout assistant coach, head coach and player in his own right, Keenan, who hails from Newry, Northern Ireland, was a four year varsity starter at the University of Manchester in England. He has also played semi-professional soccer in Chicago's Metro League for the Lions and Vikings soccer clubs.

A tremendously successful head coach, Keenan has had zero losing seasons in 21 years of coaching. From 1995 to 1997, his St. Charles High School team won back-to-back state championships and went undefeated with 65 wins. He has coached teams to eight Elite Eight appearances and won six State Final Four trophies.

"Paul Keenan is going to bring Notre Dame High School soccer to a whole new level. He's an outstanding soccer coach and one of the best in the state of Illinois," said NDHS President Rev. John P. Smyth. "He's a great man of character and he's got vision, expertise and talent in the area of soccer. We're pleased that he will be part of Notre Dame's future."

"It will be good for Notre Dame to have Paul Keenan be here. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the game of soccer," said Athletic Director Michael Hen-

nessey. "It's going to be very beneficial for our young men."

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the Notre Dame students and working with them. I'll be teaching physical education there too so I'll get to know them well. I'm looking forward to building a new tradition of winning here," said Keenan. "I think we need to maximize the potential we have and also get more students to come out for soccer."

In addition to coaching high school level soccer, Keenan has also taught soccer skills to thousands of Chicago area youth throughout the years including nine years as Director of Coaching at the Euro soccer club in Techny (Northbrook area) and Lincolnshire. He will hold a mini-camp for NDHS players this summer to assess their skills. He will also hold soccer camps in the summer for grammar school and incoming freshman students.

"I won't have to go far," Keenan, a Niles resident, said with a chuckle. "I live five blocks away so Notre Dame is practically in my backyard."

For more information about the soccer camps and other summer athletic camps at Notre Dame High School, please call Judy Byrne in the NDHS Athletic Department for more information at 847.779.8650 or email her at jbyrne@ndhsdons.org.

About Notre Dame High School

For more than half-a-century, Notre Dame High School, a Catholic, college preparatory school located in Niles, Ill., has prepared more than 11,500 young men for life beyond college. Located on 28 beautifully landscaped acres, Notre Dame currently serves approximately 770 students from Chicago's Northwest Side and northern suburbs who receive an education for both mind and heart. In the pursuit of maximizing their potential, the Dons of Notre Dame, the Gentlemen of Mary, experience excellence in academics, a vibrant spiritual life, opportunity for leadership, tremendous involvement in extracurriculars and a school spirit like no other. For general inquiries contact Teresa Connelly, Media Relations Specialist, at 847.779.8651 or tconnelly@ndhsdons.org.

## Gaelic Park Hosts CYC and NACB Tournaments

Chicago Gaelic Park will be hosting two huge Irish sports events this summer. In addition to playing host to the North American GAA playoffs, the first time since 2002, the Continental Youth Championships (CYC) tournament will be staged at the venue for the first time.

Close to 2,000 children from around the United States and Canada are expected in Chicago on the July 27th - 29th weekend to compete in championships from under 8 to under 18 in Gaelic Football, Hurl-

ing and Ladies Gaelic Football. Further details on this very popular event will be forthcoming.

The NACB playoffs will be played over the Labor Day weekend.

## Concern Worldwide Golf Outing Soon

The 2007 Concern Worldwide Golf Outing will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at Harborside International Golf Center in Chicago. Father Jack Wall, President of the Catholic Church Extension Society, will support this year's golf outing as Honorary Chairman. In addition, Jack Conaty, chief political correspondent for FOX News Chicago, will be the emcee.

This event brings together business leaders, friends and supporters for a wonderful day of golf to ensure funding of programs to support Concern's global work. After the golf outing, there will be a buffet dinner for sponsors, players and guests.

An individual player spot is \$325 of which \$200 is tax-deductible. Corporate sponsorship levels are available as well. Funds raised from the 2007 golf outing will help Concern Worldwide renovate one boarding school and provide it with all necessary educational materials in the northern Manica Province of Mozambique.

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organization committed to the relief, assistance and advancement of the poorest people in the least developed countries in the world. Founded in Ireland in 1968, Concern has more than 3,700 people working in 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, providing emergency relief and long-term assistance in the areas of education, health, livelihoods (including agricultural training and microfinance) and HIV and AIDS.

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# A Word With Father Boland

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



helping the children, families and immigrants who have sought help at Catholic Charities.

One of the guests will offer a prayer before the meal and social workers will be available to speak with the guests about financial, legal or personal matters.

This pleasant, dignified meal takes place every Tuesday. Our guests are poor, homeless or near-homeless individuals who live on the streets or on very low-incomes. They are men and women of all ages, from young adults to seniors, a few families with children, and many veterans.

Each Tuesday Night Supper is provided gratis by a celebrated Chicago restaurant, or family or parish sponsors, and supported by donations. Our guests are served by volunteers from parishes from all over the Archdiocese of Chicago. Guests leave with a "snack pack" to tide them over in case they miss a meal on their own. The 25-50 individuals who cannot be accommodated in St. Vincent Hall receive a nutritious meal "to go" because we don't want anyone to go away hungry.

Two significant differences will mark the June 5 supper. The volunteers serving the food and beverages will walk 15 miles from Wilmette to Chicago's St. Vincent Center to be at this great event! These hardy souls are participating in the "4th Annual Mary Jane Murphy Walk Against Hunger" to support Catholic Charities' efforts to alleviate hunger in Cook and Lake counties. When they arrive downtown at St. Vincent's, they will pitch in

to serve the dinner! And Hunger Awareness awards will be presented to four individuals who have devoted great energy to feeding the hungry in Cook and Lake counties.

Catholic Charities provides St. Vincent Hall for the rest of the week to other organizations, including Holy Name Cathedral, which now hosts two suppers each week, to serve sit-down meals to another 520 homeless and hungry diners.

Catholic Charities' tradition of feeding hungry families and individuals continues all year throughout the suburbs as well. A total of 300 families and individuals enjoy four healthy, hospitable sit-down meals weekly at Catholic Charities' North/Northwest Suburban Center in Des Plaines, St. Ann Parish in Hazel Crest and St. Blase in Summit. Generous restaurants, grocery stores, businesses, parishes and individuals donate the food. Volunteers, including archdiocesan deacons, parishes and folks from the community are servers and clean up crew.

Catholic Charities takes Jesus at his word in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25: that feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty and welcoming the stranger are conditions for eternal friendship with him.

We know that a lot of working families cannot afford to feed their children; that a lot of elderly people go hungry; that homeless, jobless or low-income folks must make decisions between eating and paying for rent, utilities and medicine.

That's why we feed our poor brothers and sisters every day in most of our 168 programs. Here are just a few examples:

- From July, 2006 through April 30, 2007, Catholic Charities' seven Emergency Food Pantries provided food to more than 29,000 households, made up of 77,880 individuals, in Chicago, Cicero, Des Plaines, South Holland and Summit.

- Last year in Lake County, our two food pantries at the Cardinal Bernardin Center in Waukegan provided 98,400 meals to hungry families and individuals. 2,418 seniors received more than 42,600 meals at eight senior centers and nutrition sites.

- 765 homebound persons in Lake County were provided more than 12,500 Catholic Charities Meals on Wheels.

- 100 seniors from the community eat a delicious homemade four-course meal each noon at Catholic Charities' Josephine

P. Argento Center at Bernardin Manor in Calumet City. 250 hot "Meals on Wheels" from the same kitchen are delivered daily to homebound or frail seniors throughout the South suburbs.

- In 2006, Catholic Charities' 27 Early Childhood Development programs served more than a half million breakfast, lunch and snack meals to 1,200 infants and children from low-income families, primarily 3-6 year olds.

Please keep all those who are hungry in your prayers. May Jesus, who fed the hungry in body and soul, provide your every need and fill your heart with charity for your hungry neighbors.

To help us feed the hungry, please donate canned and boxed food and canned meat to Catholic Charities' Food Pantry in your area at:

- 1717 Rand Road in Des Plaines; St. Blase, 7438 W. 61st Street, Summit; 16100 Seton Drive, South Holland; or 1400 S. Austin, Cicero.

- In Chicago, drop off food at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 311 W. Jackson; 1120 W. 79th St.; or St. Vincent Center, 721 N. LaSalle in downtown Chicago. For further information, call Claude Smith at (312) 655-7510.

- In Lake County, drop off food at 671 S. Lewis, Waukegan; or call Catholic Charities at (847) 782-4000.

- To sponsor a Tuesday Night Supper, or to volunteer, call (312) 655-7322.

## Humanitas Award for Mary Ellen Durbin

Mary Ellen Durbin, Exec. Dir. of the People's Resource Center (PRC) in Wheaton, will accept the Humanitas Award from St. Mary's College on June 2, 2007 in Notre Dame, Indiana.

The award goes to "an alumna who is outstanding in her personal and volunteer accomplishments and recognized for her concern for the interests and welfare of her fellow human beings. She exemplifies the qualities of personal dedication, compassion, selflessness and sacrifice, through social action, education and reform within the community, church or world."

For the past 25 years, Mrs. Durbin has distinguished herself at both the PRC and in the DuPage community. Prior to coming to PRC, Mary Ellen was the Director of Community Services for Catholic Charities, in the seven county Diocese of Joliet, IL. A few of her accomplishments at the PRC include helping develop critically-needed health and human service programs, targeted to people struggling on low-incomes. Since her arrival, the PRC has evolved from a basic food pantry/clothes distribution center to a one-stop shop featuring the county's largest Food Market, Clothing Connection, computer training and refurbishing, literacy, housing assistance, job mentoring, art studio and Share the Spirit, a holiday program. All these programs respond to basic needs, promote self-sufficiency and help create a future of hope and opportunity for PRC clients.

"I am deeply honored by this recognition from St. Mary's College," said Mrs. Durbin. "Those few years at St. Mary's were a time of personal transformation, and paved the way for how I would live my faith in the world I encountered."

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## Leprechaun King Rescued, Secret Shamrock Legend Revealed

Author Arthur Cola has teamed with Outskirts Press of Colorado in publishing his new novel, *Papa and the Leprechaun King, The Secret Legend of the Shamrock*.

The story unfolds in modern day Ireland where a group of "Baby Boomer" tourists set off on a holiday which will change their lives forever. The leader of this tour group of grandparents is "Papa" better known as the "Thorn." It is he who would be anointed the chosen one to fulfill an ancient quest and save the magical powers of the Wee Folk Kingdom. The ghostly Shepherd McCarthy and the mysterious drapery lady of Clonmacnoise, Kathleen, recognize "Papa" to be the one who could solve the mystery of the Shamrock and also save the Realm of the Wee Folk. Thus "Papa" is sent off, but it will not be as a Knight on a gleaming white horse. Rather, this would-be hero sets off on what would become a grand quest by boarding the blue beast, which is actually a diesel powered mini bus. His squires would be his wife and friends. These women would become dubbed "The Roses" by the King of the Leprechauns himself.

The quest begins at Blarney Castle, where the King is first met and placed under a charm. The team of the "Thorn and Roses" and His Majesty, King Finbar X set out to solve the mystery of the Map of Clonmacnoise. The King would be trying to solve a crime committed centuries ago, while the "Thorn and Roses" were thrilled to search for the legendary Pot O' Gold.

The reader will join the quest and through the pages of this charming tale be taken to the most revered and sacred sites of faith and Celtic Culture. You will journey to mysterious and beautiful castles and you will gasp at the breathtaking landscapes portrayed.

The book, reveals the Secret Legend of the Shamrock, an over 1500 years-old secret.

This story doesn't end with the last page of the book! The reader may continue the adventure by joining the "Leprechaun King" Tour of Ireland. Arthur Cola has teamed with SMI Tours Ireland and Carlson Wagonlit Travel to create a tour which will take its participants to the most famous, revered, ancient, historic, sacred and culturally enriching sites of Ireland. All of them are also featured in the plot of his book *Papa and the Leprechaun King*.

The tour group will walk in the footsteps of St. Patrick in the ancient ruins of Glendalough and Clonmacnoise. Enter the world of the ancients at Dun Aengus on the Aran Islands. Explore the enchanted forest and Torc Waterfall at Muckross in Killarney. Marvel at the beauty of the 13th Century Kilkenny Castle. Look for the tower of the King's Crown in the ruins of Kells Priory. Kiss the Blarney Stone exactly as "Papa" did in the story at Blarney Castle. Enjoy a premier shopping experience at Blarney Woollen Mills. Ride a jaunty cart up the Gap of Dunloe. Join in a song at a traditional

Irish Pub. Bring home a memory of mythical times from the Prince August Toy Factory. View the ancient Book of Kells at Trinity College and absorb the spirit of Dublin at Temple Bar along the Liffey River. The tour will end with the Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle.



An original song based on the story will make its debut at the "Ceremony of the Magic Coin" which will take place on the grounds of Bunratty Castle at the conclusion of the Leprechaun King tour of October 18-28, 2007. The music for "The Magic of Life, Theme Song of the Leprechaun King©" was composed by Steven and David Moenssen (former students of Arthur Cola) with lyrics by the author. It is a charming Celtic melody intended to tell a story and uplift one's spirit.

*Papa and the Leprechaun King, The Secret Legend of the Shamrock* by Arthur Cola. Outskirts Press, Denver, Colorado, 2007. ISBN: 978-1-59800-903-3; 284 pages; \$14.95.

To order the book visit [www.outskirtspress.com/arthurcola](http://www.outskirtspress.com/arthurcola), or online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), or [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). It may also be ordered through Blarney Woollen Mills in Ireland at [blarneyretail.com](http://blarneyretail.com). To join or to receive information about the tour, contact Patti Spiegelhoff of Carlson Wagonlit Travel and Rose Weiler of SMI Tours Ireland. [www.carlsonwagonlittravel.com/tripco](http://www.carlsonwagonlittravel.com/tripco); e-mail: [tripcotravel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tripcotravel@sbcglobal.net); 800-922-4036.

## St. Barbara's Pans Casino Getaway

The Council Of Catholic Women (CCW) of St. Barbara Parish in Brookfield is planning a Meskwaki Casino Getaway on September 19, 20 and 21 at a cost of \$159.00. A real cash back of \$70.00 plus \$15.00 toward meals is included in this fantastic offer. Husbands and guests are most welcome. Space is going fast. For additional information and/or to make your reservations, please contact Eve Donovan at 708-485-6854.

## Irish Festival Cruise Promises Great Music

More than 40 hours of traditional Irish entertainment highlights the 17th Annual Irish Festival Cruise aboard Celebrity Cruise Line's Millennium departing from Fort Lauderdale on January 27, 2008.

This week long cruise visits San Juan, Tortola, Casa de Campo and Labadee, combining the best in Irish music, dance and culture with luxurious Caribbean cruising.

Performers include Tommy Makem, Mary Black, Cherish the Ladies, Bogside Rogues, The Black Brothers, balladeers Tommy Sands and Liam Tiernan. Also, Dermot Henry, bohola, raconteur John Gleeson, seanachie Mike Mazur and world champion Irish dancers. The jig will be up when the Matt Cunningham Band takes the stage.

Mary Rowley, executive director says that "a highlight of all of our cruises is the enjoyment guests derive from the informal socializing with the performers." In addition to the nightly concerts, there will be a variety of workshops on all things Irish... from learning to dance a jig or speak the Irish language to instructions on the tin whistle and bodhran.

Guests can also enjoy the luxury facilities, dining and amenities of the world class Millennium, featuring on-board activities

including casino gambling, golf at sea, swimming, bingo, scuba lessons, fashion shows and more. Most staterooms have private verandas.

January 27th through February 3rd, start in price from \$1,399.00 per person (based on double occupancy). The price includes all shipboard accommodations, meals and entertainment. The package can only be booked through Irish Festival Cruises, Ltd. at 1-800-441-HARP. [www.irishtours.com](http://www.irishtours.com).

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# An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



## Numbers

To achieve Immigration reform, or indeed any piece of new legislation, in the end it comes down to numbers. In practice that means in order to have a bill pass in the Senate you need a minimum of 60 votes and in the House of Representatives you need a minimum of 218 votes. Last year the Senate passed a bill, which was not perfect but was a good starting point, this year we have a similar situation. As I write this article there is still a good chance that Democrats and Republicans will in fact do what 73% of the electorate want them to do,

namely, introduce comprehensive immigration reform this year.

In order for this to happen we are back to numbers, in this case 50, the number of days that remain before our elected folks break for the summer recess. The best commentators are firmly of the thinking that unless the Senate and House can find a solution before the summer recess, there is no hope of the legislation happening for a couple of years. And this is largely due to the fact that after the summer recess the '08 Presidential campaign will become the main focus of both parties.

There are many numbers that people use when calling for action on the Immigration issue. Numbers such as the 12 million undocumented people who are living and working in the U.S. today. But, for me, this issue is in the end not about numbers, it is about individuals. Individuals who have names such as, John from the West of Ireland who was not able to travel home for the funeral of his mother. Individuals such as Juan from Mexico who works in one of my favorite restaurants in Chicago and who has gone to night classes to learn English, he pays his taxes is willing to enter the U.S. Army if the need arises, but alas Juan is undocumented. Individuals such as Peter who comes from the Philip-

pinas, he is a citizen in the U.S. who applied for a relative to come to this country 14 years ago and according to the latest figures from USCIS he will wait for a further 8 years for his application to be approved.

Right now, our hopes are resting on the actions of individuals such as Senators Reid and McConnell and their leadership in the Senate. Individuals such as Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House, working together with people like Rep. Lofgren (D) John A. Boehner (R), Gutierrez (D), and Flake (R) the authors of the STRIVE Act. In the House, this is a time for these individuals and others together with President Bush to stand up to the plate and deliver comprehensive immigration reform before the summer recess. And, lastly this is about you, gentle reader, adding your voice to the chorus of fair-minded people who see the desperate need to fix our broken immigration system this year.

## Immigration Myths

- Immigrants don't pay taxes.
- Immigrants pay taxes, in the form of income, property, sales, and taxes at the federal and state level. As far as income tax payments go, sources vary in their accounts, but a range of studies find that immigrants pay between \$90 and \$140 billion a year in federal, state, and local taxes. Undocumented immigrants pay income taxes as well, as evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names and social security numbers), which grew by \$20 billion between 1990 and 1998. Source: [http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax\\_study.htm](http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax_study.htm)

- Immigrants come here to take welfare.

Immigrants come to work and reunite with family members. Immigrant labor force participation is consistently higher than native-born, and immigrant workers make up a larger share of the U.S. labor force (12.4%) than they do the U.S. population (11.5%). Moreover, the ratio between immigrant use of public benefits and the amount of taxes they pay is consistently favorable to the U.S. In one estimate, immigrants earn about \$240 billion a year, pay approximately \$90 billion a year in taxes, and use about \$5 billion in public benefits. In another cut of the data, immigrant tax payments total \$20 to \$30 billion more than the amount of government services they use.

Source: "Questioning Immigration Policy - Can We Afford to Open Our Arms?" Friends Committee on National Legislation. Document #G-606-DOM, January 25, 1996. <http://www.fas.org/pub/gen/fcnl/immigra.html>

- Immigrants send all their money back to their home countries.

In addition to the consumer spending of immigrant households, immigrants and their businesses contribute \$162 billion in tax revenue to U.S. federal, state, and local governments. While it is true that immigrants remit billions of dollars a year to their home countries, this is one of the most targeted and effective forms of direct foreign investment. Source: <http://www.cato.org/research/articles/griswold-020218.html>

- Immigrants take jobs and opportunity away from Americans.

The largest wave of immigration to the U.S. since the early 1900s coincided with our lowest national unemployment rate and fastest economic growth. Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs for U.S. and foreign workers, and foreign-born students allow many U.S. graduate programs to keep their doors open. While there has been no comprehensive study done of immigrant-owned businesses, we have countless examples: in Silicon Valley, companies begun by Chinese and Indian immigrants generated more than \$19.5 billion in sales and nearly 73,000 jobs in 2000.

Source: Richard Vedder, Lowell Gallaway, and Stephen Moore, Immigration and Unemployment: New Evidence, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, Arlington, VA (Mar. 1994), p. 13.

- Immigrants are a drain on the U.S. economy.

During the 1990s, half of all new workers were foreign-born; filling gaps left by native-born workers in both the high- and low-skill ends of the spectrum. Immigrants fill jobs in key sectors, start their own businesses, and contribute to a thriving economy. The net benefit of immigration to the U.S. is nearly \$10 billion annually. As Alan Greenspan noted, 70% of immigrants arrive in prime working age. That means we haven't spent a penny on their education, yet they are transplanted into our workforce and will contribute \$500 billion toward our social security system over the next 20 years. Source: Andrew Sum, Mykhaylo Trubskyy, Ishwar Khatiwada, et al., Immigrant Workers in the New England Labor Market: Implications for Workforce Development Policy, Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, Prepared for the New England Regional Office, the Employment and Training Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor, Boston, Massachusetts, October 2002.

<http://www.nupr.neu.edu/>

- Immigrants don't want to learn English or become Americans.

Within ten years of arrival, more than 75% of immigrants speak English well; moreover, demand for English classes at the adult level far exceeds supply. Greater than 33% of immigrants are naturalized citizens; given increased immigration in the 1990s, this figure will rise as more legal permanent residents become eligible for naturalization in the coming years. The number of immigrants naturalizing spiked sharply after two events: enactment of immigration and welfare reform laws in 1996, and the terrorist attacks in 2001. Source: American Immigration Lawyers Association, "Myths & Facts in the Immigration Debate", August 14, 2003. <http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=17,142#section4> Source: Simon Romero and Janet Elder, "Hispanics in the US Report Optimism" New York Times, August 6, 2003.

See [www.irishamericannews.com](http://www.irishamericannews.com) for rest of column.

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](mailto:siochan@catholic.org)

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# For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



**CORRECTION:** The means of access to two CAN-TV shows I cited last month won't work. Instead, go to "video" on Google and type in Avila Fogarty. You will see two half-hour interviews of Mary and me by Mr. Avila. One show's subject is The Irish Holocaust and the other in on the series of MI5/FBI crimes against us. We still believe that the era of a lawful U.S. is not completely over and that these crimes will be prosecuted and that we will be compensated for the MI5/FBI damages against us. Our deepest gratitude to Frank Avila and Tony Joyce for contacting us with justice in mind. I will report it here if an honest D.A. or lawyer decides to uphold the law for us.

"HARBORING TERRORISTS is the same as terrorism itself," said Bush a few years ago. By harboring two bombers of a civilian airliner in 1976 as it approached Barbados, murdering all 73 aboard, Bush, by his own definition, is now a terrorist and has made the U.S. a harbinger of terrorists. The airliner bombers, Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, fugitives from justice in Venezuela and other nations, live openly in Florida. The two terrorists escaped from a Caracas jail while awaiting trial. Their two underlings who actually placed the bomb aboard the plane were released from prison after serving 17 of their 20-year sentences. They have always admitted that Bosch and Posada were their leaders, and Bosch and Posada themselves have often admitted their roles in it while being feted in Miami by Anti-Castro groups. They also admit to Havana hotel bombings that killed an Italian and injured others. But these indisputable terrorists remain untouchable. Why? Because their bombings of the airliner and the hotels were done in their capacities as operatives of the CIA then headed by Bush, Sr.

"HECKUVA JOB, Brownie!" was Bush's infamous response to FEMA Director Michael Brown's dereliction during the Katrina disaster. Consider these:

"HECKUVA JOB, Teddy!" Rev. Ted Haggard was the fundamentalist megachurch impresario that Bush chose to lead his "War Against Homosexuality." Haggard's frequent White House

visits and weekly anti-homosexual phone conversations with Bush all came to an end when Haggard's homosexual lover/prostitute revealed all.

"HECKUVA JOB, Foley!" Cong. Mark Foley (R. FL) in loco parentis to the (teenage) Congressional Pages also led Bush's "War Against Pedophilia" (until he was outed as a sexual predator of the very Pages he ostensibly protected).

"HECKUVA JOB, Wolfie!" Paul Wolfowitz was a key member if not the leader of the Neo-Cons who had long planned the Bush's War of Aggression against Iraq. Bush later appointed him to Head the World Bank. Though his stated mission was to clean up WB self-dealing and corruption he soon put his mistress on its payroll with a massive, tax-free salary. He continues to fight for his job, claiming that he did nothing wrong regarding the bank or Iraq. Bush supports him.

"HECKUVA JOB, Georgie!" Ex-CIA head George "Slam Dunk" Tenet claims that he has been misquoted. He now says that his "Slam Dunk" was never meant to be an assertion that Saddam actually possessed WMD that could threaten the U.S. (in which case our Iraq war would have been lawful). In stunning and certainly inadvertent self-incrimination (and incrimination of Bush & Co) he has now repeatedly stated on national TV that his "slam dunk" expressed his belief that the notion of "Saddam's WMD," though admittedly unfounded, could be sold to the American people. Despite Tenet's current admission that he had no evidence that Saddam had WMD he nevertheless sat immediately behind Colin Powell during the latter's fateful UN speech that falsely described in detail such WMD. Tenet's self-incrimination is water-tight. So is his incrimination of Bush, Powell, and the rest of that criminal gang. The charge is the same as that against the Nazis at Nuremberg. Why is he still at large?

"HECKUVA JOB, Tobie!" Bush appointee Randal Tobias, the U.S. Global AIDS Tsar, was chosen by Bush to promote sexual abstinence as a precondition for AIDS funding, especially

throughout Africa, that is, until Madame Palfrey named Tobias as a client of her high-priced D.C. Brothel.

THE RAPTURISTS. My previous columns have covered them. In brief, they are biblical literalists who believe the End is Near. They accept on faith that it is their duty to help advance biblical prophesy. A main tenet of their beliefs is that Israel must extend from the Nile to the Euphrates before Armageddon can arrive. To that end they do all in their power to expand Israel and call for the elimination of Palestinians in Palestine and surrounding lands. They also believe that Israel will convert to Raptureism at the last moment. Jews, as such, and Catholics, are doomed along with the other non-saved, to perish in the "Lake of Fire" that will consume the Earth. According to their unshakable interpretation of the Bible, their virtue will be rewarded by their being "Raptured" (wafted up out of their clothes into Heaven where they will sit at the right hand of God to look down upon the rest of humanity consumed in flames).

THE THREAT they pose to the U.S. and the world, though serious, would be limited if contained within their bloodthirsty fundamentalist churches and if their numbers remained at or below their current twenty percent of the U.S. population.

RAPTURISM'S BREAK-OUT into the mainstream may be underway. I was stunned to see CNN (April 27) talk show host Glenn Beck, as a new convert and proselytizer for Raptureism interviewing three authors as his mentors. These are Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, authors of the sixteen best-selling "Left Behind" series of books, and Joel Rosenberg, author of EPICENTER. The Left Behind series have spawned five movies, graphic novels, CDs, video games, and a series for teens. Audio dramatizations based upon thirteen of the books have been produced for broadcast on "Christian" radio. Two spin-off series have been written, a political series by Neesa Hart and a military series by Mel Odom; also a musical album titled "People Get Ready."

LAHAYE AND JENKINS solemnly claim that their books are "history written in advance" and warn "It would be foolish to disbelieve them because eighty percent of all biblical prophecies have already been fulfilled." Their

claims were "confirmed" by TV Host Beck who stated the following: "When I first began to believe the Left Behind books I used to think I was nuts but my understanding grew as I read more." He claims to have read all sixteen of them. His obvious reverence toward all three authors must have impressed his weaker-minded viewers. While they mentioned that the books are frequently on the New York Times best-seller lists, nobody mentioned that they are categorized as fiction. Instead, Host Beck told his viewers that he believes "we are in End Days" and said; "I encourage you to listen." He also claimed that Condoleezza Rice had "confirmed prophesy" when she used the phrase "...birth pangs..." in what I consider her attempted rationalization of the slaughterhouse that Bush has made of the Mid-East.

JOEL ROSENBERG was the dominant participant. He fully "confirmed the truths" uttered by LaHaye, Jenkins and Beck. Only these four "true believers" participated. No Non-Raptureists were present in this prime-time, opinion-molding CNN show! Rosenberg described himself as a Jew who has converted to Christianity (of the Raptureist variety). He said he had been an aide to Benjamin Netanyahu and has been "asked to visit the White House and other world leaders." His bio reads; "Best-Selling author of THE LAST JIHADIST, THE LAST DAYS, THE EZEKIEL OPTION, and THE COPPER SCROLL. Has worked with Steve Forbes, Rush Limbaugh and Benjamin Netanyahu, ABC's NIGHTLINE, CNN's HEADLINE NEWS, Fox News Channel, the History Channel, the Rush Limbaugh Show and was profiled in the New York Times, Washington Times, Jerusalem Post, and World magazine." His latest, EPICENTER, that builds on the Left Behind series, was published by Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, IL. Its art work is impressive, being a map adapted from photos of Earth taken from space. It is centered on Israel ("the epicenter") and shows what suggests an Earth-destroying blast centered on Israel. It reminded me not of "God's wrath" but Seymour Hersh's THE SAMPSON OPTION which posits an Israel that, failing to get its way, blows up the Earth. EPICENTER's first chapter is modestly titled; "Predicting the Future." Rosenberg, like LaHaye,

Jenkins and Beck, claims that his books are unchallengeable, being derived from the Bible, especially Revelation, Isaiah, and Ezekiel. He directs viewers to "Ezekiel 32, 33, or 34 which commands all of us to become 'watchmen for End Days.'" He added; "I really, truly believe it is God's instruction manual" but didn't make clear whether he was referring to one of his or the other authors' books or the Bible itself. He referred to "...1927 when the Russian Tsar was wiping out all of the Jews" and cited "...Gog and Magog... one is Russia, the other is Iran, and they will wipe out all the Jews." Beck replied; "We are definitely living in End Times. Can we call Iran evil? Will you call Iran evil? The three authors agreed with Beck. One said; "Iran is evil; it exists to kill people." All four demonized Ahmadinejad until Beck segued into a tirade against "the scientific consensus that believes in global warming." Of course, why would Raptureists have any long-term interest in maintaining life on Earth? They all acquiesced to LaHaye's prediction that End Days can come any day now; and no later than 25 to 50 years hence. I was reminded of the few Repub presidential contenders who recently disavowed Evolution.

GOD NEEDS HELP to fulfill His biblical prophecies, according to all of these authors. On page of 245 of EPICENTER one finds; "Even though the Bible makes it clear that Iran will join forces with Russia and attack Israel, that doesn't mean that the U.S. should idly by and wait for it to happen." The whole point of EPICENTER is that Israel and the U.S. are God's strike force and that all evil resides in the Arabs, in Iran and in Russia, and the sooner we wipe them off the face of the Earth the more pleased God will be with us. Rosenberg cites a poll he sponsored that shows the percentage of persons who believe that Israel itself is the fulfillment of biblical prophesy. The following agree: 52% of all Americans, 72% of born-again Christians, 59% of all Protestants, 52% of all Catholics, 65% of all conservatives, and 62% of all Americans earning less than \$20,000 per year. What is the purpose of this poll except to assess American vulnerability to further Israeli manipulation?

Part 2 can be read on the website: [www.irishamericannews.com](http://www.irishamericannews.com), or in the July issue.

# CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY

## Another successful Irish festival at Gaelic Park

Over the long Memorial Day weekend Chicago-Irish Americans and others flocked to Chicago Gaelic Park for another very successful Irish Festival led by the famed John McDermott, one of the original "Three Irish Tenors." Other legendary Irish entertainers who also starred over the weekend include Tommy Maken, Tommy Flemming and his band, Susan McCann from beautiful Co. Down, Black 47, Damien Dempsey from Dublin and many others. Large crowds flocked to the five stages and shouted their approval to their respective group. Of course McDermott giving another of his all-star performances was the big attraction.

And if this was not enough, the local Irish entertainers, Joe McShane and his Silverbridge Band, Pat Daley and his "Sounds of Green," Sean O'Donnell, Gerald Haughey, the famed Irish Musicians, The Emer-

ald Society, and of course our own Tommy Ryan's Shannon Rovers—all of them in their own unique way kept time with the best of them and at times looked almost as popular.

Above and beyond all of this fine traditional Irish song and music there were others who deserve a tip of the hat for outstanding performance such as star Irish step dancers, Ceili dancing, theatre, story telling and of course Irish imports stores and many more attractions for the kids. All combined, it was another all around success and congratulations are in order for a hard working chairman, Frank Bradley, and his wonderful staff, who made each of the days such a delight to be apart of. Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde.

## Maureen O'Looney Home from Hospital

Her countless friends not only in Chicago but also throughout the U.S. and Ireland will be pleased to learn that the legend-

ary Maureen O'Looney, "the charming colleen from Bohola," is home again and doing well after her recent hospitalization. Tanum cun de. Talking with her recently she sounded strong, but was advised by her doctor to "take it easy, you were lucky this time."

How often do we take people like Maureen for granted when the call goes out for volunteers to organize committees to help our friends who may have fallen on hard times? Or some Irish cause that needs help along the way? Or to take a place on a committee to get some project going? There is always something happening in big cities like Chicago and leaders like Maureen, Mike Kenny, Malachy Mannion, Nancy Holly, Breede O'Looney and others are always on call and without hesitation they respond, regardless of how they feel, because they are great humanitarians.

Maureen and the other leaders that I have mentioned and even more that I am not familiar with are one of a kind, big hearted people who love to help other people and can never say "I am sorry, I don't feel well" or "I'm too busy at the moment," like most of us say. And for that we are all indebted to them. Say a little prayer for Maureen. Ask Bro. Edmund Rice to help.

Thanks to Fr. Richard Ameling, Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle, Merrillville, Indiana, a gifted writer and a great pastor for allowing us to include this beautiful tribute to motherhood in our humble column. I'm sure that readers will get a laugh and later shed a tear as they recall beautiful memories of other years with their parents and later their own families.

## Motherhood

### "How Moms were Made"

By the time that Our Lord got around to making mothers, he was well into the sixth day of creation—working overtime. An Angel appeared and asked "Why are you working so hard on this one?" The Lord answered, "Have you read the spec sheet on her? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 200 moveable parts—all replaceable, run on black coffee and leftovers, have a lap that can hold three children at one time, have a kiss that cures anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart; and have six pairs of hands." The angel was astounded! "Six pairs of hands? No way!"

said the Angel. The Lord replied "That's not the problem. It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers must have."

"And that's on the standard model?" the Angel asked. The Lord nodded in agreement. "Yep, one pair of eyes to see through the closed door, as she asks her children what they are doing—even though she already knows—and another pair in the back of her head to see what she needs to know—even though noonethinks she can. And the third pair are in the front of her head. They are looking for an errant child and saying that she understands and loves him or her—even without saying a single word."

"I am so close to finishing this creation which is so dear to my heart," said the Lord. "She had the power to heal herself when she is sick. And at the same time, she can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger!" The Angel moved closer and touched the woman. "You made her soft, Lord."

"She is soft," the Lord agreed, "but I made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure and accomplish."

"Will she be able to think?" asked the Angel. "Not only will she be able to think, she will be able to reason and negotiate."

The Angel noticed something and reached out and touched the woman's cheek. "Whoops! It looks like you have a leak with this model."

"That's not a leak," the Lord said, "that's a tear."

"What's it for?" asked the Angel. The Lord said, "The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her disappointment, her pain, her loneliness, and her grief."

The Angel was impressed. "You're a genius, Lord. You've thought of everything for this one. You even created a tear." The Lord looked at the Angel, smiled, and said "I'm afraid you are wrong again, my friend. I created the woman, but she created the tear."

Gur a mile mait agat, a cara Sagart agus beannact De ar an oibre (Thank you very much my friend and priest and God bless your noble work).

## New Immigration Package in the works

President George Bush met with representatives of both parties in the Senate recently and they apparently agreed on a Reform Immigration Plan that provide millions of "undocumented to come out of the shadows" and

work legally in our country, with a good chance of becoming U.S. citizens after a period of time. It was also agreed to toughen up the borders and create a merit based "Guest worker" category.

The Plan was immediately attacked by both "left" and "right" naming it "Anti-American, and too lenient on lawbreakers." At least for the present immigration is again being considered in congress and hopefully both houses will agree upon "an equitable bill" that not only provides for "guest workers" but also considers skills, education, and knowledge of the language.

Editorials in several major newspapers are calling for a solution to this problem this year. The Washington Post said "after failing last year to devise a way out of the deadlock that has left 12 million illegal aliens in legal limbo, and the likely future influx of several hundred thousand new workers annually in equally dire straits, Congress is now faced with the political calendars hard reality."

If lawmakers fail to work out a compromise now, the presidential cycle probably will dash any hope for progress until at least 2009. A majority of Americans will want a solution this time around and if they don't get it, both political parties could pay the price, not only in the president's race, but also at the congressional level.

Irish "undocumented" will be looking for a reform of the present law which tends to grant visas to those with family re-unification rather than skills or education. The pattern of Irish immigration over the years and at present is a single man or woman type rather than the present law, which favours the re-unification of families. The present law, well meaning as it sounds, has been the bone of contention since the 1965 law was passed. It handicaps Irish and other western Europeans and favours other nationals with large families wanting to come here. The State Department promised when this law went into effect and resulted in the handicapping of immigrants coming single rather than whole families, that "no country will be handicapped." Unfortunately, that promise was never kept.

## Irish Diaspora in Exile

Our thanks to Ray O'Hanlon, senior editor of the Irish Echo for his fine story in a recent copy of the paper on "Irish Diaspora Abroad" Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, in the 1990's made this word popular, as Ray says, "the D



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- Bill Magnesson, Irish American News

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- Rick Kogan, WGN Radio

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word was never much used in the context of immigration from Ireland or in reference to Irish communities living in America, Britain, or Australia. That was until President May Robinson starting using it, here, there, and everywhere, during her seven year term in the 1990's."

Ray explains "Diaspora" as more than just economics, it has its political dimensions that could be well advanced in the near future by some form of political representation for the overseas Irish in the Oireachtas, (Irish Dail, parliament) the part of it made up by the senate. In other words, the Irish government may soon create a position in the Irish senate for an "overseas representative." This could be an important position for a well deserved voice in the Irish parliament. Ray has been mentioned before for this position and accepted the invitation at the same time. With his vast experience of the Irish abroad, Ray O'Hanlon would be an excellent choice. Go-go Ray.

**Congratulations Fr. Jack Wall**

In union with his countless friends not only in Chicago and the Midwest but also throughout the U.S. we join in offering our humble congratulations to Fr. Jack Wall pastor of Old St. Patrick's church in the downtown area, who was recently named president of the Catholic Church Extension Society. He succeeds Bishop William Houck and in his new position directs the raising of money for poor missions across the U.S.

Fr. Jack took over a poor parish in 1983 and through hard work and dedication reinvigorated a shrinking congregation by concentrating on young people and introducing a church in the market place focused on young married couples who returned from the suburbs to live in Fr. Jack's parish in the downtown area. This looked an impossible task, but under Fr. Jack's guidance it became possible.

Old St. Patrick's Church is the starting position for the annual tribute to Ireland's national apostle, St. Patrick, and has been ever since the start in 1956. Fr. Tom Byrne, pastor at that time said Mass that first day and afterwards marched proudly with Mayor Richard J. Daley and Rear Admiral U.S. Dan Gallery at the head of the parade. Since he took over Fr. Wall has carried the torch ever since, and with great success.

We wish Fr. Wall every success as head of such an important position and in the old Gaelic tongue that he loves so well, we say, Beannact De ar an oibre, an Sagart a cara. (God bless your noble work my gaelic friend).

**"Special Day" At Gaelic Park, Sunday July 1st**

The big annual day at Chicago Gaelic Park for "Special People," sponsored by the very enterprising Clare Association of Chicago, is scheduled for Sunday, July 1st and as usual, an attractive program is expected to bring out a large attendance. Hurling and football games are on the program and of course the many games etc. for the special kids are always fun to watch.

This is one big day that Chicago gaeldom offers to help the sponsors of such a worthy cause and to thank the Chicago Clare Association for its dedicated work. Hopefully, we will have one of the largest crowds of the season. For more information call Mary Riordan, or Maureen Halpin at (708) 687-9323.

**Hurling and Football at Gaelic Park**

The thrilling clash of the ash (hurling) and the equally dashing play of Gaelic footballers can now be seen at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6116 West 147th Street,

Oak Forest, Illinois. The games, men and women, start at 2:00pm each Sunday from now until the end of September.

Ample parking is available, close to the park, and a large picnic area is also available for parents who want to avail of this

and still watch the thrilling action on the field of play. Needless to add, refreshments and fine food are also available. Hurling, considered "the fastest ground game in the world" and Gaelic football, the forerunner of Australia football, and an equally fast and fur-

ous game, with Camogie (Ladies hurling) and Ladies football are Ireland's national games and all on the program. So come on out ladies and gentlemen, these are games worth seeing. For more information call Gaelic Park, (708) 687-9323.

## Irish Storyteller: Susan O'Halloran

The Irish art of storytelling continues into the next generations as professional storytellers such as Susan O'Halloran travel this country and other countries to tell traditional folktales and stories from their own lives. O'Halloran who grew up in the Irish neighborhoods of Chicago's southside shares her gratitude for the sacrifices made by her grandparents who made the trip from County Kerry to America in the late 1800s as well as stories from her own coming of age in the 1960s during the struggles of Civil Rights and changing neighborhoods in Chicago.

O'Halloran is best known for using stories to build bridges as evidenced by her collaborative performances: "White, Black and Brown: Tribes & Bridges at the Steppenwolf Theatre" and "More Alike Than Not: Stories of Three Americans - Catholic, Jewish and Muslim." Sue recently returned from performing in China and annually co-produces with Angels Studio, a communications ministry of



the Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word, the Just Stories

Festival in Northbrook, IL dedicated to strengthening and honoring our diverse human family.

The Chicago Reader says O'Halloran "has mastered the Irish art of telling stories that are funny and heart-wrenching at the same time" and audiences from kindergarten children through senior citizens or from corporate, religious and community groups, all agree that storytelling can be a tool for greater understanding, cooperation and, most of all, fun.

For more information visit [www.susanohalloran.com](http://www.susanohalloran.com).

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## Exploring Northern Ireland: A Day on Rathlin Island

By Kathy McVurray Dougherty

Only six miles off the north coast of Ireland, Rathlin Island is a tiny oasis for birds, seals and the 70 or so people who live there year-round. While the island can be busy with birders and hikers in the summer, in October it feels almost deserted. Almost, except for the friendly, golden retriever that greeted my husband and I as we got off the ferry from Ballycastle on a cool, crisp morning.

### Texas Irish Events

The Harp and Shamrock Society will host Hanna Davidson Pankowski on June 10, 2007 at 4:00 PM at St. Gregory the Great Hall, located at 709 Beryl, off Vance Jackson and Loop 410 in San Antonio, Texas. She will share her Holocaust Experiences with today's descendants of the Irish Famine. The event is free and open to the public.

In September, the Harp and Shamrock Society invites all golfers looking for a fun time to their Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Golf Tournament. For information contact Wayne Faught, Chairman, at eandwayne@aol.com. For upcoming details visit the society's web site at [www.harpandshamrock.org](http://www.harpandshamrock.org).

Rathlin is an L-shaped bit of land in the Atlantic, three miles long in one direction, four miles in the other and no more than a mile across at any point. Apart from its 70 residents, this island is home to a significant seabird population, mobs of playful, curious seals and



A view of Scotland through ruins on the south end of Rathlin Island

countless myths and legends.

For a rather small island, it's very well lit. There are three lighthouses spread across Rathlin Island. Since there's a limited ferry schedule in October and few places to stay overnight at that time of year, Steve and I decided to hike to the nearby lighthouse at Rue Point (about four miles round-trip), so we could get back in time to catch the ferry back to Ballycastle. As we headed out of Rathlin's only village, up the small road, we realized the golden retriever, (we had already named her "Bally") was going to serve as our tour guide for the day.

The small road we were walking on got even smaller as we headed further out of

town. There are very few cars on the island and visitors need special permits just to bring them over, making Rathlin a hiker's dream. Bally was an excellent guide, leading us past small lakes, wary sheep and a couple of cows that thought they owned the road. Every direction offered spectacular views of Northern Ireland, the wild sea and even the coast of Scotland, a mere 12 miles away.

As we approached the black and white striped lighthouse, something in the water caught our attention—a curious seal, keeping a close eye on us as we picked our way along the rocky shore. Bally must have thought the seal was boring; she was much more interested in flushing the Irish hares out of the tall grasses nearby. Thankfully, Irish hares are quite large and very quick, so we witnessed no mayhem that day.

### Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

**ARIES:** You are in for a new and unexpected romantic possibility this month. You have met someone that you would not have normally thought would interest you. We never know who we will be attracted to and why. Your ruler Mars is involved with the planets Venus and the Moon to enchant you.

**TAURUS:** Your ruler, Venus, Pluto, and the Moon are conspiring to make you more aware of your emotional needs this month. If you are single, you may be actively seeking out romance at this time. If you are attached, you may be stepping up your affections with you significant other.

**GEMINI:** Venus, the planet of love is focusing on you at this time. You will undoubtedly be a magnet for all kinds of attention. This should be mostly good unless you are not available to partake of a bit of flirtation. Also good financial prospects await.

**CANCER:** Saturn, the wet blanket of the zodiac, is creating some financial headaches. Do not worry about the little details of life but try to focus on the larger picture. Now that your energy is low try to conserve it.

**LEO:** You have been host to Saturn in your house for nearly two years now. You are so weary of this situation. Rest assured this will pass. One thing to have learned from Saturn is the art of patience and forbearance.

**VIRGO:** You have suffered from obstacles small and large, so soon you will be able to have a much needed rest. You may feel as if a great weight has been lifted off of your shoulder.

We returned to town with a few minutes to spare before the ferry left, so Steve and I stopped by the only pub that was open to savor a drink along with the scenery. A handmade sign on the pub's door featured one of the local residents, who happened to be celebrating her 50th birthday with a party at the pub that same night. In typical Rathlin style, a note at the bottom of the sign said everyone was welcome to join the celebration. Once inside, it was clear the celebrating had already started. And the sign outside was right—everyone, even a couple of strangers from the States, were welcome to join in. Ahhh... to live on Rathlin Island!

Kathy Dougherty is owner of Northern Ireland Travels, which specializes in creating personalized, self-guided trips to Northern Ireland. For more information visit their website at [www.nirelandtravels.com](http://www.nirelandtravels.com).

ders. Now it is time to move on.

**LIBRA:** Your ruler Venus is very active this month of June and will bring you many social and financial opportunities. Gear up for a fun and social summer. You will be pleased to know that you have admirers.

**SCORPIO:** Venus and your ruler Pluto are doing a special dance in the sky. Finances and romance could be featured. This will be welcome news for you in a time when you do not necessarily expect it.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Jupiter is in your sign for the rest of this year. This is a once in twelve year occurrence. Jupiter is the great benefactor that brings with it all of the great bounty that the universe can offer. Now it is your turn to receive goodness into your life.

**CAPRICORN:** You are interested in other people at this time. Perhaps you have made a new friend or so lately. Some Capricorns might be entering into relationships or business agreements. It is all good though as Venus travels opposite your sign.

**AQUARIUS:** You are going to have a bit of a hard time while Saturn opposes Neptune later in the month of June. This tense aspect affects finances and relationships. Try not to initiate any cherished projects between June 19th and June 25th. After that, all systems go!

**PISCES:** Please refer to the Aquarius message above. The opposition of Saturn to Neptune, your ruler, is the big news this month. This, along with Uranus in your sign, could bring some unwanted things your way. After the 25th of June things should calm down for you.

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Source: The Travel Industry Association of America

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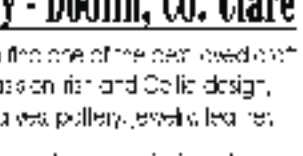
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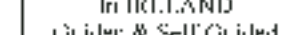
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# Supporting Log

By Sean  
Og. O Ceallachain



Peter Quinn, who masterminded the complete refurbishment of Croke Park and turned it into the finest sporting stadium in Europe, is now warning the GAA that unless there is a radical change of attitude at all levels we could be in serious trouble in 20 years time. Quinn, who was GAA president from 1991 to 1994, is a billionaire and sits on the board of 14 companies. He is acknowledged as one of the most distinguished of the former presidents. He told me in a radio interview that the GAA must waste no time building on the successes involved with the opening up of Croke Park to other sports.

He said that he feared the organisation is beginning to become complacent following the success of the redevelopment of the massive stadium. His remarks were not confined to one aspect of the association's work but on all fronts. He claims that there is over-staffing at job level. And the association is not facing up to the massive problems which are just around the corner. He is seriously concerned about what he regards as a civil service mentality within the GAA. He admits that while many administrations are doing a good job they are not necessarily doing the right one.

"Every organisation is at its most vulnerable when most successful. And history shows that the management that caused the problem is never good enough to get out of it. There is a civil service attitude in Dublin, generally, which is in common with most capital cities. When that kind of ethos seeps into an organisation like the GAA, you get an administrative structure that is not as effective as it should be. Everybody in Croke Park works hard, but in terms of effectiveness, it should be more streamlined. The former president is clearly against any suggestion of a pay-to-play for footballers and hurlers. We could never afford a professional game. If there is a war over it, the GAA has no choice but to fight because to accept it would be to end the Association as we know it. It would become a Kerry Packer (cricket)-like operation where you had a small number of

teams involved. Using the current structure, the only counties that in my view could afford semi-professional games are Tyrone, Armagh, Cavan, Mayo, Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Meath and Kildare.

Continuing, he said, "Many people would quit the GAA if it went professional. I raised around £100,000 for Fermanagh last year, but if players were paid I would walk away. I'm sure lots of people around the country would feel the same." I spoke to my good friend, Eamonn Kelly, back again as North American Board PRO, who was over last month for the GAA Congress. He was well aware of the possible effects that a pay-as-you-play decision would have on his Board. He said, "There are no ifs or buts about that scenario. We simply could not survive if we were lumped with that situation. The finance is not there and I doubt very much if it will ever arise."

Peter Quinn did emphasise that he was not anti-player. "Opposing pay-for-play shouldn't be mistaken as an anti-player approach. Without the players we have nothing so they should be well looked after all the time. I would have some concern about the manner in which some players who are out of work through injury are treated. In some cases, at least, they have to wait an awful long time to receive money." The former president makes no secret of the fact that he has no time for the International Rules. "I don't think it has any future because the ethics of the two organisations are totally different. Anyway, now that the Aussies have copied the way we used to play the game, I don't think Ireland would ever win a series again. It has no strategic role to play in the development of the GAA—therefore we shouldn't waste any resources on it." Quinn stressed that there should be one big stadium per province. It makes no sense for every county to redevelop stadia with a capacity that's only required every few years, if at all. But, he warns, "We're still on a lap of honour for Croke Park when we should be working on making the future better." And he should know because he is one of the top businessmen in Ireland!

## NACB Games Development Administrators Appointed

By Eamonn Kelly, PRO-NACB

The North American County Board took a big step forward in executing phase one of a 5-10 year games development plan with the recent appointment of a Games Development Administrator in four of its major divisions. When first putting this long-term plan in place, it was the NACB's objective to become self-sufficient in the two specialized areas of coaching and refereeing development. The key element in the plan was replicating the structures developed and in place in Ireland.

After a lengthy process which included interviews of applicants across the country, conducted by a special committee composed of officers from the NACB and the Overseas Committee in Ireland, the following candidates were appointed:

Paul Bayly (Western Division)  
Tommy Dolan (Central Division)  
Michael Moynihan (Northeast Division)  
Patrick Trainor (Philadelphia)

In addition to conducting an assessment of the state of GAA games in their respective divisions these administrators will be responsible to organize such programs as the

training and development of coaches, summer camps, and the introduction of games in local schools. The administrators will report directly to new divisional Games Development subcommittees that will be responsible for sending regular progress reports to the NACB.

The official launching of this plan took place at Chicago Gaelic Park where all four administrators participated in a 2-day training seminar conducted by John Tobin from the Connacht Provincial Council.

In conjunction with the launching, a round-robin hurling competition took place at the Park. Junior teams from Denver, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Purdue University, St. Louis and Washington, DC participated in the tournament. The most encouraging aspect of the tournament was the fact that the vast majority of the 175 players participating were American-born.

In other news, facing an uphill battle, the NACB delegation to last month's GAA Congress was successful in drafting a motion that amended a section of Official Guide Rule 43 that would place a June 1st deadline on players obtaining

sanctions from Croke Park to play for NACB clubs, starting with the 2007 season. Following a lobbying campaign by the NACB during the Congress weekend and several meetings with the International and By-laws committee, a compromise was reached whereby Congress would accept a newly drafted motion that would set July 1st as the deadline for Irish players to obtain sanctions to play with clubs under the jurisdiction of the North American or Canadian County Boards. While the North American delegation lobbied strongly behind their motion to retain the July 20th sanction deadline it became very clear that the mood of Congress would not support the retention of that date. The revised motion passed by an overwhelming majority setting July 1st as the new deadline. Congress agreed to retain the July 20th sanction deadline for the New York County Board due to their extended playing season.

As a result of multiple overseas county boards being affected by any amendment to Rule 43, the GAA Rules Task Force Committee is expected to draft a separate Rule covering sanctions and inter-county transfers.

## Smart Vision: Some Guys Will Do Anything To Improve Their Golf Game

### Unlocking the Secret to Focus and Concentration

Local Irishman, Tony McMahon, is the primary inventor of GolfSpec's Smart Vision glasses and is the originator of golf training glasses. He became devoted to the game of golf, but was having difficulty lowering his score. Through many steps of research and experimentation while working with other golfers, McMahon developed a method of teaching that allows individuals to tap into the "minds eye" creating more focus on each and every golf shot. Results indicate lower golf scores.

Today's environment contains so many distractions; from television, internet, mobile phones, i-pods and advertisements coming at us from every direction.

Smart Vision contends that focus and concentration are linked to learning and we cannot separate them. To achieve educational, sports or career success, we need these important skills.

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All lessons are by appointment only. To make arrangements for your personalized golf lesson telephone: (312) 446-4370

### Education

Recognizing the impact on focus and concentration, McMahon has expanded his research and application of the vision training

system towards education.

Preliminary studies indicate that educators need to gain the attention of their students and students have been unable to benefit from increased focus and concentration levels.

Smart Vision's research and study has shown that benefits can be derived in the educational environment with the use of the Smart Vision training system.

Until now, there has not been a means to actually teach focus and concentration. This system provides the tools, integrates physical movement with eye dominance to achieve this goal.

The program allows the student to zoom in on the target - the "magic box" - and after a short period of time, the student learns to expand the box to incorporate their learning environment and increase their focus level. After practicing a short time, the student actually experiences a magnetic force drawing them towards their respective target. Their target can be the blackboard, a book, or other educational materials. Through consistent repetition of the exercises, the student can easily achieve greater success. [www.smartvisionfocus.com](http://www.smartvisionfocus.com)

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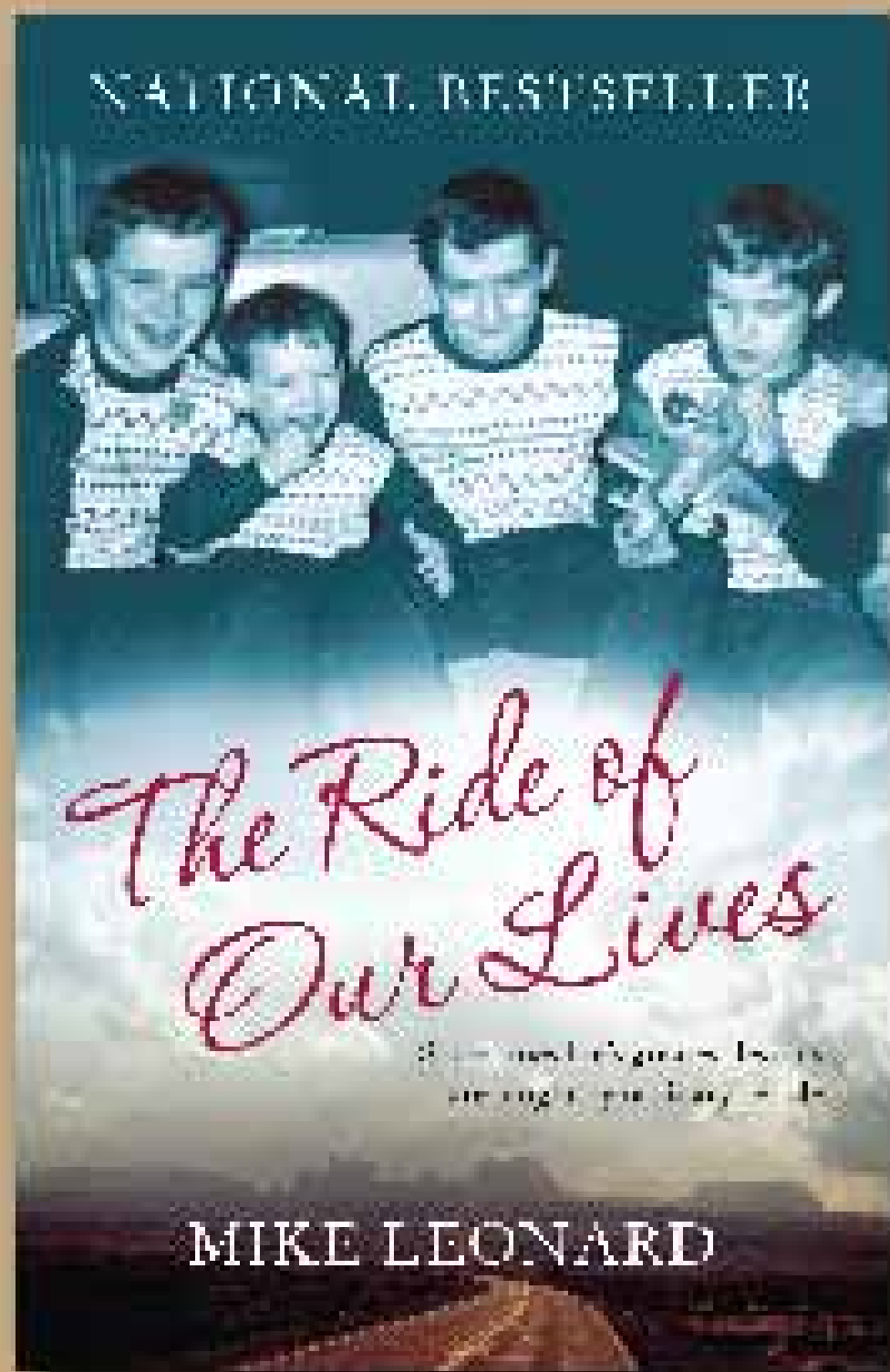
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