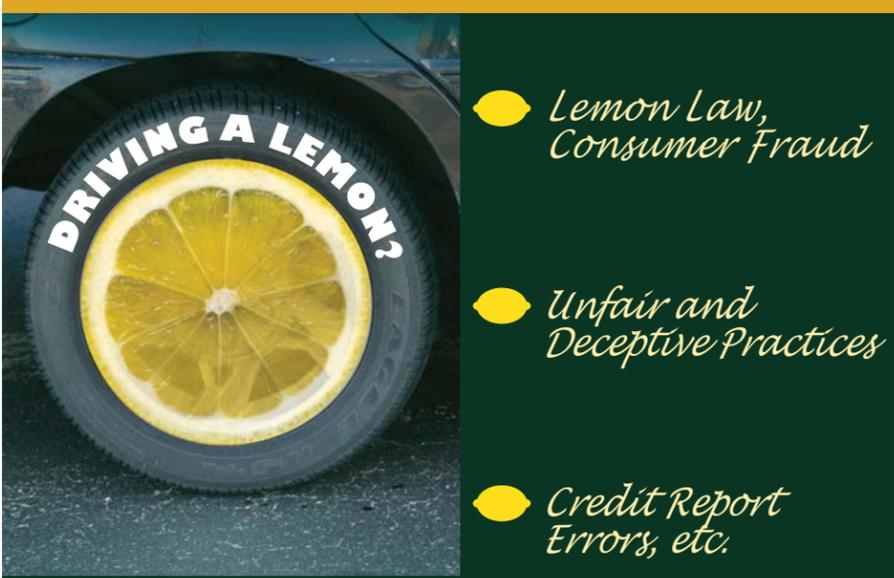


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Chicago Skyline Viewed From Northerly Island Photo by Cliff Carlson



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American Ireland Fund Lauds Paisley - McGuinness

A joint presentation of the case for US investment in Northern Ireland to a business audience at the New York Stock Exchange recently, by Dr. Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness, was lauded



by the host of the event, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Chairman of the American Ireland Fund. The two men, First Minister and Deputy First Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive, attended the AIF event at the Exchange as the first engagement of an unprecedented investment mission to the US by the newly formed Northern Ireland Government. The visit culminated in a meeting with US President, George W. Bush, at the White House later that week.

As the cornerstone of a global philanthropic network for Ireland, the American Ireland Fund has, to date, raised over US\$300 million funds to support peace and reconciliation, community development, education, arts and culture in Ireland. AIF's President, Kieran McLoughlin said, "For 30 years, we have been committed to the peaceful resolution of the Northern Ireland conflict. We are delighted to support Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness' investment mission to the United States by creating an opportunity for engagement with potential American investors. We hope that this occasion will bear great fruit for the people of Northern Ireland."

2008 Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

The 2008 Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann North American Convention is a weekend of celebration of Irish music, dance, song and the Irish language. This year's convention will be held in Parsippany, New Jersey from March 27-30, 2008, and hosted by the CCE Mid-Atlantic Region. All members of the Irish dance

community are welcome to visit, sing, dance, play along, tell stories in Irish and English, and otherwise participate in the largest gathering of Irish Traditional musicians and dancers in North America. 973-977-8863 or 201-722-0059 www.cceconvention2008.org or Convention2008@comhaltas.net

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Celtic Studies 6th Sean Nós Milwaukee

Sean-Nós, literally meaning 'old style', is a highly improvised, rhythmic dance to Irish traditional music. It is primarily found in Connemara on the west coast of Ireland.

The Sean-Nós dancer is free to interpret the music. Musician and dancer are in conversation: hips and arms move freely as the dancer beats out rhythmic steps that complement and interact with the music being performed. The dancer is the visual-percussive expression of the musical tradition with styles varying markedly from flamboyant and humorous to lighter, more subtle styles.

Ronan Regan from Galway, Ireland graduated from University of Limerick's Masters in Traditional Irish Music Performance in September, 2005. He plays fiddle, dances sean-nós and sets as well as teaching in Ireland and abroad.

Maldon Meehan from Port-



Sean Nos dancers, Ronan Regan and Maldon Meehan.

land, Oregon graduated from University of Limerick's MA in dance in 1999. She has been teaching dance in Ireland and abroad for 14 years.

Sean Nós Weekend - February 15-17, 2008 - is the UW-Milwaukee Center for Celtic Studies' annual weekend of workshops in Sean Nós song and dance, immersion classes in Irish language at all levels, concerts and sessions with our renowned conviviality, companionship and craic! The Hyde commemorative lecture will be presented by best-selling author Danny Cassidy on the Irish language origins of American slang. Reserve your accommodations soon. Milwaukee's famous Irish inn, County Clare has been reserved for the weekend with a special rate! Call 414-229-6520 or email gleeson@uwm.edu. The

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McGuire Resolution Calls for "Do Not Call" Registry to be Permanent

In order to make it easier for Illinois residents to block unwanted phone calls, State Rep. Jack McGuire (D-Joliet) is sponsoring House Resolution 818, which calls upon Congress to make registrations on the National Do Not Call Registry permanent. The registry was established in June 2003 as a means to block for-profit telemarketers. Upon its inception, the expectation was that consumers would re-register their phone numbers every five years as a way to make sure that the list is up-to-date.



State Rep. Jack McGuire

Since that time, the list has proven to be immensely popular with 76 percent of Americans submitting their phone numbers to the registry. The Federal Trade Commission recently announced that it would not drop any numbers from the Do Not Call Registry until Congress takes final action on whether or not to make registration

permanent. To register call (888) 382-1222 from the phone line they wish to register or visit www.donotcall.gov.

For information please call McGuire's constituent office at

Irish Family Needs Our Help

The Kerins family of Mokena, Illinois are dealing with a shocking double tragedy within days of each other. On November 8th, their seven year-old son, Tommy, passed away unexpectedly from complications of cerebral palsy. Nine days later, their father, Tom, 53, died tragically, compounding the family's loss. Joanne Kerins is now left to raise her surviving seven children, ranging in age between 4 and 16, alone.

Tom and Joanne Kerins hail from Castle Island, Co. Kerry, Ireland and came to the Chicago area to start

their family, ultimately settling in Mokena. Their neighbors have stepped up to assist the family with donations to help defray some of the immediate expenses and to help provide for the Kerins' children in the future.

"Christmas season is a time for reaching out to those in need," said Jack McDermott, Chairman of the Good Neighbors of Mokena. "I can think of no other family that is in need of the warm embrace of our community than the Kerins."

The Good Neighbors of Mokena is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that assists in charitable, civic, and educational causes locally, statewide, and nationally. They operate on a "zero budget" and rely entirely on the generosity of all.

"Young Tommy found great joy in the comfort of his father's arms," said McDermott. "Now the father and son are united in heaven, but the remaining family is left with the daunting challenge of moving forward without their brother and father. As a community, we must rally around this good family to ensure that they are provided for, especially with respect to their education."

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation please send a check or money order to "The Good Neighbors of Mokena" and notate "Kerins Family Fund" on the bottom of the check. Mail to St Mary's Church at: "Kerins Family Fund" c/o Good Neighbors of Mokena St. Mary's Church, 19515 S. 115th

Liam Neeson Says Ian Paisley Influenced Him to Become Actor

The Ballymena-born star of Schindler's List and Michael Collins paid tribute to the first minister and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness attending a reception recently in their honor in New York.

Mr. Neeson said he told Mr. Paisley that he was responsible for him becoming an actor.

"I used to creep into his church hall in Ballymena when I was about 13 or 14 just to hear him preach," he said. "He had a magnificent presence and it was incredible to watch this six foot-plus man just bible-thumping away. It was acting but it was also great acting and stirring too."

After he posed for photographs with the two politicians, Mr. Neeson revealed that he plans to visit Belfast



soon to mark the final performance at the theatre which gave him his professional acting break—the Lyric Theatre—before it is knocked down.

The Lyric, which Liam Neeson is a patron of, is planning a new £17m theatre and will receive 70% of that from public funds.

We Get Letters

The story of the horrors perpetrated in the Magdalene laundries and industrial schools of Ireland has shocked and sickened all decent people in this country. I know how I felt when I watched the film *Song for a Raggy Boy*, about the systematic abuse of pupils in a Catholic school, and *The Magdalene Sisters*, which depicted the abuse of young women in one of those Hibernian gulags to which single mothers were dispatched by supposedly "devout" families.

Both films recall an era when a form of religious fascism held sway in Ireland, distorting values and turning the concept of "parish pride" into a narrow parochialism that encouraged silence and turning the other way in the face of gross violations of human rights in state-run institutions.

But what I find almost equally disturbing is the litany of false accusations of abuse against priests, nuns, and Christian brothers that have come to light in recent years. I have just finished reading a book on this subject, *Kathy's Real Story*, by journalist Hermann Kelly.

It details a number of high profile cases where people, mainly involving clergy or members of various religious orders, who wrongly accused of physical or sexual abuse, only to be later cleared of these allegations when the accusers withdrew them. The suffering endured by the victims of these accusers can only be imagined.

From the moment the allegation is made, the priest, nun or Christian Brother is under a dark cloud of suspicion. Though completely innocent, he or she has to live with the unfair and undeserved stigma that a malicious fellow human being has conjured up.

The "crucifixion" of ex-nun Nora Wall is examined in the book, among other harrowing cases. Nora was declared innocent after the false allegations against her were withdrawn and shown to be completely without foundation.

Her friend Pablo McCabe who had also been wrongly accused was vindicated only after his death. He died bearing a burden that no human being should be saddled with.

Both Nora and Pablo had their reputations shredded in the media before being exonerated.

Recently, a man was jailed for concocting a false abuse story about a priest. Other fabricated allegations of abuse concerning priests have been quietly withdrawn following retractions by the accusers. Surely this is a scandal of immense proportions?

RTE and the print media have

explored in excruciating detail the institutional abuse that characterised the "Hidden Ireland" of the past. Would it too much to expect that they would apply their investigative skills to ascertaining how widespread is the phenomenon of false abuse accusations and report professionally on the effects of this evil on those afflicted by it? Fair is fair.

Hermann Kelly has done a great

service to the cause of justice and human rights in Ireland by exposing the dangers inherent in blind or unquestioning acceptance of abuse allegations that lack credibility or that cannot be substantiated by independent witnesses.

Sexual abuse destroys lives. But so does a false accusation of sexual abuse. That ought to go without saying. There should be no hiding place

Black 47 at Connolly's DVD

Times Square is the crossroads of the world and on New Year's Eve it becomes the eye of the hurricane. Since 1989, Black 47 has played within shouting distance of the dropping of the ball. New Year's Eve in Times Square catches the excitement and the thrill of various New Year's Eves they've spent at Connolly's of 46th St.

New York.

This DVD not only captures the essence of "the House Band of New York City," but also the intersection between the heart of the metropolis and the Irish-American experience. The DVD was launched December 15th at Connolly's with a live appearance and screening. Their new CD, *Iraq*,

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Strength and Honor

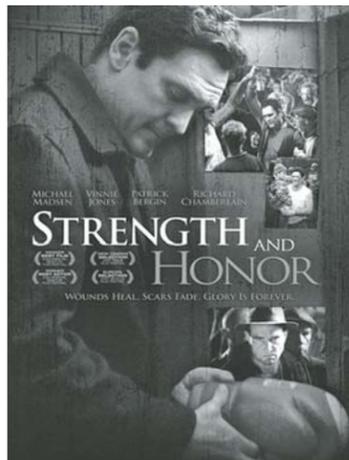
Strength and Honor tells the story of an Irish-American boxer, Sean Kelleher (Michael Madsen), who accidentally kills his friend in the ring and promises his wife that he will never box again. However, years later, when he discovers that his only son is dying of the same hereditary heart disorder which has taken his wife, he is forced to break his promise in order to raise the substantial funds needed for the surgery that could save his son's life. Strength and Honor is a human drama of love and friendship, sacrifice and devotion, set against the violent underground world of bare-knuckle

boxing.

The film stars Michael Madsen, Vinnie Jones, Patrick Bergin and Richard Chamberlain.

Screenwriter Mark Mahon makes his directorial debut with a film that questions people's prejudices against other communities and how fate can play a part in one's life, no matter how much you try to change it.

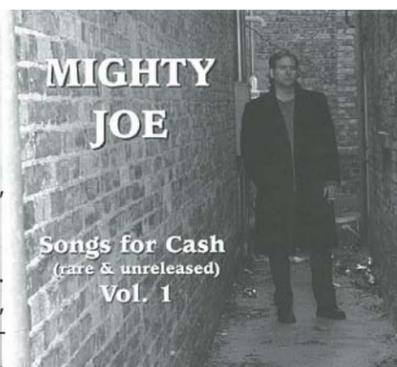
Slowhand Releasing and Maron Pictures Strength And Honor; written, directed and produced by Mark Mahon. Opened in early December in Los Angeles, the film won Best Film and Michael Madsen won Best Actor at the



New Mighty Joe CD

Song for Cash Vol. 1 is the 8th independent release from Chicago songwriter Might Joe, a follow-up to the Balance CD from 2006. Included here are some great unreleased tracks and some alternative version of previously released songs; some folk/country dirges, some long songs, some Beatlesque pop and some gospel-flavored tunes.

The CD is available through www.cdbaby.com. Joe performs in the Chicago area & suburbs and, for a limited time, offers this CD free to all who attend a Mighty Joe gig. Visit www.MightyJoeMusic.com for performance listings.



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

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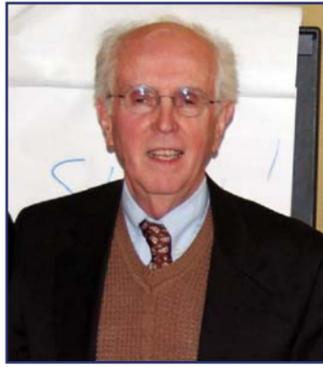


Upcoming Events at the Irish American Heritage Center

Intersections: Present, Past and Future in Irish Culture

The IAHC and DePaul University Irish Studies Program presents an ongoing series of talks by scholars, artists, journalists and public figures.

The series kicks off with The Christian Religion: The Troubles and the Good Friday Agreement, featuring speakers Jack Leahy, (pictured) Professor Emeritus, Religious Studies, DePaul University and Joe McCartin, Former MEP and Vice President and Auditor of the European Peoples Party. Sunday, January 6, 3pm • Free



Impressions of Ireland Art Exhibit

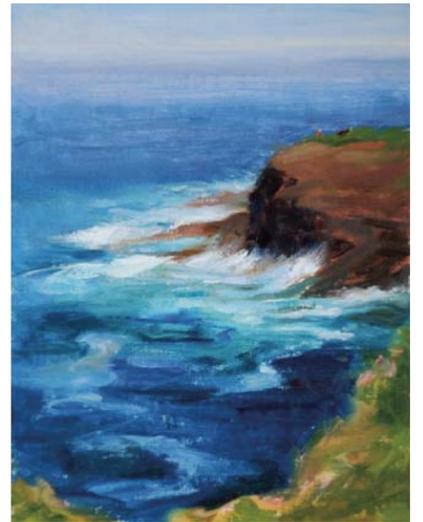
Four local artists showcase their artwork in a group exhibit in the IAHC gallery.

Impressions of Ireland: 4 Artists Paint Ireland features the paintings of Kate Tully, Margaret Tully Nicosia, Michael Latala and Fran Mazur

January 18 through February 17

Gallery hours: Sundays from 1 pm-4 pm

Free opening night reception Friday, January 18, 6-9pm



Irish School

Irish School at the Children's Center for Cultural Studies continues classes this winter.

Classes include Irish Language, the Teen Theatre Workshop and Celtic Mythology and Art.

Saturday, January 5-March 8, 9am-noon

Price \$45-60

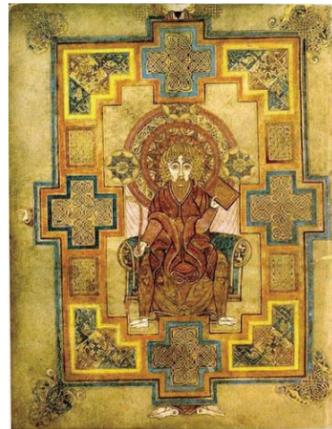
Monthly Discussion Book of Kells

Learn more about the Book of Kells, its importance in history and see what makes it the most elaborate manuscript of its kind to survive from the middle ages.

A facsimile of the book was made with the latest technological advances and the IAHC has one of the few copies of this book.

These monthly discussions take place in the IAHC Museum the last Sunday of each month.

Sunday, January 27, 1pm • Free



Book of Kells Art Class

This beginner and intermediate class for teens and adults is an introduction to the history of the Book of Kells and the methods of decoration.

Students learn easy-to-master techniques for knotwork, interlacing, spirals and color.

January 8 to March 11, 2008, Tuesdays

7-9pm • Price \$125



Two Girls in Silk Kimonos: The Gore-Booth Sisters

Join us for an informative afternoon of Irish literature.

The program includes presentations on poet, Eva Gore-Booth and her sister, literary figure, Countess Constance Markievicz and their contributions to Ireland's literary and political Renaissance.

Sunday, January 20, 2008

2pm • Price \$10

Hizzoner: Daley The First

The Prop Thtr's critically-acclaimed drama about Mayor Richard J. Daley returns to the IAHC for six performances this winter.

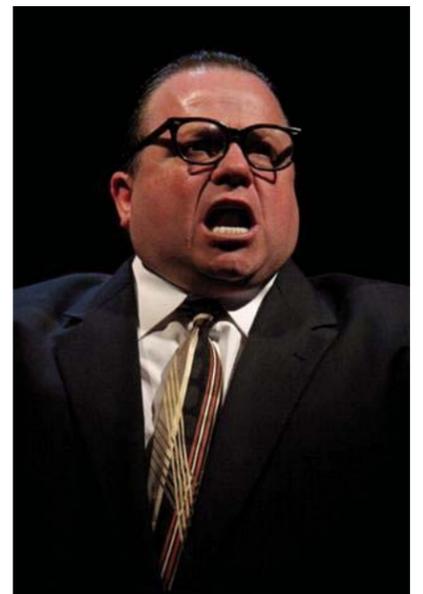
Back by popular demand, the production runs in the IAHC auditorium for six performances only!

Friday, February 22-Sunday March 2

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

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For more information on upcoming events at the Irish American Heritage Center, call 773-282-7035.

The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



Embrace the Web!

There are many newspaper and magazine owners that fear they will lose their business to the internet. Look at ad sales in most of the major newspapers around the country. Down. Yes, they are down, but is it the internet taking business away? I believe there are many other reasons for their

slow sales, but we won't get into that here.

I say, fear not the internet, embrace it.

For the last year and a half, IAN has posted the entire monthly edition of the paper on our website, and for the last few months we have posted to the site almost the day the paper came out. I've instructed

our web guru to post the paper as close to the first of the month as possible. Pretty stupid huh? Look at all the subscribers that could stop subscribing.

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I love subscriptions for lots of reasons. They add needed revenue to our business. They prove that people want the paper enough to pay for it, and that's very gratifying, but I see it this way. Without the advertisers there would be no paper. My main job is to do my best to help them find business. That's

why I embrace the web. I give every advertiser that wants a link on my website a link. If they don't have a site, I include my customers with customers that do have websites. Instead of a site link, I list their phone numbers. Customers are grouped by categories much like the yellow pages.

I post news to the site that comes in after the last paper was printed, and I post stories that were too long to print. Why? Because I don't care how I get business for my customers, as long as I get them business!

We have a good calendar going on the web as well. Advertiser and non-advertiser events are posted weekly. You are encouraged to send us calendar information. We want to be the source you turn to for Irish and Irish-American news.

The future of newspapers is very bright. Nothing like sitting down comfortably, anywhere, with your favorite beverage, a newspaper, book or magazine, and having a good leisurely read.

Welcome to the fold Sam Zell! Glad you are a believer!

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Irish Craft Makes Major Impact in U.S.

Ireland's leading craftspeople have made a major impact on the other side of the Atlantic. America is the world's biggest market for high-end contemporary craft and they have welcomed the Irish in with open arms. The Crafts Council of Ireland have just returned from SOFA Chicago, one of the key international events for contemporary craft and applied art.

During the three day event, over \$125,000 in Irish works were sold. This included glass pieces by Karl Harron, baskets by Joe Hogan, jewelry by Rachel McKnight and a stunning bespoke chair by young Cork furniture designer Joseph Walsh.

Many visitors to the Crafts Council of Ireland's stand at SOFA expressed an interest in traveling to Ireland to visit fine craft studios. An itinerary of selected studios is currently being developed and, in partnership with Tourism Ireland, this will be available to collector groups, founders' circles and specialist cultural tour operators.

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By Maureen Callahan

An Original Chicago Character: Chief O'Neill

Daniel "Frank" O'Neill, former Chicago police chief, is the guest of memory at Chief O'Neill's Irish Pub. Such a cozy place is truly worthy of this native Bantry Bay-come Chicagoan. Born near Cork to a well-to-do and educated farm family, Frank and his seven siblings grew up in a music and dance-oriented Irish-speaking society in which he became quite proficient at the wooden flute. At the age of sixteen, he signed on as cabin boy on an English merchant vessel bound for America, in search of adventure.

O'Neill was perhaps best known for his role as a tough but honest police officer, serving 32 years on The Force, eventually earning the rank of Chief from 1901-1905. Records indicate that in his first month on the beat, the Chief was shot. O'Neill chased the criminal down, despite a bullet lodged in his own back, and arrested him. He had a reputation of cracking down hard on gambling and prostitution in the country's largest and most violent metropolitan area of its day. He cleaned up the City, keeping the criminals out and holding a heavy hand against the powerful meat-packing industries during the Stockyards Strike of 1902. A 1901 newspaper article reported that three of Chicago's most dangerous criminals left the city voluntarily on O'Neill's watch, so tough was he on crime.

Eventually, O'Neill retired and put his remaining energy into publishing the 2,000 Irish tunes he collected over the years. It was music that he would hear at informal sessions and Irish events. Music was on his mind almost constantly. Preservation of the traditional music of his native Ireland, which was in danger of becoming extinct due to the Great Famine and Irish Diaspora, was one of the hallmarks of The Chief's life. In addition to reading every available book on Irish music and developing extensive networks of musicians both in Chicago and Ireland, he helped to establish the Irish Music Club of Chicago. The 1903 publication of O'Neill's Music Collection of Ireland was the largest of its kind ever printed. We largely have him to thank for the wonderful Irish music scene which can be found throughout the city's pubs today.

All-Ireland musicians Brendan and Siobhan McKinney, invite you to share some hospitality honoring this Chicago icon in a family-friendly pub on the city's north side. O'Neill's memory echoes in the traditional Irish music sessions on Sunday nights from 5-8. Stop by on Tuesdays from 8-11 and learn an instrument with the Irish School of Music. For your listening pleasure, consult the website for a schedule of Irish bands.

The Guinness here is excellent and perfectly poured, thanks to McKinney's meticulous attention to keeping the draught lines clean.

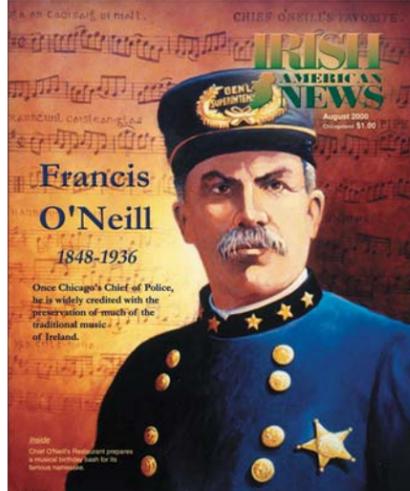


Harp, Fullers London Pride, Smithwick's, Stella and New Castle are a few features of the classy draughts. Warm up this winter with a peppermint or Irish coffee, made with the private house blend. The whiskey, cloves and cinnamon in a traditional hot toddy will drive both chill and illness away.

Of course, the food is excellent, too. They've taken "pub grub" and redefined it to include grilled wild Atlantic salmon, chicken stuffed with goat cheese, mushrooms and sun dried tomatoes and specials such as prime rib.

Classier fare includes Dublin Broil, filet mignon and red snapper, all served with a vegetable and potato to accompany them. There is also a cluster of traditional favorites such as shepherd's pie, chicken and mushroom pie, lamb shanks, bangers and mash and The Chief's signature fish and chips. For lighter appetites (but huge portions), consult the sandwich menu and try the corned beef, Harp battered cod, or excellent salmon burger (actually a small salmon filet). Vegetarians will appreciate the meatless items, such as the veggie burger or pasta tossed in three cheeses. There is also an impressive salad selection and several gourmet desserts, such as pumpkin bread pudding, a Jameson chocolate tart and an excellent crême brûlée.

The Chief serves an impressive Sunday brunch featuring sushi, shrimp and Irish eggs benedict, complete with a Bloody Mary bar.



Beginning in February, Saturday breakfast will also be available. Come on in to sample the traditional Irish breakfast of rashers, black and white pudding, eggs and baked beans. Skillet featuring items such as corned beef and a sticky-bun French toast will star on this red-carpet-of-a-Saturday breakfast menu.

Chief O'Neill's will once again host a family-friendly St. Patrick's Day party this year. The tent will be out in the beer garden again, Irish bands will play all day and the Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society and Irish dancing schools will be back. It's always a fun day at Chicago's best St. Patrick's Day party.

For a cozy, hospitable place honoring a great Chicago legend, visit Chief O'Neill's Irish pub at 3471 N. Elston in Chicago, just 4 minutes east on Addison of the Kennedy

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Frank McGuinness

Irish Books and Plays
in Review

Frank West



The Theatre of Frank McGuinness

"You are yourself what you imagined, as I am what I imagined." - Frank McGuinness

This is a quote from a book I recently reviewed here: Ireland On Stage: Beckett and After. It is distributed in the United States by DuFour Editions.

This month I will review The Theatre of Frank McGuinness: Stages of Mutability.

Irish playwright, Frank McGuinness, has written 15 plays. And there is a great opportunity this month in Chicago to see one of his best plays.

That play is Dolly West's Kitchen. It will be presented by the outstanding Timeline Theatre Ensemble from January 26 to March 22. Timeline Theatre is located at 615 W. Wellington Ave. in Chicago. Box Office:

773-281-8463.

This will be a great opportunity because McGuinness' work is so powerful. And because Timeline produces excellent theater experiences.

The Theatre of Frank McGuinness is a reference book, and in its twelve sections are discussions of the themes of his plays and things that influenced him.

Quoting from that book "... he has produced [now 15] original plays, peopling the stage with vibrant, often eccentric characters in settings from the Renaissance to the present, from Ireland to the Middle East. His prolific outpouring of varied dramas has been greeted with applause, wonder, and frequent puzzlement."

He was born in 1953, and grew up in an Ireland dominated by the Catholic Church and the De Valera government. Life was restricted and the outlook was narrow and grim. Neither the Church, nor the State, had the will or even a vision of how the quality of life could be improved.

However, that stunted environment was not the influence that informs his plays. The location of where he lived, as he grew up, does.

The town that McGuinness lived in is Buncrana, in Donegal. It is near the border with Northern Ireland.

To get to the nearby city of Derry, the boy had to cross and international border. It was only a few miles from his home, but he was in another world. He had to use British money, laws, etc. This had a profound impact on young McGuinness.

Boundaries and divisions recur in his plays. He was puzzled and amazed by boundaries and the tensions they create.

That theme - the tension created by boundaries - is a theme his plays explore.

A boundary, or division, can be inside us or outside. And it is often inside ourselves. Or as McGuinness says, "the greatest mistake we have made: is not that we didn't love our neighbor, rather we don't know them."

Frank McGuinness is a man for our time. You will enjoy reading this book and you will enjoy watching his play Dolly West's Kitchen.

The Theatre of Frank McGuinness: Stages of Mutability. Edited by Helen Lojek. Carysfort Press-DuFour



Frank McGuinness

Editions, Dublin, 2003. ISBN: 610-458-5005; 197 pages; \$33.95.

Dolly West's Kitchen
by Frank McGuinness
Jan 26 - Mar 22
A Chicago Premiere

"During World War II in Ireland's County Donegal the close-knit West family has love and laughter in the safety of Dolly West's kitchen... Soon clashes over issues of loyalty, jealousy. Sexual identity and love invade the neutrality of Dolly West's kitchen.

"The hilarious and poignant play invites us to feel the souls of its characters and reflect on the uncharted paths we're led to by our choices." This quote is from the press release.

Timeline Theatre Company, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, IL; Box office 773-281-8463.

Shining City at Goodman Theater

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." - Jonathan Swift

Goodman Theatre will produce Shining City by Conor McPherson this month from January 12th through February 17.

This will be a great opportunity to see one of Conor McPherson's most powerful plays. About Shining City, The New York Times says "As close to perfection as contemporary playwrighting gets."

About writing and people McPherson says: "I'm not an intellectual writer. I believe we're driven by feelings, and ideas are just rationalizations of these feelings."

I have read the script of Shining City several times; seen the play in Minneapolis; seen several outstanding plays of McPherson's in Chicago, and can say the work of the young Irish playwright has a profound impact on me.

The following two sentence summary is quoted from the Goodman announcements of the play. "In a Dublin psychiatrist's office, a distraught man reveals a fantastical happening: the recent sighting of

the ghost of his newly deceased wife. Thus begins Conor McPherson's haunting, mysterious tale about the clash between romantic ideals and the complex realities of marriage and desire."

You may recall the Chicago productions of his The

Weir, This Time, Tree Bower, and the recent production of The Good Thief at the Gift Theatre.

McPherson is a young man, having been born in Dublin in 1971. He studied at University College Dublin and began writing plays for its dramatic society. Now he lives in Dublin with his wife, Fionnuala.

Quoting from the playbook for the Minnesota production "he went to a strict Catholic school where, until the age of nine, he was regularly beaten for his sins. Not surprisingly, he began to wonder: 'What's in this for me?' God, he felt, 'seemed to be an evil being... It just didn't make any sense.' By the age of 15, he'd decided that 'if I was going to die and go to hell, I would prefer to be free in my life.'"

Probably because of that early experience he has suffered "alcohol abuse, broken relationships, death, and disappointed hope..."

McPherson feels a strong urge to write to exorcise some of those demons. He had conquered and controlled these but his plays are informed and draw their power from those experiences.

Much of his writing deals with how we can overcome loneliness and how we relate to one another. Again quoting from the playbook: "Tellingly, the Dublin in which McPherson sets [Shining City] is not the quaint rainy town of romantic literature; it is a contemporary citadel of commerce. And the human beings who inhabit this urban landscape are afflicted with a particularly modern loneliness; always aware of the density of other lives that continually touch upon theirs while never making contact. They almost - but never quite - connect."

Shining City is about people in the modern world - the world around us. It is about how we relate and talk with other people. It is about how we hope there is meaning to life. It is a comforting human hope that there is another world, another reality. It is all based on hope - the only reality we know is that we live now and that we should make the most of our lives.

The psychiatrist and his patient

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Ladies Take Note — Celtic Man Coming To America!

By Cindy Reich

Speaking from his home in Ireland, Paul Byrom is understandably excited about his participation in the upcoming show, "Celtic Man—in Celtic Thunder" scheduled for broadcast on public television this coming March. "The concept is very different from what people may be thinking if they've seen the "Celtic Woman" show." "The only thing we have in common is the name "Celtic" in the title and the producer, Sharon Browne", said Paul.

"Celtic Man is comprised of five "real" guys", Paul continues. "We are not a boy band or a manufactured group. We are five guys you might meet in the pub or the grocery store. No plucked eyebrows and dyed hair here", he laughs. Five real guys, I agreed, who just happen to have great voices and despite his protestations, are quite easy on the eyes as well. In fact, Paul set aside an already flourishing career to become one of those selected for "Celtic Man". He is the most highly trained voice in the group, as an operatic tenor, whose album "Velvet" went to number two on the Irish charts. However he said he wasn't interested in being in a "tenor" group. In fact, Byrom is the only tenor in the group, but is very capable of singing outside that box. "In fact, I would rather be compared to Josh Groban than a

classical tenor", said Paul. "I really like his style of singing and his arrangements."

"What I like about this show", continued Byrom, "is that you get five different soloists who also collaborate on some songs at the end, but it is nearly like five different concerts in the one night." "There is Damien McGinty who is 15 years old, but was 14 when the show was recorded. Damien has a

derful singer and songwriter by profession. Then we have George Donaldson from Scotland, who is a classical ballad singer—very much like Christy Moore."

The show is very dynamic—regardless of great songs by great voices, there is a lot of interplay and stage action in this production. There is a very theatrical element to it as well as musical, with a lot of action that engages the audience



very natural, male voice. It is not a soprano choir-boy voice, it's a voice that is older than his years, but very innocent at the same time." "Ryan Kelly", Paul continues, "comes from a musical theater background—his voice is darker, fuller—sort of a rock/ballad voice." Keith Harkan is one of the maddest (craziest) people I know, laughs Byron. He is a surfer by nature, and a won-

derful singer and songwriter by profession. Then we have George Donaldson from Scotland, who is a classical ballad singer—very much like Christy Moore."

"We wanted to present a fresh, more contemporary image of Ireland", said Paul. "Ireland is thriving right now, doing really well. We remember where we came from, but we want to show where Ireland is going as well." Scotland is also incorporated into the show, not only through singer George Donaldson, but the music, such as the song "Caledonia" written by Dougie MacLean, but made popular in Ireland through the singing of Dolores Keane. In one segment, the lads are all clad in kilts, as is the band, and Paul tells a great story of the camaraderie between the lads and their musical director, Phil Coulter.

"We all went out after the taping to celebrate", says Byrom, "wearing our kilts. Phil came in to join us, not realizing we had decided to wear the kilts. He left and came back a while later clad in a kilt as well. It was great craic!" "Phil has really become like the sixth member of the group!" The ease and genuine male bonding that has come about between these men translate well on stage. Which will come in handy as they prepare for a tour of the U.S. and beyond in the coming year. They also have great admiration and trust in Coulter, who has been a major force in the music industry for decades. Coulter and Browne have selected a wide repertoire to showcase each singer, from "Puppy Love" for McGinty, to "Nights in White Satin" for Byrom. The traditional songs

will be there, with perhaps a new twist to them, from Jimmy MacCarthy's "Ride On" sung by Ryan Kelly, to Paul Brady's "The Island" sung with great effect by Keith Harkan. Coulter has composed two new pieces for the production but lovers of his work will enjoy his always heart wrenching "The Old Man" dramatically delivered by George Donaldson. As Gay Byrne would say, "there's something for everyone in the audience" no matter what age or taste in music.

"It's a family oriented show that anyone can come to and be entertained", said Paul. Well, what happens, I ask when women start throwing their knickers onstage?? For you have to admit, there's a lot of testosterone up there. Laughing, Paul replied that they will cope with it if it happens. "We want to be accessible", says Byrom. "We will be coming out after the shows and meeting the people and signing CD's or whatever. We are really looking forward to

touring America and meeting the American (and Canadian, as there are stops northward on the tour) people. Everyone is so friendly and open in America—we are really looking forward to it". Audiences here in the U.S. can look forward to seeing and hearing these likely lads in March on public television, when "Celtic Man" will be aired, with a tour to follow.

Paul Byrom finishes, "You know", "Celtic Woman" was beautiful haunting music. "Celtic Man" is more in your face—let's go! It's a great bit of craic!

And so it is. Watch for "Celtic Man" on public television in March and check out the lads on www.celticman.ie for a taste of the upcoming show and news of the tour.

Cindy Reich is a contributing writer to "Irish Music Magazine" in Dublin, Ireland, as well as "The Living Tradition" in Ayrshire Scotland and writes a monthly column for "The Celtic Connection" in Denver, Colorado. She also



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Friends Step Up for Irene McDonnell

Benefits in January and February
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Galvin's - 1/19/08 2nd Irene's Idol Night
Six Penny Bit - 1/13/08 Texas Hold'Em
Abbey Pub - 1/22/08 Bingo Night
Atlantic - 1/27/08 Texas Hold'Em
Irish American Heritage Center - Irene McDonnell Benefit & Idols Finals 2/9/08

Irene McDonnell hails from County Mayo and is the loving mother, and sole provider of four wonderful children, ranging in age from eight to twenty years.

Recently, Irene was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Stage II B Cervical Cancer. Irene's only option is immediate and extensive Chemotherapy and Radiation treatments. The impact of the treatments, along with the adverse effects she is already experiencing, has forced her to accept an indefinite, unpaid leave-of-absence from her current position with United Airlines.

Irene does not qualify for either short or long term disability. Irene was denied her claim for short or long term disability benefits from MetLife Insurance twice. For the past eight years, Irene has diligently provided a loving home, supported the educational, financial, and social needs of her children, and has solely managed, against all odds, to persevere, all for the sake of her family!

In order for Irene to endure these extreme treatments it is imperative that she remains positive and optimistic throughout. The best way that we can support her now is to relieve her of any undue stress caused by her inability to work.

We look forward to everyone's support at an upcoming benefit on February 9, 2008 from 6pm- Midnight at the Irish American Heritage Center located at 4626 N. Knox, Chicago.

IRENE'S IDOL NIGHT
Galvin's Public House, 5901 W. Lawrence, Chicago. First Qualification Night Saturday, January 12th, 2008

Second Qualification Night Saturday, January 19th, 2008

Final Judging Night - Saturday, February 9th, 2008 (IAHC) \$25 Registration fee. \$10 Door Admission on event night(excludes Idol entrants). Call Kathy Sweeney at 773-391-2740. 1st Prize \$500 2nd & 3rd place receive Bonus Prize

Five qualifiers from Saturday, January 12th and five qualifiers

from Saturday, January 19th will participate in the Final Judging Night on Saturday, February 9th, 8 pm. at the Irish American Heritage Center during the Irene McDonnell Family Fund Benefit. Participants who do not make the first round of qualification can re-register for a second chance. Registration for re-entry will take place January 12th after the first five qualifiers are chosen.

TEXAS HOLD'EM
January 13th, 2008, 12 Noon, Six Penny Bit, 5800 W. Montrose 773-545-2033. \$100 Buy In, No Sign in Required - Seating Limited. For info call T.C. Byrne at 773-545-2033 or Paschal Sweeney at 773-418-8374

BINGO NIGHT
January 22nd, 2008 - Tuesday, 8 pm, Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St., Chicago More details coming! 773-478-4408.

TEXAS HOLD'EM
January 27th, 2008, 3 pm, Atlantic Restaurant, 5062 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 773-506-

7090. \$100 buy in. More details coming!

GRAND RAFFLE
Grand Raffle prize is \$10,000 and will be drawn on February 9th at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100 and can be obtained from Northside: Noreen King 847-696-4706 kilmaine2@comcast.net

Southside: Mixie McAndrew 708-233-0575 eshorty28@sbcglobal.net Tom Noonan 773-239-6266 highnoone12@hotmail.com

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Raffle donations are needed by February 1st and can be delivered to William S. Noonan at 1115 W. St. James, Arlington Hts, IL 60005

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Ireland

Cries For Me

By Tammy M. Donahue-McGing

As a young lass
I made up my mind
To cross the great Atlantic
To see the other kind
I'm tired of the same old thing
The walls are closing in
I need to make a change in life
I know I have to win
As I was leaving
I heard a cry
It was my beloved Ireland
But still, I said good bye
Goodbye my family
Who I love and will miss
Goodbye my friends
With sorrow and bliss
Goodbye green fields
As far as the eye can see
And to the many shades of green
I think I'll leave it be
As I was leaving
I heard a cry
It was my beloved Ireland
But still, I said goodbye
Goodbye to many memories
Like being on grandpa's knee
And grandma dancing a fine ole' jig
And her feeling free
Goodbye to the pub
Where I met my lad
A love I knew
A feeling so glad
As I was leaving
I heard a cry
It was my beloved Ireland
But still, I said goodbye
I'm in the states
The land of the free
Yet my heart is heavy
What can it be?
I miss my family,
I miss my friends
I miss my lad
Will my heart mend?
I need the green fields
And the many shades of green
I need my memories
Home... It's all so keen
As I was leaving
I heard a cry
It wasn't my beloved Ireland
No... it was I.

IAHC January Happenings

Hizzoner is Back

The critically-acclaimed production of Hizzoner: Daley the First returns to the IAHC as part of its Winter 2008 tour.

The tour revisits the venues of Hizzoner's summer 2007 sold-out performances and wraps up just in time to kick off St. Patrick's Day festivities at the IAHC. Hizzoner played to 8 sold out audiences when it was performed at the IAHC in May 2007.

Performances at the IAHC are Friday, February 22 through Sunday, March 2 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Ticket prices are \$35 for general admission and \$30 for seniors. Tickets go on sale Friday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m.

To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

Irish School
Winter Semester

Irish School at the Children's Center for Cultural Studies continues classes this winter at the IAHC. The winter semester runs from January 5 to March 8, 2008.

Children from ages 6-16 can participate in lessons on Irish heritage, culture, customs, language, art and music, through drama, storytelling, crafts and games. Classes include Irish Language for children ages 6-11 and 12-16, the Teen Theatre Workshop for ages 12-16 and Celtic Mythology and Art for ages 6-11. Classes are on Saturday mornings from 9am-Noon.

Fees are \$45 per class for IAHC members and \$60 for non-members. Discounts for families apply. To register children for classes, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

The IAHC is located at 4626



Pictured left to right: Stephen Carmody, Commissioner Meany and Kevin Schafer. Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany, Vice President, and Stephen Carmody, Engineer of Treatment Plant Operations, of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, recently accepted the Peak Performance Gold Award on behalf of the John E. Egan Plant presented by Ken Schafer of the National Association for Clean Water Agencies. The Egan Plant was one of seven MWRDGC facilities to receive the Awards that honor wastewater treatment facilities that have achieved 100 percent compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for an entire calendar year.

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We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle

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Mary Mitchell Rev. Al Sharpton

Now that Jody Weis has been chosen as Superintendent of the Chicago Police Dept., the vitriol has started oozing out the black community. Mary Mitchell in The Chicago Sun Times for whom everything is black and white is moaning.

In her article of November 30th, "Failure to Recruit Minority Astounding & Puzzling", she states "... But someone ought to question why Daley paid so much and appears to getting so little in terms of a new police superintendent. They should ask him why he didn't think it was critical that a person of color be given the chance to reform a department that suffered some of its worst scandals under white leadership."

Check out "Second City Cop Blogspot" on the internet where they refer to Mary Mitchell as "Moprah." Second City Cop... "Mary Mitchell is a racist and she is paid to publish her racist views. But her soapbox is getting larger because there are some fools in this department who should be fired..." Mitchell's school of thought is no superintendent who is not of color can possibly lead the Chicago P.D. effectively because they wouldn't understand the black community. What is so difficult to understand about the need to bring in an outsider without the baggage that most senior Chicago P.D. officers carry. Does that mean there are no qualified people already here? Of course not.

On the national level the Rev. Al Sharpton is threatening to torpedo Chicago's Olympic bid over Chicago police brutality. Is that what's really bothering Al? Out of the last six Chicago P.D. superintendents, three have been black, one hispanic, and two caucasian (Phil Cline; Terry Hillard; Matt Rodriguez; Leroy Martin; Fred Rice; and Richard Brzeczek.) So for nine straight years we had a black superintendent, and they had ample opportunity to straighten out the problem. Where's the beef, Al?

The County Race Card

Commissioner Beavers, the self-

proclaimed hog with the big nuts, has played the "race card" again. White Cook County Commissioners are not supporting his tax increase because Todd Stroger is black! Talk about profoundly absurd. How about they are not supporting him because he is incompetent. Commissioner Beavers is quoted as having said, "It's about who's going to run the County. It's about jobs, contracts and power." "That's what it's all about. Are black folks gonna run it, or are white folks gonna run it?" I'm afraid I don't understand the logic.

Tony Peraica said it best... "Why do you want a \$billion tax increase when there's only a \$225 million shortfall that could be significantly reduced by eliminating patronage jobs. The objective is a balanced budget. (The actual shortfall is \$238 million.)"

The Cook County Democratic Party needs to get its act together. Where has John Daley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, been throughout this process?

The Iowa Caucuses

Who cares about what they do in Iowa? It won't influence my vote. I got a kick out of Oprah hitting the campaign trail and creating the circus-like atmosphere. Her message is a bit puzzling. She said Barack Obama gives us hope. I don't think she means all of us. There are a few skeletons in Senator Obama's closet. "Down with Dope. Up with Hope." Senator Joe Biden would make a great president.

In other words, I'll make my own decisions. I don't need Oprah Winfrey, Barbra Streisand, Ellen DeGeneres, or any other celebrity

to advise me on the candidates. While we're at it let's get religion out of politics, look what the Christian right did for us! We have endured seven years of an administration that hasn't had a viable foreign policy, thrust us into a war through a campaign of false information, put us hopelessly in debt, destroyed the value of our currency and diminished our esteem in the eyes of the world community. When the primaries are over, and the parties put forth their candidate, the mud-slinging will begin in earnest. Nobody, but nobody, will be teflon coated. Some of it's going to stick.

As a taxpayer there's one good reason not to vote for Senator Obama, is the fact that he endorsed Todd Stroger as did Senator Richard Durbin, reported in Boyle the Kettle in December 2006.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual corned beef and cabbage dinner, the main fundraiser for the parade, will be held Thursday, January 31st at Plumber's Hall. Tickets are \$70 and tables are \$700. For tickets and more information call 312-942-9188 (Parade office) or 312-421-1010 and ask for Patty Fadden or Kevin Sherlock. The Dinner Co-Chairs are Martin J Healy, Martin J. Healy, Jr., and Lollie McKeon.

The St. Patrick's Day Queen Contest will be held on Sunday, February 17th at Plumber's Hall. Call 312-421-1010 for entry information.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, March 15th.

Alderman Tom Allen

Tom is running for Cook County State's Attorney and became President of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago on December 7th at the annual Christmas luncheon. Tom Cashman moves to 1st Vice President and Kathy Taylor is now Chairman of the Board.

Terry MacCarthy

Terry MacCarthy is running for Cook County Circuit Judge and

Historic Photos of Chicago Crime

From its incorporation in 1837 Chicago has been one the most rapidly developing and influential cities in the United States. Its fascinating past is peppered with notoriety, including the Prohibition era of the "roaring" 1920s and "Great Depression" of the 1930s. As America's wealth grew and receded during these decades, the rise of influential figures like Al Capone and related Chicago gangsters shaped the politics and economy of Chicago, resulting in one of the most colorful periods in American history,

With fact-filled photo captions and chapter introductions by John Russick, Historic Photos of Chicago Crime: The Capone Era rediscovers the fascinating past of the "Windy City" and its role in the development and downfall of organized

Irish Artist Offers Painting Courses On Web

Awash on the Web (www.awashontheweb.com) is a new learn-to-paint portal that offers step-by-step video tutorials on how to paint with water colors. The site was launched to art-lovers at the recent Arts & Materials Live Exhibition in the UK.

For its creator, Dermot Cavanagh (from County Tyrone), Awash on the Web is a spin-out from his hugely successful BBC TV program, Awash with Color, in which he taught a host of celebrities.

Dermot walks the user from initial sketching to applying the finishing touches, including all the finer detail which up to now would only have been available through a personal painting workshop with him. The site offers the user the opportunity



crime in the 1920s and 1930s through nearly 200 rare photographs culled from the Chicago History Museum.

Historic Photos of Chicago Crime: The Capone Era by John Russick. Turner Publishing, Nashville, TN and Paducah, KY, 2007. ISBN: 978-1-59652-387-6; 216 pages; \$39.95.

to learn how to sketch, paint skies, master trees and foliage and create depth.

Awash on the Web is aimed at artists of all ages and abilities — acting as an easy to follow introduction



Dermot Cavanagh

to the water color medium but also includes tips and tricks for the more advanced.

Awash on the Web will be available on a free trial basis from launch date until 31 March 2008. Subscription prices start at 12.99 Pound Sterling per month for 5 hours of painting tuition, along with access to the complete 74 episodes of Awash with Color and a social community of other painters where users can share tips, recommend locations to paint and even display their own works of art.

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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy

Irish Welcome the New Year

Large crowds of Chicagoans at Chicago Gaelic Park on the southwest side of the city and the Irish American Heritage Center on the northwest side celebrated the beautiful season and the coming of the New Year in the grand old traditional Irish fashion. Attractive programs befitting the two big occasions with emphasis on Ireland played to sold out houses and were enjoyed by all.

The attractive decorations and lighting at both centers inside and out were much admired and did much to set the tone. Our congratulations to all concerned for stellar presentations, and particularly to John Crean, the "old maestro," and his volunteers for another winner. Congrats to the committee at the Heritage Center also, for another great job.

At the end of the year it is usual for scribes like myself to pay tribute for "outstanding work by organizations, clubs and individuals" during the past year. No doubt about it, Chicago Gaelic Park had its finest year and even the president of the Association, Kilkennyman Nicky Brennan who presided over the Continental Youth Championship in July, was "delighted" at such progress in Youth participation, describing it as "unbelievable." No doubt also Harry Costello reigned supreme during the hectic weekend and well deserves his



name, "Man for all seasons."

The North American GAA Board playoffs over the long Labor Day

weekend was another great success with Chicago again claiming four national titles; Cucullian's Senior Hurling, St. Brendan's Senior Football, St. Brendan's Senior Ladies and St. Mary's Senior Camogie. Congratulations to all.

Wolfe Tones Celebrate 50th

Chicago's Wolfe Tone fine footballers could not have picked a more ideal name for their great club than Wolfe Tone, "Father of Republicanism." Ever since that historic day in 1957, when they climbed Marty McDermott's high stairs at --- 55th, the Boulevard, they have not only enhanced that great name but they have distinguished themselves as one of the best football clubs in North America, winning 14 or 15 titles. They came together to celebrate that great day 50 years ago and although some of the greats like Gene Hand, a leader proud and true, have gone to their Eternal Rewards; nevertheless, his name and fame will always be present on and off the field.

Other guest like Will Rodgers, Sean McNelis, Bob Coulter, Dan Corcoran, Malachy Gallagher, Johnny Ryan, and many others have become household names in Chicago gaeldom. Even though their fine playing days have finished, they continue to support their great Club and help promote the games at Gaelic Park. The great team has always been "a slice above the ordinary," as Will Rodgers often told us, win, lose or draw. The Wolfe Tones's can be always expected to give of their best on the field of play, and if beaten, be the first to congratulate their opponents. We congratulate the Club on its many achievements and wish them continued success in the years to come.

Wind That Shakes the Barley

Our thanks to good friend, John Hunt, well known Chicago gael and Nationalist who recently forwarded a disc of the powerful Irish movie, The Wind That Shakes the Barley,

now showing in some theatres. He had seen the movie with his sons and said, "It's just like being there." And that it is.

From the beginning of this great movie to the very end, viewers are treated to some great acting, and the movie also captures the beauty of the Irish countryside - the hills of Kerry. Prominent actors include Cillian Murphy, Liam Cunningham, Orla Fitzgerald, Aidan O'Hare, and Padraic Delaney. The grim progress from the murder of a young Irish youth to the growth of the armed IRA campaign is well-managed. The depiction of the dark and brutal underside of the Imperial machine - or that anyone on the other side of that brutality would not be justified to rebel against it - is undeniable.

One of the most disturbing scenes occurs when a groups of IRA returning from a successful meeting, discover a farmhouse being attacked by "the Tans," and without arms, are forced to watch concealed in the bushes as the people from the farm are being abused. Such brutality makes good rebels.

The movie is a must-see if you want to learn correctly what happened to those tragic years in between 1920 and 1922. It is gripping and informative.

"The Wind That Shakes the Barley" is also a great Irish song about the 1798 Rising, written by Robert Dwyer-Joyce and made famous by the late Tommy Makem and others.

"Sat within a village green, sat there with my true love. And my fond heart strove to choose between the old love and the new love. The old love for her, the new love that made me think of Ireland dearly. While soft the wind blew down the glade and shook the golden barley."

"It was hard the mournful words to frame, to break the ties that bound us. Ah, but harder still to bear the shame of foreign chains around us. And so I said, the mountain glen I'll seek at morning early and join the brave "United Men" while soft wind shakes the barley." I was sad and kissed away her tears, her arms around me clinging. When to my ears that fatal shot come out that wildwood ringing, The bullet pierced my lover's breast, in life's young spring so early. And there upon my breast she died, while soft wind shook the barley."

"I was blood for blood, for blood without remorse I took at Oulart Hollow, I placed my true love's clay-cold corpse where mine may soon follow. Around her grave I wondered drear, noon, night and morning early, with

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aching heart when e'er I hear the wind that shakes the barley."

**Happy and Healthy
2008 to All Our Readers**

Best wishes to all our readers for a happy, healthy and continued successful New Year. And my sincere thanks and best wishes to Cliff, our fine Editor, and his all-star staff for making space for my humble column.

No Special Deal for the Irish

An article by Trina Vargo, Head of the U.S.-Ireland Alliance and former aide to Senator Ted Kennedy, which appeared in a recent issue of The Irish Times, advocated "no special deal for Irish illegals", according to a fine headline story by Ray O'Hanlon in The Irish Echo.

Ms. Vargo wrote that "a small group of Irish-Americans are working to encourage the U.S. congress to carve out a special deal for Irish immigrants while leaving behind millions of others in the same situation." "They are wrong to single out a group for preferential treatment," she added.

She goes on to tell readers that the Irish economy is strong so there is no need for a "special deal" for the Irish. She tells us that the majority of Irish come to our shores are young and have no need to emigrate, However she is supportive of legalization for the Irish but, not at the expense of anyone else. And she coins a new phrase with "efforts to pass legalization to help the Irish is like 'putting lipstick on a pig'." That last sentence is a direct insult to the Irish and demands an apology.

With all due respect to this writer and high position which she holds, the Irish do not want a special deal, just a fair one, and perhaps it is she that is "morally wrong" and indeed, anti-Irish. Or even perhaps not familiar with this whole problem.

As a member of the American-Irish Committee, I had occasion in 1965 to become familiar with the changing of this law, because of the fact that it was to become based on family reunification and it soon became evident the Irish would be handicapped if this legislation became law. So an amendment was submitted and discussed and was passed in the House, but "died" in the Senate. The Irish quota under the old law was 17,000. Our committee figures that without an amendment it would

drop into the hundreds. And it did. As a matter of fact, for the first year, Ireland received a few hundred visas.

Prior to the enactment of the bill, our committee national chairman, John Collins from New York, argued our case with great effect before Congress, and finally received a promise from Congress and the State Department that "No country will be handicapped." That promise was never kept. The promise was 10,000 annually, a drop of almost 8,000 from the old law.

The Irish problem, like most Western European ones, is our pattern of immigration. A single man or woman from the family will emigrate and later send for a brother or sister. Emigrants from most other countries emigrate with families, 4 or 5 in a bunch. Hence Ireland and others are dropped to the bottom of the totem pole when visas are issued annually and must settle for hundreds whilst others receive thousands. That is the unfairness that must be remedied.

The Irish do not want "special deals," just a fair one as promised by Congress and the State Department in 1965. "No country will be handicapped," a promise that was never kept. Today ancestors of earlier Irish, who helped to defend and build our country are being virtually excluded from our country, whilst others who made no contribution are allowed to enter legally and illegally.

The young Irish emigrant today is well-educated in hi-tech and other matters. He or she is hard-working and law-abiding and they speak our language; the people that we need so badly today in order to compete in the global market.

**A Chicago Irishman
Brings Comfort to the Elderly**

Well-known Chicago Irishman, Paddy Homan, an accomplished tenor singer made the front page of the Chicago Tribune recently. In a fine story by Judith Graham, she tell us how he is available to bring the song and music of Ireland with some good Irish stories to the disabled and the elderly along the way. His typical Irish (Cork) charm breaks down their shyness and in a few minutes he has them singing along with him.

Most medical authorities advocate that such a remedy is priceless and should be encouraged not only in the private home but also in nursing homes. Such therapy for

the elderly or disabled removes at least for the time they are engaged in the gaiety and laughter, their aches and pains and even worries. That, in itself, is a blessing.

Call P.J. O'Dea at 708-453-4534.

Associates of Brother Rice

Hard working Bro. John Dornbos finds time to write and tell us about "The Associates of Bro. Rice" and to appeal to our readers to give some thought to becoming one.

The Association began to partake in many different projects about 8 years ago, all leaning towards the canonization of Bro Rice, who was beatified in 1996 by the late Pope John Paul II in ceremonies at the Vatican. However, in order to be canonized or declared a Saint, the Irish born brother who formed the Irish Christian and Presentation Brothers, needs one more miracle attributed to him in order to become the next Irish Saint, already named by many as "the hurling Saint" who loved the old caman game, one of Ireland's national pastimes.

To fulfill the objective of the Associates, who function the country hosting prayers and discussion gatherings, learn more about Bro. Rice and his work and celebrate masses and events. There are many Associate groups



Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be a guest speaker at the City Club of Chicago, Wednesday, January 16 at 12:30 pm. at Maggiano's Banquets, 111 W. Grand Ave. in Chicago. O'Brien is currently serving as Chairman of the Judiciary and Real Estate Development Committees and Vice Chairman of the Federal Legislation and Municipalities Committees.

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So you never told them?
 "Uh yeah, sure, I'm gonna REMIND them they haven't billed me in twelve years. Duh!"
 They'll find out, they always do. They've probably been watching you through the cable all this time and just videotaping your every move.

"Then they're watching the most boring show on the tube."

You don't think they would find your life interesting?

"It's okay, but it's not as good as cable."

Phil loved his cable.

When they stopped billing him he had the premium package, HBO and all the special perks. His thumb was constantly twitching as Phil jumped from ESPN to ESPN II to the Turner Movie Classics to The Spice channel and beyond. Phil had over a hundred channels of crap to cruise through every five minutes as he worked the remote. That's how long it took him to go from Channel 2 and back around the horn.

Phil got the biggest kick out of watching Jim Carrey in "Cable Guy" on his free cable.

Phil loved to regale folks with tales of the latest episodes of The Sopranos, Entourage, or Curb Your Enthusiasm. He saw every football game that mattered. He tivoed the White Sox World Series of 2005.

Phil would always chuckle as he explained to his pals, "Yeah I got cable... FREE cable!"

And then one night... it just stopped. Phil and his wife stared at the box. Uh-oh. The cable went out.

"It will come back on, it always does."

But it didn't. Phil was afraid to call the cable company. What could he say. "Hey... um... there must be some mistake with my cable... heh-heh."

So he waited. Months went by and the cable never came back on. Phil was reduced to just regular television, not even a dozen channels, and far crappier than cable.

Phil seemed to withdraw from his friends and neighbors about that time. Around the water cooler when friends would discuss the latest TV show, Phil would hang his head and mumble abjectly, "I didn't see that show... I don't have cable."

The police department psychiatrist told me later that Phil became so paranoid about the cable people watching him that he began to perform elaborate skits in front of his TV, hoping to entice the cable authorities into turning Phil Flavin's cable back on.

Phil would dress up in a hat and cane and dance and tell jokes to his TV as it hummed blankly back at him from Channel 3. He forced his kids to do goofy dances and even sacrificed a live squirrel in front of the tube.

The cable people were not amused and Phil's boob tube remained stuck on WGN. Phil began doing bad Tom Skilling impersonations for his friends and they shunned him.

The cops figured that's what was going on when Phil torched the TV on a late December night. He just couldn't take it any longer. Unfortunately, the flames leaped to his curtains and Phil's house went up like a box of matches.

Phil was babbling to himself on the street watching the fire when I found him. His family had gotten out alive but their cat Whiskers was consumed in the holocaust.

I asked the cop who handcuffed Phil what he had said.

The policeman shook his head in sadness as he recalled Phil's fatal words, "I don't have cable."

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Phil Flavin was arrested after the incident and placed in a squad car. As the officer pushed his head forward and placed him in the back seat of the squad car, Phil looked directly at me standing across the street and seemed to entreat me with an explanation for his horrific acts that night.

I couldn't hear exactly what he said, but it must have something to do with Phil starting his home on fire that night while his entire family slept.

Phil and I had been neighbors for years. We even used to get together for drinks occasionally while downtown. I remember one lunch at Cere's café in the Chicago Board of Trade building. Phil and I were having a few laughs and joking with our lovely Irish waitresses, Bridie Boyle and Mary O'Connor.

Phil smiled as the gals walked away and sipped his drink. "Hey guess what, I got free cable."

Free cable?, I asked. How'd you get that?

Phil laughed, "When I moved in about fifteen years ago, I signed up for Cablevision. They billed me for about three years and then all of a sudden the bills just stopped coming."

Well that's probably because Cablevision was sold to Comcast. You must have fallen through the crack.

Phil chuckled, "Yeah, well I guess I'm a crack addict"

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2nd Annual Galway Tribes Idol Search

Open to all ages, The Galway Tribes, 9680 Lincoln Way Lane in Frankfort, IL is again conducting their Idol Search. First, Second and Third Prizes will be awarded. The first 80 registered singers will register to participate in an "Open Call" on Sunday, January 27th at 2:00pm. 50 of the original 80 will advance to Heat Rounds. 10 will compete in one of five Heat Rounds Heat Rounds will take place on 5 consecutive Sunday afternoons beginning February 10th. Contestants will be chosen from each heat to compete in Finals - (If under 18, you must be accompanied by a parent or

guardian, without exception.)

The Rules

- "Open Call" participants will perform 2 minutes of a song of their choice.
- No profanity or offensive lyrics will be tolerated. If used, contestant will be automatically disqualified.
- Heat Round contestants will perform a full version of a song of their choice.
- All performances are "a capella".
- Prizes include: A live CD recorded on site during the Finals on March 16th for all finalists to take home, trophies & gift cards.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do you want 2008 to be different than 2007?

As we reach the New Year, many of us prepare a list of "meaningful" resolutions. We decide to stop smoking; start exercising; stop drinking; do yoga; quit eating so much, so often; etc. By February 1st or earlier, many of these resolutions are not only broken, they may even be forgotten. I wouldn't presume to tell you what resolutions you should have. Instead let me suggest a different approach.

I have been doing executive coaching and outplacement for many years. I have seen several characteristics or traits or behaviors that have gotten in the way of people's success. Let's just deal with the nine behaviors that seem to be the most egregious. You can then decide if your career or life would be improved if you were to focus on one of these issues. Perhaps you could address one trait during the first quarter of the New Year and another over each of the following three quarters. Such an approach would allow you to focus your attention on just one or two things during any quarter.

1. Maintain Your Integrity. We have all heard the expression that, the truth will set you free. Shakespeare said, To thy own self, be true. My favorite book on leadership, The Leadership Challenge, by Kouzes and Posner, states that THE number one characteristic that people seek in their leaders is honesty. But we see that societal pressures chip away at a person's integrity all the time in business. It's okay to accept a small gift this year; next year, it will be ok to accept a larger gift, (aka bribe). The process can be insidious; like a cancer that grows unseen.

I once had a neighbor, Charlie, who said if we had an excessive amount of garbage, I should simply put it over by his garbage. He said that the refuse company who picked up our garbage was the same one that picked up his company's industrial refuse. And their drivers all knew that Charlie had the responsibility for approving their invoices. He commented that if I had a washer, dryer, or any large item, they would take it because they wanted to ingratiate themselves to him. He accepted an all expenses paid trip to Florida for him and his wife without the blink of an eye. He said it did not affect the objectivity of his decision

making. What do you think? Might your integrity be compromised by such favors?

2. Solicit Input From Others. Let your staff

members know that you value their input, regardless of whether or not you agree with it. If you do, they will continue to provide you with potentially valuable input. Conversely, if you treat them like fools and immediately trash their ideas, you are not likely to get any significant input from them.

3. Treat People Respectfully. We have all observed others being treated disrespectfully; particularly people who perform service functions e.g., cab drivers, waitresses, receptionists, hostesses, flight attendants, etc. Some people treat them like they are part of the furniture. Every person, of any color, creed, or religion deserves our respect. There is a practical reason for treating people respectfully. If our colleagues observe our oafish conduct, they will note it and brand us as tactless. They will quickly recognize that we are not the warm and friendly person we want them to see. They might question whether they want to do business with us.

4. Be Planful. Take the time to develop a plan of action for any significant block of your time. You will find yourself getting far more done than the person who is always just stumbling onto the next task. Think of the pluses and minuses of the contemplated action. Many people can do this planning in their heads, but others of us need to write it down, particularly if it is a complex issue. Often, the very act of writing it down will be valuable for us; it provides some clarity to the issue.

5. Help Others. You can begin to help people very quickly even in a new job. Once you have been there even just a few days, you could be of help to the newer hires. Your kindness will be remembered long after you have rendered it. Surprisingly enough, good deeds do have their own reward or pay back. All kinds of people and situations would welcome your time and support.

6. Learn To Speak In Front Of An Audience. As you grow in your responsibilities, you will be challenged to present effectively to various groups. Take a Toastmasters course, the Dale Carnegie course or a speech class at the local community college. Get in the habit of giving speeches, practice makes permanent.

7. Accept The Concept Of Life Time Learn-

ing. We have all heard about this concept. It is absolutely imperative that we continue to expand our base of knowledge. Dr. John F. Moran, Director of Clinical Cardiology, Loyola University Medical Center, told me recently that the overall treatment for cardiology patients is continuously changing and improving. Wouldn't you flee from a doctor who told you that s/he had not read a medical journal since medical school? Would you hire a tax person who said that s/he hasn't referred to the tax code for several years? Heck, don't you want your auto mechanic to be up to date on the latest technology? How can we expect them to be up to date when we ourselves might not be current?

8. Retain A Sense Of Humor. Find ways to enhance your sense of humor. Read the funnies, listen to humorous CDs, and watch funny TV shows or comedic videos. Humor is invaluable in allowing us to make light of a very serious situation. It allows us to laugh; and sometimes even to giggle. Frankly, a good laugh will help you think better because it relieves the tension of the moment. It can lift the gloom off a difficult environment. Have you ever been in a situation where someone's sense of humor allows you to move through a minefield of emotions?

9. Develop Your Communication Skills. The vast majority of us would be well served by improving our written and oral communication skills. Our world has become a digital one—emails by the basketful, text messages, iPods, etc. An oft quoted statistic says that the actual words we use only represent 7% of a message delivered in person, whereas the other 93% is communicated by the tonality of our voice, its volume and our body language. If this bromide is correct, one really needs to gear up and be very crisp in their writing so as to make their point. An executive friend of mine says he has two ways of responding to emails: a brief direct response or a request for a face to face meeting. He feels that the brief answer does not allow for any real discussion; that would have to be accomplished in person. He wants to see the person's body language.

There is an old saying which states that any angry response should be shelved for 24 hours, lest you regret dispatching it. The mood we are in can dramatically affect the tone of our response. If we were tail ended on the way to work in the morning, our response might be substantially different than if we had a pleasant trip to work.

Read every email a second time before transmitting. We might be typing at 60-70 words per minute, but our minds might be working at 600-800 words per minute. Things can be lost

in the translation. Many of us prepare 50-75 emails per day; which means there are a lot of opportunities to MIS-communicate.

Consider how any one of the above applies to you. Rather than making a resolution or two, perhaps you could simply accept one of these suggestions for implementation during each of the four quarters of the New Year. Carpe diem.

I would like to start off the New Year by thank-

and my brother, Joe. Their advice continues to be invaluable to me.

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

Medical Malpractice Caps in Illinois Held Unconstitutional

Two and a half years ago Public Act 94-677 was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by Governor Blagojevich. That Act placed a limit on the amount of non-economic damages (disability, pain and suffering, disfigurement and loss of society) a plaintiff would be permitted to recovery in medical malpractice cases to \$500,000 in cases against a physician and \$1,000,000 in cases against a hospital. Recently, a Cook County Circuit Court Judge ruled that Act was unconstitutional, because it violated the Separation of Powers Provision of the Illinois Constitution.

At the time the Act was passed but before it was signed, this column featured an article arguing that the Governor should not sign the bill into law because it was unconstitutional, and because it would not solve the problem of increasing insurance premiums on the medical profession. The Act also included other provisions affecting

medical malpractice cases, including changes to expert testimony requirements, changes to how jury verdicts could be paid as well as various insurance reforms. However, the Act was written in such a way that if any provision of the Act was found unconstitutional, the whole Act would be considered invalid.

The Arguments in Support of the Caps

Those in support of the caps assert that by placing limits on the amount of non-economic damages a jury could award, there would be a reduction in insurance premiums a physician or hospital had to pay. If insurance premiums are reduced, the cost of healthcare to patients and their families would be reduced as well. Additionally, the supporters argue that in some, particularly rural, areas of the state where insurance premiums were high, some physicians would not be able to keep their practices

open.

Also, it was argued that the caps are reasonable and still allow patients to receive some compensation for their injuries.

The Arguments Against Caps

Those against the caps argue that the caps are not reasonable considering that in some cases there can be a lifetime of extreme disability and pain and suffering. Opponents of the caps also argue that the provision violated the Illinois Constitution's separation of powers provision, the provision forbidding special legislation as well as the right to a trial by jury, the right to due process of law and the right to equal protection under the laws. Essentially, critics of the caps point out that a cap takes away the power of the jury to decide what is fair and reasonable compensation. Instead, if a jury awards more than \$500,000 in non-economic damages, that figure would be reduced.

Also, opponents of the caps note that the Act constituted impermissible special legislation. The Illinois Constitution forbids a special law to be passed when a general law can be passed instead. In other words, one group of people cannot receive special treatment or a special benefit to the exclusion of others. Here, doctors and hospitals were given the benefit of a cap on non-economic damages even though other groups of individual or corporate defendants did not receive such a benefit.

Trial Court's Decision

After hearing extensive arguments from supporters and critics of the Act, the Court found that the cap on non-economic damages was unconstitutional. The Court found that the Act violated the Separation of Powers Clause of the Illinois Constitution because it acts as a legislative remittitur (the right of a judge to lower an unreasonably high verdict) and infringes on the roles of judges in jury trials. The law gives a judge who presides over a trial the right to reduce a damage award from a jury if it amounts to more than fair and reasonable compensation. Thus, the power to reduce a jury verdict is vested in the judiciary on a case by case basis, and not in the legislature to reduce all verdicts over \$500,000, irrespective of whether they are unreasonably high or not.

By arbitrarily setting a limit on the amount of damages, the legislature has not only substituted its

judgment for that of the jury but it has also substituted its judgment for that of the trial judge. Since the legislation would create a conflict between the judiciary and the legislature, the Court found the Act unconstitutional.

In its decision, the Court noted that twice before the Illinois Supreme Court had struck down non-economic damages. In 1976 and again in 1997 the Illinois Supreme Court was asked to review legislation which capped non-economic damage awards in medical malpractice cases and in other types of cases, and decided the acts were unconstitutional as violating separation of powers. The Circuit Court further noted that based on those decisions, it could not uphold a cap on non-economic damages, no matter what the circumstances.

Although the Act was challenged on many grounds and contained other provisions, the Circuit Court only ruled on the issue of separation of powers as it related to the damage cap. The Court decided that since the whole Act became invalid as a result of that ruling, it was unnecessary to consider any of the other challenges, or any other provision of the Act.

Impact of the Ruling

The ruling by the Circuit Court is really the first step in the judicial process. Since the Circuit Court found a statute unconstitutional,

there will be a direct appeal to the Supreme Court of Illinois. There, the Court will independently review the Act.

Even before the Act was declared unconstitutional, or, for that matter, before the Act was passed, there was a dramatic change in medical malpractice litigation. Years ago the Bush Administration began a public attack on trial lawyers. Large corporate and insurance lobbies spent millions advocating restrictions on the rights of malpractice victims. These actions had an effect on juries long before any act restricting victims' rights was passed. The number of verdicts for the plaintiff decreased and the number of complaint filings decreased.

During the last five years, the number of large verdicts (over \$5 million) in medical malpractice cases has declined and the percentage of plaintiff's wins has also declined. Recently, the percentage of medical malpractice cases won by the plaintiff dropped to about 29%, winning less than three out of ten cases. A positive note, however, for victims of malpractice is that the numbers seem to leveling off. Recent credible reports indicating the large number who die in hospitals because of medical errors, and the very large number injured because of drug administration errors add new insights to the issue.

It will be some time before the Supreme Court acts, due to the complexity of the case and the number of parties. When the Supreme Court makes a decision, only then will we know for cer-

DePaul's Sister Ryan Receives Award

DePaul University Professor Sister Frances Ryan, D.C., received the Alexian Award of Excellence in November for her unwavering support of Alexian Brothers' future permanent housing site for homeless people living with HIV/AIDS on Chicago's south side.

The Alexian Award of Excellence is given to individuals or organizations which, in an outstanding way, helped the Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry's Bonaventure House in Chicago or The Harbor in Waukegan carry out the organization's values of holism, dignity of person, compassion, care of the poor, and partnership.

Sr. Ryan, who has been at DePaul since 1988, has been helping people living with AIDS at the Alexian Brothers' Bonaventure House, a transitional housing facility for people with AIDS in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood, since 1989. "It was at a time many in society did not want to come close to this mysterious



disease," said Sr. Ryan, a native of Chicago's northwest side.

Bart Winters, chief executive officer of Alexian Brothers' AIDS Ministry, lauded Sr. Ryan for her tireless efforts. "She has been a great champion of those we serve at the Bonaventure House. She's really been instrumental in our efforts to help those with HIV/AIDS get the help they need in a supportive and loving environment."



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Celtic Kitchen -Pure and Simple



By Julianna Finney
The Tasty New Year



Happy New Year to one and all! You've made it through the hustle and bustle of the holidays, along with the parties, the presents and, of course, the food. There was wonderful, festive, and "since it's the holidays, there's no calories" nosing. But best of all, you could find this food everywhere you went: in the stores pushing promotional sausages, cheeses, and desserts, at work with the store-bought amazingly neon green and red cookies, at parties where the catering staff served exotic canapés, and the neighborhood gatherings, where the homemade culinary traditions were plentiful. And then you had the food for those few evenings in: trying out the gift foods like powdered bean soup in a mason jar, or the gourmet five-variety pack of hot chocolates. But now what? With the holidays over and lent a little over a month away, a person needs a bit of calm and comfort before the next holiday and the upcoming Green Season. It's cold outside and you haven't had the chance to go shopping. Or worse, you've had your moments at the store and just can't get off the couch to go out. That is ok, because here is a wonderful Irish tradition of comfort food for any day. It is the great Shepherd's pie.

The shepherd's pie has a long history of being a favorite of the British Isles. It was a rustic dish made with the protein, potato and veggies perfectly combined. Irish and British beef and lamb are well known for the great flavor, imparted mostly from the livestock's lazy grazing on sweet clover and other grasses. It's all in perspective: the Japanese use beer for Kobe, the Irish the tender shamrock! At the end of the day, the farmers and shepherds would come in from the fields and prepare this easy, inexpensive dish for the many farm hands. Using their own mutton or beef, shepherd's pie was made with leftover cuts of cooked meat and mixed with available root vegetables and sauce. All of that was poured into a skillet and the mashed potatoes were pressed on top of the mix and then baked. After the potatoes were lightly browned, it was put in the middle of the farm table and served with brown bread and lots of stout. Brilliant!

Not surprisingly, there are a few ways to prepare this great traditional meal-in-a-pan feast. There is the eternal shepherd's pie, using cubed or ground lamb with a tomato-beef gravy and veggie filling. There's also the cottage pie which uses ground beef instead of the lamb, but the rest of the filling is the same. For a more 'gourmet rustic' pie, I found a recipe with duck topped with mashed pars-

nips and an orange sauce. This is the type of dish that can be changed and updated with whatever ingredients are found.

Shepherd's Pie ~ My Version

- 1 1/2 lbs potatoes skin on large dice
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 3 T. butter
- Salt and pepper
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 1/2 lbs. ground lamb
- 2 large carrots, cut to 1/2 pieces
- 1/2 cup canned diced tomatoes
- 3 T. flour
- 1 t. dried thyme
- 1 t salt, 1/2 t freshly ground pepper
- 1 c. beef or chicken broth
- 1/2 cup dry sherry
- 1 c frozen peas
- Preheat oven to 350f.

Put potatoes to the boil, and cook until tender. Warm oil in fry pan and add onion. Cook until soft. Add garlic and cook two minutes. Add meat and brown. Stir in tomatoes. Sprinkle flour and stir. Add carrots, peas, thyme, salt and pepper. Add broth and sherry and



simmer until thickened and carrots are al dente, 5-7 minutes.

Heat milk, butter and seasonings. Add to potatoes and mash. Pour meat mixture into 2 quart casserole. Spread potatoes over meat. Set into oven and bake for 10 minutes. Move pie to top shelf in oven under broiler set on 'high'. Allow to potatoes to brown, 3-5 minutes. Let set 2-3 minutes and serve with a green salad and a good stout beer! Julianna Leber is a part time personal chef and caterer, while

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My last two columns focused on lemon laws pertaining to consumer warranties. Now, I would like for you to be aware of other consumer protection laws that are available in other situations. Last time I discussed the federal Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act and the Illinois New Vehicle Buyer Protection Act. Now, I am going to tell you about the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA).

vehicle purchase, one common dilemma a consumer might encounter is what is called a "yo-yo" transaction. Most are familiar with a yo-yo, although most kids today would eschew a yo-yo (or a slinky) for more sophisticated toys like a video game console. But we adults are familiar with a yo-yo, which you cast away from yourself on a string and then, artfully, draw it

back into your hand with a pull of the string. Well, in the context of an automobile purchase, a "yo-yo" transaction is when a car dealer sells you a vehicle and lets you take it home and attempts to assign the finance contract you signed at a later date. If for whatever reason the financial institution refuses to take the assignment, the dealer demands—i.e., "yo-yos"—the car back from the consumer (who usually thinks the transaction has been finalized), stating that the financing was not approved. If the consumer does not agree to the different terms of the deal (usually a higher annual percentage rate, or APR) and does not ultimately finance the yo-yoed car, a lawsuit against the dealer under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) would be appropriate.

The consumer in such a situation could sue for out-of-pocket monetary losses, injury to credit reputation, and mental anguish, humiliation, or embarrassment. *Anderson v United Finance Co.*, 666 F.2d 1274 (9th Cir. 1982). Punitive damages under the ECOA may be awarded in the absence of actual damages. 15 U.S.C. §1691e(b); *Anderson, supra*; *Smithy v. Lakeside Foods, Inc.*, 449 F.Supp. 171 (N.D. Ill. 1978). The ECOA provides a non-exclusive list of factors that bear on the award and amount for punitive damages. In addition, the statute explicitly provides for equitable relief (i.e., non-monetary damages, such as a court order against the dealer to perform an affirmative act or to refrain from particular conduct in the future). Also, attorney fees are recoverable under the ECOA (which means the dealer would be required to pay your attorney's fees instead of you).

So, what you need to show to bring a lawsuit under the ECOA is the following: (1) you filled out a credit "application" as defined in the federal regulations; (2) with a "creditor" as defined by the ECOA; (3) the creditor took "adverse action" against the applicant as it's defined by the ECOA.

The ECOA also prohibits discrimination in lending, however it is outside the scope of this column.

Disclaimer: The above is an abbreviated description of the law and is not intended to convey legal advice or to be a comprehensive overview of the law. You should consult with an attorney to determine whether or not you have a under any applicable law(s), including, but not limited to, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Brian Burke & Associates, Ltd.

Race For Relief Benefit at Hawthorne

Race for Relief was founded this year by a group of Chicagoans to provide funds to the Sisters of the Assumption as they champion charitable work in South Africa. The Sisters are medical missionaries, running The Sacred Heart House which is a safe house in Johannesburg where those dying of AIDS are cared for with compassion and dignity. The Sisters also run an outreach program which continues to educate young people on the prevention of the AIDS virus. In addition to this, they run a Nutrition Center in Grahamstown where they feed over 100 children a day.

The Race for Relief Benefit will be held at Hawthorne Race Track, 3501 South Laramie in

Cicero, IL on Saturday, March 1, 2008 from 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM. There will be raffles and a silent auction, as well as entertainment provided by Sean Cleland, Elevation, the Trinity Irish Dancers and Gavin Coyle.

A buffet dinner will be served from 5pm to 9pm and tickets are \$35 per person. Tickets can be purchased online at www.raceforrelief.org or email Cathy Swan @ catswan5@aol.com. Buses will leave from the north and south sides of Chicago as well as the western suburbs. If interested, email DFoster@doubleclick.com or Kathleen.dunigan@gmail.com.

To make a donation visit www.raceforrelief.org. Donations can also be mailed to: RACE FOR RELIEF c/o Maureen



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The High Kings take some of the classic ballad repertoire from the past and mix them with new and exciting modern songs in the folk idiom. The engaging four-man singing group -- Finbarr Clancy, Martin Furey, Brian Dunphy, and Darren Holden -- is well on its way to becoming the hottest folk and ballad act of the new millennium, seeking to reinvigorate and reenergize the songs we all know and love and put them back in the forefront of the Irish experience, at home and abroad.

The music reflects a wide range of moods, from the rousing "Rocky Road to Dublin" to the haunting strains of "The Parting Glass" to the irresistible sing-along cheerfulness of "The Wild Rover."



Finbarr Clancy



Brian Dunphy



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What's Up at Gaelic Park

Carraig Pub

The Carraig Pub offers specials every day including sandwiches, ribs, steak, shrimp, bottles and pints. On weekends enjoy the energetic and free entertainment beginning at 9:30 p.m. every Friday and 10 p.m. every Saturday. Entertainment includes John Dillon on Saturday, January 5th; Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, January 11th; Dan McGuinness on Saturday, January 12th; The Griffins on Friday, January 18th; Week Back on Saturday, January 19th; Joe McShane on Friday, January 25th and Jerry Eadie on Saturday, January 26th.

The Carraig will have a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 3rd featuring hot food buffet, open bar from kick-off to the final whistle

and a snack table during the game. Those attending will have a chance to win electronics, pub memorabilia, t-shirts and more. Admission \$35.00.

Thursday evenings, the Carraig offers a traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Gaelic Park Radio

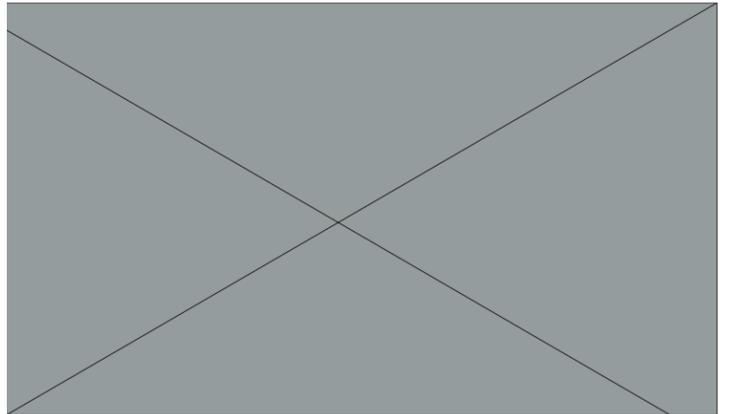
Each Sunday night from 7 to 9 p.m., broadcast direct from Gaelic Park, is Harry Costelloe, Mary Hackett and Mary Riordan on WCEV 1450 AM. Hear all the week's Irish news and sports direct from Ireland, and the latest events and goings on at Gaelic Park. The program can also

be heard live at www.wcev1450.com. Once you enter the site, click on schedule and then Surfer Network located on the left hand side of the screen and listen from there. Call (708) 687-9330 to request a song or dedication.

Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park in Oak Forest hosts a weekly Celtic Supper, every Sunday, from 4-9 pm, a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family – and are perfect for family celebrations of all kinds. For \$16 you get music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal. Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9.00 and children under 3 are free. Reservations are required.

Entertainment includes Gerard Haughey on Jan. 6th, Joe Cullen on Jan. 13th, John Dillon Jan. 20th and



Bernie Glim & Country Roads

The Griffins on Jan. 27th.

Mass & Breakfast

Monthly Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, January 13th with Mass beginning at 10 a.m. A traditional Irish breakfast, which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more, will be served after Mass for the cost of \$8.

Musical Luncheon

Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, January 9th, 2007 at noon. Music by Joe McShane, dancing and a delicious lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

The Merry Ploughboys

The Merry Ploughboys appear on Saturday, February 2, 2008 with the doors opening at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to this party are \$20. The Merry Ploughboys, from Dublin, have been performing for over seventeen years. Their act includes performances of old Irish rebel songs, ballads and more. The Merry Ploughboys are Irish enthusiasts and enjoy classical as well as contemporary approaches to music making. With the sounds of the fiddle, bluegrass banjo, bodhran, bass guitar, piano accordion and the distinct sounds of a mandolin, The Merry Ploughboys will rouse the crowd with their music and reverence

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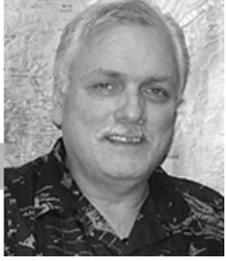
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Mick



Mike Morley



Black 50

Lord Conrad Black, long an object of spleen in this space, longer on TV, has finally been given a sentence: 6.5 years for fraud. Humble to the end, he told Judge Amy J. St. Eve he had "very profound regret and sadness about the \$1.8 billion-dollar loss of shareholder value — under my successors." In other interviews, he dissed the Chicago jury, saying none of them had a financial background. He informed Canadian reporters "it would be neither believable nor sensible if I suddenly started spouting false remorse for acts I did not commit." That "stunning lack of remorse" deserves a harsh sentence, said federal prosecutors, led by Eric Sussman. Says reporter Mark Fitzgerald: "It's a good bet, too, that the four federal prosecutors who conducted the trial, all of them Jewish, remember that he referred to them as 'Nazis' whose case 'hangs like a toilet seat around their necks.'" You've got to hand it to Conrad — he's got the arrogance of a British press baron down pat, but none of the deadly subtlety of the breed. Aside from avarice, a given with the titled, Black seems a rather comedic Edwardian throwback, a Lord Plushbottom or Colonel Bluster.

Black lives now in Palm Springs. The federal Bureau of Prisons tries to place prisoners within 500 miles of their homes, and it's expected he will do his time at the minimum security Federal Prison Camp at Elgin Air Force base in Lakeland Fla. But seeing that Black renounced his Canadian citizenship to become a British Lord, I'm for allowing him to serve his sentence over there, close to two women who, though they didn't save his chestnuts from the fire, surely loom very large in his life: QEII and Baroness Maggie.

Let him do the time in Brixton, Maghaberry, Crumlin Road, or Castlereagh. He'd make a welcome addition, moderating tea chats between Irish Republicans and the British Unionists his former press organs still support so slavishly.

While on the subject of prisons in this post-holiday season; as many ponder which treats to shun for Lent, let's cast a look back on the morrow of a Christmas past. The following clips are from Irish newspapers printed in Ballina, Lurgan and Cavan during January, 1850.

The papers devote a lot of space

to the births, marriages and deaths in the ranks of military and government- the lords and ladies, the Esquires and Viscountesses living high on the Irish hog. The rest of the news is grim. A few months before, JB, an agent scouting opportunities in Irish land for "a London gentleman" described the result of "the clearances" — what we now call "ethnic cleansing":

"...the general appearance of the country, all along, from the verdant sheep walks of Roscommon, to the swampy flocks of Erris, attests in a greater or lesser degree, the extent of the common havoc; but nowhere else are its effects so conspicuously marked as in the space between Ballina and Ballycastle. The recently populous and cultivated arable district around Killala, and between that and Ballycastle is, (with the exception of a sprinkling of gentleman's demesne lands) reduced to a perfect waste, having scarcely a vestige of evidence of former occupation left on several townlands, besides the prostrate heaps of ruins of the farm home-steads, which in many instances the eye may overlook, were it not attracted occasionally by a solitary; denuded gable-end or chimney-top pointing in the horizon... the face of the country, stripped of tillage, cattle and population—presents a vast panorama of a deserted wilderness..."

Despite the destruction and death, none of the few remaining Irish press accounts proposed the government in London do more to help. They spoke of the horrors as though corresponding from a foreign war:

"Whereas the number of starvation deaths mentioned by the Rector amounts only to eighty-seven for the week, it is set down by the second witness of ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN! But the discrepancy can be easily accounted for... The fact is that in order to screen the Commissioners, and keep the public in the dark as to the real extent of the mortality, many of the workhouse officers through the South and West make it common practice to falsify the returns.

We have been speaking to a most respectable Protestant Rector, not residing very remote from the district in question, and he positively assured us, not later than Tuesday last, that in many of the Mayo Workhouses, so

many as three, four, and in the case of children, even more are heaped together in one coffin, and returned as a single death! ... Besides, when all the able-bodied labourers find sufficient employment in digging pits rather than graves for the dead, and carpenters are busily at work, night and morning, during the entire week, Sunday not excepted, it is really difficult to ascertain the correct number. Conversing with the same clergyman about the extent of the mortality in Mayo... he instantly exclaimed... You may rely on it, every fourth inhabitant is gone! And what can be expected in... the dreary future when... "the Vice Guardians had not one pound of provisions on the morning of Friday last, nor money to purchase any, nor credit nor contractor to keep the life in the bodies of twenty-seven thousand human beings? What wonder then, that the wretched creatures should have already begun to fly from the lazar-houses (infectious disease hospitals) as they did in hundreds during the past week, and roam about the roads, fields, and ditches, in quest of something to subsist upon!

"Mr. H. Grattan, M.P., has dismissed his numerous workmen and laid down his land in grass."

In Scariff union all outdoor relief has been suspended during the last fortnight, the Guardians having neither funds or credit. The debts of the Tralee union are over £12,000. Weekly report on the local poorhouse:

Remaining Sat. the 15th	2966
Admitted during the week	249
Discharged	37
Died	6
Remaining on 22d	3172
Outdoor relief given	250

On Friday, M. O'Hara, Esq., Sub-Sheriff, sold off the property of Tuam Workhouse, consisting of clothing, furniture, &c., under an execution for £250 at the suit of some Dublin and Galway merchants.

The old barracks of Tuam are now a workhouse for 600 paupers.

Nowhere in these accounts is there a breath of the sentiments expressed by Tyrone-born Bishop "Dagger" John Hughes of New York in his speech at the Broadway Tabernacle (Presbyterian) in 1847: "The Newspapers tell us that this calamity has been produced by the failure of the potato crop... There is no country on the globe that yields a larger average of the substantial things which God has provided... And yet, there it is that man has found himself for generations in squalid misery... And yet they call it God's famine! No! no! God's famine is known by the general scarcity of food... there has been no general scarcity of food

in Ireland."

There never was a better take of fish of all kinds on the coast than for the last six weeks, and in consequence the fishermen of Claddagh had a merry Christmas of it.

In Sligo butter market this season there is an increase of thirteen thousand firkins over last season. With the exception of the Marquis of Ormond, one of the first noblemen in the county Kilkenny, in respect to property, is completely destroyed by gambling or other vices. He is connected with the chief Peers in England.

Mr. Henry Stratton, clerk to the secretary of the Alesbury Savings' Bank, has absconded to New York with a large sum of money- He was also agent to the Royal Exchange Assurance Company.

Pat Hegarty was fined £1 and costs, or three months' imprisonment, for illegally fishing in the river at Keenagh.

Bishop Hughes accuses a British economy that allows the food merchant to lock his doors, waiting for a better price, while the peasantry "fall down through weakness at the threshold of his warehouse, without having even attempted to burst a door, or break a window... there is no law of Heaven, nor of nature, that forbids a starving man to seize on bread wherever he can find it, even though it should be the loaves of proposition on the altar of God's temple."

The Limerick Canal waters were entirely frozen on Monday and the surfaces presented a perfect glacier.

Bridget Kearney, of Carrecrim, was committed to prison for having in her possession a blanket and sheet which had been stolen from Anthony Keane of Lowvally.

Owen O'Neil — larceny of pota-

toes — 24 hours imprisonment, and security for peace for 7 years. Mary Reilly, Margaret McMahon — larceny from Cavan workhouse — each 24 hours imprisonment. Winney Sheenan — larceny of potatoes — no bill. Ann M Golrick — larceny — three months' hard labour.

"Some even assert that the Catholic religion is in reality the cause of the poverty and degradation of Ireland. I am willing to... admit that in one sense it has been a cause too; for I have no hesitation in saying that if the Irish, by any chance, had been Presbyterians, they would have, from an early day, obtained protection for their natural rights..."

Andrew Cassidy, John Burns, John McConnell, Patrick Burns, Peter McConnell, Mark Leddy — indicted for a riot at Portacloghan on the 25th September last, (in) a rescue of cattle seized for rent by Edward Plunket, Esq. — each a month's hard labour. Patrick Lynch, and Bernard Reilly — same time and place, for a like offence — each two months' hard labour.

"THE BUFFALO GALs" — gives a letter from a young woman in Buffalo to her mother. The damsel says: "I would advise all the handsomest girls in Courthane to come here, as it makes no matter here whether they have money or not. The boys here do not look for a fortune, but every boy for a handsome wife. The boys here are very fond of Irish girls, as the Yankee girls are like the old horses at home, high in the bone, but low in flesh, and the colour of a duck's foot."

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The Irish Rover

James McClure



Train Back in Time

Workers in the Florida trainyard were getting ready to disassemble an old train passenger car for scrap. Little trappings were left of its 1940's grandeur as a Pullman sleeping car. One artifact caught their eye: a leather case with a seal of the United States beneath its dusty exterior.

Experts were called in and the case and its contents were found to belong the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Radio equipment that helped the car's main occupant stay in touch with the world. That passenger... none other than Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Saved from the scrap heap and now undergoing restoration as a museum display, the Ferdinand Magellan was a car like no other. Custom re-built in 1942 as the official transportation for the President of the United States, the Magellan had both a name and a number: U.S. Railcar Number 1.

This historic railborne predecessor to Air Force One has deep roots in Chicago, and I spent some time tracing them for an upcoming PBS documentary that will cover the history and renovation of the famous but forgotten train car.

Like generations of world-renowned sleeping cars, the Pullman was manufactured at the Pullman Company factory on the far South Side. The last of the Pullman trains, Amtrak double deckers, rolled out of that factory in the early 1980's. Sadly in the 90's much of the company's main headquarters burned down, but not its records.

Many of those reside not far from North Michigan Avenue in The Newberry Library. I made arrangements to do research in that library and found that the Ferdinand Magellan was something of an industrial celebrity while, as you might

expect, a source of some secrecy. Now a National Historic Landmark, it featured armored sides and bulletproof glass.

Built in wartime to move the president in comfort, the car had special shock absorbers to give an even more comfortable ride for a chief executive in a wheelchair, partially disabled by polio. It was fascinating to read the original memos and engineering specifications, many of which were handled by the top executives of Pullman in concert with senior administration officials.

Among the musty carbon copies and blueprints were well-preserved samples of upholstery, wallpaper and draperies. The car and its lush interior became visible within my mind, aided to a small degree by some classified black and white photos. One could almost hear the clink of ice in the presidential martini as the Ferdinand Magellan clackety-clacked along the rails between Washington and New York or on down to the presidential retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia. Sadly, the railcar is best remembered from the time for bearing FDR's body back to the capitol after he died in Georgia in 1945. It then became the conveyance of a no-nonsense man by the name of Harry S. Truman.

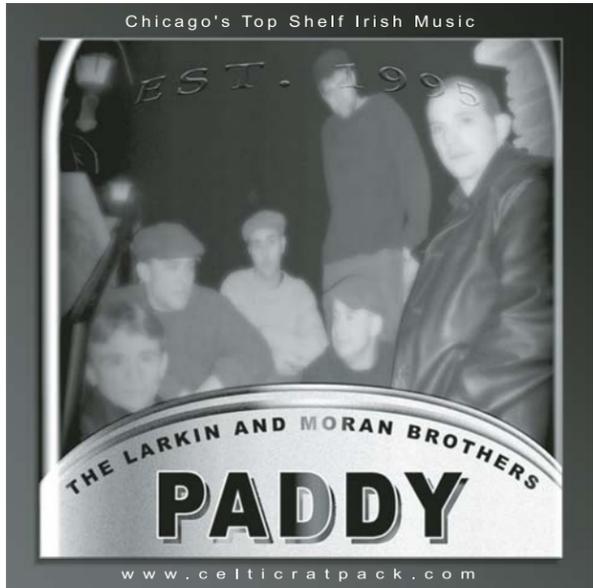
Traces of both men can be found in the documents detailing U.S. Railcar Number 1's building, delivery and modifications. Upon its opulent inaugural ride FDR sends a telegram back to Pullman in Chicago that he is "absolutely delighted" with its creature comforts.

As the legendary plain speaker from Independence, Missouri, Truman's personal touch can be found in the stacks as well. Seeking to save the taxpayers a few dollars, "Give 'em Hell Harry" can be noted selling the presidential rail car's supply of chocolate-colored blankets back to Pullman for the princely sum of 11 dollars.

No, Dewey didn't defeat Truman as the newspaper headline declared when he held it up for photographers on the platform of the train. And fortunately history didn't defeat the memory of the historic train car that can be seen today in Miami by members of a public that hasn't yet lost its recollection. **2008 Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann**

The 2008 Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann North American Convention is a weekend of celebration of Irish music, dance, song and the Irish language. This year's convention will be held in Parsippany, New Jersey from March 27-30, 2008, and hosted by the CCE Mid-Atlantic Region. All members of the Irish dance community are welcome to visit, sing, dance, play along, tell stories in Irish and English, and otherwise participate in the largest gathering Irish Traditional musicians and dancers in North America.

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Saturday, 1/19	Donofinn
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Piping It In



Jack Baker



One event on December that really impressed me was the showing of "The Wind That Shakes the Barley" at the IAHC. I stuck around for the discussion afterward led by Father Andrew Greeley. It was the first time I've had the pleasure of listening to Father Greeley speak and he really brought the discussion to life. This is what a cultural center should do and I'm proud to be a member of an organization that provides such enlightening and entertaining programs.

I said in my last column that I'd speak this month about Robert Burns. It's hard to know where to start on Burns. The man who wrote what might be the world's most popular, best known song, "Auld Lang Syne", though I'll wager that a goodly number of people who sing it each year have not a clue as to it's meaning.

Robert Burns was born on January 25, 1759 in Alloway, South Ayrshire, Scotland and died a short 37 years later in 1796. People the world over gather in January to celebrate his memory and recite their favorite poems. Burns was born to poverty and hardship and toiled at the most severe labor, leaving him with a premature stoop. His poems were written in the common vernacular, the speech of the common man and were directed to the common man. He celebrated the common man's experience. His poem, "To A Mouse", containing the oft quoted line "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley, an' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain for promised joy", was written after he turned over a field mouse's nest while plowing and watched the poor thing skittering about trying to save it's young.

My favorite poem by Burns has to be "Is There For Honest Poverty", often referred to as "A Man's a Man For All That". In it he speaks of the equality of all men and ends with the hopeful line, "It's coming yet for all that. That man to man the world o'er shall brothers be for all that". This poem has been set to music and performed by many folk but my favorite, by far, is the version performed by the McCalmans on their Greentrax CD titled "Honest Poverty". See the connection? Incorporating tight three-part harmonies and original arrangements, The McCalmans treat the songs of Robert Burns the best I've seen in the folk genre.

A more traditional rendering of Burn's songs is performed by the legendary tenor Kenneth McKellar on his Lismor CD entitled "To Robert Burns, A Tribute". McKellar is a classically trained tenor equally at home in the opera hall or pub. He performs 15 of Burn's

works in formal arrangements that many of us have heard at Burn's night gatherings. Some would call it "old fashioned" but I feel it's merely another equally valid way to present these songs. Frankly, if you like it, good on you.

A vastly more contemporary styling is performed by Eddi Reader on her Compass CD "Eddi Reader Sings the Songs of Robert Burns". Everyone who caught Eddi's performance to Milwaukee's Fest knows what a tremendous performer she is. For the first time in my experience, when she was done singing, people actually ran over to our booth to ask if we had her recordings. We sold out. I like the way this lady sings. Her Burns CD has some of the most innovative arrangements of his songs. I have heard some music fans criticize it for being too up-tempo but I think it shows the appeal of Burn's words. His message fits in all genres.

These three, very different, CDs all cover well the work of Robert Burns, but there are dozens of CDs and new ones are released all the time. A very good collection of Burns' songs performed by a number of artists is Greentrax Recordings "Celtic Collections Volume 2, The Songs of Robert Burns". This CD allows you to hear a several artists present a number of Burns' works in a variety of styles. I love sampler CDs just like I love buffets, you get to try a lot of stuff at one time and there is always something you'll like.

Give Burns a try. Pick up a volume of his poetry, a CD of his songs or attend one of the many Burns Night gatherings. Burns is timeless.

Now for some new bagpipe releases. A very hot item is the recent release of the "Lord Todd Piping Recital Challenge" on Pulse Recordings and released both on CD and DVD. Featuring Angus MacColl, Roddy MacLeod MBE, Jack Lee and Pipe Major Gordon Walker, this recording has the definitive best solo piping today, end of story. If you're serious in your piping, this you will want.

Now something really different. The Finlay MacDonald Band's recent release of "ReEcho" on Greentrax Recordings truly stands out. It's a fusion of traditional Scottish and Jazz, or maybe just "Scots jazz", whichever, but it's good. Solid percussion, superb use of pipes and outstanding arrangements make for an unforgettable listening experience. I've been playing the grooves off my copy since I got it and probably will continue. I really hate recordings that just lay a pipe track on top of jazz or rock or whatever and call it "Celtic Rock". Finlay MacDonald uses the pipes as an integral part of the ensemble, it rocks and I call it "good listening".

Finally, a little news about local piping. The Champion Supreme winners have been announced for the Midwest Pipe Band Association. These bands amassed the most points in the band competitions held at Highland Games throughout the Midwest in 2007.

First place in Grade 2 went to the Midlothian Scottish Pipe

Band from Illinois. First place in Grade 3 went to Westminster Pipe Band from Oklahoma. First place in Grade 4 went to Ann Arbor Pipe Band from Michigan. First place in Grade 5 went to the Fountain Trust Pipe Band from Indiana.

You'll be able to hear the Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band this month at the Nicht Wi' Burns Dinner in Oak Lawn, Illinois on January 26th and, also on the 26th at the Elgin Scottish Society Burns Supper in Aurora.

For more info go to www.MWPBA.org.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Survey

As some of you are aware C.I.I.S. launched a survey in November of Irish born people living in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. This is a first for any of the Irish immigrant centers in the US and is long overdue. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain what are the actual needs of Irish people living in this area. It is also hoped that the results of the survey will be a major help to our organization both in planning for and the provision of better services in the future. In order for the survey to be successful it is essential that we get as many people as possible to answer the questions provided.

The survey is completely confidential and the person responding is not asked to provide any personal details. We would be most grateful to you for your assistance in this important study.

Annual Report

Below is a summary of our annual report contact details presented at our public A.G.M. before Christmas. Should you have any questions, contact us.

November 2006 - November 2007
 Total number of contacts
 In Calls 1507
 Out Calls 1345
 In Emails 3020
 Out Emails 1035
 In Mail 667
 Out Mail 705
 In Fax 445
 Out Fax 943
 Appointments (Office) 92
 Out of Office Calls 3258
 Out of Hours Calls / Pastoral
 182 Total (10,518)

Golf

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support will host its Annual Golf Outing @ St. Andrews Golf & Country Club, West Chicago on Sat. 14th June 2008, we ask all our golf supporters to please mark the date in your diaries.

Message of His Holiness Benedict XVI

for the 94th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

(13 January 2008)

Young Migrants

The theme of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees invites us this year to reflect in particular on young migrants. As a matter of fact, the daily news often speaks about them. The vast globalization process underway around the world brings a need for mobility, which also induces many young people to emigrate and live far from their families and their countries. The result is that many

times the young people endowed with the best intellectual resources leave their countries of origin, while in the countries

that receive the migrants, laws are in force that make their actual insertion difficult. In fact, the phenomenon of emigration is becoming ever more widespread and includes a growing number of people from every social condition. Rightly, therefore, the public institutions, humanitarian organizations and also the Catholic Church are dedicating many of their resources to helping these people in difficulty.

For the young migrants, the problems of the so-called "difficulty of dual belonging" seem to be felt in a particular way: on the one hand, they feel a strong need to not lose their culture of origin, while on the other, the understandable desire emerges in them to be inserted organically into the society that receives them, but without this implying a complete assimilation and the resulting loss of their ancestral traditions. Among the young people, there are also girls who fall victim more easily to exploitation, moral forms of blackmail, and even abuses of all kinds. What can we say, then, about the adolescents, the unaccompanied minors that make up a category at risk among those who ask for asylum? These boys and girls often end up on the street abandoned to themselves and prey to unscrupulous exploiters who often transform them into the object of physical, moral and sexual violence.

Next, looking more closely at the sector of forced migrants, refugees and the victims of human trafficking, we unhappily find many children and adolescents too. On this subject it is impossible to remain silent before the distressing images of the great refugee camps present in different parts of the world. How can we not think that these little beings have come into the world with the same legitimate expectations of happiness as the others? And, at the same time, how can we not remember that childhood and adolescence are fundamentally important stages for the development of a man and a woman that require stability, serenity and security? These children and adolescents have only had as their life experience the permanent, compulsory "camps" where they are segregated, far from inhabited towns, with no possibility normally to attend school. How can they look to the future with confidence? While it is true that much is being done for them, even greater commitment is still needed to help them by creating suitable hospitality and formative structures. Precisely from this perspective the question is raised of how to respond to the expectations of the young migrants? What can be done to help them? Of course, it is necessary to aim first of all at support for the family and schools. But how complex the situations are and how numerous the difficulties these young people encounter in their family and

school contexts!

In families, the traditional roles that existed in the countries of origin have broken down, and a clash is often seen between parents still tied to their culture and children quickly acculturated in the new social contexts. Likewise, the difficulty should not be underestimated which the young people find in getting inserted into the educational course of study in force in the country where they are hosted. Therefore, the scholastic system itself should take their conditions into consideration and provide specific formative paths of integration for the immigrant boys and girls that are suited to their needs. The commitment will also be important to create a climate of mutual respect and dialogue among all the students in the classrooms based on the universal principles and values that are common to all cultures. Everyone's commitment—teachers, families and students—will surely contribute to helping the young migrants to face in the best way possible the challenge of integration and offer them the possibility to acquire what can aid their human, cultural and professional formation. This holds even more for the young refugees for whom adequate programs will have to be prepared, both in the scholastic and the work contexts, in order to guarantee their preparation and provide the necessary bases for a correct insertion into the new social, cultural and professional world.

The Church looks with very particular attention at the world of migrants and asks those who have received a Christian formation in their countries of origin to make this heritage of faith and evangelical values bear fruit in order to offer a consistent witness in the different life contexts. Precisely in this regard, I invite the ecclesial host communities to welcome the young and very young people with their parents with sympathy, and to try to understand the vicissitudes of their lives and favor their insertion.

Then, among the migrants, as I wrote in last year's Message, there is one category to consider in a special way: the students from other countries who because of their studies, are far from home. Their number is growing constantly: they are young people who need a specific pastoral care because they are not just students, like all the rest, but also temporary migrants. They often feel alone under the pressure of their studies and sometimes they are also constricted by economic difficulties. The Church, in her maternal concern, looks at them with affection and tries to put specific pastoral and social interventions into action that will take the great resources of their youth into consideration. It is necessary to help them find a way to open up to the dynamism of interculturality and be enriched in their contact with other students of different cultures and religions. For young Christians, this study and formation experience can be a useful area for the maturation of their faith, a stimulus to be open to the universalism that is a constitutive element of the Catholic Church.

Dear young migrants, prepare yourselves to build together your young peers a more just and fraternal society by fulfilling your

duties scrupulously and seriously towards your families and the State. Be respectful of the laws and never let yourselves be carried away by hatred and violence. Try instead to be protagonists as of now of a world where understanding and solidarity, justice and peace will reign. To you, in particular, young believers, I ask you to profit from your period of studies to grow in knowledge and love of Christ. Jesus wants you to be his true friends, and for this it is necessary for you to cultivate a close relationship with Him constantly in prayer and docile listening to his Word. He wants you to be his witnesses, and for this it is necessary for you to be committed to living the Gospel courageously and expressing it in concrete acts of love of God and generous service to your brothers and sisters. The Church needs you too and is counting on your contribution. You can play a very providential role in the current context of evangelization. Coming from different cultures, but all united by belonging to the one Church of Christ, you can show that the Gospel is alive and suited to every situation; it is an old and ever new message. It is a word of hope and salvation for the people of all races and cultures, of all ages and eras.

To Mary, the Mother of all humanity, and to Joseph, her most chaste spouse, who were both refugees together with Jesus in Egypt, I entrust each one of you, your families, those who take care of the vast world of young migrants in various ways, the volunteers and pastoral workers that are by your side with their willingness and friendly support.

May the Lord always be close to you and your families so that together you can overcome the obstacles and the material and spiritual difficulties you encounter on your way. Accompany these wishes with a special

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

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Reverend Michael M. Boland

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



"Here I can work, here I can study, here I have full opportunity. In the refugee camp, we cannot do that. We are now starting our new lives."

With these words, Poe Clee, a 24 year old recent refugee from Burma (Myanmar) who has lived almost all of his life in three refugee camps in Thailand, summed up what living in the United States and Chicago for the last several months means to him, his parents and his two brothers. Two of his brothers remain in Thailand.

Poe Clee told his story to Catholic Charities' Family & Parish Support Services Divisional Advisory Board members and staff at their November meeting.

When he was one day old, his village in Burma was attacked by the army and burned down. All the villagers fled to other places for refuge. Poe Clee and his family fled to Thailand where they moved from camp to camp because of increasing violence. Education was scarce, but he attended the camp grade school if there was one; graduated from high school in the third and largest camp of 50,000 refugees; and was one of only 50 students accepted into the "Leadership and Management Course," created by adult refugees. For two years, he learned more English, world history, and Burmese and Asian culture, and graduated in 2005. Safely settled since July 2007 in the United States, he has just completed his first semester of college, studying social science and the English language.

A member of Karen, the largest

of the 13 Burmese ethnicities, Poe Clee is proud today to be working at Catholic Charities as an interpreter for the Burmese refugees we serve. He also works part-time with four other refugee agencies. "I really like my job," he says. "I meet my people from the camp and I help them. Catholic Charities works for the refugees."

America is a nation built by refugees and immigrants; they have contributed and still bring strong values and rich cultural diversity. Just as the Church assisted the early settlers of the United States in the early 1800s, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has assisted immigrants and refugees since it was founded in 1917.

In 2007, Catholic Charities welcomed 120 refugees from camps in Burma, Burundi, Iraq, Congo, Somalia and Sudan. From grandparents to infants, these families and individuals are among the 13.9 million refugees and asylum seekers in our world today who are unable to return to their country of origin due to war, persecution or repression. They are of many different ethnicities and religions. For example, those who fled Burma are Buddhists, Catholics and Muslims.

The refugees we help are assigned to us by the United States Catholic Conference Office of Migration and Refugee Services, which is authorized by the U.S. Department of State to assist them. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees oversees the process.

Refugees leave their homeland with only the possessions they

can carry to the camps. A three-generational family of 12 members arrived with one large cloth bag the size of a suitcase containing all their possessions. Life is very different in the United States and in Chicago, than it was in the refugee camps for adults and children who for years, even decades, have lived in tents or one-story buildings, in warm climates, have had little variety in food, have never traveled on a bus or walked a city street, and have not handled money. Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement staff assist them to begin their new life in a new country.

When they arrive, they receive a one-time grant of \$425 in direct assistance from the U.S. Department of State. This goes toward their housing, transportation, food, furniture and clothing, which Catholic Charities obtains for them.

The newcomers must learn a lot and become employed in a very short time. Although they become "permanent residents" upon arrival in the U.S. and receive Public Aid support, they must become self-sufficient in 90 or 180 days. So Catholic Charities immediately provides ESL (English as a second language) and nutrition classes, job preparation and placement, and cultural ori-

entation. Our case managers help them obtain their social security card and state identification, and enroll them in supplemental food programs for children and seniors. Refugees want to work and are reliable employees. We find job opportunities and work with employers so that the new arrivals can achieve independence as they work toward the goal of U.S. citizenship after 5 years.

None of this could be accomplished without generous volunteer and community support supplementing the efforts of the small and dedicated staff of Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Services.

Many needs still remain to be met as we look forward to "welcoming the stranger" throughout the New

Year. If you are interested in volunteering, offering employment or supporting particular needs of the refugee families helped by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, please contact Elma Kulovic, director of Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement program at (312) 655-7856.

"From Many, One Family of God."

Please join with the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services and Catholic Charities in 100 dioceses around the country as we celebrate National Migration Week, January 6-12, 2008: "From Many, One Family of God."

Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus were forced to flee for their lives

Emmett's Ale House Returns to Palatine

Emmett's Ale House and Brewing Co., a popular eatery, drinking establishment and purveyor of excellent hand-crafted, award-winning beers, announced its return to Palatine, IL. The Brewery-Restaurant, which operated in Palatine in 2005 and 2006, has reopened in the same space it occupied previously at 110 N. Brockway St.

Emmett's will occupy the first floor and lower level of the handsome three story brick building on N. Brockway St., just north of the Metra tracks, with a comfortable patio and outside fire pit. The

food menu is upscale casual, with reasonably priced items ranging from appetizers and sandwiches to complete meals. The restaurant is known for its signature offerings including rack of pork served with a pale ale apricot glaze, cedar planked white fish, and reasonably priced steaks. Children are always welcome and can order free on Sundays with their parents. Emmett's also has two banquet rooms in Palatine and can cater parties and special events for any occasion.



Chicago Police Officers Michaelene Roman and Gina Contino were recently awarded Distinguished Service Awards by Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, for their heroic actions during an confrontation with an offender wielding a pipe and a meat cleaver. Pictured from the left is 1st Vice President, F.O.P., Bill Dougherty; Officers Gina Contino and Michaelene Roman; and F.O.P. President, Mark

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Introduction of Retirement Villages to Ireland

There is a growing emphasis in Ireland on promoting independence for older people, by offering choices and improving the quality of life. Retirement villages, essentially a community for seniors, do just that.

However, the name is somewhat inappropriate, as one doesn't necessarily have to be retired at all to live in retirement villages.

Entry is generally restricted to people who have reached fifty-five years of age or have retired from permanent employment.

Retirement villages offer purposely designed barrier free homes with a range of facilities and activities that generate opportunities for social activity, alongside a range of care and support services that can respond quickly and flexibly to a range of care needs.

Published data on retirement villages throughout the world reflect the following. Older people view retirement villages as a positive choice. They are particularly attracted by the combination of independence and security, as well as opportunities for social engagement and an active life. Independence is associated with having your own private living accommodation and choices about how you spend your time. Concepts of security are complex, covering a range of concerns including care, security, freedom from crime etc. Retirement villages are seen by residents as places to live as opposed to "care settings".

The size of retirement villages (i.e. more than 100 homes) allows the development of facilities and care services that may not be viable in smaller developments. Amenities such as restaurant/bar, health spa, fitness suite etc. provide opportunities for leisure, education and social encounters.

Retirement villages play an important role in promoting health and well-being among older people. Flexible on-site care services, sometimes provided by on site nursing homes, can assist residents as their care needs change, and may promote early hospital discharge and reduce the need for hospital admission.

Retirement villages can help address the current shortage of homes suitable for later life, by providing housing that is specifically designed to meet residents' needs. And they provide employment opportunities for the wider community, alas increasing the viability of local services and facilities.

The true meaning of the term retirement

village, specifically one which offers more than 100 homes, is a relatively new concept in Ireland. There are relatively few examples, apart from Glendale Estate in Tullow, County Carlow. Internationally, retirement villages offer high levels of service, care and support within environments that maintain and promote independence. Also, they have the additional benefits of offering a rather wide range of social and leisure activities. They truly have more in common with

Ashford Castle Embraces New Challenge: Teaching Americans How To Drive On the Left

Even the most experienced American drivers can get befuddled on the roads of the British Isles when they suddenly find themselves sitting on the right side of the car (or is it the wrong side?) ...and then steering on the left side of the road. Ashford Castle, located in Ireland's magnificent west country near Galway City, has come up with a plan for making the adjustment easier. The new How to Drive on the Left program teams up experienced instructors with visiting drivers for both theory and practice before they hit the meandering local roads.

The two-hour class includes one hour of theory in the comfort of Ashford Castle and one hour of actual driving in either a manual transmission or automatic car. Everything is covered from how to maintain concentration (it is important to stay on the left side of the road) to how to drive clockwise around a traffic circle (the Irish call them roundabouts) to judging distances. The program costs approximately \$270 per couple.

Ashford Castle is one of the finest and most luxurious castle hotels in Ireland, set on 350 acres along the shores of Lough Corrib and the River Cong in County Mayo. It offers a spectacular backdrop of woodlands, lake, river, and mountains, several dining options and a range of country sports including an equestrian center, fly fishing, an exclusive nine-hole golf course, Ireland's first school of falconry and sporting clay shooting.

Rates at Ashford Castle start at approximately \$233 per person based on double occupancy and includes deluxe accommo-

resort hotels than care facilities.

Finally, the concept also appears to be attractive to people from a range of different socio-economic backgrounds. All indicators show that there is great potential in Ireland for retirement villages to expand the choices of living arrangements for older people. Retirement villages offer the opportunity for not just well designed age-appropriate housing, but also for enhancing older people's quality of life, health status and sense of social well-being and security.

dations, full Irish breakfast and an elaborate five-course dinner in the George V dining room where eleven beautiful Waterford crystal chandeliers complement the stately decor. All taxes and baggage charges are also included.

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Irish Diaspora

By Charles Brady



An Irishman's Vision in the Vineyard Country

Dreams have a habit of seldom living up to one's expectations. Through my work I've had the chance to meet a lot of celebrities, although that word is thoroughly overused at this stage. Now a person can become a 'celebrity' just by being odd or appearing on one of the many ghastly reality shows that have been sent to dumb television

down to a dimension even beyond Jerry Springer. (Thanks for taking the talent-free zone that is Victoria Beckham over to your side of the Atlantic, by the way; and no, we don't want Paris Hilton in return.) I've generally enjoyed the people I get to meet, although I tend to stay away from the ones I truly admire. You simply don't want to be disappointed. One person that I'm glad I made the exception with was Ken

Russell, one of my favourite film directors. I've admired him since the '70s when he made his classics, "Women in Love", "The Music Lovers" and "The Devils". I was prepared for a loud exhibitionist but instead found myself with a charming, enthusiastic, erudite and very funny man. His antithesis was a man who I consider to be one of the greatest living playwrights, Steven Berkoff ("Decadence", "West", "Greek"). I still love his work, but by God he could take lessons in civility from Ken Russell.

So it is when visiting a new country: sometimes the image in your head is slightly out of sync with the reality. So when I found myself last week in the Languedoc region of Southern France, it was with a slow, dawning delight that I realised I was experiencing the beauty of a region whose subtle light and charm has not been exaggerated. I'd been in Paris and the area around Cannes before, but here in this region you will find the dream of France made flesh. Small villages with narrow winding streets; a village square where two older gentlemen doze in the shade, a small dog by their side; what at first appears to be complete silence until the ear becomes attuned to the quiet sounds of the country and the lazy, fragile sounds of insects as they go about their sleepy chores; the endless carpet of vineyards. These are sights and sounds that will be with me now for always.

And of course a visit to a different country wouldn't be a visit without running into at least one Irish expat, in this case Dublin man Karl O'Hanlon. Karl has been out here with his family for over a year now, intent on pursuing his own par-

ticular dream. He is busily building a holiday resort with a difference. Just half an hour from Carcassone Airport is the lovely French village of St. Laurent. This really is like stepping through the Silver Screen and finding oneself in the land of "Jean de Fleurette". With a population of only 900, it is an authentic find. Karl is building a resort where people can either buy or rent for very reasonable prices—and I suspect that it will become very popular with those who wish to retire from the rat-race. It is not a gated resort but rather is integrated and blended in with St. Laurent. Indeed, he doesn't make a major decision without having a meeting with the villagers... and it's a delight for once to report that those villagers are completely behind him. Mind you, why would they not be? This is one of those developments that everyone is going to benefit from.

As far as possible he will use local people, and I have to tell you these are genuine characters. One vineyard-owner I met has had his family here since the 16th Century. When he talks of his love of wine producing, of orchid-growing and his wide knowledge of the herbs on his lands it is impossible not to want to move to France there and then. He talks of his love for this history-drenched land, of the Cathars who lived here and I find myself thinking of how the Vatican committed the first recorded act of genocide here when they wiped these gentle people out. As of only two weeks ago this man has come aboard to assist Karl in his vision. He will take those who wish to truffle-hunting across his land and later the visitors will have the chance to learn how to cook the local produce. They can also see how the wine is made and learn something of that art.

The whole concept of the development (Les Jardins de St. Benoît) uses as its inspiration and focal point the medieval Gardens of St. Benoît and not one brick is allowed to seem out of place or intrusive in a landscape that is perfect as it is.

Over a glass of wine Karl tells me that he was born in Foxrock, Dublin in 1972 and went to University College Dublin where he studied politics and philosophy.

"It was at UCD that I met Anita, who became my wife. We decided to go to Australia for a year and also travelled quite widely in South East Asia. You know, at that age, with no real responsibilities, it's the time to do it.

"When we had reluctantly done with the travelling we moved to Oxford where I did a Master of

Philosophy in European Politics and Society, before moving on to London while Anita sat her own Masters."

Next up—and I'm embarrassed by now that this relatively young man has done so much while I've been in a coma—he joined the Boston Consulting Group. He describes it as "very influential. They offered the most brilliant business training imaginable, really cutting edge". He speaks briefly of his five years with the Bank of Ireland, during which, with their co-operation he was exploring the possibilities of the Languedoc. He and Anita were by now parents as their daughter Cara had come along in 2000, followed by Daisy in 2003 and Antonio last year. (Anita is of Italian extraction.)

His eyes light up when he speaks of his children; they also light when he speaks of his other baby, Les Jardins de St. Benoît: "I'm really determined to keep this as community-orientated as possible. It's important to me. There will be 141 one and two bedroom townhouses as well as four and five bedroom villas. They'll all have secluded gardens, terraces to let you watch the world go by and the villas will have pools. The resort will be closely modelled on the village next door and we'll have indoor and outdoor swimming pools as well as shops, a children's play area, sporting facilities and a spa. There will be restaurants and a terraced bar although you'll probably still want to take a stroll over the bridge (a river runs through the village) and down to the local bar for a beer or a glass of wine. Or you can take a picnic the half-hour to the coast for some water sports."

This is a contented man.

Later I realise that we are in the heart of the country that birthed the Grail legends made so famous by Dan Brown's bestseller and I wonder that more people haven't discovered it. (By the way, if you want to read a far superior take on the Da Vinci Code, check out "Labyrinth" by Kate Mosse.) "As a matter of fact", says Karl, "eleven million people visited here last year but the area is so vast that they were easily absorbed." As I said at the beginning, it's one place that hasn't disappointed me. I asked Karl if I could write about meeting him and he readily agreed, as well as giving me a few details that I'm passing on to you now. By the way, I've already booked to go back next month.

For further information contact: Douglas Newman Good, Tony Forte. Tel:- + 353 1 491 2621 or: +353 1 491 2600. The email is: tonyforte@



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Sharing a Pint



By Scott Powers



Sydney, Australia during the early the '90s. Being Irish, though, did bring them together. They ended up hanging out at the same bars and eventually became friends.

Mulvey left Australia in 1992, came over to Chicago and began doing construction. For Lynch, he went to Moscow for two years and worked at an Irish bar out there before eventually also making his way to Chicago in 1995.

There's nothing like a great neighborhood bar.

You know what you're getting into right when you walk through the door. The bartender is a familiar face. The stools and chairs have been sat in before. You know where the bathroom is. The Guinness is poured to perfection and the taste is just right.

When I lived on the Northwest Side, Fast Eddie's was this place for me. Since that was closed a few years ago now, I really haven't had a local establishment I would call home. I've bounced around from bar to bar anytime I've gone out. One Saturday, it's here; another Saturday, it's there. There are a lot of bars in Chicago. Some good, some bad, some OK. I've seen a lot of them.

After a while, going from place to place does get old. It's nice to have that fallback neighborhood bar. The place you know, the place you feel comfortable, the place that is

and began doing construction. For Lynch, he went to Moscow for two years and worked at an Irish bar out there before eventually also making his way to Chicago in 1995.

The two reunited in Chicago and in time started talking about possibly owning a bar together. Mulvey had the construction background, Lynch had the bar/restaurant background.

For about five years, they looked around every once a while for a place. There wasn't any urgency to get it going. It had to be the right circumstances.

It was one day when Mulvey working a job on Lincoln Avenue, walked across the street to buy a drink at White Hen and came across a for sale sign at the building next door. He called the number, the price was right and they bought it.

"It just came into place," Lynch said.

What wasn't in place was a bar. Formerly



From left to right—Scott Powers, Paul Mulvey and Cathal Lynch.

only a short walk from your real home.

Just recently I moved to Lincoln Square and began searching for a new place like that. After a few months, I think I've found one. It's The Atlantic on Lincoln Avenue.

The first time I was there was to meet a cop buddy of mine who had been there before and recommended it. I ended up showing a little early and the bartender struck up a conversation. He was friendly and had an Irish accent. Soon I found out he — Cathal Lynch — was also the bar owner and grew up in County Clare. As the night went on, the atmosphere was comfortable, the music wasn't too loud, the Guinness was good and Lynch even bought us a few rounds, which is usually a good sign of a true neighborhood bar.

I've been back a handful of times since then, and for this month decided to sit down with Lynch and co-owner Paul Mulvey and share a few pints from their taps at The Atlantic.

Lynch and Mulvey, who is from County Mayo, met not in Ireland, but actually in

a Korean restaurant, it needed work, a lot of it. They tore down everything and replaced it with a fireplace, a long wooden bar, a party room in back, new front windows and so on.

The name was easy choice for them.

"We're both from The Atlantic," Lynch said. "We both crossed The Atlantic."

It's no surprise they serve quality fish that can be found in The Atlantic. While it is an Irish bar created by two Irish men and it has plenty of Irish feeling in it, their goal has also been to create a bar that welcomes everyone, not just the Irish.

"We don't care who comes in," said Mulvey, who also co-owns Celtic Corner in Elmwood Park with Lynch. "The war is over. We try to be a neighborhood bar."

Lynch summed it by saying, "We want people to feel at home."

And for me, it does.

* The Atlantic is located at 5062 N. Lincoln Ave. They have a full menu, daily drink specials and can hold private parties in their special room. They are also the home to Chicago Celtic Supporters Club and show all of the Celtic soccer games.

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Tradition In Review



Bill Margeson



Well, we really like Beoga, and here comes the group with their second album. No, actually—their first. Well, it IS the second, but, in a Zen way. It all depends. We'll explain.

The group is from Northern Ireland. Antrim. Quintet. Quartet. We'll explain. We reviewed and loved the group's first album we knew about last April. It is called Mischief, and we adored it. We also really enjoyed the group at Irish Fest in Milwaukee last August. Fun show. We played a lot of selections from the album on our weekly Public Radio program. Terrific and original arrangements, a great singer and fiddle player in Niamh Dunne. Unique sound in that there are two button box players, Sean Og' Graham and Damian McKee, joining Eamon Murray on bodhran and pianist, Liam Bradley. They were nominated by Irish Music Magazine for Newcomers of the

Year. We agree. Driving, staccato rhythms are joined to unique arrangements and a fab take on the music itself. A lot of the arrangements show a real sense of humor, and there are subtle and nuanced timings and phrasing, aplenty. These guys and gal clearly go way beyond the typical, crank-'em-up and flog it pub groups who all sound alike. In many ways, this is highly sophisticated, musically.

So, here is the "new" album, which is not new. We'll explain. The group's first album was called, Beoga. Well, not really. We'll explain. First albums are usually self-titled in groups' determined bids to get noticed, at all. So, this first album has nothing—NOTHING on it to tell you that the first album is actually entitled, A Lovely Madness. All there is Beoga. That's it. Apparently, the Zen is to kick in and you will intuit that the title is A Lovely Madness. Fither

way, it is really tasty. Intuit away. Key point here. Niamh Dunne was not with the group when they recorded this first album. So, here we are, doing the radio show, when partner Shay pulls out the album and plays a track. SCOOP! ANNOUNCEMENT!! Niamh Dunne has left the group! She is not on ANY of the cuts! She is not in the group picture! Why? Why would she leave? What happened? So, we proceed, after playing a wonderful track off the album, Funk in Class to inform the listener that she has gone! In Irish music, this is what passes for a major story, indeed! So, we proceed to ramble on and on about this. You know the bit. The inevitable and frequent turnover in Irish groups. The temporary nature of existence. Our relative position in the biosphere. That sort of thing. While playing the next tune, we were called by the redoubtable and bearded, Jack Baker of The Rampant Lion. For those of you who don't know, The Rampant Lion is in Villa Park, and has every Irish/Celtic album ever recorded in the history of humankind. "Oh, no," says Jack, "this is their first album, before Niamh joined them! Isn't it great?" We quickly hung up on him and began to ponder other questions of the Universe.

Here is the main ponder that

now informs and mystifies our times in 21 st Century America. Compass Records is distributing this, Beoga's first album. The one we are discussing now. Compass is the 900- pound gorilla in Irish music now. No question. Huge. HUGE! So, why would this label choose to distribute a "new" album that does not have all the current group members on it, and thereby confusing the fans? Hmm? We don't know. Seems odd. Seems like a mistake. But Garry West and Compass are not known for making many mistakes. But, let's face it, this is odd. Would you do it? At the end of the discussion, after Jack Baker's call, Shay and I decided it is all a rent in the fabric of an ever-changing state of being. We knowingly winked at each other, without knowing what it was we were winking about. The matter was settled. An odd mistake.

What is NOT a mistake is this album. Because there is no Niamh and there are no vocals, a very different side of the group is presented. All of it is filled with a marvelous energy. At least one person in this group really, really knows his music. This is the freshest take on the tradition in 2007. It is a wonderful, wonderful album. If you insist on us making one small suggestion, it

would be that some of the tunes change so often, or take off in new directions that it can become distracting. Mind you, we love it. But, there are also straight-ahead tunes with no frills. However, to be fair, that is not Beoga's thing. They seek to be different, and they are. Not in a cheap or easy way. They are different because they have their own unique gig going. Oh, they have surely been influenced by the likes of The David Munnely Band and Flook, but this is their own thing. And, it is all theirs. No one else sounds like this. BTW, they also can play a beautiful air, always the sign of a great group.

Since Beoga also gives an entertaining live show, their success and longevity is assured. Compass' decision to release and market this album is "interesting". But, far more importantly, this group is interesting. Energy, drive, intelligent creativity, wit and real musicianship. All in one group. At the end of it all, we guess the harmonious and efficacious thing is to do is simply thank Compass for making more Beoga available. No matter when they were recorded.

Rating: Four Harps
Notes:
*You can hear more of Shay's and my discussions on the ethereal and transitory nature of existence on our weekly Celtic music program, Blarney on the Air, every Monday evening from 7-9 Chicago time. WDCB, 90.9 fm, or www.wdcb.org.
*We have to leave now. We hear the sound of one hand clapping.

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 <p>Monsters of Folk with Dave Alvin, Chris Smither & Tim O'Brien Saturday, February 9, 7&10pm A supergroup with some serious roots! <i>Special thanks to Bruce Rosenberg & Debbie Solomon.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">93XRT <small>CHICAGO'S FINEST ROCK</small></p>	 <p>Liz Carroll & John Doyle Sunday, February 10, 7pm "One of the greatest of contemporary Irish fiddlers." - Chicago Tribune</p> <p style="text-align: center;">98.7wfmt</p>
 <p>Celtic Fiddle Fest with Kevin Burke, Christian Lemaître, André Brunet & Ged Foley Sunday, March 2, 7pm "Three of the finest folk violinists anywhere." - The Washington Post</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Public Radio</small> 90.9 WDCB <small>College of DuPage</small></p>	 <p>Patty Larkin with Beppe Gambetta Friday, March 21, 8pm "Celtic-influenced ornamentations" - Chicago Tribune</p> <p style="text-align: center;">98.7wfmt</p>

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Shay Clarke



The Irish Sopranos have won more prized, scholarships, awards, and acclaim than you can shake a stick at... check out

As we start the new year of 2008, we also begin year three of Blarney on the Air, our radio show. Bill Margeson and I have been radio buddies for 16 years or more and although we differ on everything from music to politics, we always enjoy our time together on Monday nights.

The original Blarney on the Air was broadcast from Elgin for many years, we moved to Aurora for a short time and in January of 2005 we found our new home at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn 90.9 FM and on the web at wdcb.org from 7 to 9 p.m. every Monday. We hope that you will make it part of your new years resolution to listen to our show.

We still play lots of Irish and Scottish music, we chat about Ireland and what's going on socially and politically, and in general we have a good time. We talk about Irish festivals and concerts and who's on tour. We are regularly the first to bring you the newest recordings of Celtic music from all over the world.

We have enjoyed live sessions in the studio with music from the David Munnelly Band, Gan Bua, and Barleyjuice, and we hope to bring you a lot more live music in this new year of 2008.

A lot has changed since our original show. We are now on the web and always enjoy hearing from our listeners abroad. We have regular listeners all over the United States and Hawaii, in Rio de Janeiro and Donegal, in the U.K. and Germany and all over Chicagoland and the Midwest and we are sincerely grateful to all our listeners for spending their Monday evenings with us and allowing us into your homes, your workplace, and indeed your cars. We love hearing from all of you. Thanks again and Happy New Year to all.

THE IRISH SOPRANOS – BELIEVE

So, I've seen them on the "telly." I've seen them on stage at the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival and met them afterwards. They are great craic, three gorgeous young girls from home, talented, popular, but perhaps not my "cup of tea" musically. You see, I love the ballad singers, the folk groups, the Celtic rock bands and even the traditional, but when the Irish Sopranos new album arrived with the three lovely lassies dressed to kill in red dresses, draped over a red, leather couch, I just put it to one side along with their other album. Big mistake. Then last week as I prepared for our radio show "Blarney on the Air," I popped it in the CD player and realized how wrong I had been.

BELIEVE, the new album from the Irish Sopranos is simply sensational. Deirdre Masterson from Wexford, Wendy Dwyer from Cork, and Kay Lynch from Kerry are all world class, highly acclaimed and incredibly talented singers, no strangers to the international operatic stage.

the bios on their website at theirishsopranos.net. And Owen C. Lynch their musical director and co-producer from Country Kildare has also won major acclaim for his voice, composition, and arrangements.

The album is an eclectic mix of operatic arias, contemporary, religious, and Irish songs and whereas the entire album is flawless, there are some rare gems here.

"You Raise Me Up" - I have seen them sing live but on the album they are joined by Owen's "Adagio" choir, adding to the depth of this Brendan Graham song.

Next, Ennio Morricone's "Nella Fantasia" - a great favorite of mine. The Irish Sopranos sing it beautifully and even though I have heard it hundreds of times, I never realized the simple message of the classic... it translates "In my fantasy, I see a just world where everyone lives in peace and honesty and where souls fly free."

Kay Lynch solos on "Ave Maria" - music by Caccini, vocals and orchestration by Owen C. Lynch. It's a version I have never heard before and it is stunning. "If your heart loves" is an original composition by Owen and "Our Lady of Knock" given the soprano treatment is what the girls call their Cleveland Song as they first performed it at the Cleveland Irish Music Festival Mass.

Wendy Dwyer sings solo on "Angels Adagio", another absolute gem and a new song for me. Music by Albinoni, words and orchestral arrangements by Owen C. Lynch.

"Amigos Para Siempre" by Andrew Lloyd Weber is what Kay, Deirdre, and Wendy are all about.....friends for life.

"An Irish Blessing." I have heard several versions of this traditional Irish blessing, but this one, with music by Owen and the heavenly voices of the girls, is an instant favorite.

Deirdre Masterson performs solo on "Softly Awakes My Heart," and this, to my mind, is worth the price of the album.....fabulous.

"O Mio Babino Caro" a favorite Puccini aria is beautifully performed in close harmony.

"Let There Be Peace" carries a strong message. I have heard it sung by many tenors, but again, The Irish Sopranos with their soaring voices have made it their own.

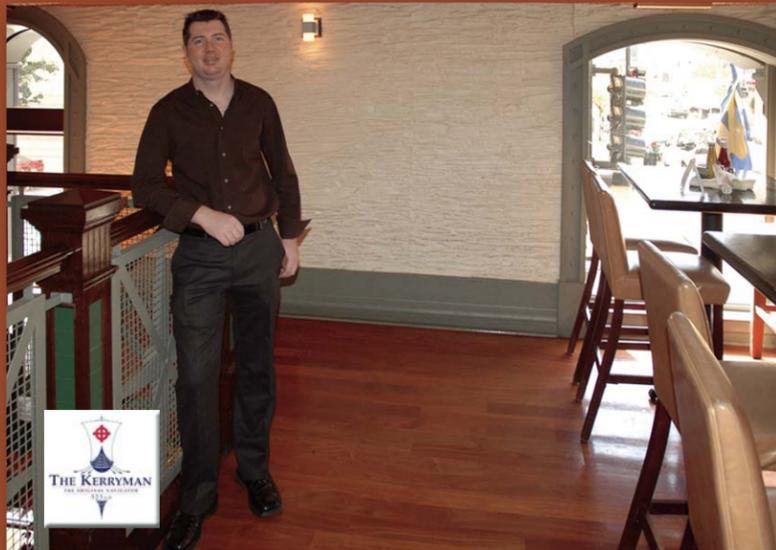
I suppose is only fitting that the album finishes with a medley of Irish songs.....When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, If You're Irish Come In To the Parlour, and My Irish Molly. Its fun and I have seen them have fun and enjoy themselves tremendously singing this to a live audience.

The Irish Sopranos have in their new album, BELIEVE, a contemporary classic. It is artfully arranged and beautifully performed. It goes better with nice crisp chardonnay, than with a pint of Guinness. My congratulations to Kay, Wendy, and Deirdre on this

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Jeff Galloway - On the Run for 50 Years!

By Cliff Carlson

1958 was the year Jeff started running, and it didn't take long for him to turn his love of running into a business. He sold shoes out of his dorm and the trunk of his car for an upstart company called Blue Ribbon. Never heard of Blue Ribbon? Heard of Nike? Same company!

Jeff opened his first store in Atlanta, Georgia, Phidippides, in 1973.

Galloway's Irish relatives came from Galway to North Carolina in 1848 and settled in, working as farmers. He tried to trace his lineage, but could only get to the second generation in the U.S. Reportedly, several of his relations fought in the Civil War. He's been to Ireland for a brief, but "delightful" holiday in and around Dublin.

A prolific writer, Jeff has written eleven books on running, and hopes to live and run to the age of 100! "I want to blow out the candles on the cake and go for a nice run," he laughs.

Jeff doesn't prescribe to traditional running methods. "I don't think it's so important to get a certain weekly milage. I think you should run every other day, and have enough endurance to last four weeks. Twenty to thirty minutes of run/walk twice a week, and a long run of 17 miles or so every third week. Surround that with 6 and 7 milers, and Jeff thinks you have a good base." "I do think you should run longer than 30 miles during training weeks. In the 1972 Olympic Trials I ran 33 miles by accident in one training run. Another year I ran a 35 mile run on purpose.

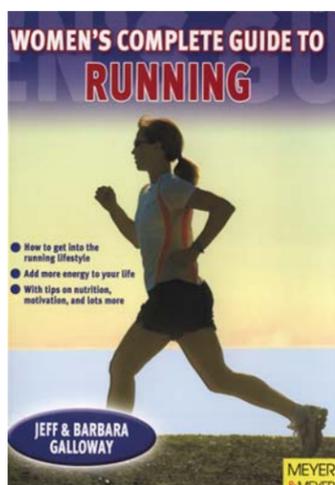
Galloway's first book on running came about in 1983 when he was asked to travel and give clinics on running. He was developing new methods of running that weren't in any book, and being asked nonstop questions. He decided to self-publish. His publisher got interested

when he saw the sales of the first book. In 1984 they published a revised version of the first book. Multiple printings have taken sales over the 600,000 mark.

In the mid 1990's Jeff was approached by a German publisher to write marathon running books.

Believing that 85% of the people that start running will stay lifelong runners if they last six months, Jeff treats walkers as athletes. His goal is to help them test themselves at all levels, 5k, 10k, half and full marathons. Eventually, he believes many will start running.

He's developed a year round plan book for training runners on 1 of any

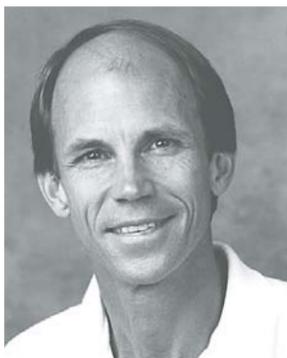


three levels. "It tells what to do everyday of the year so you don't have to think," he laughs. He can afford to laugh. Over one million copies of the book have been sold.

Married 32 years, Jeff met his wife while he was running in Tallahassee Florida and he couldn't get away!

Some of his books are; Fit Kids Smarter Kids which he developed to combat obesity. Loaded with nutrition and exercise advice, it is a guidebook for what to do and what not to do.

The half marathon now surpasses the marathon each year in the num-



Jeff Galloway

ber of people competing. Each year over 500,000 runners compete in half marathons.

His latest book, Women's Guide to Running, was a collaboration with his wife who co-wrote it with him. Menopause, PMS, osteoporosis and other women related issues are covered in the book.

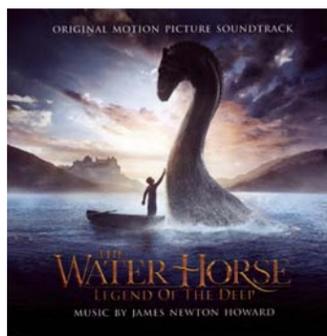
His college roommate was Amby Burfoot who won the Boston Marathon in 1968, and is now Editor and Chief of Runners World.

"Running is open to anybody, and so is the run/walk method. Only 1% of the population run regularly and that's a shame. For every hour of exercise you can expect two hours back in extension of life, reduction in heart disease, stroke and cancer. My mission is to help people improve the quality of their lives," said Jeff.

He means it. The majority of appearances are for no fee. He does it for the enjoyment of seeing people empower themselves.

The run/walk method of exercising he endorses is designed to allow people to enjoy the feeling of exertion, and avoid the over-exertion they feel at the beginning of a workout. Put enough walk breaks in from the very beginning. "Before I started listening to my own advice 29 years ago, I was injured about every three weeks," said Jeff.

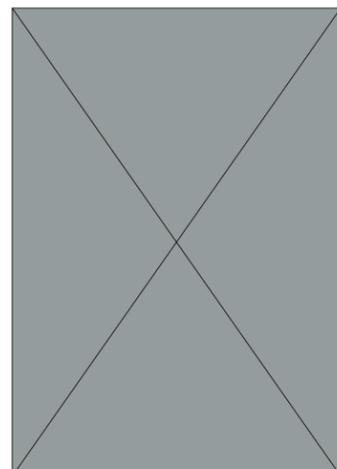
If anyone has any questions, you can askjeff@jeffgalloway.com. He answers an average of 100



to the creature, it grows so rapidly that he is forced to release it into the loch where it evolves into a terrifying yet understanding sea

The Chieftains & The Dubliners on DVD

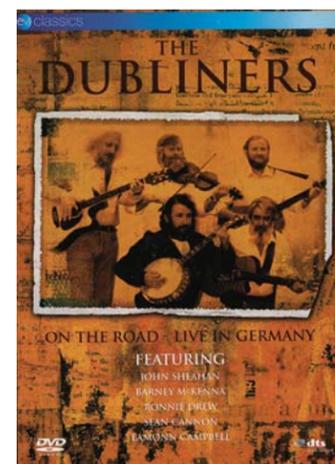
Eagle Vision Classics released an enticing tandem of Irish culture on DVD. Live Over Ireland: Water From The Well by The Chieftains will see these beloved folk artists travel to those geographical locales that have stayed in their souls to influence their art over the course of their long and celebrated career. The stories they tell, the songs they sing, the lilting music they play, will ring out on this special DVD experience with profound resonance as the viewer accompanies Derek Bell, Kevin Conneff, Martin Fay, Sean Keane, Matt Malloy and Paddy Maloney throughout the heart



of Ireland.

The 110-minute DVD sells for \$11.98 and includes 13 tracks.

Live In Concert: On The Road Live In Germany by The Dubliners will feature an entire evening of traditional Irish revelry as performed by this most pre-eminent Irish institution of all time, as well as an "on-the-road" documentary, all in one 106-minute DVD \$11.98. This 27-track concert experience puts it all together to create a seamless whole, one borne in the amazing—almost telepathic—interplay between the musicians and the unerring sense of family and love that



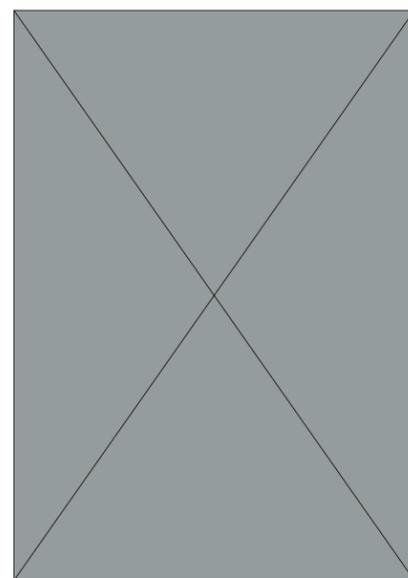
The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox

Like many modern single women, Iris Lockhart has her share of issues and responsibilities: she tries to deflect her boyfriend's attempts at commitment, she runs her own vintage clothing shop, and she struggles with her relationship with her family. Her relatively normal life suddenly shifts when she receives a stunning phone call: Her great-aunt Esme, whom she never knew existed, is being released from Cauldstone Hospital—where she has been locked away for over sixty years.

Iris's grandmother Kitty always claimed to be an only child. But Esme's papers prove she is Kitty's sister, and Iris can see the shadow of her dead father in Esme's face. Esme has been labeled harmless—sane enough to coexist with the rest of the world. But Esme is still basically a stranger, a family member never mentioned by the family, and one who is sure to bring life-altering secrets with her when she

leaves the ward. If his takes her in, what dangerous truths might she inherit? The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox is shocking tale of family secrets, lost lives, and the freedom brought by truth.

The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox: A Novel By Maggie O'Farrell. Harcourt Trade Publishers, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-15-101411-8; 256



The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep

Composed by six-time Academy Award nominee James Newton Howard, the original motion picture soundtrack of The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep was recently released on Sony Classical, and includes songs performed by Sinead O'Connor and The Chieftains.

Rooted in one of the most enduring and intriguing legends of our time, the movie's story begins with an enchanted egg... and what hatches will set in motion and adventure that will take a young boy on an unforgettable journey of a lifetime.

Based on an acclaimed novel by Dick King Smith, The Water Horse is a sweeping epic set in the desolate landscape of the Scottish Highlands during World War II. It tells the story of Angus, a 12-yr. old boy who anxiously waits the return of the father who is serving in the military overseas. Spending his days exploring the shores of a nearby loch, he stumbles across a mysterious egg. Taking it home he watches as the egg hatches into an amazing creature, the mythical "Water Horse" of Scottish legend. Although he has become attached



By Frank J. Mahon



Part Four: Going Deep Into A Tony Neighborhood

2004 was not a very good year for me. The worse thing that happened was that my dad died. Dad was all Irish—the Mahons are from Co. Galway. He was 87.

At Dad's wake, a couple of nights later, I was chatting with an old friend of mine—another writer. She had been asking me about our plans to do a chamber theatre version of Green Rushes, aka *The Quiet Man & Other Stories*. She suggested to me that instead of doing a chamber theatre version of the play, where actors stand at music stands and use their scripts, we turn it into a full-blown play. But we were all set at that point on chamber theatre, and planned to hold auditions in April for a May production, so I just filed the suggestion away.

When we held auditions at the Irish American Heritage Center, we found plenty of actresses that we could use, but not the right actors. They were either too young, or they couldn't do Irish dialects. We were forced to postpone the production. To have tracked-down and obtain the rights to *The Quiet Man*, to have completed a script, found a venue and advertise only to have to cancel was disheartening to say the least. My writing partner Milissa Pacelli and I needed some time to regroup.

It wasn't long before I remembered what my friend suggested at my dad's wake, about turning our chamber theatre script into a real play. It would mean starting over again from the very beginning. Our existing script was the text of the book, assigned parts read by specific actors. A full play would mean adapting the book—deciding what to use, what to leave out. It often means combining characters, combining stories, and writing new dialogue. Dialogue that works in a novel often doesn't work on stage, especially when the original book was written in 1935. But the most important thing about adapting a book to a dramatic form is to make sure that you remain true

to the spirit, and the feel, and the themes of the book.

We read the book again and thought about how to turn five stories into one play. *Green Rushes* is a saga about men and women who are part of the Irish War of Independence and what happens to them after all the fighting is over. It's about love, and loyalty and friendship—like the symbols of a Claddagh ring. Sagas usually span many years, and involve many characters. We would need 12 actors to play 15 parts. Our first attempt consisted of taking four of the five stories, and dramatizing them in chronological order, two in the first act, and two in the second—almost like four one-act plays with an intermission in the middle.

After several drafts, we decided that it was time to hear the script read by some actors. We wanted to know if we had told a story that could hold the attention of an audience and entertain them. Would the serious parts work? Was the comedy funny? Were the themes clear? Dialogue is just lines on a page until an actor delivers them—breathes life into them. Actors can find things in dialogue that you never imagined. Actors can create wonderful moments with a look or a gesture. They can find laughs where you never expected them. A collaborative artistic effort is a fascinating and exciting thing to be a part of. But writers also have to be cautious of something else: Actors have a funny way of reading the lines that you wrote. So if a good actor does a line that doesn't work, it's very hard to pass the buck. While we strove to stay true to the original stories of Maurice Walsh's book, almost all the dialogue in *The Quiet Man Tales* is original, and thus was untested at that point.

And so we made plans to hold the first public reading of *The Quiet Man Tales* on Monday, April 11, 2005. We rented one of the theatres at Theatre Building Chicago on Belmont, hired actors, and sent out invitations to friends, relatives, theatre professionals and anyone else we thought might be interested. Some of our actors had auditioned for us a year earlier for the cancelled chamber theatre version.

The actors showed up pretty much on time for a read-through of the script before the audience arrived. Milissa directed. For the most part, things went pretty well. Around 7:00 p.m., the audience started arriving. The little theatre held about 70 seats. We filled about forty of them. We got up on stage, introduced ourselves and our new play, and turned the stage over to our actors. Act One went well. There were laughs and nobody seemed to doze off. During the intermission, one of our actors decided to take a stroll down Belmont. I wasn't sure that he was coming back for Act Two, but he finally materialized at the last moment. I suspect he was looking for a bar, but I will never know for sure. In truth, I could have used one too!

Act Two finally started—and it started with the main event—Story #3: *The Quiet Man*. It was the first time anyone had seen a stage version of the famous story in its original form—ever. We weren't sure how an audience would react to the main character. Though still the ex-prizefighter, he was not the John Wayne type. Paddy Bawn Enright is a welterweight. He's a quiet guy. But, just as in the film and the book, when he's cornered, he fights. Just as important to us was how the audience would respond to the characters nobody had ever seen before—like Nuala Kierley, the Mata Hari of the story, and Archie McDonald, the Scottish officer in the British army who chases Nuala all over Europe. Would the character made famous by Maureen O'Hara be as memorable without the famous film legend? There were also some new characters that weren't in the book or the movie.

I watched the audience closely. After the curtain call and the thank-yous, we asked the audience to fill out comment cards. This is a very valuable tool for writers. Audiences tell you what they liked, what they didn't like, what they got out of the play, what characters they cared about—general questions to let the writers know what needs more work. We were very encouraged by the comments, and learned a lot. We felt that we had the makings of a good play. We learned that the play needed shortening, restructuring, and some rethinking. Four separate stories didn't work as well as we had hoped. Back to the drawing board.

During the next several months, the play took on a new form. Although we had tried to tell four stories, they were really only three main couples, Paddy Bawn Enright

and Ellen Roe O'Danaher, Sean Glynn and Joan Hyland, and Archie McDonald and Nuala Kierley. So we took the three love stories and interwove them. New scenes were added, and others were deleted. Dialogue was tightened. *The Quiet Man* now started in Act One and ended in Act Two. It was a whole new play.

After several months of rewriting, we scheduled a second reading at Theatre Building Chicago. The reading took almost three hours. Granted, we had to stop and start many times, because Milissa, who was directing the reading, was giving out blocking cues. The actors would be using scripts and standing at music stands, but there was still some blocking to be done. The actors were polite, but in their eyes I could see they were not happy with the very long script. They looked like they had been asked to read the Old Testament. They all grumbled good-naturedly, and left after we assuaged them with a few beers. After they left, Milissa and I looked at each other. Will an audience sit through all that? What the hell had we done?

On Monday, we met the actors at the theatre in the afternoon for another partial read-through. Without the blocking cues, the play ran shorter. By the time the audience arrived, the actors' adrenalin started flowing, and we found that the play ran a little over two hours. It could still use trimming, but was by no means too long. We had been worried about nothing.

This time we had a stronger cast—an excellent cast, in fact. Some of the best actors in Chicago. They found things, mined the material, got the laughs, and touched some hearts. We passed out more response cards. The comments were even stronger than the ones from the first reading. Some of the audience members had been to the first reading, and liked the changes we had made. All the rewriting had paid off. We saw where we still needed to trim, but we knew we were getting close to the play that we wanted.

At the same time that we were doing these readings, I was also entering our play in a few contests around the country. *The Quiet Man Tales* won an Honorable Mention from a theatre in the Sierra Nevada foothills. We were told that out of hundreds of plays that were submitted, we made the semi-final cut of 48 scripts. Some of the judges' letters were sent to us. As we read them, we saw comments such as, "It is the best play I have read in the

3 years I have been reading (as a judge)." Another judge wrote: "This play in its theme and pace reminds me a bit of Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well*." Still another judge wrote: "It is an interesting story—I didn't want to put it down... Out of all the plays I have read over the past 3 years—this is the best."

It was time to approach some big-time producers. One problem: We didn't know any. Next best thing: Find someone who does. I did know someone who knew a big-time producer—Libby Adler Mages. Libby has been producing plays for many years. Her first hit play was *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* Although she is based in Chicago, she has produced plays all over the country and in London. She's won many awards, including a Tony Award for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on Broadway. Libby and her partner Tony D'Angelo recently produced a play called *The Sparrow*, which just ended a successful run at the Apollo Theatre.

I got Libby's number from my friend Donna. Libby agreed to meet with Milissa and me. Somewhere between my phone call and our meeting, Donna called Libby and asked her to read our script. On a July afternoon, Milissa and I showed up at Libby's condo—one of those swanky condos on Lake Shore Drive. Tony was there as well. We were ushered into the living room, and spent at least an hour with them, getting lots of advice and encouragement. Finally, the moment of truth arrived, and I asked Libby if she would read our play. She said she would, but warned that she had a lot to read first, so it would be a while before she got back to us. We learned later that the only reason she agreed to read the script was because Donna asked her to read it.

We left Libby's condo elated that we had made solid contact with such esteemed members of Chicago's theatre community. We celebrated by walking over to the Drake Hotel and drinking martinis. With any luck, Libby would love our script and co-produce *The Quiet Man Tales* with us. But we knew it would be a while until we heard from her.

So we waited. And waited. And waited. Summer became fall, and fall became winter. Still no word from Libby. Finally, I called her. "It's marvelous!" she said.

"I've already given it to Bill to read. Give him a call and see if he's read it." So I did. I called Bill Pullinsi and found that not only had he read it, but he liked it a lot, and was

For The Republic

Chris Fogarty



BRIT TERROR HAS WON for the foreseeable future in Occupied Ireland. The final proof is that the Adams/McGuinness gang, once IRA leaders, are now hit-men for the Brits. Having sold out Occupied Ireland and its right to national reunification they are now using violence to reestablish Brit rule. Deception has been indispensable to their success. Here is how cunningly the news media have deceived the public: Headlines recently screamed "More IRA Killings" when members of the Adams/McGuinness gang, acting for their long-time MI5 handlers, murdered Paul Quinn (21) of Cullyhanna, Co. Armagh. They took him to an Oram, Co. Monaghan cowshed where they beat him to death for remaining true to his goal of a democratic, united Ireland. Obviously, it was the Brits who ordered his death but because the hit man were one-time IRA volunteers the murders were reported as "Irish terrorism." Thus, with media help, the Brits get a "two-fer;" they murder a true Irish republican and get the media to blame it on "the IRA." Then the media omitted the crucial fact that Quinn was an Irish republican patriot, and reported him as a random victim.

"SF WORKER LINKED TO FATAL BEATING" was the IRISH INDEPENDENT's headline. The report dirtied up Mr. Quinn, a patriot, as an "anti-social." It also reported that Sinn Fein (the murderers) publicly denounced the murder. INDEPENDENT.IE further played pro-Brit politics with the murder by headlining it: "(Taoiseach) Ahern May Look Like a Fool if IRA is Blamed." It then spins the story to make it seem that Ahern is covering for Irish republicans instead of what he is covering for to Britain's benefit; traitorous one-time IRA men now murdering for their Brit handlers. Mr. Quinn is not the first murder by the Adams/McGuinness gang. Earlier they murdered Robert McCartney and Joe O'Connor for refusing to sell out along with them.

PADDY FOX is an ex-IRA volunteer whose parents were murdered by the Brit terrorist Ulster Volunteer Force when he began his Brit prison sentence. He, too, refused to sell out along with Adams and Co. so they made repeated attempts to abduct him. They eventually succeeded and severely beat him. According to Ed Moloney, respected author of THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE IRA, they

would have beaten him to death were his case not well known.

LOW INTENSITY OPERATIONS by Brit Army General Frank Kitson has been the manual for Brit operations in Occupied Ireland. It is the source of much of the skulduggery. It called for the subversion of the news media, the police, the judiciary and the Church (especially the Catholic Church) and achieved those goals years ago. All were easily subverted and ever since have actively and effectively opposed democracy (self-determination) for the Occupied Irish.

CARDINAL SEAN BRADY is the latest mouthpiece in Britain's Big Lie campaign. An INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE (5Dec07) report is headlined "Ireland's New Catholic Cardinal Condemns Dissident IRA Attacks on Northern Ireland Police" as if that police force is a real one and not a permanent murder gang. As Britain's Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) it had terrorized the Occupied Irish ever since the 1920 illegal partition of Ireland. Its lengthy series of mass murders made "RUC" such an international stench that more than a decade ago it was being forced to prosecute the murderers within its own ranks and to disband that entire force. But as the Brits strengthened their grips on the Adams/McGuinness gang they also reneged on that commitment, kept all those murderers on their payroll and merely changed the name. Thus some years ago Britain's "RUC" became the "Police Service of Northern Ireland" (PSNI). It boggles the mind that any Catholic priest would ever side with the Catholic-murdering RUC/PSNI. To grasp the evil depths from which Cardinal Brady spews his lies see my web site; terrorismireland.org. It details all child-murders of the post-1968 phase of the Anglo-Irish conflict. By sheer body count of innocent children and by identifying the group that committed each murder, the data proves incontrovertibly that the Brits are the terrorists. The body count ratio of 153 to 20.

ALL IN UNISON. The news media, the police, the judiciary, and the Church all betrayed their responsibilities by working against Irish democracy. While, 1) the news media, despite the readily-available murder records, systematically covered up for Britain and disseminated its lie that the terrorists were Irish, 2) the RUC/PSNI along with the British army and Orange Lodges perpetrated

murders that were blamed on the IRA, and in at least one notorious case chauffeured murderers to and from their victims' houses, 3) the judiciary imprisoned suspected Irish patriots without charge and by means of perjuries and tortured confessions thus earning Britain Europe's record of "Most Convicted State Torturer" at the European Court for Human Rights, and 4) the Church, through commission and omission, acted as agents for Britain. At least the hierarchy did, with the immortal exception of Cardinal O'Fiaich and many heroic priests including Frs. Des Wilson, Joe McVeigh, Piarais O Duill, Msgr. Raymond Murray and Sister Sarah Clarke. Left unmentioned here are the Protestant churches. Gen. Kitson had no need to subvert them. Though there are honest individuals in all sects, for centuries the Protestant churches in Ireland have largely been the British genocidists at prayer, remaining so these days only in Occupied Ireland, not in the Republic.

WATCH BBC TV (Prime Minister's Questions) to see them celebrate their defeat of Irish democracy. They are now working to brand Occupied Ireland "eternally British." Their contempt for the Occupied Irish is boundless; they are rendering them "disappeared," nonexistent. Instead of fulfilling one of their minimum promises to put a stop to the hundreds of police-led intimidatory Orange parades through Catholic neighborhoods each summer, Britain is planning to fund those violent parades and turn them into "tourist attractions." There is a slight hitch: who on earth other than benighted rapturists and KKK (cousins of the Orangemen and outgrowth of Orangism) would enjoy the degradation? And when will such poverty ever manage vacations to Occupied Ireland?

THE "IRISH" GOV'T enabled this sell-out of its own citizens by recently abolishing Articles 2 and 3 of its own Constitution. By these two key Articles Ireland had established its national boundaries, including the Six Counties that Britain illegally usurped in 1920 by threatening "immediate and terrible war." Michael Collins, the Gerry Adams of his time, claimed that getting the Brits out of the 26-counties was victory enough for the moment and that accepting the partition of Ireland was "a stepping stone toward a united Ireland." That is how Adams and Co now categorize their own sell-out. Notice, in all of this, the hand of Britain's General Kitson and his subversion of the news media, police, judiciary and Church. All four of these institutions fully support the Big Lie that covers up British terrorism and falsely attributes its mass murders

to the IRA. This, despite the readily available homicide data including my terrorismireland.org.

HOLOCAUST DENIAL is in the works in Ireland. Not denial of the Shoah, awareness of which is promoted by all Irish institutions (who refer to it as "The Holocaust") but denial of Ireland's Holocaust of 1845-50. In the latter, Britain murdered more innocents (5.25 millions) than the number of Nazi-murdered Jews ninety years later. "Holocaust" as applied to Ireland has precedence. It was referred to as such by the Cork Examiner newspaper in 1847 and also by Michael Davitt in his works published about 1899. "Genocide" did not exist yet, being of WW2 coinage. According to Jewish writer Norman Finkelstein, promoters of Shoah awareness adopted "Holocaust" for their cause in the 1960s.

NOVEMBER 3RD has been Irish Holocaust Commemoration Day for most of the past decade. It was on that date in 1845 that a group of 22 alarmed Irish notables visited Britain's viceroy, Lord Heytesbury, in Dublin. The Food Removal was beginning to create starvation across the country and they urged Heytesbury to close the ports against further removal. According to The (London) Times of August 25th, 1845, potatoes comprised the two main meals of an English workingman's family, thus England was excessively dependent upon the potato. Upon the failure of the 1844 potato crop on the continent, Britain redeployed regiments to Ireland from its then-empire. When England's 1845 potato crop failed, it had 75 army regiments in Ireland ready to move, and move they did, removing Ireland's abundant livestock, grains, vegetables and dairy/poultry products at gunpoint to the ports for export. (To learn which Brit reg't starved your relatives see irishholocaust.org) So Heytesbury's visitors were trying to preclude a genocide. But Heytesbury had his reply prepared and read it to them before showing them the door. His reply ignored their urgent plea to stop the Food Removal and referred only to one food, the failed potato, as if Ireland's abundant other foods were not being removed. Thus, on Nov. 3 we commemorate two simultaneous events; 1) the official beginning of the Irish Holocaust, and 2) the official beginning of the cover-up phrase; "The Potato Famine," or "The Famine" that are now being changed to "The Great Hunger" and "An Gorta Mor." The purpose of the change is to better maintain the cover up of the Food Removal and continue the deception that it was a "no-fault" population die-off.

OTHER DATES, other than Nov. 3rd, are now being discussed by cover-up

artists including "Irish" gov't officials. Its purpose can only be to distract public attention from the actual Food Removal and Lord Heytesbury and Nov. 3. If they proceed and create a competing date you will be able to spot it as deceptive. It will promote the cover-up phrases "Great Hunger," etc., it will grossly understate the death toll and, above all, it will never mention the Food Removal nor any of the regiments that perpetrated it. If they do set their "commemoration" date all who associate with it will automatically self-identify as Holocaust Deniers. We must challenge them: what is their objection to Nov. 3rd? Let them explain.

THE U.S. FACES unprecedented challenges. Time seems to be running out on its patriots. Our Bill of Rights has been largely gutted by our most criminal president ever. The Congress that we voted in to end Bush's Supreme Crime in Iraq have become his accomplices by funding it. They recently approved a new Attorney-General despite his claiming to not know that waterboarding is a crime. A handful of lawyers have managed to get the racist and grossly unfair crack-to-cocaine sentencing ratio corrected. Another few lawyers (including Frank Avila who, as a TB host, recently interviewed Mary and me re MI5/FBI crimes) have managed to get \$compensation for some of the men tortured by Lt. Burge's gang. But while Pakistan's courageous lawyers are risking their lives on the street protesting against gov't corruption of their justice system, our nation's lawyers generally remain as timid as mice; accommodating themselves to each new perversion of our justice. When will they develop integrity that comes even close to that of their Pakistani brethren?

\$32 MILLION PAID to a Florida company to construct a base in Iraq. The USAF paid it to Ellis Environmental Group after the \$34 million project was abandoned.

U.S. WILL RIGHT ITSELF. These very days gutsy CIA agents are demolishing Bush's "reason" for his planned war on Iran. They obviously refused to permit another Tenet-like "slam-dunk" guarantee that the evidence could be adequately spun re Iran's WMD as was done regarding Iraq. They deserve our deepest gratitude. So do Frank Avila and the other lawyers who upheld justice even for outcasts. We Chicagoans will have to pay some \$20 million to the victims of Lt. Burge's crimes. Perhaps such charges ought to be borne only by those who perpetrated, condoned, or acquiesced to the torture. It is odd that we who did all we could to stop the torture when it was ongoing must, nevertheless, pay for the crimes and negligences of others.



Craig Thomas, Bob Ryan and Art Kavanaugh helping out with the Christmas party for kids in need at Plumber's Hall in Chicago..



Bob Ryan, with Debbie Kim and Diana Garcia of the Rudolph Learning Center



Unsung heroes, Firefighters and other volunteers helping out at Plumber's Hall. A large amount of winter jackets were distributed as well.

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



Modern Ireland
Wasn't always so.
Once upon time not so long ago-
dole queues... emigration.
The boats are gone...
The fish are gone...
Some of us now
dotcom multimillionaire
international jetsetter investors.
Buying second homes in Bulgaria
Polaris world, golf resorts
on the Costa Del Dosh.
At night, under Aer Arainn's wing
I see you Ireland, black and amber-cold.
I'd love to shoot the f***ing feline dead.
It's brought so much misery, greed and corrup-
tion.
The Celtic Tiger has purred for some
but bitten far more!

Miceál Kearney

Miceál Kearney, a bespectacled, 27 year old from Co. Galway sporting a diminutive Fu Manchu goatee captivated an appreciative Sunday afternoon audience at the Irish-

American Heritage Center last month. He did this with the sheer power of his raw edged verse. Kearney was in Chicago because he won a "Slam" poetry contest in Ireland earlier in the year. Slam

poetry, spoken verse composed for the ear rather than the eye, has been popular in Chicago for some twenty years. Kearney's victory came in the Cúirt International Festival of Literature in Galway in April. His win earned him a weeklong trip to the Windy City. Galway and Chicago are twinned in a Sister Cities cultural program which is administered here by the Mayor's Office. For the past three years the winners of the Galway poetry slam have been invited to perform in Chicago.

Miceál Kearney is an unlikely poet. As a youngster he did not expect to become a composer of verse. "I had no time for poetry in school. I didn't like it" he confessed. About 7 years ago that changed. "I was walking through a wood and thought I'd write a poem" he recounted. The poem was called "Once More." "It was terrible but I kept at it. I didn't show my work to anyone for three years" he said.

Kearney then showed his work



poets. But as can be seen from his rat-a-tat piece at the head of this column, his voice is worth listening to.

In explaining the poem, Modern Ireland, Miceál stated "We've lost our soul. There's no green space. Ireland's changed for the worse."

Sundance Film Festival

movie, was written and directed by Anglo-Irish playwright Martin McDonagh. The full length feature will open the festival. McDonagh, born in England of Irish parents already has an Oscar to his credit. He wrote and directed Six Shooter, which earned him the 2006 Academy Award for Best Live-Action Short Film. McDonagh specializes in dark comedy and his critically acclaimed play The Pillowman produced at Steppenwolf last year was of that genre.

In Bruges, a comedy drama, was filmed on location in the Belgian town of Bruges, a walled city with well preserved medieval architecture. It features Irish actors Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson in lead roles. Both were born in Dublin. The movie also includes two-time Academy Award nominee Ralph Fiennes who was not born in Ireland but grew up there. His family moved to West Cork when he was a youngster. Fiennes, whose name is of Norman origin, spent his teenage years in the rebel county.

In Bruges, is about Ray (Farrell) and Ken (Gleeson), two London hit men who are ordered to take a forced vacation in the fairytale Flemish city. They are sent on the eve of Christmas by their London boss Harry (Fiennes) following a botched job. When they arrive in the medieval city, Ray and Ken find themselves very much out of place. The town is a popular tourist destination and the pair tries to blend in with the visitors. But they are lost amidst the gothic architecture, canals, and cobbled streets. They find themselves in various jams with increasing complications. It seems that the popular tourist spot is destined to be their last destination. In the end, things get resolved as the two hit men fill their days living the lives of tourists.

In Bruges may turn out to be a bigger box office hit than Once, but that remains to be seen. Even if it is not a winner, it is one more example of the remarkable versatility and talent of Martin McDonagh.



Miceál Kearney discussing his poetry at the IAHC

to Mary Mullen, an American from Alaska, who teaches literature in Ireland. She encouraged him to continue. He took her advice and is now recognized as a maturing poet. Miceál, the eldest of four children, recited about ten poems. All were composed on his parent's farm where he lives and works. As he tends the cattle and sheep, he carries a note book in which he jots his poetic ideas. Later these thoughts are distilled into verse. Some of his work is about nature and the changing seasons. Other compositions are about the ups and downs of farming life.

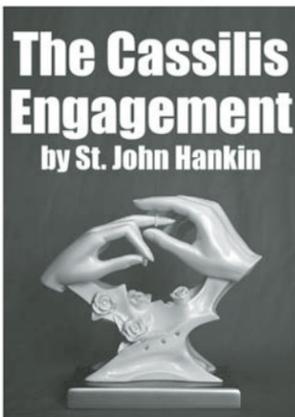
Miceál, who is mostly self-taught, has received no formal training in poetic structure or meter. Most of his work is in free verse. He acknowledged knowing little about the work of the ancient Irish bards or even more recent Anglo-Irish

Last year an Irish film, Once, was a surprise winner at the Sundance Film Festival. That low-budget production, made in Dublin by Samson Films for under a quarter of a million dollars, has since grossed more than \$12 million. The movie, an understated romance of two down on their luck musicians, tells of their boy-girl meeting and parting on the streets of the Irish capitol. They make tender music together and their bitter-sweet tale is told through the medium of music. Since the screenplay and music were original and the scenic shots of Dublin and its environs were superb, the film resonated with audiences across America.

This year's Sundance Film Festival, which runs Jan. 17-27, in Park City Utah, will feature In Bruges, another film with Irish connections. Though not filmed in Ireland, the



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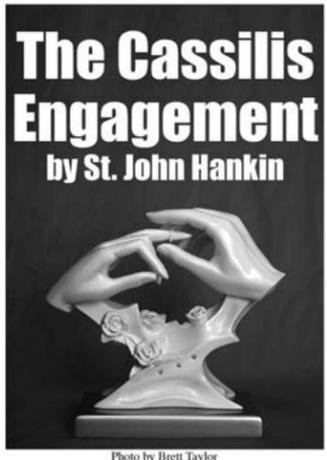
A splendidly witty comedy by the man Shaw considered the shining light of the New Drama.

***Mention this ad for one free ticket when you buy two!**

ShawChicago Presents The Cassilis Engagement in January and February

The Cassilis Engagement will be presented at the Ruth Page Theater, 1016 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, from Saturday, January 12 through Saturday, February 2, 2008. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 pm and Mondays at 7:00 pm with additional Saturday evening performances at 7:00 pm on January 19 & 26, 2008.

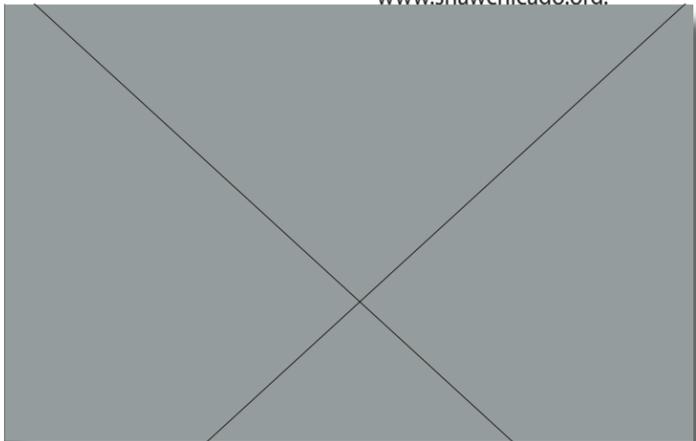
"Engagements are such troublesome things. They sometimes even lead to marriage." That statement sums up the dilemma of Adelaide Cassilis when she learns that her son Geoffrey is engaged to an "unsuitable" young lady he has met in London. She embarks on a campaign to change her son's mind without him realizing it. She invites the girl and her "even-more-unsuitable" mother for an extended visit to the Cassilis country estate, setting off a comic clash between old money and nouveau ambition. A splendidly witty comedy by the



man Shaw considered the shining light of the New Drama.

Tickets for The Cassilis Engagement are \$15, with a special group rate for groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased with a credit card by calling 312-587-7390.

ShawChicago Theater Co., at www.shawchicago.org.



(L-R) Morgan Weed (Amy), Abby Mueller (Meg) and Heidi Kettenring (Jo) in "Little Women." (Photo courtesy of Dan Rest)

Little Women at Marriott

The award-winning new musical Little Women runs through February 3rd at The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, 10 Marriott Drive. This enthralling production chronicles the joys and sorrows of the adventurous and captivating March sisters.

Little Women follows the March sisters as they come-of-age in 19th Century New England. While their father is serving as an army chaplain during the Civil War, their beloved mother, Marmee, is left to raise the four girls. As each sister tries to find their place in the world, they inevitably take paths that lead them all in different directions; yet they never lose their sisterly bond that helps define who they are at heart.

The performance schedule for Little Women is Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$45.00, excluding tax and handling fees. A \$5.00 discount for students and seniors is valid for Wednesday matinees and both Sunday performances. With the purchase of a \$55 ticket on Wednesdays or Thursdays, dinner is included at the King's Wharf Restaurant or the Fairfield Inn (based on dining availability). Dinners on Friday, Saturday and Sunday range from \$32 - \$43 per person (includes tax). Free parking is available at all performances. To reserve tickets with a major credit card, call the Marriott Theatre Box Office at 847.634.0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com.

Dolly West's Kitchen at Timeline

TimeLine Theatre Co. season starts with the Chicago premiere of Dolly West's Kitchen by Frank McGuinness 1-26 through 3-22, 615 W Wellington Ave., Chicago.

During World War II in Co. Donegal, the close-knit West family has love and laughter in the safety of Dolly's kitchen to distract itself from fears of the war nearby. Their plan to escape involvement is shattered when one of their own brings British and American soldiers across the border and into their midst.

Soon clashes over issues of loyalty, jealousy, sexual identity and love invade the neutrality of Dolly West's kitchen. This hilarious and poignant play, produced at the Abbey Theatre in 1999 and in Great Britain at the Old Vic Theatre in 2000, was nominated for several Olivier Awards, including Best New Play.

Dolly West's Kitchen opens Saturday, January 26 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, 1-27 at 2 p.m. and runs

Wednesdays (2/27, 3/5, 3/12 and 3/19 only) and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Saturday, 3-22.

Tickets are \$25 (Wednesday - Friday) or \$30 (Saturday & Sunday). 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 timelinetheatre.com.

Fragments and St. Joan at Shakespeare

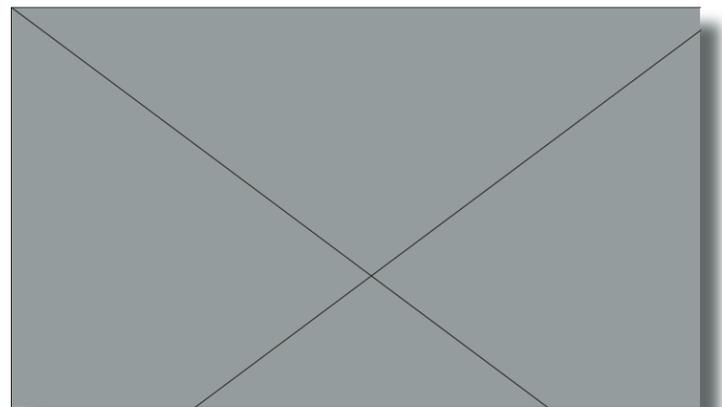
Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) kicks off the New Year with Bernard Shaw's iconic Saint Joan Tuesday, January 8 through Sunday, January 20, 2008. The Shaw Festival joins the growing ranks of leading international theater artists and companies presented by Chicago Shakespeare as part of The World's Stage Series.

Regarded by many to be Shaw's masterpiece, Saint Joan chronicles the life of Jeanne d'Arc, a peasant girl who, in 1431 led an army, crowned a king, and was burned at the stake. Nearly 500 years later, she was made a saint. Shaw brilliantly retold this extraordinary story, shining a bright light on the roots of nationalism, and combining his most refined and provocative political thinking with fiercely poetic writing—leading to the 1925 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Saint Joan begins Tuesday, January 8 through Sunday, January 20, 2008 in Chicago Shakespeare's Courtyard Theater. The performance schedule is: January 8, 10, 11, 15, 17, and 18 at 7:30 p.m.; January 9 and 16 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; January 12 and 19 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and January 13 and 20 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$54, Tuesday through Thursday and \$70, Friday through Sunday.

Peter Brook returns with the American premiere of his newest work, based on Samuel Beckett's Rough for Theatre I, Act Without Words II, Come and Go, Neither and Rockaby. Fragments runs from January 30 through February 9, 2008 at the Upstairs at Chicago Shakespeare, Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave.

Tickets range from \$46-\$56. Visit www.chicagoshakes.com at 312.595.5600.



Sisters Dolly West (Kat McDonnell, r) and Esther Horgan (Danica Ivancevic,) in DOLLY WEST'S KITCHEN. Photo by Lara Goetsch.

Timeline
Theatre Company

Dolly West's Kitchen

CHICAGO PREMIERE - JAN 22 - MAR 22
BY FRANK MCGUINNESS
DIRECTED BY KIMBERLY SENIOR

In Ireland during World War II, issues of loyalty, jealousy, sexual identity and love are centerstage in this hilarious and poignant play.

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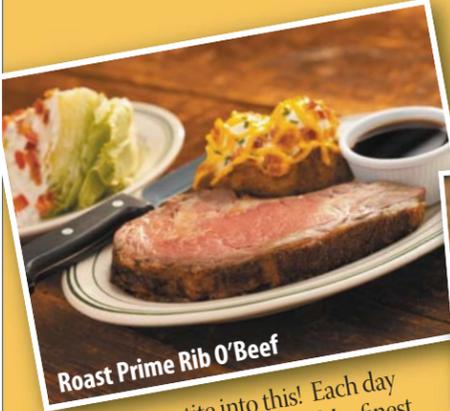
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