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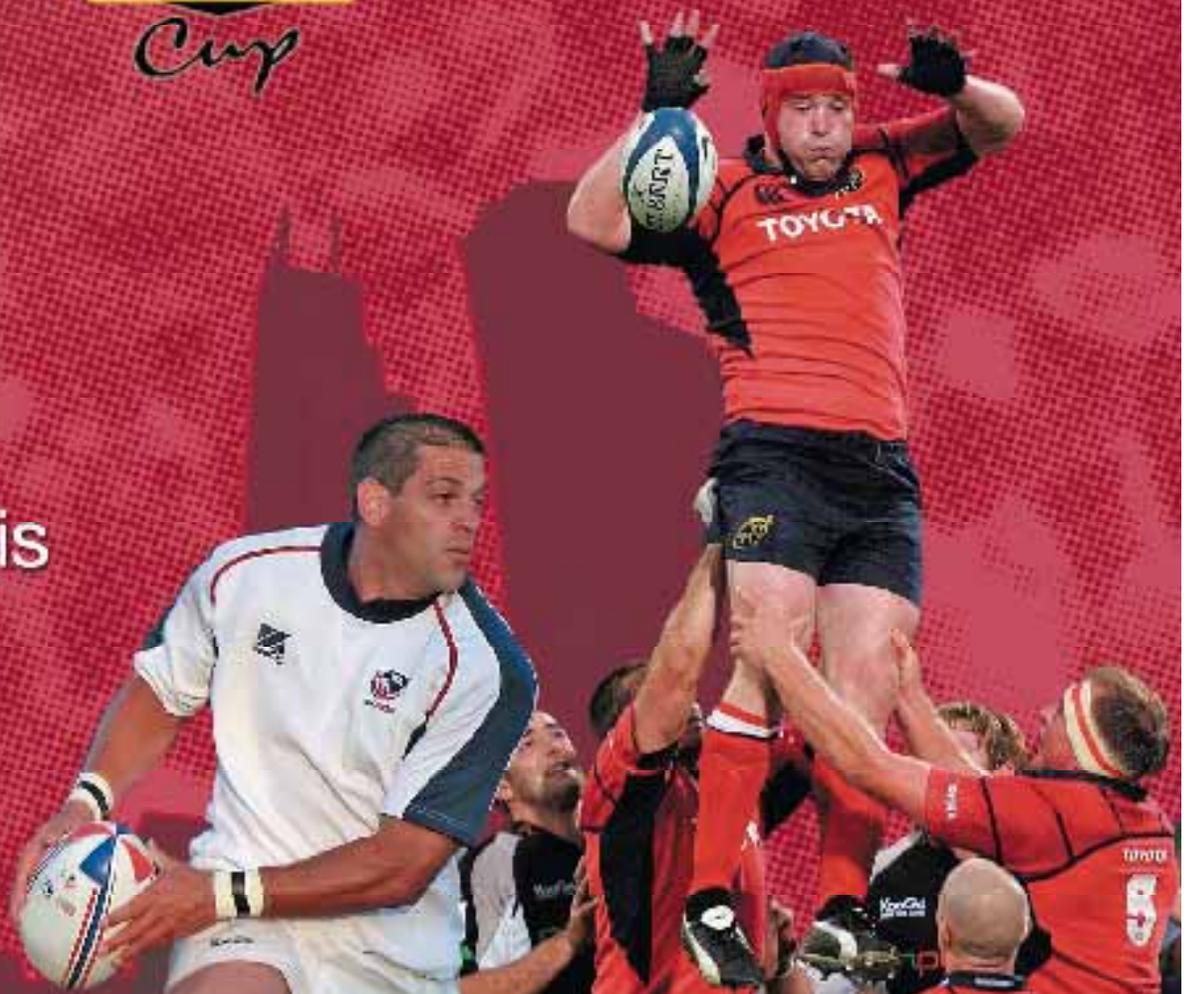


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Just What The Doctor Ordered

by Seán Canniffe, Publisher of the Irish Herald in California

Hats off to Bertie Ahern. His ongoing problems with the Mahon tribunal notwithstanding, he stands as top dog among current European leaders. The coalition government he now heads looks strong enough to see out another five years or very close to it with almost all policy-making being dominated by Fianna Fáil. Whether he steps down before the next election or not he will have left an indelible impression on Ireland's politics, economy and culture like no leader since Éamon De Valera.

His skills as master tactician were pivotal in an election campaign that many predicted would end in his downfall. He turned his personal strife into increased popularity and when the time came to go head to head with Enda Kenny in the leaders' debate, Ahern won hands down.

As well as being great news if you're a Bertie fan, it's also good news for Ireland. Fianna Fáil are not solely responsible for the incredible growth the Celtic Tiger economy has brought but its stewardship has maximized the gains. The next five years will certainly be more challenging, there is already talk of an economic slowdown. While some underlying factors remain strong, there is considerable concern over the housing market. The last couple of months have seen home prices falling and that's certainly not good news in a country where fifteen percent of the entire workforce is in some way connected to the property sector and where billions of Euro of spending po-

tential are provided by home equity. The question that voters answered when they went to the polls was who best to see Ireland through the economic obstacle course that lies ahead?

The new coalition is in itself testament to Ahern's ability at bridge-building. It includes the six Green Party TDs, the two Progressive Democrats that were left standing—after what that party can only view as a massacre—and three independents. Ahern has crafted a government that can take a lot of hits without collapsing and as such he has done what he promised he would do, that is to put political stability to the fore.

The Greens are happy to be in government in Ireland for the first time in their history, but they will have a battle on their hands to make their mark. Realistically all they will be able to do is compel Fianna Fáil to stick to its own environmental promises. No mean feat and some of those promises are forward-thinking, but gone are many of the Green's primary hopes such as stopping the US military's use of Shannon airport, ending the use of public health facilities for private healthcare or re-routing the highly controversial M3 motorway away from the historic site of the Hill of Tara.

The Progressive Democrats get even less



in the deal but stalwart Mary Harney will retain the health portfolio and get a chance to complete the reforms she initiated during the last term. As for the Independents, they are all in receipt of promises of funding to their constituencies that should be enough to get them elected again in five years time.

And what of the opposition? It is as multifaceted as the government with Fine Gael, Labor and Sinn Féin. It is hard too see how Fine Gael and Labor would do anything different for the next five years than they did for the last five—in other words stick together and try to present a united opposition to the Fianna Fáil-dominated status quo. It's also hard to see how that would work for them next time around. At the core of their difficulty lies the credibility gap caused by the fact that, simply put, they have very little in common. Fine Gael are vaguely center right and Labor, especially under leader Pat Rabbitte, are unreconstructed lefties from the 1970s. It's a mismatch but its the best either can do for now. They need each other to have any hope of getting into government any time in the foreseeable future.

Sinn Féin's hopes of big gains were unceremoniously dashed in this election, but there is more than a modicum of truth in the theory

that their vote was squeezed by what turned out to be a referendum between Bertie Ahern and Enda Kenny, particularly in Dublin where Ahern's support is thick on the ground. What the results tell us more than anything is that the cause of Irish Unity is not high on the priority list at this stage for voters south of the border. In order to make the case more convincingly next time around Sinn Féin will have to show the electorate more of how they would actually be better served in a 32 County Republic. But all of Sinn Féin's successes of recent years won't be reversed by one bad day at the polls and, although it is cold comfort, it must be said that having Fianna Fáil in power is still a far better option for republicanism than the alternative.

With Bertie Ahern at the helm and Fianna Fáil running things, the next five years promise more of the same. Is that so bad? Stable government, in the hands of a capable leader who has arguably done more than any other to promote Ireland around the globe and whose handle on what makes the Celtic Tiger tick is unrivaled—except perhaps by his heir apparent, Finance Minister Brian Cowen—is not a bad result. Actually, when you stop and think about it, more of the same sounds a bit like 'just what the doctor ordered.'

Dublin Irish Festival Expands Celtic Sports Area

Located near the Killian's Celtic Rock Stage at the South entrance, the expanded Sports Area will feature non-stop spectator and participant sports throughout the weekend. The new Sports Area features seating for 1,000 guests and will showcase hurling clinics and exhibitions, Gaelic games, a cornhole tournament and an Ohio Safety Forces tug-of-war competition. Also on Sunday, the sports field will be the site of the Festival's first ever Pipe & Drum Showcase.

Cornhole Tournament on Friday

Cornhole is similar to horseshoes except you use wooden boxes called cornhole platforms and corn bags instead of horseshoes and metal stakes. The cornhole tournament is sanctioned and certified by the American Cornhole Association. This is a single elimination tournament with cash prizes to the top three teams. Registration fee is \$50 for a two-member team and includes Festival admission. For more information visit: www.DublinIrishFestival.org

Hurling Clinics & Exhibits on Saturday

Hurling, one of Ireland's native sports, is considered one of the fastest field games in the world. It is played with a stick, known as a hurley or camán, and a ball or sliotar made of leather. The Celtic Guards Hurling Club of Akron, one of only a handful of hurling teams in the United States, will be on hand to demonstrate the sport and allow guests a chance to bat on our south sports field on the Festival grounds. The Celtic Guards Hurling Club, along with other clubs from Indianapolis, Purdue and Chicago will participate in the hurling tournament scheduled for the weekend at Dublin Coffman High School.

Gaelic Games on Saturday

The Gaelic Games will make for an excit-

ing day featuring professional athletes from across North America competing against each other in heavy weight competitions. Athletes will demonstrate putting, pushing, throwing, hurling, slinging and tossing weights of various sizes across the competition sports field.

Ohio Safety Forces Tug O'War Competition on Sunday

The Ohio Safety Forces will have to really pull it together when they compete in a tug-of-war match against each other on the Festival sports field Sunday, August 5.

Other sports challenges

Test your putting skills at the special miniature golf game, throughout the Festival weekend. Cost is \$1 per round and proceeds will be donated to the Miracle League Field and playground at Darree Fields in Dublin. Representatives from The Ohio State University will have a traditional sports area set up Saturday, Aug. 4 for guests to practice basketball free throw shots, baseball and football tosses and lacrosse shots. Soccer fans can visit the Columbus Crew area to measure the speed of their kicks Sunday, Aug. 5.

About the Dublin Irish Festival

The Dublin Irish Festival, set on 27 rolling acres just northwest of Columbus, Ohio, is one of the nation's premier Irish festivals and a central Ohio tradition. Dublin is home of the Jack Nicklaus championship golf course, Muirfield Village Golf Club, and just a few miles from the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. More than 100,000 visitors are expected for the 20th anniversary! August 3-5, 2007. www.DublinIrishFestival.org.

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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



Mayor Daley Thanks Us for Olympic Coverage

Mayor Richard M. Daley recently thanked our paper, Irish-American News and also The Irish Echo in New York for excellent coverage in support of Chicago being named the host city for the 2016 Olympic Games. We must now convince the International Olympic Committee that our city can better present the much coveted event than any other of the competitors, which include Tokyo, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, and other famed cities.

As the mayor wrote, "The Olympics offer a unique cultural and social opportunity to celebrate sports and the diversity that enriches our world. I am delighted to learn that you welcome this wonderful chance to showcase our city to a global audience and we look forward to mounting a successful international bid."

No doubt Mayor Daley, Pat Ryan, and his dynamic organizing committee will leave no stone unturned in achieving their goal, but our help even on an individual level in "talking up the big event with our own people at home and in exile, and being able to name all the

advantages Chicago possesses over the other cities, will be invaluable."

Briefly some of the advantages are O'Hare Airport, gateway to the world. The airport is serviced by fast train and bus, direct to the Loop (City Center), where all of the activities will be staged, in view of the beautiful Lake Michigan all of the time, and within walking distances for some of the events. Another big advantage is the beauty and cleanliness of the city, especially in the Loop. Still another for Irish visitors is Gaelic Park, on the south side of the city where Ireland's national pastimes are played each Sunday, including Ladies Carmogie, Ladies Football, and juvenile events. And on the north side of the city, Knox Ave., the Irish American Heritage Center, one of the finest of its kind in the U.S. These and many others are good starters to open the conversation with visitors.

No doubt pamphlets explaining the better way to showcase our beautiful city will be available as time goes on. Mayor Daley sends his warmest regards to our readers at home and in exile. Readers are invited to send in your suggestions so that we can all learn from one another. Forward to Irish-American News, 7115 West North Ave, Oak Park, Illinois. 60302, Suite, 327. Tel, 708-445-0700. Fax, 708-445-2003. Email editor@irishamericannews.com.

Welcome Aboard Jim

One of Chicago's finest gael and hurler of other years, Jim McCormack, recently celebrated his big 80th birthday and we join with his countless friends in Chicago, Florida, and Ireland in congratulating "The Big Lad" and in wishing his continued good health for many, many more years to come. Jim was one of the stalwarts in the GAA formative years, and played an outstanding role as stylist hurler and great administrator. Now residing in Florida with his charming Kathleen, he migrated back to Chicago each summer to keep in touch with their many friends and of course is a frequent spectator at Gaelic games. He is a staunch member of the famed Harry Boland and was one of its founders in 1949. Keep well, Seamus, Kathleen, and fine family. See you at Chicago Gaelic Park, some Sunday. Slainte agus beannact De.

Good Things Happening on the Hurling Field

Our thanks to dynamic Eamon Kelly for his fine report of the recent naming of one Development Administrator in four of the major Divisions of the North American GAA Board. The objective of the Administrators will be to organize programs in each division to promote the game, hurling and Gaelic football and where possible to organize the games in schools within each area. Coaching and refereeing will also be part of their program. They will report to the Games Development sub-committee that will be responsible for sending regular progress reports to NACB.

Administrators named at Chicago Gaelic Park recently included Paul Bayly, Western Division, Tommy Dolan, Central Division, Michael

Moynihan, North East Division, and Patrick Trainor, Philadelphia. Hopefully, now with the administrators in place and having to submit regular reports to a sub-committee, that both games hurling and football will be given equal opportunities to promote the games. Hurling the weaker of the two because of lack of opportunity in the past of course needs more help, financially and encouraging. Hopefully, also the senior club teams from Harry Bolands, CuCuhainns, Limerick, will make a better effort to promote juvenile hurling and that a competition will be staged annually by the NABC for such teams. And finally, when all the administrators are in place, we would advocate that young players be taught to hit the ball of the caman more and keep the hands off the ball.

Regardless of the U.S. Immigration bill, if any, that is passed in this session "new seed" from Ireland is a thing of the past, and without promoting juvenile hurling at this stage, the game will not survive without a Herculean effort by each of the four Administrators. If the Irish grants, as promised, are made available to the Board, it should waste no time in getting started with at least one team from each division, in an Under 12 competition, playing the ball on the ground for the first year. Speed and skill with lifting the sliotar will come eventually. The game is being spoiled by trying to get the ball into the hand at all costs. Try ground hurling for a change.

It was interesting to read in Eamon's report of the round-robin hurling competition Junior teams from Denver, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Purdue University, St. Louis, and Washington D.C. And the encouraging note about this competition that the majority of the players were American-born. The sad aspect of this fine story is that there was no Chicago team. Apparently our city has a long way to go. Let's start, in God's name.

Another worth while piece of information was also forthcoming from Eamon's report: July 1st will be the deadline on players obtaining sanctions from Croke Park to play with clubs in the NABC competitions. Apparently the U.S. delegates from the NABC lobbied hard for July 20th,

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but Congress in its wisdom decreed otherwise. The New York GAA got an extension because of its longer playing season. One has to wonder whether the delegates to congress from Irish clubs realize the difficulty of promoting Ireland's national pastimes in the U.S. or even in England or Australia. The ideal solution would be granting permission to the U.S. boards to make their own by-laws where they do not conflict with the Official Guide.

In "Sporting Log" by our good friend Sean O Ceallachain it was interesting to read that former president Peter Quinn, Fermanagh, has warned the GAA that unless there is a radical change at all levels the association could be in trouble in 20 years. He is of the opinion that the association is beginning to become complacent following the huge success of Croke Park, as the finest stadium in Europe. Mr. Quinn is of course against the pay-to-play idea, but he need have no fear with President Nicky Brennan at the helm; that professional idea is "dead on arrival." By all means, let's take care with good insurance etc. of injured players and ample expenses for their time and effort, most players will always be satisfied with that. The small minority are "cry-babies," encouraged by the news media.

Great Times Ahead at Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park will be hosting the Continental Youth Championship from July 27th to the 29th. This great event has teams of all ages. Nicky Brennan, President of the GAA, will be among those attending. There are five additional teams playing in our GAA—including the return of the John McBrides Ladies Football team. The North American League Playoff will be from August 30th to

September 2nd. There will be approximately 50 teams representing 15 cities competing that weekend. It will be exciting. Attend these great championship games and attend other weekend games. Gaelic Park will be the site of great games and great food over the summer. Bring the family out on Sundays for a Grand Time.

Memories by Ruane

John Bernard Ruane has published

his memoir on growing up Irish Catholic in Chicago in the 1960's. Through good times and hard times, it was Faith that sustained the family. Reading the book brings back memories of how parish life was a key part of the Irish family and how important an Irish mother and the community are to sustaining that Faith. I recommend John's wonderful book, *Parish the Thought*. Good luck to John and all his wonderful family.

U.S. Immigration Details

Although any bill passed this season and signed into law by the President will no doubt be more fair and equitable than the present one. Irish "undocumented" are not really undocumented. Most of them entered the country on legal visas and only

overstayed their dates to leave. These people will benefit little from the bills now before the Congress compared to others who entered the country illegally, unless some amendment is written into the currently proposed legislation that may help those who have overstayed their visas.

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Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



There is no threat to the lucrative sponsorship of the Gaelic Player's Association (GPA) by soft drinks manufacturers Cantrell and Cochran despite the multi-million euro sale of its Irish company to a British company recently. When C&C sold their soft drinks division to Britvic for 250m euros there were fears that the GPA would lose one of its biggest earners. C&C make "Club Energiser", the sports drink with which the player's association in Ireland has its biggest deal. But the GPA have

received assurances from a top C&C executive that the current sponsorship deal will run its course.

It involves an expensive television advertisement and a widespread billboard campaign that is customised nationally by featuring Gaelic players from the county where they are sited. Top players benefit directly if they feature in these adverts but the big earner for the GPA is that a percentage of each drink sale goes into their coffers. The GPA were actually involved in the research and develop-

ment of the product and prided itself in the fact that it was an all-Irish one. The deal struck with C&C is for 10 years so there is still six years to run on the current arrangement. There has been controversy in the past about ambush marketing when players deliberately drink "Club Energiser" during live television interviews.

Relationships between the GAA and the GPA is still very much divided on several matters but at least both organisations have recently found common ground on the question of Government grants for players. It appears that they have once again put their differences aside and resolved to maintain joint pressure on the new government to finance a players' grant scheme. It was followed by a very significant development at a recent Central Council meeting when that body surprisingly passed a motion that when the GAA next sit down with Government to discuss how to move this issue forward, their delegation will actually include GPA executive Dessie Farrell.

Farrell, is a full time CEO of the players Union and is also technically, the official player's representative on the GAA Central Council. That transpired some time ago when the GAA offered the players a seat at Central Council and they nominated the for-

mer Dublin inter-county footballer Farrell to represent them. That gave the players a presence, virtually, at these meetings, the ability to witness first hand what is happening at the core of the GAA decisions. Heretofore the GPA always negotiated separately with the Minister for Sport and his department. This sends out a strong message to government that the two sides are singing from the same hymn book on this players grant issue.

The outgoing government and Minister for Sport John O'Donoghue, had indicated that there was 5 million euro on the table to fund such a project and the GAA and GPA had agreed that 1.3 million euro of that would go to a central fund, with the remaining 3.7 million allocated to county panels. But the scheme hit a major stumbling block some weeks ago when Sport Minister O'Donoghue reiterated his stance, that he cannot directly fund a players welfare scheme. His confirmation that he could only allocate extra grants to the association through the existing "capital" (building) or "development" scheme bounced the ball straight back into the GAA court.

It is clear that the GAA are loath to administer the scheme themselves, fearing it will contravene their amateur status. There has been no movement between the two bodies until a

new government is formed. The GAA and the GPA are of one mind on this subject, when the new government is finally formed they will be knocking at the government door once again with their joint proposal, which is designed to get an annual championship "expenses" grant of between 1,650 euro to 2,800 euro for all senior inter-county players. Such a scheme, if it comes to fruition, would be very much welcomed by the officers of the North American Board if it could be applied to them. I'm sure the matter is being kept under review by Board PRO Eamon Kelly. In the meantime it is believed that the issue of getting official GAA recognition for the GPA, as the accepted players' union, that will get priority in their next meeting.

But it must be said that the GAA will not be writing out cheques to players for playing football and hurling, even if the Government decides to pay the Association the cost of such a gesture in the foreseeable future. To put the matter in proper perspective the GAA cannot do it without causing mutiny in the organisation. There is one great cause which unites all members of the GAA from the underage club to Central Council level and it is the retention of its amateur ethos on the playing side of Gaelic football and hurling.



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Chicago Irish Cultural Club

The Chicago Irish Cultural Club met recently at the Union League Club of Chicago. This genial group of Irishmen discussed local and national politics, world affairs and all things intrinsically Irish. Most of the group have served in the military and the subject of Iraq came up quickly. No one person could justify or rationalize the invasion of Iraq, and were harshly critical of President Bush for the lies and deception used to pave the way for the war. The conversation changed quickly to a history lesson on the Middle East and how it was divided up by England and other countries who were also involved in the exploitation of the natural resources i.e., oil in the region. Nothing has changed—invading Iraq was all about oil and now the civil war is also about the “black gold.” I will share with you a couple of paragraphs from a letter by a soldier serving in Iraq.

“The key is getting the Iraqi government to make the tough call—allowing the Sunnis to be more of a part of the solution—rolling back the worst part of DeBaa’s athification (if you wanted to hold a lot of positions—teacher, engineer, army officer, etc.—you had to join the Baa’ath Party—kind of the same problem we ran into in Germany after WWII), how are you going to split the oil revenues—the issue being, does it go to the national government and then back to the provinces or do the provinces get their cut first (this is what the Kurds and the Shias want—they already occupy the oil producing areas and don’t want to give the money up to a central government they feel will waste the money or use it repress them. They want to share all the revenue from existing fields on a population basis—based on your percentage of the local population—but then get the lion’s share of all new fields—and seeing as the oil industry has been nationalized for 40 years and there hasn’t been any capital investment in developing the oil production capabilities in that time—the potential is enormous. The potential is not only based on proven/estimated reserves but also on maximizing what they have over here already.)” Now that’s a soldier’s assessment of what’s really going on and why we are in the midst of a civil war.

When the discussion turned to presidential politics the consensus was both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are unelectable and Al Gore could emerge as the Democratic candidate. Hillary has too much baggage and Barack is considered to be a lightweight, having no meaningful legislation to his credit either as a State Senator or a U.S. Senator.

The Gage

Mayor Richard M. Daley presided at the gala grand opening celebration Tuesday, June 12th, at this posh eating and drinking

establishment across from Millennium Park. Billy Lawless and his family hosted the celebration. Billy hails from County Galway. He’s a true activist and serves on the Galway Sister Cities Committee and has been at the forefront of immigration reform.

When Mayor Daley made his remarks, he reminded all of us that Chicago is a city of immigrants. He congratulated Billy on the warm and inviting atmosphere that has been created, a place where millions of visitors to our city will feel welcome.

Father Michael Leonard gave the blessing prefacing his remarks, likening a homily to a mini-skirt. “Long enough to cover the essentials and short enough to keep it interesting.”

An ambrosial array of hors d’oeuvres and the nectar of the gods, a.k.a. “uisce beatha” meaning the water of life á la Jameson’s. These delights were followed by deserts with lots of chocolate. Did I mention all of the beautiful women?

Boyle-Duckworth Wedding

On Saturday June 2nd, Maura Catherine Boyle exchanged marriage vows with John David Duckworth (see photo previous page) at St. John of The Cross Catholic Church in Western Springs, Illinois. The bride’s sisters Bridget and Eileen serves as co-maids of honor while their brother Brendan was one of the ushers. The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father Thomas P. Boyle as her mother Josephine looked on.

The reception followed the ceremony at the Butterfield Country Club. Cocktails were served on the patio followed by a sumptuous meal in the dining room. The bride and groom had their first dance as man and wife and dazzled everyone there with their amazing dance routine.



IAHC Mourns Loss of Susanne Flanagan

Family, freinds and colleagues are mourning the recent passing of Susanne Flanagan. Many of our readers will remember Susie Flanagan who for many years worked at the IAHC on Saturday monings. She will be sorely missed.

Susanne M. "Susie" Flanagan, nee McManus, beloved wife of the late James, C.P.D.; loving mother of Mary Anne; devoted sister of Joseph McManus, Ret. C.P.D.; dear sister-in-law of Kay Ryan, John Flanagan and Mary Flisk; aunt and friend to many. Interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Thomas P. Cahill Loss Mourned

Friends were saddened to learn that Thomas Patrick Cahill, 84, passed away Friday, June 15 surrounded by his family. Born on May 8, 1923 in Chicago to Irish parents hailing from County Kerry, Ireland, Tom was one of 11 children. He was a Golden Gloves middleweight boxing champion and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. As 35 year Veteran of the Chicago Police Department, Cahill was the first Chicago policeman stationed at O'Hare when it opened in 1955 and was stationed there for many years; he was assigned to special details escorting dignitaries and celebrities. With the love of his life, Peggy, who preceded him in death; he had four children Margaret Mary (George Concordia), Kathleen (Michael Lemme), Colleen (Nick Scipione), and Thomas Jr. (Bridgette); he was a devoted and loving grandfather to Meaghan, Nicholas, Kevin, Zachary, Brian, Alex, Margaret Ann, Sean, Brigit, Jack, Thomas III and Caitlin; and his great-grandson Liam. Interment was at All Saints.



Cultural events to please every age group will include poetry reading, the mashed potato eating contest, the ever popular Irish American Idol contest, featuring great but as yet undiscovered talent! Irish import stores will be selling their Irish treasures. Blarney will be selling Irish jewelry all of which is made in Ireland. It has always been important to me that anything I buy that's Irish, must be made there. Join the fun and help to support the Center. Check out at www.irishfestchicago.com.

Sex Abuse

The shock waves continue. The Archdiocese of Chicago has shelled out another \$6.65 million to fourteen men who were victims of sex abuse. Kinda makes you flinch when the collection plate is passed. The \$6.65 million doesn't include the attorneys fees.

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Fire to Host International Friendlies vs. Celtic, Cracovia

The Chicago Fire have scheduled international exhibitions with Scottish Premier League powerhouse Celtic Football Club and Polish First League side MKS Cracovia Kraków this summer at Toyota Park. The Fire met Cracovia on June 22 and will play host to Celtic on July 22 (3pm CT), three days after the Glasgow club participates in the 2007 Sierra Mist MLS All-Star Game.

Celtic FC recently clinched the Scottish Premier League (SPL) title, the club's 41st domestic title. "The Hoops" have won back-to-back championships, capturing five of the last seven league crowns. Celtic went

unbeaten in an astonishing 31 of 34 games this season, notching a 25-3-6 overall record in the SPL. Among the team's most notable stars are Japanese international Shunsuke Nakamura (recently named SPL player of the year), and Polish National Team member Maciej "Magic" Zurawski.

Cracovia stands seventh in the Orange Ekstraklasa (Polish First League), sporting a 10-9-5 record. The "Pasy", or Stripes have won five league titles all-time. The oldest active club in Poland, Cracovia was founded in 1906 and plays at Pope John Paul II Stadium in Kraków.

The Chicago Fire is 10-6-2 all-

time against international competition, taking on teams from eight different countries. Chicago will be encountering a Scottish club for the first time. In the Fire's only other contest against a Polish team in 1999, the "Men in Red" defeated Legia-Daewoo Warsaw 3-2 at Soldier Field. Chicago last faced European competition in a high-profile friendly against A.C. Milan on July 27, 2005 at Soldier Field.

Tickets can be purchased through the Toyota Park box office and other TicketMaster outlets. For more ticket information, call 1-888-MLS-FIRE or visit www.chicago-fire.com.

Currach Comes to Chicago

Chicago Currach is racing at Lake Arlington in Arlington Heights (off Windsor, first stoplight north of Palatine Rd., Arlington Heights Park District: 847-577-3059.)

Practices are held on Thursdays, starting at 5:15pm and Sundays starting at 11:00am (in the boats St. Brendan used in his Discovery of America.)

For more information, call Tom at 847-870-7588 or Harry at 630-469-8723; or visit currach.chicago@yahoo.com or geocities.com/currach.chicago



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MICK

By Mike Morley



Covering the News

Many times in this space we have taken to task the press or "the media" for distorting or totally ignoring news of England's actions in Ireland. I think lately that at least a few people are beginning to acknowledge the extent of this manipulation. When I get on the subject, I receive fewer "deer in the headlights" looks—the kind I might get if I were rehashing my alien abduction story or my experiences on death row.

I suspect that top-down control of information extends throughout the English-speaking media—a subject I hope to address in further columns. For now, I want to highlight just one story which recently had many people arguing this topic.

On May 20, someone pointed me to an internet story: the rape and murder of a young couple, Channon Christian and Christopher Newsom in Knoxville. Newsom, 23, a former high school baseball star, and Chris-

tian, 21, a senior at the University of Tennessee, were accosted by four men Jan. 6 in the parking lot of an apartment complex.

I poked around and noticed only a few news shops had covered the story, mostly local papers and stations in Tennessee and Kentucky. It was also a topic on blogs and political websites. Many saw the lack of coverage as a cover-up by the "liberal media" of this black-on-white crime.

Some bloggers (rather naively) urged readers to write to their local papers about the crime and ask that it be covered. The hoax busting site, "Snopes" must have been getting inquiries, because in April they investigated the story, labeled it "true", but added: "the notion that every major news outlet in the U.S. ... has decided to ignore what would otherwise be a compelling national story is rather implausible."

On Jan. 13 Knox News reported:

"Originally the plan was to do a carjacking," a pal of fatal carjacking suspect Lemaricus Devall Davidson told a federal agent." From then on, more than one news story called the crime "a carjacking gone wrong"—as if the murderers simply stole the girl's vehicle; and a day of terror, gang-rape and butchery somehow resulted because they forgot to order their victims out. On Feb. 2 the AP labeled it a "fatal carjacking."

The lack of attention to the story after that led to two small rallies in Knoxville by groups either protesting biased news or racial crime, or both. This finally gained the attention of the traditional press. Leonard Pitts, Jr. in the Miami Herald began his June 3rd column on the couple's murder: "'Oppressed' whites? Give me a break," and ended it: "Cry me a river." Saying "It always amazes me when white people put on the victim hat." He referred to the protests as "mewling noises from that subset of my white countrymen who feel put upon by big, bad racial minorities... And Knoxville, Tenn., has become the capital city of that lunatic fringe."

He goes on: "A constellation of white supremacists and conservative bloggers has pushed the story into the national limelight..." "Truth is, media ignore horrific crimes all the time. Space is limited and growing more so. Which means the story that catches fire usually has some element beyond gruesomeness to sell it. (sic) In the Duke case, it was class, privilege, sex and race that did it." (Pitts loses me here—were these four elements missing from the Knoxville story? And, are newspapers really so lacking in space now that they had no room anymore to mention a double murder?)

A week later (June 10) the Tribune's Howard Witt submitted a more balanced front-page story on what he termed "a random carjacking." He included the

eye-opening statistic that in 90 percent of cross-racial violent crimes between blacks and whites in the U.S., black offenders attack white victims.

Witt may have been chosen to write the story because he possesses a repository of good will in this area. In March, the Tribune had highlighted his coverage of another story with racial undercurrents, saying: "Howard Witt hasn't seen a reaction to a story quite like the one he got after writing about a controversy in the small Texas town of Paris." Witt's March 12 front page story compared the case of Shaquanda Cotton—a 14 year old black girl who was sentenced to indeterminate detention in the troubled Texas juvenile system for assaulting a white teacher's aide—with that of a white girl of 14 who had set her parents home ablaze, and was given probation.

The Trib puffed: "(Shaquanda's) story has been picked up on more than 300 blogs around the country, many of them concerned with African-American affairs. It has generated thousands of postings to Internet message boards." Said Witt: "What's driving the attention to this story is outrage... I had no idea, for example, of the extent of the African-American blogging world out there and its collective powers of dissemination... there's a new, 'virtual' civil rights movement out there on the Internet that can reach more people in a few hours than all the protest marches, sit-ins and boycotts of the 1950s and 60s put together." His conclusion: "Newspapers do still matter."

But in the Sun Times (June 12) Mary Mitchell was less than impressed with internet opinion. In her column on the two students who "fell victim to four crazed young criminals during a carjacking," Mitchell proposed the reason the story had not reached the big press was because people on the net had "felt the need to embellish... sordid facts with outright fiction"..."a

white supremacist rant." According to this theory, it took the establishment press nearly six months to discover the story: "because of the incendiary claims about what happened to Christian and Newsom before they were killed that have been spread on the Internet".

Now, aside from the fact that "the incendiary claims" were initially spread by mainstream news outlets, why would inaccuracies in internet reporting prevent any interested journalist from publishing or airing corrections?

Had anyone read his May 27 report, Jamie Satterfield of Knox News said: "The first major dose of misinformation in the killings came from a deputy U.S. marshal in Kentucky, where three of the five suspects were arrested." He insisted Christian was held captive and repeatedly gang-raped for four days before her body was found inside a garbage can. Mainstream media reported the marshal's statements for at least two days. The stories and broadcasts were posted on the Internet and sent out over The Associated Press' news service."

As early as Jan. 12 the Knoxville News-Sentinel had quoted Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Rich Knighten of the Western District of Kentucky: "They did some really nasty things to this lady. There is some evidence that she was held and sexually abused for a couple of days."

Though it may matter to media, it can't matter now to the young girl about to graduate college; but it is estimated that, though repeatedly raped, Christian died within 24 hours of being kidnapped. And as for rumors of mutilations, they may have been fanned by police reports the girl's body was found in "five trash bags." Most people would interpret that to mean she had been sawed to pieces, and her body divided into five parcels. In fact, Christian's body was whole, but wrapped in five trash bags. Had the larger news organizations, including AP, paid closer attention; that gory detail might not have become an issue. Arguably, the refusal of police to confirm or deny many rumors also helped build outrage. But the question, the suspicion, remains that the press has an agenda. Did the establishment media just drop the ball, or were they nicked throwing the game?

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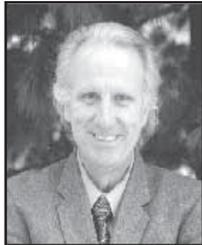
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T radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



Well, Irish Fest in Milwaukee is next month, and we will be doing our usual column highlighting the best acts set for this year, and it IS going to be another winner for the Fest — the biggest in the world, and rightly so.

We've noticed something in America. No album reviews this month, but the column is still all about the music. Now, this is only going to apply to America, and we are specifically removing Milwaukee's Irish Fest from the following. The Fest has done a spectacular job of staying away from the current virus attacking virtually all the festivals in America that we have studied. And, this virus will surely kill off some of these festivals, if it is not treated. Tough times in the festival business. Here's why.

Almost all American Festivals are reporting (if they report at all) decreased attendance. This is not by accident and it is not coincidence. Let's stipulate that it is impossible to speak for all festivals. They have multiplied like rabbits. That's the first problem. There are too many of them. Supply and demand is out of whack. Smaller venues think it sounds and looks like a good idea after seeing the crowds at Milwaukee or Columbus, and figure — hey!! — we can

do that, too. Wrong. It was a lot easier to start a festival years ago than it is now due to the increased number filling the calendar, and the increased demand on the talent pool. Most new festivals combat this by throwing the main budget at a Celtic rock act of some level of fame, and the rest goes to local groups, many of whom are good, and many of whom are dreadful. More on this later. These Festivals are started by people who love the Celtic culture, or Celtic culture as they perceive it. If — and it is a big if — these festivals start to succeed, more and more committees are added, decisions are farmed out to volunteers, and a certain assumptive arrogance begins to appear covering virtually every facet of the operation. The volunteers start talking only to each other, and seldom check with the public they are supposedly serving.

Now, as this becomes endemic, something interesting happens. Money. No festival has enough money to do the things they want to do. As they expand, if they expand, more people have more ideas on things that should be done. We need to offer this. And that. And, more of this. All this costs money, every single time. Now comes the vicious circle. As they seek to offer more, they spend more, and then need more — to spend more. The fact of whether or not the festivals are getting real

value and cultural importance for the additional money spent does not matter. What matters is that they are spending more, and — if they are lucky and do a great job, they start to make a profit. Then, the profit, and its increase, becomes crucial. Make more to spend more. We hasten to add that no individual is getting rich throwing these festivals. That's not the deal. Some entities throw the festivals as part of their larger organization's fund raising efforts.

So, what is constantly looked at is not musical and cultural variety of substance, but — here it is — what sells. What sells most. And, where is this profit? Beer. Yup. Of course, admissions — but beer. Boy oh boy, beer. Now,



Big news in the traditional music world is that Sarah Allen, one of the founding members of the popular band, Flook, has given birth to a baby girl, Maisy! The band is pictured with Maisy, and includes (l-r) John Joe Kelly, Sarah, Maisy) apparently trying out a new technique already of playing the flute with her foot, Brian Finnegan and Ed Boyd. Maisy was born Feb. 16th, just in time for early tea, and all are doing well, including the father, Robert. Welcome, Maisy... now start practicing!

festival? Right. To hear some rock, party, meet women (men), buy beer and try to connect and get lucky. Exactly how much disposable income did you have to go to the vendor areas? Zilch. So, here's the truth. These festivals are hemorrhaging the 30 and over demographic. EXACTLY who they need to have a well-rounded, ongoing successful setup. There is nothing more temporal than the 21-28 year old demographic. Right now, Celtic rock is cool. When something else replaces it, as it will, that crowd will join the over 30's in the fall off, and then who will be left?

Here is a little secret. No festival organizer, vendor or Irish musician of any stature or intelligence will deny what is being said here. They talk about it all the time. Where do you think we heard it? What you now have at festival after festival are the well-meaning volunteer steering around on their golf carts, talking on their walkie-talkies with great urgency, and driving right past what they should be seeing. Fewer people.

What to do? Milwaukee has the answer. Return next year to a FAR more balanced offering in the acts. The rockification of the Irish festivals must stop if they are to survive. Put the culture back into the festivals. Double the effort. Of course, continue to attract the 21-28's, but quadruple your efforts to re-attract the audience you are losing. The over 30's. Talk to the musicians, the vendors, the agents, the other festival producers, knowledgeable experts on Irish/Celtic culture, writing, history, music, spoken word and — here is a neat idea — talk to your customers!! We have a theory that if your festival does not have a vibrant, active cultural area, your days are numbered. At LEAST as much thought and attention should be paid to the cultural offerings as the music. Keep chasing only THIS year's profit, and you will die. Slowly. But surely.

The Irish Cottage in Galena



On another note... friends have been telling me for a couple years we should go over and spend a night at The Irish Cottage in Galena. So, when the folks there invited me recently, I jumped at the chance and enjoyed a recent Friday evening at the 77-room hotel. Fabulous. Period. My sister-in-law, Sandy had stayed there, told me how great it was and remarked on the incredible cleanliness of the place, as well as the friendliness. Right on both counts. Great food, the pint is proper, the rooms are wonderful. Look, we are going back. If you are looking for an evening or weekend away, check it out — and while in town pay homage to that great American hero, Ulysses S. Grant. You will have a ball. Promise.

we are not talking about some couple enjoying one or two glasses during the day. We are talking about BEER. Who buys these beers? Well, there ARE the occasional middle aged louts like your writer who will over-indulge with some regularity. But, overwhelmingly, the big beer sales are to men and women aged 21-28. Stop here. Don't give us the pious, politically correct denials here about how it is unfair to stereotype, and all that. We're not. We are stating a marketing fact that is driving a lot of these festivals. Beer sales.

Now, who do you hire to attract the customers in this demographic? Celtic rockers. We are not critical of these acts; in fact we even like some of them. But, let us ask you this. Were you running a festival with a profit imperative, whom would you hire to attract this younger group? Black 47, Gaelic Storm, Brother, The Fenians — or The David Munnely Band, Brock-McGuire, Cathie Ryan and Tommy Fleming? Right. There's your answer.

What has happened is that these festivals haven't been watching much of anything, except the gates and the beer sales. And, while they have been watching that front door, what has left by the back? Yup. Thousands of people 30 and over. Attendance is down, as we mentioned earlier. And, so are vendor sales. At the next festival, ask your favorite Irish/Celtic vendor how their sales have been overall, and if they tell you the truth, they will say down. Why? Remember back to the time when you were in that 21-28 year old demographic. Why would you go to something like an Irish

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Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



Hard Times for the Celtic Road Warrior

With half the year behind us, and many thousands of highway miles I must report that this campaign of 2007 has been, so far, a rough one. If you are a new reader of this column, I must tell you that we, at Blarney Fine Irish Jewelry and The Celtic Marketplace, have been vendors at Irish Festivals and Celtic events all over the United States for the past 20 years. We have always been proud to bring the very best of Irish jewelry to the marketplace and for years we have resisted the urge to carry cheap, "hippy" Celtic-themed jewelry from China and the other far eastern countries. Hand-made and hallmarked in Ireland is our mantra. When it comes to Irish jewelry we are the best.

So, with well over 500 Irish Festivals to our credit, I can tell you that "things ain't what they used to be."

My good friend Bill Margeson addresses some of the issues facing festivals in his column "Tradition in Review," this month. Bill and I have been neighbors and friends for 20 years. We both love Irish music and write about it in our respective columns, we have co-hosted our Blarney on the Air Radio show for many years and we rarely agree on anything.

First of all, there are exceptions to everything. Some festivals are on the rise, for example Kansas City's Irish Festival has seen dramatic increases in the last few years whereas other are in decline or just don't exist anymore. Numbers are down, revenues are down, and we must ask why.

In his column, Bill suggests that there are too many Irish Festivals, that "supply and demand are out of whack." He goes on to suggest that whereas festivals, born from a love of Irish Culture and music, often find that the cultural aspects of the event are sublimated by the need to make profits from beer sales, fueled by Celtic Rock bands and that this in turn drives away the elder and perhaps more affluent punter (my customer). Bill calls this the "Rockification of the Irish Festivals," and says it must stop. I urge you to read Bill's column in full as I have just cherry-picked a few pieces

of it. You can find it on LiveIreland.com or in this newspaper.

Anyway, it pains me to say it but Bill is right... but not totally right. I don't believe that there are too many festivals and I think that festivals that are properly organized, well balanced musically, and well promoted will succeed. Good ones survive, bad ones fail.

Regarding the cultural aspect of festivals I must agree 100% with Bill. An Irish festival without a vibrant cultural presence has no soul and will not survive. I have seen this happen before many times. Without a decent and well thought out cultural area, the festival is no more than a concert with concessions. The same thing applies to the Children's area... if you want to attract families—invest in the kids... every penny spent comes back to you in dollars.

The "Rockification of Irish Festivals" is no new phenomenon... it has been with us for years and has become over the years an integral part of most events. Yes, it draws young crowds and yes, they drink more beer but, these Celtic rock bands usually play late and at a designated stage. All of the Irish Superfests have featured Gaelic Storm, Black 47, or the Saw Doctors but I cannot agree with Bill on this one. I don't believe that festivals are losing people out the back door because of Celtic Rock. Surely we must have entertainment for all age groups, covering the many facets of Irish music, traditional, folk, and ballad groups, as well as Celtic Rock. It's all in the mix. Something for everyone, it's worked for all the bigger festivals... Milwaukee, Cleveland, Dublin, Gaelic Park, Kansas City etc.

The formula is there, it has been there for years. Get the balance right. A good mix of entertainment, a good cultural exhibit, a variety of vendors, some good food, an entertaining children's area, and some generous sponsors. Then you need a smart hardworking organization, strong leadership, and an army of volunteers. It's not easy but when it works it's brilliant.

The truth is that numbers are dropping at festivals all over the country because the whole Irish thing that was so hot in the nineties is on the wane. Riverdance

and Braveheart drove people to our events in huge numbers and we experienced our own version of the Celtic tiger. It is not just the festivals, but Irish stores nationwide are also feeling the pinch. The two main Irish tradeshows this year, Showcase in Dublin and the Secaucus, New Jersey Trade Fair have been dramatically down. My friends who represent many Irish giftware companies have told me the same story. All of this plus an economy that is not good for a lot of people, is the reason for decreasing numbers. But, one thing is for sure, the Celts will rise again.

My good friend Jack Baker of Rampant Lion, a fellow vendor, called me recently to tell me that he had figured out how to make a million from our business. "To make a million," he says, "you must start out with two million."

We soldier on.

Notes From the Festival Frontline

1. The Okalahoma Celtic Music Festival was a terrific debut festival. Great entertainment from local bands, Boru's Ghost, Celtic Cheer, and Larkin... great sessions afterwards. I can report that Irish music is alive and kickin' in Okalahoma. Hats off to Roger and Carol Graham who, along with some amazing friends, managed to combine culture and music into a super event.

Imagine, a successful event with NO BEER (yes, it was a dry festival) and NO big name band. (Must tell Bill.)

2. In applying to a festival for a vendor spot recently, I was told that 80% of my merchandise must originate from Ireland, Scotland, or one of the Celtic Nations. Yahoo! If more festivals applied the same criteria there would be fewer vendors, but authentic merchandise.

3. It was great to see Brigid's Cross again at Cuyahoga Falls, OH. This fest also featured Searson and New Barleycorn and has no admission. BC are working on their new album and I saw the photos for the new album cover. Nice. This year I earned an inside spot with air conditioning and proper toilets. Luxury.

4. The Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games was a grand affair held at Maverick Stadium, UTA, Arlington. Eric Rigler was there with his band Bad Haggis as were Kildares, Tullamore, and Seamus Stout. Ed Miller and Alex Beaton, who are perennial favorites at Scottish events were also featured. It was a huge show only marred by a Sunday morning storm that blew away

twenty or so vendor tents. That's Texas for you... an hour later the sun was shining and the park was full.

My favorite band was the North Texas Caledonian Pipes & Drums. Yes, a pipe band. They blew me away with their skill and diversity. These guys play pipes like Clapton plays guitar. They squeeze out notes and riffs I have never heard played before on bagpipes and use bongos, cow-bells, and bodhran to establish a rhythm before the pipes and drums. Pipe Major, Don Shermon, hails from Co. Armagh. That explains everything.

Their new album, "Na Pib Mhala Alainn," is first class and I am playing it regularly on our radio show, Blarney on the Air, 90.9 FM in Chicagoland or on the web at WDCB.

org on Monday nights 7-9. More on the NTCPD at www.NTCPD.com.

5. Other recent events attended were Gaelic Park, Milwaukee Highland Games, Louisville Irish Fest, Chicago Highland Games and the Springfield Highland Games.

Gaelic Park presented a terrific line up and was well attended despite the annual storm (this year it killed Saturday.) Damien Dempsey was terrific, it was my first time to see him live and he did not disappoint me. Great stuff.

6. This weekend we head for The Celtic Fling in Pennsylvania and two Feis's in Dayton and Cincinnati.

7. Next month... Milwaukee... and I, of course, will tell you all about the music that Bill won't tell you about. See you at the fest!



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Careers

by James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Think about it! Revisited!

A lot of our readers felt that my May column, Think about it!, was "right on." The gist of that column was our society's incessant pressure on everyone to make "thoughtful" decisions. Unfortunately, it is my contention that our array of communication devices keeps us wired into the system 24/7; so we are subjected to a barrage of interruptions. There was also a mention of the value of getting out of the melee of the white noise to recharge your batteries.

Gene Croisant, a dear friend and retired senior executive, felt that there were implications to the disruptions that I alluded to that weren't necessarily obvious. He felt that often the nature of the communication device severely limited the "thinking" element of one's response. For example, most people probably strive to limit their

text messages to shorter messages. They want to acknowledge receipt of the message; but the medium hardly lends itself to a lengthy response. It is the rare person who will text message a highly detailed communiqué; the device is more directed towards short pithy messages, generally characterized by a lot of abbreviations and buzz words. The inquiry frequently is framed in a way to elicit a quick response; not a well thought-out deliberate answer. In many instances, the questioner simply wants some direction and marching orders. Given the exigencies of managing our time, text messages are likely to be as crisp as possible.

A face-to-face conversation is probably most likely to result in a more thorough discussion of a matter rather than is a cryptic inquiry by your communication device. This

could be driven by our "sound byte" mentality, which has been cultivated by years of TV reporting. Watch the current presidential contenders who instantly respond to any question posed to them. Yes, the answer might be innocuous but when is the last time that you heard a candidate simply respond by saying I (my people) need to research that question more thoroughly before giving a definitive response. We seem to celebrate the politician's ability to respond to any question asked without any (or little) hesitation.

Our society doesn't embrace the concept of "thoughtfulness." When you watch some of the TV talk shows, the lack of serious thought hits you like a ton of bricks. Given that the guests are considered knowledgeable, if not expert, on the subject, don't they ever get stumped? And of course, in most instances, one guest (combatant) is talking right over the other guest's comments. It's a verbal assault not a discussion, debate or meaningful dialogue. Senior executives would be significantly better informed if they encouraged an honest dialogue with their subordinates. Isn't that why these bright people were hired? Yes, we can all agree that once the final decision is made, one should expect that subordinates will fall into line and follow the stated policy. But do senior executives in your organization allow for respectful dissent from their subordinates? As a long time corporate observer, I am convinced that we don't welcome thoughtful dissent, but rather we demand conformity. A client of mine recently told me that he can smell a subordinate who is simply seeking his favor a mile away; he is turned off by such conduct. But I wonder how many other executives are as secure in their beliefs as my client, Tim, is. Are you comfortable challenging your boss' point of view? Has he created an atmosphere that encourages such dialogue?

How can you encourage the thought process within your organization? Can you help create an atmosphere in which "out of the box" thinking is encouraged?

Whether you are the leader in a meeting or simply a participant, do you foster meaningful discussion on a subject? Could you expand the thinking of others by sharing articles or excerpts that they may not have read? Can you create a "straw man" point of view which will allow people to shoot holes in a point of view that is not necessarily seen as your own position? Notwithstanding one of my son's favorite comments, none of us is as dumb as all of us, there are a lot of smart people in your world.

How can you convince your boss that simply because s/he has a more senior role in the organization it doesn't mean that the quality of their thinking is any better than yours? Really smart managers enjoy the challenge and stimulation of diverse ideas; it tends to enhance their own thinking. They don't resent dissident opinion, but rather they welcome it. If you're the boss, are there techniques that you can use to surface the best thinking from your team? Should you have another member of your team run meetings, which will allow you to absorb the thinking of others without the need to challenge it if you disagree? Can you enforce a "cell phone free zone" in your office? You will turn yours off and expect that your guest will do likewise. In that way, you enhance the likelihood that you are fully present and engaged in understanding the issue being discussed. You can then concentrate your full mental firepower on the immediate problem.

Does our society unwittingly encourage such pedantic conduct by our leaders? Do we expect our leaders, whether executives, politicians, or educators, to have all the answers, even in the most obscure matter? As a young second lieutenant, I asked an experienced officer for his advice, on what to do when I didn't know the answer to an asked question. He said I should tell the inquirer that I didn't know the answer but that I would find out and get back to the person. He considered it imperative that you get back to the questioner, with a full expla-

nation of the issue at hand. Nobody expects you to know everything, but they have a right to expect that you will find the answer. How do you answer if a subordinate or colleague asks you a question that you can't readily answer intelligently? Do you "spin" a mindless answer to the question? Like him or not, Bill O'Reilly has a legitimate point about the spin zone; it has become widely pervasive in our corporate environs, as well as in our political, religious, military circles!

In a recent conversation with a senior marketing consultant, he said he was singularly unimpressed by the quality of thinking of some of his clients. These individuals were "the best and the brightest" of a multi-billion dollar organization. He said their thought process lacked discipline and organization, accordingly their thinking was at best quite parochial. Weren't there a lot of the "best and the brightest" working for our Big Three automotive companies for many years? As Lee Iacocca states in his recent book, who ever thought that we would see the day when all of the Big Three could be Japanese car manufacturing companies? The Japanese should be lionized, they gave us several wake up calls over the years, but we have managed to avoid addressing them.

Ben Franklin had an approach of writing down the pros and cons on any matter and from that analysis an answer would present itself. Alternatively, my Jesuit professors used to say that by correctly defining the problem you were halfway home to solving the problem. What has worked for you? One of my nephews, Donald, chastised me after my May column; he said I didn't give any ideas (no pun intended) on how to find more time to think or how to carve out the time to think. What's your approach? Is there a special place (physical or mental) where you do your best thinking? During your free time? On weekends? Early in the morning? Late at night? While on the golf course? While sailing? Do you record your thoughts by writing them down? Have you ever tried using a dictating machine to capture your latest and greatest idea? Will you share the techniques that have worked for you with your fellow readers? If so we can include those thoughts in our future column.

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

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By Julianna Finney

Picking from the Summer Garden

Summertime is the same world 'round. During the summer, the days get longer while people slow down and take their time. The highlight of summer is always the food: it's higher quality, fresher and just tastes better. The Irish take the summers and its food seriously. Early in the year, like many places, you would see rural people out in their yards readying the ground for its summer displays of some lavish, some modest gardens.



Most gardens would have two parts: the flower garden and the veggie garden. In the flower garden just past the roses, fuchsias, and wildflowers were the wild berry bushes hanging over the stone fences. From these, blackberries, red raspberries and the like were picked and saved for dessert. Strawberries were organized in the same region and a couple fruit trees finished the sweet section of the garden. Close by were the

herbs, wonderful and essential aromatics which would waif through the air. I've been in gardens where the bay leaf trees are trimmed into five foot tall topiaries and the rosemary plants became bushes. (Legend has it the larger a rosemary plant grows, the more 'influential' the wife is in the house!) Moving into the veggie garden, the tomato plants were fore-front with the cages keeping them upright. (The Irish cuisine is expanding to welcome more Mediterranean foods, so the first ingredient would be fresh tomatoes.) The gardens would grow squash and zucchini, eggplant, of course, cabbage and potatoes, onions, radishes, carrots and parsnips. All of these wonderful homegrown veggies were carefully tended to throughout the season. What is not transformed into a summer supper would be canned, jellied or made into a relish. Fresh produce was essential to Irish summer foods, from berries in the scones to their bright green salads to the colcannon with farm butter. Even in the cities where real estate was at a premium people search for homegrown. In the cities the 'open air' is the place to shop.

their professional course, had a market stall. Their offerings of jars of the versatile Ballymaloe relish, organic veggies and herbs intrigued many, including the students working at the market. I would choose an inspiring veggie or maybe an interesting artisan meat. Or better, a farmhouse cheese to match the bread we made in class. If we were lucky, a local vineyard would have a wine or two (yes, Ireland has vineyards). However, the treat was to find an ingredient or two that would have me staring at it thinking, 'What wonderful DESSERT can I create with this?' I'd buy a pint or two each of these most beautiful, farm-grown berries and get excited. I'm talking about the biggest blackberries, sweetest strawberries, fattest red raspberries, best blueberries I've ever tried to convert into my humble pie. But that's the wonderfulness of Irish produce: the best you will ever have to work with and eat, while maintaining the modesty of being 'just fruit'.

Irish desserts give the cook and recipient an excuse for indulgence. Though a few diners would attempt to resist or even rationalize by thinking it is fruit, they never hesitated asking for an extra dollop of whipped cream.

The 'open air market' or farmer's market has become the urban cook's source for the best. There you could find everything the farmers have to offer: the highest quality fresh fruits and vegetables. Artisans would have their cheeses, rustic breads and meats ready for the eager shopper. Many people would go to these open air markets for inspiration for the family supper, the weekend brunch and light lunch picnics. The vendors know selling their product was as much about display as it was the quality of the food.

This warm summer season now is a great time to indulge in a cool, fruity, fresh dessert knowing you will enjoy the very taste of summer through its summer perfection.

On the southern coast of Ireland, the weather stayed warm well into the fall. Ballymaloe Cookery School, where I studied

Below is a dessert that can be made one of two ways. The first is the homemade cake, fresh fruit version which takes a couple extra minutes but is a wonderful treat. The second contains store bought ingredients, but can be made quickly for a last minute neighborhood picnic, with only chilling time remaining. 'Pudding' is another word for dessert.

Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival

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John McDermott



Gaelic Storm

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Tommy Fleming	Ballina, IRL
Eileen Ivers	New York, NY
Brigids Cross	Cleveland, OH
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Jimmy Carren	Toronto, CAN
James Kilbane	Achill, IRL
Bruno Boys	Detroit, MI
John McDermott	Toronto, CAN
The Kilroys	.....	Cleveland, OH
Dermot Haney	.....	New York, NY
Trace Yourself Bridget	.....	Cleveland, OH
Trendan Shine	.....	Athlone, IRL
Michael O'Brien	.....	Clare, IRL
Philomena McGovern	.....	Clare, IRL
Seven Nations	.....	Windermere, FL
The Predigals	.....	New York, NY
Gaelic Storm	.....	Los Angeles, CA
Dennis Doyle	.....	Glendale, CA
Pete Kelly Ceili Band	.....	New York, NY
Mossy Moran	Cleveland, OH
Dublin City Ramblers	Dublin, IRL
Liz Carroll & John Doyle	Chicago, IL
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Fresh Fruit Summer 'Pudding'

Recipe One

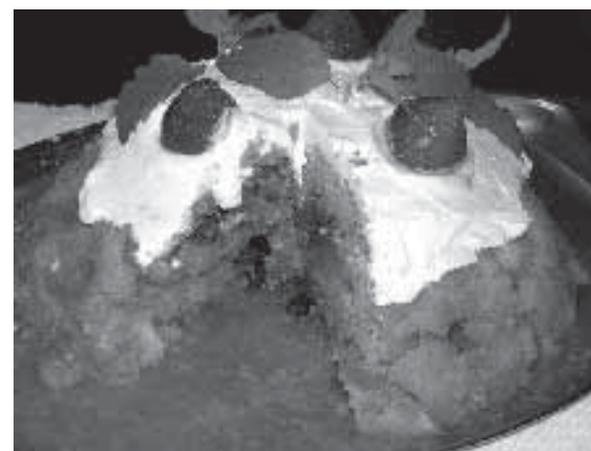
One box recipe angel food cake (follow recipe, bake completely)

- 1.5 lbs. fresh summer fruit: combination of red raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, peaches
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 cups water
- Mint leaves

OR Recipe Two

- 2 loaves pound cake
- 2 bags frozen berry and peach fruits
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 cups water
- Mint leaves
- 2 to 3 quart bowl

Decide on the recipe. If recipe two, make cake to directions and thaw fruit in a bowl. In a pan on med high, combine sugar and water to dissolve. As water reaches simmer, put in fruit. Line the bowl with 3/4 inch slices of the cake. (There will be extra slices and remnants). The patchwork will fit and settle. While the fruit is hot, gently ladle the juice onto the cake slices, then a half of the fruit. Take a



few of the remnants and place in middle of fruit. Then ladle in the rest of the fruit and finish with the last bit of cake. Let cool.

Loosely cover with plastic wrap, put a plate over the top then weight down. Let sit for 24 hours in refrigerator.

Choose a platter on which to invert the cake and carefully flip. This is done once, choose wisely! There will be berry juice and fruit overflow.

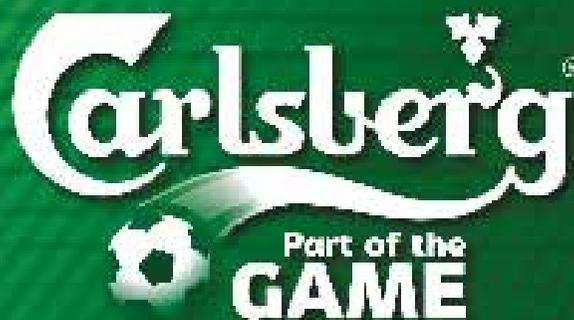
Garnish with whipped cream and mint leaves. Slice down from middle. Serves 6-8. Enjoy!

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Continental Youth Championship Games at Gaelic Park

In July 2007, the Chicago Minor Board will host the Continental Youth Championship (CYC) Games. The CYC began in 2004. It is an annual tournament that takes place in various cities across North America. Teams from all three of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) jurisdictions in North America come together to play Gaelic football and hurling. The CYC games



Mary Johnson, Maureen O'Looney's sidekick Wednesday nights from 9 to 10pm on WSBC 1240AM, with Tommy Fleming at Gaelic Park's 2007 Irish Festival.

will be held at Chicago Gaelic Park—America's premier Irish Community Center on July 27, 28 and 29, 2007. More than 1,200 Gaelic football players aged 6 to 18 are expected, representing clubs from Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit, Ottawa, Canada and London, England.

In conjunction with the CYC tournament, a Grand Raffle will take place on Sunday, July 29, 2007, at Gaelic Park. Tickets are \$100 each. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. The prizes are as follows: 1st Prize: \$20,000; 2nd Prize: \$10,000; 3rd Prize: \$5,000; and 4th-13th Prizes: \$1,000 each. The 1st Prize seller will win \$1,000, and the 2nd through 3rd Prize sellers will win \$500 each. Winner need not be present.

FitzGerald's Welcomes Hollywood To Berwyn

FitzGerald's Nightclub was transformed recently into a sixties-style Texas juke joint for Universal Pictures' new film *The Express* starring Dennis Quaid, Charles S. Dutton and Rob Brown (*Finding Forrester*) as Ernie Davis, the first African-American athlete to win the Heisman Trophy. Davis' life and NFL career were cut short by leukemia.

In the scene, the Syracuse University football team is celebrating their 1960 Cotton Bowl victory by danc-

ing to boogie-woogie tunes played by Chicago blues master, Lonnie Brooks and his band, including son Wayne Baker Brooks.

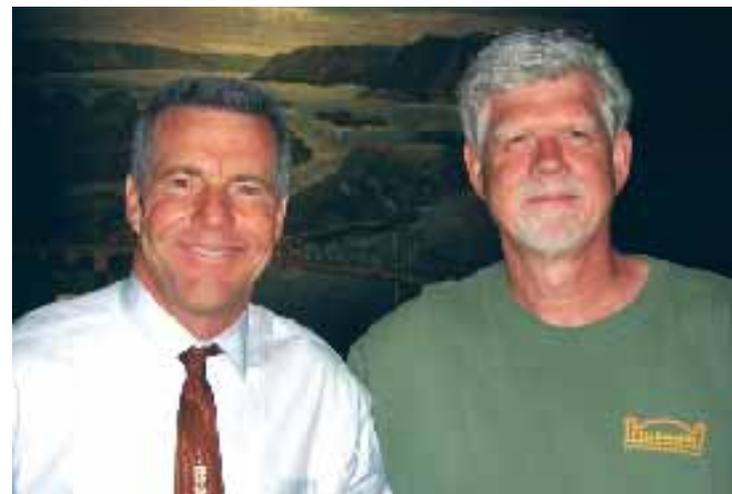
Lonnie Brooks has played numerous gigs at FitzGerald's over the years and was so pleased to be asked to be part of this film. "I'm having fun," said Lonnie between takes. "This is crazy but it's a good time."

Dennis Quaid, who plays with his own band, The Sharks, also enjoyed the location saying "this place is great! I wish we could have found it sooner."

FitzGerald's new neighbor, The Wishbone Restaurant is getting rave reviews. Chef Joel Nickson's southern cuisine has been featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The dishes used in the scene were served to cast and crew.

Notes owner Bill FitzGerald, "All of the movie crews and cast have been great and Dennis Quaid was nice enough to pose for a picture with me and my daughters."

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Wednesday, July 18 @ 8:30 pm
SEVEN NATIONS (Celtic Rock)

Individually, most of the band grew up playing Celtic music as kids. They have only done their own music since the early '90s, late '80s even, but they always used their instruments, bagpipes and fiddle mostly, and that's what makes them different. \$5 cover

Tuesday, August 21 @ 8:30 pm
SCYTHIAN (Celtic Rock)

Scythian (sith-ee-yin) falls nothing short of a "party band." Their high-energy, adrenaline-peddling, interactive brand of music has one goal in mind - to get people on their feet and dancing. Scythian is not afraid to wink at convention in search of a little fun, lending them an appeal to young and old alike. \$5 cover

Thursday, August 30 @ 8:30 pm
DIFFERENT DRUMS OF IRELAND (Irish)

Different Drums started in 1991 as a deliberate exercise in community relations. The melodic aspects of the band are voices and a range of traditional Irish instruments with particular emphasis on the Uilleann pipes and the whistle, the link between rhythm and melody is made through Roy's guitar. \$5 cover

Summer Art Show Showcases Local Artists

From Ancient Earth, a mixed media show, comes to the IAHC this summer. The show, which runs from July 6-July 31 includes the work of Dan Addington, Alice McMahon White and Patrick May. On July 6, there will be a free opening night reception with the artists at 7pm. Gallery hours are Saturdays from noon-6pm and Sundays from 2-6pm and during the week by appointment. The show is free and open to the public, except during Irish Fest, which is July 13-15. Gallery hours during the fest are Friday, 6-8pm, Saturday, noon-6pm and Sunday noon-6pm. Tickets for the fest are \$7-\$12. 773-282-7035.

Dan Addington's works explore the nature of mortality, express a sense of loss, and address mankind's desire to locate spiritual meaning. Alice McMahon White's work reflects themes inspired by her Irish American heritage including Irish landscapes and culture, dance, music and spirituality of the Emerald Isle and diaspora. Patrick May combines his love of work working and expertise as a cabinetmaker to make heirloom and jewelry boxes for many years and has recently incorporated Celtic carvings and the use of Irish bog oak into his box designs.



"The Labouring Heavens Sigh" by artist Dan Addington



Jim O'Connell, 10-yr. veteran of the Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society and retired plumber from Local 130, with his wife Kelly in the Philippines on R&R from his new job as Superintendent of the Water Dept. for KBR Services in Iraq. For the past 2 years O'Connell has been living in Camp Al Asad supporting U.S. Marines. As you can see Jim is an avid reader of Irish American News!

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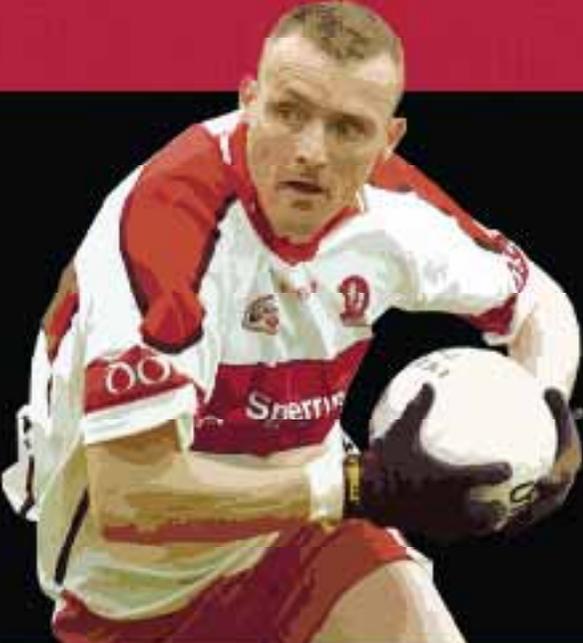
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SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers



Six months ago, I remember coming across Paddy on the Hardwood in a store and thinking, "I have to get a copy of this book." It was about Ireland. It was about basketball. It was written for me.

Time passed, and I forgot about it. Then as John Conroy and I were finishing up our lunch last month, he mentioned the book. The author—Rus Bradburd—was a friend,

and if I was interested, he could me put me in touch with him.

I don't believe all things happen for a reason, but I do believe some do. This was one of them for me.

Aside from writing about basketball and Ireland—two of my greatest loves—Bradburd grew up not too far away from where I did on Chicago's Northwest Side. I was looking forward to reading his book and ultimately

interviewing him for the column.

My only worry was the book may not actually be any good.

Here was a former assistant college basketball coach writing a book. I know a lot of coaches from my basketball side of life (Ill. Hoops, www.illhoops.com), and while they're smart people and know the game, I don't think I would peg many of them to be the next great author.

I wondered if the book was horrible would I still feature him here? We had a lot in common, but the authors, musicians, comedians, actors and business owners I write about here are people I respect. I enjoy their creative work or business, and I choose to feature them here so that you and I get to know them better. In a way, I'm also recommending them to you. I'm not getting paid to write here, so it's not like I'll write about someone just to provide good PR. I have to mean it.

These were my thoughts as I first picked up Paddy on the Hardwood. By the fourth page, they were gone. I was hooked. For a week, the book was in my hands any time I had a spare moment.

For starters, the story was interesting. A burned-out American college coach—one who recruited Tim Hardaway and was on the staff of eight NCAA tournament teams at UTEP and New Mexico State—takes a head coaching job in Ireland, a country where basketball barely exists. The job with the Tralee Tigers pays his bills and enables him to be there, but his real reason of being in Ireland is to play the fiddle and work on his short-story collection. As the story progresses, basketball begins to take more and more of his time in Ireland. The job drives him crazy and becomes stressful, but in the end, even though his team suffers every imaginable adversity and they lose more than they win, Bradburd finds himself enjoying the players and falling in the love with coaching, again.

"I'd like to tell you I'm the next famous writer," said Bradburd from his home in New Mexico. "The truth is I stumbled on a great story. It was really good luck to come in last place. To come in last place in the worst

league in the world is humorous. Paddy Jones (his fiddle instructor) appears as a teacher like in Karate Kid. I stumbled on the framework of a great story. I think that happens with a lot of writers."

Bradburd sells himself short here. It's a good story, but it's his writing that makes it great. It's things like his attention for detail, his way of getting down perfectly the way the Irish speak and his honesty that makes this not just for basketball readers, but for all readers. It's a page-turner any way you look at it.

The book wasn't even a thought until a certain moment occurred early into his trip.

"There was a specific moment where I was talking to my team," said Bradburd, who attended Von Steuben High School and North Park College in Chicago. "I said, 'You're really nice guys, but you weren't raised in the traditions of basketball.' Then after my first fiddle lesson with Paddy Jones, he said, 'Rus, you work real hard, you weren't raised in the tradition.' After the first few weeks, I decided to write everything that happened to me. The book started out as a diary."

That's how the book came to be, but his journey to become a coach there began with a simple vacation to Ireland. Like many who visit there for the first time, Bradburd found it difficult to leave.

"I had such a great time," Bradburd said. "I thought I should get a job here. I think the music really grabbed me. The music sometimes has to be in the right context. Hearing the music in an actual Irish pub with it being misty and drizzly outside and inside with old me, it grabbed me. It's definitely difficult to explain. I thought I'd come over and write and learn to play music."



Although being distributed by a small publisher, the book sold out its first run and is near doing so in its second. The movie rights have also been bought. The book has taken Bradburd around the country for readings and opened a door to him to teach a few courses at New Mexico State. He also hopes to have the book published in Ireland at some point.

"It's been a modest success," Bradburd said, whose

book includes photos from Chicago native Mike James. "It's doing well. It's like going to North Park or Elmhurst and averaging 25 points a game. I still wish we could be at DePaul or Illinois. It's doing great for small press. I didn't know what to expect. I'm a coach not a writer. I was very naïve."

Bradburd still keeps in touch with a number of people in Tralee. One of his former players—Kieran Donaghy—has developed into one of the country's top Gaelic football players. After the book came out, Donaghy told Bradburd, "For (bleeping) sake, Rus, I've never read a book in my life, and I read that one."

You should too. For more on Rus Bradburd, check out www.rusbradburd.com. Also Paddy on the Hardwood is available at most bookstores and on the Web. Share a comment or column suggestion with Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

IAHC Idol Contest

The Irish American Heritage Center will hold its Irish American Idol Contest during its Irish Fest this July 13-15, open to amateur contestants only.

Contestants will perform a song for a panel of judges. The contest is broken down into two categories: children under 12 and a teen category for kids, ages 13-18. All contestants must complete a registration form and have a parent or guardian's signature to compete in the contest. Forms must be turned in no later than Saturday, July 14 at 1:30pm.

All contestants must prepare an Irish song of their choice that is under 3 minutes long. Preliminary auditions will begin at 2pm on Saturday, July 14 and will be judged by a panel of judges. Five finalists will be announced Saturday at 6 pm.

The Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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Sailing the St. Barbara Back to U.S. for Heneghan Benefit

The plan was to leave the boat, St. Barbara, in Ireland this year and go back next year to bring it back. That would give all of us a chance to catch up with our lives and make up for lost time, more than two months of it. At least that was the plan.

But Pat and Steve were in [Johnny'] O'Hagan's [Pub] one afternoon for lunch and Vince Heneghan's name was brought up in a conversation that followed a chat about the boat. Vince is very dear to both of them as he had helped Pat and Steve when each of them arrived to America. I know Vince from coming into O'Hagan's and know that it's nearly impossible to not like the man. He has an infectious character that endears you to him almost immediately (whether he's winding you up or not!) But Vince was also the first man to put his hand into his pocket whenever there was a fundraiser, no matter what it was for. So now is our chance to help a man that has helped so many others.

I'm not sure if it was Pat or Steve that came up with the idea, but that part doesn't matter. If either one of them gets something in their head, whatever it is, for better or worse, it's going to happen. Without a doubt, this is one of those times that it is definitely for the better.

The idea to help raise money for Vince, (www.heneghanbenefit.com) by taking the boat back this year was one that took me by surprise initially, but I've said it since I got back from the last journey, "I'd go again in the morning if I could". So as it works out, I am going in the morning.



I'm typing this out the night before I am to leave for Ireland, six days before we leave the Aran islands on a different course from the original one, a voyage that will see us south of Iceland and Greenland, east of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and finally into American waters, with our first stop being Boston. With a little luck, the journey from The Aran islands to Boston should take about three weeks. And having Boston as our first stop on the way back to Chicago could not be more fitting. When we left last year on our way to Ireland, many of our friends in Boston were very instrumental in our well being along the way. Padraig Mannion had delivered to New York, enough sausages, bacon and brown bread to feed our crew all the way home. Some of the boys from Boston helped crew the boat on the part of the journey from Buffalo to New York city via the Erie canal and many more of them, as well as so many from Chicago and the rest of the world, kept our spirits up at night when we would be able read the comments sent to us through the website. The reception that is being planned for us in Boston is much bigger than I would have imagined. There reception committee there is planning to hold a fund raising dance the night we get in and the expectations are high already. I've done a couple of interviews in the last couple of days with different radio stations in Boston and there does seem to be quite a buzz there. There is also a casino night planned in New York city when we arrive there, by a friend of ours, Pat Nee. At a pub conveniently called "The Galway Hooker." With a bit of luck and the warmth of a

few hearts, we should be able to raise a few bob for Vince and make it back safely at the same time. So in your prayers for Vince Heneghan tonight, maybe slip in a little one for us and our journey as well! Slan for now, Coley Newell

You can follow us on our journey through our website @ www.sailingsaintbarbara.com

Vince Heneghan and his wife, Kathleen (nee McGing), are natives of Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo, Ireland. Vince suffered a fall on March 29, 2006, in which he incurred a head injury with inner cranial bleeding requiring emergency brain surgery. He has been hospitalized ever since with several setbacks, including a pulmonary embolism, heart surgery, infections and internal bleeding. He is facing several months, if not years, of rehabilitative physical therapy.

A benefit is being held at The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago on Saturday, October 20, 2007, from 5pm until midnight.

Donations are voluntary at the door. Food, music and entertainment will be provided, in addition to a Silent Auction and Grand Raffle for \$10,000. There will be a cash bar.

Checks may be sent to the: Special Needs Trust for Michael Heneghan, c/o LaSalle Bank, 1565 North Clybourn Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60610 www.heneghanbenefit.com.

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Sunday, 7/15 Irish American Heritage Festival

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Friday, 7/27 Bohemian Loop
Saturday, 7/28 Paddy Hoeman

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Garden Sculpture Workshop at Chicago Botanical Gardens

Award-winning sculptor, DJ Garrity will lead a fascinating exploration of the stone carving process at the Chicago Botanical Garden from August 20-23, 2007. As Sculptor-In-Residence of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, the artist has enjoyed a broad range of support for course development, which is reflected by the nationwide appeal of the "Garden Sculpture Workshop."

The four-day course developed in conjunction with the National Park Service is a hands-on workshop, which utilizes the

human face as a template to establish a basic understanding of the stone carving process with a light approach to carving techniques and further exploration of the esoteric values associated with this ancient art, the rhythm and flow of creative endeavor.

Garrity, who was named by Irish America Magazine as one of the "Top 100 Irish Americans" for 2006, is currently teaching workshops at major museums and botanical gardens from coast to coast.

The "Garden Sculpture Workshop" is considered appropriate for the novice or students with previous experience and recommended both for individual exploration and professional development. The workshops of Sculptor, DJ Garrity are accredited by Augustana College of South Dakota.

Call Beth Pinargote, Coordinator Symposia & Special Programs at the Chicago Botanical Garden: (847) 835-8278 or visit www.djgarrity.com. Class size is limited to twelve students.



Arlington Heights Irish Fest 07

Arl Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont St.

Friday, July 20, 6-11pm

Admission: \$5 Adults, Children free
All events on Museum Grounds and Main Stage
6:00-7:15 Chancey Brothers
6:00-8:00 Airbrush Face Painting (\$4)
7:30-8:00 McNulty Irish Dancers
8:00-8:30 Glengael Bagpipe Band
8:30-10:30 Elevation, U-2 Tribute Band
5:00-11:00 Irish goods for sale
Food & Drink by Peggy Kinnane's
Fest Closes
11:00

Saturday, July 21, 4-11pm

Admission: \$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$2 Children
Main Stage and throughout the grounds
4:00-7:00 Irish American Heritage Center
Dunton Room
Crochet Demonstration (NICGofA)
4:00-7:00 Wee Folk tent activities-games arts & crafts in the Wee Folk Tent
4:00-8:00 Airbrush Face Painting (\$4)
Wee Folk Tent
4:15-5:30 Finbarr Fagan Band
Main Stage
4:30-7:30 DGEIGN Balloon Twister
Wee Folk Tent
5:00 An Introduction to Irish Music
Arlington Room
IL Humanities Council speaker-
Bryan Kelso Crow
5:30-6:00 Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society
Main Stage
6:00-7:00 Gavin Coyle
Main Stage
6:00 Ceili Workshop for all ages given by
McNulty School of Irish Dance
Arlington Room
7:00 "Best Legs in Kilts" contest
Main Stage
7:30-8:00 Trinity Irish Dancers
Main Stage
8:00 Irish Raffle winners drawn
Main Stage
8:30-10:30 The Matt Stedman Band
Main Stage
4:00-11:00 Irish Goods for sale
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McNally's Irish-American Summerfest July 27, 28

McNally's Traditional Irish Pub, located at 201 E Main St., in Saint Charles, Illinois, will hold their annual SummerFest July 27-28, 2007. This party is about as fun as they get in the summertime with great music, grilled food, and family fun for all.

On Friday, July 27th, the outside venue opens at 5pm with entertainment by Irish Step Dancers; Gavin Coyle performs at 5pm and Nappertandy at 7:30pm.

On Saturday, July 28th, the outside venue will opens at noon and the family fun begins. Face painters, cotton candy and lots of other fun stuff will be available to entertain the kids. The Tavern Hill Liars perform at 3pm, Just Livin' performs at 5pm, and Red Woody hits the stage at 7:30pm.

As always, McNally's Irish Pub will be open inside as well, with the full menu available.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



frame so the flag was flying properly.

When you get in the habit of observing and noticing the treatment of our flag you may find yourself stopping and undertaking a few rescues yourself. I've seen them mowed over and left in snowbanks at cemeteries. Left in a pile on the ground beneath the flagpole at a self-storage business. Flying upside down by mistake at a suburban city hall. Hanging torn and limp three-

went up with little fanfare at the time, only to become larger than life as a wire service picture days later.

It is that first flag I think of when I see modern day flags in distress. Something humbly assembled and lost to history, but paid for with a tremendous price.

Let's not devalue it.

Flagging Respect

Celebrating American independence on July 4th is a great way to remember and appreciate all that is great and good about this country.

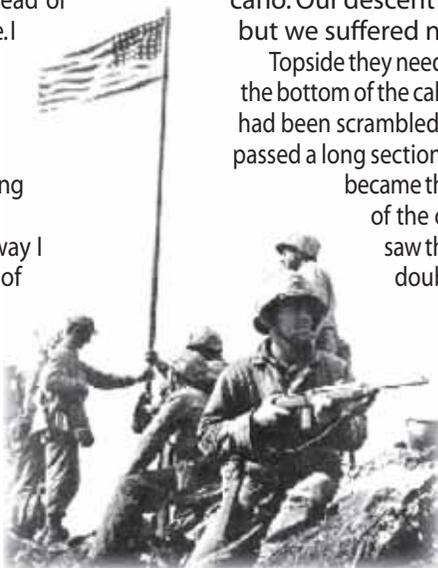
Its importance is underscored by it being one of the few national holidays that hasn't been moved to a Monday for convenience, but I wonder if we don't need some brushing up on the care and reverence of our important symbols.

I'm thinking specifically of the flag of the United States. It bothers me that in my travels I have often seen it misused and neglected. When one thinks of the sacrifices involved over the nation's history to raise it high, whether on a battle-scarred mountaintop in the Pacific or a bleak plain on the surface of the Moon, it is hard to believe how we sometimes treat that flag.

The first transgression seems to be the sin of overuse. For lack of a better description, using the flag as a glorified bumper sticker or party decoration. You may spot it on neighborhood lawns for starters. There is always the homeowner who feels the need to use multiple miniature flags lining his driveway or sidewalk in the manner of a gaudy Christmastime display. It's a safe bet you'll see several that have fallen over or left out to fade or tear.

Car dealerships seem to have a knack for desecration in a variety of sizes. Some have special antenna flags that are placed on every car on the lot. Or they may have a giant flag so big it only screams BUY YOUR CAR HERE instead of communicating freedom bought with a price. I once saw a dealership with a normal sized flag, albeit it stained and torn, hanging by one grommet and twisted about the pole. I unfurled it, folded it and placed it in the dealer's sales office with a newspaper clipping describing respectful retiring of a flag.

Once driving down the Edens Expressway I noticed a flag lying on the ground in front of an office park. The frame it was mounted on had broken in a windstorm a day or two before. The original display was part of a Office For Lease sign. I don't know what bothered me more, that no one had bothered to stop and fix the flag or that the leasing sign would have gotten more prompt attention than the flag had it been upended. I propped up the makeshift



quarters of the way up the pole in the front entrance of a nursing home. Or wrapped twisted and unrecognizable around a fouled pole in an exclusive neighborhood entry drive off a main road.

As a country we don't hesitate to display the flag, sometimes to excess. Sewn on to every college or pro sports jersey, stuck onto every batting helmet or chugging along the side of most every locomotive. Sometimes political candidates seem to be playing a game to see how many multiple flags they can place behind their podium.

There have been many times in our country when the display of the flag wasn't a neglected afterthought. Perhaps the most famous and stirring was the planting of the flag atop Mount Suribachi by the Marines on Iwo Jima. Few people realize that took place on the fifth day of a ten week battle and some of those planting it died before the island was secured.

I had the privilege once of hearing Iwo Jima veteran Robert Leader speak about his role with that flag. After the war Leader became a professor at the University of Notre Dame and would speak about his experiences as a 20 year old Marine on a combat patrol up the volcano. As Leader related it to Notre Dame Magazine:

Patrols were sent out and mopping up began. My fire team was one of those ordered into the crater of the volcano. Our descent drew spasmodic exchanges of fire, but we suffered no casualties.

Topside they needed a flagpole. Length of water pipe lay at the bottom of the caldera, where a rainwater retention system had been scrambled by constant bombardment. With help, I passed a long section of pipe to waiting hands at the top. This became the flagpole. We were pulling ourselves out of the crater as the first flag was raised. When I saw the flag snapping in the breeze, I had some doubts...

Leader's doubts were that the flag would serve as a target for enemy fire. This was actually the first flag above Iwo Jima, a relatively small banner that was replaced by a second flag in the now famous picture.

As the tiny flag went up cheers erupted from the Marines on the island on out to the many ships in the bay below. The second, replacement flag

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Toora Loora Looral has nothin' on the Lullaby of Broadway. Like a siren's song it draws me back to Gotham every so

often. I took the lovely Mary back to the ol' wooing grounds just last week and it was an adventure. We were headed to the Broadway Memorial for Kitty Carlisle Hart who died last month at the age of 96. The strange details of how we got to know "The Kittser" were spelled out in my May column, so dig it out of that pile of old Irish Americans you keep by the throne and try to keep up.

We flew out of Midway and our first stop after the federal frisk was Reilly's Daughter in search of old pal Boz O'Brien. No sign of Boz or his son Brendan but their cousin Jimmy O'Brien entertained us behind the bar while I nursed a screwdriver. I saw Robin Givens new autobiography on sale at the newsstand and asked Mary, "You think I'm in it?"

I imagined scanning the index for my name and a reference as the honky hunk who strangled her in the ill-fated TV series "Angel Street". Robin's quote, "I got smacked around by Mikes both black and white!"

My darling Mary gave me the window seat and she wound up squeezed in the middle next to a middle-aged bald Baby Huey in the aisle seat with sweat running off his nose for the duration of our flight. I offered to switch seats but she said, "I wouldn't do that to you." What a wonderful wife!

Abdul picked us up at LaGuardia in his Lincoln Towncar and we zoomed to Manhattan. Our headquarters would be the Fitzpatrick Hotel at 56th and Lexington. John Fitz is the

greatest of hosts and our digs were spectacular. New York can seem like a third world country as you walk the street and encounter the polyglot of languages and accents of refugees from all over the globe. But when you settle onto a stool at Fitzer's, the cozy pub attached to the Fitzpatrick Hotel, you're among your own again in a friendly Irish saloon.

Our first night in Gotham we were treated to dinner and drinks by our old friends Tom and Ruth Nardini. Tom and I shared a dressing room on Broadway many moons ago. He started out in show biz at 18 as the Indian kid in "Cat Ballou" starring Lee Marvin and Jane Fonda. Studios kept trying to cast him as an Injun from then on but he was really just a California goombah who grew up in Englewood. Tom told me when "Cat Ballou" tested audiences before they opened all over the country, the kids in his old neighborhood stuffed the votes for him and he wound up with an eight year studio contract thanks to his pals.

The memorial for Kitty Carlisle was the next day at the Majestic Theatre on 44th Street. Mary and I walked down the street and discovered a line almost around the block to get in. Kitty's son Chris had invited us so we flashed our invites and waltzed right in and found ourselves among a crowd that I thought didn't exist anymore. It was old time Broadway all over again and the memorial featured clips from Kitty's movies; scenes with Bing Crosby and the Marx brothers. Mario Cuomo eulogized. So did Mayor Bloomberg, Barbara Walters, and a host of entertainers who sang Kitty's praises. I felt like we were in a time warp when the great white way was at its peak. We ran into old show biz pals we hadn't seen in over twenty years, including character actor Dave Wohl. Many of you would recognize him from the TV show "Law and Order", where he has a recurring role as a pervert.

Across the street we went to Sardi's after the show. Mary and I had our wedding reception there so we reminisced with a couple pals from the bad ol' days. We had made the cut for in-

itation back to Kitty's home on 62nd Street and Madison, the scene of my crime over 25 years ago. Hobnobbing in The Kittser's living room with the luminaries wasn't much different than any place else on the planet that day. Everybody talked of how Paris Hilton deserved more jail time.

That was my cue to launch into one of my favorite old songs taught to me by Joe Howard, "Oh the women's prison... how I wish I was with 'em!"

We rushed back to Fitzer's that night to meet our old pal Jack Whalen, AKA Way-Way. Jack was best man at

our wedding and is always entertaining. Way-way slammed Heinekens while regaling the bar with stories of our youth. He had white hair in sixth grade which the girls found dashing and liquor store owners found convincing, but these days he looks like the late Senator Everett Dirksen on a bender.

Our final day in Gotham was a whirlwind of stops along Fifth Ave, and lunch at the New York Athletic Club, which we topped off with a rickshaw ride across town. The driver rode a bike while I plunked my big butt in back and felt sorry for him peddling the load. Most of the drivers are from Africa with names like Oogie. This would be a great racket on the south side of Chicago. I can just see Dogs Daugherty hopping in a rickshaw and announcing, "Take me to the Beverly Woods and step on it, Kunta Kinte!"

We hit St. Patrick's cathedral for mass and on the way out we bumped into Tom Brokaw walking down the street. I shouted out, "Tom, how's it goin'?" He cringed visibly and gave me a wincing acknowledgment. The guy wants me to welcome him into my living room every night for thirty years and then blanches when I say hello on the street. Well excoooooo me, Mr. Bigshot!

Back to the hotel to meet Abdul for our ride to LaGuardia and Mary and I bid adieu to the wonderful hospitality of the Fitzpatrick family. We had a ball but the best part for me was taking my own 'lil Broadway baby, "the lovely Mary Carney" back home.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Business as Usual

"She had seen death many times, but not on this scale. She felt polluted by the reality of war, the senseless waste of it. Deceived also. Now she realised how the chanson à geste she had loved in her childhood had lied. There was no nobility in war. Only suffering."

-Labyrinth by Kate Mosse

On and on it goes, this grim clown's dry alcoholic nightmare made flesh: it sometimes seems to me that the horror of Iraq will ultimately affect the American psyche as much as losing the war in Vietnam did. And this week I find myself again in Bulgaria, as does your "War President" (his description: "War is on mah ma-ind all the time."). He arrives on June 9th and the nature of these articles dictate that his visit will be long over by the time you read this. As I write, however, householders have been ordered to take their washing in from their clothes-lines as it may offend the Great Man as he struts through the capital of Sofia. The tramps and street beggars are being bussed out of the city to—who knows where? Just as long as they don't upset a man who has sent thousands of young Americans to their deaths in a futile war that can't be won. Frankly, I think it would take a great deal to upset this man. Bulgaria seems to me to be a country that is still at war with itself. It was Communist up to 1990 and had food shortages up to ten years ago. Yet it is embracing the West with the enthusiasm of a young man who has found out there's been something interesting happening around him, unnoticed. Yes, I like the country and I like the people but I hope they outgrow the need to be sycophantic to every war-monger who wanders along.

Of course Dubya is an apple that didn't fall too far from the tree. His father, the mild-mannered Bush Senior, the guy with all the Saudi connections once said when asked about atheists, that they didn't really enter the equation as they were not and could not be citizens because "this is a nation under one God". As someone who has no idea and could not care less whether God exists or not, I found myself for the first time imagining (and let's be honest, that's only on the far reaches of imagining) what the Jews and the homosexuals



and the Gypsies must have felt at the dawn of Nazi Germany. To be considered as nothing at all. You must be very proud of yourself, Bush. And remind me again: What exactly

makes your Christian fundamentalism so different to their Islamic fundamentalism?

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, normal service has been resumed. After my hopes for the future of Northern Ireland as expressed in this column last month when I spoke of the warm meeting between Ian Paisley and Bertie Ahearn, along comes Paisley Junior to remind us that it might just take a decade or two to drag Northern Ireland out of the Dark Ages. Following on from the good that was done through his father and the efforts of the many, many people who long for peace on this island, comes Gobbaw Paisley Jnr. attempting to show us he's All Man. He spoke of his revulsion for homosexuals, of the fact that he's uncomfortable around these lesser creatures and of how he is, to quote, "obviously" a straight man. Methinks you protest too much, Mr. Paisley; and to be honest I'm just tempted to make fun of your pig-ignorant hill-billy ways—for God's sake even your own father (the guy who once held an Ulster Against Sodomy rally) is doing a damage limitation exercise for you. But making fun of you, tempting as it is, isn't an option. You're a Public Representative—Junior Minister in the Office of First and Deputy First Minister—and if it was down to me you would have been arrested for spewing your bile while talking in the guise of a Representative. Don't we have a law against Incitement to Hatred? Pay attention, Mr. Paisley: if one more gay guy gets kicked to death because of the likes of parochial, narrow minded fools like you then be prepared for the backlash that you will get from the ordinary straight man who doesn't seem to suffer from the case of bile that you are afflicted by.

Also back at the ranch, it's a case of "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss." Yep, that's right, we've voted in the same shower of worthless politicians all over again. As I heard today, "Ah sure, isn't the country doing grand, all the same. So what if a fella gets a dig-out from few of his mates? (Bloody Hell, I wish I had mates that would drop me forty grand every time I was stuck.) But sure, wasn't poor old Bertie Ahearn (Taoiseach) going through a bad time of it, with the divorce and all? He gave an interview on television where his lip quivered more than Princess

Diana's ever did and he shed a tear as he spoke of the Kindness of Strangers; and the whole country fell for it! And we wonder why the English tell Irish jokes? Still doesn't explain why his new girlfriend at the time was carting shedloads of loot over to Manchester. No, I think we can safely say that we're still waiting on an explanation for that one. Mr. Ahearn, of course, is the man now going into his third term: a man who studied at the feet of the corrupt master, Charles J. Haughey, the most outstanding white collar crook this country ever produced. Bertie signed the checks during this period when Haughey (who was closing hospital wards right, left and centre) was travelling to France to buy £3,000 a go Charvet Shirts and hosting £5,000 a table dinners for his mistress Terry Keane. How he managed to actually run the country while he was buying his own island; his yacht; sitting for the many portraits he had done of himself as Lord of the Manor; these will always remain one of Life's enticing little mysteries. More tellingly though is that at this time his dogsbody Ahearn was known as "Blank Cheque Bertie" and Haughey is on record as describing Ahearn as "the most devious and cunning of them all". Scary stuff, eh? Or perhaps we just want our politicians to be unprincipled, ruthless, amoral people. There might be a bit of that in it too.

Don't mind that Ahearn was the Minister for Finance at the time and he didn't even have his own bank account. I'll repeat that, because it's just so damned good: the Minister for Finance didn't have a bank account. There, that's off my chest. This has all to be explained properly, Bertie, and as for the two major crooks in Irish politics today (not you, obviously, you're just misunderstood) you know who they are... indeed, one of them romped home in the voting despite the fact that he was found wanting, to put it mildly. But sure, Gob and Begorrah, don't we love a bit of a rogue just the same?

Yeah, we do. Except that the skulduggery that this bunch have been up to has led to rezoning that has left people stranded in housing estates where there are no facilities for young people, no proper infrastructure, no decent shops in walking distance. But that's OK because we've made a few quid for the People Who Matter. The Tribunals here have been going on for ten years and there is no sign of any of these corrupt politicians doing real time. Sure, we've had a week here and a week there for contempt of court but with the exception of the egregious Ray Burke no-one has served more than a week. In court yesterday we saw—and God knows we heard—a 15-page rant from the billion-

aire tycoon Denis O'Brien who feels he's being victimised. (He's denying that he ever gave money for favours to a demonstrably bent politician, by the way.) Mr. O'Brien, as it happens, is the fourth richest person in the country with a net worth of over €3.05 billion. When I say in the country, of course I'm being flippant as Mr. O'Brien moved years ago to Portugal in order to avoid paying capital-gains tax on the profits he had made from his company Esat Digifone. In order to maintain his tax-exile status he later moved to Malta. Perhaps he's been taking advice from our other tax-dodger, Bono. God forbid that any of them ever contribute to the infrastructure of this country.

Still, look on the bright side. Sinn Fein/IRA did woefully in the elections. Call me crazy, but there's nothing that makes me happier than to see the moral descendants of killers take a long cold bath of reality. We don't want you any more than we ever did. And now that it's over, doesn't your war just look grubbier, shabbier and more pointless than ever it did. Good luck to you. I hope we never see your likes again.

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Investment Ideas

By David Gaffney
From A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.,
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Pay Yourself First

No matter how hard you try to avoid it, sometimes it seems like

your day-to-day living expenses just eat away at your entire paycheck. Before you know it, the money in your paycheck seems to vanish, and you don't even know where it went. And while you're focused on just making ends meet, putting money away for the future may be the last thing on your mind. Even so, you need to remember that taking care of your longer-term financial goals is just as important as meeting your current needs.

Ever since the days of putting pennies in a piggybank, you've likely received plenty of advice on the value of saving your money. But when mom and dad aren't taking care of the necessities any more, and you have your own bills to pay, it's easy to lose track and forget to save. As a reminder of just how important it is to put part of your income aside – and to do it sooner, rather than later – take a look at an example of just how the numbers shake out.

For this example we'll use two investors – one who starts early and lets her savings grow, and another who waits until later to begin. Let's say the early investor puts away \$5,000 per year for five years, and then allows that investment to grow for 15 years without putting in another penny. The late investor, on the other hand, waits for 10 years before he even begins his savings plan. He then invests \$5,000 a year for 10 years, putting his total investment at \$50,000 – exactly twice as much as the early investor.

Assuming an eight percent average annual rate of return on their investments, if we jump ahead now to 20 years from the time our two investors started, the difference in their accounts is substantial. Our early investor would have accumulated a total of roughly \$100,493 in her account by this time. Keep in mind she hasn't put a penny of her own money in for the last 15 years. Meanwhile, the late investor's account has grown to only \$78,227, and he has been contributing each year for the past ten years. That means that our early investor only put in half as much of her own money, and came out well over \$20,000 ahead.

Now, this example is only meant to illustrate the advantages of saving regularly and starting early. This does not reflect the performance of any specific investment, nor does it take into account the eventual effects of taxes. It does, however, make the point very clear – by delaying 10 years in getting started, the late investor loses out on the benefits of compounding over a longer period of time.

Disciplined investment habits aren't always easy to come by, but there are several things you can do to improve your savings routine. One of the easiest ways to establish a savings plan is by taking advantage of the convenience of electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may be familiar with this type of service if you currently receive or make electronic deposits to your bank account. This service is also available from other financial services firms, and paying yourself first by using an EFT system can help you get in the habit of saving.

Direct deposit allows you the opportunity to deposit all or part of your paycheck to the account of your choice, so you could choose to set aside a certain portion to go directly to a savings account as opposed to your checking account. Another way to take advantage of EFT

is to set up an automatic monthly deposit. This is a simple, disciplined way to add to your account, authorizing a specific amount to be transferred from one of your accounts to another (i.e. from checking to a savings or investment account).

Regardless of which method you choose – or even if you decide on completely different investment strategy – putting aside money now will help you prepare to reach your financial goals that lie further down the road.

A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer, but may act as an investment advisor on designated accounts, and the firm's obligations will vary with the role it plays. When working with clients the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To better understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult "Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards" on agedwards.com/disclosures. This article was provided by A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Member SIPC.

New Hosts Take Reins at Ceol na nGael

Listeners who tune in to WFUV's Ceol na nGael will notice two new voices this summer. Fordham University students Ashling Colton and Kevin Quinn, both entering their junior years in the fall, are taking over the reins as co-hosts of the long-running Irish music and news program. Heard every Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM on WFUV (90.7 FM, wfuv.org), Ceol na nGael will be produced by Liz Noonan and current co-host Maggie Dolan.

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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) in Dublin and a former deputy artistic director of the Abbey Theatre.

Jerry Ryan Passes

Goodbye to Jerry Ryan, popular Chicago Irishman, and one of the many leaders in the Ryan family.

Hopefully, we will have more on Jerry in a future issue.

Jeremiah Patrick "Jerry" Ryan, Sept. 5, 1934 - June 20, 2007. Devoted son of the late Thomas F. and Julia (Judge) Ryan; beloved husband of Anne C., nee McHugh; loving father of Ali (Tom) Van Vleet, Sheila (Brian) Crowley, Daniel (Margaret) and Mary Anne (John) Egesdal; dear grandfather of Matthew (Karina), Sean and Stacy Van Vleet, Dylan and Sarah Crowley, Dan, Matt, Shannon and Bridget Ryan and Julia Egesdal; fond brother of Thomas, John (Pepita), Edward (Mary), Sheila (Paul) Wisniewski, Marie (Robert) Auer and Robert (Margaret); cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews and friend to many. CDR USNR (Ret.) Submarine Service,



(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



Jerry Ryan, with his brothers, Ed, and Bob on the reviewing stand at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Korean War Veteran, Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band, Chicago. Member of IBEW Local 134 for over 40 years. Parishioner of St. Paul of the Cross Church, Park Ridge. Visitation at Cooney Funeral Home, 625 Busse Hwy, Park Ridge, Sunday from 2 to 9 p.m. Funeral, Monday, 9:30 a.m. to St. Paul of the Cross Church. Mass at 10 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to American Diabetes Association 800-342-2383 would be appreciated. For info, 847-685-1002.

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* (Win-

ners 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.

Ahern Welcomes Look at Past in Northern Ireland

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D., welcomed the announcement today of a new group to examine the issue of dealing with the past in Northern Ireland.

The Minister said, "We have recently witnessed a hugely positive new beginning for Northern Ireland. With that perhaps comes a moment for fresh thinking about how to deal with the painful legacy of the past. This consultative group, chaired jointly by Denis Bradley and Archbishop Eames, offers people an opportunity to contribute to this key debate."

"I wish the group well in its important work."

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A Word With Father Boland

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



As America celebrates its independence, we honor all our military veterans, especially those who have made the supreme sacrifice. Each day of the year at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, we express our gratitude to those living veterans and active service men and women who have volunteered to safeguard our freedoms.

Catholic Charities is privileged to have collaborated with the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development to create a unique place—the St. Leo Campus for Veterans—where veterans can regain their health and dignity, have a decent place to live and prepare to re-enter the workforce.

The new campus, built on the site of the former St. Leo the Great parish (1887-2002) in the Auburn-Gresham community on the South Side of Chicago, is a national model that can be replicated around the country to provide comprehensive services to military veterans. It includes the St. Leo Residence for Veterans where 141 men and women who are formerly homeless U.S. veterans now live in new, furnished studio apartments with comprehensive resources that will help them to achieve self-sufficiency; and the VA Auburn-Gresham Community Based Outpatient Clinic, where veterans from the entire Chicago metropolitan area can receive medical care, counseling and employment training. Later this year, the Pope John Paul II Residence will open to serve 14 households of disabled persons with affordable housing.

The centerpiece of the new campus is the

O'Connor Receives Life Saving Award

Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #7, recently presented the Life Saving Award to Chicago Police Officer Michael J. O'Connor.

Officer O'Connor was off duty and in his personal vehicle when he observed heavy smoke and flames coming from a residence. He called 911 and when he heard screams coming from the residence he kicked in the front door and proceeded to scream for residents to get out. He located a child on the 1st floor and brought the child safely outside the burning building.

Officer O'Connor continued to search through the heavy smoke and on the stairwell located two more children and their mother who were disoriented and unable to escape. He brought them outside to safety. When O'Connor learned that there was another person on the 2nd floor he went back in again and brought that person out to safety. Chicago Fire Department personnel then arrived and took over the scene rendering aid to the victims and striking the fire.

President Donahue stated "Due to Police Officer Michael J. O'Connor's bravery and dedication to duty, five people were rescued without serious

St. Leo Veterans Garden, a jewel of beauty and tranquility in the midst of an urban neighborhood. Built on the site of the former parish parking lot, the garden was created through the generosity of the Illinois AMVETS organization and private donors, including many veterans. The Garden honors the five branches of U.S. military service—Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. In this oasis of peace, a beautifully landscaped Walkway of Honor winds around a central fountain to a battalion-sized American flag raised on a towering illuminated flagpole. The Walkway ends at a statue of Christ embracing an American soldier, a tribute to all chaplains who served in the military.

Earlier this Spring in separate ceremonies led by Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, and Bishop Jerome Listdecki of La Crosse, Wisconsin, who is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and a former U.S. Army military chaplain, the residence and garden were blessed and dedicated to all who have served their country, and to all veterans who will seek aid and renewed purpose there. We were also very pleased to welcome U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson, who participated in the dedication of the garden.

A particularly moving moment was the lighting of an Eternal Flame in front of

the St. Leo Residence by Marine Corps Lance Corporal John Cherry, who recently returned from service in Iraq.

The contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II and the 10,000 African-American men and women who served as support personnel to the airmen are commemorated in a large plaque adjacent to the new Outpatient Clinic.

In addition, Catholic Charities has recently built and manages Cooke's Manor Hines, a residence for 40 veterans recovering from substance abuse; and the Bishop Goedert Residence for 70 low-income senior men and women veterans and their spouses on the campus of the Edward J. Hines, Jr. VA Hospital.

Since World War I, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has served veterans and their families throughout Cook and Lake counties whenever they needed food, clothing and shelter, or help and healing for mind and body.

Now in our 90th year, Catholic Charities is in the forefront of providing services for the 18,000 homeless veterans in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area and the 70,000 veterans who live on Chicago's South and Southwest Sides.

We are grateful to the government agencies, corporations, foundations and private donors who have partnered with us to help veterans in need return to a life of health, work and dignity. It is a privilege for us to offer veterans places to live, learn, heal and hope.

Throughout the year, let us remember with gratitude all veterans, living and dead; and recommit ourselves not only to honor the brave men and women who have won or protected our freedoms, but also to care for the most vulnerable among them.

For more information about the St. Leo Campus for Veterans, visit www.catholiccharities.net.

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Pictured is President Mark Donahue (left) and Office Michael J. O'Connor.

injury from the fire, which had been deliberately set." He went on to say, "It is with great appreciation that the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, present Officer Michael J. O'Connor with the Life Saving Award.



Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, recently announced the the Silver Performance Award by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies has been presented to Stephen Carmody, Assistant Engineer of Treatment Plant Operation III. The award is presented for outstanding compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany is pictured congratulating Stephen Carmody on receiving this important award.

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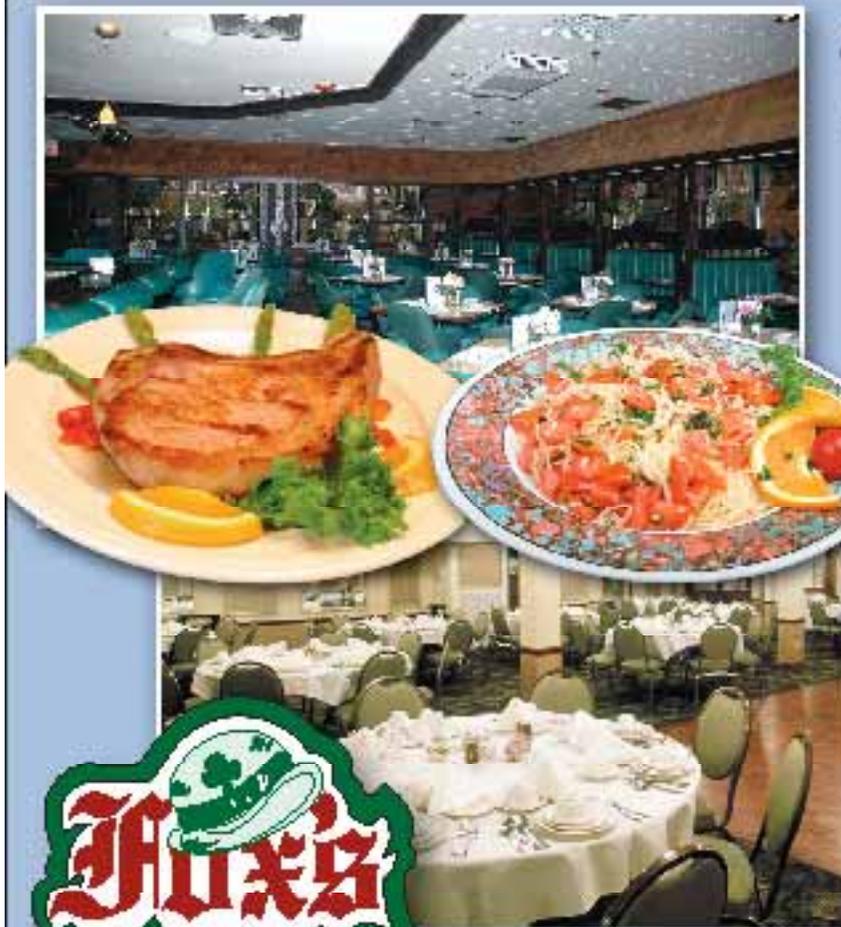
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Knock – Gateway to the Heart of the Real Ireland

Wednesday, May 30 2007 – Ireland West Airport Knock had a double celebration as it celebrated its 21st birthday and the inaugural flight from Boston Logan International Airport with flyglobespan. Ireland West Airport officially opened the runway for business on May 30, 1986. Along with flyglobespan IWA Knock started the celebrations early as they welcomed the first ever flight from Boston into the airport shortly after the JFK flight arrived into Ireland West Airport for the second time this week. This week was one to remember for the 21 year old airport as the commencement of the long-awaited transatlantic service with Scottish low cost carrier flyglobespan. Flyglobespan will operate twice weekly service to Boston as well as three direct scheduled flights per week from Ireland West to JFK New York. The inaugural



flight to JFK took its maiden journey on Sunday, May 27. Seat fares on the transatlantic flights from IWA Knock are priced from only \$209 one way including taxes.

Speaking at the launch of the inaugural Boston-IWA Knock flight at Boston Logan, Chairman Joe Kennedy said "Thanks to the hard work of scores of people on both sides of the Atlantic who have dedicated their time and effort into making this dream come true. We are delighted that this service is with the award-winning airline flyglobespan – one of the fastest growing airlines in the industry today. And we look forward to developing this service further to put the highly popular City of Kind Hearts into the heart of the tourist trail for the

Irish, while bring the West and Northwest of Ireland within easy low fares reach for the people of Massachusetts. We look forward to welcoming you all to Ireland, and can be assured of a very warm Céad Mile Fáilte upon your arrival."

Mr. Liam Scollan, IWA Knock's managing director said



Monsignor James Horan at the Official opening of IWA Knock

"Boston is more than just another destination. It is a great and beautiful city and the birthplace of the American Revolution. Its history has so much resonance with the people of the West of Ireland and because so many Irish flocked there, the connection is just as strong today. It is also home to many of the U.S. companies that have come to Ireland and so it has great potential for business on both sides. It is fitting that we welcome the inaugural Boston service on our airport's 21st anniversary."

Flyglobespan is first flight into IWA Knock brought hundreds of visitors into the region - the first of many incomers who will boost Ireland's tourism numbers. Welcom-

ing the new Flyglobespan scheduled services into Ireland West Airport Knock, Mr. Paul O'Toole, Tourism Ireland, Chief Executive said "These new services are very welcome news for the West and North West and for tourism throughout the western seaboard. We in Tourism Ireland are working closely with Ireland West Airport Knock, Flyglobespan and Western tourism interests to maximise consumer take-up of the new services in the United States. Early indications suggest that Ireland is set to experience another positive year in 2007 in terms of growing visitors from North America. The new services will make it even easier for visitors from this important and

high spending market to explore the delights of the West of Ireland."

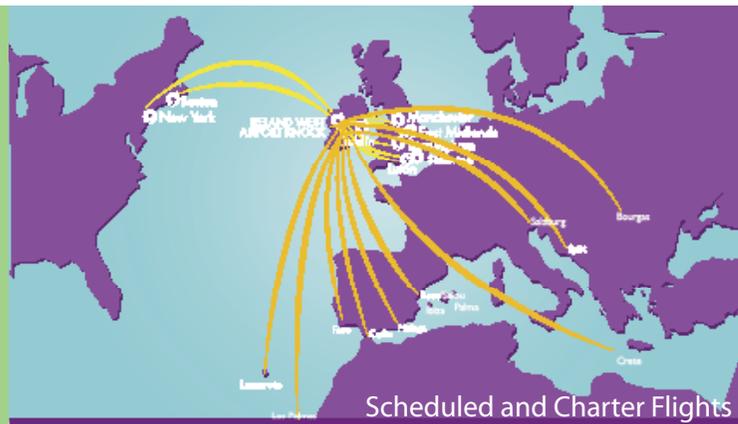
Since news of the new routes were announced, they have attracted great interest from both sides of the Atlantic and Tom Dalrymple, Chairman of flyglobespan is delighted that flyglobespan's most recent expansion is off to such a positive start. Commenting on the inaugural flight he said "By giving Ireland West Knock and Boston this new service, we have linked the west of Ireland with the east coast of America – two regions with strong historical and cultural attachments. And as well as offering the region of Ireland direct, low fares flights across the Atlantic, there is the added bonus of the benefits we bring the local tourist trade. I am sure that the low fares we are offering will tempt a number of Americans to make Ireland West Knock their entry destination for a visit – not just to Ireland, but to a wider tour if Europe. It is a very exciting time for the Airport and for the airline. The route has tremendous potential."

All the New York and Boston flights from Ireland West Airport Knock are available on www.flyglobespan.com or can be booked through local travel agents. As with all flyglobespan services, travellers can choose flights only or take a package which includes transfers and/or accommodation.

Vision 2020

20 Years Growing

- 1980 Breakthrough! The visionary Monsignor James Horan and Con-nacht Airport Committee's proposed new airport at Knock gets Government backing
- 1981 First sod cut
- 1983 First phase of runway completed
- 1985 The vision becomes a reality!
The first commercial flights, three Aer Lingus Boeing aircraft, took off on a pilgrimage to Rome on October 25th
- 1986 Official opening of the Airport on 30th May
Monsignor Horan dies in Lourdes on 1st August
Over 20-30 people employed at the Airport
- 1987 New Irish airline, Ryanair, begins London Luton route
- 1988 Within two years, annual passenger numbers exceed 100,000
- 1990 Charter flights to Paris and Lourdes, and from New York and Boston
- 1992 Ryanair commences its London Stansted route
- 1995 Aer Lingus operates its regular Birmingham service
- 1999 Annual passenger numbers in excess of 200,000 achieved
- 2003 MyTravelite commences daily services to Birmingham
Dramatic increase in sun holiday charter destinations
- 2004 bmibaby begins daily service to Manchester
First snow and ski charters
Airport employs over 120 people directly
- 2005 Milestone of over half a million annual passengers achieved
Airport supports 1,100 jobs in region and contributes c52 million in tourism income
New daily UK services introduced by airlines bmibaby, easyJet and Ryanair
- 2006 Airport celebrates its 20th anniversary
Over 25 destinations served



Looking Ahead

- 2010 – 35 Routes; 1 million projected passengers including:
Daily flights to all major cities in the UK
Connect to major destinations in Europe
Scheduled flights to East Coast, USA
Year round holiday destinations
Year round in-bound pilgrimages from the UK
- 2015 – 45 Routes; 1.5 million projected passengers, including:
Flights to secondary and regional cities in the UK added
Connections to European regions added to network
New city choices add to North American routes
High frequency short/medium haul holiday destinations
Year round in-bound pilgrimages from the UK and Europe
- 2020 – 55 routes; 2 million plus projected passengers, including:
Connected to all main and regional cities in the UK
Flights to the main European cities and regions
Range of weekly North American destinations
Long-haul holiday destinations added
Year round in-bound pilgrimages from the UD, Europe and USA

First Scheduled Flight From Boston to Knock

by Walt Kennedy

Due to a schedule conflict, our publisher could not make the inaugural flight from Boston Logan International to Ireland West Airport Knock, so I was asked to join a group of media and travel professional from Boston and cover the event for IAN – another one of those last-minute assignments that I was all too happy to accept. I looked forward to visiting a part of Ireland that was off the beaten Dublin and Shannon paths.

When allotted a two-page spread to relate the experience, I wondered how I would be able to find enough material to fill the pages. What I didn't know at the time was that Fáilte Ireland and IWA Knock had packed about a month's worth of activities into five days! When I returned to my office to write the story, I discovered that I had not enough space to give a fair account – I was simply overwhelmed. So what I have tried to do with these pages is to lay out the essential facts of the new service, and to point the reader to just a few of the many wonders that await you in this amazing region of Ireland.

I will post more detail of the places and experiences on IAN's web site.

Christian Ireland

Christianity has been rooted in Ireland since even before the days of St. Patrick in the fifth century, and many of the highlights of its history are associated with the western province of Connacht. The gradual transition from paganism to Christianity can be followed at Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, where the pagan festival honoring the Celtic god Lug has been transformed into an annual Christian pilgrimage honoring St. Patrick, Ireland's national apostle, who is said to have climbed to the summit and fasted there for forty days.

It is believed that St. Edna founded a monastery before the end of the fifth century on the Aran Isles in Galway Bay. Around the turn of the sixth century, monasteries began to spread across the country; where cloistered brothers fostered and preserved Irish arts, crafts and literature and recorded the ancient history and traditions of Ireland.

Croagh Patrick Murrisk, Co. Mayo – a pilgrimage site for over 5000 years, named after the national saint. Knock Shrine Knock, Co. Mayo – site where a large group of people



Kylemore Abbey & Garden Kylemore, Connemara, Co. Galway – a spectacular mansion, a neogothic cathedral and a six-acre walled garden. Today, Kylemore Abbey is the Monastic home of the Benedictine Order of Nuns in Ireland. www.kylemoreabbey.com

experienced an apparition of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist in 1879 – the main center for Marian devotion in Ireland, receiving over one and one-half million pilgrims each year. Clonfert Cathedral Clonfert, Co. Galway – built on the grounds of the monastery founded in the sixth century by St. Brendan the Navigator to house his relics.

Ballintubber Abbey Co. Mayo – founded on the site where St. Patrick supposedly baptized his converts Boyle Abbey Co. Roscommon – twelfth century Cistercian Abbey where exist some of the best preserved ruins in Ireland. Roscomon Abbey Co. Roscommon – Dominican friary founded by Felim O'Connor, King of Connacht in 1253.

Houses and Gardens – Natural and Man-Made



Lissadell House and Gardens Lissadell, Ballinfull, Co. Sligo – Childhood home of Countess Markievitz, nee Constance Gore-Booth. William Butler Yeats developed a friendship with the Gore-Booth sister, Eva and Constance as a young man and he stayed at Lissadell during the years 1894 and 1895. The house is currently under extensive restoration by owners Edward Walsh and his wife Constance Cassidy. The house and gardens remain open to the public.

Glenceagh National Park Co. Donegal – A castle surrounded by one of the finest gardens in Ireland. Connemara National Park Co. Galway – Over 5,000 acres of bogland, lakes and mountains. King House and Gardens Boyle, Co. Roscommon – Magnificently restored Georgian mansion used as a military barracks and home of the Connaught Rangers in later years. www.kinghouse.ie Strokestown House Strokestown, Co. Roscommon – 18th century Palladian mansion with most of the

original furnishings intact; the stable block houses an extensive famine museum. www.strokestownpark.ie Westport House Westport, Co. Mayo – One of Ireland's beautiful and historic homes, designed by architects Richard Cassels and James Wyatt in the 18th. century. www.westporthouse.ie Lough Key Forest & Activity Park Boyle, Co. Roscommon – a vast estate and nature park covered with broadleaf trees and featuring the "Lough Key Experience" – an engaging audio trail of the Park's

history, flora and fauna through the 19th century underground tunnels, to the top of the refurbished 5-storey Moylurg viewing tower and along a contemporary Tree Canopy Walk, the first of its kind in Ireland. This 300m long creation of timber and steel gently rises 9m above the woodland floor and offers an engaging 'birds eye' view of nature as it meanders through the treetops offering panoramic views of the shimmering island studded lake. Glencar Waterfall Co. Sligo – A small stream forms an impressive cascade which can be viewed from a wooded walk or picnic tables – access for disabled persons. This lovely setting inspired Yeats' poem, "The Stolen Child".



Prehistoric Sites Abound



Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery near Sligo Town, Co. Sligo – This is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland and is also among the country's oldest. Over 60 tombs have been located by archaeologists,

the oldest pre-date Newgrange by some 700 years.

Knocknarea Tomb Strandhill, Co. Sligo – Supposedly the tomb of Queen Maeve of Connaught, dates from about 3000BC.

Céide Fields Co. Mayo – The most extensive neolithic site and the oldest known field systems in the world, over 5,500 years old tell the story of the everyday lives of a farming people, their society, their spiritual beliefs, and their struggle against a changing environment.

Upcoming Events – A Sampling

Ballina Street and International Arts Festival: July 7–14, Ballina, Co. Mayo; www.ballinastreetfestival.ie

An tSuca Fiain - River and Arts Festival: July 9–15, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Galway Film Fleadh: July 10–15, Galway City, Co. Galway; www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

Galway Arts Festival: July 16–29, Galway City, Co. Galway; www.galwayartsfestival.com

Westport Music Festival: July 18–22, The Mall, Westport, Co. Mayo

Roundstone Regatta: July 21 & 22, Roundstone, Co. Galway

Walking the Ancient Celtic Way: July 22–29, Inishmore, Árainn, Co. Galway

Boyle Arts Festival: July 27–August 3, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

Féile Iorras – The International Folk Arts Festival: July 27–Au-

gust 4, Belmullet & Erris, North Mayo; www.feileiorras.org

Scoil Acla Traditional Summer School: July 28–August 4, Achill Island, Co. Mayo; www.achill-tourism.com



O'Carolan Summer School: July 29–August 4, Keadue, Co. Roscommon; www.ocarolanharppfestival.ie

Traditional Echoes in Song & Dance: July 29–August 7, Inishmore, Árainn, Co. Galway; www.irish-culture.ch

Clifden Arts Week: Sept. 20–30, Clifden, Co. Galway; www.clifdenartsweek.ie

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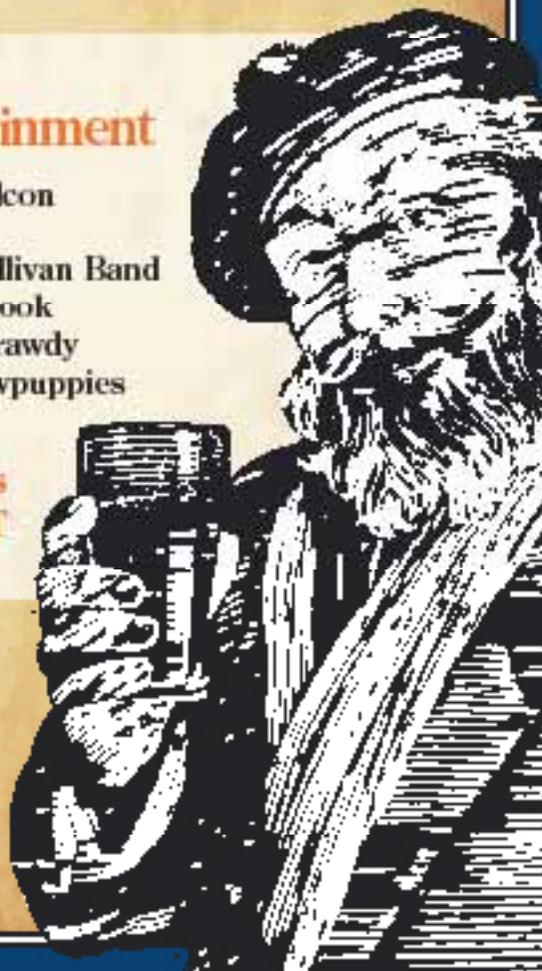
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Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: You may be inclined to put emotional issues on the back burner this month during the conjunction of Venus and Saturn. This tends to cool down the senses and sober you to the hard facts. You will have the energy to finish difficult tasks.

TAURUS: The Saturn and Venus pairing opposes Neptune making a difficult angle to your sign. "Ouch!" This energy could prompt you to turn your attention to some arduous project that you might have wanted to put off at any other time. We all need an extra push to get stuff done now and then.

GEMINI: Your ruler Mercury is backtracking in retrograde. This means Mercury is traveling in apparent backward motion. Try to give extra time to traveling and correspondence. Keep extra toner for the printer and check your special orders.

CANCER: Your birthday is coming up! Pesky Mercury is doing a backside in your sign. Try to avoid travel delays and miscues in communications. Leave extra time for revisions in paperwork, and confirm those birthday dinner reservations!

LEO: Venus and Saturn are traveling in partnership in your sign. They are opposing Neptune in Aquarius. This means you are on the proverbial hot seat in July. Saturn in combination with other planets is usually no picnic. You may be able to use these energies to concentrate on practical matters that take extra concentration.

VIRGO: Your situation this July is similar to your neighbor Gemini. Mercury is designated as your ruler and is retrograde this month making travel, communications, and business a bit less predictable. Take extra time to do things, especially at work.

LIBRA: Your ruler Venus is temporarily traveling with Saturn, the wet blanket of the zodiac. Romance and similar pursuits will be serious, dull or both. It might be better to put energy into other areas of your life, like yard work, or heavy house cleaning.

SCORPIO: With all the planetary hiccups occurring in the sky hold off implementing your plans until the first week of July has passed. After that, the planets will support even the most daring stunt you wish to accomplish.

SAGITTARIUS: As the planets travel around the solar system, they make angular relationships to each other. At times these angles are more favorable or not. This July will bring a mixed bag of fortunes along with them. You will do well because

Jupiter is in your sign for most of the year and can further your most cherished plans.

CAPRICORN: You have been working hard under a great load with all of the circumstances presented to you of late. Be aware that the planets will change and bring to you a fresh start in a new direction as early as the second week of July. "Whew!"

AQUARIUS: Neptune is in your sign for an extended stay. Until the end of the first

week of July you will also be burdened with Venus and Saturn in opposition to this as well. Hang in there, the stressful planets will give way to a better time, soon!

PISCES: Your ruler Neptune is being assailed by an ugly angle from transiting Venus and Saturn. No wonder you are not a happy camper these days. Rest assured that the planetary weather will change for the better and a new day will dawn for you!

Beauty Queen of Leenane at The Gift Theatre

Chicago theatre legends and Gift artistic advisors Sheldon Patinkin and Mary Ann Thebus have returned to The Gift for Martin McDonagh's dark comedy, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Patinkin is directing; Thebus plays the role of "Mag Folan".

Come inside the run-down cottage of caretaker Maureen Folan and her infirm mother Mag, seemingly bound to each other forever in the quiet village of Leenane, County Galway, Ireland. But when Maureen is offered a chance at love and a new life, panic ensues, alliances shift, and a merciless battle for survival changes their lives forever. Ghostly, thrilling, and often outright hilarious, *The Beauty Queen*

of Leenane is a brilliantly crafted story that will haunt you long after you leave.

Winner of four Tony Awards, the play runs through July 29. Show times are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 3p.m. For tickets: (773) 283-7071 or buy online @ www.thegifttheatre.org.

Prices are \$20 (Thursdays and Sundays) and \$25 (Friday and Saturdays). Group rates are available. \$15 tickets for students, seniors, and industry with proper identification.

The Gift Theatre is conveniently located at 4802 N. Milwaukee in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood; two storefronts NORTH of Lawrence, on the WEST side of Milwaukee.

Summer Fun at "Park"

Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest and the monthly Musical Luncheon is the perfect summer day pick me up. Beginning at noon on Wednesday, July 11th, the Musical Luncheon includes an afternoon of lively music and dancing courtesy of Velvet Green along with a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets to this party are \$13, reservations are required.

Thursday's visit the Carraig for a traditional Irish music session given by Sean Cleland, Pat Finnegan, the students of the Irish Music School and their friends and families. All ages are welcome. Try the Carraig menu with daily food and drink specials including mouth-watering BBQ ribs, sandwiches, steak & shrimp, imported beers, peach-tinis and apple manhattans. Friday nights beginning at 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays beginning at 10 p.m. the Carraig hosts the best local musicians. This month's entertainment includes: Siochain on Friday, July 6th; Bernie Glim & Country Roads, Saturday, July 7th; The Griffins, Friday, July 13th; Jerry Eadie, Saturday, July 20th; The Ploughboys, Saturday, July 21st; Week Back, Friday, July 27th and Dan McGuinness, Saturday, July 28th.

Watch live telecasts of football and hurling from Ireland broadcast every Sunday morning at Gaelic Park. Admission is \$20.00. Call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for times and games.

Gaa games every Sunday from approximately 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. 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 at Gaelic Park this year, for the first time since 2002.

The Chicago Minor Board of the Gaa will host its Continental Youth Championships on Friday, July 27th to Sunday, July 29th, sponsored by the GAA and O'Neill's Irish International Sports Company. Over 1,500 football and hurling players ages 5 to 18 will compete in over 175 matches on this exciting weekend beginning with a parade of players on Friday evening and culminating in the thrilling finals held on Sunday. Dignitaries from the Irish government and the GAA will be present to watch this tournament. www.cyc.gaa.ie or www.nagaa.org or call (708) 687-9323.

Sunday 7 to 9 p.m., broadcast direct is Harry Costelloe, Mary Hackett and Mary Riordan on WCEV 1450 AM. Hear all the week's Irish

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news and sports direct from Ireland, and all the latest events and goings on at Gaelic Park, www.wcev1450.com. Once you enter the site, click on schedule and then Surfer Network located on the left of the screen and listen from there. (708) 687-9330 to request a song.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Time Enemy Of Immigration Reform

Here we go again! It is almost a carbon copy of what happened last year as we go to down to the wire in the hope of passing Immigration legislation.

What is the problem? Many rightly ask me. The President is in favor of this happening so are a majority of American citizens, as is the leadership of both political parties. The problem as often in D.C. is a political lack of leadership on the one hand combined with the fear of a minority of political figures who either represent very conservative districts or those who are happy to let the status quo continue. In the latter group are also undoubtedly those political strategists who think that making immigration an issue in the '08 elections will help one side more than the other.

Every day the legislators fail to act we continue to see an increase in the number of deaths in the desert, an increase in the number of deportations and an increase in the profits of the employers who are happy to hire cheap undocumented workers to whom no benefits are given.

The failure of elected officials to act in a constructive manner is unquestionably an example of the dismal failure of Congress in recent years to enact one piece of major legislation on the domestic front.

Our politicians often speak of the small turnout in elections and apathy among voters. When one looks at the lack of initiative on the part of both political parties it is easy to understand why younger people in particular are often put off by politics.

I can only sincerely hope and pray that the leaders of the Senate and The House prove the cynics wrong and finally end up producing immigration reform before the end of July. If that does not happen then, amnesty will continue to be the order of the day while the hard work of those individuals and groups who have advocated for change is left to collect dust for at least another two years.

I say at least another two years because that is how long it will take for the political climate to change and allow for another serious look at our failed and broken immigration system.

It would be a big mistake to allow the restrictionists to have the

upper hand and give this country a bad name in relation to its record of dealing with those who come to the land of opportunity.

P.S. An update as we go to press, the Senate has agreed to resume debate on the bi-partisan immigration bill. The hope is the legislation may be passed before the July 4 break. This may still happen, politics is a strange game and anything can happen even in a matter of hours. Let's hope that we are reporting the details of positive legislation for the August edition.

Golf

On behalf of all at C.I.I.S. I take this opportunity to say a sincere thanks to all who came to support our Annual Golf Fundraiser. The event this year held at St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club in West Chicago. We had an excellent turnout of 120 players and a fun day was had by all. A sincere thanks also to all our sponsors and volunteers without whom we simply could not function.

The winners of the competition on

Paddy Long's Opening in Lincoln Pk

Paddy Long's, a new friendly neighborhood pub and grill is slated to open late June/early July at 1028 West Diversey in Lincoln Park. Named for Co-owner Patrick Berger's son Paddy, combined with a tribute to his family bar in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland called Tom Long's, Paddy Long's promises to deliver a true authentic Irish pub experience in the heart of Chicago.

The new façade has been restructured to replicate the character of the Georgian style pubs in Dublin even flaunting vibrant colors and a traditional red door. The authentic Irish atmosphere inside Paddy Long's captures a traditional local pub setting with customary Guinness mirrors, pictures and knick-knacks throughout. TV's around the bar will feature international sports like Six Nations and European club rugby, the Cubs games and other local sports. The jukebox will feature favorite tunes and occasional live sessions will be scheduled on the weekends. They will serving affordable American grill favorites and Irish specialties in addition to offering healthy entrée and salad alternatives for the calorie conscious customers who might stop in after working out at

course #1 were Liam Cullen & Pat Gaynor and they will play the winners from course #2 Billy Heneghan & Kevin Malee, Jr. In the ladies section the winners were Peggy O'Neill & Julie Lally.

Warning

Please take note of a scam on the east coast coming from an unscrupulous individual who has robbed a number of individuals of up to \$5,000. The scam is to offer undocumented individuals a head start on the application for a "green card." Needless to say, since no legislation has been enacted NO SUCH BENEFITS are available. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Passing On

I regularly have to perform the funeral services of persons whom I have not had the privilege of knowing personally. And one thing I have learned from such occasions is you can learn much about the person who has passed away by observing their children. In fact I often here the comment that Mary is so like her mother or John acts so much like his father.

One thing is clear; we inherit not only our looks but attitudes and habits of living from our parents. What was important to mom and dad is more often than not important to their children.

The Lincoln Park Athletic Club which is set directly across the street.

Sixteen different draught beers will be served on tap featuring Irish pub standards like Guinness, Harp, and Smithwick's along with a variety of unique Belgian beers.

Paddy Long's is open seven days a week for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch: Sunday-Friday 11AM-2AM, Saturday 11AM-3AM. Reservations for large parties, special events and private parties are accepted. 773.551.6155.

Prendergast Wins Irish Art Award

At a luncheon in June, Dublin born and educated artist Kathy Prendergast was presented with the Irish American Cultural Institute's O'Malley Art Award. The Euro 5,000 award recognizes and promotes achievements in the visual arts, particularly those which have stimulated or guided other Irish artists. This year's award also recognizes an artist in mid-career. The award is given in the name of the family of the late Ernie O'Malley, who, in addition to his literary and patriotic activities, was also a notable collector of modern Irish art.

Children pick up habits good and less than good very often not by what they are instructed but by what they observe. If a parent tells a child to be truthful and then turns around and acts in an untruthful and dishonest manner; should the parent be so surprised if their child turns out to follow suit.

In short, there is no substitute for good example when it come to

inspiring the best in our children. If you want an honest and respectful child, then, treat your child with honesty and respect. The same goes for affection, loyalty and all of the good qualities we admire in others.

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at siochan@catholic.org.



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USA Rugby World Cup Send-Off Match With Munster

USA Rugby has officially announced its plans to host the Setanta Challenge Cup Rugby World Cup Send-Off Match featuring the U.S. Men's Rugby World Cup Team against the 2006 Heineken (European) Cup Champions, Munster, at TOYOTA PARK in Bridgeview, IL, 15 minutes southwest of downtown Chicago, on Sunday, August 26 at 2 p.m..

This Setanta Challenge Cup will follow USA Rugby's final Rugby World Cup training assembly in Muscatine, Iowa and serves as the official send-off for the U.S. Men's National Team as it leaves for the Rugby World



Cup less than a week later.

"We are very excited about this opportunity to play in Chicago," U.S. Men's National Team Coach Peter Thorburn said. "Not only does it allow us essential competition against a high level opponent, but we get to play at a great stadium and showcase the progress of our team one last time in front of a home crowd before we leave for France."

This will be the first National Team match in the Chicago area since 2002, and anticipation for the event is already building. Nearly two-thousand tickets have been sold since they went on sale May 30th and corporate partners such as Sony, Toyota, Anglo Irish Bank, and Palm have signed on with the event.

USA Rugby has also planned a week of activities around the match. The two teams will attend the August 24th White Sox game, a youth tournament will take place, and referee and coaching development clinics will also be held. Additionally, on the morning of Thursday, August 23rd Munster will hold an open training session giving the media and fans a chance to get an up-close look at the team.

"Munster is looking forward to this match as it represents the ideal type of preparation ahead of the new

season and gives us the opportunity to expose our squad to quality opposition. It is always an honor to play against international competition and we are delighted to be traveling to Chicago for this game," said Munster Head Coach Declan Kidney.

The U.S. Men's Team will travel back to Muscatine after the match and finish its RWC preparation and departs for France on Sept. 1. The U.S. starts its World Cup action on Sept. 8 against England in Lens, France. Only four days later, the U.S. meets Tonga at Montpellier, and then gets a good 14 days to recoup. On Sept. 26, the USA will meet Western Samoa in St. Etienne, and will round out the pool play action in Montpellier against South Africa on Sunday, Sept. 30.

"We will play two really tough international sides and two very good, physical sides at this World Cup," Thorburn said. "We will remain the underdogs going into it, which I think is a good thing. But, we don't have a lot of matches scheduled for later this summer, so it was key to get Munster on board for a match less than two weeks out from the World Cup. If we show the expected improvements, and we shall, then our performances will be our judgment. Performances at the top

end of our potential will give positive results that are essential for the sports movement forward in America."

Tickets for this match are available through Ticketmaster and by going to the Toyota Park Ticket Office.

Visit Saline Celtic Fest in MI in July

Saline's annual celebration of its sisterhood with Brecon, Wales, happens July 13 & 14th in Saline, Michigan. Friday night, July 13th, is Pub Night from 5:30pm-11:30pm with music and dance workshops, ceili dancing, a "Mr. Pretty Legs in Kilt" competition, a limerick competition, Morris dancers and pub music by John Roberts and Tony Barrand. See website (www.salineceltic.org) for workshop and contest applications.

On Saturday, July 14th, amateur athletics begin at 8:30 am; Great Lakes National Championship professionals begin at 11:30am. Scheduled to appear are eleven of the top twenty-four athletes in the world. Sanctioned strength competitions for professionals include stone throw, hammer, weight for distance, weight over bar and caber toss. The public can compete in the riotous "haggis hurl." Children's events include crafts, a Maypole dance, Celtic games, a family dance, and the "Wee Folk" parade (4pm). Musical events (noon-11:30pm) includes 3 stages featuring Celtic song and dance. This year's headliners are The Tartan Terrors,

For more information on USA Rugby and the Setanta Challenge Cup Rugby World Cup Send-Off Match, please visit www.usarugby.org. For more information on the Munster Team, please visit <http://www.munsterrugby.ie/>.

known as North America's premiere Celtic comedy troupe, English folk duo John Roberts and Tony Barrand, Gan Bua, The Pierre Schryer Band, bohola, Bryan Kelso Crow and Mike Shanahan, and the Commonwealth Dance Collective. Also, local favorites Chelsea House Orchestra and Saline's Fiddlers ReStrung, U/M's Leim Irish Dance, and 6 pipe bands. Other features include Viking Encampment (Fri/Sat), historical reenactment troupes, Knights doing battle in full armor, a falconry demo, and more. There will also be a display of chunky Highland cattle and sheepdog demos, Celtic canines and horses, food tents, beer tents, clan tents, and sale of imported and handmade crafts.

The Friday and Saturday Festival location is at Mill Pond Park, end of W. Bennett St., west of Ann Arbor St., Saline, Michigan.

Tickets for Friday (Pub Night) are \$5. Tickets for Saturday only are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. An advance weekend pass is \$15. Children 12 & under with adult admitted free. Tickets are available at several locations; visit www.salineceltic.org or call 734-944-2810. Sorry, no pets.

Rare Chicago Production of Shaw's "Widowers' Houses"

TimeLine Theatre Company completes its 2006-2007 10th Anniversary Season with *Widowers' Houses* by George Bernard Shaw, directed by Kevin Fox.

Written and set in 1892 and rarely produced in Chicago, George Bernard Shaw's first play is a hilarious yet scathing look at the ethics of making money. When a young doctor learns that his future father-in-law has earned his wealth by renting slum housing to the poor, the doctor refuses the dirty dowry that awaits him. But he must reconsider his righteous stance when he discovers alarming news about the source of his own income. *Widowers' Houses* established Shaw's talent for presenting a romantic feast of social and political ideas delivered with humorous dialogue and colorful characters — a talent that secured his reputation as one of the wittiest and most widely produced writers of his generation.

"The script is hysterically funny, shockingly ahead of its time, and

ultimately quite depressing in terms of how little has changed since it was written," agrees TimeLine Artistic Director PJ Powers. "The issues that Shaw responded to in 1892 England are many of the same issues debated in Chicago's newspapers and neighborhoods today. That certainly makes it a perfect fit for TimeLine."

Widowers' Houses runs Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Sunday, July 1, 2007. Performances run approximately two hours and 10 minutes, including one intermission.

The play runs through July 1, 2007 at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago. Tickets are \$25. Student tickets are \$15 with valid ID. Group rates for groups of 10 or more are available. Advance purchase is recommended as performances may sell out. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 773.281.TIME (8463) or visit www.timelinetheatre.com.

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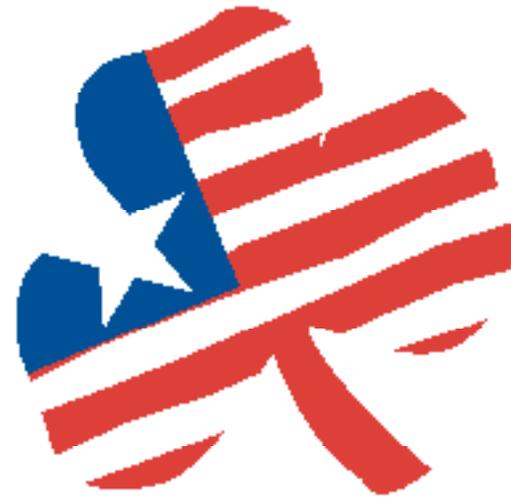
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