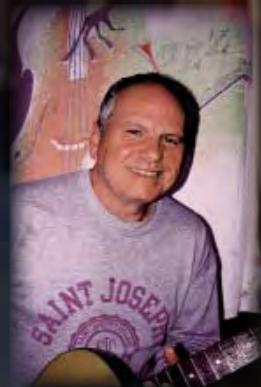


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Joe Dooley Fundraiser
...page 10



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O'Shaughnessy's Public House Opens in Ravenswood

O'Shaughnessy's Public House opened in April in the historic Pickard China Building at 4557 N. Ravenswood Avenue previously occupied by the famous Zephyr Ice Cream Restaurant. Now named as homage to owner Michael Finan's Irish heritage, O'Shaughnessy's Public House offers lunch, dinner, bar food and weekend breakfast along with a full bar and plenty of draught beers.

The layout of the space contains a full wraparound bar at the entrance with high tables and their comfortable padded benches set along the perimeter of the front room. Seating for 160 in the remainder of the din-

ing area boasts a mix of booths and low and high tables set against dark detailed wood walls, exposed brick, rich colored wall paper and stained glass which was created in Ireland and shipped to them. An additional custom bar brings up the rear of the dining area and is perfect for private events. The front and the back of O'Shaughnessy's could host parties of up to 75 people at the same time. There are five different floor and ceiling patterns and materials used throughout the public house reflecting the variety of architectural and design styles in England and Ireland, making O'Shaughnessy's look very contemporary. The addition of fireplaces and TV's showing the best of American, Irish and English sports will provide a relaxing atmosphere with a juke box to round up the daily entertainment. Live music may be

scheduled for special events.

Executive Chef is Kristine Olson. Located at the intersection of Ravenswood and Wilson Avenue, O'Shaughnessy's Public house is in an ideal location for those taking public transportation, walking or driving. The Metra stops at Lawrence just two blocks south and the Brown Line El stops at Montrose, only two blocks north. In addition to the east and westbound #145 bus stop on the corner, there is parking adjacent to the building.

O'Shaughnessy's Public House is open seven days a week for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch: Sunday-Friday 11AM-2AM and Saturday 11AM-3AM. Reservations for large parties, special events and private parties will be accepted. Please call 773.944.9896 for information or reservations. Website will be available soon at www.healthyorhearty.com.

Irish Veterans Memorial Project

The Irish Veterans Memorial Project is moving to the town of Boyle, in County Roscommon, and is seeking support from Irish Veterans and supporters around the world to enable the move to take place. The Irish Veterans Memorial Project (also known as Irish Veterans Historical Research Centre) works to remember all Irish men and women who served in US military and ancillary services

from roughly 1900 to the present day. They are searching for information on individual service personnel, which is then added to an ever-growing archive. If you, or someone you know, is an Irish Veteran, and you or s/he served in any branch of the US military, please send details to the address below, or contact Declan P. Hughes at dectwth@eircom.net (please put Irish Veterans in the subject line).

Irish Veterans Memorial Project is the Irish Registered Charity charged with historical research on Irish Veterans, and establishing a Memorial to all who served.

If you would like to support the creation of an Irish Veterans Heritage & Research Museum and Memorial in Ireland, please send your contribution to: Brendan Dodd (Treasurer), Irish Veterans Memorial Project, Capel Chambers, 119 Capel Street, Dublin 1, Republic of Ireland.



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The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



No sales pitch this month, but I will tell you that the funding for the Quiet Man Tales new play is 34k from closing. Now is your last chance to invest. For more information contact Frank Mahon (see his column under "Irish Stew") at fmahon@aol.com.

Get well wishes go out to Frank Bradley of Gaelic Park fame. What I hear is that he picked up a virus while traveling and had to undergo surgery for fluid on the brain. The word is he is recovering well.

Congratulations to John Griff-

fin, also of Gaelic Park fame. He has been appointed a judge. Seems like an excellent choice to me. His calm demeanor, and practical approach to things will make for a good judge. It's my understanding he must divest himself of his law practice. The good news is he will continue to be heavily involved at Gaelic Park.

Condolences to our own Mike Houlihan on the death of his brother, Willie. He wrote a nice homage to him elsewhere in the paper this month.

Condolences to the families of Judge James O'Malley, Judge James Ryan, and Judge Tom Carmody. All died unexpectedly.

Condolences to the family of Patricia Frawley, 1982 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen, and former resident of the Beverly neighborhood. She died suddenly while on a business trip in Florida.



Patricia Frawley

The new O'Shaughnessy's opened in the same spot as the Zephyr Ice Cream Parlor on Ravenswood and Wilson in Chicago. It's a must see. If you are wondering why there are so many Irish restaurants still opening, even in this soft economy, it's because they are a cut above the rest. This one looks terrific inside. Fireplaces, nooks and crannies. The kind of place

Former Irish President Remembered

Former Irish President Patrick Hillery died recently at the age of 84 following a short illness. He served two terms as President of Ireland and as foreign minister he negotiated Ireland's 1973 entry to the future European Union. He subsequently served as Ireland's first European Commissioner.

Ambassador John Bruton, Head of the European Commission's Delegation to Washington, remembered Hillery as "an exceptionally good President."

"The modest and dignified way in which he conducted his two

you can make yourself at home in. Can't wait to try the food!

Bridie McKenna's is rolling along nicely in Highwood, and Phil Cullen of The Ballydoyle Restaurant and Pub in Downers Grove is working on a new one in Aurora. Stay tuned for more...

McNally's in St. Charles is also hard at work on another establishment, "Down by the river," and close to its original establishment.

I haven't been to Oscar Wilde's on Broadway in Chicago yet, but they are getting high marks for design. Heard of someone who wants his contractor to check it out and build his in the same fashion. Nice compliment!

June 1st will be a fund-raiser for Joe Dooley at the venerable Irish American Heritage Center. You all know Joe as a member of the Dooley Brothers. Get down there, have a good time, and lend a helping Irish hand to a good fellow.

The bad news is that Mary Rose Teahan is closing her Irish import shop at 2501 N Harlem on May 17th. The good news is that you can save 40% on anything in the store with cash purchases. She's also looking to unload her store fixtures. We'll miss Mary Rose on Harlem, but she will be on hand frequently at the Navy Pier location. Mary Rose has had an Irish import shop since the mid 1960's, and wants to slow down a little!

full terms in office enhanced the Presidency considerably," he said. "He was open-minded and gave consideration to the views and concerns of politicians of all parties. As a person, Paddy Hillery



was gentle and self-effacing. As a public servant he was quietly determined, leaving a large legacy of work that helped transform our education system and secure our place in the European Union."



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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



The rationale for the statute of repose, like a statute of limitation, stems from a basic legal fairness concept that at some point, that a party is no longer responsible for a past act. The purpose of the construction statute of repose is to protect all participants in the construction industry from the onerous task of defending against stale claims.

Com Ed argued that the electrician's claim was untimely and fell within the construction statute of repose because more than 10 years had passed between the installation of the electrical system after 1985 and the explosion in 2001. The electrician contended the construction statute of repose did not apply because the allegations in his lawsuit did not concern Com Ed's construction or installation of the system, but rather the ongoing maintenance duties undertaken by Com Ed as a supplier of power.

A Cook County judge agreed with Com Ed and granted its motion for summary judgment thus dismissing the action. The electrician appealed.

In a decision earlier this month, the First District Appellate Court of

Illinois reversed the trial judge and reinstated his lawsuit against Com Ed. The appellate court decided that even though contractors receive the protection of the statute of repose for design and installation-related activities, they do not receive protection for other activities that are not in the statute including inspection and maintenance duties. Therefore, if a contractor violates a duty arising from its activity as an inspector, rather than its activity as an installer, it can be held liable for a breach of that duty regardless of the statute of repose.



Dan Malone

Unless a motion for rehearing or a petition for leave to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court is granted, this case will be returned to the Cook County Circuit Court for trial.

Ryan v. Commonwealth Edison Company and High Voltage Maintenance Corporation, No: 06-3309.

Dan Malone is a partner with The Healy Law Firm. He has been a trial attorney for nearly 22 years, and focuses his practice on personal injury and workers' compensation. He currently serves as Vice President of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers' Association.

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Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



of its finest leaders.

Gaelic football, although not as old, has always been the traditional game of Ireland with hurling and handball. It was mentioned in 1791 when a game was played on the banks of the Boyne between the young men of Heath and Louth. Clever fielding, accurate kicking, with frequent scoring coming from all over the field, make this game a game apart, and superior to, any other football game; embracing all the speed, fire and daring of the Irish temperament.

These are the thrilling games on view each and every Sunday afternoon from 2pm until 6pm. To profess to be Irish and proud of it and not to have seen or supported these games, at least a few Sundays in the long season, is in my humble opinion at least, to be a "St. Patrick's Day" man or woman. So come on out and bring the kids. See the real Irish games. Hear real Irish being

spoken. It's a wonderful experience. For more information on the schedule call the beautiful colleens in the front office at 708-687-9323.

An Taoiseach Resigns

An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern offered his resignation recently; news that shocked the country. Despite the many allegations that have cropped up recently, the Dublin man was still the favourite and no doubt could have weathered the storm until the next elections. His resignation at this time, just prior to speaking to the U.S. Congress, seemed odd at best. One would have thought that it could have least waited until after that assignment.

He took over the office in 1997 when Ireland was beginning to experience economic prosperity for the first time. U.S. firms seemed to like Ireland because of its well-educated labor force and its closeness to the European communities. It also attracted other foreign investments. He kept Ireland business taxes low and that was a big attraction.

On the diplomatic front he was instrumental in securing peace in Ulster after a long period. His closeness to Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair also helped in this cause, eventually producing the Good Friday Peace Agreement and the revival of an inter-religious government in the province.

We wish him good health and success in his retirement.

**Chicago Colleens in
U.S College Ice Hockey
Play-Off**

be graduating in June and has been offered a four year scholarship for ice hockey at the University of Minnesota. No doubt she will also be a coming star.

The headline of their daily paper reads "O'Connor plays unselfish role" and goes on to say "Claire O'Connor has set a new career high in goals this season even though she's usually more worried about getting other players the puck. She is a star playmaker." Claire's humble reply was, "I always liked being a set-up player or being the one that gives the puck to the goal scorer. I don't mind that. I'll take a back seat to that." Spoken like a real O'Connor.

Whenever I read or hear about ice hockey, it reminds me of a game that I love because it's like the old caman game—fast, skillful and lots of excitement. We are told that early Irish emigrants to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and other places north brought their hurleys with them and played hurling on the ice, calling it "Ice Hurley." We are also told that this game was the forerunner of ice hockey, with the rules changed of course. So with that in mind we have to believe that the O'Connor colleens are carrying on the old Irish tradition of playing "ice hurley."

Congratulations to all concerned, especially to the proud father and mother and, of course, the grandparents. And best wishes to the three sisters. You make all of us feel proud.

**NACB Promotional
Officer Appointed**

Eamon Kelly, hard working PRO for the NACB, tells us that Dave Olsen of Milwaukee, WI, has been appointed Hurling Development Officer and last month conducted a series of trainings with Juvenile hurling teams from Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Indianapolis, Madison, Miami and St. Louis. This is great news for the old caman game and indeed for the welfare of U.S. hurling, with "no new seed" coming from Ireland in the foreseeable future. Congratulations and every good luck wish is extended to Mr. Olsen in all his endeavors. He is going to need the support of all gaels, in Chicago and other cities.

Even in Ireland, minor and under-21 championships are conducted at the highest level. The counties that take good care of their juveniles at school age and immediately afterwards are always to be found as hurling leaders. For example, look at Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary, and indeed Galway. These counties are always in some hurling finals. They look after their minors. We must do the same if hurling is to survive in the U.S.

Hurling and Football Season at Gaelic Park

After a long winter wait, Chicago gaeldom is about to start another season of thrills and excitement on the playing field, as men and women compete for the right to represent Chicago for national titles. Gaelic Park is located at 6119 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, east of Harlem at 147th Street and west of Cicero. From now until September, the clash of the ash (the hurley stick) and the thud of the big ball (football) will once again echo all over the southwest side of Chicago!

Hurling is "the fastest ground game in the world" and if the old gods played a game on Mount Olympus, hurling was that game. The game is mentioned in the fifth century. It was always the game of the gael and it was said to be so popular in Ireland that the English (the Invaders) banned the game in the "Statute of Kilkenny" in 1366. It was the game that eventually brought about the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in 1884. And it was the GAA who inspired the glorious Easter Rising of 1916 and supplied some



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Chicago Harry Boland Hurlers Convene

Chicago Harry Boland Hurling Club, one of the oldest in U.S. gaeldom, convened recently and hard working Secretary Con Moore told us that the club will be in action again this year; good news for its large membership. The famed hurlers have won at least 14 American Board National Titles since 1959.

Over the years since its inception in 1925 by legendary GAA figures of that time-Mike (Evergreen) Muiryan, and Paddy Burke, Galway-Mike Heffernan (Kilkenny), Tom Mahoney (Cork), Jimmy Connellan (Clare), Frank Burke (Tipperary), and others have been a power in U.S. hurling. From the start back in the twenties, it won Chicago titles until 1932 when they had to disband because of a severe recession. When the GAA was reactivated in 1949, it continued its winning ways until clubs like Austin Stacks, Shannon Rangers, St. Vincent's and others came along to share the spoils.

Every year it seems like the team is "the one to beat" and that makes for a higher standard all around. But, with young hurlers (apart from the students) coming here in the summer, "new seed" from Ireland is at its lowest ebb. Champions CuChullians are worthy champions and Limerick are not far behind so with the Bolands in the mix this year, Chicago gaeldom should witness some exciting games. Games start in June - hurling, Gaelic football, men and women, Camogie (ladies hurling) all produce some thrilling encounters, so come out and enjoy the sun and the games starting at 2pm. For more information on Sunday schedules call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323.

Fund Raiser for Young Athlete

Before becoming a victim to Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, young Christopher (Chris) Doherty, who is 12 years old, was a star athlete in football and soccer at his school, St. Symphorosa. He is an all-round athlete and loves the games of Ireland, hurling and football, played at Gaelic Park. Hopefully, with God's help he will be back on the playing field again very soon.

His many visits to the hospital, plus treatment there and at home, are expensive and his insurance benefits may exceed lifetime family coverage. Multiple surgeries plus CT and PET scans have also become necessary as home treatments continue, plus many chemo treatments.

In order to help in this worthy cause, family and many friends of the Doherty family are hosting a big fundraiser at Hawthorne Park—2501 S. Laramie in Stickney, IL—on

Sunday September 28, 2008 from 4pm to 10pm.

Readers and friends can help this cause in a variety of ways including sending a check payable to Kickin4Chris c/o Fifth Third Bank, 5235 West 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60638 or call (773)582-6300 or visit www.53.com. Other ways you can help include, sending gift certificates, beverages, wine, beer which will be utilized at the benefit. The website is www.Kickn4Chris.org.

Chris is the son of John and Debra Doherty and his well known grandparents are Jack Doherty, retired and one of the legendary Doherty Bros. who made the Chicago Fire Department their careers and were honored several times for bravery in saving lives and property. His loving grandmother Christine is one of our favorite nieces.

Facts About Ireland

Prior to being recalled to Dublin some years ago, popular Consul General for Ireland in Chicago and Midlands, Eamon Hickey gave me a book entitled "Facts About Ireland." He was always a hard working diplomat who kept in touch with the Irish in Chicago and I treasured his friendship. In a letter before he left he thanked our paper for wonderful cooperation with him and the Consulate over a number of years and wished all of us every success.

The book is a comprehensive account of Ireland, its people down through the ages, its history, politics, culture and of course its national games, language, song, dance and music of the gael.

I intend to include some of the material in my column each month in the interest of reminding us all of our glorious homeland and supply some "Facts" that we may not know. Needless to add some of our proclaimed "historians" will disagree with them. To those we say chatter on.

Ireland's population from the earliest of time consisted of Celts, Vikings, Normans and of course our oppressors, who still have over 5,000 British troops stationed in Ulster. They recently withdrew a few thousand. Hopefully Mr. Brown will see fit to withdraw the remainder soon. In 1841, prior to the Great Famine, the population was approximately 6.5 million. Ten years later the census showed a massive decline to 5.1 million, caused by deaths from starvation, disease and large scale emigration. In 1961 the population stood at 2.8 million, but from that time on the pattern changed because of a much improved economic performance. In 1995 the population had grown to 3.7 million. The latest prediction is 4.2 million by 2011.

Irish (Gaelic) is the official lan-

guage, but of course English is spoken more frequently, as are many other European languages because of large emigration from several European countries over the past few years. Irish courses are conducted periodically at Chicago Gaelic Park, and The Irish American Heritage Center.

Christianity was introduced into Ireland in the 5th century, which is associated with the coming of St. Patrick. It is known that there were Christians in the country before he came. A feature of Christianity was the important role played by monasticists. Setting out as Monks Irish missionaries preached the gospel and established new communities on the continent. They came from such great monasteries as Glendalough, founded by Saint Kevin, and Clonmanno, founded by Saint Ciarin, famous centers of culture and learning, and the manuscripts they produced were among the most glorious of Irish monasticism. They had a tremendous influence on Britain and Europe from the 6th century onwards. They brought Christianity to pagan people, and paved the way for the intellectual learning of the 9th century, known as the Carolingian Renaissance. This period was seen as the "Golden Age of Irish History."

The Normans who invaded Ireland in 1167 quickly assimilated with the Irish and took control of three quarters of the land. In time they became more Irish than the Irish themselves, but they developed the same type of parliament, law and system as the British. However, the real Irish prevailed and the area of English rule in Ireland shrunk to a small area around Dublin known as "The Pale."

Irish Rugby News

The OLD BOYS game on Saturday, April 19th, was postponed. Gaelic Park was not available. The OLD BOYS game will hopefully be rescheduled for May 10th. Check the website for updates (www.southsideirishrugby.com). Also, the game against the West Side Condors may be a road game instead of a home game.

In postseason news, the Irish advanced to the Sweet 16 by beating Miami 47-6 a few weeks back. Next up was the seeding matches for the Sweet 16 on weekend of April 26th in Atlanta. The Irish faced Life College on Saturday. The other game Saturday is Pearl City vs Palmer College. The winners and losers will play each other on Sunday. The Sweet 16 will take place the weekend of May 17th in Austin, TX.

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Irish Books and
Plays in Review

Frank West

Galway Writer Nominated
for Prestigious Award

Ken Bruen, the author of many noir mystery novels, is nominated for the Edgar Award for his novel *Priest*.

I have reviewed most of his eloquent and visionary novels here and reviewed *Priest* last June. *Priest* is a powerful and profoundly thought-provoking book.

For this interview, I called Ken Bruen at his home in Galway, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

From the picture of him on the jackets of his books, I expected him to be stern and dour. Instead I found him to be friendly, quick-witted and approachable.

To mystery writers, the Edgar Award is like the Oscar (it's named for Edgar Allan Poe, the first American mystery writer).



Bruen is extraordinarily prolific—having published 18 books! He has received many awards, including the much coveted Shamus award for *The Guards*.

That was the first novel to feature the fictional detective Jack Taylor. Taylor was dismissed from the Guards because of alcohol and drug abuse. But

in true noir tradition, Taylor continued to search for the truth and struggle against evil. He is one honest man fighting against the ever present force of evil.

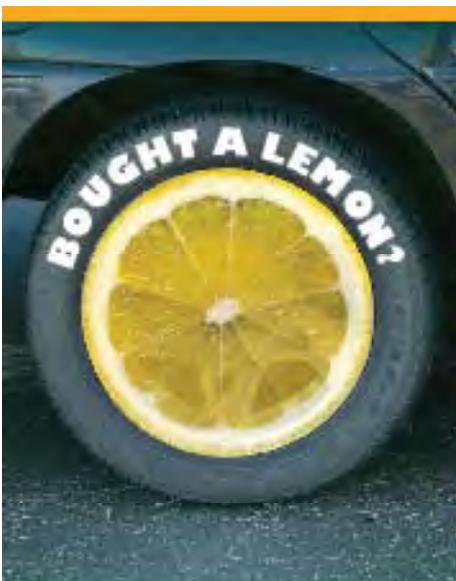
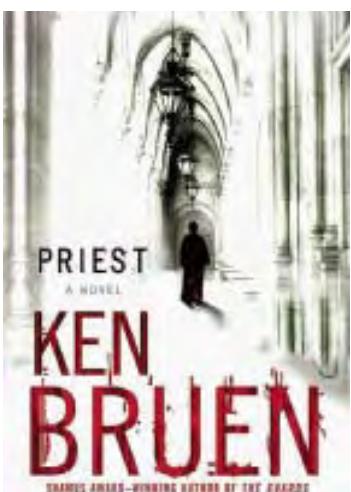
Zach Taylor? Think Sam Spade, or Phillip Marlowe, Humphrey Bogart, Elliot Gould or Dick Powell walking the streets of Galway.

Bruen does for Galway what Raymond Chandler did for Los Angeles and what Dashiell Hammett did for San Francisco.

The plot of *Priest* is a bewildering puzzle of fate.

A priest is beheaded. A fellow priest asks Taylor to investigate. He learns that the priest abused boys over many years. Naturally they are the suspects. But Taylor learns

Continued to page 10



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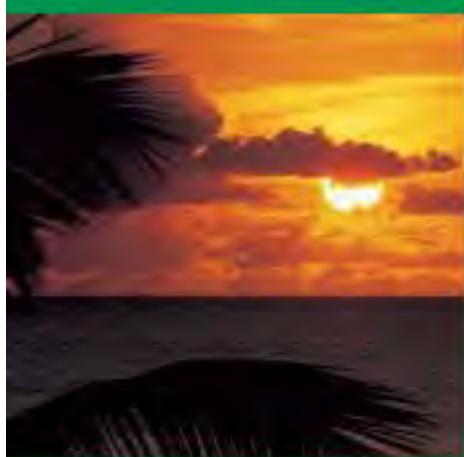
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Books In Review

By Frank West

Continued from page 8

that the boys, now in their 40's, are outwardly successful—but can't get emotionally close to anyone—not with women, men, business associates, etc. The priest ruined their emotional lives.

But who is really guilty here?

The beheaded pedophile priest was formed by a system that recruited boys for the priesthood, who were so young that they had no experience of life.

The slavish, unquestioning reverence for priests by a society which refused to believe the abused boys, even when they asked their parents for help.

Considering these facts, is the murderer really guilty? Jack Taylor, and the reader, must decide.

Frank West: "Ken, you have a skill for developing characters in a few sentences. Have these characters been in your mind for a long time?"

Ken Bruen: "Yes, they have. The main character, Jack Taylor, is based on my brother. He had a severe problem with alcohol. And because of his experiences, I understand the guilt, longing and soul-emptiness of someone addicted to alcohol."

FW: "My parents, the parish school and the neighborhood where I was raised, were very Irish Catholic."

I profoundly agree with Jack Taylor's negative view of the Catholic Church. It made people feel guilty and worthless. Many of the

characters Taylor meets reflect the lack of basic human dignity. Maybe the church's attitude about this has modified somewhat, since Vatican II of the 1960's."

However, Bruen told me of this recent experience. His daughter is a Downs-Syndrome child. She is about 6 to 8 years old, is loving, cute and, in many ways, very smart.

Walking on the street in Galway, she and her father met a priest. Being friendly, they stopped to talk with him. The priest volunteered that Bruen's daughter could never be a nun. In front of the child, he said: "They don't accept damaged girls." Bruen controlled his anger and only replied: "Thank you for that information. You have made my day." Insensitive to sarcasm, the priest said: "Bless you, my son," and walked on, completely untroubled by human compassion.

FW: Noir writing is curiously optimistic. It shows that, occasionally, one person can triumph over arrogance and evil and bring good into the world.

Would you please talk to this?

KB: "I absolutely agree with your appraisal."

Bruen then told me this story.

Reading and learning were not encouraged in him as a child. But he studied hard and wanted to attend Dublin's world-renowned Trinity College. As a practicing Catholic,



Ken Bruen and his lovely daughter, Grace.

the young man would have to get a dispensation to attend Trinity from Dublin's archbishop, John Charles McQuaid. At the meeting with the archbishop, Bruen refused to kneel and kiss his ring. And definitely after McQuaid called Trinity "a den of iniquity," the young Bruen realized that he would have to make up his own mind and enroll at Trinity.

Bruen is filled with illuminating stories like that one. Here is another. He was a very quiet child at school. The nuns told his parents that he was retarded and would never amount to anything. They told his parents that "I would grow up to be a dishwasher."

FW: "I love the quotes and epigrams you thoughtfully put before each chapter, to focus the reader. Like these two epigrams. Blaise Pascal: 'being unable to cure death, wretchedness and ignorance, men have decided in order to be happy, not to think about such things.' And this by Graham Greene: 'The Catholic Church knows everything about religion and rules, but nothing about the human heart.'

FW: "You must read a lot to get these?"

KB: "Reading is a joy." As a boy there were no books in his house, much of human experience and learning was closed to him. But today he travels widely and reads continually. Again he says, "Reading is a joy."

FW: "Would you describe your work methods, please? Like how many hours a day do you write? And do you edit your work?"

KB: "I rise early and write from 5 AM to 7 AM. Actually I read into a tape recorder to hear if my writing is musical."

FW: "What are your plans, Ken? Are you working on a new novel?"

KB: "In the early summer I'm going to publish a new Zach Taylor novel, I hope you'll review it."

FW: "I'm looking forward to the pleasure of reading it. I'll definitely review it for our readers. Thank you for this interview."

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The Family of Joe Dooley Thanks You

The Banshee in Chicago

By Frank West

The play, *The Banshee of Crokey Hill*, was recently presented at the Irish American Heritage Center.

The play was so emotionally powerful that I felt a part of it. Many plays you watch almost as an onlooker, but a golden few permit you to enter emotionally.

This play has all the ingredients of a strong, magnetic play: intense drama, surprise, humor, a great plot, and characters that you can identify with.

Congratulations to the playwright Tommy Marren. He wrote the play and was a major actor in it. Tall, blond and somewhere in his 30's, Marren was convincing as Mickey McMahon—the plaything of fate.

The play is set in the 1970's, in the west of Ireland. Much has changed in Ireland since then, but the emotional interchange among people hasn't.

After living many years in England, Mickey returns to the village where he grew up, to announce to his family that he is getting married. But then he learns the shocking truth about his own parentage. If that isn't enough of a shock, he also learns that he is closely related to the woman he plans to marry.

This outstanding theatre en-

semble comes to Chicago from the West of Ireland. The actors ably support Marren, as his character struggles with fate.

A word of praise for Mary Mannion who plays the town's gossipy busy-body. Her verbal exchanges with the "father," Zach McMahon, are funny, piercing, stinging, but poignant at the same time.

In the rural Ireland of not so very long ago, the banshee was a spirit that announced the coming of death.

Several times during the play the overbearing and cruel father, Zach McMahon, says "there will be no mention of the banshee of Crokey Hill in this house." I didn't understand why he said this.

His fear became clear in the final scene, when death overtakes the members of this unhappy and secretive family.

A special mention of praise for the excellent music and dancing. The young man and woman—solo dancers—were amazingly versatile. I had never seen Irish step dancers dancing over brooms, like Scottish Highlanders over crossed swords.

I thoroughly enjoyed this emotionally fearless play. And I hope Tommy Marren writes another play for this outstanding group of actors

2008 Concern Worldwide Golf Outing

The 2008 Concern Worldwide Golf Outing, presented by The McShane Companies, will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at Harborside International Golf Center. James C. Kenny, former United States Ambassador to Ireland, will support this year's golf outing as Honorary Chairman. In addition, Jack Conaty, chief political correspondent for FOX News Chicago, will be the emcee.

This event brings together business leaders, friends and supporters for a wonderful day of golf to ensure funding of programs to support Concern's global work. After the golf outing, please plan to attend a buffet dinner for sponsors, players and guests. Individual player spots and various corporate sponsorship levels are available. Please see www.concernusa.org.

Funds raised from the 2008 golf outing will support a water and sanitation program in the Tonkolili District and Freetown in Sierra Leone. Concern will construct

maintenance of water sources.

To register for the golf event or for additional information, please contact Lisa Jacobus at Concern's office at 312.431.8400, lisa.jacobus@concern.net or www.concernusa.org.



At Concern's June 27, 2007 golf outing: (L-R) Jack Conaty, Chief Political Correspondent, FOX News, Tom Moran, CEO and President of Mutual of America, and Chairman of Concern Worldwide's Board of Directors, Anne O'Mahony, Concern Worldwide, Regional Director—Horn of Africa, Father Jack Wall, 2007 Honorary Chairperson of Golf Event, and Bob Fitzgerald, Concern Worldwide Board of Director, member.

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'Irish Stew'

By Frank J. Mahon



Patrick Quinn—Still Helping His Fellow Soldiers Up the Hill

Patrick Quinn came to America by boat with one of his brothers in 1947. They were from Kilkeel, County Down. Pat was 22 years old. The crossing was rough, and lasted eleven or twelve days. When they finally arrived in New York, they stayed a few days, then headed for Chicago, where they had family. Pat was a carpenter by trade, and planned to build a life for himself in a new home, a new country. He lived at 55th and Morgan in Visitation Parish. There were a lot of Irish in the parish. He was hired by Henry Brothers Construction, which built a lot of churches and schools back in those days. But Pat's plans for a future were soon interrupted.

As an Irish citizen entering the U.S. on a permanent visa, Pat knew he was subject to the draft. America was between wars then. He registered, as the law required, and was drafted in 1949. His total commitment to the Army would be five years. He was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington for basic training and spent thirteen months there. He was released to the Army Reserve in February of 1950 with the rank of corporal. He was called back up in September of that year, but now the stakes were much higher. The Korean War had started.

I recently sat down with Pat in the kitchen of his home in Burbank, Illinois, where he and his wife Ann have lived since 1972. They have two children, Thomas and Maureen. Pictures of their 6 grandchildren are on the refrigerator. Pat is a soft-spoken, humble man of 83 years who hasn't lost his brogue. I asked him to tell me what happened to him in the Korean War. For the next 2 hours, Pat took me back to America's "Forgotten War." Some of what you are about to read is not for the faint of heart. Pat has an astonishing memory. But then, it would be hard to forget what he went through.

"I didn't mind going to Korea," says Pat. "We had to stop Communism somewhere. I knew where Korea was on a map, but that's all I knew about it." Pat's troop ship landed at Inchon in November of 1950, where he joined L Company, 30th Regiment, Second Infantry Division. He was made leader of a rifle squad. "I had a squad of nine guys." By February of 1951, Pat was promoted to the rank of sergeant. The weather was brutal in Korea that winter. "Everybody was about frozen to death, including the Chinese," according to

were afraid of American planes. For the first two days they were given nothing to eat. They kept marching because the Chinese had no place to put their prisoners. There were no POW camps at that stage of the war. The only way Pat knew which direction they were taking them was by watching the Big Dipper. "We used to call it the Plough in the Stars in Ireland."

On what Pat describes as the longest day of his life, American planes flew in to knock out a target. The Chinese and their American prisoners hid under small pine trees - two men to a tree. The planes started strafing the area. It went on all day. Pat recalls that they could see the pilots in the cockpits. Pat kept praying. Bullets kicked the dirt up around them. Miraculously, not one of them even got a scratch.

Houses were used to hold the prisoners at night. When the prisoners were finally fed, they were given cracked corn and half-cooked soy beans. The corn tore up their intestines. They suffered from diarrhea and dysentery. They lived in the clothes they were captured in and didn't change those clothes until the next July. "We were like animals." But their winter uniforms saved them from freezing to death. There were no blankets, no medical care. The enemy did not recognize the Geneva Convention or the Red Cross.

On one march, a young POW from Arkansas, weak with fever and dehydration, decided he could go no further. Pat encouraged him, telling him the next camp was just over the hill, but the kid couldn't take another step. Pat told him to hang onto his jacket, and he'd pull him. "I'll never know where I got the strength."

By April of '51, there were about 700 POWs with Pat and his squad. They were brought to a row of mud houses they quickly named "Bean Camp," after their diet. Because there was nothing to identify it as a POW camp, American planes bombed and strafed the buildings regularly. 16 POW officers were killed in one day by their own planes. Whether they fell from friendly fire, starvation, lack of medical care, dehydration, or the severe weather, Pat and his fellow-captives buried four or five comrades every day. They named the burial ground "Boot Hill." Out of the 700 prisoners of war, 130 came home. Those who survived also had to deal with beriberi, night blindness,

Pat. They engaged the Chinese and North Koreans in skirmishes. Pat led his squad into enemy territory on patrols. The terrain was very mountainous, and the roads narrow. "Our tanks and equipment were of very little use over there."

On February 12th, around ten o'clock at night, the order came to pull back. "We started back, but what we didn't know was that the Chinese had broke through, and they were miles and miles behind us. The roads were narrow. They were waiting for us. The word came out to get out the best way you can." Pat knew of another route and tried that, but it was no good. "The bullets were ricocheting off the mountains and the rocks. It was like a fireworks

fever, and malnutrition. Then there was the body lice, worms and frostbite. Young men begged God to take them. "It was a living nightmare," says Pat, "but you couldn't let it bother you." To this day, Pat has no feeling in his fingertips or toes.

Later, they were moved by train to another camp. The POWs were put in open cars instead of boxcars, where it would have been warmer. The train was hidden during the day in a tunnel. Some POWs snuck into the boxcars, but the engine was kept running and the men were being asphyxiated. Pat and another Irishman named Paddy May went back to find them. They crawled around in the dark, moving to-



ward the groaning men. They dragged and carried many of them to the end of the tunnel. Others weren't so lucky.

The POWs were taken to a Korean village along the Yalu River. The civilians were moved out and the village became a POW camp. And there they remained. By July of '52, conditions slightly improved. Medical care, on a limited basis, was available by the fall. But there was a price. They were subjected to Communist propaganda every day. America was the aggressor, they were told - the warmonger who attacked North Korea. North Korea was fighting for "peace." The captors forced them to attend lectures, calling the POW prisoners "students" and promised medical care for those who studied hard. They were told that in 5 years, America would be Communist.

So what kept Pat himself going? Did he ever think he would survive? "I never had any other idea. It was like being on the outside looking in - it wasn't happening to me. I was bound and determined. There is no limit to what the body can endure, but you have to have the will." But Pat also attributes his survival to something else. "There were so many people praying for me, I had to make it."

Did he ever try to escape? Step one would have been easy, according to Pat, because they marched at night. It was just a matter of dropping out of line into the darkness, but step two was the problem. They were too weak

to run or to climb a mountain. And if they could, they would be instantly recognizable by the Koreans and Chinese. Their poor health and facial features were their chains.

Still, escaping remained a viable alternative to some. Pat was part of one plan that was hatched by a few of the men. But at the last minute, a certain officer got involved and insisted on leading the escape. Pat didn't trust his leadership ability.

It was while he was saying his Rosary, which he often did, that something told him not to be part of the escape. He tried to warn a buddy, but to no avail. Pat didn't take part in the escape. The men who did were soon caught, and because of the officer's conduct - mercilessly beating a police officer during the escape - they all died.

In July of 1953, the cease fire was called. First there was the exchange of the sick and wounded. Then, on August 19, 1953, Pat Quinn and his fellow POWs were exchanged. Pat was a prisoner of war for 31 months. His elation from surviving and being free was indescribable, he says, "Like floating on air."

On the ship that took Pat and the other POWs to San Francisco, they were interrogated. There was great fear the POWs had succumbed to Communism, had become collaborators. The paranoia of McCarthyism had already taken hold. Pat was hospitalized when he got back to the States, first in San Francisco, and again at Great Lakes when he returned to Chicago. He had lost 30 pounds.

After he recovered, Pat went back to work as a carpenter for Henry Brothers. He could no longer work on roofs, because with no feeling in his toes, it was now dangerous. He eventually went to work as a carpenter for the Water Reclamation District, where he spent the rest of his career. He married Ann in 1955 and they raised two kids.

Pat retired in 1990, at age 65, but is still a very busy guy. He's been very active at Gaelic Park through the years, and he volunteers once a week at Hines VA Hospital. While he was being treated there himself, he decided he'd like to help out. He's in the Escort Service. He takes the patients to physical therapy and to get x-rays. The men don't have to hold his coat like the young soldier in Korea, they have wheelchairs, but Pat is still helping his buddies up that hill.

Pat refused to tell me about his decorations. He insists that he is no hero. "Just a lucky survivor." Most people would disagree.

Pat served "his" country for five years, putting his life on the line again and again, and enduring unimaginable hardships. And he wasn't even a U.S. citizen, at least not technically. "As far as I was concerned, the day I raised

my hand and took the oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, I was a citizen." After his ordeal in Korea, he applied for U.S. citizenship and it was made official in June of 1955. Many of his Irish comrades didn't make it back to apply.

In 1976, a Korean War veteran from Kerrynamed John Leahy spearheaded a campaign to obtain posthumous citizenship for the Irish who died in uniform in Korea. Pat Quinn became part of that campaign, tracking down information on soldiers and their families in the Chicago area.

On October 30, 2003, more than a half century after the end of the Korean War, the Director of the U.S. Citizen-

ship and Immigration Services posthumously naturalized 28 Irish soldiers "who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the U.S. military during the Korean War." In a ceremony in Washington D.C., attended by dignitaries and family members of the 28 "Wild Geese" of Korea, Director Eduardo Aguirre said this: "There is no more fitting way for a grateful nation to pay homage to these fine soldiers than to bestow them with posthumous citizenship, the most that we can offer in return." Pat Quinn was there at the ceremony too. He helped to make it happen.

When I was finished interviewing Pat, he pulled a little pouch from his pocket, opened it up, and let the



Ed McElroy, host of Comcast's Channel 19, "Community in Focus" TV Show, recently interviewed Frank Jemsek, owner of the Cog Hill Golf and Country Club, located in Lemont, IL. Frank inherited the Country Club from his late father, Joe. Pictured from the left are Frank Jemsek and Ed McElroy.

contents spill onto the kitchen table. It was the Rosary he carried with him in Korea. The beads were mostly disconnected, the Crucifix and medals detached. He had worn it out. He now

refers to it as his good luck piece. Over 140,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in Korea, and there are 8,000 MIAs. As Pat Quinn puts it, "Freedom is not free."

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



As anyone who has ever cut and pasted text into a document knows, it is easy to unwittingly paste the same piece twice. And the writer can be blissfully unaware of the error until someone else points out the mistake in a finished document. "Oh shucks" the writer may shrug nonchalantly before taking steps to correct the matter. Such slips are generally no big deal today, since

they are easily correctable in this, the computer age. A few key strokes and all will be well. But that was not always the situation.

As recently as 25 years ago, pages and sometimes whole documents had to be typed and retyped because of a few erroneous words or lines. And then—what about writing errors made more than a thousand years ago? In fact, what about blunders

which occurred in arguably the greatest publication of all time: the Book of Kells?

"Blunders in the Book of Kells" I echoed, thinking I had not heard right at a recent presentation on the Good Book at the Irish American Heritage Center by Frank Crowley, an authority on the work. After all, this was the Book of Kells, a preeminent example of medieval monastic calligraphy! That sounded a lot like heresy, since the book is a magnificently illustrated copy of the four gospels and is considered Ireland's finest literary treasure.

Types of Errors

"There are errors of grammar, of spelling and places where a scribe wrote the same material twice" Frank explained patiently, postulating that a scribe might take a break from writing and then resume in the wrong place. "He might not notice he had rewritten the same lines twice" said Crowley, pointing out that three different scribes and possibly a fourth had penned and illustrated the renowned manuscript.

Frank became interested in the tome by growing up in an Irish household that had examples of the Book of Kells. "I was fascinated with those images and they remained in the back of my mind" he explained. "About 30 years ago during a painting and sketching tour of China, I was inspired to return to my Celtic roots. I started seriously researching Celtic culture and the techniques of their

distinct decorative art, as exemplified by the Book of Kells. My first major exhibit of Celtic style art was in Japan, which was well received. Although I collected the copies of pages of the Book over the years, it was the facsimile copy at the Irish American Heritage Center that helped focus my interest."

Chicagoans who are interested in the book but cannot make the long trip to Dublin to see it can learn about its intricacies from upcoming presentations by Frank. These will continue on the last Sunday of each month (excluding July and August) in the Art Gallery of the IAHC at 2pm.

The Banshee of Crokey Hill

The Banshee of Crokey Hill by Tommy Marren played to a standing room only audience at the Irish American Heritage Center last month. Marren, a radio personality at Midwest Radio, a regional station in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, also produced the show. In addition, he was cast as a leading character.

The play, set in 1970, centered on the return home of Mikey McMahon (Tommy Marren) from England after 13 years. He had come to let his parents know that he had become engaged and would be marrying a girl in England. His parents—grumpy Jack (John Duggan) and his long suffering wife Kathleen (Eileen Slevin) were unhappy since a family secret kept from Tommy by his parents complicated matters.

A local gossip Molly Andy (Mary Mannion) appeared and between swills of whiskey and downing gin related a dark history of the family domicile. The cottage was built on a fairy fort and there was a legend that a Banshee had put a spell on it. The

play meandered after that and ended with a blast or perhaps I should say a series of blasts as everyone was floored at the finale.

Audience Reaction

Audience reaction to the play was mixed. Some appeared to enjoy the work but others had reservations. A discontented theatergoer commented that the banshee's wailing at the end was more for shortcomings in the script than for anything that appeared on stage.

Eileen Slevin, as Mikey's mother, displayed both poise and stage presence. She engaged the audience and delivered her lines with aplomb. A sideshow to the main event was the exhibition of synchronized Irish brush dancing by Brian and Ashlene Cunningham. Their staccato toe and heel tapping reverberated through the theater and their nimble footwork generated enthusiastic applause.

Overall, the play lacked direction and stage blocking was haphazard. The actors appeared confused at times and were unable to put the expanse of the set to full use. The play was billed as a comedy but was short in laughs and ran much too long for its content. The first act was an hour and a half and the second an hour. The play would have benefited from major pruning.

Entries Wanted In One Page Play Contest

The Irish American Heritage Center will be holding its 2nd Annual One Page Play Contest again this year. Deadline for entry is May 31st, 2008. This is a chance for anyone hankering to become a produced playwright since the top entries will be performed at Irishfest at the IAHC in July. Details of the contest can be obtained from irishquill@aol.com.

Superior Donuts at Steppenwolf

Superior Donuts by Tracy Letts, directed by Tina Landau, runs June 19 – August 17, 2008 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago.

Arthur Przybyszewski owns a decrepit donut shop in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. Franco Wicks, a black teenager who is his only employee, wants to change the shop for the better. Superior Donuts is a provocative comedy about the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship.

www.steppenwolf.org



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Famous Chicago Musicians at Gaelic Park's Fest 08

Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest brings in more of the best Irish musicians from around the city, country and abroad to perform at their 22nd Annual Irish Fest on Memorial Day Weekend. Performing for the first time at Irish Fest this year is famous Chicago based singer/songwriter Michael McDermott. Also appearing are established fiddler Liz Carroll & guitarist John Doyle and the Makem & Spain Brothers.

Michael McDermott has been a fixture of Chicago music for over ten years and has toured extensively throughout the country. McDermott's latest album Noise From Words was released in 2007 and captures the essence of McDermott, performing generally in the recording studio, and simplifies the music down to his vocals and acoustic guitar.

Another Chicago native, master fiddler Liz Carroll, was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts, Indie Award for traditional performer of the year in



American English

2000 and Traditional Musician of the year by The Irish Echo in 2000. Liz Carroll has made such an impact on the City of Chicago that September 18th, 1999 was dedicated as Liz Carroll Day by Mayor Richard M. Daley. Accompanying Carroll is guitar wizard John Doyle, a duo which The Irish Echo has said that is "...a magnificent balance of virtuosity, drive, and a finesse [that] is firmly upheld" and that they are "synaptic in communication, instinctive in reaction, tight in execution..."

The Makem & Spain Brothers consist of the three sons of legendary musician, the late Tommy Makem, along with brothers Mickey and Liam Spain. The Makem & Spain Brothers have combined their forces to preserve and advance the folk music of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and New England. In such a way that is reminiscent of the late Clancy Brothers, the group use of strong, full-bodied three part harmonies truly capture their magic and infectious energy.

Back again to Irish Fest are the renowned rebel rockers of Black 47, American English, hailed as the best Beatles tribute band and Elevation, described as the most authentic U2 cover band. Other musical acts include The Bridies, Scythian, Seven Nations, The New York Showband, The Tartan Terrors and many, many more.



Makem and Spain Brothers

Irish Fest activities also include an Irish Dog Exhibition and the all new Cultural Tent which will feature an exhibit on Irish rock music. Along with great music, Gaelic Park's Irish Fest will also include a huge carnival midway, Irish step dancers, Ceili dancing, all kinds of food vendors, an Irish Tea Room, 20 Irish import stores and free parking.

Kid's Fun At Irish Fest 2008

Gaelic Park's 22nd Annual Irish Fest also offers lots of kid friendly fun at a low price. Have your kids compete in the Red Hair & Freckle Face Contest or enroll your darling in the Bonnie Baby Contest. There are also puppet and magic shows such as the Leprechaun's Tale Magic Show, the Wizard of Wonder, Bunny McGee's Hair Raising Magic and the Magic and Blarney Show. There will also be storytelling, face painting, a petting zoo, free pony rides, and the huge carnival midway with unlimited rides, rides, rides. It's all at Irish Fest to keep your kids busy.

All of these activities are included in the kids 12 and under admission price of \$12. Kids under 3 are admitted free of charge. Regular admission for adults is \$15 and adults 65 and over admission is \$12 with half priced admission on Friday, May 23rd from 3 to 4pm.

The 22nd Annual Irish Festival begins at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, on Friday, May 23rd from 3pm until 11pm, and continues Saturday, May 24th and Sunday, May 25th noon until 11pm, and Monday, May 26th noon until 8pm. Call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more details or visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Gaelic Storm to Headline Iowa Irish Fest

Popular Celtic music troupe, Gaelic Storm, will headline opening night of the second annual Iowa Irish Fest, August 1-3, in Lincoln Park, Waterloo, with ticket prices set at \$5 per day or \$10 for the weekend. The entertainment schedule will continue with other international headliners, workshops and more on Saturday, August 2, and Sunday, August 3. For a complete schedule visit www.iowairishfest.com.

KT Sullivan Celebrates Broadway Musicals in One Woman Show Colored Lights

Award-winning and acclaimed Broadway, concert and recording star KT Sullivan sings the songs of the Great White Way in her upcoming Chicago one-woman show Colored Lights. Using her own Broadway and off-Broadway experiences as a departure point, Sullivan performs a century of musical theater gems including selections from Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hart, Lerner & Lowe, Jerry Herman, Stephen Sondheim and Adam Guettel. KT has the distinct honor of being named one of the Top 100 Irish-Americans by Irish America Magazine. Presented a MAC Award for Outstanding Female Vocalist, by Liza Minnelli, KT has seven albums in worldwide distribution on the DRG label and has won many awards and performed all over the world.

Colored Lights takes place at Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago, for three nights only. Show times are Monday, June 2, Wednesday, June 4 and Thursday June 5 at 8pm with a \$30 cover charge and two-drink minimum. There will also be a special late night show on Thursday, June 5 at 10:30pm with a \$20 cover charge and two-drink minimum for that performance. Due to high ticket demand for this engagement, reservations are recommended by calling 773.278.1830.

You can visit www.ktsullivan.com for further information.



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Eileen Devlin

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John McDermott

2008 ENTERTAINMENT TO DATE

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TheElders.....	Kansas City, KS
TommyFleming.....	Bellingham, IRL
EileenDevlin.....	New York, NY
BrigideCross.....	Cleveland, OH
NewBarleycorn.....	Cleveland, OH
AbbeyCellBand.....	Cork, IRL
YoungDubliners.....	Los Angeles, CA
JamesKilbane.....	Achill, IRL
BrunoBoys.....	Detroit, MI
MaureenO'Connell.....	Nashville, TN
JohnMcDermott.....	Toronto, CAN
TheKiltroys.....	Cleveland, OH
DermotHenry.....	New York, NY
BrielleKurtisBridges.....	Cleveland, OH
BrendaShine.....	Athlone, IRL
Foster&Allen.....	Moate, IRL
Emigrantays.....	New York, NY
SevenNations.....	Wingertown, FL
BarracudaMacNells.....	Nova Scotia, CAN
SeanWilson.....	Dungannon, IRL
DennisDoyle.....	Glendale, CA
SeamusKennedy.....	Baltimore, MD
LizCarrollwithJohnDoyle.....	Chicago, IL
HeartofOak.....	Sevierville, TN
MommyMoran.....	Cleveland, OH
JohnnyMcEvoy.....	Wicklow, IRL

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Avenue Q at Cadillac Palace

The Chicago premiere of AVENUE Q—the Tony Award-winning smash-hit musical about trying to make it in New York with big dreams and a tiny bank account—will play for a limited three-week engagement from May 21–June 7, 2008 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre

(151 W. Randolph St.) as part of its national tour.

Tickets range in price from \$25-\$75 and are available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices (24 W. Randolph St., 151 W. Randolph St., and 18 W. Monroe St.), through the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at (312) 902-1400, at all Ticketmaster. (including all Hot Tix, select Carson Pirie Scott,



Coconuts and fyre stores) or ticketmaster.com. www.avenueq.com.

Juno and the Paycock at Live Bait

Artistic Home will present Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock, May 18 through June 29, 2008, at Live Bait Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St.

With her son maimed during the Easter Rising and her husband content to drink away the current days of chaos, Juno is left to earn food for the table and keep peace in the home. Good fortune arrives for Captain Boyle in a contract promising him an inheritance from a deceased cousin. Yet the promise of another contract written in the blood of brotherhood threatens to outweigh any sum of money able to lift the Boyle family out of the slums of Dublin for good.

Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.theartistichome.org.

Not a Game For Boys Premieres at A Red Orchid Theatre

A Red Orchid Theatre will present the US Premier of Not a Game for Boys by British playwright Simon Block.

Not a Game for Boys is a razor sharp comedy investigating the male psyche at its competitive worst. Ping Pong is a game like no other. It demands dexterity, lightning quick reflexes and nerves of steel. But nerves are fraying among a team of three London cabbies as they face elimination from their elite league. Can the team captain hold his comrades together to make it to the top or will their bond disintegrate in the face of long buried tensions boiling to the surface. They play the game to forget their troubles but their troubles follow them right into the match.

May 2nd through June 15th. 312-943-8722 www.redorchidtheatre.org.

Henry IV at Halcyon Theatre

Halcyon Theatre continues its second season with Henry IV by Luigi Pirandello.

An Italian nobleman falls from his horse during a pageant. When he comes round, he believes he's the medieval German Emperor, King Henry IV. Time has stopped, and for twenty years he has lived this illusion but today a plot is being hatched to shock him out of this "madness" and into the 21st century. Pirandello's masterpiece is performed in a new adaptation by Tony Adams.

Henry IV runs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8pm; Sundays at 6pm. Performances begin May 3 and run through June 7, 2008. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors) and are available through the Halcyon Theatre box office at 312-458-9170, or online at halcyonthetre.org/boxoffice.

Performances will be at the Peter Jones Gallery, 1806 West Cuyler, 2nd Floor, in Chicago (one block north of Irving Park and Ravenswood, on the west side of the train tracks.) A link to a map may also be found at halcyonthetre.org/henryiv.

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Musicians, Fans Come Together June 1 to Say "Thanks, Joe!" Benefit to Raise Funds for the Family of Joe Dooley after Stroke

If you share the affection of thousands of Chicago area lovers of Irish music for Joe Dooley, you'll want to circle June 1st on your calendar—and round up family and friends that Sunday and head down to the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox) for what's sure to be one of the most joyous galas in memory.

If you haven't heard, Joe suffered a

challenges, ahead for the 64-year-old singer, guitar/saxophone/autoharp player and songwriter, not to mention medical bills, prescription medications, and related expenses.

That's where his friends and admirers come in. Among the distinguished area musicians who will be participating in the June 1 event are Jimmy Moore, Catherine O'Connell,

and continues until 9 p.m.

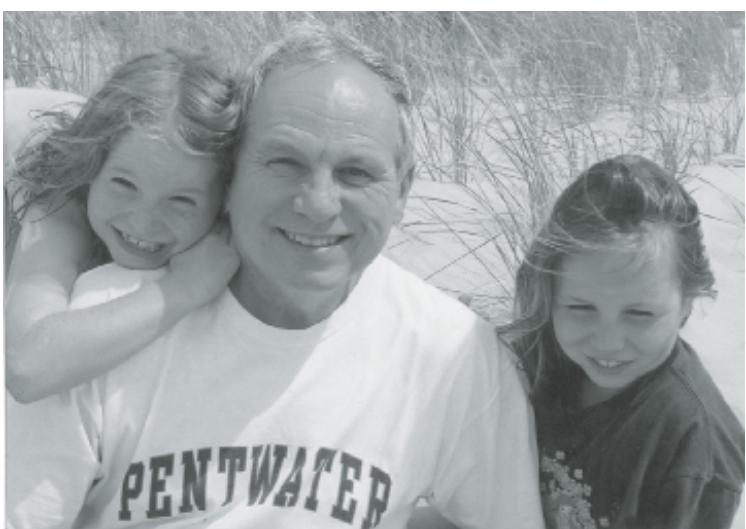
If you'll be unable to make it down to the Heritage Center on June 1 but would like to express your appreciation to Joe for the more than 4,000 performances in which he has played so vital a part in his 42 years of playing professionally with brothers Jim, Mike and Bill, the family welcomes contributions. For direct contributions and benefit information, see www.DooleyBrothers.com.

As for Joe, he says he is counting the days till he is back on stage, playing and singing—in his inimitable heart-felt style—such oft-requested numbers as "The Rare Ould Times", "Young Man's Fancy", his radiant (and impishly irreverent) medley on solo autoharp that begins with "The Bells of St. Mary's" and ends with "Never on Sunday", and the lyrical "Traveler's Tune", a haunting original ballad he wrote while traveling around the Irish countryside.

The band's all-stops-out rendition of Fats Domino's "I'm in Love Again", which concludes the Brothers' new CD, has Joe wailing away on his '50s saxophone, recalling the legendary performance that shocked audiences at the Old Town School of Folk Music when the Dooleys appeared there in the 1970s. Only this time, Joe's playing has been overdubbed on several tracks, creating the illusion of an entire sax section.

You go, Joe!

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



Maggie, Joe, and MaryRose

serious stroke last September that left him totally paralyzed on his left side. He spent three months in hospitals and intensive care; then, after being released on Christmas Day to be with his wife Kate and their two young girls, Maryrose (11) and Maggie (8), Joe has faithfully pursued another three months of rigorous outpatient physical therapy, which continues.

The good news is that Joe, whose doctors and nurses rave about his tremendous determination to return to full health and the bandstand, is regaining the ability to move his thumb and fingers, and getting around with the help of a cane. While this is exciting and heartening news, the hard reality is that there are still many more months of therapy, and many

Brogue (Peter, Eamonn & Margaret Brady and Jimmy Moore), Bohola (Pat Broaders and Jimmy Keane), Kathleen Keane, Seamus O'Kane, Gerry Field, Bill Boylan, and the other three Dooley brothers, who will be joined by John Rice and Ed Breckenfeld—and surprise guests!

"Thanks, Joe", as the benefit is being called, will also feature a silent auction of a number of donated premiums, along with other items and collectibles for sale, refreshments and full bar service. Suggested donation for admission to the fun is \$10 (children free). The Irish American Heritage Center, located at 4626 N. Knox Avenue on the city's north side, will provide free off-street parking. The doors open at 2 p.m., the entertainment begins at 3:00



Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, was recently installed as President for his third three-year term. Pictured are F.O.P. Chicago Lodge #7 President, Mark Donahue (left) and F.O.P. National President, Chuck Canterbury.

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Memorial Day—The Medal of Honor

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life..."

The highest honor for those who serve in the Armed Forces is the Medal of Honor, which was first awarded during the Civil War. Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced Senate Bill No. 82, December 9, 1861 and the Navy Medal of Honor was born. On February 17, 1862, Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced SJR82 which was signed by Abraham Lincoln on July 12, 1862 and the Army Medal of Honor was born.

I began to wonder how many Irish-born soldiers and sailors from Illinois had won the Medal of Honor, and this is what I learned.

John Creed—23rd Illinois Infantry "Chicago Irish Brigade." Born: 1819, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. John Creed was awarded the Medal of Honor for action at Fisher's Hill, VA, Sept. 22, 1864 for capture of the enemy flag. Buried: Calvary Cemetery, Evanston, IL.

William Toomer—127th Illinois Infantry, Entered service at Chicago. Born: Dublin, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor for gallantry in the charge of the "Volunteer Storming Party" at Vicksburg, MS, 22 May, 1863. Buried: Grace-land Cemetery, Chicago, IL.

Patrick H. White—Illinois Light Artillery, Captain, Chicago Mercantile Battery. Born: 1833, Co. Sligo, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor for carrying with others by hand a cannon up to and fired it through an embrasure of the enemy's works at Vicksburg, MS, 22 May, 1863. Buried: St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY.

Patrick Highland—23rd Illinois Infantry "Chicago Irish Brigade." Entered service at Chicago. Born: Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor in action at Petersburg, VA, April 2, 1865 for conspicuous gallantry as color bearer in the assault on Fort Gregg.

Thomas C. Murphy—Cpl. Company "I", 31st Illinois Infantry. Entered service at Peoria, IL. Born: 1842, Ireland. Medal of Honor awarded Aug. 14, 1863, for in action at Vicksburg, MS, voluntarily crossed the line of heavy fire and Confederate forces carrying a message to stop the firing of one Union regiment on another. Died: Dec. 31, 1920 at 78 years of age. Buried: Glendale Cemetery, Washington, IL.

John O'Dea—Pvt. Company "D", 8th Missouri Infantry. Entered service at Clinton, DeWitt Co., IL. Born: 1839, Limerick City, Ireland. Medal of Honor awarded for action at Vicksburg, MS, 22 May 1863, for gallantry in the charge of the "Volunteer Storming Party." Buried: Quincy, IL.

Hugh Malloy—Ordinary Seaman, U.S. Navy. Born: 25 Sept, 1841, Co. Wexford, Ireland. Citation: Served on board the U.S.S. Fort Hindman during the engagement near Harrisonburg, LA, 2 March, 1864. Following

a shellburst which mortally wounded the first sponger, who dropped the sponge out of the forecastle port, Malloy jumped out of the port to the forecastle, recovered the sponge and sponged and loaded the gun for the remainder of the action from his exposed position, despite the extreme danger to his person from the raking fire of enemy musketry.

Menomen O'Donnell—1st Lt. Company "A", 11th Missouri Infantry. Entered service at Sumner, Lawrence Co., IL. Born: 30 April, 1830, Drumbarty, Ireland. Date of Issue: 11 September 1897. Citation: Voluntarily joined the color guard in the assault on the enemy's works when he saw indications of wavering and caused the colors of his regiment to be planted on the parapet. Voluntarily placed himself in the ranks of an assaulting column (being then on staff duty) and rode with it into the enemy's works, being the only mounted officer present, was twice wounded in battle. Buried at Mt. Calvary's Cemetery, Vincennes, IN, Sept. 3, 1911.

Michael McCormick—Boatswain's Mate, U.S. Navy, Gun Capt. U.S.S. Signal. Entered service at Chicago. Born: 1833, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor, 5 May, 1864 in action at Red River, LA. Wounded early in the battle, stood by his gun in the face of enemy fire returning fire until his ship was totally disabled.

Thomas McGraw—Sgt., 23rd Illinois Infantry "Chicago Irish Brigade." Entered service at Chicago. Born: 1834, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor for action at Petersburg, VA, 2 April, 1865. One of three soldiers most conspicuous for gallantry in the final assault. Burial: La-Crosse City Cemetery, LaCrosse, KS.

John Hyland—Seaman, U.S. Navy. Born: 1819, Ireland. Accredited to Illinois. Awarded Medal of Honor for action at Red River, LA, 5 May, 1864. Returning enemy fire until ship was totally disabled, Hyland went forward courageously, although he was already wounded, in full view of several hundred sharp shooters to let go the anchor and again to slip the cable, when he was wounded again by the raking enemy fire.

Patrick McGuire—Pvt., Chicago Mercantile Battery, Illinois Light Artillery. Entered service

at Chicago. Born: 1840, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor at Vicksburg, MS, 22 May, 1863. Carried with others by hand a cannon up to and fired it through an embrasure of the enemy's works.

James Dunne—Cpl., Chicago Mercantile Battery, Illinois Light Artillery. Entered service at Chicago, IL. Born: Detroit, MI, 26 Dec, 1840. Awarded Medal of Honor at Vicksburg, MS, 22 May, 1863. Carried with others by hand a cannon up to and fired it through an embrasure of the enemy's works. Buried at Calvary Cemetery, Evanston, IL.

New York State

Peter O'Brien—Pvt., Company "A", 1st New York Cavalry. Born: 1842, Dublin, Ireland. Awarded Medal of Honor for action at Waynesboro, VA, 2 March, 1865. Capture of flag and a Confederate Officer with his horse and equipment. Buried: Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago, IL.

There were many wars to follow, like the Indian wars.

Illinois Irish-Born - Indian Wars

Thomas Carroll—Co. "L", 8th U.S. Cavalry. Born: 1844, Kilkenny, Ireland. Entered service at Chicago. Awarded Medal of Honor for bravery in scouts and actions against Indians.

John Mitchell—Company "I", Fifth U.S. Infantry. Born: Dublin, Ireland. Entered service at Peoria, IL. Buried: San Francisco National Cemetery.

Phillip Kennedy—Army. Born: 1841, Co. Galway, Ireland. Entered service at Evansville, Randolph Co., IL. Medal of Honor for gallantry in action.

Phillip Murphy—Company "F", 8th U.S. Cavalry. Born: 1 Nov, 1844, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. Entered service at Chicago.

John Tracy—Company "G", 8th U.S. Cavalry. Born: 29 Dec., 1948, Dublin, Ireland. Entered service at Chicago. Buried: Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

If we pass up twelve wars and insurrections that the U.S. Armed Forces fought in, that would bring us to World War I.

When I discovered that the cemeteries where the Medal of Honor winners are at rest were listed, I came across the name of John Joseph Kelly, Pvt., U.S. Marine Corps. 78th Company, 6th Regiment, 2nd Division. Born: 24 June, 1898, Chicago, IL. On 3 Oct. 1918, at Blanc Mont Ridge, France, Pvt. Kelly ran through our own barrage, 100 yards in advance of the front line, and attacked an enemy machine gun nest, killing the gunner with a grenade, shooting another member of the crew with his pistol, and returned through the barrage with 8 prisoners.

He was awarded the Army Medal of Honor by General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, and also received the Navy Medal of Honor for the same action.

I visited John Joseph Kelly's grave at All Saint's Cemetery in Des Plaines, IL. He is buried in Section 2, Block 4, Grave No. 12, Lot 13. Engraved on his headstone it shows two Medals of Honor, and six Silver Stars. John Joseph Kelly died in 1957.

It's been said the Irish have won the majority of Medals of Honor, although that may have changed in recent years. There were many brave men and we will not forget them. Another Medal of Honor winner is buried at All Saint's Cemetery in Des Plaines. Michael R. Blanchfield, Specialist 4th Class, U.S. Army, Company "A", 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Bin Din Province, Republic of Vietnam, 3 July, 1969. Already severely wounded by an exploding grenade, he continued to pursue the enemy who threw a second grenade landing near SP4 Blanchfield and his patrol. He threw himself on the grenade, saving the lives of 4 members of the patrol and Vietnamese civilians. His courage and gallantry at the cost of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

Theodore O'Hara

Theodore O'Hara, born in Danville, KY, served as a brevet major in the Mexican War (1846-48) and went on to serve as a Confederate Army Col. in the 12th Alabama Regiment. He wrote the poem, "Bivouac of the Dead."

Bivouac of the Dead

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead.

A Letter from Vietnam

"7 November 1965

Dear Tom,

Well, as you probably know by now, October 28th was a pretty dark day for the Marine Corps, especially MAG-16, my group. We really had the crap knocked out of us. The papers gave a pretty good report of the action, but were a little conservative on the real damage reports. The day after the attack, we only had five aircraft that were flyable, that's out of 24. The HU-1E squadron had 3 birds that were not completely burned to ashes. Luckily, we only lost 5 completely, and 4 were damaged beyond repair. In a few weeks we will be able to muster 15 good aircraft. We have 9 now, due to our maintenance crews working around the clock. The other H-34 squadron should have about the same and the HU-1E's are getting new birds from the States.

Believe me, it was a night of real stark terror. If you've ever seen demonstrations of a mortar attack, you'll know what I mean. Those things are really sudden death. We have fox holes





1st Lt. James P. Mulroy, 10 December 1965, Viet Nam. News article from Des Plaines Journal or Des Plaines Suburban Times.

right along our tents, and I was safely tucked into the corner of mine during the biggest barrage, but I could feel the concussions and flames as plain as day. Tracer rounds were whizzing over our heads that were being shot by the suicide squad. We found out later that the mortar attack was actually just coverage so the suicide squad could infiltrate the defense and get to the aircraft parking area. The plan worked very nicely. The V.C. hand carried satchel charges to each individual aircraft.

After the mortar barrage lifted, we had to make our way down to the aircraft to help direct the fire fighting teams. The V.C. were still roaming the camp area at that time and I saw some

real heroism en route to the planes. Two men have been recommended for "Silver Stars" for their actions that night. Three men from our group were killed and 15 wounded. The "Sea Bee's" stationed here had 41 casualties. I have been in some pretty tight situations before while over here, but that night really takes the cake. I don't think I ever really knew what being scared for your life was before. The defense managed to kill most of the suicide squad, but they had accomplished their mission. The V.C. are probing our defenses every night now, and we are expecting another attack soon. I think we'll be ready for them this time, although there is no defense against 81mm mortars,

which can be pinpointed to a target at 4000 meters.

Well, other than that, life has been quite normal!! We have been trying to fly our regular commitments with our 9 aircraft, which means we fly around the clock now and just change crews. At least it keeps us busy and we don't have too much time on our hands to think of home and all the good things in life.

Glad to hear you're starting to date again. It's about time. You've been starving all these sweet young things by holding yourself off the market. Really sorry to hear about Larry, but better now than 2 or 3 years from now. I guess I screwed up your middle initial again, didn't I? I can never remember if it was A. or J.? I remember we talked about it once, and if I remember correctly, we both used to think it was both Andrew and Joseph. Well at any rate, put it on your next letter and I'll remember it this time.

Thanks for the offer to send something, but I can't really think of anything I need that I can't do without. Mary Ann sends me packages quite often with little goodies. Mary will be home some time around the first week in December, until after Christmas. She will have most of the slides I've taken over here with her, so if interested, just contact her at her house in P.R. She has the word to get a print made for you of me and aircraft and has one, but doesn't think it's good enough. I will try to take one specifically for you. Thanks again

for dropping in on my Mom now and again. You can't even imagine how it pleases her. I guess both our mothers sort of adopted each of us when we were younger, but it seems to me that I probably spent more of my time at your house than at mine. Sometime we'll have to spend a whole night reminiscing about our furniture moving days and basement cleaning days, that should keep us in stitches for hours. Is your Mom still in business? We could probably spend a few hours on the "Dukes" too. My memory just amazes me sometimes, but I guess they'll be the times I'll never forget. Well, I guess I've got to finish this goddamn war first, however. Write when you have a chance, Tom, I really am glad to hear from you. Say hello to all the boys. I hope Lee is feeling better by now. Ask Nick when he's getting married for me. Hope to see you all real soon (Sept. '66). Take care now.

Your Friend, Jim

P.S. Had a chance to talk with Ted Kennedy not long ago while he was visiting here. Remember the night we went out to O'Hare to see JFK and I got to shake hands with him? Still a big moment in my life. Ted looks like an 18 year old kid."

Mulroy In 300 Combat Missions

1st Lt. James P. Mulroy, son of Mrs. Josephine Mulroy, 754 Pearson St., a helicopter pilot for Marine Medium 361, at Da Nang, South Viet Nam was heard on WNUS radio station on Sat., June 18 every 3 hours. He had been interviewed by a Dallas Texas news reporter sometime during May.

He tells that he had more than 300 combat support missions, one not to be forgotten was at an outpost at Hipcluc, South Viet Nam on Nov. 18. He had been interviewed by a very rough day.

St. Brendans GFC Annual Race Night

The St. Brendans Gaelic Football Club will be holding their Annual Race Night on Friday May 16th at Jack Desmond's Irish Pub, 10339 South Ridgeland in Chicago Ridge at 8pm.

Come along, have a bit of craic, throw a few dollars at a horse and have a few drinks with your friends.

If you would like to "buy" a horse (\$100) or for additional information about this event, contact Club Chairman Murdeach McClout at (708) 819 4287.

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber



Ireland's Fresh Catch of the Day

At one point in time, the Irish held ambivalent feelings toward fish in their diet. From the early days of Christianity, fasting from meat and dairy during the holy seasons of Advent and Lent, along with all Fridays, created an attitude of resistance toward fish as an accepted part of their culinary repertoire. Fasting was a challenge for those without easy access to the daily fish catch. For the people who lived inland, fish was used as a flavoring or minor ingredient to their potatoes or vegetable stews, rather than as the

main course. With religious requirements easing, the last one-third of this past century has seen fish become a highlight of the Irish table, both in restaurants and at home.

The renewed enthusiasm toward fish and seafood has chefs searching for the freshest supplies, while fishermen are desperately trying to keep up with their high-end customer's demands. Concerns about the waters around Ireland being overfished are reflected in the drop in availability and rise in cost in some fish. To add

to this insult, some of the overfishing is done by foreign fishing fleets and then a portion of their daily catch is prepared to be sold and sent to other parts of Europe. I guess that underlines the fact that Irish fish and seafood is of great quality.

It is this quality in the fish that the Irish chefs strive to maintain in their dishes. Salmon, white sea trout, and eel are highly prized among the culinary world, and treat these fish with a delicate respect. Many cooks, both at home and in restaurants, strive to maintain the fish's characteristic flavors and charm without adding (or subtracting) too much. A light sauce after poaching or baking finishes the dish in some recipes. Other dishes have whole pieces of fish mixed gently with a cream sauce, fresh vegetables and herbs and baked like a shepherd's pie. I have included a recipe for Kilkenny fish pie at the end that is so wonderful, you can serve it for a dinner party or family celebration.

For my experience at school, we were taught everything about fish from the timing of the boats to presentation on the plate. In other words, before we cooked and dished them, we had to identify them whole and also know how to clean and fillet them. That was not a problem if I was dealing with a round fish like trout. However, when it came time to handle a monkfish, aka anglerfish, it was one of those moments that as a cook was challenging yet was also kind of scary. This 'fish' looked like a catfish that was stepped on, with eyes planted on top and a mouth with teeth just waiting for an unsuspecting student to slip. These things were ugly! However, after getting over their outward appearance, I found the dishes made with this fish to be amazing. They have a sweet almost lobster like flavor that many chefs will excitedly plan special dishes for when they know it's coming in from the docks.

The time I had in working with

fish at school helped me become more familiar and comfortable around the seafood counter at the store. Understanding the texture of the fish must be understood before trying to create a dish around it. But with limited handling and using a good recipe, the flavors and textures of the fish will always come through

for a great dinner.

Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional course at Ballymaloe Cookery School, County Cork, Ireland. She is currently a part time caterer/personal chef while finishing her studies in dietetics at The University of Akron. She can be contacted at julileber@hotmail.com.

Kilkenny Fish Pie



2 c. warm mashed potato
1 lb. cod
1/4 lb. smoked salmon, in one piece not sliced
4 c. whole milk
3 T. butter
1 large leek, white and light green parts only, thinly sliced and cleaned
3 T. flour
1 T. dijon mustard
1 T. lemon juice
1/2 c. white wine
1 T. dill
8 oz. fresh baby spinach
Salt and pepper
1 egg

Preheat oven to 375°F.
In a large skillet over medium heat, place the cod in the pan and pour the milk over the fish so it just covers the pieces. Simmer slowly for 8-10 minutes. At 5 minutes, put the

Salmon in with the cod. When done, lift from milk and set aside reserving milk. In another large skillet, melt the butter and put the drained leeks in, sautéing on medium for 5 minutes. Toss in flour stirring for 2 minutes. Add wine slowly and whisk. When smooth, slowly add milk, whisking constantly. Whisk in mustard, lemon juice, and dill. Add spinach, and with tongs turn the leek mixture into the spinach until the leaves wilt slightly. Season with salt and pepper.

In a 9 in. pie dish, break the cod and salmon into large pieces and arrange. Spoon spinach/leek mixture over fish and then gently spread warmed mashed potatoes on top. Gently beat egg, addt. water, and then brush over potatoes. Pie will be hot and ready to serve in 20 minutes.

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Kevin Flynn & The Avondale Ramblers

"We're a Chicago-Irish band." That's how front-man Kevin Flynn best describes the Celtic inspired songs of Kevin Flynn & The Avondale Ramblers. Based out of the Avondale neighborhood on Chicago's north side, KF & The Ramblers bring a rollicking take on Gaelic music that reflects the working-class, religious, drunken, sometimes violent—yet always somewhat beautiful aspects of their city. Though the band's sound is steeped in the influence of traditional Irish music, their songs are anything but traditional...

Their debut EP released by Pop Goes The Vinyl is entitled Don't Count Me Out and is available to order from <http://cdbaby.com>.



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Chicago Rose of Tralee Crowns First Rose Since 2001

Shaylin McNamara has been selected to represent Chicago in Ireland's Rose of Tralee preliminary competition this June. She will fly to Ireland to join young women of Irish descent from countries around the world, including Great Britain, Europe, Dubai, Australia and New Zealand. Shaylin will be an ambassador for Chicago, connecting the global Irish community in a celebration of their rich culture and sharing the heritage of Irish People at home and abroad. Her goal is to be selected to return in August to represent Chicago in the International Rose of Tralee broadcast live on Irish TV.

Shaylin is highly regarded for her commitment to sharing a love of Irish culture through her Beverly-based Irish dancing school, McNamara Irish Dancing. Shaylin's commitment to teaching Irish dancing is an extension of her desire to inspire others to share their talents, lead by example, and lay the ground work for a culturally rich younger generation. Shaylin is an ideal role model for young people in the community.

The Chicago Rose of Tralee sponsors enrichment programs and events that celebrate the Irish culture year round. Girls aged 5-12 participate as Rosebuds, young women ages 13-17 participate as Rose Petals and the Rose candidates are ages 18-27. The Chicago Rose of Tralee is currently accepting applications for Rose candidates, Rosepetals and Rosebuds. Call 773-298-6230 or email info@chicagoroseoftralee.com.

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Tradition In Review



Bill Margeson

Well, the end of this month sees the annual return of Irish Fest at Gaelic Park over the Memorial Day Weekend. We'll be there. And, we'll be there with The Bridies. One of our favorite acts, they are out of Galway, and they are a wonder. These gals, and guitarist Mike Galvin, have been featured with Michael Flatley in Riverdance and Lord of the Dance, and they are fun! GREAT show. Sassy.

Sexy. Superior musicianship. These four women (and Mike Galvin on guitar, we repeat) are no shrinking violets. (We repeat the name Mike Galvin, as he is out of Killarney and is the best guitar player in Ireland. Yup. You read it right. We said, "the best". And, it is true. You'll see. Amazing musician.) They had a couple big hits in Ireland, including the brilliantly satirical, Nice Bit O'

Ham. Hysterical. They don't come funnier, hipper or more entertaining than these girls, and if you missed them at Milwaukee's Irish Fest two years in a row, this is your chance to catch them. Wonderful! Also, Liz Carroll and John Doyle will be there. If you love trad music, you know Liz and John. Hard to imagine two better or more respected musicians in the music. Not to be missed.

Then there is www.Livelreland.com. Are you tuned in, yet? Just go to the website and get drawn into the most incredible Irish music site in the world. Livelreland is the biggest Irish music site on the planet by a factor of about 30. They get far more listeners online than the RTE. And, for good reason. Livelreland is more fun! 24/7, two channels—one trad, and one that rock noise that the musically ignorant and unwashed such as my radio partner, Shay Clarke love so well. There are scores of other attractions at the site—just go there. Set it on play in your home or office all day and enjoy. You will be stunned by the variety, the quality and the truly worldwide audience you will join. And, no small part of the fun, you can read us there, as well as here! Columns columns columns!! Trust us.

We haven't flogged the radio show lately. Here it is. Blarney on the Air. Mondays—7-9 at night, WDCB, 90.9fm or www.wdcb.org. If you love Irish music, you'll love it. Apparently, we have a lot of real friends out there, as Shay and I just set a record for fundraising with the latest pledge drive for the station. The Irish were out in force to support the music. The perfect Monday night would begin with Chicago's best Irish music show,

A Feast of Irish Folk with Mary Caraway and Erik Carlson on WHPK, 88.5fm. This is the University of Chicago radio station. The show does NOT have a big broadcast strength, but the great news is that it is now live on the internet every Monday night from 5-6:30. You can get it at www.whpk.org. So, you get home, turn on Mary and Erik, and enjoy the real deal. Then get a sandwich and a couple cans and settle back in for Blarney on the Air. That's a great night of music, me' bucko.

We like the early look of Irish Fest in Milwaukee. There are a couple brilliant acts coming, and you must must must see them, August 14-17 in Beertown. They are doing a big co-promo with Co. Galway and bringing in some of the best musicians

from the county, most notably the incredibly popular (and rightly so) long-running Galway show, Trad on the Prom. And the magical force that is the group, Furry Village!! Unbelievable. We'll try to describe Furry Village as we get closer to the Fest, but of all the acts from Ireland, there is one that is truly, truly, "you have to see it to believe it". That would be Furry Village, all right.

Next month, we'll have a ton of new cd reviews, including some major new ones from bigtime acts, and some huge, new discoveries!! Stay well. See you at Gaelic Park. You'll find us easily. We'll be at The Bridies stage, or Liz and John's. And, as long as you are in the Fest, stop by and see Shay and his gang at Blarney's booth. Incredible jewelry, including estate jewelry, from Ireland! He LOVES it when you come up and mention the radio show. Just don't try to talk music with him. Uneducable.

Finally, look at the ad just below the column. Join us. This is going to be magic, and a once in a lifetime chance to join the best Irish Tour Company in America, CFS Tours, and me as we see the great sights, and enjoy the great sounds of the real Irish music nightly!!

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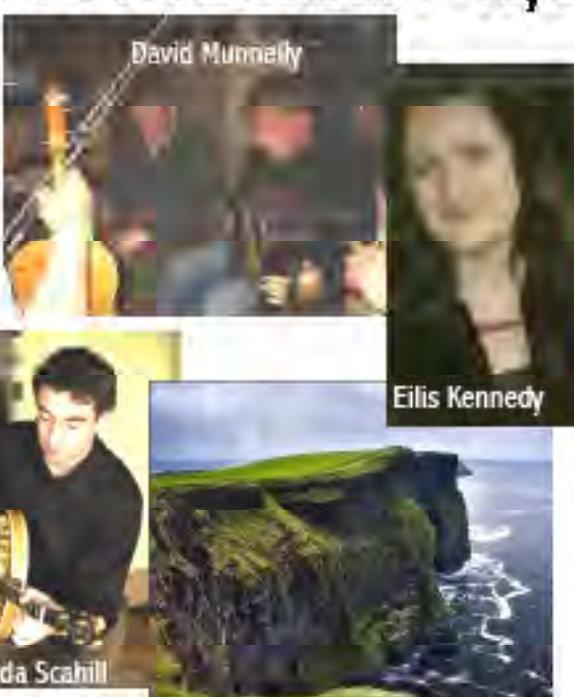
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Glendale Estate Wins Top Customer Service Award

There is a growing emphasis in Ireland in recent times on promoting independence for older people, by offering quality customer service, choice and improving quality of life. Glendale Estate in Tullow, Co. Carlow has responded perfectly by creating a retirement village/resort of international standards and now has been awarded the prestigious Carlow Chamber Business Award for Customer Service in the Health and Wellbeing Sector for its efforts.

The County Carlow Chamber is no stranger to awards, having scooped the Chambers Ireland, Chamber of the Year award in 2006; therefore, the annual business awards they offer attract huge competition. The awards ceremony in the Dolmen Hotel in Carlow in March played host to 400 attendees with Marty Whelan hosting the event.

Glendale Estate, although in its infancy,

having opened its doors as Ireland's Premier Retirement Resort just over twelve months ago, was one of the fourteen businesses recognized at the awards evening.

As turning 50 is no longer synonymous with frailty and the need for care, retirement villages are a worldwide concept that provide independence, security and health. Glendale Estate was developed based on this concept to cater to the needs of the senior citizen who requires an active lifestyle, a community that shares their own interests and independence combined with the benefits of safety, security, leisure and health. We have no doubt that we will hear much more, not only of retirement villages in Ireland in the coming years, but also of Glendale Estate.

Tel: 059 9151184, Email: henry.burrows@glendale.ie.

IAHC Irish Fest July

The 23rd annual Irish American Heritage Festival will be held July 11, 12 and 13, 2008.

Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox



Avenue in Chicago, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening Irish culture in Chicago.

The festival features three days of music on five stages, featuring Gaelic Storm, The Makem and Spain Brothers, the Mickey Finns, The Tossers and Seven Nations.

For those inclined toward hands-on activity, the Folk Tent returns with various demonstrations of Irish instruments, dances and sing-alongs. Irish and American food is available throughout the weekend, and dozens of vendors and artisans will be selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry.

Fest activities and contests include a Hooley Happy Hour with live music, matchmaking and dancing, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest and the Irish-American Idol Contest for children ages 12-18.

Ticket prices are: \$12 per day; \$8 in advance until the end of day on July 9; seniors \$7, and children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid adult.

The Fest hours are: FRI, 6-midnight; SAT, noon-midnight; SUN, noon-11pm.

To purchase advance sale tickets, which are now available, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10. For more information, visit www.irishfestchicago.com.

Fundraiser for Rohan at 3 Counties Irish Pub July 27

Chicagoan Claire Scanlon has a sister in Ireland who gave birth to a son, Rohan, a few months ago in Ireland. Rohan was born with Bilateral Perisylvian Syndrome that went undiagnosed until he was seven weeks old. Rohan has had to fight to stay alive and has only 20% brain function. It has been understandably devastating to the family.

Now five months old, Rohan is in need of a hyperbaric oxygen chamber which needs to be purchased here in the U.S. Claire is attempting to raise enough money to pay for the chamber which costs \$25,000. This hyperbaric oxygen chamber will be of great benefit in improving Rohan's quality of life, preventing further brain injury caused by his frequent seizures.

A fundraiser has been organized to help pay for the much needed device at Three Counties Irish Pub, 5856 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago, on July 27th from 3pm until 10pm. Music will be provided by Joe McShane, Fast Eddie, and Barry

Fagan. Any and all donations for this worthy cause will be accepted at the door. Other events are being organized at surrounding bars where donations will also be accepted. Call the Three Counties Irish Pub for details at 773-631-3351.

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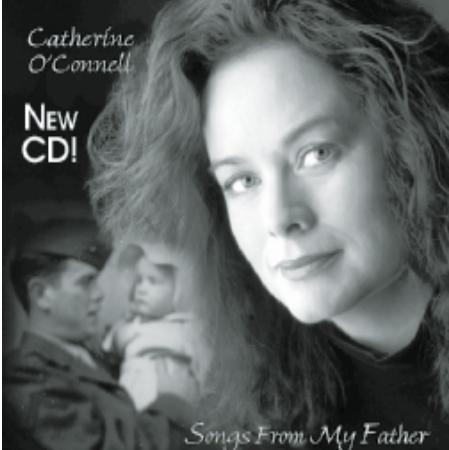
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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



Like most U2 fans, Damien Dempsey has had those moments where his hairs stand up and he gets the chills as Bono sings away on stage.

Like few U2 fans, Dempsey had the opportunity to ask Bono what it's like to be on the other end of that experience. Bono's answer was what Dempsey, also one of Ireland's most gifted musical sons, expected.

"He said it's like you've jumped off a cliff and you're starting to fly when you sing that," said 32-year-old Dempsey. "I feel that same way. It's like flying when you're singing. You lose yourself in the song."

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It's that passion on stage along with Dempsey's gift for singing and songwriting that has given his own fans unforgettable live performances. It's the type of show he gave Chicago when he played Schubas in April.

"You really have to give everything you got, every last ounce of passion you got," he said.



"You can't sit back and relax and sing. I get into deeper place, a more spiritual place. The crowd really senses that. You leave all your troubles behind and leave it at the door. I want to the crowd to feel like they're on cloud nine."

It's a feeling that Dempsey as a teenager got from dabbling in a variety of drugs. If it wasn't for music, he isn't sure where he'd be today.

"I tried everything," he said. "I was lucky. I could have gone the wrong way. I had the music. If I didn't have to happen an outlet ... I've seen some good friends have bad things happen -- diseases, going to jail, people had to leave the country for good."

Dempsey's stop in Chicago was his second in the past year's time to support his latest album "To Hell or Barbados", which was originally released in 2007. The album earned him his second consecutive Meteor Irish Music Award for Male Artist (the same as our Grammy's) and debuted No. 2 on Ireland's music charts.

Before the year ends, Dempsey also plans on releasing a new album that will feature his favorite Irish traditional songs and later in the

year a live DVD.

Since his last visit to Chicago, Dempsey, who is known as Damo to his fans, also joined Bono, Shane MacGowan, Sinead O'Connor, Christy Moore and a number of other Ireland's most well-known musicians to sing "The Ballad of Ronnie Drew", which a tribute to the former Dubliners singer Drew who has cancer. The single, which will raise money for the Irish Cancer Society, hit No. 1 on Ireland's singles chart in early March.

"It was amazing," said Dempsey of being involved in the song. "Just all the talent from Ireland. Everybody was there. When you saw all them together, all of them from a small country, we really have a lot talent."

Bono singled out Dempsey's talent after they performed the song on the "Late Late Show" in Ireland recently.

"Damien Dempsey blows me out when he opens his gob on this track," Bono said. "It's like the end of the world."

That's as good of an endorsement as you can get.

Share a comment with Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com

IAHC May Events

The IAHC School of Celtic Art monthly discussions continue this spring on the Irish Book of Kells, led by artist Frank Crowley. The free discussions take place in the IAHC Museum the last Sunday of each month.

The Book of Kells is an ornately illustrated manuscript, produced by Celtic monks around 800AD. It is one of the more lavishly illuminated manuscripts to survive from the Middle Ages and contains the four gospels of the Bible in Latin, decorated with numerous colorful illustrations and illuminations. It is on permanent display at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

Come and learn more about the book, 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. It replicates each page down to the smallest detail.

Last Quiz Night is Friday, May 18, at 8pm. The quiz costs \$30 per team, with no more than six players per team. There will be prizes for the top three winners. Food and drink is

available in the Fifth Province.

Bloomsday Celebration

Celebrate the works of writer James Joyce on the 104th anniversary of Bloomsday with a brunch on Sunday, June 16 from noon-2pm at the IAHC. The brunch will be followed by a tribute to Joyce through readings and music. The cost is \$30 and tickets must be reserved by June 10, by calling the office.

Bloomsday celebrates the day on which the action of James Joyce's novel Ulysses takes place; June 16, 1904; the day on which Joyce first went out with his future wife, Nora Barnacle.

The day is named after Leopold Bloom, the central character in Ulysses. The novel follows the life and thoughts of Leopold Bloom and a host of other characters—real and fictional—from 8am on June 16 through to the early hours of the following morning.

Today, Bloomsday is celebrated by Joyceans across the globe with readings, performances, re-enactments, and a host of other events. In Dublin, enthusiasts dress in Edwardian costume and gather during the day at many of the locations where episodes of Ulysses take place. 773-282-7035, ext 13.

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Festivals and Fraud

By Tina Trowbridge @ FDIS Windy City

It's time to trade in your winter boots for dancing shoes and enjoy Festival Season!

I personally look forward to friends, fun, frolic and the chance to see new wares from vendors, some of which are also my clients. Unfortunately criminals do too. There are those that would take advantage of our good spirits and attempt to enjoy your merchandise without having to pay for it. They seem to get smarter each year, always looking for new ways to steal from businesses by using fake, skimmed or stolen credit cards and targeting merchants they think will be easy prey. Internet, retail, on the road, mail order, etc... no one is immune, but everyone can take precautions.

Follow these tips for a more secure festival season:

1. If the sale seems too good to be true, it should be suspect. (No one really needs 12 pairs of ghillies or a dozen sweaters)

2. Get a live authorization whenever you can. If you have a wireless terminal at a festival you're a step ahead. Most true criminals won't even bother with you. If you don't have a wireless terminal, pay the phone authorization fee and find out if the card is good. All services have a number you can call into to get an authorization, use it when you suspect a transaction or when a purchase reaches a dollar amount that makes sense.

3. Don't take shortcuts with your payments. Get all the required information from the card holder. If your terminal prompts to enter the last 4 digits on the card, do it. This is a precaution FDIS has taken to avoid credit card skimming. (Skimming occurs when the magnetic strip on the card has been fraudulently reprogrammed with another's information) If you are not swiping the card, make sure you have the billing address, phone number and security code from the back of the card. Most importantly legibly imprint every sale and have the cardholder sign the imprint.

4. Use common sense. My mom would never have given me her card and told me to buy anything I wanted. If the signature does not match ask for ID. If you are suspicious for ANY reason ask for ID.

Should you have any questions or would like to look into wireless credit card terminal options, internet or small business finance options available to you, please contact me personally at 630-657-1852.

(Tina has 11 years experience in the transaction processing industry)



Mayor Richard M. Daley and Mrs. Maggie Daley greet the Mayor of Kerry, Ireland, The Honorable Michael Healy-Rae and his wife, Mrs. Eileen Healy-Rae, at City Hall on Monday, March 10, 2008. Mayor Healy-Rae and his wife were here in Chicago to participate in St. Patrick's Day activities. Photo by: Antonio Dickey, City of Chicago

Gaelic Park Essay Contest Winners

Chicago Gaelic Park, the Irish heritage and cultural center located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, recently sponsored an essay contest for grammar school and high school students on the topic "An Irish Person Who Influenced Me."

The grammar school winners are: First Place-Annie Myren of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Second Place-Amanda Kass of Bridgeport Catholic Academy, Third Place-Shane Biggus of Ascension Grammar School-Oak Park, and the random draw winner was Hannah Galvin of Queen of All Saints.

The high school winners are First Place-Marty Malone of St. Rita, Second Place-Robert Galvin of Marist, Third Place-Bridget Leiser of Mother McAuley and the random draw winner was Caitlin Carroll of Mother McAuley.

All were awarded their prizes at the March 30th Celtic Supper. (708) 687-9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

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OFF-TOPIC: What is St. Patrick's Day?

In honor of Saint Patrick and our upcoming holiday, I'd rather write about Saint Patrick's Day than consumer protection laws. Saint Patrick's Day only comes once per year.

Why do we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day? Saint Patrick is celebrated because he converted our pagan ancestors to Christianity.

I spent nineteen (19) years -- more than half of my life -- in Catholic schools. Despite that, I learned very little about Christianity.

I came out of those schools with some very vague notions about Christianity. I know all of the rituals performed in Catholic churches during mass. I know about the sacraments. I have recollections about some bible stories, like Lazarus was the man raised from the dead, the parables of the Prodigal Son, the good Samaritan, that there were twelve apostles, and that there are ten commandments, etc.

One of the reasons I didn't know much about Christianity was because I did not know what most of the bible says. I did not know what the bible says because I was never required to read it, in its entirety, in school. All I can remember is one kid being called on to read one passage at a time, and when you're a kid you're usually not listening but rather you're worried about possible embarrassment from reading in front of the class. Maybe it's because, as kids, we're not really interested in bible lessons. Maybe it's because a lot of bibles were hard to read. The sentence structure did not flow like the English language I was used to. I recently saw a bible at a museum that was from the 1500s, from the Elizabethan era. I could not read it. That was not the same English language as we know it today.

Nowadays, thanks to modern translations (e.g., NLT – New Living Translation), the bible is as easy to read as a contemporary magazine. And, nowhere in the bible, I now realize, are there ashes on people's foreheads. There is no fasting on Fridays. As a matter of fact it was Jesus who was questioned by the Jewish

religious leaders as to why his disciples did not fast. Also, there is no abstaining from meat by Christians. As a matter of fact, given the strict dietary restrictions of the Jewish religion, Jesus said that it is not what you put into your body that defiles you, but rather your thoughts and your actions. Mark 7:15. Jesus also was accused of working on the Sabbath for healing the lame. Jesus did not appreciate the religious rituals insisted upon by the Jewish religious leaders. Nevertheless, many of us think we are Christians if we follow Catholic rituals, even if only from time to time.

Do you realize that there is no baptizing of babies in the bible? Of course, many will remember John the Baptist and that even Jesus was baptized by John. But no babies were baptized, only consenting adults of their own free will.

I used to have a notion of "born again" Christians. And it's a term that, for most people I know, conjures up images of bible-belt, bible-carrying, hymn-singing, adults who undergo a late-in-life spiritual awakening. But I never knew or realized that you cannot be a Christian unless you are born again. I knew the name Nicodemus and that he was a biblical figure but could not have told you that he was a Jewish Pharisee who Jesus told that, in order to see the Kingdom of God – i.e., go to heaven, he needed to be born again. Jesus told him no one can go to heaven without being born again of water and the Spirit. John 3:5. It had nothing to do with parents deciding for their babies. It had only to do with adults deciding for themselves.

Then, a few verses later, Jesus said the following: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

How many of us would admit we do evil? Not many -- unless you realize that evil is a lot more common than we assume. Many of our thoughts are evil. Jesus said it is our thoughts which defile us. From within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, eagerness for lustful pleasure, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you and make you unacceptable to God. Mark 7:20-23. A lot of people would think the only

thing on that list that was evil for sure was murder. Some of us think of pride as a virtue but, according to Jesus Christ, it is vile and makes us unacceptable to God. How many of us know adulterers? And Paul warns, "The day will surely come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life." Romans 2:16. It is not just murderers who make the news that are evil. Many of us would fall all over ourselves just to shake the hand of a politician known for theft, greed, and deceit.

So, how many of us know what it means to be a Christian? And if we know what it means, can we honestly say we are a Christian? Don't say you are a Christian just because your parents chose to have you baptized when you were a baby.

Where is Saint Patrick when we need him?

I've been to Ireland several times but never during Saint Patrick's Day. I was once told that it is more of a religious holiday than festive party in Ireland; whereas, in this country, it is more of a festive party than a religious holiday. "Everyone is Irish on Saint Patrick's Day!" (Drink up!) I don't know about Ireland on Saint Patrick's Day, although I know the country is changing very fast. What was true ten years ago I suspect is hardly true anymore. But I know in this country Saint Patrick's Day is quite a party, celebrated by many with lots of drinking, cavorting, and carousing. How funny it is that many celebrate the life of Saint Patrick through pagan revelry. I guess we can at least thank Saint Patrick that we no longer sacrifice humans to pagan gods and goddesses.



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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Immigration Reform

Will our political leaders ever learn? As we prepare for another round of elections to Congress and also a new President, politicians are again proposing inadequate and unworkable solutions to fix our broken immigration system.

We have a group led by failed presidential candidate Tancredo, proposing the SAVE Act, (Secure America Through Verification and Enforcement). This piece of legislation proposes a crackdown on illegal immigration but does not contain a single proposal to deal with the root causes of why this country has problems with immigration. Until there is a comprehensive overhaul of the system and a broader look at its root causes we are going to continue repeating the mistakes of the past and indeed in my opinion only make matters worse. What is called for now as someone has put it so well, is a policy that focuses attention on: "Building Bridges, Not Fences".

Firstly, we need to make a greater effort at, as scripture says: "welcoming the stranger among us". This nation founded on Christian principles needs to show more of those ideals particularly in the way in which it receives newcomers. "I was a stranger and you made me welcome" needs to be practiced more by religious folks whose hearts are often closed to new immigrants.

Secondly, this country needs to look at its responsibility of working with countries south of the border in particular. Most of their citizens come to the US seeking work because they are forced to do so to survive. The policies of NAFTA and other factors which cause widespread poverty need serious attention.

Thirdly, we need to be realistic and accept that even if the border issue is fixed we still have to deal with the long term residents who are such a vital part of this economy. If there are folks here who are involved in criminal activities then, they need to be dealt with. The vast majority of those living here without valid paperwork however, are hardworking and decent people who deserve a chance to live the American dream.

USCIS Updates Projected

Naturalization Case Processing Time

Agency To Complete 36-percent More Naturalization Cases Than Last Year

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today (04/02) that it will finish more than one million naturalization cases during fiscal year 2008 – far exceeding the number of cases completed last year. This update comes following a thorough analysis of the work completed during the last six months.

"By the end of the year, I expect USCIS will have finished 36 percent more naturalization cases than last year without compromising national security or the integrity of the naturalization process," said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez.

The agency recently updated the expected time it will take to complete naturalization cases, projecting processing times averaging 13-15 months. That's a three month improvement from the 16-18 month projection that USCIS made six months ago.

A critical component of the strategy for addressing this workload is to quickly grow the capacity to handle the influx of additional cases. That includes expanding the USCIS workforce by adding nearly 3,000 new employees, detailing employees to work in the most heavily affected offices, quadrupling the funding for overtime and using Asylum Office facilities and staff to conduct naturalization interviews.

Last summer, USCIS received an unprecedented number of applications and petitions for immigration benefits. During June,

July and August alone, USCIS received nearly three million filings, compared to 1.8 million filings during the same period the previous year. This sudden surge included 1.4 million naturalization applications last year – 460,000 in July alone. While historically filing increases have occurred in advance of fee increases, Presidential elections, immigration debates and new legislation, none of the past increases are close to the magnitude of the last summer's surge.

USCIS and FBI Release Joint Plan to Eliminate Backlog of FBI Name Checks

Partnership Establishes Series of Milestones To Complete Checks

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) today announced a joint plan to eliminate the backlog of name checks pending with the FBI.

USCIS and the FBI established a series of milestones prioritizing work based on the age of the pending name check. The FBI has already eliminated all name check cases pending more than four years.

"This plan of action is the product of a strong partnership between USCIS and the FBI to eliminate the backlog and to strengthen national security," said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. By increasing staff, expanding resources, and applying new business processes, the goal is to complete 98 percent of all name checks within 30 days. USCIS and the FBI intend to resolve the remaining two percent, which represent the most difficult name checks and require additional time to complete, within 90 days or less. The goal is to achieve and sustain these processing times by June 2009.

The joint plan will focus on resolving the oldest pending FBI name checks first. USCIS has also requested that the FBI prioritize resolution of approximately 29,800 pending name checks from naturalization applicants submitted to the FBI before May 2006 where the naturalization applicant was already interviewed.

The target milestones for processing name checks are:

Completion Goal	Category
May 2008	Process all name checks more than 3 years
July 2008	"" 2 years
Nov 2008	"" 1 year
Feb 2009	"" 180 Days
June 2009	"" 30 Days

The Power of Words

A speaker was speaking about the power of positive thinking and the power of words.

One of the audience raised his hand and said,

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"It's not because I say good fortune, good fortune, good fortune that will make me feel better. Nor will saying bad luck, bad luck, bad luck, make me feel worse. They're only words and, by themselves, have no power."

The speaker replied. "Shut up, you fool, you don't understand a thing about this."

The member of the audience was stunned, his face became red and he was about to reply,

"You, son of a..." The speaker raised his hand.

"Please excuse me. I didn't mean to upset you. Please accept my most sincere apologies."

The member of the audience calmed down. Some people in the hall murmured; others shuffled their feet.

The speaker resumed. "There's the reply to the question you asked me. A few words made you very angry. The other words calmed you down."

"Now do you understand the power of words?"

8th Annual Golf Open

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is excited to announce their 8th Annual Golf Open on June 14th, 2008 at St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club, 3 N441 Route 59, West Chicago 60185 (1/4 mile N. of North Ave on Route 59). The day promises to be as much fun and a bigger success than last year's event. The entry fee is \$100 per person, proceeds of which will help keep the center's doors open. Prizes will be awarded for lowest gross, lowest net, nearest the pin and longest drive. There will be a \$10,000 prize for a hole in one at a designated par 3.

Thanks to continued support from our generous community we have been able to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable Irish immigrants in Chicago and beyond. We offer free and confidential immigration services, processing permanent residency and citizenship applications. We couple this with an active pastoral program to include baptisms, weddings, funerals and visits to the sick and imprisoned.

We take our motto 'We need each other' seriously in responding to our community and its needs. We have fully trained staff who reach out to seniors, and those who are suicidal or experiencing drug and alcohol abuse. We offer many workshops throughout the year, such as the DV Lottery, as well as advocating strongly in Illinois and Washington D.C. for comprehensive immigration reform. The Irish have punched above their weight in this debate and have been credited by both parties for changing the dynamics on the Hill. You have made this possible! Please call our office on 312-337-8445 to book a place on the course, sponsor a tee, a hole or advertise in our ad book.

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me @ sliabhanoir@yahoo.com or 312-337-8448.

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Friday, 5/23	Clarefiddler
Saturday, 5/24	Pat O'Day
Friday, 5/30	One of the Girls
Saturday, 5/31	Ash

Note by the fifth Province: Holidays mean no live acts but the festival and special events.
Check hours for the fifth Province on Fridays from 8pm-11pm and Saturday from 7pm-11pm.
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Piping It In – May 2008
I do love my job, I guess I've said that before, but I do. The specific reason for my current Snoopy Dance is that I've just returned from being a vendor at the Hawaiian Scottish Festival in Honolulu!

A Hawaiian Scottish Festival, you say? You bet, I say! Scots have been very involved in the islands as steam engineers, shipping company representatives, fruit growers and they even married into the Hawaiian Royal family. The last Princess of Hawaii was Kaiulani, her last name was Cleghorn and her dad was from the auld country.

So fast forward to today and you'll find an active community of Scots and Irish gathering together every April in Kapiolani Park to celebrate with dancing, piping, athletics and some of the best festival food ever! The sponsoring organizations are the Caledonian Society of Hawaii, the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii and the Royal Scottish Country Dance society. The festival is organized by the Hawaiian Scottish Association. Hawaii is a place where living together is an art form, so here you'll see Scots and Irish enjoying each other's music together. The featured band this year was none other than Chicago's Switchback, their second year at the festival. Other acts included Hawaii's own Doolin'Rakes, a fine Irish band with original arrangements of trad music and their own songs to boot.

The local pipe band, Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, led by Pipe Major Dan Quinn and Drum Major Kevin Richards, is always a treat. Along with traditional pipe tunes, they have arranged many traditional Hawaiian songs for pipes and do a lovely

Hawaiian set unlike any other pipe band you've ever heard.

This year, for the first time, they sponsored a Highland Dance competition. Dancers came from the US and Canada to compete. There were also dancers there from Australia, New Zealand and Scotland!

The Friendly Sons of St Patrick are always represented by Honolulu's favorite pub owner, Bill Comerford. Bill owns three excellent pubs in Honolulu where you can get a creamy pint and the finest steak and Guinness pie I've ever tasted.

Sunday Mornings are started by Father Richard Rubie, pastor of St Francis of Assisi Celtic Catholic Church, conducting Mass on the Main stage.

Every good festival must have someone holding the reins and Hawaii is no different. The Chieftain of the games is Dan Peddie and he is ably assisted by his lovely wife, Mary. Together with a host of volunteers, they make this one of the best organized and friendly festivals we attend. So if you're feeling a need for sun, surf and sand, hit Hawaii for a little Celtic flavored sun and fun!

While I was sunning myself in Hawaii, the Midwest Pipe Band Association held their mini-bands competition on the south side of Chicago. The bands were showing off the arrangements they have been working so hard on all winter long. Ian Swinton was the Piping judge and Jim Enright Jr was the Drumming judge. In the Medley contest for Grade 4, Stockyard Kilty Band took first, followed by Northwest Indiana PB-A, Tullintrain West PB, Tunes of Glory PB, Northwest Indiana PB-B, with the Chicago Highlanders PB taking Sixth place. In the Quick March Medley for Grade 4, the winner was Northwest Indiana PB-A, followed by Tullintrain West PB, Stockyard Kilty PB, Tunes of Glory PB, Chicago Highlanders PB-A with Chicago Highlanders PB-B taking sixth. It must have been a good competition, I wish I could have seen it.

Finally I want to mention a fundraiser coming up on Saturday May 3, for the Pipes and Drums of the Lake County, Indiana, Sheriff's Department. It will be held at the Lake County, Indiana Fairgrounds from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 and kids under 12 are free. There will be food and drink available. Last year there were 4 pipe bands playing and it was great fun. There will be two vendors there as well, Rampant Lion and Blarney. Hope to see you there!

With the cancellation of the year's Springfield Highland Games, the first really big Pipe Band competition will be held at the Milwaukee Highland Games, in Glendale WI, on Saturday June 7. The games are held at Old Heidelberg Park at the Bavarian Inn. The website is at <http://www.milwaukeehighlandgames.org/> and has lots of information. It's not too long of a drive to listen to some really fine piping and drumming.

I welcome and enjoy your comments, gossip, opinions and foolishness. You can reach me at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa Ave, Villa Park IL or call 630 834 8108.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Can road signs lead you to success?

Many of us have long commutes to work. Some of us spend that time listening to the radio or CDs. Others catch up on their phone calls. Some have breakfast. Others do dictation. But there is a segment of the car bound commuters that simply fret away the time. Perhaps if you are one of those commuters there is a way that you could use your time better. How about using the road signs you pass as teaching aids? Here's how I have used road signs as catalysts to provoke thought as I pass them on my way to work.

DETOUR AHEAD. Many of us find that detours have been a common occurrence in our careers. Obviously detours can inhibit one's career. Career "detours" can be major setbacks in a career; "your" project does not produce the expected result; your mentor leaves your organization; the expected promotion goes to someone else; or you are downsized. Hopefully you will learn from any detour in your career and gain value from it: it's been said, if it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger. If you don't learn from your mistakes, you are destined to repeat them again and again.

NOTURN ON RED. All employers have rules that you must learn. I had lunch with a client recently; he told me that one of his subordinates, a General Manager, had not provided him with information about a short fall in one month's profitability. My client was annoyed by this GM's failure. He told the GM that it was a reasonable expectation that he should be apprised of any unexpected losses. Failing to report deviations from the profit plan was a "punishable" offense. The GM had violated one of their unwritten rules, "no surprises." Bosses generally don't like to be surprised; because they then will have to "surprise" their own boss. All bosses want to feel like they are in charge; it's part and parcel of being the boss, right? Surprises may be interpreted as a sign that the boss is out of touch with his operation. Do you surprise your boss very often? Some bosses will be less than ecstatic, even if the surprise is a "good" one.

YIELD. I have an immediate visceral reaction to this sign; I am NOT going to yield. It may be part of my south side Irish American mentality; yielding is repugnant to me. But as I matured, I came to realize, there are some instances in which one simply must yield. If that big semi tractor trailer rig is edging you off onto the shoulder, yielding the right of way is the sensible thing to do. Are there times when you should yield in your corporate environment? When the boss says, here are your marching orders; can you restrain your desire to have it your way? As the Gambler, Kenny Rogers, says, "you need to know when to hold'em and when to fold'em." As President Thomas Jefferson, said: "On matters of style, swim with the current; on matters of principle, stand like a rock." Understanding the wisdom of both Rogers and Jefferson can be a great help to us.

One has to be sure that their ego isn't in total control of their actions.

A great challenge in corporate life is to know when you have said as much as you can, without alienating everybody in the room. If you object (or never yield) to every suggestion of your colleagues, you will be viewed as a negative influence on the team. You must learn to pick your spots to object. Can you do that with wit and style or can you only object with annoyance and angst? One can yield without sacrificing their integrity.

SHOULDER CLOSED AHEAD. There's an old saying, whenever God closes a door, he opens a window. As your career moves along, some opportunities turn out to be less than anticipated or desired. Perhaps these opportunities even become a distraction. In fact you may find that the SHOULDER of your career has been removed temporarily. Most people can recover from virtually any setback; literature is rife with such stories. Many people who have been overlooked in their corporations go on to become a huge suc-

cess within that same company later in their career. They have not allowed the setback to define them; rather they have embraced it and learned from it.

But if you are inclined to jump ship, look at your employment situation very carefully. Is your success driven by you or by your company? Selling a lot of ice cream cones on a hot summer day doesn't make the Good Humor driver an incredible sales person; almost anyone could do that job. Could your success or the driver's success be environmentally dependent?

CHILDREN AT PLAY. What's your work/life balance; do your kids know you? If you haven't dedicated enough of your time to your spouse and family to date, when will you? As parents we know there is a very narrow window to fully enjoy our children. These special days usually only happen once. I know a number of executives who have spent their later years trying to make up for those earlier "lost" years. A dear friend and mentor of mine told me years ago, if you don't have time for your children when they are five or six, surely they will not have time for you when they are fifteen or sixteen. Try rating yourself in this category.

PAY TOLLS AHEAD. Are you willing to pay the tolls necessary to be successful in your career? Are you willing to accept the extra travel time? Are you working the kind of hours expected of a hard charger? Have you taken on those difficult tasks that no one else will do?

STOP. We experience stop signs throughout our lives and our careers. Sometimes it makes good sense to STOP. But there are also other times when we need to ignore such a sign. Perhaps the message is that we need to stop some particular activity or function that inhibits our advancement in our career. Of course, the real challenge is to discern whether the sign is really telling you to go or stop. Take the time to examine your own career with a critical eye. Set this article aside for a few moments and decide if there are things that you do that are holding your career back. Alternatively, you might ask a couple of close friends or colleagues what they observe. Perhaps they could point out some activities that are distractive to your growth.

EXIT. When we drive on the interstates, we often welcome Exit signs; they mean we are close to our destination. Should we look more carefully at the Exit Option, when making career decisions? Many executives have told me that they stayed too long at their company. They knew that their future was doubtful for a long time, but they couldn't bring themselves to examine their full range of options. It was inconvenient. The timing was all wrong. Leaving was more difficult than staying. For whatever reason, they weren't willing to leave their current circumstances. Perhaps they simply settled for the comfortable. Should you consider setting aside a couple of hours each year to challenge yourself about exercising the Exit option? Such self examination can be painful but wholesome.

So, when you are driving to the office, perhaps you can



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use road signs as learning tools. If you don't like road signs, how about the instruments on your dashboard? Do you have enough gas to reach your career destination? Are you buckled up? How's your oil? Are you going too fast for the road conditions? Are you on cruise control—are you simply living off your past performance? Carpe Diem.

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

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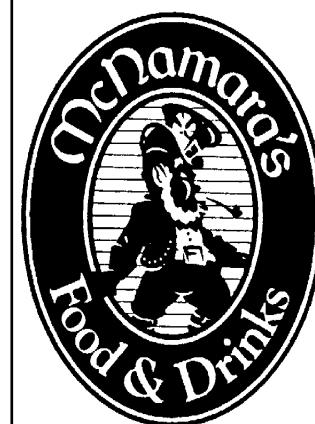
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Sporting Log

Sean Og O Ceallachain



Cork's Christy Cooney will be the next president of the GAA and he had a very convincing win over his two other challengers for the prestigious role, Liam O'Neill of Laois and Sean Fogarty of Tipperary at the GAA Congress in Sligo a few weeks ago. Cooney who was elected on the first count with 172 votes to 112 for O'Neill and 26 votes for Fogarty. He is a native of You-

ghal and a former chairman of the Munster Council. His election was the highlight of an uneventful GAA Congress which saw a Central Council motion calling for acceptance of the Government grants for inter-county player being passed overwhelmingly. There was vigorous opposition to the motion from counties Derry AND Tyrone. The defeat of the motion against its acceptance

was heavier than anticipated.

The GAA's relationship with alcohol firms sponsoring major competitions took another twist when a Laois motion calling for clubs to be prevented from filling trophies with drink during celebrations was passed. Questions about how this ban might be policed were answered by president Nicky Brennan's suggestion that "there's nothing wrong with taking a small drill and boring a hole in the cup." From 2010 all senior inter county players will have to wear helmets with faceguards during both games and training, after a Kilkenny motion to that effect was passed. There was a victory for grassroots pressure when a Wicklow motion calling for an end to the current system whereby Division 4 teams are not allowed to participate in the All-Ireland football qualifiers was passed almost unanimously. Despite a plea from Director-General Paraic Duffy to give the current system more time and an intervention by former president Sean Kelly which advised against change, the delegates heeded the call of Wicklow's Tom Byrne "to let it be said you were at the conference of 2008 and did something for the weaker counties. The change will not however come into force for this year's football championship.

GAA president Nicky Brennan in a hard hitting address to

Congress accused certain Association officials of "breathtaking arrogance and lack of leadership" FOR THEIR STANCE ON DISCIPLINE.

Brennan hit out also at the Gaelic Players Association for their 'lack of appreciation for the work done by county boards.' Brennan claimed that the disciplinary problems which plagued the GAA over the last year have nothing to do with the rule book and everything to do with officials looking to gain an unfair advantage for their teams.

"The breathtaking arrogance and lack of leadership from some officials saw cases coming before control committees and the DRA when sanctions should have been accepted and the offence acknowledged" he stormed. "These same officials have the audacity to go back into their own counties and administer the same rules which they try to sidestep at national level." The president called for a change what he termed a "growing culture of disrespect for our rules, regulations and match officials." Continuing he said that he was astonished at the dismissive attitude of some individuals to the player burnout debate. "It is quite clear" he said "that some mentors are putting a selfish quest for personal glory and gratification before the well being of some of our most talented young players." Brennan also promised a review of the current state of amateur

status in the GAA, something which had been a focus of debate during the controversy on the Government's player grants. Near the end of his speech Brennan pinpointed internal conflicts as the greatest problem

facing the GAA at the moment. His aggressive speech suggested that he was very intent to tackle some of those he regards as responsible for such conflicts. Significantly the successor to the incumbent Nicky Brennan, Cork born Christy Cooney, elected by a wide margin, will be taking over his office next April when Brennan hands over the reins of the biggest position in the GAA. He may well be a very welcome strong official well capable of sorting out a number of the major problems that the retiring president is leaving to his successor. We must wait and see.

Donegal have been rocked by the news that Ciaran Bonner has opted out of the panel and has insisted that there is no way he will be back for the Ulster senior football championship clash with Derry on June 1. The Donegal man has informed the Donegal Management of his decision following the League game against Laois a few weeks ago. It is understood that Bonner was irked after being replaced in the Laois match, a week after he was not chosen for the game against Tyrone.

New Chicago Hurling Club

The Michael Cusack Hurling Club of Chicago, IL is the first club in the Chicagoland area that is comprised of all American-born players to play the Irish sport of Hurling. The club played its first matches on April 19th at Chicago Gaelic Park against clubs from all across America. Matches will be played throughout the summer including appearances at festivals and tournaments throughout the Midwest. The MCHC will also be attending the North American Championships in Boston over Labor Day weekend.

The club is, at present, seeking non-playing members, supporters, sponsors and American born players. All those who are interested in playing, aiding, or sponsoring the Michael Cusack Hurling Club, or those interested in more information, should contact the club at cusackhurling@gmail.com.

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GAA North American County Board News

By Eamon Kelly

While the election of a new president and a motion regarding a 3.5 million Euro government grants scheme for inter-county players topped the agenda at the recent GAA Congress the NACB delegation were on a special mission to challenge a motion that, if passed, would significantly reduce the number of Irish sanction players allowed to play with NACB clubs. A motion submitted by a county Tyrone club requested that Official Guide Rule 43 be amended to allow a maximum of 10 sanction players be permitted to register for any club in the North American and Canadian County Boards. The current rule allows a possible total of 24 sanction players per club, depending on the number of participating teams. Even though the success of this motion would depend on acquiring a two-thirds voting majority it became

clear to the NACB delegation that the motion had strong support among several counties.

At stake was the growing number of protests from county boards over inter-county players leaving their counties in the middle of the championships and joining NACB clubs. It was alleged that many of them were being enticed by monetary considerations. After discussions with some members of GAA management and the International committee the NACB decided not to challenge the motion and engage in negotiations with the GAA By-laws committee to work out a compromise that would attract the support of congress and the hope of having the Tyrone motion withdrawn.

Early in the negotiations it became clear to the eight NACB delegates that a compromise was impossible unless the NACB agreed not to register any member of an inter-county panel that has competed in the current year. Given that situation the NACB delegation focused their attention

on seeking unlimited sanction for students as well as sustaining the current quota for sanctions. After over 3 hours of intense negotiations an agreement was reached whereby no current inter-county players would be registered by the NACB clubs and in return there would be no limit to sanctions granted to J1 visa students. It was also agreed that 10 regular sanctions will be granted to all clubs with one team and an additional 8 sanctions be granted for a second team. No additions would be granted for a third team. The longest stalemate in the negotiations was the NACB's insistence that students without J1 visas qualify for student sanctions. It was finally accepted that the term "student" had to be defined to prevent widespread abuse of the rule.

Following Tyrone's agreement to withdraw their motion Congress unanimously approved the new motion. Following is the amended section of Rule 43 as passed by Congress:

43 (iv) The maximum number of Sanctioned Players permitted to any club in the North American County Board or Canadian Board Areas shall be ten. In addition a club may also avail of the services of a further six players who have a valid, current J1 Visa as well as a sanction.

In the case of New York, the maximum number of Sanctioned players per team shall be six.

NOTE: The NACB and all of its divisions have agreed that for a three year trial period (2008 to 2010 inclusive) no member of an Inter-County Senior panel, who has competed at Senior level in the hurling and/or Football championships, of the current year, will be accepted for Registration as a member of any club in the NACB jurisdiction.

Exception: Any inter-county player who holds a valid, current J1 Visa will be accepted for Registration.

In other NACB news, the fifth annual junior hurling jamboree was staged at Chicago Gaelic Park on the weekend of April 18 – 20. Started in 2004 by David Olsen of Milwaukee, to promote hurling in Midwest American cities, this years event was the most successful and productive ever staged. As intended from its inauguration in 2004 this event continues to focus on an informal setting where teams from several cities engage in friendly non-competitive games played in a round-robin format. Over 140 players from the following cities participated in this years event: Akron, Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, St. Louis. A team from Purdue University also participated.

Highlight of the event this year was the staging of several hurling and referee coaching clinics throughout the 3-day weekend. The clinic was sponsored by the Munster Council, NACB's partner in the GAA twining program. Three coaches, including

Munster Games Manager Joe Carton as well as Dinny Maher and referee coach Kevin Walsh traveled from Ireland to conduct the clinic. Between 25 and 50 people participated in each of the 4 coaching seminars conducted throughout the weekend.

Elgin Children's Chorus on May 18th

Enjoy the delightful Elgin Children's Chorus at their "Crescendo!" performances on Sunday, May 18th at 3pm and 6pm at the Elgin Community College, Arts Center, 1700 Spartan Drive in Elgin. Contributions to America's musical fabric provide the focus for this lively musical event. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for students. 847-622-0300 www.elgin.edu/arts.



Gaelic Park's 22nd Annual Irish Fest 2008

It's time to begin the season of summer festivals with one of the largest Irish Fests in America. Gaelic Park's 22nd Annual Irish Fest promises to have more variety of music than ever with the Makem & Spain Brothers, Michael McDermott, Liz Carroll & John Doyle, Black 47, Scythian, American English, The Brides, The Tartan Terrors, and many, many more.

Irish Fest activities also include an Irish Dog Exhibition and the all new Cultural Tent which will feature an exhibit on Irish rock music. Along with great music, Gaelic Park's Irish Fest will also include a huge carnival midway, storytelling, theatre, all

kinds of food vendors, an Irish Tea Room, 20 Irish import stores and free parking.

The 22nd Annual Irish Festival begins Friday, May 23rd from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. with half priced admission from 3 to 4 p.m., and continues Saturday, May 24th and Sunday, May 25th noon until 11 p.m., and Monday, May 26th noon until 8 p.m. Regular admission is \$15 including unlimited carnival rides. Admission is \$12 for adults 65 and over and kids 12 and under. For children 3 and under admission is free. Call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more details or visit www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Set Dancing for Beginners/Improvers Continues

On Mondays, from 7pm to 8pm, Irish Set Dancing classes for Beginners and Improvers at Gaelic Park will continue for \$3 (followed by regular weekly set dancing with John Carmody from 8pm to 10pm.)

They are learning the Irish Set Dances in a very fun and casual way. All ages and levels of experience are encouraged to come and see what it is all about. You won't be disappointed. Spread the word and come out this week. They have a great group, don't miss the magic.

Food & Music at The Carraig Pub

No cover charge along with great appetizers and meals that include pub fries, hot wings, sandwiches, ribs, steak and shrimp. The Carraig also offers drink specials each day on bottles and drafts. Manager of the Carraig, Tadgh O'Reilly, boasts the creamiest, best poured pint of Guinness this side of Dublin.

Beginning at 9:30 p.m. every Friday and 10 p.m. every Saturday. Bernie Glim & Country Roads on Friday, May 2nd; John Dillon on Saturday, May 3rd; Jerry Eadie on Friday, May 9th; John Dillon on Saturday, May 10th;

Ron & Sean on Saturday, May 17th; Joe Cullen on Friday, May 30th and Raymond Gavigan on Saturday, May 31st.

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

The season finale of the pub quiz will be held on Tuesday, May 20th beginning at 8 p.m. The pub quiz will return in the fall.

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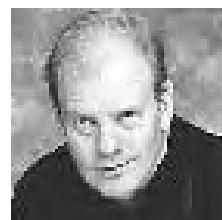
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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I was always a little bit afraid of my brother Willie. He was almost exactly ten years older than me.

I didn't see a lot of my brothers Paul or Danny growing up since they were in the seminary, but my brothers Willie, John, and Brian were poster boys for reform school. And Willie was their ringleader.

I was the baby and the perfect patsy for all their pranks.

When I was two, Willie was twelve. When I was five, he was fifteen. He invented a little stunt and taught it to my brothers. He would take his index finger, stick it in his mouth and get it soaked with saliva, and then insert the finger into your ear and swish it around. He called this a "wet nasty".

Being on the receiving end of a wet nasty waswell, nasty.

When I was six, Willie was sixteen. Probably had been smoking for ten years by then. He was also an expert at swearing. He could string together a series of a dozen expletives at a time. Cuss words flowed from him like machine gun fire. I was impressed.

Willie was called Houli long before I claimed the name.

When I was 16, Willie got me a job on Christmas break as his runner at the Chicago Board of Trade.

I watched him in action in the pits and was impressed with his machismo as he traded. He would bring me around after the closing bell and introduce me as "my kid brother Mike."

One of the traders in the pit was a blind guy who had a Seeing Eye dog and yet somehow he managed to trade. I remarked to Billy one day on how sorry I felt for the guy and he told me, "That guy would cut your heart out and eat it if he could, don't give him a break, he's poison!"

Mister Compassion he was not.

Willie had a weakness for women, particularly beautiful but crazy chicks. Back in his high roller days of the seventies he had a girlfriend that he claimed was certifiable, call her wacky Wanda.

Wanda was a knockout, a hottie without a home. But hell hath no fury like Wacky Wanda scorned. After one of her and Willie's lovers' spats she poured gasoline over the door to his apartment and torched it.

Attorney Mike Nash lived just behind Bill in an apartment complex called Hemingway House. One morning he gets a frantic call from my brother, "You gotta come over here right away, I might need a lawyer."

Nash hurries over and finds Willie with two cops in his apartment. Beautiful Wanda has locked herself in his bathroom and refuses to leave. Willie called the cops when he couldn't get her to go.

Cop knocks on the bathroom door, "Okay Wanda, now come on, Mr. Houlihan wants you to leave."



I'm not goin' anywhere!
Come on now, Wanda, this is the police;
open this door or we will break it down.

No response.

Cop says, "Are you going to come out of there and leave the premises?"

Nash says the voluptuous Wanda finally opens the door and marches right past them to stand in the middle of Willie's living room... in her birthday suit.

She puts her hands on her hips and glares at the men defiantly. Cop turns to Willie and says, "Lemme get this straight, you want HER to leave?

We told these stories and laughed at Willie's wake last month.

His journey with cancer was a rough one. He fought it and cursed it every step of the way. He took the old poem literally, Do Not Go Gentle Into that Good Night. Just ask the nurses and doctors who wrestled with him at the end and tried to subdue him during his delirium. Ask the nurse he punched... or the one he bit.

In the end, Willie saved redemption for the last. I sent my friend Fr. Dan Malette to see him about three weeks before he died.

Fearful that Willie might have thrown him out of the hospital room, I called Fr. Dan and asked him how it went.

Danny told me, "Your brother has great faith. You must have had very loving parents. We had a wonderful talk and I gave him the sacraments and anointed him."

Willie's street smarts had finally led him to salvation. Mister Lucky had cheated the devil at last.

The left-handed son of Bill and Sis Houlihan was a rogue and a rascal and we loved him for it. He's got a front row seat tonight. He's probably givin' Mother Theresa a wet nasty as we speak.

So Semper Fi, Willie, save a spot up there for the rest of us.



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



From the Sea to the Stars

I returned to my former home of Hampton, Virginia last month in the early morning hours as birds were already singing in the dark as I stood outside the Victorian home of my close friend Mac, a retired Marine Corps Sgt. Major. I heard more than the birds singing, I actually heard Mac singing from thirty years ago.

"Up In The Morning
With The Rising Sun!!!



We're Gonna Have Some P.T. Fun!!!"

I met Mac, who married his Hampton High sweetheart Barbara, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame my Freshman year as I reported for four years of part-time officer training as a Marine Corps Midshipman in the Naval ROTC program. Not long after teaching us to march the first day, the lanky 26 year old staff sgt. with the Tidewater Virginia drawl was running us down Douglas Road on the North edge of campus, singing cadence with a different team of Fighting Irish as we huffed, puffed and blew our way down the road singing along.

What Will You Do
When You Get Back???

Crawl Into Bed And Hit The Rack!!!

In present-day that sounded pretty good at 4 in the morning after a delayed flight and as a taxi drove off leaving me near Mac's porch in the Little England section of Hampton, where British General Braddock landed in 1755 to begin an Army command that would end with its defeat at Yorktown in 1781 just up the road. "Old Boy, you'll always have a couch to sleep on when you're in Virginia," Mac said when I found him again after my 20th college reunion, not

knowing that both our paths would take us back and forth to Hampton over the course of three decades.

Three Decades and Three Centuries

After the usual talk on the porch catching up on the past year's adventures and planning a few new ones, I left Mac for a two-hour hike through this growing tourist mecca just south of Colonial Williamsburg and across the Hampton Roads harbor from Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

The first tourists showed up in 1610, creating the New World's first permanent continuously English-speaking settlement on their way up the James River to join the early voyagers to Jamestown. I first arrived here a bit later as a television news reporter covering this area along with the military and political beats for most of the 1980s. I didn't realize this was where Mac grew up. While I reported here, he was halfway around the world in places from the Pacific to the United Kingdom, and from the U.S. Naval Academy to the waters off Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm, only to return several years after I left for a PR job in Chicago, neither knowing we just missed each other.

From the Sea

Walking through Hampton today I see not only my personal history but an intimate history of America. Stepping into the old St. Paul's Episcopal Church (the only Hampton structure to survive the British razing the town on New Years Day, 1776), I see the pew where President John Tyler worshiped decades before it was burned by Confederate forces in the Civil War, seeking to deny Union troops the use of the town. Shelled by the British in the Revolutionary War, sacked by the Redcoats in the War of 1812, this town of 150,000 ringed by marinas filled with waterman's crab fishing boats and pleasure craft embodies not only the past but the future.

Hiking past Hampton University, where Booker T. Washington attended college before founding Tuskegee Institute, I thought of the President's House where the college president once showed me and other guests a huge intricately carved poster bed once occupied by America's largest president, William Howard Taft.

Much later in the 20th Century, President John F. Kennedy would declare the country's race to the moon. Before a Texan named Johnson moved some things

down to Houston, Hampton was astronaut central, as fellows named Glenn, Shepard and Grissom trained for the first Mercury spaceflights at the NASA Langley Research Center and a couple fellows named Armstrong and Aldrin first practiced moon landings from a variety of structures that still stand today amongst the various space and aeronautical buildings astride Langley Air Force Base, where I first flew supersonic with a NASA test pilot shortly before coming home to Chicago.

Much the same, yet much has changed in the 20 years since I left. Among the many tourist attractions which include an Army fort with a moat and a harbor cruise which takes you up the James River and past current aircraft carriers and the newest under construction at Newport News Shipyard, the George H.W. Bush.

To the Stars



"What's a nice kid from Kalamazoo doing way out here in Virginia?" the elder Bush once asked me at the end of an interview. Exploring and living history was as good an answer as any and that's true present day. The absolutely breathtaking Virginia Air and Space Museum on the waterfront here, along with other 1990s developments has turned the sleepy village into a Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on the half shell, with plenty of fresh softshell crabs nearby at waterfront eateries.

A walk through Hampton truly lives up to the city's marketing motto of "From the Sea to the Stars."

When you visit you have your choice of modern luxury hotels and quaint bed and breakfasts, soon to be join this year by Mac's new retirement project, a three story Victorian in Little England with a Notre Dame Fighting Irishman banner flying out back.

Thirty years ago as I dropped an armload of books down the steps of the

Rockne Memorial Gymnasium at Notre Dame, I looked up to find Mac shaking his head and saying "School of Great Minds..."

Some things never change as he tells me I have 10 minutes to pack up my things on the couch, kiss the wife he put through Notre Dame goodbye, and join him in the balcony at the First Presbyterian Church across the street.

"YOU ARE NOT, going to be late again...I'm gonna teach you yet! Young Man I'm gonna put a PEP IN YOUR STEP and a PRIDE IN YOUR STRIDE so get going!"

The weekend ends with me and Mac in church surrounded by history, the future and some of the prettiest women I've ever seen. "Keep your mind off Sugar Britches and say your prayers!" he whispers, later telling me to do the singing for him.

As I think of all the blessings God has



bestowed on me and especially those of friendships lost and found, I feel a poke in the ribs and a no-nonsense instruction:

"Are you gonna let me see the lyrics or not?!"

Not one to mince words or wax nostalgic, I'll never forget the day I found the Sgt. Major online and called him on July 4th, 2002 to tell him things weren't so good and share some deep disappointments in life and love. I didn't even have to say who I was after I said through bittersweet tears, "Mac...is that you?!"

"Why, Mr. McClure...I always knew that you would come and find me!"

We've been best friends ever since through his thick and my mostly thin. Now it's come full circle and most of the things I cherish in life, like my home from home in Hampton, have been restored and all is well.

Singing together again after 30 years, the grace truly is amazing.

Email: IrishRoverJim@aol.com

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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



Independence, a worthy cause and a well-attended event. Bob Healy & Peg O'Herron host this annual party which featured the Heritage Singers from the Irish American Heritage Center, The Weber Dance Company of Chicago and Noel Rice's Academy of Irish Music.

On St. Patrick's weekend itself we were at the Hilton Hotel on Michigan Ave., ground zero for all Chicagoland celebrations. It's like parade HQ and hosts many of the toff luncheons and parties. Hizzoner, Mayor Richard Daley was there, as were many of Chicago's politicians and celebrities. We had set up our booth outside Eamonn Brady's Kitty O'Sheas Irish Pub and the craic was 90. The Shannon Rovers Pipe Band were being ferried to gigs around the city by a small fleet of vans, the Hilton was their pick up and drop off point. I have never seen the like of it, the Shannon Rovers worked very hard that weekend. Entertainment in Kitty's was provided by Jimmy Moore, Pat Broaders, Seamus O'Kane and Peter Brady who seemed to be putting in 20-hour days. There was more entertainment upstairs at the posh parties, I saw the fabulous Catherine O'Connell work hard as she and all the musicians present were working an incredible schedule. All my favorites in one spot. It was great.

On Saturday I worked the Irish

Bowl but we still had record crowds on the Saturday. Shay & Michael Black and Matt & Shannon Heaton entertained huge audiences. David Munnely and his band were also there and all I can say is that they were awesome. They are without doubt the greatest traveling traditional band out there and you should try to catch their act as they tour this summer.

Leaving Dallas on Sunday night to avoid a nasty weather front proved futile and I drove the gauntlet of tornado warnings, thunderstorms, rain, hail and snow on my way home. Traci, the missus, had worked Tony Bannon's annual fundraiser in the small town of Sycamore, IL on that same weekend. Tony and his wife Brenda have big Irish hearts and great energy and his dedication to Irish culture has always been a source of quiet pride to me. Joe Cullen, Sean O'Donnell, and Gerry Haughey provided the musical entertainment.

The following weekend we were at Arlington Heights, IL for the annual Irish Fest to benefit Avenues to

March always starts with the North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas where it's always a pleasure to leave winter behind and celebrate our Irish culture with the Texas Celts. This well organized event is always a great opportunity to meet fellow vendors, discuss our winter campaigns and plan forward for the summer festival season. Hillary Clinton was working just a few hundred yards away at the Cotton

American Heritage Center's Festival with my son Niall, while Traci & Saoirse worked the Hilton. Another great bash, but I was too far removed from the entertainment and I would love to have seen the Dave Dunne Band. The Heritage Singers were in top form again and as usual it was great to see all my pals at the Heritage Center. I must say that the selfless dedication of many people make Chicago's IAHC a major powerhouse of Irish culture for all to enjoy.

Monday, St. Patrick's Day, I returned to the Hilton, but although the musicians were still playing, the revelers had had enough and it was a much more sober affair. I packed up around 6 or so and headed home to the "burbs."

It was my time to celebrate, having watched everybody else "drown the shamrock" for the past few days.

With its imposing frontage, artfully decorated interior and friendly welcoming atmosphere,

O'Shaughnessy's Public House at Ravenswood & Wilson has a bright future ahead. I had lunch there a few weeks ago and I loved it. Liz &

Michael Finan have done a superb job of recreating a genuine Irish pub. Seriously, this one is up there with the best of them. It felt like being home in Dublin and you should see the bathrooms... amazing.

O'Shaughnessy's offer lunch,

dinner, bar food and weekend Irish

breakfast with all your favorite beers in a family atmosphere.

The 19th century "bric a brac" is tastefully arranged and the wood-work, furnishings and even the ceiling make O'Shaughnessy's a first class example of what a real Irish pub should be.

Great staff, from Liz the manager to our server Donna who hails from Antrim. Lovely place, lovely people and a superb lunch make this a place that you should check out. It will not disappoint you.

This weekend it's off to Carbon-

dale, IL for the Southern Illinois

Irish Music Festival. I'm looking forward to seeing Cathy Ryan, Mairtin de Cogain, and that other Cork superstar Jimmy Crowley. Not much happening then till Memorial Day weekend when Irish Fest comes to Chicago's Gaelic Park. The first

major festival of the year. Check out their entertainment lineup at www.chicagogaelicpark.org. The Bridies are back in the USA again and we

also have Seven Nations, Black 47

and Liz Carroll with John Doyle. Roll on Gaelic Park and keep your fingers crossed for good weather.

Blarney on the Air is presented by Shay Clarke and Bill Margeson on WDCB from the College of DuPage in Glen Ellen, 90.9 FM, each Monday from 7-9pm. It can be accessed on the worldwide web at wdcb.org

Geal an Lao" on our show recently. Joe sings this one in his native Gaelic. Joe is a Donegal man from Fanad, and with Joe McShane on guitar and Kathleen Keane on fiddle and low pipes, I can't wait to hear more. Well done everybody.

Stephens Green are touring to celebrate their 20th anniversary and the Dublin duo of Andy O'Driscoll & Martin Doyle will be at the IAHC on June 7th and at Gaelic Park on June 8th. They have reunited with Martin Marron & Tony McCabe so this should be a great show. They have also released a new album and to celebrate their 20th anniversary they are bringing fans and followers to Ireland on October 10th. For more information on these mad lads check out www.stephens-green.com.

With its imposing frontage,

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Irish Diaspora

By Charles Brady

Fidelma Healy Eames

Anybody who occasionally reads my Swimming Upstream column in this magazine knows my feelings on politicians—and they're certainly not complimentary. Especially when it comes to Fianna Fail, the Party that has inexplicably been in power for the last eleven years, despite scandal piled on scandal. Having been led for years by a phoney "Squire" like Charles Haughey, for the last years it has been led by a fake "man of the people" like Bertie Ahern, who now finds that the whole sham act is coming down around him.

It's refreshing, therefore, to write positively about a politician. I voted for Senator Fidelma Healy Eames of opposition party Fine Gael in the 2004 local elections and have watched her career with interest since. I got a chance to meet her properly last Friday when I attended a coffee morning fund-raiser that she had organised for the domestic violence refuge, Waterside House of Galway.

Fidelma is a petite, attractive mother-of-two who lives in the small village of Maree, on the outskirts of Oranmore in County Galway. (Indeed, one of the reasons that I voted for her was that I thought it important to have a representative at a local level who really is a local, and haven't been disappointed).

Although she was ousted as last elimination on 6,170 votes in 2007—after a particularly tough campaign—she went on to become a member of the Seanad Eireann (Senate) where she has talked considerable sense in the debates, a quality that is often lacking there. She has become known in the area for her tireless work and energy, making time even to be Director of her own company in Oranmore, FHE Education and Training Providers, which gives national learning and study-based courses for students, teachers and parents. The Senator is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University in the States; of Carysfort College, Blackrock; and NUI Galway, giving her a M.Sc., B.Ed., and Ph.D. One smart lady.

On her hosting of the coffee morning she is continuing important work, which is why I've brought this column closer to home this month. Let her put it herself: "Friday is International Women's Day and a very significant day to highlight the complexities that surround the issue of women as victims of domestic abuse. One in five women experience violence in home, be it physical, sexual, emotional or mental



and this terror is accomplished by great shame and humiliation."

"I am hosting this event to raise awareness of the grave situation that faces so many women, and indeed men, in Ireland today. Women and children are disproportionately affected by violence in the home and, very often, once the difficult decision is taken to leave the family home is made, the victims find themselves destitute, impoverished and with nowhere to go. Waterside House and organisations like it, are in need of support and resources and for this reason I am calling for the people of Galway to come out and support this extremely worthwhile event."

Not being familiar with domestic violence I was staggered by the statistics. In 2006 there were 3,132 Banning Orders applied for and 1,357 granted. 2,845 Protection Orders and 1,122 Safety Orders were given.

Women's Aid National Helpline took 11,994 calls but had to leave many more unanswered due to lack

of resources. For a country the size of Ireland I find this absolutely chilling.

The National Crime Council of Ireland say that 1 in 7 women experience severe abusive behaviour—physical, sexual and emotional—during their lives. I won't go on throwing statistics at you but will say that 1 in 4 perpetrators of sexual violence are partners or ex-partners, yet in 17 years there has only been one conviction for rape.

131 women here have been murdered since 1996, 82 in their own homes and the vast majority knew their killer. One particularly vile crime that shot out at me is that 9% of abused women are pregnant.

So it's obvious how important this organisation is, not just in giving refuge but in helping the victims to prepare for court and to offer a proper support structure. The organisation, COPE, does other fine work beyond this and COPE won, in 2007, the national "Pride of Place" award for care of the vulnerable and the Marketing Award for their work with Meals on Wheels.

The people behind this organisation are to be commended for their dedication and Senator Healy Eames for raising an issue that I certainly was only peripherally aware of. I doubt if I would have been alone.

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For The Republic

Chris Fogarty



WILL U.S. BE SAVED? Or, more precisely, will Americans restore the US Constitution and again become a nation of laws? Let's first acknowledge our current situation. Our once-fine international reputation is in tatters. That our fellow Americans have been kept largely in the dark doesn't diminish the fact that Bush's war on Iraq is the Supreme Crime as defined by the Nuremberg Tribunal that we organized after WW2. The "Supreme Crime" because its initiators are personally liable for all of its deaths and destruction. The Soviet's erstwhile Gulag Archipelago that so repelled the world has been replaced by Bush's Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib, Baghram, Diego Garcia and his other international "black" torture sites. A few years ago 39 had already been tortured to death. The Bush gang is also spying on all Americans. Space here doesn't permit a review of the whole range of crimes; but an idea of its scope is this: the Bush gang has violated, and continues to violate, all of our Constitution's "Bill of Rights" (its first Ten Amendments) excepting the 4th (which involves the quartering of troops in private houses).

THE AXIS OF EVIL, those responsible for the destruction of so many nations including our own, are not the U.S., U.K. and Israel, in whose names the military forces kill and destroy. Americans, Brits and Israelis are not responsible, as such, unless they voted with knowledge of the impending crimes or voted for the perpetrators after the fact. As to Iraq and its nonexistent "weapons of mass destruction," most pols and pundits now say: "Who knew?" though 15,000 protesters on Lake Shore Drive on 3/19/03 knew that Bush had launched his Iraq war on a flood of lies. Worldwide, Iraq war protesters in their tens of millions knew; and they know that the penalty for it as established at Nuremberg is execution by hanging. So the U.S., per se, is not the guilty party here, nor is the U.K., nor Israel. The guilt lies with those three nations' leaders who violated their oaths of office and promoted that war, and lied and fabricated false evidence to get us into it. We know the perpetrators, the Bush/Cheney Gang, the Blair/Brown Gang, the Sharon/Olmert Gang, the corporation heads who bribed them into it, the lawyers who "legalized" the crimes, and the news media gang, especially those still "spinning" the war for its perpetrators while it costs \$270 million per day..

WHAT HAPPENED? Why have we fallen so far? In addition to the war, how did it happen that the following policies exist? The greatest financial fraud in world history, into the \$trillions, is the "sub-prime" mortgage scheme, in which the perpetrators made utterly unsound mortgages which they then sliced and diced, repackaged into bundles, bribed watch-dog rating agencies into giving them AAA ratings and then sold them as "AAA Collateralized Debt Obligations" (CDOs) to innocents across the globe. Retirement funds from Osaka to Helsinki are defrauded and their individual pensioners rendered destitute. The perpetrators, Bear Stearns, et al, suffered financially only to the extent that they had not yet gotten rid of all of the CDOs they had created. Subsequent "emergency intervention" by the gov't and Federal Reserve exacerbates the crimes by fleecing us taxpayers to make good some of the \$hundreds of billions the perpetrators lost by getting stuck with their own fraudulent paper. We now learn that the gov't is also reimbursing some of the losses incurred by the house-builders who, also, had marginally benefited from the scam. The only scam participants to whom our tax money is not flowing are the least culpable, the mortgagors who cannot make their payments. Despite facing the trauma of eviction and destitution and despite their relative innocence, the gov't is giving them nothing but counseling.

THE PATTERN is universal. The mercantile/monarchic/oligopolistic forces that once invaded and looted other nations' resources at gunpoint, building railroads in the 1800s for that purpose, were called empires. The US was founded by rebels against the British empire. Ireland fought through to partial freedom and will eventually win complete freedom from the now-vestigial Brit empire. Empire was a dirty word in the U.S. during its great years as a republic until recently. Until Bush "W," U.S. presidents largely opposed empire. FDR, while smashing the Nazi/Japanese empires, eliminated many remaining injustices worldwide by sabotaging and dismantling much of the Brit empire ("Bases for Battleships," for example). But, sad to say, the Bush gang has turned our beloved republic into an empire and has hooked up with old empire types still lurking in Britain. It is all a massive lurch into an obsolete, internationally-reviled sort of crime from the past. We are now destroying and looting nations that Britain once destroyed and looted. Our generals speechifying about coming "not as conquerors but as liberators" seem unaware that the locals, from family lore and their history books, know the names of the earlier invading Brit generals who uttered the same fraudulent words prior to beginning to loot.

CORPORATIONS are now taking over from, and giving orders to, governments. The Bush Gang is merely enforcing decisions made by the corporate leaders who control them. Much, if not most, congressional legislation is written by corporations for their exclusive benefit and to the detriment of all other Americans. Our vast health industry is controlled by corporations, with 31% of our national health expenses going to insurance companies who contribute nothing, medically. Our gov't allows insurance companies to loot \$350 billion per year from our medical funds as the quid pro quo for bribes received. This sum is more than enough to cover the medical needs of all Americans now without cover.

THE CRUX OF HISTORY is now! This year's national election will decide whether we descend into full tyranny or begin to recover our republic. As long-time readers know, I do not endorse candidates. How can any honest person dare to do so? But when I possess relevant facts, especially media-suppressed ones, I share them. Here are some facts that bear on our electoral choices:

GENOCIDE. All decent persons who oppose genocide cannot vote for any of the three front-runners. We cannot vote for McCain, Clinton or Obama while truthfully claiming that we oppose genocide. The reason? – All three have taken AIPAC money and all publicly proclaim their unconditional support for Israeli policies which include genocide of the Palestinians, its criminal attack upon Lebanon last year, and its efforts to get the US to perpetrate genocide against Iran.

"THE LESSER EVIL," that sad, self-imposed choice of American voters for many years, no longer applies. It cannot apply when the "lesser evil" is still so evil as to include genocide, and McCain, Clinton and Obama support Israel's genocide. And not only the one against Palestine. If America wants no part in genocides, it cannot support McCain, Clinton or Obama—period.

OTHER KEY ISSUES which the news media tend to ignore are the following (not necessarily in order of importance): 1) Single Payer National Health Insurance. 2) Cut the bloated military budget. 3) No nuclear power; solar power first. 4) Crackdown on corporate crime and corporate welfare. 5) Open up the Presidential debates. 6) Adopt a carbon pollution tax. 7) Reverse US policy in the Middle East. 8) Impeach Bush/Cheney. 9) Repeal the Taft-Hartley anti-union law. 10) Adopt a Wall Street securities speculation tax. 11) End ballot access obstructionism. 12) Work to end corporate personhood.

NOTE WELL!! All twelve of the above key issues are "Off the Table" for McCain, Clinton and Obama. Their refusal to support ANY of these important issues, but especially their support for genocide, renders all three of them pariahs to decent people. Following my non-endorsement of any pol I do not endorse one here, but must inform you that Ralph Nader sup-

ports all twelve of these issues, and above all, he also opposes Israel's genocide of Palestine, Lebanon, etc. Examine the list of issues carefully; they explain why the corporate news media refuse to inform America about the Nader/Gonzalez campaign. See www.votenader.org. Ralph Nader is running for President and Matt Gonzalez for VP, on the Independent Party ballot.

"ISRAEL WANTS a Billion Catholic Footsoldiers" headlines a commentary (AMERICAN FREE PRESS; Apr 7-14, '08) by a Mark Glenn. In it Glenn claims that Israel is planning a "false-flag" attack upon the Catholic church – either in the form of an assassination attempt on the Pope or a terrorist attack on the Vatican, to be blamed on Muslims. Glenn writes: "The 'clash of civilizations' idea is nothing new. Israel-firsters such as Daniel Pipes, Norman Podhoretz, Martin Kramer and others acting as unregistered agents of Israel have been piling up the cordwood of an Islamo-Christian holocaust for years. At first aimed at Protestants, the agenda now seems to have centered on bringing the Catholics into the battle for Israel's benefit as well." This would have seemed too far-fetched to mention to you had Israel not already conducted a "false-flag" operation against the USS Liberty, killing some 35 American servicemen, for the purpose of involving the US in a war against Arabs. Israel would have succeeded, and would have sunk the US ship with the loss of all hands (an Israeli navy craft machine-gunned the Liberty's pneumatic life rafts) had a technician aboard the Liberty not managed to rig up an antenna and radio a message that the attackers were Israeli. (Before bombing and torpedoing the Liberty Israeli jets had destroyed all of its antennae.) Also, the AFP article reprints the following letter from an Israeli: "Perhaps you do not yet see that the worst is awaiting your (Christian) kind in the face of the coming Islamo-Christian war, from which my (Israeli) kind will arise victorious. Perhaps God will find it suitable that a terrorist attack will end your misery. I shall personally pray for it to be so." – Orri Joseph Avraham, an Israeli citizen, in an email to Mark Glenn.

RARE VIEWS of terrorism comes from London-based reader Patrick Cullinane after he'd gotten them published as the below article in THE SCOTSMAN newspaper. "Fresh revelations on secret British terror organizations in Northern Ireland;" by Robert Stevens. From the (London) THE GUARDIAN: "He did the IRA's dirty work for 25 years—and was paid £80,000 per year by the (Brit) government. Man revealed as (Brit) army agent may be connected to 40 murders." If the head of the IRA was a British agent for 25 years, and the IRA was largely comprised of British agents, Who, exactly, were the IRA? To learn the truth about terrorism in Britain we must begin with an independent inquiry into the composition of the IRA. Then ALL of the discrepancies about 7/7 will fall away." Cullinane's letter to the editor included web site addresses for each of the above reports. Phone me for them; 312 664 7651.

HUMAN LIFE is not universally valued. For years even Ireland's press didn't report many murders of Irish children in Occupied Ireland. A study of some years of Irish and British newspapers showed that they don't differ much in their valuation of human life. The murder of a British child by the IRA was, on average, 350 times more newsworthy than the British murder of an Irish child as measured by the difference in column-inches granted to each. During the most recent phase of the Anglo-Irish struggle British forces out-murdered IRA "terrorists" by a factor of eight. In Slavic countries the WW2 German army tried to maintain a 100-to-one ratio of retaliation killings of locals after one of their own was killed. The Israeli army out-murders Palestinian "terrorists" by a factor of about five. An Israeli spokesperson claims that the life of one Israeli cadet is worth 1,000 Palestinian lives. We must restore respect for life.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See terrorismireland.org

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See irishholocaust.org. Reach me at fogartyc@att.net or Tel. 312 664 7651



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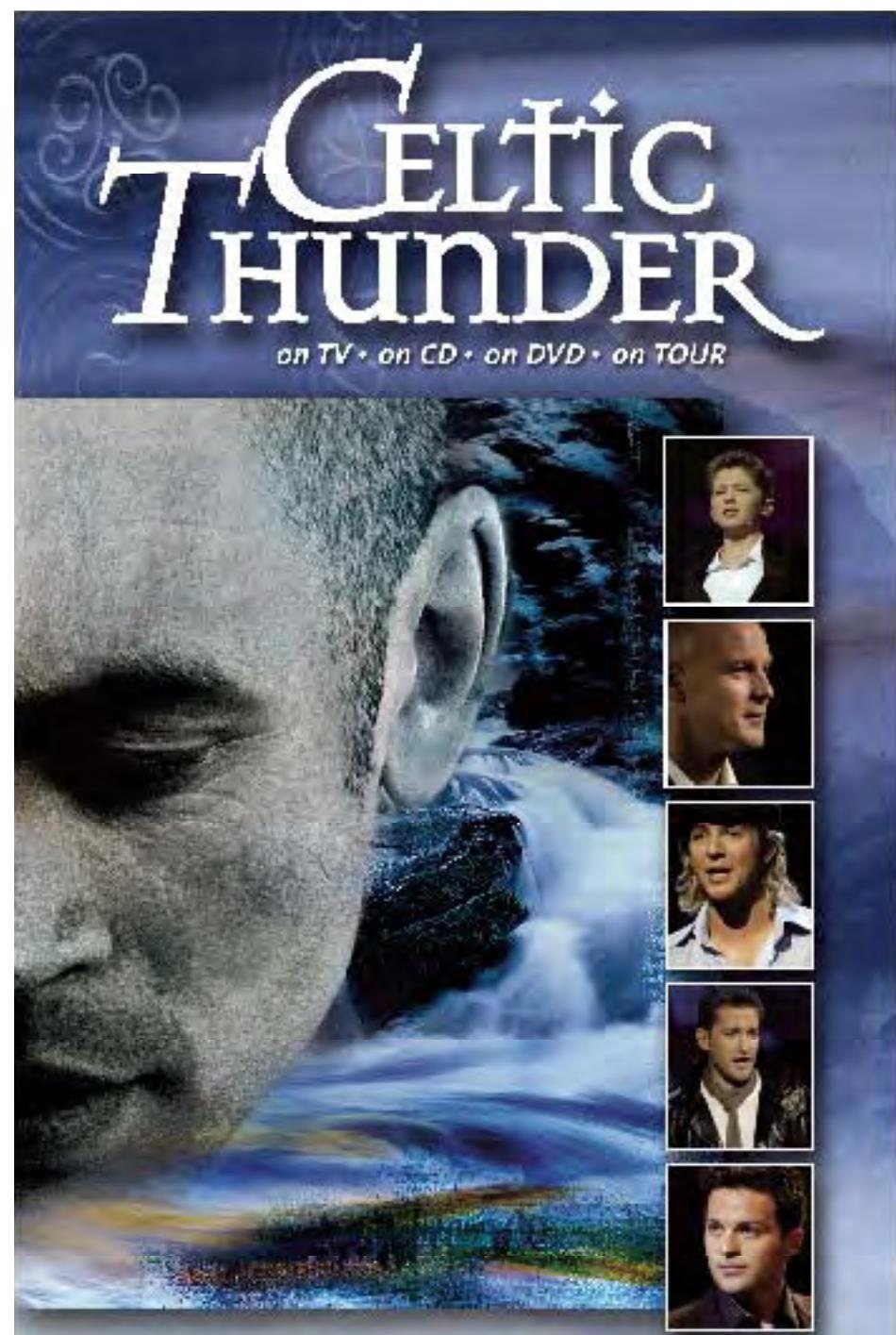
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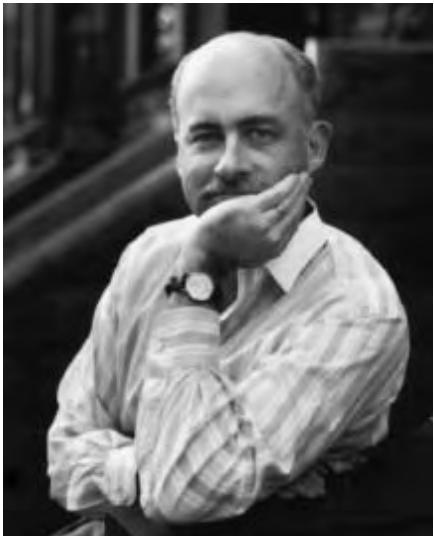
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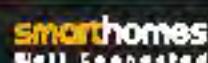


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