



June • 2008



Best Roadhouse This Side of Austin
Fitzgerald's – An Irish Pub With a World View ...Page 22
Scottish Festival and Highland Games ...Page 32

Pictured: Bill Fitzgerald

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Rosetta Stone Launches Irish-Language Program

Tom Adams, CEO of Rosetta Stone Inc., joined with H.E. Michael Collins, Ambassador of Ireland, on May 15th to mark the official launch of Rosetta Stone Irish, the company's first ever Irish language learning program.

The launch event was a celebration of Irish culture and language with interactive Rosetta Stone Irish demonstrations, and traditional Irish stepdance performances. The guests included members of Washington's Irish community, representatives of various congressional offices, and members of Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League), the nearly 100 year-old organization dedicated to promoting the Irish language in Ireland and abroad.

Rosetta Stone Irish could not have come at a more appropriate time. The last few years have seen a resurgence

of interest in the Irish language.

"We could have developed learning programs for a number of widely spoken languages such as Cantonese or Norwegian," said Adams, "but Irish was our most requested language, and this is not surprising considering that Irish is seeing a major revival."

Ambassador Collins agrees. "The Irish government has made the promotion of Irish in Ireland and among the Irish Diaspora a key commitment, and we are delighted that Rosetta Stone has chosen Irish as the latest language



Irish Ambassador Collins (left) and Rosetta Stone CEO Tom Adams

addition to their product line. This important product will benefit many Irish Americans."

www.rosettastone.com

Victory in Fight Against Citizenship Delays

For the past year Albany Park Neighborhood Council leaders have been putting pressure on elected officials and other governmental agencies to resolve the issue of citizenship delays.

Nationwide over one million Legal Permanent Residents who applied for citizenship wait for over a year (in many cases 2 or 3 years) to become US citizens due the FBI

Name Check Program or bureaucratic backlog. 50% of those applicants applied last year to avoid higher citizenship application fees.

APNC leaders met in November 2007 with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and recently in Washington, DC with new acting-Director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

USCIS committed to reducing

80% of the citizenship backlogs by October 1, 2008—just in time for new citizens to register to vote before the November election.

Leaders will continue to meet with the USCIS to make sure it's not another empty promise.

APNC leaders and member institutions are to be commended for their solid commitment and effort to resolve the problem of citizenship delays.

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The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



Irish On the Grow

Rip O'Dwanny, our Wisconsin friend of Bed and Breakfast fame, is opening a new restaurant/pub in Kenosha on the lakefront appropriately named Lisdoonvarna! Rip informs me that his chain of b&b's in Wisconsin are performing very well, and that his newest, St. Brendan's in Green Bay, is already showing a profit. Some guys have that magic touch!

Juno and the Paycock

By Sean O'Casey at Live Bait Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St., Chicago (1 block south of Irving Park Blvd.) 773 230 6839. Twelve fine actors, several stellar performances for an audience of about 25! They must love what they do! See story elsewhere in this issue.

Saying Goodbye

One of the down sides of having friends is having to let them

go. I lost two good buddies in one week. Monroe Sullivan and Bob Anderson.

Bob Anderson introduced me to Jeanie and Bob Burnes, who sold me Irish American News back in 1991. He was a printing consultant when I met him. He started out in journalism in college at the University of Chicago and did his post-graduate work at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, staying in the business his whole life. He started out in ad sales and became editor of the paper at the same time. He became president of the Cook County Publishers Association and served on boards in banking and publishing too numerous to mention. He was a kind and gentleman who helped everyone he came in contact with.

Moe Sullivan became my biking buddy. Through the Oak Park Runners Club, I began doing a bike ride downtown in the mornings with fellow runners Paul Oppenheim, Buck Hales, and Bob Hakes. Monroe was one of the people who started the ride. I call it "The Big Ugly" because we travel from the tree-lined streets of beautiful Oak Park, through Jackson Park and the Westside of Chicago on Harrison along both sides of the Eisenhower Expressway. Broken glass, and run down buildings greet us most of the way downtown. Once we get to the city and drop the "workers" off, we take Elston North through Logan Square stopping at Starbucks before heading back to Oak Park.

Moe figured it out before I did. The physical ride may be through some rough areas, but the people are beautiful. More than one paper vendor greets us every time we ride by. The folks down on their luck at the homeless shelter on Harrison are always friendly and wave to us as we ride by. You get the picture.

I didn't know it, but Moe grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and spent time in the Catholic Seminary during high school. He was also an activist. When Martin

Luther King visited Chicago in the 1960s at the request of the Catholic Interracial Council, Moe rode in the car with the civil rights leader from the airport to the city. Months later, Moe joined King in the landmark civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

He spent a lifetime advocating for social justice and workers rights. He founded Trainco Inc., a Chicago company that trained minorities in truck driving and secretarial skills. The company trained over 40,000 students who were highly successful in finding employment after graduation.

He had a home in Oak Park and a condo in Hawaii. He did very well financially and was one of the original investors in the Oak Park Journal. Money didn't make him tick though. He loved that ugly ride, and he traveled the world riding with his friends. While in a line to pay my respects-a line that was literally out the door of his church-I talked to his good friend, John Van. John guessed that over 30 years the two of them had ridden some 50,000 miles together, all over Ireland and the world! He loved the simple pleasures in life and we loved him. It's hard to let go...

To paraphrase the above Rip O'Dwanny, the average life in years is about 76. Wherever you are on the yardstick of life, you had best be living it!

What's New

Our Ohio paper is now officially 1 and 1/2 years old. We just upped our distribution to 8,000 copies monthly

and added a new distributor to supplement our Fedex deliveries. We are now distributing IANOHIO in over 200 locations in every major city in Ohio.

Listen Up Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin!

MichigIAN, IndianIAN, and WisconsinIAN are new 4 to 8 page sections that we would like to add to our Chicago paper. We will be offering very attractive discounted rates to all businesses in those states who advertise in the new sections. Advertisers will get complete run of press with their ads placed in the appropriate state sections. The amount of advertising will determine the size of the sections, and editorial is welcome from the three states mentioned. For more information give me a call or email me.

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Colin Moore Named CEO of IAHC

The Irish American Heritage Center (4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL) recently announced the appointment of Colin A. Moore as Chief Executive Officer.

Moore has worked in the arts and education for more than 20 years and brings broad non-profit management and fundraising experience to the CEO position. Moore began his career at Ravinia Festival, where he worked for more than 11 years in Public Relations, House Management and Development. He then served 10 years as Director of Development at the Old Town School of Folk Music where he headed an \$11 million capital campaign for the School's expansion to Lincoln Square. More recently, he worked in fundraising and strategic planning for the Lycée Français de Chicago.

In 2002, Moore was named a Lifetime Fellow of the British-American Project; one of only 24 Americans and 24 Britons, ages 25 to 40, elected annually in recognition of outstanding achievement in their respective fields.

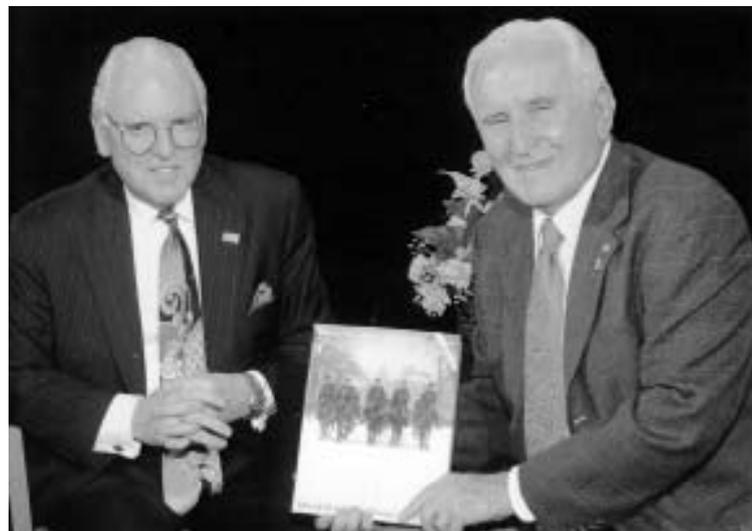
Moore holds a Bachelors of Arts



degree in Communication from Loyola University in Chicago and lives in Edgewater. Noel Rice, President of the Irish American Heritage Center, welcomes the appointment of Moore as CEO.

"The Irish American Heritage Center will benefit greatly from Colin's extensive experience in fund raising and cultural development at, internationally renowned, Ravinia Festival, and, the largest music and cultural center in the United States; the Old Town School of Folk Music," said Rice.

For more information on IAHC events, call 773-282-7035, ext 10.



Alderman Edwards Burke, 14th Ward, who is also the Chairman of the Finance Committee for the City of Chicago, was recently interviewed by host, Ed McElroy on his TV show, "Community in Focus." The show aired on Chicago Access TV Channel 19 on May 30th and June 1st. Many subjects were discussed on the popular show including the book Alderman Burke wrote with Thomas O'Gorman, "End of Watch." Alderman Burke is pictured on the left of Ed McElroy.

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Durbin Welcomes Chicago Residents as Special Guests to Joint Session of Congress

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin recently welcomed Billy Lawless and Bill Gainer, both of Chicago, to a special Joint Session of Congress with the Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern. Durbin, a member of the Senate Escort Committee, met with his guests prior to the joint session.

"Ireland has enjoyed immense economic growth under the leadership of Taoiseach Bertie Ahern," Durbin said. "More importantly,

the outlook for peace in Ireland is brighter than it has ever been. That will go down as Mr. Ahern's greatest accomplishment."

Mr. Lawless is the head of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. He was born in County Galway, Ireland and has been a resident of Chicago for over ten years. He is the owner of the Irish Oak bar and was recently nominated by the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Center for the "Most Outstanding Contribution



L-R: Mr. Bill Gainer, Senator Dick Durbin, Mr. Billy Lawless. [Photo courtesy of the Office of U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin]

WANNA PLAY?

Young musicians come together to play Irish Music... and have a great time too!

The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music and making new friends.



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to the Community" award.

Mr. Gainer is a U.S. Army veteran who was born in the Roseland community of Chicago. He worked for Illinois Bell after graduating from St. Ignatius High School in Chicago. Mr. Gainer has been involved with several civic and charitable organizations through the years, including the Veterans Leadership Program, Misericordia, and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. He has also served as Chairman for both the Chicago Sister Cities International Program-Galway Committee and the Business Development Committee for the Cook County Irish Trade Mission to County Down and County Cork.

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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



song, dance and music of the gael, and became instrumental in the great Easter 1916 Rising.

Gaelic football does not have

such an antiquity, but it dates back to 1712 as the Ibero-Celtic Society published the news, "a great match of football was played at Slane on the banks of the Boyne between young men from Meath and Louth." Sometimes the games lasted all day long with more than a hundred players on each side. One of the first tasks faced by the GAA after its inception in 1884 was to adopt strict rules and enforce them.

Today's Gaelic football is one of the finest big ball games with clever fielding and accurate scoring. It is a game apart from all other big ball games, embracing all the stamina, skill, spirit and daring of the Irish temperament. Ladies also play this game with the same skill and the fair colleens that play at Gaelic Park are equally skillful and as daring as their big brothers.

Camogie is ladies hurling and here too the fair colleens who swing the old caman do so with equal skill, accuracy and determination as their big brothers. This game was first introduced by two well-known Chicago fair colleens, Maureen O'Looney and Mary Rose Teahan at Shewbridge Field in 1953.

For more information on the schedules each Sunday, call the beautiful colleens at the front office, 708-687-9323.

Thrilling Hurling and Football at Gaelic Park

Another thrilling year of hurling and Gaelic football is anticipated for Chicago Gaelic Park as the clubs get ready to contest for the right to represent Chicago in the North American championship, men and women. Last year was one of the most successful as record crowds thrilled to the brilliant games every Sunday as teams contested for the much coveted honor. Chicago captured four titles and hopefully can do even better this year.

Hurling is one of the "fastest ground games" and also one of the oldest, dating back to the 12th century. It became so popular and aroused such national spirit that the English banned the game in 1367 at the Statutes of Kilkenny, the capital of the country at that time. It was designed to prevent the Anglo-Normans from adopting the Irish way of life. But, it didn't—the Irish and Normans continued to play the old caman game. In the Great Famine of 1847-48, it is credited with saving Ireland from becoming another shire of England. Parish after parish formed their own club, and led by Irish musicians, marched to their games, saving the games, culture, language,

O'Connor Twins First Ever Irish-American Ladies Women's Hockey Stars

Several inquiries received recently ask if the O'Conner Twins Ladies Hockey stars are the first ever in the U.S. As I told the callers, I know of no others, and would like to hear from anyone with more information. And now with a younger sister, Maura, playing with Mankato, MN, next year; three sisters playing with different universities must be some kind of record. Could the Guinness Book of World Records be on the horizon? The three stars are daughters of well known Pat O'Connor, Mayor Richard M. Daley's dynamic floor leader and Chairman of the Education Committee.

Death of Former Irish President

The recent death of former president of Ireland, Clarendon, Dr. Patrick Hillery was mourned all over the world, wherever an Irishman or woman dwells. He died in a Dublin hospital after a short illness. He was eighty-four years old.

Dr. Hillery studied medicine at University College, Dublin, and became a doctor before the legendary Eamon DeValera recruited him as his fellow mate in Clare, voting for membership in An Dail. He was elected with DeValera and served from 1951 until 1973.

As Foreign Minister for Ireland, he negotiated Ireland's entry into the United Nations. When he retired, he served two terms as President of Ireland (a symbolic honor). He was unopposed on both occasions, which reflected his popularity.

Our own P. J. O'Dea (the Man from Clare) was very well acquainted with the Hillery family whom he speaks of in glowing terms. One of his close companions during his youth was one of Dr. Hillery's sons, Des, and when he was injured one day in a football game, one of the doctor's daughters, Elenore, tended to his injury. By the way, P.J. was his first patient.

An Taoiseach, Mr. Ahern, said "Dr. Hillery was a man of great integrity and intelligence and contributed massively to the progress of our country, and he is ensured of an honored place in our country's history."

In a run-in with Kevin Boland (uncle of the famed Harry Boland) in 1971 when the Fianna Fail party was split over alleged gun-running to Ulster, Dr. Hillery pulled the microphone from Boland and said to the party followers who at that time were divided, "You can have Boland, but you can't have Fianna Fail."

We express our humble sympathy and condolences to the Hillery family. Ar dheis De go Raibhn an ainm.

Pope Benedict XVI Visit

Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States and was accorded a wonderful reception. During a very busy week, the 81 year old pontiff visited with President George Bush who welcomed him at the airport with Mrs. Bush. Later, he visited the White House and received another tremendous welcome from a group of dignitaries. His visit also included a prayer service with U.S. bishops at the national Shrine of the Immaculate Conception church. He also met with representatives of other religions at the Pope John II Cultural Center.

In New York City, he addressed the United

Nations and had prayer services with leaders of Christian denominations. He officiated at Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a first for any visiting pope. This magnificent building was erected by early Irish immigrants, with others, hence the name St. Patrick's. He also visited "Ground Zero," the site of the terrible bombing on 9/11. And our own Ronan Tynan sang for him at Yankee Stadium mass on Sunday prior to his departure for Rome.

Pope Benedict praised and admired our great country, democracy, and freedom. But he said that from great countries, much is expected, such as generosity, hospitality, freedom of religion, and being able to separate it from the functions of state and country. He called us a generous nation and a nation of immigrants. His parting message was a winner as he said, "Today's celebration is more than an occasion of gratitude for graces past. It is also a summons to move forward with firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom in order to build a future of hope for coming generations." Thank you for coming, Pope Benedict, and God bless you.

Fundraiser for Young Athlete

Before becoming a victim of non-Hodgkins-Lymphoma, young Christopher (Chris) Doherty who is twelve years old was a star athlete in football and soccer with 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 scans, CT and PET, 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 South Laramie, Stickney, IL, on Sunday, September 28th, 2008 from 4-10pm.

Readers and friends can help this cause in a variety of ways, including sending a check payable Kickin4Chris c/o Fifth Third Bank, 5235 West 63rd Street, Chicago, IL, 60638; 773-582-5300; www.fivethree.com. Other ways you can help include sending gift certificates, beverages, wine, or 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 brothers 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.

Hillary is #1 with Irish

Ray O'Hanlon, popular editor of the Irish Echo, tells us in his Echo news recently that Hillary Clinton was the only one of the three presidential candidates that attended the Irish New York forum where she pledged full support after flying from Pennsylvania where she had been campaigning with great success.

In the meeting held in the Manhattan law office of well-known John Dearie, Hillary showed no sign of the wear and tear of the

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8/21	Jerry Eadie
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Claire O'Connor receives the cup when Loyola University won the State Championship.

campaign and answered questions, "of course I will help Ireland." She talked about the "Good Friday Agreement of 1988" which her husband, then President Bill Clinton, and his worthy representative during the talks, Senator George Mitchell, helped to hammer out the agreement, "For me," she said, "a lot of the work was at the grass-roots working below the leadership with people who worked and lived in the various communities of Ulster (Northern Ireland)."

"Ten years after that agreement, we are clearly on the right track. But we cannot become complacent and let our guard down. There are still the enemies of peace all around, so we have to remain actively engaged in peacemaking," she said. She also pledged, if elected, to help all of Ireland in promoting economic partnership with Ireland on many matters.

Senator Clinton talked about the more than 50,000 Irish undocumented aliens in the United States, saying that she believed in "Comprehensive Reform" and as president would work with the Irish Reform Movement and other ethnic groups in providing a path to legislation for such people.

With the outcome still in doubt as we go to press, it is very important that we advocate and work for Senator Clinton's election. She is the only one of the three with global experience to bring about a change of direction in the unfortunate state of our own country today.

Facts About Ireland

In 1840, the Young Ireland Movement was formed with Thomas Davis as one of its leaders. Like the United Irishmen, they expressed a concept of nationality, embracing all that lived in Ireland regardless of creed or origin. A gallant attempt to stage an insurrection failed in 1848, but their ideals strongly influenced later generations.

Prior to that period, war in Europe in 1815 had a drastic influence on the economy. It led to huge growth in farming and tillage to supply the army. When it ended, the change from tillage to pasture caused a lot of unemployment. The population increased and reached eight million by 1841. Failure of the potato crop (the staple meal of that

period) in 1846, 47 and 48 resulted in a terrible famine reducing the population by at least two million due to hunger, disease, and emigration to other countries like Britain and America.

The latter half of that century witnessed campaigns for national independence and land reform. The Irish Republican Brotherhood known as the Fenians was founded in 1858. Among the leaders of the Fenians were James Stephens, a Kilkennyman, and John O'Leary. The Fenians staged a gallant uprising in 1867, but were defeated by a much superior power. However, the IRB continued in existence.

The strained relationship between landlords and their tenants led to the leadership of Michael Davitt who founded The National Land League. The League aimed to secure basic rights for tenants, with leadership by Charles Stewart Parnell who began the basis of Home Rule in 1885. Gladstone, the English Prime Minister, introduced a bill to grant Home Rule, but it was defeated. Parnell died in 1891.

On Saturday, November 1st, 1884, a group of gael met at Hayes Hotel in Thurles, Tipperary and founded an organization, the Gaelic Athletic Association, which was intended to promote not only the culture, games, language, song and music of Ireland, but was also intended to uplift the spirit of the Irish people before the country became another British shire.

The association promoting the games of hurling and Gaelic football with the Gaelic League promoting the language of the people, soon began to show results as every little town and village formed it's own clubs. They marched forward to contest their games against other parishes, as

musicians played the stirring songs and music of Ireland and little by little the spirit was lifted with Michel Cusack and Maurice Davin leading.

Arthur Griffin founded the Sinn Fein political party. With a policy that Irish members of Parliament withdraw from Westminster, England and establish an independent party with close links to the IRB. The Dublin Labor Dispute of 1913 produced another group named the Irish Citizens Army, which was socialist, not separatist.

In 1916 the Irish Volunteers, a gallant group led by Padraig Pearse and James Connolly, although

outnumbered and ill-equipped, fought a gallant uprising against the might of the British empire, and for one week, held their own on the streets of Dublin. The British executed the leaders in a deed that shocked freedom-loving people all over the world. So much so, that in the general election of 1918, Sinn Fein totally defeated the Irish Parliamentary Party. Eamon DeValera headed the first Dail or Parliament. In the War of Independence 1919-1921 a truce agreed to independence for 26 counties, with 6 counties under British rule. This agreement resulted in the tragic Civil War.

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Frank West



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O'Casey in Chicago

The Irish playwright, Sean O'Casey, wanted "to make gold embroidery out of dancin' words."

One of his plays, the rich and powerful *Juno and the Paycock*, is being presented here in Chicago. It's peopled with memorable characters that are larger than life, and have become icons of the Irish stage.

Plays he wrote that have become classics are *Shadow of a Gunman* (1923), *Juno and the Paycock* (1924), *The Plough and the Stars* (1926), and the following year: *The Silver Tassie*.

It is easy for us to forget the poverty and hopelessness in Ireland that brought our ancestors here. They came to America to find work and to earn a better future for their families.

O'Casey's early life is a good example of that poverty. Born in Dublin in 1880, he was one of seven surviving children in the O'Casey family. All his life he suffered from eye problems that began with severe childhood malnourishment.

He grew up and became a laborer. Jobs were so hard to get that he kept it until he was 40 years old and had already published three classic plays!

Neither the Church nor the English government, before the revolution, nor the new Irish government after it, had a vision or plan for a better future for the Irish people. Poverty just had to be endured; things would be better in the next life.

There was no money to educate young Sean O'Casey. So he educated himself by reading omnivorously and by studying great plays, like those written by Henrik Ibsen and William Shakespeare.

In our imagination we can see O'Casey digging in a street or carrying bricks to rebuild a wall in ruined downtown Dublin. At the beginning of the Irish Revolution of 1916, the British navy had shelled Dublin, and created a firestorm that destroyed most of central Dublin.

That revolution continued until 1921, and was followed by a civil war that lasted from 1922 to 1923. During that time much of the country was ruined.

Michael Collins, the leader of the new Irish government, was killed during the civil war. He had a political and economic plan that would have brought prosperity to Ireland. But when he died, his plans were not acted upon until the 1960's.

In his plays, Sean O'Casey, wants us to "feel" as Dubliners felt during this time of revolution and civil war. He wants us to "feel" the courage of the human spirit, despite the fear, anxiety and helplessness that was all around. O'Casey captured that feeling for future generations, of the people who actually lived in the slums of Dublin.

O'Casey was very much a realistic playwright, but *Juno and the Paycock*, and his other major plays were definitely expressionism as well. He was a master of expressionism.

What do these terms mean? The Ameri-



can Heritage Dictionary says realism is "the representation in art or literature of objects, actions or social conditions as they actually are." Photographs of persons living in a tenement, or of children working in a factory would be examples of realism. But expressionism in a play tries to get us to "feel" as the people in those photographs felt. Or as the same dictionary tells us: expressionism aims to be able to feel "the artist's inner experiences."

So we can say Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock* is peopled by memorable characters, vibrant dialogue, enormous life-affirming humor, and strong comments on war, poverty and the conditions that caused the squalid tenements.

This play is being produced by the actors of The Artistic Home. They are presenting it through June 29, at the Live Bait Theater, at 3914 N. Clark St. in Chicago, 866-811-4111 or www.theartistichome.org.



(L-R) Frank Nall as Captain Boyle, Kathy Scambiaterra as Juno

The following interview is with Kathy Scambiaterra. She is the artistic director of The Artistic Home, and the actor who plays Juno.

Frank West: "Kathy, why did you choose such an audacious play?"

Kathy Scambiaterra: "The play is powerful and timeless. Sean O'Casey filled it with intense feelings that we can feel today. *Juno and the Paycock* is filled with life: joy, happiness and tragedy."

"The Irish people have dealt with so many things: oppression, poverty, hopelessness and war. The play shows how the human spirit survives."

"As an actor the play demands intense concentration and precision. You're in the tenement with the Boyles. The text is incredibly rich. It keeps opening and opening, it keeps revealing itself."

FW: "Kathy, would you speak about the 'process' an actor faces when approaching this play?"

KS: "O'Casey demands great emotional involvement. *Juno* has to face many

fears. The actor has to deal with them and with any personal fears. But that being said, the play is delightful."

"Something else I want to mention is the name Juno. As O'Casey was well aware, that name was the name of a Roman goddess. She was the wife of Jupiter, the foremost god of the Roman pantheon. At times she was a warrior, but also an earth-mother who gave life and comfort. O'Casey used Juno in the play to take an unflinching look at the Irish male."

FW: "Would you please talk about O'Casey's ability to create fully developed characters?"

KS: "O'Casey's understanding of relationships is astounding. He accurately reveals—I know, I'm married—the intimacy of the mother/daughter relation, and the husband/wife relation."

"The structure of life in Dublin then could be killing—but the human spirit keeps coming through. We 'feel' the beauty of survival."

FW: "In the play, O'Casey lists the major plays of the Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen had years of experience managing theaters before he began to write plays. How did he influence O'Casey?"

KS: "Ibsen, like Shakespeare, made the theater experience meaningful to all of humanity. He took the private kernel of our lives, and made us feel that each of us was understood. A little town in northern Norway, and the Dublin slums, become a universal human experience."

FW: "What was O'Casey's attitude toward women?"

KS: "He was quite empathetic to the plight of women. Birth control was prohibited, so women had no control over their own bodies. Like James Joyce, he described women who had no future, except to

keep bearing children. There was no equality of the sexes, and job opportunities.

"*Juno's* pregnant daughter says about the position of women: 'It's only as I expected—your humanity is just as narrow as the humanity of the others.'"

FW: Thanks Kathy for this interview. I'm looking forward to seeing the play."

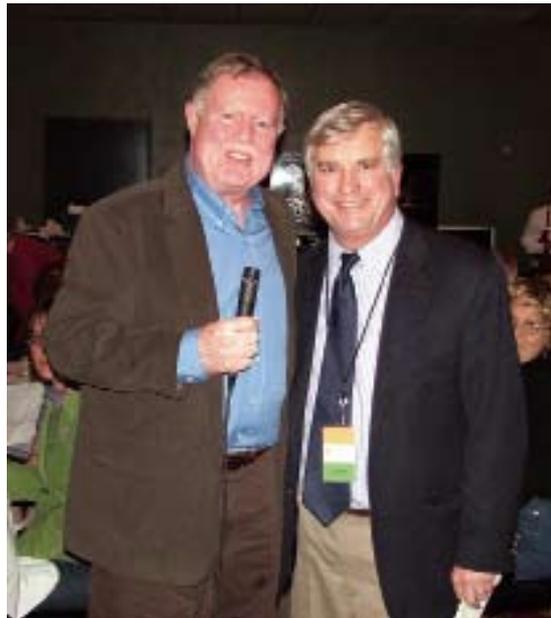
....
 O'Casey uses Captain Broyle to make realistic and blunt comments about the Church's role in Irish history and Irish society.

Captain Broyle: "I'm goin' to tell you somethin', Joxer, that I wouldn't tell to anybody else—the clergy always had too much power over the people in this unfortunate country... Didn't they prevent the people in '47 from seizin' the corn (grain), an' they starvin'; didn't they down Parnell; didn't they say that hell wasn't hot enough or eternity long enough to punish the Fenians? We don't forget them things, Joxer. If they've taken everything else from us, Joxer, they've left us our memory."

Frank West Addresses Michigan Irish

On May 6th Frank West travelled to Muskegon, Michigan, to speak on current trends in Irish literature. West, who has been IAN's book and drama critic for thirty-one years, addressed a dinner meeting of nearly 100 members of the Muskegon Irish American Society and the Grand Rapids Irish Heritage Society. He first presented an historical overview of Irish literature from ancient times, and then spoke enthusiastically of the contemporary explosion in popularity of modern Irish literature and drama. He discussed today's Irish writers like the best-selling Maeve Binchy, and the recent nominee for the Edgar Award (best mystery), Ken Bruen. He also included poets and playwrights, pointing out that Tommy Marren's play, *The Banshee of Crokey Hill*, was recently produced in Chicago. In closing, Frank promised to prepare and forward a recommended reading list for the audience.

coast of Lake Michigan, about 180 miles north of Chicago. It is the home of the Michigan Irish Music Festival, which is held in mid-September each year. The festival website is www.michiganirish.org. Muskegon is also



Frank West (left) with Neil Mullally

Neil Mullally, Program Chair of the Muskegon Irish American Society, said that Frank's appearance was among the best received in the club's thirty-five year history. The dinner is held annually in May.

Muskegon, Michigan, is located on the east home to the Muskegon Irish American Society, one of the largest Irish American organizations in Michigan. Its website is www.muskegon-irishamerican.com.

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Tradition In Review



Bill Margeson



Well, there ARE some very tasty treats this time, to be sure! Enough lollygagging. Let's get to it!

We have two very top picks this month. The first is the last. By that, unfortunately, we mean the last from the master of real honest-to-God Irish music, Frank Harte. If you don't know, there are many who would argue that Frank was the pre-eminent collector of Irish songs in his long and storied life. Beginning at the age of 10, the collecting bug hit Frank when he bought his first Irish broadsheet. These were songs on paper sold for a penny at fairs, markets, in town—or anywhere a buyer could be found. Pubs were, of course, also favorite points of commerce. These songs covered the entire waterfront when it came to topics. Love, emigration, abandonment, war, labor conditions, and—in

many cases—current events. Some of the best are political in nature—and not ALL of the political ones decried the British, as you might think. Over his life, Frank collected an estimated 10,000 of these—many on just scraps of paper. Many would have no melodic notation, and many would. In thousands of cases, these songs represented a local musical newspaper, of sorts. Singers selling these songs would gather at the markets and hold forth, actually presenting the songs live—so you know they had to be good to gather the attention of the listeners, as well as their pennies. Very often, they were intended to be sung in song pubs. One of the things we remember the most about Frank was his perfect song pub voice. High, nasal, edgy—just perfect to cut through the din of the drinkers packed into their local. You

could hear Frank—and you could understand him perfectly. When not tending to his duties as Professor of Architecture at University College Dublin, he would be found in a wide variety of settings—both educational and entertainment. He was a master. We were the last to interview him. We had known him for a number of years, and were saddened along with everyone else in Irish music when this master passed from us two weeks after we spoke for the final time. He left behind a number of incredible gifts in the albums he recorded over the years sotto voce, as well as with Donald Lunny. The last of the albums has been released. He was working on it at the time of his death, though the recordings had, thankfully, been finished. It is entitled, *There's Gangs of Them Digging*. There are 19 songs chronicling the Irish worker abroad—mostly relating to those who went to England and Scotland. This is the real deal. Over the years, Frank recorded entire albums on topics like the Famine, the Irish in the Napoleonic Wars (a double album!!) and Dublin street songs, among many many others. The last word we heard is that the legendarily knowledgeable Harry Bradshaw, formerly the archivist of the RTE trad music library, is handling the codification of the Harte Collection. No small task, to be sure. In any event, the old saw about "Frank never being truly gone" is true. We have this music. And, on *There's Gangs of Them Digging* we have a history lesson and a wonderful piece of music at the same time. Not to be missed. It is on the Daisy label. Rating: Four Harps to Infinity

Next up is a new fav, *The Parish Platform* by Rattle the Boards. Four musicians, with guest stars. John Nugent, Benny McCarthy, John Egan and Pat Ryan offer an album of great fun and a sense of the real trad. This is not the honed studio perfection of so many albums today. This is a big, blousy thing with a great sense of the music, the rhythms and the meaning. It is the most fun we have had listening to anything in quite a while. We frequently smiled, and even got up to shake a foot occasionally ourselves! The role of ceili and set dancing is well recorded in Irish music, and vastly overrated. And, if this album in description pays a little too much of a tip of the hat to the dancing tradition, it delivers the essential goods—the music itself. You will love this album. It will be a contender for Vocal/Instrumental Album of the Year. It is their second album and is offered through Doon Productions. Go to www.rattletheboards.com. Find this album and buy it. Then turn it up. Smile. Rating: Four Harps

Capercaille is out with their new one, *Roses and Tears*. It is on Vertical Records. It is Capercaille, all right. We have always loved this group. Now, this album plows no real new ground for them—but does it need to? Any group that has Karen Matheson, Donald Shaw, Ewan Vernal, Manus Lunny and the man—Michael McGoldrick in it is already a winner. It is not their best—nor is it "important" in the way some of their earlier work was. But, it is perfectly played and highly enjoyable. Capercaille fans will, of course, run to get it, love it and will play it ceaselessly. We ARE fans, but

we won't be playing it ceaselessly—but we will play it a lot.

Rating: Three Harps

Compass Records has Karan Casey's new one, *Ships in the Forest*. There are masses of Karan Casey fans, and we number ourselves among them. A lot of her work has been almost angry. Social protest and musical lectures on various topics both current and historical. We thought she was moving past all that. Now, this is a purely personal observation of taste. Many love those types of tunes. We do not. When we were working as a studio musician decades ago, the saying for singers was, "If you want to send a message, use Western Union." Karan Casey has a superb voice and a real sense now of who she is. Many, many of her songs are not message-based and they are superb, as well as her voice. She had the good sense to leave Solas, where she originally came to all our attention. Since then, she has recorded a number of albums, first for Shanachie and now, Compass. These major labels know a star when they hear one, and Karan is a star. A lovely gal with a great voice. But, we hear a little too much of Western Union calling. Rating: Three Harps

Last is a lovely album distributed from Copperplate in London, probably the best in the world at finding and marketing this kind of thing. It is *The Factory Town* by Damian O'Brien and Oliver Loughlin. These two Leitrim musicians (Damian on fiddle and Oliver on piano accordion) have produced a lovely all-instrumental outing of taste and precision. These lads can play. A minor bone of contention—like so many other albums today, the album notes are being over produced, resulting in their being almost impossible to read. And, that is a shame, in that we want to easily know more about these tunes and musicians. They are joined by some lovely side musicians, including the legend, Arty McGlynn on guitar. As we said, this is a lovely album, even if it breaks nonewground—and is not meant to. Rating: Three Harps

Note:

- Go to www.cfstours.com and click on the "Tours" section, pull down November, check the tour out and join us for an incredible combination of The Great Sights and Sounds of Ireland. Check it out. You'll see. Incredible.
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Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



I just got back from Ireland this week and I had a terrific time. Twenty-four days of glorious weather, sunshine all the time, it was more like San Diego than Sandymount. It never rained at all.

I was there representing the American Irish Media Group, of which this paper is a member. The AIM group consists of ten independent Irish American newspapers from coast to coast and offers a unique opportunity for businesses everywhere to reach the lucrative and loyal Irish American marketplace. With nearly half a million readers every month collectively and great value advertising packages, it's a no brainer.

In my travels I met some interesting people, great characters and I witnessed some of the amazing changes brought about by the Celtic Tiger.

In truth, I've fallen in love with Ireland all over again and in the months to come I will be introducing you to some of these people and places in this column.

We are planning features on weddings in Ireland, education in Ireland, golfing in Ireland and of course tourism to Ireland with the emphasis on specific towns and cities and what they have to offer. It's all so exciting and I can't wait to share it with you all.

Come with us to Ireland in October

We have teamed up with CIE tours, Ireland's leading tour operators, and are planning a tour to Ireland in October this year with another in the spring of '09. CIE

are almost family to me, as my uncles, my father, and my brother all worked for many years with them and I myself, spent a lot of time in the travel business.

The October trip will be a fun



Darragh O'Connor, Radisson Hotel, Athlone and Shay Clarke

vacation with something for everybody. The sites, the culture, the music, the pubs, the shopping and I know all the best places.

So come and join us in October for an unforgettable trip to Ireland. Whether it's your first time or you are a veteran, come see Ireland with me and CIE tours.

For details you can email me at shaydub@aol.com and we will be posting details on our website blarneyhome.com

Galway Boys Hurrah

Congratulations and best wishes to John Paul and Julie Lawless who were married in April. From

all accounts it was a grand affair lasting, in true Galway fashion for many days. I am sorry I missed your party pal.

I met a few dozen revelers at O'Hare who had traveled from Galway to the wedding and they filled me in on the various parties as we shared the flight to Ireland.

Two week later I was at the Radisson Hotel in Athlone, working with their marketing director, Darragh O'Connor, and when he realized I lived in Chicago, he told me he

was at a wedding there a few weeks before. "Not John Paul Lawless?" says I. It turns out that Darragh is JP's best pal and was best man at the wedding. I just can't seem to get away from the Galway boys.

Congratulations also to JP's dad, Billy Lawless who won the Greatest Contributor of the Year Award

from Chicago Irish Immigration Support. It was presented to Billy at a sold out banquet held last month at Chicago's Gaelic Park. Another well deserved award for this extraordinary man.

Must fly now as the Gaelic Park festival starts in a few hours. Till next month be safe.

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'Irish Stew

By Frank J. Mahon



Bobby Kennedy — Forty Years Later

On the morning of June 5, 1968, my dad came into my bedroom to wake me up for school. I was a junior at Fenwick High School, and like most high school students, was never motivated to get out of bed willingly. Dad usually stood at the door and hollered something irritating to make sure I was awake. But not that morning. He came in and gently told me some terrible news. Bobby Kennedy had been shot. He wasn't dead, but it didn't look good. Dad knew how hard I would take it. Jack and Bobby Kennedy were my heroes.



I had stayed up late the night before to listen to the coverage of the California Primary. Things were looking good by the time I went to bed, but not all the numbers were in. I fell asleep, later than usual, sure that Robert Kennedy would win, and would be headed for the convention in Chicago, sure to win the Democratic nomination. It just couldn't happen any other way, or so I thought. Instead, I woke to learn that RFK's movement to seek a newer world had been destroyed by yet another lunatic with a gun.

crowds to hear him speak of the insanity of violence, the wrongness of our being in Vietnam, the tyranny of poverty, or the potential of every American to achieve great things. Never again would he quote the Greeks or Shakespeare, paraphrase Shaw, or recite the last line of Tennyson's Ulysses: "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." Never again would I have a living hero. That time in my life was now over.

Never again would he draw huge

When I got to school that day, my friends came up to me and told me

how sorry they were—as if Bobby Kennedy were a relative of mine. They understood. I was a volunteer for the Robert F. Kennedy For President campaign—something I will always be proud of. I had worked in the campaign's Chicago office in an old building on Dearborn Street across from the Daley Center (then the Civic Center). There's a new building going up there now.

It was a bare-bones office with a few old desks and telephones. One afternoon, I was there with one other person—a guy a few years older. As he left for lunch, he called back to me and quipped, "You're in charge." Of course it meant nothing. I was just there to lick envelopes and answer telephones, but I still like to pretend that for one moment—okay, for one brief shining moment—I was in charge of the Kennedy For President office in Chicago.

One Sunday morning in April of 1968, I boarded a bus with dozens of other volunteers and we canvassed Lake County, Indiana, two days before the Indiana Primary. At the end of the day, we were all driven to a rally at a Holiday Inn in Gary. Sen. Ted Kennedy was there to rev-up the troops, telling us all about his brother, "Senator Bob." After it was over, I grabbed a Kennedy For President poster, which I still have. But that's not all I have from those days.

A couple of years before Bobby Kennedy ran for President, I wrote him a letter. Thousands of people did.

Having read lots of books on the Kennedys, I knew that during the 1960 campaign, PT-109 tie clasps were distributed as keepsakes of the campaign. For younger readers unfamiliar with the significance, John F. Kennedy commanded a motor torpedo boat (PT-109) in the Pacific during World War II. His boat was sliced in half by a Japanese destroyer one night, and it was Kennedy's leadership and courage that ultimately led to the rescue of the survivors of the crash. Robert Kennedy always wore a PT-109 tie clip. You can see it on his tie in many pictures.

I wrote to him to tell him how much I admired him and his brother John, and asked him if it would be possible to get a tie clip. I didn't really expect one, but kids hope a lot. Unbeknownst to me, my father sent him a letter as well, some time later. I have no idea what he said, but he must have mentioned that I had a birthday coming up. Then, on a February afternoon in 1967, when I got home from school, I had an envelope with a slight bulge in it waiting for me. It was a letter from Bobby Kennedy. This is what the letter said:

Dear Frank: I have learned from your father that you recently celebrated your 16th birthday. I hope that you will accept my belated best wishes for a very happy birthday. I am enclosing a PT-Boat tie clasp like the ones President Kennedy distributed during the 1960 campaign. With kind regards, Sincerely, Robert F. Kennedy.

And there it was—the bulge in the envelope. A tie clasp in the shape of a little gold PT-Boat, cutting through the waves, with the name Kennedy written across it. It's just made out of metal, and you can still purchase one like it at the JFK Library gift shop for \$12.50, but it's kept in a special box as if it were the Hope Diamond. I like to imagine that Bobby wrote the letter himself, took the tie clasp off his own tie and threw it in the envelope.

But he probably didn't. It looks like his signature, though. I have something else to compare it to.

A few months later, RFK came to Chicago to give a speech at a testimonial dinner for Senator Paul Douglas, who had been defeated by Republican Charles Percy. Dad got two tickets for the dinner. We had a good table, though I remember the roast beef being very overdone. The programs all the guests received, dedicated to Douglas, had the words "Excellence In Politics" in gold on the cover. After dinner, Bobby was introduced. He was a very cool dude. His speech was stirring. He had a vision and plan for a better America. I was mesmerized. When the speech was over,

Dad grabbed me and we headed for the dais. He wanted me to get my wish to meet Bobby, and to thank him for the

tie clip personally. RFK was besieged by fans asking for autographs, but Dad got us up on the dais and got me right next to Kennedy. Barely glancing down at me, he took my program and signed it. As I was about to speak, one of his aides started talking to him on the other side and Bobby turned his head away from me as he handed back the program. It looked as if all I would get was his autograph again. Then, Robert F. Kennedy turned back and looked at me. His famous bushy chestnut brown hair covered up a surprisingly pronounced receding hairline. His eyes were very blue, and they seemed to look right through me. He had a strong grip, and a toothy smile. He shook my hand and listened patiently as I blurted out a thank you for the tie clip I was wearing. He was wearing his too.

Bobby Kennedy died on June 6th, about 26 hours after he was shot. I remember watching the funeral on TV. His older sons were the pall bearers. It was a simple funeral, as I recall, but it was carried on all 3 networks. He wasn't just a slain senator. He was Bobby Kennedy.

A year after his assassination, I received an invitation to attend a memorial gathering of the Kennedy volunteers. My sister and I drove downtown on a quiet Sunday evening to an office building—I don't remember where it was. A documentary film was shown and people talked about RFK—what he stood for, and how we must never let his dream for a better world die. I was a kid who was inspired by a charismatic politician who talked of hope and change, of peace and tolerance. Robert Kennedy didn't live long enough to change the world, but he forever changed the way I look at it.

Ted Kennedy Hospitalized

Earlier today, we all learned that Ted Kennedy's seizure was caused by a malignant brain tumor. But being a Kennedy, he's a fighter. He's the only one of Rose and Joseph P. Kennedy's four sons to make it to old age. When he was young, he looked a lot like Jack. Now he looks like his grandfather, Honey Fitz. Recently, America saw him revving-up crowds again, but this time, it was for Barack Obama.

Time will tell whether Sen. Obama can do all that he says he wants to do for America, and for the world. His campaign, his message, are straight from the RFK playbook.

Unfortunately, those who dare to seek a newer world rarely ever get the chance to find it. But what matters is that every so often, someone comes forward and gives it a try. And those are the people who truly change the world by inspiring others. I wish everyone a Bobby Kennedy.

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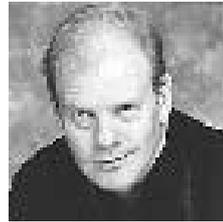
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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



handsome. He looked like a long handled frying pan.

But what put the sizzle in Ollie was his devotion to the dead. He'd been writing obituaries for years for the Southtown and ambitious corpses could only hope their lives merited an Ollie O'Donnell obit.

One day Ollie got a call from Shep Lavery, whose daughter Alice had died, leaving behind a distraught husband and three little kids. Shep was understandably upset. Alice was only in her late thirties and she had given her dad grandchildren and a great son-in-law, Murph Murphy. Shep was determined that his daughter Alice was going to get an Ollie O'Donnell obit.

Ollie had heard it all before, what a wonderful person Alice had been and how she was a great mother and a what a wonderful swimmer she was in high school. But something happened to Ollie when Shep sent over a picture of Alice. Her Irish beauty captivated the ol' frying pan as he looked over her notes. He called Shep back and said, "Tell me more about Alice."

Shep talked for hours about his daughter. He had Ollie laughing along with him when he told of her mischievous side as a kid. When Shep recounted what a wonderful mother Alice had been, tears streamed down

the fryin' pan's face.

That night Ollie dreamed of the lovely Alice. In the dream he was young and they met before her marriage. She laughed at his jokes as he glided her across a dance floor in Paris. She rested her head on the frying pan's shoulder and sighed, "Oh Ollie, I wish it could always be like this."

Ollie awoke kissing his pillow. He leapt from the bed and began writing the greatest obit of his career for Alice Lavery, the woman he loved.

What appeared in the paper the next day was more mash note than memorial.

That night Ollie sat in his kitchen staring at her photo and wondered what might have been. He had never laid eyes on her but her eyes spoke to him.

Ollie opened up a bottle of Bushmills he kept above the fridge for emergencies. One ice cube and four fingers would chase these blues away. He put on a Frank Patterson record, sat back and poured his heart out to her picture.

A half hour later the picture was talking back to Ollie. Alice said, "You'll never know unless you see me in person, Ollie". The fryin' pan jumped into his black suit and headed off for the funeral home.

The line went out the door at

Sheehy's but Ollie never considered bagging the wake. He stood patiently on the eario listening to more stories of the late lamented Alice Lavery.

When Ollie finally knelt at her casket he could feel the eyes of Murph Murphy burning into his back with jealousy. The fryin' pan suddenly realized that this romance wasn't going to work. Who was he kidding? She was married, with children, and on top of everything else she was dead.

Biting his lip, Ollie stood and broke for the door in embarrassment. As he slipped his coat on, an attractive young woman touched his arm and asked if he was indeed "the man from the newspaper?"

Ollie gazed into her eyes. She was a dead ringer for Alice, only younger and with larger breasts.

"Oh thank you so much for the wonderful article on my sister, I'm Evelyn Lavery."

This is where the camera pulls back, the music swells, and we roll the credits. The moratorium starts now.

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"Everybody's doin' it." That's what I told my brother when we learned he was gonna die earlier this year. I know that sounds like a harsh retort but Willie always enjoyed a sardonic quip.

Getting old sucks, everybody agrees on that. You find yourself recognizing more and more names in the Irish scratch sheet every day.

So I'm declaring a moratorium on any Hooliganism columns dealing with dead people... right after this one.

When I opened the paper last month I was shocked to see that Trish O'Connell Frawley had died suddenly. See Trish was still a young lady, the 1982 St. Patrick's Day parade queen, and I remember seeing her at plenty of Irish functions over the years.

Her ex-husband Tom Frawley told me, "Tricia's pride and joy was our 11 year old daughter Mary Clare... and even though we were divorced, she was my PAL! There wasn't a day that went by that we did not

speaking! Quite frankly, we were better divorced than married."

That's probably true of a lot of Irish couples.

Tom is planning on organizing a tribute CD to Trish and donating proceeds to the American Heart Association with music from Joe McShane, Catherine O'Connell (her cousin), and Kathleen Keane. Watch for news on how to purchase the CD in upcoming Irish American News.

Her cousin told me, "We lost a great girl in our Trish."

It's true when they tell ya only the good die young. The Irish landscape around Chicago will be lonelier now without this beautiful flower, Patricia O'Connell Frawley. God bless you, Trish.

The young mother's passing got me to thinking of the old story of Ollie O'Donnell. Ollie was a lonely bachelor in his forties, kind of a skinny marink who kept to himself. He wasn't very remarkable in any conventional sense, certainly not

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Irish Inns and Tours is a group of five Irish inns that offer both romantic and corporate accommodations for visitors to Wisconsin. You are welcome to visit our Irish hotels scattered throughout Wisconsin: St. Brendan's Inn (Green Bay), County Clare Inn (Milwaukee), 52 Stafford Inn (Plymouth) and Rochester Inn (Sheboygan Falls). We also have an inn in Ireland, perfect for that vacation getaway!



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

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



It makes little difference where you go to the theater—be it Broadway's Great White Way, the West End of London or the theater district of Chicago—all almost invariably have one thing in common. It matters not whether the show is bad or good, but showtime starts at eight. Not seven or six or even earlier apart from the once or twice a week matinees or the seven-thirty Tuesday only starts in New York City. Evening performances start punctually at eight oh five immediately following the mandatory "shut of your cell phone" dictate. With standard length shows, theaters then start spewing people onto the street sometime after ten.

But must it be so—since by the time many theater patrons reach home, it is well past their usual bedtime. Why not begin evening shows earlier. Say, at seven, or even six and have theatergoers out on the street by eight or eight-thirty while it is still daylight at least in Summer? I am not sure of the reasons for not doing that

but I imagine that producers could come up with a couple. Perhaps they think that a half asleep audience will be less critical of a mediocre show than a more wide awake crowd?

Senior Set

"Half asleep?" you echo, thinking I exaggerate? Let's face the facts. A quick glance around any theater as the fire curtain rolls up reveals that much of the audience consists of the over 50s set. For the most part, there are relatively few spring chickens or people of college age roosting along the rafters. For one thing, theater tickets cost too much. Especially compared with movies. And for another, those who relish burning a candle at both ends don't generally think of a theater as the place to do it. Instead, a majority sitting in the stalls are from the senior set. Many would be happier getting the "early bird" dinner special, catching the show and being back at home in robe and slippers by the time the first actor steps on stage. At their own fireside,

the seniors don't have to stifle yawns or put up with elbows in the ribs to keep them from nodding off and snoring.

Some may say that tradition calls for the eight o'clock start and that is the reason it has become standard. But eight o'clock was not always the case. Theater originated in Greece, and they had shows by day. As far as is known, when the poet Arion produced the world's first plays at Corinth sometime in the seventh century BC, they were daylight affairs. Alexis did not have to rush home from the Agora to change his robe and pick up Helen before catching a chariot to the amphitheater to snare the best seats in time for the Prologue. No, he simply took the day off from

work and sauntered to the show at his leisure. He viewed the masked humans reveling as Gods and satyrs without any artificial light.

Goats and Figs

But things, even in theater, seldom stay the same. The playbill schedule had changed a hundred years later. By this time, Greek theater had become more spectacular and competitive. Plays were adjudicated and prizes were awarded for the best productions. The first recorded prizes were a goat and a basket of Attic Figs. These went to Thespis in 534 BC for his latest tragedy. Unfortunately, the title and plotline of his historic work have vanished in the sands of time.

By the time Sophocles had replaced Aeschylus as the top dramatist in Athens in the following century, show biz had become even more sophisticated. Instead of performing on the bare floor of the orchestra, actors were strutting their stuff on marble flagstone with scenery and special effects. Plays

had even become night time affairs sporting a preshow warmup. The statue of Dionysus Eleuthereus was carried through Athens in a torchlight procession to the theater of Dionysus, the patron God of the Greek stage. This hoopla ensured a full house and an enthusiastic crowd. So perhaps that is where the eight o'clock start has come from. But for my part, I would welcome plays starting earlier in the evening.

One Page Play Contest

The one page play contest scheduled for July 12 at IAHC's Irishfest will not have an 8pm start. It will be held in the afternoon and presentations promise to be extremely entertaining. The contest has attracted more than 30 entries, many of which are clever and witty. Some of the plays are international in origin and come from as far away as Italy and Australia. While the actual prizes have yet to be determined, it is not likely that they will include either goats or figs.



Juno And The Paycock at Live Bait Theater

The Artistic Home production of Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock runs through June 29, 2008 at The Live Bait Theatre, located 3914 N. Clark St., Chicago (1 block south of Irving Park Blvd.)

Juno and the Paycock captures a snapshot inside the Boyle family home as revolutionary politics and violence percolate between IRA "die-hards" and "staters" on the streets of 1922 Dublin.

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 lift the Boyle family out of the slums of Dublin for good.

Performances are Thursdays at 7:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$25.00 on Fridays and Saturdays, \$22.00 on Thursday and Sundays, with discounted rates for students and seniors on Thursdays and Saturdays. For tickets call 866-811-4111 or visit www.theartistichome.org.

Nunsense at Marriott Theatre

Nunsense, the hilarious off-Broadway musical sensation with book, music and lyrics by Dan Goggin, runs through July 13th at The Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive in Lincolnshire, IL.

When the Little Sisters of Aptakic discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has unintentionally poisoned 52 of their fellow nuns, they are in desperate need of money for the burials. To raise the funds they decide to stage a wild variety show, and they take over the Marriott Theater for their venue. Headliners include Reverend Mother Regina, a former circus performer; Sister Robert Anne, a streetwise nun from Brooklyn; Sister Mary Leo, an aspiring ballerina; and the delightfully wacky Sister Mary Amnesia, who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head. With madcap ballet and tap dancing, a rowdy audience quiz, bingo at intermission, hysterical nuns, and riotous surprises, Nunsense is charming and irreverent musical entertainment for people of all ages and faiths.

To reserve tickets or for performance schedule or dinner package information visit www.marriotttheatre.com or call 847.634.0200.



Scene from Hizzoner with Neil Giuntoli story next page

Juno and the Paycock by Sean O'Casey

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Time to laugh your sins off!

Sideshow Theatre's Chicago Debut of Dante Dies!! (and then things get weird)

Sideshow Theatre will make its entrance into Chicago theatre with the world premiere of Dante Dies!! (and then things get weird), a new play by Walt McGough oh-so-loosely based on Dante's Inferno, at the Chicago Dramatists Theatre, 1105 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago.

Partway along the journey of his life, Dante finds himself mourning a lost love, feeling morose and, for some reason, in Hell. Trying to find his way home, he encounters incredible suffering, infernal bureaucracy, some sins of his own, and the aggressive attention of a competitive hot dog eater. Each step downward brings him closer to a personal reckoning with his own story, and maybe a chance to find an answer or two.

Tickets are \$15 for all shows and \$10 for previews. Performances are June 5 through July 13, 2008.

www.sideshowtheatre.org



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I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at Pheasant Run

Noble Fool Theatricals is presenting Off-Broadway's longest running musical comedy revue, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at the Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage Theater (4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL; 630-584-6342) through July 19, 2008.

Show times are Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$27 on Thursday and Fridays and at \$38 on Saturdays

and Sundays. Dinner show packages are available at \$49 Thursdays and Fridays and \$59 on Saturdays and Sundays. Overnight packages are available as well.

This show is a musical and comical celebration of the modern-day suburban mating game. It's everything anyone has ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws, but were afraid to admit.

www.noblefool.org

Hizzoner Becomes First Resident Production at New Frank Sinatra Performing Arts Center

The critically acclaimed production of Hizzoner: Daley the First has found a home at the new Frank Sinatra Performing Arts Center, 1431 W. Taylor St. through Sunday, June 29 in "The Upstairs Room," in the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame, a temporary space until the Frank Sinatra Performing Arts Center opens later this year. The weekly schedule of the production is Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at 312.421.SINATRA (7462) or www.hizzonetheplay.com.

The Irish Mutts Come to Chicago Improv Festival

Kevin McShane and Shaun Landry team up for the hilarious improv duo The Irish Mutts. With combined historical oppression of over 500 plus years, McShane and Landry bring biting and satirical improv comedy to stages on the West Coast. They will be performing at two-person improvisation at the 11th Annual Chicago Improv Festival on Friday June 6th 2008 7:30PM at The Playground Theater 3209 North Halsted in Chicago. Tickets are \$10-\$20. For tickets and reservations call 773-935-9810 or go to The CIF Website at www.chicagoimprovfestival.org.

The Lady with All the Answers at Northlight Theatre

Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd in Skokie, will run the Midwest premiere of David Rambo's The Lady with All the Answers, featuring two-time Tony Award winner Judith Ivey as Ann Landers.

For decades, newspaper columnist and Chicago icon Ann Landers dispensed wit and wisdom to lovelorn teens, confused couples, and others in

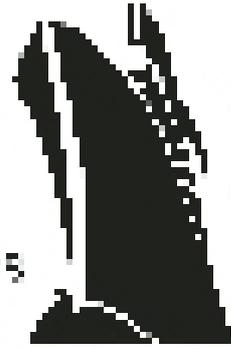
need of advice. Now she finds herself writing a column about a new kind of heartbreak—her own. Drawn from her life and letters, this touchingly comic portrait will remind you why so many put their faith in this wise, funny, no-nonsense woman.

The show will run from June 1-June 29, 2008. Tickets range from \$35- \$55 and are available by phone, (847) 673-6300, or online at www.northlight.org.

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Eileen Ivers	New York, NY
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New Harlequin	Cleveland, OH
Abbey Ceili Band	Cork, IRL
Young Dubliner	Los Angeles, CA
James Kilbane	Achill, IRL
Bruno Boys	Detroit, MI
Maura O'Connell	Nashville, TN
John McDermott	Toronto, CAN
The Kilroys	Cleveland, OH
Durant Henry	New York, NY
Beate Youself Bridget	Cleveland, OH
Brendan Shins	Athlone, IRL
Foster & Allen	Moate, IRL
Emigrant Eyes	New York, NY
Seven Nations	Winterburn, FL
Barra MacNeill	Nova Scotia, CAN
Sean Wilson	Dungannon, IRL
Deirdre Doyle	Glendale, CA
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Superior Donuts at Steppenwolf

Steppenwolf Theatre Company concludes its 32nd season with the world premiere of Superior Donuts by ensemble member Tracy Letts, directed by ensemble member Tina Landau. The production runs June 19 – August 17, 2008 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago.

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.

For tickets and curtain times, please visit www.steppenwolf.org.

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Not a Game For Boys at A Red Orchid Theatre

For the final production of its 15th Anniversary season, A Red Orchid Theatre is presenting 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.

The show runs through June 22nd. For tickets call 312-943-8722 or visit www.aredorchidtheatre.org.

Chicago Photographer Art Shay Presents Nelson Algren Photographs

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Chicago, is presenting an exhibit featuring work by famed photographer Art Shay through June 29 at the MCA, 220 E. Chicago Ave. The exhibition features 19 Shay photographs hand-picked by the artist, revealing a deep friendship and collaboration with his subject, Nelson Algren. Together they capture the culture of the post-war underclass.

Art Shay will attend the opening performance of Nelson Algren: For Keeps and a Single Day on June 8, 2008 at The MCA. Shay's book Chicago's Nelson Algren (2007) will be on sale during performances. His book Chicago Accent (Daiter, 2007), as well as the book he published in 1981, Nelson Algren's Chicago, will be on sale at the MCA bookstore. (312) 337-0665 or lookingglasstheatre.org.

The Full Monty in Oak Park

The Village Players Performing Arts Center will present the award-winning Broadway musical The Full Monty from June 8 – July 13, 2008 in the Mainstage Theatre of the newly renovated Center located at 1010 W. Madison, Oak Park, IL.

Six unemployed guys, low on both cash and prospects, decide to present a strip act at a local club after seeing their wives' enthusiasm for a touring company of professionals. As they prepare for the show, working through their fears, self-consciousness, and anxieties, they overcome their inner demons and find strength in their camaraderie.

For details visit www.village-players.org or call 866-764-1010.



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W;t at The Gift Theatre

Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, W;t, will run at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., May 29-July 6, 2008. A portion of ticket sales for each Thursday evening show will be donated on behalf of The Gift Theatre to Gilda's Club Chicago.

Vivian is a brilliant professor of English poetry, a renowned scholar, and a demanding teacher. But a painful experimental treatment for cancer will force her on a quest for spiritual strength. Armed only with her wit, she will venture far beyond her intellectual frontier to conquer death and, in the process, life.

W;t runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:30pm, May 29-July 6, 2008. Tickets are \$20-\$25 and are available through the Gift Theatre box office, (773) 283-7071 or www.gifttheatre.org.

For the first time in its 7 year history, The Gift is running two shows simultaneously. The Last Days of Judas Iscariot will reopen at The Gift Theatre on June 12, 2008 and run through July 20 (no performances July 10-13), Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30pm, and Sundays at 2:30pm.

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New Irish-American Partnership for Building Blitz in South Africa

Irish developer Niall Mellon recently launched a campaign to recruit volunteers from the U.S. to participate in a housing building program in Cape Town, South Africa from November 28 to December 6, 2008.

The groundbreaking partnership aims to bring over 2000 volunteers from the U.S. and Ireland to the Khayelitsha township, located approximately 25 miles outside Cape Town. Meaning Xhosa for "our new home," Khayelitsha is one of the youngest and biggest townships in the Cape Flats area. The Blitz will take place at the overcrowded Site C, the oldest part of the township with only a few decent houses in the area.

In one week, volunteers will build more than 250 houses, as well as a community center, and a Garden of Hope. An additional 550 houses will be built during the year by township residents trained in the construction trade.

The sixth annual Building Blitz program is well underway with Irish volunteers, including more than 1,300 construction workers, already raising funds in Ireland to participate in the event. Each volunteer must raise \$8,000, which covers flight, accommodation, and construction costs for the houses. The Township Trust covers administrative costs.

Since 2002, NMTT has built nearly 5,000 houses in 10 townships in the Western Cape and 13 townships in Gauteng, with 21,235 township adults and children moving into new homes in 2007 alone. The organization also works alongside the South African government to install running water and sanitation facilities and to provide children with a safe place to study and a dry place to keep their school books and uniforms. In addition, thousands of job opportunities have been created for township residents who have graduated the NMTT construction trade training program.

2008 volunteers, mainly from Ireland, the U.S., and other countries, including England, Wales, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Finland, Lithuania and Australia, will participate in the Blitz. More than 1800 Irish volunteers have already been recruited, including 710 "veteran" volunteers who participated in past efforts. Approximately 80 percent of the Irish volunteers are trades people, representing a wide variety of skills from carpentry to block laying. The remaining 20% will come from a diverse range of backgrounds, faiths, and professions.

"Apartheid is over, but its legacy—homelessness—remains," says Paddy Maguiness, Worldwide CEO of the Township Trust. "The South Africa government has built over 2 million houses for the poor since the fall of apartheid.

Despite this achievement nearly 2.5 million people still live in shacks. This partnership adds a new dimension to existing efforts to change the direction of housing and poverty alleviation efforts in Africa and, by partnering with our friends across the Atlantic, we can make a real difference."

Many elected and government officials welcome the effort to bring Americans on board, including House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Congressman Charles Rangel, Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick, the Congressional Black Caucus, and prominent faith leaders, including Diocese of Washington Rev. John Bryson Change. Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former South African President Nelson Mandela also support the initiative.



To learn more about the Building Blitz, visit www.youtube.com and type in "Niall Mellon Township Trust."

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*Fixed annual percentage rate (APR) subject to change. All rates based on up to 80% loan-to-value. For loans with 15% to 20% loan-to-value, the rate is increased by an additional 0.25%. Minimum loan amount is \$10,000. 3-year fixed rate is based on 1-year variable rate. Initial loan amount of \$10,000 to \$25,000 2-year fixed rate is 5.25% variable subject to change. For initial loan amount of \$25,000 to \$50,000 2-year fixed rate is 4.99% variable subject to change. For the remaining term, the rate is based on the prime rate plus 1.00%. For initial loan amount of \$50,000 to \$100,000 2-year fixed rate is 4.99% variable subject to change. For the remaining term, the rate is based on the prime rate plus 1.00%. For initial loan amount of \$100,000 to \$250,000 2-year fixed rate is 4.99% variable subject to change. For the remaining term, the rate is based on the prime rate plus 1.00%. 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Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea
Tom Boyle

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



Pope Benedict XVI

The Pope's mission became evident when he openly condemned the sex abuse that has gone on in the U.S. Catholic Church for generations. The onus is on the Bishops to clean house and keep it clean. Francis Cardinal George is the gatekeeper as head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Zero tolerance must be Rule No. 1. Rule No. 2: report offenders to the civil authorities. The Pope's visit was up-

lifting and renewed our confidence in the hierarchy of the Church. The Pope reiterated his concerns about sex abuse on his return to the Vatican. Viva El Papa!

Another controversy arising from the papal visit was an agreement between Rudy Guiliani and Cardinal Egan "that he was not to receive the Eucharist because of his well-known support of abortion." Guiliani, who was with his third wife, received Communion April 19th from a priest near the Pope. Cardinal Egan is angry about this and wants a meeting with Guiliani. Other pro-choice politicians received Communion at Nationals Park in Washington, DC, namely Senators Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, Christopher Dodd, and Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Should all pro-choice Catholics be barred from receiving Communion? The Catholic Church

must deal with the cafeteria-style Catholics who pick and choose which rules of the Church they will obey and which Sacraments they choose to receive. Should Rudy Guiliani be excommunicated? Many Catholics never go to Confession, and still receive Communion. When General Absolution was offered, most Catholics I know felt a sense of relief because Confession for many was too distressing. Then the Vatican prohibited it and we're back to square one. There's a lot of work to be done to win the hearts and minds of the faithful. Maybe Pope Benedict will consider restoring General Absolution.

Presidential Politics

The lady in the pantsuit is still calling the shots and the fat lady hasn't sung yet! Odds are Senator Obama will be the Democratic Party's nominee. Can he win in November?

There's a new wave of political correctness sweeping across the country. God forbid that you dare say anything that would be racially insensitive. You would be severely castigated, and banished from the cosmos. This will weigh heavily in Senator Obama's favor as the Republicans don't want to get struck by lightning.

What I don't understand are all these politicians who say they can identify with the working man when most of them are very wealthy and never held a blue-collar job. They don't pay Social Security. They have lifetime healthcare and incredible pensions. They are wined and dined by lobbyists and frequently go on junkets at the taxpayers' expense. So who's kidding who?

George Bush

The price of gasoline; last fill-up was \$4.049 for regular! So President Bush asked the Saudis to produce more crude oil. There's plenty of oil to meet demand already out there. Until we strengthen the dollar, the price will continue to go up. The other factor is refinery capacity which has been discussed at length on previous occasions.

Listening to National Public radio, the Bush administration is an "oilgarchy." How true. Vice President Cheney and Condoleezza Rice both came from the oil industry. Rice even has a tanker named after her.

About \$30 worth of the price of a barrel of crude is from speculators playing the commodities market. Meanwhile, grin and bear it, but don't pump ethyl!

IAHC Art Exhibit "A Different Land"

Twenty-seven artists currently living in Co. Kerry present

Mass for 775th Servite Anniversary

On Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 6 p.m. the Friar Servants of Mary will celebrate a special Mass in the Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica (located at 3121 West Jackson Blvd. in Chicago) with Francis Cardinal George and friends of

"Irish Boglands Interpretation". The paintings are inspired by the unique landscape of Irish boglands. The exhibit opened Friday, May 16th and runs through Saturday, June 14th.

After a showing in New York seventeen paintings were brought to Chicago. One of those was sold on May 17th. I urge you not to miss this exhibit. The paintings are fantastic. Don't forget to bring your checkbook with you.

Thomas Fitzgerald Fowler

Welcome to the world Thomas! Thomas is the newborn son of Jill and Tim Fowler. His older brother Jack has a new friend. Martin and Joanne Healy are the proud grandparents. Congratulations!

Phil O'Connor

Phil is resting at home after a quadruple bypass. Phil is a volunteer extraordinaire at the IAHC and will be missed while he is recovering. Once he's back in good form, I'm sure he'll return.

IAHC Elections

Each year four new directors are elected to the board, as four others complete their four-year terms. This year we have nine candidates vying for the chance to serve. If you don't vote, you can't complain. Election night is June 20th.

the Servites (Order of the Servants of Mary) in honor of the 775th anniversary of the Order. Everyone is invited.

For information call (773) 638-0159 ext.102 or visit www.ols-chicago.org.

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Parishioners of long-closed Chicago Irish parish still celebrate Little Flower Grade School Class of 1973 celebrated its 35 year reunion in April. Former classmates arriving at Chicago Gaelic Park received a nostalgic welcome from a group of volunteers from St. Damian School adorned in Little Flower School garb.

Nuola O’Faolain Dies

Nuola O’Faolain (pronounced oh-FWAY-lawn), an Irish journalist and author of two midlife memoirs (Are You Somebody

and Almost There) and an acclaimed first novel, My Dream of You, died on May 9, 2008 in Dublin, Ireland, at the age of 68. The cause was lung cancer.

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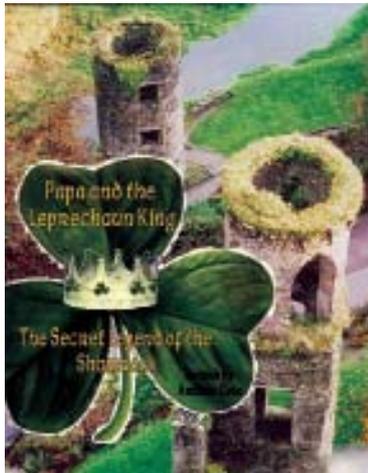
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The Leprechaun King Tour of Ireland 2008

Papa and the Leprechaun King, The Secret Legend of the Shamrock (Outskirts Press, Denver, CO, 2007. 284 pages; \$14.95) is a novel by Arthur Cola which takes its reader to the mystical and enchanted Emerald Isle. This book, through a series of harrowing and magical adventures in each chapter will reveal to the reader the Secret Legend of the Shamrock.



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

dubbed “The Roses” by the King of the Leprechauns himself. The story doesn’t end with Chapter 18 either. Author Arthur Cola has teamed with CIE Tours Ireland and Carlson Wagonlit Travel to create a tour which will take its participants to the most famous, revered, ancient, historic, sacred and culturally enriching sites of Ireland. All of them are also featured in the plot of his book. The tour which will take place from October 12-23 offers participants an unique experience of Ireland as they enter the Realm of sacred sites, legendary magic, ancient castles, charming pubs and shops, and sites of breathtaking natural beauty. To join or to receive information about the tour: www.carlsonwagonlittravel.com/tripco; tripcotravel@sbcglobal.net; 800-922-4036.

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

During my first trip to Ireland in 1996, while looking for a student job, I managed to enjoy one of the many evolving aspects of the Irish culture of that time: pub grub. This phrase of pub grub for many years was seen as a quick plate of sandwiches or the obligatory fish and chips. In some places, Irish lamb stew or shepherd's pie was on the stove for the day and served en masse. However with the rush of the Celtic Tiger, the economic and social boom of the 90's until now, expectations in the modern Irish society ushered in the emergence of all things new and updated, if not completely revolutionary. That great revolution included the tradition of Irish food.

Great chefs of Europe look to new lands to find their inspiration or possibly new places to impart their skills and knowledge. As Ireland began reinventing herself, some of these chefs saw an amazing heritage of food culture that needed updating and yet not harsh interference. Young Irish chefs, who trained locally and then went abroad for further experience, returned with new inspiration for the food they grew up with. Both the international and young Irish chefs knew that traditional Irish food was a cornerstone to the Irish heritage and that they were not going to mess with success, just update the plate.

From Dublin to Cork, Waterford to Galway, restaurants and pubs be-

gan to look at and become inspired by the new culinary trends coming in to the country. Restaurant proprietors began searching for fresh new talent to liven up their stand-by menus. Pub owners watched the larger businesses for ideas and inspiration and also began to redesign their offerings. The common thread throughout the Irish culinary community was to hold on to what makes traditional Irish food so unique: locally farmed beef, pork and lamb, freshly caught seafood, regional farmhouse cheeses, and preparing fruits and vegetables according to their specific seasons. With these few guidelines along with time-honored preparation techniques, the new Irish chef set out and recreated pub grub into a modern culinary experience.

As the new Irish chef began to forge a path in culinary history, the other European chefs began to not only revisit the possibilities of Ireland, but took stock in its talent. Euro-toques is a group of European chefs who believe in local talent and

product from around Europe. The Irish group is numbered in the hundreds and the members all subscribe to the belief that food needs to exhibit the strength of the regional sources, not only from organic farms but the enthusiastic cooking talent itself. The creative culinary process and not massive production is their mantra. This group (of which Darina Allen from Ballymaloe Cookery School is a member) is paramount for Irish recognition on the international level.

Breaking it down to the basics though, it's still about good food served at the town local. By taking traditional, regional foods and modernizing

the dish, even slightly, it guarantees longevity through a casual reintroduction to the Tiger's table.

The recipe I've included, broiled salmon with summer vegetables and lemon sauce in potato boxty, is a detailed, medium skilled recipe. In the end, it really is an elegant dish to serve dinner guests. One tip, practice the boxty before the party. At first try, they can be a challenge when achieving proper thickness.

*Julianna Leber is a graduate of Ballymaloe Cookery School, Co. Cork, Ireland and the University of Akron. E-mail: Julileber@hotmail.com

Broiled salmon with summer vegetables and lemon sauce in potato boxty

Serves 6

- 6 salmon filets, 4 oz each
- 1 red pepper, cut into long strips and then cut crosswise
- 1 each yellow squash and zucchini, cut into 1/4 in rounds
- 8 oz sliced white mushrooms
- 1 onion, sliced through root to end, and then thin slices
- 1 lemon, cut in two
- 4 T. butter
- 2 - 3 T. olive oil

- 1/4 c. dry white wine
- 2 c. whole milk
- 1 T. flour
- 2 tsp. dried dill
- Salt and pepper
- 3 c. mashed potatoes
- 3 medium size potatoes, scrubbed clean
- 2 - 3 T. flour
- 2 eggs
- Vegetable oil



Carefully grate the potatoes (skins on, if you wish) and put the potato into a bowl of room temp water. Set aside. Turn oven to 350F. Put salmon on cookie sheet lined with foil. Drizzle with olive oil, salt, pepper, and squeeze 1/2 lemon on top. Put in oven until done and flaky, 20 minutes.

Place zucchini and yellow squash in a pot of salted, simmering water until just tender, approx 4-5 minutes. Drain. In large skillet on med, melt 2T. butter and add oil. Toss in onion, and stir until soft. Add mushrooms and stir, another 3-4 minutes. Add red pepper and stir. Add wine, lemon, and 2 T butter. Let steam for a couple minutes. Sprinkle 1 T. flour and stir in. Slowly add milk and stir to incorporate (may need a little more to thin). Add squash and carefully stir. Sprinkle with dill, salt and pepper to taste. Cover with lid and

set on very low.

In large bowl, combine mashed potatoes and drained grated potato. Season with salt and pepper. Add flour and eggs, mixing thoroughly. The right consistency will enable you to ladle the batter into the pan. Too thick, add a little milk. Too thin, add flour. Heat a large skillet and add 1 T. oil. Pour by ladle and spread around pan, but not too thin. Carefully, test the edges by lifting around. If it breaks apart, thin with milk or another egg. Flip and let cook for another 2-3 minutes or until crisp. Place on warming plate or in oven. Continue with the rest of the batter.

To assemble: Place boxty in center of plate, spoon veggie mixture onto half of potato, then place salmon on top. Flip other half over and serve with light salad. Brilliant!!



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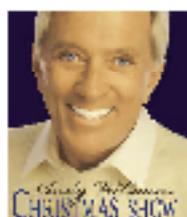
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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



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

How the Pleasure of Swimming Can Turn Into a Life Changing Event

By Jack Cannon

In July of 2001 I was on trial representing a man from County Clare who had been seriously injured in a high speed auto accident on I-55. Trials demand a lot of time. It's not unusual to work sixteen to eighteen hours a day either in the courtroom itself or preparing for the following day. Trials demand 100 percent focus which makes it difficult to handle anything else other than trial at that particular point in time.

Three days into the trial I received a call from an old construction friend of mine from Derry. My friend told me that a friend of his had been paralyzed in a swimming pool accident on the south side. He informed me that the man was a 22-year-old carpenter from Derry who dove into a swimming pool and broke his neck. He underwent emergency surgery and was shipped home to Ireland within a few days.

It was unusual that I would take a phone call during trial, let alone devote attention to a possible new case. However, our firm has a long history of representing Irish individuals. This gentleman suffered a devastating injury and would need all the help he could get. We decided to look at the case.

Starting out, I was aware that there was some case law considered unfavorable on swimming pool cases. Some of these cases say that bodies of water represent an open and obvious danger and that anyone injured from diving into an open body of water is essentially out of luck under the law. Nevertheless, I decided to look into it.

I immediately contacted our investigator. I sent him out to the scene of the accident to see what he could learn. In addition, I asked my friend to help me locate witnesses that we could interview regarding the case.

Meanwhile over the next couple of days, I continued with the trial of the

man from Clare. During breaks in the trial, I was receiving calls from my investigator and my friend, providing up-to-date information.

We quickly learned that our potential client had broken his neck and was paralyzed from the breast bone down. We also learned that the pool that he dove into had a highly unusual configuration. It was six feet deep, with shallow step entry stairs going across the entire width of one end of the pool. The opposite end had a narrow deep end ladder in the corner. Unfortunately, the deep end ladder in the corner was in 2½ feet of water. The actual "deep end" was in the middle of the pool!

We set up a meeting on the Friday night with the witnesses. They confirmed the unusual configuration of the pool. They advised me that they had been with my potential injured client for only a couple of hours that night. They stated that he was sober at the time of injury and that he had never been in this particular pool before. Later on that evening I met with our investigator who provided photographs of the pool. The photos confirmed the deep end ladder in the shallow end. Based on the description of the witnesses and the photographs, we felt that there was something to go forward on.

I spent all Saturday and Sunday that weekend working on the Clare man's trial. When I got home Sunday evening, my wife informed me that she had recorded a 60 Minutes Program that I might want to take a look at. The 60 Minutes Program was about the epidemic of swimming pool injuries in this country. The program highlighted the lack of governance by the swimming pool industry of their product. In short, the theme of the program said that the swimming pool industry had very loose guidelines regarding the designs of the pools even though they knew or were aware that hundreds of

individuals had suffered devastating injuries. The 60 Minutes piece focused on a case in the State of Washington where the regulatory body for the swimming pool industry was found liable in a case where a young individual been paralyzed. The program identified studies which showed that the typical person injured in a swimming pool case was male, white and between the ages of 18 and 25. Quite often there was alcohol involved in the case. Our case fit the prototype.

Based on the program, I was able to identify an expert who I thought might be helpful in our case. On the Monday, we contacted the expert. We described for him the design of the swimming pool. He agreed, based on our description, that the pool appeared to violate the standard set forth by the National Spa and Pool Industry (NSPI). My expert informed me that most swimming pool installers and almost all of the swimming pool liner manufacturers were members of NSPI. They were aware of NSPI and should have known whether or not the pool they designed met with the national standards.

Based on the evidence, The Healy Law Firm filed suit in the Circuit Court of Cook County. In the meantime, we were learning more about our new client. He was a 22-year-old carpenter from Derry. He had been in Chicago for approximately one year. He lived on the south side. He had never been in a pool in the United States. He dove toward the deep end ladder. He dove horizontally over the water, rather than at a deep angle. He told us he thought he was diving into the deep end. He actually dove into 2½ feet of water. The impact snapped his neck.

When the client arrived at one of our local hospitals, he had to inform the hospital staff that he was uninsured. This was not taken kindly. Within a week, a row of seats was stripped out of an Aer Lingus plane, the client was strapped in and shipped home to his parents. He described a long, bumpy, painful ride in the ambulance from Dublin Airport all the way back to Belfast, where he continued his hospitalization.

Upon arriving in Belfast at Musgrave Park Hospital, the client was examined by a local doctor. They told him he would never walk again.

In reviewing the status of the case law, we confirmed that in many swimming pool cases, Illinois courts have found no liability, ruling that a person who jumps into an open body of water should be aware of an "open and obvious danger." However, there were exceptions in cases where there was a design defect in the product itself. Based on what we knew from talking to our investigator, the witnesses, the

client and now the swimming pool expert, it appeared that the case fell into a design defect category. We began to take depositions of the numerous personnel of both the contractor, the swimming pool liner manufacturer and others as well as witnesses.

In every civil lawsuit filed there is a "discovery" phase in which the parties take depositions of potential witnesses in a case. During the course of discovery each side is obliged to, in effect, "show the other side their cards." Once "all the cards have been shown" and the discovery has been completed, a defendant will typically file a motion for summary judgment. The motion for summary judgment essentially says that even if everything the plaintiff says is true, there is no basis under the law for this case to go forward. Therefore it should be dismissed. In talking to the defendants I learned, as I suspected, they felt they had a shot on their motion for summary judgment. The depositions of the personnel of the manufacturers and contractors would be critical in terms of what they knew about the NSPI standards and when they knew it. We quickly learned that they knew little to nothing about the NSPI standards. The supervisor for the design department of the liner manufacturer confirmed that the pool had seven (7) design defects under

the national standards. Despite this fact, the liner manufacturer issued a manual and warning signs which stated that the pool met the "National Spa and Pool Institute standards." This was not true.

On May 17, 2006, after three hours of oral argument, a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County granted the defendant's motion for summary judgment without explanation. Our office, believing in the client and believing in the case, immediately filed an appeal to the Appellate Court of the State of Illinois.

Next month – What happened recently in the Appellate Court and the future for the case.



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FitzGerald's: Destination Music

By Cliff Carlson

Turning ideas into action. It's easy to talk about, but not so easy to do. Bill

gerald probably doesn't think of himself as a man of action, but he is. "It all started on a New Year's Day at a friend's apartment. A bunch of us were talking about how great it would be to own a bar that played live music. I mentioned the Deer Lodge and wondered if it would be up for sale. It was run down, but it seemed like the perfect spot to begin," said Bill.

A few in the group were enthusiastic. This is the point where ideas usually begin to fall apart. But, Bill took the first step and inquired about it. "I found out the Deer Lodge was in the process of being sold," said FitzGerald. Most move on to

new ideas at this point. Not Bill. He expressed his interest to the owner of the place anyway. The sale fell through. The owner offered the Deer Lodge to Bill.

An idea that germinated on New Year's Day, 1978 became a reality on March 20th – less than three months later – when Bill, his father, Chris, and his brother, Chris, teamed up to make the purchase.

"My brother and I were painters by trade, and my father was a writer and editor. Luckily, we all considered ourselves pretty handy when it came to fixing things," said Bill.

It's a good thing because there was a lot of work to do. It was a major nine month do-it-yourself project. The idea was to renovate, bringing out the best in the building. They scoured auctions

and sales and upgraded all of the equipment in the place.

"With a little help from my brother Chris and I, my father rewired the entire place, and redid all the plumbing. He did a great job. Everything is still working," laughed Bill.

The bar was painted red. Underneath the paint was a beautiful mahogany bar. Vinyl tiles were removed exposing a perfectly fine solid maple floor.

Thursday, December, 18, 1980 FitzGerald's in Berwyn opened. Friday they held their first live Jazz session. The place took off fairly quickly, evolving into the eclectic mix of music they specialize in today, much to the chagrin of the jazz purists.

"There was a point where we could have just been a jazz club, or a Chicago Blues club, and been successful, but I think we made the right decision. The

place is more interesting," said FitzGerald.

Over twenty years later, after a couple of abandoned attempts at expansion, The FitzGerald's made the leap, expanding into the restaurant and catering business. "My dad was always keen on the idea of serving food here. He even took us to the Wishbone Restaurant on Grand Avenue to show us his example of a well run restaurant with excellent food," exclaimed Bill.

Over time the FitzGerald's bought the building to the West of the club. When the bakery to the East of the club became available the family knew it was time to make the move.

"We almost expanded twice before, but circumstances weren't quite right. The third time must have been the charm. The city of Berwyn offered TIF money, and made a low interest loan

available. We never would have expanded without the financial support of the city," said Bill.

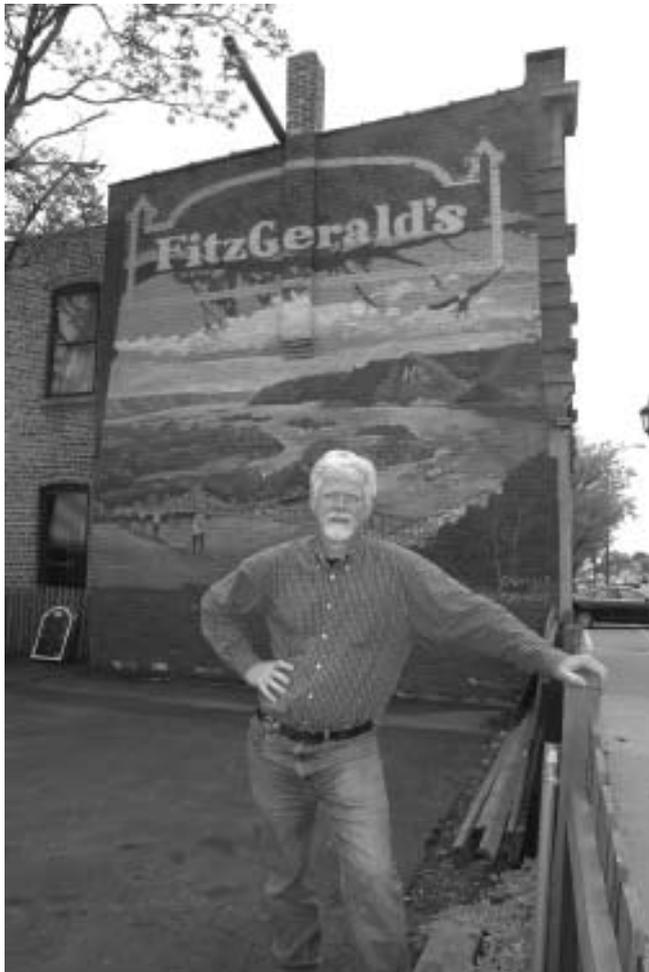
On September 11, 2001 the family broke ground on the restaurant. "With the events of that day we all wondered what we were getting ourselves in to," remembered Bill.

Brother Chris and his wife Kathleen, ran the food service for several years. It got to be quite a chore for them. Dad's original idea of modeling the restaurant after the Wishbone operation wasn't too far off. The FitzGerald's contacted Wishbone, and offered them the food service business that FitzGerald's had built. Wishbone accepted. "We wanted Wishbone, and we got Wishbone!" said Bill.

Wishbone runs all the food service for all the parties at FitzGerald's, and man, can they hold a party! For 28 straight



Fitzgerald Clan



rooms. One for private parties, and one for small live concerts that can hold up to 90 patrons. Parties can be held at the Sidebar for groups of 25 to 150. Get the club involved, and a party can hold up to 500!

FitzGerald's owes most of its success to the eclectic nature of the music. Southern, Cajun, New Orleans, Zydeco, Texan, and Blues are the specialties. "I've seen some great acts come through our doors," said Bill. He's right. Robert Cray, The Neville Brothers, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Marsha Ball to name a few. "A lot of good vibes and memories are here. I'm constantly being reminded by my customers what good time they have had here. Most of the musicians treat our cus-

tomers like family. The make sure they have a great time. The place marks time for people," he continued.

years they have been holding a St. Patrick's Day Party. This year's party will be held Monday, March 17th with April Verch, The Dooley Brothers, Mayer School Stepdancers, Kevin Flynn & the Avondale Ramblers, and The Avenue Kids!

For 27 years on the July 4th weekend they hold the "American Music Fest."

With the expansion FitzGerald's is a small conglomerate of good times. To the east of the original bar is the Wishbone Restaurant. In a few short years it has become a neighborhood favorite boasting regulars from surrounding cities like Oak Park, Chicago, Forest Park and beyond. To the West of the club is a permanent outdoor tent and another building which houses the "Sidebar." The Sidebar is modern, comfortable and a great place for a relaxing drink or two. No live music here, but the jukebox is well stocked. Connected to the Sidebar are two other

Family

Bill's mom and dad met on Chicago's Northside. Dad went to Loyola and mom went to Mundelein. They married and lived for a time in Rogers Park. Chris Sr. edited trade publications, and then got into writing greeting cards for American Greetings and then Gibson's in Cincinnati, Ohio. Hallmark cards, the pinnacle of the greeting cards business, came calling, but it was too late. Bill's dad took a job in Chicago as the editor of the prestigious Nuclear News Magazine, and the rest is history.

The family business aspect has worked very well. Many of the nine brothers and sisters have been involved over the years. Chris was a big part of the success. After the restaurant closed Chris and his wife moved back to Australia. Dad was heavily involved until his death seven years ago. He passed his shares on to other siblings in the family. Bill's daughter works in various aspects of the business and his sister Sheila's daughter, Katie, is getting married at FitzGerald's in June. And the beat goes on!

Bill is all American, with his Irish ancestors many generations back on both sides of family, but the Irishness is there none the less. His quiet unassuming manor can't hide the strength, determination, and pride he has in their accomplishments.

"Overall, my family can be very proud

of what we've done here, and what this place means to the community," said Bill.

Yes, they can.

Fitzgerald's is located at 6615 W Roosevelt Rd in Berwyn; phone 708-788-2118.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Heath Ledger, There's Another Joker in Town

There are tears pouring from my face as I write this; there are winds of change blasting through the open window. Gone is the legend, the truth-sayer who goes to America, that Irish knight of myth in order to give a spiel to the American people that almost nobody could be bothered to turn up to. As far as I know interns were asked to take up the empty seats.

Gone is the great man who has ruled Ireland for over a decade.

I have to admit that Mr. Bertie Ahern's speech was perfectly delivered. I particularly loved the true showstopper where he declared: "Ireland is at peace". So it must be a great relief for the victims and their mothers and their fathers to hear that the thuggery and kneecappings that are still sporadically taking place in Northern Ireland have been forgotten—in the name of Bertie's speech. And nobody seemed to recall Gerry Adams assuring his crowd of worshippers that "they haven't gone away, you know".

It must also be heartening and really wonderful for the people of Limerick, down in a Republic that has again been forgotten by a government that is supposed to be the original Republican Party. And that this wonderful city,

where I spent so many years working and where I made some of the best friends of my life has now taken over from Glasgow as Europe's murder capital. I don't recall him celebrating that statistic. It put me in mind, however, of talking to some of the soldiers coming through Shannon Airport last year on their way to Iraq. I was fascinated to hear that Limerick's unfair reputation had reached as far as the States when one very funny young soldier told me: "We were kind of nervous about landing here as it's so close to Limerick. We thought we might be outgunned". I guess that is what they mean when they say that black humour is funny because it's true.

When I hear all the nonsense talked about his legacy—and for once we agree on what he did in the North—on Northern Ireland, I just think more and more about how he was in the right place at the right time. What about Albert Reynolds and Garrett Fitzgerald, who seem to have been airbrushed out of history? But that's all right now because we've become best friends with the party who were the bomb experts and baby killers. Yeah, Brave New World all right and hang the begrudgers.

And it's all right now because we do tend to forget in this country. Sure, the 800 years of tyranny at the hands of the English that come up so regularly in ignorant pub conversations are remembered and will be remembered forever by louts that have nothing better to talk about. Do you think any of these clowns remember Bertie Ahern's boast that he was able to drink eight pints (a gallon, for Heaven's sake) before driving home? And I repeat that, driving.

Of course, my own fellow journalists couldn't wait to let themselves down.

Having hounded the man out of office (correctly) over his still baffling and unexplained

financial dealings they couldn't wait to queue in a less than orderly line to shake hands with the great man and be photographed having drinks with him. There are notable and honourable exceptions, but for the rest I wouldn't be seen sharing a sink with them. I might catch something.

Never mind, he's gone now. Probably for a nice gravy train job in Europe, or to write his memoirs and go on the lucrative lecture circuit. Behind him he leaves a health system in a complete shambles. People have died pointlessly for years because of the bungling and lack of priorities from his party. Then again what do you expect from a man who has a budget for make-up to the tune of 25,000 euros a year? And you would ask "for doing what? He's never going to be George Clooney." The photos of him from the States, grinning that insincere grimace of his reminded me of nothing more than Heath Ledger as The Joker. More kindly, I suppose, I was put in mind of the dead corpse-grin of Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown—or even worse, of his predecessor, the vain narcissist Tony Blair. (Who "only" spends around 4,000 on his make-up, by the way.)

It seems sometimes that it is just a weary and endless attempt to try to make people see that Fianna Fail, the ruling party for too many years here should not be perpetually voted in just because their father and grandfather did so. I heard recently a man declare proudly that if they cut off his right arm he would vote for them with his left. That's not thinking, that's just a mentality that you can not debate with.

I don't have any particular axe to grind here, since I believe in politicians less than I believe in God—and that's not in the slightest—but I would like to see Enda Kenny, leader of the opposition party Fine Gael get a chance. Yes, maybe he'll be no different to the rest but I have a good gut feeling about him. He comes across to me as a man of spine and vision, which paradoxically doesn't seem to come through with the media. I just don't get it. The man is talking sense (except for advocating a "Yes" vote for the Lisbon Treaty—but that's a chat for next month); and I especially admire the monstrously hard and productive work that Senator Fidelma Healy Eames of FG has done for the area that I live in, County Galway.

There you go. I feel a lot better for getting that off my chest; and wherever my long-lost spleen is at this moment in time, I know that it is happier too.

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My Dream of Ireland

There is a land so far away
I see only in my dreams
Each night when I close my eyes
The images are so keen
Take me there

I see beautiful rolling hills
And many shades of green
They all come together
A sight I've never seen
Take me there

The land has many bogs
Where people get their turf
In my dream I smell it burning
The smell of it just surfs
Take me there

In the far distance
I swear I hear a sound
It sounds like a tin whistle
Playing songs around
Take me there

I also hear laughter
And then an image appears
There are people dancing
Hornpipes, jigs and reels
Take me there

When I awake
There are tears in my eyes
In my soul I know this land
In my heart there's no surprise
Take me there

I finally made it
To the land I hold so dear
My lovely land called Ireland
And now I'm finally here

Written by
Tammy M. Donahue-McGing
Dedicated to my son
- James Patrick McGing

Firefighters Toxin Fighter

A California-based company called Sun Life Saunas aims to help firefighters tackle another danger besides fires—the harmful chemicals they're exposed to during and after a firefighting episode.

Whether a fire burns a home, business, automobile, or even a forest, harmful toxins pollute the air as certain items burn. Firefighters are exposed to many of these chemicals despite their protective gear and masks. Even after a fire has been extinguished, potentially cancer-causing chemicals may be released into the air through smoldering plastics, paints, glue, wraps, and other building materials. A few dangerous chemicals that may be released include hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide and hydrochloric acid.

Sun Life Saunas decided to take the usual relaxing and rejuvenating benefits of saunas to the next level with revolutionary far infrared sauna heat therapy along with Carbon Wave 360 technology. But relaxation isn't the only goal when it comes to firefighters. The company also promotes detoxification of the body as a major benefit for firefighters.

Smoke inhalation and chemicals absorbed through the

skin can cause many long-term health problems. According to a study by the University of Cincinnati, firefighters are more likely to develop testicular cancer, prostate cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. Detoxification helps remove these toxins before they cause serious illness. Increasing the core temperature through infrared sauna therapy sessions may also reduce the presence of cancer-causing cells since they are not as tolerant to heat as normal healthy cells.

"Another benefit we're seeing is the sauna helps increase collateral circulation of blood vessels, which can reduce or lower blood pressure. This is a significant benefit for firefighters because heart attacks are so prevalent among those in this profession," states Lorraine Montana, co-founder of the company.

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The Haunted Triangle

I was speaking with a friend about my upcoming trip to Ireland and I told him me and my wife were staying a night in Kinnitty Castle, in Offaly, part of the "Haunted Triangle." I told him how my wife enjoyed watching a television show about Charleville Castle, another of the three parts of the "Haunted Triangle," and how I thought the television show featuring an American family locked in Charleville Castle was ridiculous. My friend informed me that he stayed a week at Ballindooley Castle in Galway and that every day the coffee pot was unplugged and in a different spot until he finally told his wife to stop moving the coffee pot but she honestly had no idea what he was talking about. I assured my friend that I did not think the television show about Charleville Castle was ridiculous because I did not believe in invisible forces; but rather, I simply thought it was ridiculous to lock up people in a haunted castle, try to make a reality show out of it, and watch people walking around with a helmet cam screaming and crying. Spirits are invisible and unless you are actually there, you cannot see or feel their presence.

Once my friend knew what I meant and that I would not think him crazy, he confided in me that, while in bed one night at Ballindooley Castle in Galway, he awoke in a cold sweat and felt something telling him to jump off the balcony and that he grabbed onto the headboard of the bed and would not let go for fear for his life. I believe him. But I still think he would have looked foolish on television in front of an American audience, laying in the dark, with a look half-crazed, fearfully holding onto the headboard of his bed, while his wife was next to him sound asleep. If his other friends ever got a hold of the tape it would be playing endlessly at the local tavern.

Do you believe in evil spirits? There is a documentary called In the Grip of Evil, which is the true story from which was based the novel and later movie The Exorcist. If you watch it, you will hear from some of the people actually involved in the exorcism, including a Jesuit priest who is very credible. In the documentary, the young boy had an aunt who played with a Ouija board with him and after she died the kid used the Ouija board possibly to try to contact his lost aunt. The boy became possessed not by a demon but Satan himself. The lesson to be learned from the story is do not go looking for evil spirits. There's a story in the Book of Acts in which a group of Jews were trying to imitate the apostle Paul by traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied: "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. Acts 19:15-16.

When I look for truth, I turn to the Holy Bible. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8. Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38. Jesus ordered many demons to come out of their victims. But because the demons knew who he was, Jesus refused to allow the demons to speak. Mark 1:34. Before Jesus cast more demons into a herd of pigs, the demons screamed "Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God's appointed time?" Matthew 8:28-30. As the Book of James asks: Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. James 2:19.

So are demons real? The same friend in the story above told me once I had everything going for me, but then hesitated and said, "but you have a few demons." That's what true friends are for. Seriously. And before I knew what I know now, I told a Christian (the kind that practices Christianity, not the kind who jokes about it in bars) what my friend told me about my demons and that I did not know if he meant it literally or figuratively. I was assured: "No, they are real! They are real!" You may not be able to see them, but you can certainly see the affect they can have on a person's life. Even the apostle Paul warns: "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12.

If and when I stay at Kinnitty Castle, I won't be bringing a Ouija Board, but I will try to keep my Lord, Jesus Christ, in my heart. Then I will fear no evil.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



native of Galway and is also involved promoting links between Chicago and the "City of the Tribes."

The second category with: Joe Beagley, Gerry Kealy, PJ O'Dea, Tommy Dolan, Mary Ruane, Pat Hennessy and

Gerry Gerraty all been nominated for sports personality of the year.

The winner of the sports category was Joe Begley, a native of Wicklow. Joe has had the honor of holding many positions within the ranks of the G.A.A. including Chairman of the Chicago area board as well as chair of the North American board. Joe was one of the first individuals to put "his shoulder to the wheel" in getting Gaelic Park up and running. He is a true Gael and his dedication to the promotion of Gaelic games is matched by few. He was the chief leader in the developing of the Patriots, a club formed to promote the games among American born players.

We once again congratulate the winners, both individuals who have and continue to give of their time and talents in the service of others. We hope and pray that in the words of St. Francis they will know in their lives that: "it is in giving that we receive."

Very sincere thanks to all who helped make our first Gala Dinner such a great success. We truly appreciate all of the support we get from our sponsors and donors. It is only with your continued and unselfish support that we can continue to offer our services free of charge to those who contact us.

Encouraging Words

The Buzzard, the Bat, and the Bumblebee

If you put a buzzard in a pen six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of his ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is his habit, he will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A Bumblebee if dropped into an open tumbler will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, there are lots of people like the buzzard, the bat and the bee. They are struggling about with all their problems and frustrations, not realizing that the answer is right there above them.

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

USCIS Releases Projected Naturalization Processing Times For Local Offices

Washington—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) released today the projected times for local offices to complete processing of applications for citizenship from individuals who filed during the summer of 2007.

Last July, USCIS received 460,000 applications for naturalization. That was three times the record for any previous month. For the year, USCIS received 1.4 million naturalization applications, almost double the normal annual volume.

USCIS is hiring and training hundreds of additional immigration officers to adjudicate these cases. The agency is also conducting naturalization interviews on weekends, after normal business hours and in additional locations.

The processing times listed below provide a sense of how quickly a case may be processed if there are no complicating factors. Still, some cases will take longer to complete for such reasons as:

- an applicant has been asked to submit additional information and their case is pending until they comply, or

- an applicant fails the naturalization test and has 60 days to prepare before they are retested, or

- The FBI name check is still in progress.

Projected Local USCIS Office Processing Times at end of September 2008

Office	Months
Atlanta, GA	9.9
New Orleans, LA	14.5
Chicago, IL	8.6
Phoenix, AZ	14.4

Gala Dinner

Saturday night May 10th was truly an occasion of great celebration as well over 430 people gathered at Gaelic Park for the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support's first Annual Gala. (See photos of the event in this issue of The Irish American News. And also our web-site www.ci-is.com)

A large part of what made our celebration such a memorable occasion was the awards ceremony.

We had two categories in which people were honored, the first being: Most outstanding contribution to the community, with the nominees being, Mike Kenny, Pat Noonan, Dr. Steve Fox, Maureen O'Looney, Billy Lawless, Nancy Holly and Maureen Halpin.

The winner from this group was Billy Lawless known to many as the owner of The Irish Oak, Wrigleyville and The Gage, Michigan Ave. Billy has been a tireless worker for our undocumented brothers and sisters. Accepting his award he pledged to continue to do all in his power to bring about a comprehensive solution to our immigration crises. Billy is a

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-
- Sept 7-8-9 **Mackinac Island, MI** only \$795 per person, dble occup. 3 Day/2Night at Grand Hotel, the crown jewel of Mackinac.
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- Sept 14-15  **Springfield, IL** Land of Lincoln only \$235 per person double occupancy 2 Day/1 Night stay at Abraham Lincoln Hotel. call for details.
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- October 1 **White Eagle Banquet Hall** - Niles, IL (See details below)
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- Oct 6-7-8 **Frankenmuth, MI** only \$395 3 Day/2 Night at the beautiful Bavarian Lodge Inn
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Sporting Log

Sean Og. O Ceallachain



Managers of present day GAA teams are under fierce pressure to capture titles or trophies which will sit on the sideboard when the year is over. Every time a manager puts a team on the field he is expected to field a winning team, and if not, he is in trouble. The position is worse at inter-county level, where the demands are greater on managers. The successful team official is the one who coaches the best players and

he is rewarded every time his players compete against top opposition. Recently John Maughan stepped down from his manager's job with Roscommon footballers simply because a section of the team followers began to abuse him from the sidelines and throw bottles at him. The reason? Roscommon were losing matches because the players were not putting in the effort. That was just one example. Another reason was some players did not turn up for training for frivolous reasons. Roscommon had a disastrous League run which ended up with the county being demoted to a lower division. To be fair to John Maughan, he took on a very onerous job. Some of the older players decided to call it a day and a number of young players were added to the panel. It takes time and patience to groom a team for the hard grind of inter-county football. Obviously a number of Roscommon followers were looking for instant success and when that wasn't forthcoming they laid the blame on the manager.

Berating a manager from the sideline is no way to treat a team official who is only doing his best with the talent at his disposal. When Maughan decided to step down he did so with great regret and a number of the players vented their

anger at the small band of supporters who had made John Maughan's job untenable. It saddens me to see a great coach such as John Maughan, forced out of the position he enjoyed by individuals who should have known better. The Roscommon County Board engaged former star Paul Earley as temporary manager until a new coach is appointed. It is never easy to come up with an official who will satisfy everyone. Let's hope Roscommon will succeed in their quest and quickly. Stand by Paul Earley whose older brother, Dermot, played for Roscommon for 15 years and later as manager, paid a warm tribute to John Maughan and his co-selectors Eamon McManus and Gerry Fitzmaurice,

Banned Dublin statistician Ray Boyne will be free to attend as many games as he likes during the course of his 16 weeks suspension. The GAA Central Competition Controls Committee (CCCC) made that clear when confirming that Boyne, who head-butted Monaghan's Tommy Freeman at the recent Dublin-Monaghan NFL match at Parnell Park, had indicated that he would not be appealing the ban. The suspension means that Boyne cannot have any roles with the Dublin team.



Henry Coyle after his TKO of Ben Aragon in 3rd round on May 9, 2008

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8th Annual Irish Immigration Golf Open

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (a non-profit organization providing much needed support to Irish immigrants in Chicago and beyond) is hosting their 8th annual Golf tournament on June 16th at St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club, 3 N441 Route 59 in West Chicago (1/4 mile N. of North Ave. on Route 59). First tee will be at 9am with dinner and prizes awarded at 6pm.

The entry fee is \$100 per person, proceeds of which will help keep the center's doors open. This year's outing promises to be an exciting event. Prizes will be awarded for lowest gross, lowest net, nearest the pin and longest drive. There will be a \$10,000.00 prize for a hole in one at a designated par 3.

To help support or attend this event irishoverhere@sbcglobal.net or call Fr. Michael Leonard, Director (773-677-5341).

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Ireland A Names Team for Cup

The Ireland 'A' squad will again take part in the Barclays Churchill Cup tournament which this year will take place in Canada and the USA.

The squad will be coached by IRFU High Performance Manager Allen Clarke, and he has selected a squad with a blend of youth and considerable experience, with eight senior-capped players included.

The squad will be managed by John McKibbin and they will play three games during the tournament, kicking off against the USA on Wednesday, June 11.

Ireland 'A' Tournament Schedule

Wednesday, June 11, 2008:
USA v. Ireland 'A'
at Richardson Stadium, Kingston
Saturday, June 14, 2008:
Ireland 'A' v. England Saxons
at Fletchers Fields, Toronto
Saturday, June 21, 2008:
Barclays Churchill Cup finals day
at Toyota Park, Chicago
Tickets for finals are going fast.

For tickets and full information for the tournament, including players names, visit www.barclayschurchill-cuprugby.com.

Southside Revival for MS Slugfest

Registration is now open for the 8th Annual MS Slugfest. This day long softball tournament takes place beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 9th at Mt. Greenwood Park (3724 W. 111th St. in Chicago) and will raise funds to help create a world free of multiple sclerosis. Sixty four teams from all over the city and suburbs will compete to see who can raise the most money—and score the most runs. Money raised at the tournament will benefit the programs, services and research supported by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Illinois Chapter.

In addition to the action on the field, MS Slugfest features a Home Run Derby, special guests, kids activities, drinks and food from Robinson's No. 1 Ribs. Players and spectators alike are welcome to join the movement against MS by joining in on the fun at MS Slugfest. To register or for more information about forming a team or volunteering visit www.mslugfest.com or call 1-800-FIGHT MS. (1-800-344-4867).

MS Slugfest is a signature event of Multiple Solutions, the junior board and auxiliary group of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Illinois Chapter. www.multiple-solutions.org.

Illinois Math & Science Currach Team to Ireland

The Fourth Annual Irish International Currach Championships (IICC) will see Rob Gill and his IMSA rowers, who race their two 3-seater currachs on Fox River near Batavia, attending the races in Ireland on August 9-10.

Held on beautiful Carlingford Lough off the coast of Omeath, Co. Louth, the championships have been organized to coincide with the Omeath and Warren Point Summer Festivals. www.currach.org



Ireland 2007/2008
See Athlone & District Tourist Guide
website - www.acis.ie

New Sports Team - Windy City Gaels

The Windy City Gaels is a child-centered gaelic sports organization currently looking for children to join their new team. All children of all heritages are welcome.

Practices will initially take place at Taft High School at Bryn Mawr and Nagle Ave. (just north of the Kennedy). Based on the location of interested players, additional practice fields will be added. For more information call Jerry Kealy at 773-719-2847.

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ing It In

Jack Baker



Ah June! The month we dream about all winter and it's finally here bringing some of the best festivals with it. First a little news—some bad, some good.

I regret to inform you of the passing of a part of the community that has been with us for 35 years, Lonnie Robertson's beard is history. As the result of a new job, his chin has seen daylight for the first time

in almost 4 decades. At the Lake County Sheriffs Department Pipe Band Dance last month Lonnie sailed in and nearly blinded us with the glare off his newly shorn face. Quite a shock, I must say. Lonnie was playing Bass with Rich Mao's Thistle & Heather Pipe Band and all night long he glided by unrecognized by folks that had known him for years. Personally, I think

it makes him look younger, but certainly no prettier.

Rattle The Boards

Wonderful news came just a day ago from Benny McCarthy. Benny plays button box with a hot new band called "Rattle the Boards". Their new CD The Parish Platform hasn't been off the CD player in our store since we got it in. Anyway, Benny also plays with the supergroup Danu and he informs me that their centurion about their breakup is not true. While they won't be touring as madly as in the past, they will be on tour in 2009. Great news as far as I'm concerned, Danu is a group you want to see live and I want to see again. Meanwhile, check out "Rattle the Boards", traditional, fun, the kind of CD you play over and over and it never gets old. A tip of the old bonnet to Bill Margeson for turning me on to this great band.

Milwaukee

Highland Games

June is a piping fan's month in the Midwest with three of the best piping competitions you can find that will, between them, draw out almost all of the great pipers in the area.

First will be the Milwaukee Highland Games and Scottish Festival held at Old Heidelberg Park in Glendale, Wisconsin. Glendale is immediately North of Milwaukee along I-43. You exit at Silver Spring Drive (exit 78) and turn right. Another right at the first light will have you going under I-43 to the game sight which is on the West side of the interstate. The games are held in a German beer garden which is quite lovely. Food is great and parking isn't too bad (if you get there early). Good news is that Scottish food will again be supplied by Highland Glen, makers of the best fish & chips on the circuit. There is always a lively pipe band competition and a good selection of vendors. A most relaxing festival, compact and comfortable, lots of shade and places to sit and real toilets, always a plus. Not a long drive, takes us an hour and a half from Villa Park.

Big Show in Oakbrook

The big show comes on the 20th & 21st of June with the Illinois Saint Andrew Society Highland Games and Scottish Festival, a fest that's really as big as its name. It's held in Oak Brook, Illinois at the polo fields on 31st St. between York Rd. and Rt. 83. The polo fields are something to see in themselves. Grass so green, trimmed and perfectly level, you'd think you were

walking on a pool table. It's truly a beautiful site and the volunteers from the Saint Andrew Society work like demons to assure that everything is arranged properly. The show starts on Friday at 4pm and features one of the finest ceilidhs I've ever had the pleasure to participate in. The vendors will be open for early shopping. There will be food and drink available and I have to add a very fine selection of food vendors. Bands performing that evening will be Tartanic, a great treat, Reilly, a total unknown for me and therefore something to look forward to and Searson, one of my favorite bands from Canada, made up of Mike Searson and his three daughters, lovely talented musicians who will have you up dancing before you realize that you've left your chair. This is a highlight of my season, getting to see this band again. They are great and not to be missed.

On Saturday the day will start with solo piping and drumming competitions, one of the largest and best highland dance competitions you can find, athletic competitions, etc. etc. This festival has it all, it's huge and everything is done as well as can be. There's music, food, lots of stuff for the kids, whiskey tasting, a tremendous car show {I like that part}. Not to mention one of the largest and finest pipe band competitions. You'll get to see Lonnie Robertson's newly unveiled chin.

There is so much to see and do at this games that you'll want to come early and plan on spending the day. We work a lot of Scottish & Irish festivals throughout the year and this one is way up on the list for giving you the most for your money. Come Friday for a wonderful ceilidh and to map out the place so you can plan your Saturday. I'll be there in the Vendor tent flogging my CDs so come on by and say HI.

Ohio Scottish Festival

The last chance in June to see & hear great pipe band competition will be on Saturday, 28 June at the Ohio Scottish Games held in Wellington, Ohio at the Lorain County Fairgrounds. This is a lovely fairgrounds in a beautiful wee town that has no motels. You have to stay way north of the town near the Ohio Turnpike but it's really worth it. You can check out their website at www.ohioscottishgames.com Yeah, we'll be there too.

While you're marking your calendar for festivals, don't forget the 23rd annual Irish American Heritage Festival on July 11, 12 and 13 at the Irish American Heritage Center in

Chicago at Knox & Wilson. This is one I wouldn't miss, even if I wasn't selling CDs.

Come check out the new Library and see the work that Tom Boyle and his merry band have done in the museum. You want something to be proud of? Here's a place I'm proud of and proud to have been a member of for 22 years; join us and be proud too.

A wee bit of exciting news comes from my good friend Liz Moog, who reports that The West Suburban Concert Band plans several upcoming concerts that will include an arrangement of "Amazing Grace" for bagpipes and concert band. The guest pipers and band will also perform "The Glendaruel and Atholl Highlanders", as members of the Thistle and Heather Highland Dance troupe dance to these traditional tunes. Enjoy an arrangement of the Stars and Stripes Forever that adds bagpipes in the final strain!

The concerts will be held at:
7pm, Wednesday, June 18 in Springdale Park (Wolf Rd. & 53rd St, Western Springs); 7pm, Wednesday, June 25, at the Scottish Home (2748 Des Plaines Ave, North Riverside); 7pm, Thursday, June 26 at the British Home (8700 31st St., Brookfield); and 7:30pm, Wednesday, July 2 at the Memorial Park amphitheater (LaGrange Rd. between Oak and Woodlawn, LaGrange Park).

The pipers will be Dave Johnston, of Chicalba Bagpiping Services, www.chicago-bagpiper.com, and Matt McKee and Mike Gribbon of the Chicago Stockyard Kilty Band, www.sykb.com. Information about the Thistle and Heather Highland Dancers can be found at www.thistleandheather.net. The home page of the West Suburban Concert Band is www.thewscb.com, where more information can be found about the concerts.

Travel will be expensive this year. Gas prices, airline ticket prices show no sign of retreating. So come out to your local festivals. Support the groups that work to keep your heritage alive. Teach the kids about Patrick Pearse and Michael Collins, Robert Burns and William Wallace. Learn about the clearances and the famine, that'll make high gas prices pale by comparison. Slainte.

I thank all those good folks who have called or stopped by the store to comment on my ramblings, you are all too kind, except for that one guy with the baseball bat, well that's another story. I can usually be found at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181 630-834-8108, you're always welcome.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



and Michael M. Boland

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



program is kicking off under the direction of Deborah Sakelaris of Rodas Coaching, who is generously donating her training services. Each Junior Board volunteer will meet monthly for a

In the last three years, 10 Junior Board members have been appointed by Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, to the ranks of Catholic Charities' Board of Advisors. Many others are active members of the Division Advisory Boards that oversee our programs for families, seniors, children, teens and the homeless and hungry—or support Catholic Charities' Regional Board and fundraisers in the South, Southwest, West, North and Northwest suburbs.

God's people in need.

To them, and especially to all the fathers and grandfathers, uncles and role models who constantly share "the gift of new life" in their loving care for their families and their neighbors in need, I offer my congratulations and thanks, and wish you a "Happy Father's Day!"

To join or to learn more about Catholic Charities Junior Board, visit www.catholiccharities.net/juniorboard, or call Michael McDonnell at (312) 655-7768.

JUNIOR BOARD: Bridge to the Future of Catholic Charities "Signs of Hope"

In April, I had the privilege of being in Washington during the historic first visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States, which was appropriately titled: "Christ Our Hope."

Everywhere he went, Pope Benedict proclaimed by his words and his presence that the good news of the Gospel "makes things happen and is life-changing," because "the one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life."

This month, as American families celebrate Father's Day, we remember and honor those men who lived—and taught us to live—the virtues of faith, hope and love in lives of service to God, family and neighbor.

At Catholic Charities, I see the truth of the Holy Father's words every day in our volunteers and staff: "people of hope" who create new life for others by serving them in love. These "signs of hope" were everywhere recently when Catholic Charities' Junior Board, consisting of 250 energetic young adult volunteers ranging in age from 21 to 45, declared the month of May "Service Month."

During just one May weekend, these young men and women from Chicago and suburbs:

- served a Sunday dinner to 40 veterans in recovery at Catholic Charities' Cooke's Manor on the Hines VA campus;
 - spent bi-weekly quality time sharing conversation with the elderly "seasoned citizens" at our Ozanam Manor on Chicago's Near Northwest side;
 - joined the multi-talented JB "Michaelangelo Corps" to paint our Cordi-Marian Child Center, (they also do landscaping at our child centers);
 - and set up and served food at Catholic Charities' annual Adoptive Family Night celebration.
- They also worked at 11 more Catholic Charities programs in May!

In fact, in the first three months of this year, JB members worked the equivalent of 137 full-time days for Catholic Charities in dozens of ways, pitching in to package food for the hungry and homeless at our Emergency Assistance Center at St. Vincent Center downtown; and holding workshops for recent refugee families from Burma and Africa to teach them the basics of

using American money. JB accountants and bankers taught the newcomers about budgeting, how to cash or write a check, and opened checking accounts for them on the spot.

Junior Board Manager Michael McDonnell points out that the group has never turned down any of Catholic Charities' 160 programs that have asked for assistance, concentrating on those that have crucial needs and do not receive funding from outside sources. Although the JB members are young graduates and professionals just starting their careers in business, medicine, law, etc., they're never too busy to grab a paintbrush on a Saturday morning to paint a childcare center, or serve a hot meal to 130 homeless men and women at Catholic Charities' Tuesday Night Suppers.

For instance, lawyers from the Junior Board volunteer once a month with the Catholic Charities' Legal Assistance and Referral Center (LARC) to offer legal advice, referrals and occasional pro bono services to our Tuesday Evening Supper guests.

Currently, the exciting new LifeGoals Initiative program for the recently homeless men and women in Catholic Charities' "Streets-to-Home"

half-hour to provide job readiness coaching to two clients and their case managers. After the six-month job preparation process is completed, the formerly homeless individuals will be ready to take their next steps to employment and self-sufficiency.

In addition, the JB Faith and Social committees enable the volunteers to form networks to enrich and celebrate their faith, and to plan social activities that raise funds for their works of charity.

In a world that seems torn apart, the Junior Board is a beacon and a bridge of hope—to the future of Catholic Charities' and the Church's lay leadership and service to the poor in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Our Junior Board is already a model for other dioceses. With our help, the Archdiocese of New York has just initiated its own Junior Board, and the Archdioceses of New Orleans and San Francisco are laying the groundwork for their boards.

The young men and women of the Junior Board are truly "signs of hope" in our world—following Christ's example and "creating new lives" for

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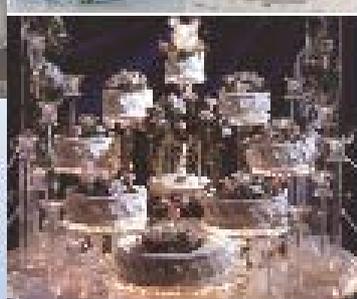
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Scottish Festival and Highland Games June 20-21

Promoting Chicago's Scottish Tradition, Revelry and Culture in a Weekend Celebration for the Entire Family!

Be Scottish for a day this summer as the Illinois Saint Andrew Society (ISAS) presents the 22nd Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games, June 20-21, 2008 at the Oak Brook Polo Grounds in Oak Brook, Illinois. ISAS, Illinois' oldest charity, is proud to once again present their annual summer celebration with a dazzling array of events for the whole family, including: a Champion Supreme Pipe Band competition; Highland Dance competition; Heavy Athletics U.S. Championship; Youth 5 v 5 Soccer Tournament; British Car Show; cultural exhibits; Scotch whisky tastings and seminars; live Celtic musical performances (both traditional and Celtic rock); Parade of Tartans; Kilted Mile Run/Walk; Raffle; Children's crafts and activities; and a variety of attendee contests such as the Shortbread, Knobbly Knees, Haggis Hurling and Haggis Eating. Attendees can also enjoy traditional Scottish cuisine and drink, including a Tea Tent and the Celtic Marketplace, where a

variety of unique Scottish and Celtic merchandise will be available for purchase.

The festival kicks off Friday, June 20 with exhibits and vendors open from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Friday highlights include: Highland Dance competition, Heavy Athletics Friday Night Fling, crowning of the 2008 Heather Queen and Court, new Whisky Live Tasting Tent featuring multiple whisky vendors and Whisky Live Seminar Tent featuring general and master whisky classes. From 6:00-10:00 pm on the Celtic rock stage, there will be a Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee), a lively celebration of traditional and contemporary Celtic music, with musical artists Reilly, Searson and Tartanic.

The festival continues Saturday, June 21 from 8:00 am - 10:00 pm and features: Piping and Drumming competitions, Heavy Athletics U.S. Open Championship, Highland Dance competition, Falconry, Genealogy seminars, and a

variety of interactive children's activities including mini golf, crafts and carnival attractions. Event attendee competitions include: British Car Show (pre-registration), a Haggis Hurling Contest for women only; a Knobbly Knees Kilt Contest for men only, Haggis Eating Contest and a Shortbread Contest. Celtic musical acts (Reilly, Searson and Tartanic) perform on the Celtic Rock Stage throughout the day and into the evening Ceilidh. New attractions on Saturday this year include an early morning Kilted Mile Run/Walk, Soccer 5 v 5 Youth Tournament (team pre-registration) and Dogs of Scotland seminars showcasing a variety of Scottish dog breeds.

The Oak Brook Polo Grounds are located on 31st Street, just West of York Road. For more information, event schedules, competition registration forms or to purchase tickets, visit the Illinois Saint Andrew Society website at www.chicago-scots.org or call (708) 447-5092.



SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES

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JUNE 20 & 21 2008

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June Events at the IAHC

9th Annual Bloomsday Celebration



The Irish American Heritage Center will celebrate the life and works of James Joyce with its annual Bloomsday Celebration this June. On June 16, 1904, writer James Joyce met his wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, *Ulysses*. Modern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16th "Bloomsday"—a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works.

This June 16th, a Monday, the IAHC will present the 9th Annual *Rattlin' of the Joists* presentation at 8pm with

readings, music and song, presented by notables from Chicago's theatre and music community.

Tickets are \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the door.

Irish Fest Seeks One Page Plays

The IAHC seeks submissions for its 2nd Annual One-Page Play Festival. The contest is open to all and the top plays will be adjudicated during the Irish American Heritage Festival on July 12, 2008. The 23rd annual Irish Fest is July 11, 12 and 13 and includes 3 days of entertainment on 5 stages.

All submissions will be read by a panel of judges who will select the best entries for an on-stage reading the weekend of June 21st at the IAHC. Following the reading, top plays will be selected for a performance at Irish Fest. During the Fest, winners will be chosen and prizes will be awarded.

Submitted plays should be original work, no longer than one page (8.5 x 11, no less than 9 pt font) that are appropriate for a general audience. Preference will be given to entries with an Irish theme, but they may be on any topic of an author's choosing. Entries can be comic or dramatic, in any style or genre. Monologues will be considered, but preference will be given to plays with more than one character. If an author is willing to produce the play and provide a cast, this should be stated in the entry.

There is no fee to enter and the maximum number of entries permitted from an author is four. All entries must include a brief bio and contact information. Entries must be submitted via e-mail as an attachment in Microsoft Word format to irishquill@aol.com, no later than May 31, 2008.

Spring Art Exhibit

The Irish American Heritage Center is hosting a unique art exhibit this spring. *A Different Land: Irish Boglands* runs through June 14. Exhibit hours are Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.

The aim of the exhibit is to increase international awareness of the beauty and uniqueness of Ireland's bog landscapes. Bog landscapes are one of Ireland's defining features and are now attracting increased interest from the scientific and artistic communities. They are becoming a major selling point to attract tourists into the country.

The result is a collection of outstanding works from artists currently living in County Kerry, Ireland. The exhibition is a testament to the beauty and magic of this often hidden landscape.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



World Trade Center, Sweeney says she had already made up her mind to serve her country but wasn't sure in what capacity. "My dad didn't push me to follow in his footsteps but I already knew before Sept. 11th that I wanted to serve and was called to it."

Called to Notre Dame? Along with many military moves as the daughter of a Marine "Let's see... South Bend, Quantico, California, Hawaii, California, Rhode Island, and then California... that feels like home now," Sweeney recalls, life under the Golden Dome has always been special for her. "I was born in South Bend because my dad was the Marine Officer Instructor at Notre Dame in the mid 80s, and I'm not making this up... my first words as a baby were 'Golden

whose final officer assignment will come after 6 months of initial lieutenant training at The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, about an hour south of Washington, D.C.

Honor, Courage, Commitment

All Marines are trained as riflemen regardless of specialty. What was once a matter of honor and tradition is now a practical necessity in a world of terrorist warfare where the support units are as much in danger as those on the front lines. That danger became even more painfully apparent in late 2006 when 34-year old Major Megan McClung became the first female Marine officer to die in the line of duty. The veteran of two Iraq tours was a public

affairs officer escorting journalists when a roadside bomb blew up the truck she was riding in while in Ramadi, Iraq.

took place in the coursework, drills, field exercises and time spent in active duty training in previous years. For her and other marine midshipmen the obstacles courses, endurance runs, and tests of proficiency in the M-16 rifle were no less strenuous physically or mentally than non-ROTC candidates. Bulldog trains, screens and evaluates candidates for their future role as officers in the field leading others. According to the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School Mission Statement: "The mission of Officer Candidates School is to educate, train, evaluate and screen officer candidates to ensure they possess the moral, intellectual and physical qualities for commissioning, and the leadership potential to serve successfully as company grade officers in the Operating Forces."

"My only fear of OCS was not being able to finish physically due to injury, but ultimately failure was not an option for me," says Sweeney, who says about halfway through the muggy Virginia summer she knew for certain "I was not going to fail, die or quit!"

Fighting Irish Talent and Drive

The Marine responsible for Sweeney and all other Marine midshipmen at Notre Dame is Tulane graduate Major Ty Theriot, the Marine Officer Instructor whose wife is a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve. "When I think of Casie Sweeney and her time here under the Golden Dome two words come to mind—talented and driven," he says with the pride now of a brother officer. "Successfully tackling two majors within a five year period, Civil Engineering and Art—talent and drive says it all."

The same spirit drove her through the arduous educational demands at Notre Dame, but for this Fighting Irish woman that second major of Studio Art represented a different and more enduring spirit. "I do painting, some might call it abstract, but what I try to depict is the innate beauty in nature and the world around us, evidence that for me there is a God that created it all."

While running around the roads of Notre Dame in fatigues, combat boots and a Marines t-shirt that says "God, Country, Notre Dame" on the back, Sweeney and her Notre Dame Marine shipmates prepared for a future that she now faces head on, aware of the dangers down the road and the promise... and honor... in serving to minimize them.

Jim McClure is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and served with the United States Naval and Marine Corps Reserve as a Marine Option Midshipman from 1978 to 1981. IrishRoverJim@aol.com

A Few is All We Need

Not far from the campus of the University of Notre Dame shortly after the football team's annual spring intrasquad game, a team known for wearing different shades of blue and green is gathered at a banquet to reflect on the year past and look ahead to the rough schedule for the year ahead.

As always, they have a special brand of support that comes from tradition and a dedication to be the best. And perhaps more than in the past there is an increased skepticism over whether they will "March on to Victory." Win or lose, the stakes will be deadly, even for those on the sidelines.

For these Fighting Irish at "Warrior Night" are not wearers of gold helmets but camouflage ones, and bearers of the gold and scarlet flag of the United States Marines.

At 23, Midshipman First Class Casie Sweeney, United States Marine Corps Reserve, seems to be the longest of tooth and have the easiest of smiles among the mostly younger college-age women and men who make up the Marine Option contingent of the Battalion of Midshipmen of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at Notre Dame, which has long prided itself as an alternative provider of officers to the Navy and Marine Corps beyond the service academies and other officer programs. "I like to look after the younger Midshipmen and help them make their way through the NROTC program," says Sweeney, whose maturity may be part of the reason she seems about the same age as the two female Marine majors that flank her at the banquet table at the April Warrior Night event.

Sweeney has a quick and somewhat shy smile, made more evident by the fact that she was at the tip of the sword of a sense of humor that seems to permeate most Notre Dame midshipmen, as the brunette received countless barbs from the student and officer banquet speakers for being on "The Five Year Plan."

A Few Good Women

Women have attended the university since the early 1970s, and have always been among the highest achievers with test scores well exceeding much of their male counterparts. Female Marine Options are a relatively recent development and have to pass not only the rigid standards of the NROTC program (by one measure the national

competition for limited scholarships vs. ample congressional appointments to the Naval Academy makes winning a scholarship harder), but also buck the odds of beating out a large pool of female applicants for Notre Dame.

Sweeney, who sits in her battle camouflaged with shoulders slightly hunched forward in combination with her shy smile, is no slouch academically it turns out—the fifth year was necessary not to compensate for poor grades but to accommodate the huge course load of being a dual degree student. After a final slew of finals she graduated May 17th with degrees in Civil Engineering and Studio Art.

"I was fortunate to be talented at Math and Science and it's something I enjoy doing," says Sweeney, who has traveled a far longer road to being a graduate of Notre Dame and a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. "The most I ever took in a semester was 22 hours, but this final semester was pretty easy, just 19." A usual course load is between 12 and 15 hours. "Art is something I enjoy doing for fun."

Accomplished yet modest, Sweeney is aware that there is something special about her, a passion for service to country and others. "I know I'm put on Earth to serve, that's part of being raised in the Catholic Church, and I'm surprised that more of the women I grew up with in California don't feel that calling."

Like many Marine Options Sweeney came to the NROTC program (she was a Navy Option at first) from a multi-dimensional background. The 5 foot 11 inch Californian lettered in high school as a power forward in basketball and in track and field as a shot putter and discus thrower, also finding time for participating in softball and a stint as president of her local Kiwanis Key Club chapter. She also worked part-time in her teens as a waitress and volunteer.

All in the Irish Family

A High School junior in Oceanside, California near San Diego when the terrorists struck at the Pentagon and



Midshipman Casie Sweeney during Officer Candidate School, 2007

Dome; she adds with an embarrassed grin and a roll of her eyes.

Her father, John L. Sweeney, Jr., retired after 30 years in 2005 as a Marine Colonel, with service in the First Gulf War and as Casie waited for his return from the initial 2003 campaign to drive Saddam Hussein and his sons from power. As a midshipman she knew the feelings of a dependent child waiting for the safe return of a parent, and now as a newly minted officer she will know perhaps more than others the obligations and dangers to come.

Like her father, Sweeney hopes to specialize as a combat engineer, a much needed military occupation in the reconstruction-under-fire that exists in some parts of Afghanistan and Iraq. "A combat engineer builds things, reconstructs things and gets to blow things up," explains Sweeney,

first platoon near her parents who currently reside near the Marines' Camp Pendleton. With roots that include great grandparents that emigrated from Ireland, Sweeney also has many cousins and family members in Chicago. "After graduation I'll take a month or so of leave to visit family in Chicago and then spend the final weeks with my parents in Oceanside before reporting to Quantico in June," she said in the week just before receiving her Notre Dame degrees and military commission.

Sweeney's last trip to Quantico was last summer where she is pictured here graduating from the final pre-commissioning test, a six week long endurance test of leadership, military skill and physical fitness. Known as "Bulldog," it is shorter than standard Officer Candidate School training sessions, acknowledging that much of the training already

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Gantseh Maher

"Comedian" Bill Maher who last year likened the Sacrament of Communion to homosexual oral sodomy on his "Real time with Bill Maher," wound up this season with a shabby stream of invective directed against Pope Benedict and the US Church he was visiting.

Present in-studio for the April 11 scourging were Jason Alexander (the balding "Seinfeld" guy), terrorism expert Richard Clarke, and Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post journalist Dana Priest. They applauded and guffawed dutifully throughout the show.

Maher began with the raid on that polygamous Mormon group in Texas: "New Rule: Whenever you combine a secretive compound, religion, and weirdos in pioneer costumes; there's gonna be some child f---ing!" (Jason cracks up laughing.) "...I'd like to tip off law enforcement to an even LARGER child-abusing religious cult. Its leader ALSO has a compound, and this guy not only operates outside the bounds of the law, but he used to be a Nazi and he wears funny hats!" (Shot of Pope Benedict in red hat). "That's right, the Pope is coming to America this week, and ladies: he's single!"

"Now, I know what you're thinking. 'Bill, you can't be saying the

Catholic Church is no better than this creepy Texas cult. For one thing, altar boys can't even GET pregnant! But really, what tripped up the little cult on the prairie was that they only abused hundreds of kids, not thousands all over the world. 'Cults' get raided; 'religions' get parades. How does the Catholic Church get away with all of their buggery? Volume, volume, volume! If you have a few hundred followers, and you let some of them molest children, they call you a 'cult leader.' If you have a billion, they call you 'Pope.' It's like, if you can't pay your mortgage, they call you a 'deadbeat,' but if you can't pay a million mortgages, you're 'Bear Sterns' and we bail you out."

"And that's what the Catholic Church is. The 'Bear Sterns of organized pedophilia.'"

As is usual in cases of Catholic baiting by American media giants, official public reaction to the assault was underwhelming. The complaints were mostly online, from outraged people who saw the show. So I was surprised to see that Roeper, though taking a position firmly straddling the fence on the issue, actually responded to an irate reader on April 23. He said Maher's rant was unfair, but not as bad as the church scandal. (No mention of the much larger nationwide abuse scandal in public schools which the press has been

avoiding for years.)

And the only visible reaction from US political leaders didn't come from Boston (maybe they've "gone to the mattresses" for good) or from Chicago, but from First City.

US Congressman Vito Fossella (R-NY), joined by several New York State elected officials, wrote to HBO's president, Sue Naegle, seeking an apology for Maher's tirade. They said, in part:

"We are writing to express our outrage with commentator Bill Maher's offensive anti-Catholic rant on this past Friday's "Real Time" program on HBO. Mr. Maher crossed the line of decency by insulting the Pope, mocking the Catholic religion and Catholics and diminishing the importance of the Catholic faith. In a word, Mr. Maher's commentary was vulgar.

Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit to the United States is meant to build bridges to people of all faiths and spread goodwill in our nation and around the world. He has taken historic steps to bring people of all faiths together, unite them in the cause of common good and break down the barriers that separate us. The Pope has also used this opportunity to acknowledge mistakes of the past and heal the wounds they have caused. We believe individuals guilty of these crimes should be brought to justice, and we appreciate the Pope's apology for these events.

On behalf of the millions of Catholics in the United States and throughout the world, we are appalled by Mr. Maher's statements and the go-along attitude of his guests, who laughed and clapped through his anti-Catholic tirade. We are also disappointed in HBO for failing to denounce Mr. Maher's ranting and to ignore the fact that his hurtful words offended Catholics in the United States and across the world. Therefore, we call upon HBO to acknowledge the offensive nature of Mr. Maher's remarks and to apol-

ogize for playing a role in spreading his anti-Catholic commentary.

Mr. Maher has had a long record of mocking religion in general and the Catholic Church in particular. At this time when people of all faiths want to hear a message of peace and of healing, Mr. Maher attempted to cast a dark cloud over the Pope's visit. Regardless, the Catholic religion will continue to foster faith, forgiveness and goodness throughout our world—and maybe that's a lesson Mr. Maher can learn from.

Sincerely,

Martin Golden, Member of the Senate; Vito Fossella, Member of Congress; Andrew Lanza, Member of the Senate; Louis Tobacco, Member of Assembly.

James Oddo, Member of Council; Vincent Ignizio, Member of Council."

Unless politicians have adopted stage names like Mr. Alexander, it's clear that none of the pols above, NY Republicans all, are sons of the sod. It puts you in mind of that guy who stood up awhile back when Ireland was in need of a friend, the combative and colorful former NY Senator, Alphonse D'Amato.

The American Life League has created a website called: FireBillMaher.com. It features a petition calling on HBO to dump Maher because of his virulent anti-Catholicism. Subscribers are also urged to dump HBO. As of writing, the petition appears to have about 38,000 signatures—hardly an internet groundswell. Money talks. HBO is part of Time Warner, the largest media company in the world (Warner Bros, AOL, CNN, TNT, Turner Broadcasting, Time, Life, Sports illustrated...)

But Maher's been kicked off the air before. Remember "Politically Incorrect"? That show hasn't been seen since 2002 when ABC refused to renew Maher's contract following his on-air remark 6 days after 9/11 that the terrorists were not cowards. "We have been the cowards lobbying

cruise missiles from 2,000 miles away. That's cowardly. Staying in the airplane when it hits the building, say what you want about it, it's not cowardly."

FedEx, Sears and other sponsors jumped ship, and Maher was cancelled on June 22, 2002. 6 days later, he was given the President's Award (for "championing free speech") by the Los Angeles Press Club. He seems to be aiming now for the Joe Goebbels Anti-Catholic Prize.

Maher is "a confirmed bachelor", but TV.com says he "has a history of dating porn actresses on a serious basis." And he's a strong supporter of animal rights. In one 2001 show he announced: "To those people who say, 'my father is alive because of animal experimentation,' I say, 'Yeah, well, good for you. This dog died so your father could live.' Sorry, but I am just not behind that kind of trade-off."

A PETA board member, Maher compares dogs to retarded children: "I've often said that if I had — I have two dogs — if I had two retarded children, I'd be a hero. And yet the dogs, which are pretty much the same thing. What? They're sweet. They're loving. They're kind, but they don't mentally advance at all... Dogs are like retarded children."

Maher was raised Catholic by his Irish American father. In May 2006 Time asked Maher: "Your dad was Catholic, your mom Jewish. Did growing up in an interfaith home influence your attitude toward religion?" Maher: "I didn't even know my mom was Jewish until I was 13. I was so traumatized by the Catholic experience that I never thought to ask, 'Why doesn't Mom go to church?' Even though I may not have known I was the product of a mixed marriage, I definitely understood that dogma was not a good thing."

You can see clips of Maher's broadcasts and his critics online:

Maher's tirade: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJMIT76XQ8o>

The "apology": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD4wk8xi83E&feature=related>

Bill O'Reilly: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRHJrJex2w&NR=1>

Oh- "Gantseh macher" is a Yiddish expression: "Big Shot".

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Irish Diaspora

By Charles Brady



An Irish Maverick on Margarita Island

"Ah, the Tropics again!" The words of J.G. Ballard echo in my head as I step off the aircraft and the heat hits me. This is not a dead heat but an invigorating one. Boy, is it that. It's a heat that explodes primal memories in the man who is stepping from the plane.

Ballard, probably Britain's greatest living writer, spoke these words to his fellow writer Brian Aldiss as he stepped from one life into another when returning to Shanghai, where he had spent his first fifteen years. He was there to try to recapture the memories that had led to him writing his extraordinary 1984 novel "Empire of the Sun". Yet his exclamation about returning to the Tropics rings no less true for the fact that I am stepping onto Margarita Island, many years after Ballard's return to Asia and thousands of miles from there. It is no different, for all of that. When film director John Boorman settled in County Wicklow, the garden of Ireland, in the early '70s, he said: "When a man discovers an outer landscape that is perfectly at ease with his inner landscape, then he knows he has come home." That's how I feel here.

Here I am, a continent away, completing the last leg of a journey that has taken me from Galway to Dublin, from there to Paris and on, finally to Venezuela. If you look at the map, Margarita Island seems almost to float off the coastline of Venezuela, serene and calm. Despite being officially part of the South American country it has a real feel of the Caribbean about it. It also boasts its own assembly and its own Governor. And—of course—as happens wherever one goes on this planet, there are Irish mavericks to be found.

Conor Johnston is a good-looking young guy of twenty-five who makes me, at twice his age, wonder what the Devil I've been doing with my life. Boundless energy, a true liking for his work and a real love of this country that he finds himself working in. Where did I go wrong?

He comes from the County Galway town of Ballinasloe, born to parents who are both school teachers. He left school at the age of sixteen, which didn't go down well with his parents, although as far as I can see it didn't do him a bit of harm.

"I began working with a publishing company", Conor tells me. "They were advertising sales and it wasn't long before I discovered I had an affinity with selling anything that I believed in my heart to be a good property. Then I had a lucky break at twenty, when I found myself taken up by an estate agent in Strokestown. He wanted an overseas property section within the business and I was recruited to start it. As it turned out I was pretty successful and suddenly I felt that I had really found my niche."

This could all sound self-aggrandising. But I'm watching this guy with the cynical eye of a hack who has done this for 'way too long and all I can see is the enthusiasm and open-faced honesty of a hard-working and ambitious man who genuinely loves his work.

Before we continue our chat, I am invited to take a motor-launch ride through Margarita Island's awesome lagoons. Initially reluctant as I want to continue with my notes, it is no time at all before I am really glad to have accepted. This is the high point of my trip and once again it is almost impossible to remove the hand of JG Ballard from this experience. It is like a return to the steaming jungles and water-landscapes that he captured so perfectly in "The Drowned World" and one can see why the Spanish who discovered Venezuela gave it that name, "little Venice". Cruising through this drowned world we all become children once more. Even the bewildering canals that reach out from these vast and primitive pools almost call the visitor to follow where they flow.

This almost spiritual landscape is something that cannot be touched by the government of any country and here it is only fair to say that I have

to ask Conor about the country's leader, Chavez. An ex-paratrooper, Hugo Chavez swept into power on the back of a landslide victory in the 1998 presidential election. I can't speak for the rest of Venezuela, (incidentally the fourth biggest oil-producing nation) but Margarita seems a very relaxed and quiet island, with warm, friendly and physically beautiful people who make the visitor feel that he or she has always been here. Back to Chavez and his, shall we say, unorthodox form of government? I watch in amazement as the petrol tank of a jeep is filled for the equivalent of one American dollar, as people pay 50 cents for a package of cigarettes and yet have to see the essentials of this world like "The Simpsons" being barred from its 11 am slot on the grounds of corrupting the family unit, while being replaced by "Baywatch". Go figure.

Still, it makes it good for the investor here. As Conor goes on with his story: "I eventually set up my own company in partnership with Michael Costello, an Irish builder based in Turkey. There was formed Costello International Estates Ltd. We were developing small projects in Turkey and Poland. Then, twelve months ago I sold my shareholding back to the company as I was opposed to being too focussed on these two markets. I was looking for my next project when I was approached by The Right Move Abroad.

"I've enjoyed the travel side over the past five years. I've been to Moscow where we were interested in targeting the new oil wealth there. I've also been to Slovakia and particularly like Italy, which I fell in love with after a school trip there. I've been in Lebanon, which wasn't work-related, although I must tell you that I get back to Ireland and Ballinasloe as often as I can manage it." Ah, spoken like a true Irishman. Surrounded by lots of dusky South American beauties but always with a little grá for home. Hmm...

So here he is now, on an island paradise that Columbus discovered in 1498 (did that man ever sit still, by the way?) and with some mouth-watering properties on hand: the

latest of several developments is El Agua Suites, with 52 apartments, as well as double suites and 46 single suites. There's a recreational area with swimming pool, lobby bar, green areas and solarium and prices start from \$79,688 (€50,656) Conor's enthusiasm can be quite infectious, but if you're interested you can always check it out at the number below. It's a duty free island with just 0.5% sales tax and 2.5% buying tax. Conor: "If capital growth and guaranteed rental income were not enough to entice purchasing property, investors benefit from the virtual absence of property related taxes and costs."

For me, though, it's down to the sheer beauty of the island and it's people. And getting back home to

Ireland from the sun, sand and hospitality I was puzzled at why Americans don't seem to be seeing this place, while their neighbours the Canadians are the second-biggest investors. As it happened, I ran into a Canadian friend in my local several days later and was telling him of my enchantment with the place. Interestingly, he said in that quiet way that the best of Canadians have: "I think it may be because we approach South America with no preconceptions while the Americans, with the best will in the world, do have them". Kind of interesting take on things, I thought.

If you're interested, you can email The Right Move Abroad at sales@therightmoveabroad.ie or check out their website at www.therightmoveabroad.ie.

WHY SHOULD AMERICANS FUND BRITISH PERSECUTION IN IRELAND?

Americans are now being asked to invest their tax/pension dollars in the British-controlled Northern Ireland, but are we being told the truth of what is going on there?

Some months ago the British government announced that none of its soldiers or police operatives will ever face prosecution for their involvement in the killings of Catholic civilians, either directly or through collusion with Loyalist paramilitaries during the conflict known as "the Troubles." Yet, ten years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement when everyone is being asked to celebrate and "move on," the British government continues to honour and prosecute Irish republicans for incidents that allegedly occurred decades ago during those same Troubles.

Last year Tyrone man Gerry McGeough stood as an Independent Republican in the March, 2007 Assembly Elections. As he exited the vote-counting center in Omagh following the poll, McGeough, who is the editor of THE HIBERNIAN magazine, was arrested in a major RUC/PSNI operation with the mass media only yards away. The very public arrest was an act of blatant political intimidation. Gerry (www.fragerry.com) was interrogated and charged with the wounding of a British soldier during the Hunger Strikes of 1981. More than a year later, his movements are severely restricted, surveillance terrorizes his family, and no evidence has been presented against him.

While the British government immortalizes mass murderers of the Occupied Irish, it continues to harass, frame and imprison Occupied Irish innocents, and the US government continues to treat Pol Brennan (www.polbrennan.com), and other honorable Ex-IRA men as if they had perpetrated heinous crimes like the immortalized British. Ditto the "Irish" government re Michael McKevitt (www.michaelmckevitt.com) and others. How does such injustice nurture Peace? Wouldn't any American rebel against it? Above all, why should any American fund such crimes?

Please ask Sen. Barack Obama, 312-834-3586; Sen. Richard Durbin 312-353-0158; NY City Comptroller Wm. Thompson 212-669-3508, Fax 212-669-3787

For the identity of the terrorists, see www.terrorinireland.org

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THE 6-COUNTIES; BRITISH? Or are they Irish? Are counties Derry, Tyrone, Antrim, Armagh, Down, and Fermanagh parts of Britain or parts of Ireland? Are our relatives and friends who were born in those counties Irish as they claim and as their ancestors have been since prehistory, or are they British? This is a burning question, created by the Good Friday Agreement (though it was a point of contention). Island-wide, descendants of the original inhabitants self-identify as Irish while the British invaders and their descendants self-identify as British (only in Occupied Ireland). In 1920 the British gov't, while threatening "immediate and terrible war," partitioned Ireland and claimed temporary dominion over the above-named counties. Ireland's Constitution contradicts (or did contradict) Britain's claim. Its Article 2 states; "The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas." Article 3 states "Pending the re-integration of the national territory, and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and Government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Eireann and the like extra-territorial effect."

CELEBRATE! - we are told. Celebrate the "peace" the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) has brought to Ireland! (What a lie! The lie benefits only Britain as the killing had peaked in 1973 and was down to near zero years prior to that "agreement.") The GFA text is 68 pages of baffle-gab, mutual contradictions and aspirational posturing with one-third page of clarity. That one-third page demanded rescission of the said Articles 2 and 3. Thus, though Irish republicans had fought the Brits to a stand-still, Ireland's gov't handed Britain the Six Counties. What other nation, other than losers in war, has ever surrendered some twenty percent of its national territory and inhabitants? While we are told to celebrate, British M.P.s have actually been celebrating. Their celebrations continue, though less frequently, on Chicago TV at 8 p.m. every Sunday. BBC's "Prime Minister's Questions" airs the previous Wednesday's parliamentary session. Usually both parties to an agreement can celebrate. But what the Brits so triumphantly celebrate is their "defeat of IRA terrorism," the incorporation of "Ulster" into Britain, and the GFA-achieved, permanent Britishness of "Ulster." Their spooks and soldiers, immunized perpetrators of war crimes, now sell their criminal expertise internation-

ally, including to our US gov't in Iraq, on the basis of their success in Ireland.

"TERRORISM," what the

Brits claim to have defeated, is their permanent policy in Ireland. They, not Irish republicans, are the terrorists. The murder of children is the very essence of terrorism; and of the 174 children murdered during the struggle's recent phase, all but 20 were murdered by Brits. See my www.terrorismireland.org for details. (Let's remember that though each Irish murderer of those twenty is as fully terrorist as the Brits who murdered the 154; the difference in scale of terrorism is important.) We must stop acquiescing to Brit terrorism, and must speak up when Irish republicans are smeared as "terrorists."

"CHILD" It is edifying to know that one definition of "child" in republican Greece was; "a nonparticipant in the issues of one's era." It is tragic that so many Irish meet that definition of "child." Moral weakness ("respectability") keeps too many Irish and even Irish-Americans from fulfilling their obligations to, respectively, free Ireland, and restore U.S. law. It is the obligation of Ireland's people to assume stewardship of their nation (and its oil-and-gas resources). Similarly, Americans must end the Bush policy of torture, etc.

CELEBRATE WHAT? We know that the Brits are celebrating the GFA; the BBC has shown M.s of P. innumerable times claiming credit for "defeating IRA terrorism" and for locking the 6-Counties into Britain forever. Instead of banning the summer-long, triumphalist marches through Catholic neighborhoods, the Brit gov't now markets them as tourist destinations for bible-belt Americans (evidently in the belief that they are KKK, and thus akin to Orangemen). Today the Brits, with all their monarchial, anti-republican hatreds, again rule Occupied Ireland. When told to celebrate, one asks "celebrate what?"

NO WAR CRIMES TRIALS. Why not? Because, contrary to forty years of news reports, nearly all of the war crimes were perpetrated by Brits, and as Helen McClafferty reminds me, the British gov't recently announced that no Brit operative involved will face murder charges, or any charges. Thus the known Brit spook/army/RUC individuals who murdered 33 and maimed 300 in the 27 May 73 car bombings in Dublin and Monaghan are untouchable. Ditto the MI5/RUC/Chicago FBI operatives who turned a republican property bombing into the Omagh atrocity in which 28 died. Others rendered untouchable by the GFA are the Brit army murderers of Bloody Sunday (30 shot, most in the back, of whom 14 died), the bombers of McGurk's pub (15 dead including chil-

dren playing outside) and other atrocities too numerous to mention here. Similarly untouchable are the Brit murderers of the 154 children detailed in my www.terrorismireland.org. Why celebrate restoration of British rule-by-murder in Occupied Ireland?

BRIT PERSECUTION of the Occupied Irish is intensifying. But now some Brit hit-men are members of the Adams/McGuinness gang. The IRA's top leadership, essentially all but Adams, have been exposed as MI5 operatives for decades. Adams own deed exposed him. At the 1989 Irish Northern Aid national convention in Toledo, OH the Chicago attendees discovered his treachery. The first (in 1986) in America to spot Adams as a traitor were New Yorkers including Michael Flannery. They promptly shunned INA and Adams and continued as Friends of Irish Freedom.

JUDICIAL CORRUPTION continues unabated in Occupied Ireland. So do Brit assassinations of persons suspected of pursuing democracy. The infamous (jury-less) Diplock Courts still operate. There is no more justice available to the Occupied Irish today than before. Midnight raids continue. Brit army helicopters swoop down on Catholic schools at closing time, terrorizing the children and photographing the parents there to meet them. Political arrests continue as usual.

MEDIA CORRUPTION precludes democracy there. The news media, which used to report some events albeit in twisted form, now cover up ALL such official crimes. Even political murders (all of which are Brit on Irish) are thus rendered invisible by those who insist that this is "peace." News coverage of the railroading of Michael McKevitt in Dublin in 2003 comprised an all-time example of media corruption. See www.michaelmckevitt.com. The Brits are now "trying" McKevitt and three others, civilly, for the Omagh atrocity (that was perpetrated by Brit forces including FBI operatives).

GERRY MCGEOUGH is a poster child for the GFA and its consequences. He is an ex-IRA man; a published author and exemplary human being, very popular, especially among nuns who knew him in the NY/NJ area and who still pray for him. He was imprisoned for years, in Germany, the US and in Occupied Ireland. To this day Mary and I remain inspired by McGeough's virtue and eloquence in a letter he wrote to a NY Irish newspaper from his German prison cell nearly twenty years ago, calling for unity until Ireland is free. After his release from Long Kesh he earned a history degree from Dublin's Trinity College, married, and became a secondary school history teacher in Dublin and the publisher of a large circulation Catholic newspaper, THE IRISH FAMILY. It is a measure of the success of Britain's Big Lie (about "IRA terrorism") that when some of his students' parents learned of

McGeough's IRA past, they had him fired. When his uncle died and left him the Co. Tyrone farm, Gerry moved to it with his wife and family. He now publishes THE HIBERNIAN magazine. In the March, 2007 Assembly Election Gerry ran as an Independent Republican. As he exited the vote-counting center in Omagh during the count he was arrested in a major RUC/PSNI operation. They interrogated and charged him with the wounding of a British soldier during the 1981 Hunger Strike. They allowed him to bond out only after an intense legal struggle. More than a year later he and his family face continued persecution. Tough bail conditions and intense surveillance restrict his movements and terrorize his family. He attends scheduled court hearings where no evidence is ever brought against him in that 27-year-old case that was never an issue until he ran for office. Since his release each monthly hearing has resulted in a postponement. Thus, the Brit system continues. The immunizers of mass murder treat Gerry and his family as terrorists. See www.freegerry.com

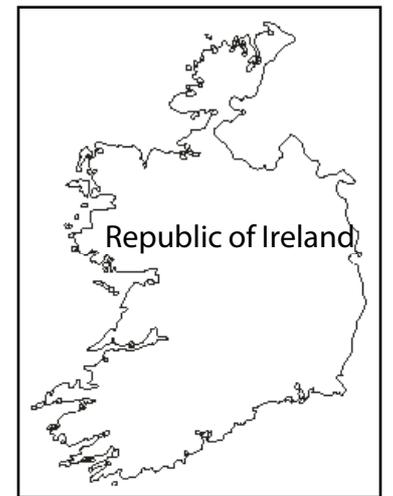
REMISSION TIME for Irish political prisoners has long been 50% (release upon serving half the sentence). Re-enforced by the GFA, the Brit gov't has abolished such remissions for Irish prisoners. Why celebrate? The cream of Ireland are imprisoned and treated thusly by the Brits who simultaneously legally immunize their own mass murderers of the Occupied Irish.

WHY FUND CRIME? It is hard to believe, but true, that the NY Comptroller has pledged to place \$150 million of pension funds into shares of corporations in Occupied Ireland. See the announcement of it elsewhere in this edition. Earlier NY comptrollers had provided vital impetus to the MacBride campaign for fair employment in Northern Ireland by planning to defund companies whose N.I. branches participated in the Brit policy of denial of jobs to Catholics. (When, in 1973 after a bloodily-suppressed but successful 5-year campaign for the vote in Occupied Ireland, the Brits responded to the threat posed by Irish voters by pressuring employers to deny jobs to Catholics to force them out of the country, thus off the voter rolls.) Irish-America responded with the MacBride campaign throughout the State legislatures. It required that US corporations in which State funds were invested not participate in that job-denial policy. Illinois was the 10th or 11th US State to enact it. State Rep John McNamara led and advised. In Chicago's City Council our champ was Alderman Tom Murphy. It later became US law. But now, due to the GFA, the very companies we once divested from are still denying jobs to Catholics but will soon be invested in by the NY Comptroller's questionable successor.

THE BRITS WON; Irish-America proved a push-over. Irish-American newspapers and radio shows, under

British gov't influence, purged their more patriotic reporters, banned truth-tellers from their radio stations, and began pushing the Brit line. For example, mere weeks after the 1998 enactment of the GFA a Chicago Irish radio show announced "the longest-married couple in Britain." A Kerry woman had married a man from Co. Tyrone where they lived the rest of their long lives; thus becoming the longest-married couple in BRITAIN (Tyrone is in Britain!!!). "Leaders" competed to claim "credit" for the GFA. Gerry Adams, the traitor, is their hero. Here is the monstrous "Ireland" they have created.

How do you like the new shape of official Ireland? Britain created it, abetted by the Adams/McGuinness gang, the Irish gov't, and some who misrepresented themselves as Irish-America's leaders. We all know the latter. Prior to promot-



ing the GFA some were (still are) moles for MI5/FBI and, with others, impugned campaigners for the MacBride Principles and for freedom for Joe Doherty and other issues.

IRISHHOLOCAUST.ORG demolishes all "Irish Famine" books ever written. It does so by revealing the abundant food that Brit reg'ts removed at gunpoint to Ireland's ports for export. The site's map names all 75 reg'ts and the specific Irish district each was assigned to starve, so if you know your ancestors' homeplace(s) you can learn which Brit reg'ts starved them. The site has existed for about a decade. Previously we distributed it in pamphlet form starting in 1995. I had discovered it was a genocide and not a famine in 1983 while doing other research at Britain's Public Record Office. In 1995, when Ireland's then-President Mary Robinson, on the 150th anniversary of its beginning, called it a "natural disaster," I began refuting that lie. Bearing false witness about murder is evil, but covering up a genocide of more than 5.25 millions is monstrous. Last month irishholocaust.org was visited by 2,300 in 44 countries and every US State except Mississippi. It will soon include additional data. Once that is done I will complete a fuller version, in book form. fogartyc@att.net or 312-664-7651

FOX Chicago School Challenge Raises Big Money for St. Baldrick's Foundation

FOX Chicago has helped raise \$1,000,000 to benefit the St. Baldrick's foundation, announced Patrick Mullen, the station's Vice President and General Manager. The funds raised by the station's efforts, led by anchor Patrick Elwood, will benefit cancer hospitals across the country including eight in the Chicago area.

In making the announcement, Mullen stated, "This is an enormous undertaking and we truly appreciate Patrick's hard work and dedication, as well as the support of staff members who participated in the St. Baldrick's Day events."

As part of the FOX Chicago's involvement, Elwood challenged area students to participate in St. Baldrick's Day activities. More than 3,800 students from 44 schools answered the

call by agreeing to have students get pledges and shave their heads to help raise money.

Elwood added, "I'm so proud of all the students across the city that went bald for this great cause. Our work together shows you're never too young to make a difference."

St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family. This is the fourth year that FOX Chicago has been involved with the organization.

More information on The St. Baldrick's Foundation can be found at www.stbaldricks.org.



New Website to Help Immigrants

The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) has launched a new website designed to provide a gateway to information about all the Irish Centers across the US and the services they offer. "The website is another part of the safety net that Irish Centers offer to immigrants, it is a valuable tool that can assist people to find the information, advice or help that they need," said Sheila Gleeson, the Coalitions Executive Director.

Founded in 1996, the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) is a national

umbrella organization of Irish Immigrant advice centers throughout the United States. Member Centers provide direct services to immigrants in the US including immigration and visa advice and information.

The revamped website is milestone in the growth of the Coalition, featuring many pictures from member centers across the US. The website was a collective effort that reflects the warmth of the welcome and the professionalism of the services provided by each center. www.ciic-usa.org

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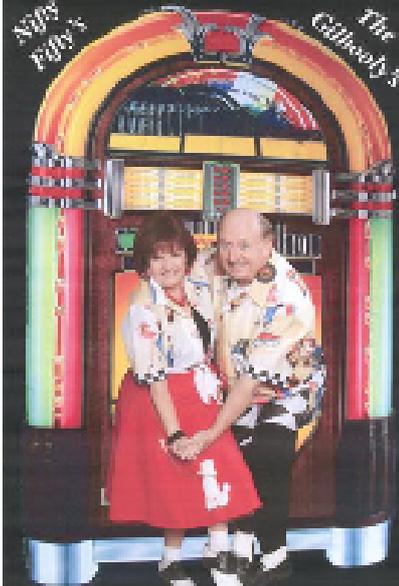
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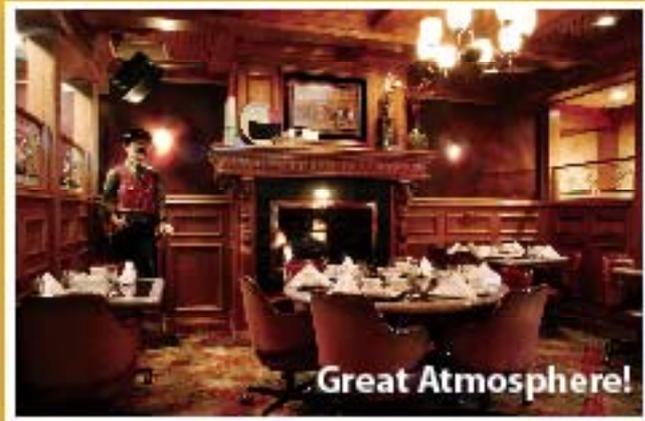


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