



August • 2008

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12th Annual

CELTIC FEST CHICAGO

Presented by The City of Chicago and flyNovaScotia.com

September 13-14, Grant Park, 11am - 9:30pm Daily
Come see our new festival layout!

SEPTEMBER 13

**The Elders
Great Big Sea**

SEPTEMBER 14

**Old Blind Dogs
Leahy**

Over 100 Music and Dance Performances
Enjoy our new Celtic Cultural Tent and Blarney Stop Beer Tent



Men in Kilts
Lag Coplest
Celtic Crossroads Stage
Sept 13, 4:50pm

FREE ADMISSION

City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor



The Elders



Great Big Sea



Old Blind Dogs



Leahy

For a complete line up,
please visit the website

www.celticfestchicago.us

flyNovaScotia.com

Chicago Tribune

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12th Annual Celtic Fest Chicago

The 12th Annual Celtic Fest Chicago has a new look bringing old world charm to the lake front September 13 and 14. This year's festival features an array of entertainment from popular musical acts to traditional bagpipers to sheepherding! Among the 150+ performers at this year's festival, The Elders and Great Big Sea will grace the stage at the Petrillo Music Shell on Saturday, September 13 at 6pm. Closing out the fest on Sunday, September 14 at 6pm will be Old Blind Dogs and Leahy. Celtic Fest Chicago is a FREE public event located in Grant Park and runs from 11am to 9:30pm both days.

Celtic Fest Chicago celebrates the art and culture of the seven ancient Celtic nations with performers from Ireland; Brittany, France; Galicia, Spain; Scotland; the Isle of Man; Cornwall; Wales; plus the United States and Canada.

The Elders perform on Saturday, September 13 at 6pm. After The Elders warm up the stage, feel the spirit of Great Big Sea, a Canadian folk-rock group that took the industry by storm back in the early 90s.

The Scottish Heavy Athletics Competition takes place Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 2:30pm on Butler Field. For a slower tempo, check out sheepherding at Noon and 2pm both days at the same location. Spectators

will also enjoy the Bagpipe Parade at 11am and 3pm daily. And just in case kids want to get in on some fun, there will be a Wee Ones Play Area for them to interact in the Celtic Fest spirit.

Also, be sure to check out the Celtic Art Fair, which offers traditional Celtic items such as hand-crafted jewelry, paintings, and other authentic gifts, and has been relocated to the North Rose Garden this year. After perusing the art vendors' stands, take a load off at the Coffee and Tea Garden which is in the same location.

Ladies it's back! The 3rd Annual Men in Kilts Leg Contest. Guys, get in touch with your Celtic side, grab a kilt and head to the Celtic Crossroad Stage on Saturday, September 13 at 4:50pm for the Men in Kilts leg contest! All brave lads can enter the day of the contest beginning at 11am until 4pm at the Media Tent located at Columbus and Jackson.

On Sunday, September 14 at 6pm one of Scotland's favorite folk bands, Old Blind Dogs, will perform at the Petrillo Music Shell. The group's traditional Scottish folk flavor representing the folk tradition of the "North Eastern shoulder" of Scotland.

Sunday night's headliner, Leahy, has had an impressive track record in its own right. Be prepared to feel the unstoppable force of talent and energy from the Canadian powerhouse of eight musical brothers and sisters who have been playing together their entire lives.

For those who can't wait until the official Festival, the preview

performances the week prior to the main event are the perfect complements. The Willis Clan is scheduled to perform on Tuesday, September 9 at Noon at Daley Plaza, at Clark and Washington. On Thursday, September 11 at 6pm the Chicago Cultural Center will present a film screening of Francis O'Neill: The Police Chief Who Saved Irish Music. To close off the Celtic Preview series, Errigal will perform in the Randolph Cafe at the Cultural Center on Friday, September 12 at Noon. FREE and open to the public.

Celtic Fest Chicago is presented by the Mayor's Office of Special Events and flyNovaScotia.com. For more information and a complete schedule call the Mayor's Office of Special Events at (312) 744-3315 or visit www.celticfestchicago.us.



The Elders

Gaelic Storm at Beverly Art Center

The band that was discovered by James Cameron and featured in Titanic is still going strong after 10 years, and will be playing at the Beverly Arts Center on August 8th at 8:00pm. Gaelic Storm is a highly-acclaimed Celtic band. Their music ranges from traditional Irish and Scottish music to original tunes, in both the Celtic and

Celtic rock genres. Their dynamic stage show features rousing, upbeat vocals, wild energetic dance tunes, haunted Celtic ballads and infectious madcap humor!

The Beverly Arts Center is located at 2407 W. 111th St. in Chicago. For more info, call 773.445.3838 or visit www.beverlyartcenter.org.

13th Annual Fox Valley Irish Festival

Fox Valley Irish Festival will be held on Friday, Sept. 5 from 5-11pm, Saturday, Sept. 6 from noon-11pm, and Sunday, Sept. 7 from noon-7pm. The fest is located on the grounds of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Routes 31 and 72, in West Dundee, two miles north of I-90 and across the street from Spring Hill Mall.

This festival offers a lively line up of musical entertainers, plenty of Irish dancing, a variety of Irish and American food, Celtic Marketplace, "Wee Folk" area (\$3 admission) and much more.

There will be a Gaelic Mass on Sunday, Sept. 7th at 11:30am. Admission to the Mass is free with a donation to the food pantry. Doors will open at 10:45am.

The festival takes place rain or shine. All events are outdoors under the main tent. Daily admission is \$8.00, a two-day pass is \$13.00 and a three-day pass is \$20.00. Children under 12 are free with a paid adult; and senior citizens admission is \$6.00. Raise a glass and enjoy three solid days of family entertainment, fun, food, and shopping at the Fox Valley Irish Festival in West Dundee.

For full information, visit the website www.foxvalleyirishfest.com or call (847) 426-2217.

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The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



Freedom of Speech

As some of you know, we now have two newspapers in the Midwest. Chicagoland's Irish American News covering Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan news, (IAN) and IANOhio which covers the entire state of Ohio, parts of Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. I don't often agree with Chris Fogarty, our "no holds barred" columnist in Chicagoland. He has been having his say for many

years in these pages, but when he sent me a link to a column by Bill Moyers, I thought I would share the info with our readers. Rather than go through the lengthy process of asking permission to reprint, here is the link to the story online: www.truthout.org/article/is-fourth-estate-a-fifth-column. The article is titled; Corporate media colludes with democracy's demise. Thanks for this information Chris.

Our newspapers, and others with limited resources can't do a lot to rise above the label of infotainment. What we can do within these pages is provide you with varied, uncensored, popular and unpopular opinions that stir your emotions and give you cause to think. My thanks to all the 20 plus columnists who have their say each month within these pages.

This year's IAHC festival drew large crowds right up to closing time Sunday night. Congratulations to everyone involved. The amount of clean up and planning is unimaginable.

Michigan

The Saline Celtic Festival run by Pat Little was the same weekend in the Ann Arbor, Michigan area. Columnist Frank West and myself drove up and back on Saturday. We were drumming up business for the papers new section featuring Irish/Celtic Michigan news. Look for the pages with bold black letters MICHIGAN. This festival was chosen to host The 2008 Masters Championship of the Highland Heavy Athletic Games. Eileen Ivers and The Kreeblers closed the

show. This two day fest suffered from bad weather forecasts that didn't come true, and from early rain on Saturday. For more info on the fest, check out the blog of Ann (MacLennan) Curtiss at <http://a2brouhaha.blogspot.com/> and www.salineceltic.org.

Great Lakes

Irish Music Festival

Saturday, July 19th, the weather gods were not good to this one day festival in Grand Rapids, Michigan with intermittent rains throughout the day. Headliners Stephen's Green, George Casey, The David Munnely Band and Cathie Ryan entertained the faithful who braved the weather. Fest organizer, Mary Anne Reagan, expects to be back next year.

Ohio

Thanks to the hard work of John O'Brien Jr., and the support of the Ohio Irish American community, IANOhio has now published successfully for twenty consecutive months. We are striving to give you the paper you want, and appreciate your input. Let's make it twenty years!

cliff@iannews.com

COOK COUNTY TAX SALE NOTICE

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This year's Annual Tax Sale will be the fastest ever.

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John F. Kennedy Honored in Hometown

As reported in the New Ross Standard

One of the most important milestones in New Ross' history was created on Sunday with the unveiling of a magnificent commemorative statue to mark the 45th anniversary of President Kennedy's visit to the town in 1963.

Up to one thousand people gathered on the quayside on Sunday afternoon to witness the late President's sister, Jean Kennedy Smith, unveil a life-sized statue dedicated to the memory and legacy of her brother.

Master of Ceremonies, Gay Byrne, who covered President Kennedy's New Ross address as a young reporter, welcomed the throngs of people by sharing his fond memories of JFK's visit to New Ross in 1963.

President Kennedy told us that 'this trip has taken 6,000 miles, three generations and 115 years. Today on behalf of New Ross Town Council I can say that this piece of sculpture has taken 45 years, nine terms of New Ross Town Council and 495 Town Council meetings... This Council and my fellow Councillors can be proud that this project has come to

fruition in our term of office,' said the Cathaoirleach, Ray Lawlor.

In one hundred years from now when the citizens of New Ross, our children's children gather to celebrate the centenary of the unveiling of this sculpture let them celebrate and remember the people of New Ross for our foresight and courage in embracing change with the ability to move forward together for the future,' he added, before the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan addressed the crowd.

I cannot imagine how it must feel for Ambassador Kennedy Smith to be standing here today 45 years after she stood on these quays beside her brother, the then President of the United States for what has happened in the life of her family since then it must be quite overwhelming,' said the Minister for Finance.

Ann Meldon Hugh, who said she was absolutely thrilled' to have won the statue commission, spent the past year working on this sculpture.

I wanted to commemorate the day. The visit to New Ross for John



Fitzgerald Kennedy was a personal and an emotional visit for him and that is what I wanted to convey... I just decided I'd try and conjure the whole emotion and feeling of the visit and to express his enthusiasm and friendliness... but also to put behind him memories and representations of that day,' said Ann.

A recorded address by an Taoiseach Brian Cowen, in which he spoke of his disappointment of not being there, was played to the assembled crowd, before the Guest of Honour addressed the delighted crowd.

Thank you so much for coming here today it brings back wonderful memories for me,' said the former Ambassador to Ireland, who recalled her brother's visit to New Ross.

It was a remarkable trip in so many ways... it was the first time a sitting American President visited Ireland and it was the first time that I travelled with my brother to our ancestral home. I felt I knew the people of New Ross before I ever arrived... It is a time I have cherished ever since and I know my brother felt the same way. He enjoyed his trip to Ireland more than any other of his Presidency... This was the best trip he ever had - there is no doubt in any of our minds just how much of an impact that visit had on him,' said Jean Kennedy Smith, who was presented with a limited edition statue of her late brother by Cathaoirleach Ray Lawlor for the Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

Katharine Sullivan (1918-2008)

We are saddened to receive the news that Katharine Sullivan, the grandmother of Terry and Kevin Moran, passed away on July 13th. She always had a great personality and a nice thing to say about everyone. Terry named his tune, "Katharine's Dance," in her honor. Please pray for the Sullivan/Murphy/Moran family.



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(L-R) Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge #7 President, Mark Donahue presents Distinguished Service Awards to Officers Daniel Conway, Patrick Mulkerrian and Jeffrey Edwards. While on patrol, the officers pursued a fugitive of an armed robbery who pointed his gun at them, and wounded and captured the offender.

2008 One-Page Play Contest Winners

By Sean Callan

Six one page plays were staged as the finalists at Irish Fest 2008. These included Mr. Burgess, a play about the facts of life, Irish style, by local playwright Theresa Chotsky. "I wrote it in an authentic Carlow dialect" she said. Evan Armacost was excellent in the role of Joe and he was ably supported by Barney Farrelly. Proverbs, by Donna Latham of St. Charles, IL was another finalist. All of the lines in Proverbs consist of proverbs constructed to tell a tale of marital break up and make up in an Irish village pub. The audience enjoyed the pithy word play.

The overall best play award went to The Hannigans of Beverly by John William Tuohy, McLean, VA. The play, directed by Brad Armacost, depicted five generations of a Chicago Irish immigrant family coming

full circle. Each character spoke in an engaging monologue. Josephine Craven was excellent in the dual roles of Bidy and Prof. Pat Hannigan.

Runner-up in the contest was Five Act Tragedy by John J. Conley, Baltimore, MD. The play, directed by Robert Ayers, was a comedy of a play within a play. A narrator described a succession of scenes and Gen Pepsnik and Tim O'Sullivan displayed great vim and vigor in playing out each scene.

Third place went to Knockin' by Robin Pond, Toronto, Canada. The play, directed by Josephine Craven, was a comedic case of mistaken identity told in rhyme. The scintillating comics were Vera Kelly and Kevin Cassidy.

Other actors who performed in the Fest were Kate McNally and Chris Keaveney.

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Bishop Paprocki To Lead Pilgrimage to Ireland

Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki and George Jackson III will be running the Dublin Marathon on October 27, 2008 to raise funds for the Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc. George Jackson will also be running the Chicago Marathon on October 12th and hopes to run a third marathon, all within 30 days. The Dublin Marathon will be Bishop Paprocki's 15th marathon to generate funds for charity, raising more than \$232,000.00.



As part of the Marathon Fund-raiser, the Clinic will be raffling off a Trip for Two to Classic Ireland on a Pilgrimage hosted by the Bishop from October 20 - October 28, 2008. Other raffle prizes are a Toshiba 19" HD LCD TV and Two Tickets to see Meet Me In St. Louis at the Drury Lane Water Tower. The raffle tickets are \$25.00 each, or five for \$100.00.

All proceeds will benefit the Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.

Highlights of the pilgrimage to Ireland include the majestic Cliffs of Moher, romantic ruins of castles &

abbeys, OL Knock Shrine & Dublin Marathon. The trip is available to the public through Best Catholic Pilgrimages. If a person who has paid for the pilgrimage wins the raffle for the First Prize trip for two to Ireland, monies paid for the pilgrimage will be refunded.

Bishop Paprocki and Mr. Jackson have been running for years as a hobby. But through their participation with the Chicago Legal Clinic, have converted (no pun intended) their running into access to justice for Chicagoans in need. They often train together and are quite competitive. No matter who has the best time this year, the winners are people who need legal services, but cannot afford a private attorney. The Clinic will serve over 13,000 people in the coming year on matters ranging from domestic violence to foreclosure defense.

CLC's mission is to identify legal needs and provide community-based quality legal services and education to the underserved and disadvantaged in the Chicago area, thereby promoting justice through greater access to the legal system. The clinic's co-founders remain active in the organization today. Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, serves as president of CLC and Edward Grossman continues to serve as the agency's executive director. George Jackson III is a member of CLC's Board of Directors and serves on its Executive Committee.

To request information on the pilgrimage to Ireland or to purchase raffle tickets, call Lisa Paulsen at 773-731-1762 or e-mail specialevents@clclaw.org. All raffle pledges must be received by September 2, 2008. The drawing will be held on September 3, 2008.



IAN Publisher Cliff Carlson had the pleasure of meeting Padraig Harrington in Glenview, IL during a golf clinic sponsored by Wilson Staff. Congratulations to Padraig on his second consecutive British Open championship (story on page 31.)

Elgin Children's Chorus Auditions

The Elgin Children's Chorus will hold auditions on Monday, August 11th from 5-7pm and Monday, August 18th from 4-6pm for the 2008-2009 season at the Arts Center at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Dr. in Elgin. Membership is open to all area children with unchanged voices, ages 7 through 16. Chorus members come from over 55 different schools within 18 school districts.

The audition is designed to be a simple process that will place singers at ease. The ability to read music is not required. The essential chorister attitude is one that desires to work hard learning great music. To prepare for the audition, you may want to brush up on "My Country 'tis of Thee," and the round "Are You Sleeping?" To schedule an audition, please visit www.elginch.org or call 847-931-7464.

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Waterford Crystal Signing Event in November



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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



"The Brothers"

How many former "CBS" men and boys realize that the founder of the

Irish Christian Brothers that gave us free quality education with a strong patriotic commitment to Ireland, as well as a Christian vision, was inspired by a relatively well-off Kilkenny man? He was Brother Edmund I. Rice, who was born during the complete English domination of Ireland, where the access to education was the main instrument of the Protestants. He was educated in a Hedge school, and attended Burrell College in Kilkenny city. He later settled in Waterford, where his uncle was a wealthy merchant.

Tragedy struck shortly after he married, leaving him with an invalid daughter. He was concerned about the unfortunate plight of Irish prisoners and helped in many ways. He was also concerned by the crowds of young people who ran about the streets of Waterford, and decided to do something about it. After making sure that his daughter was in good hands with his family, he sold his business and opened his first school for poor homeless boys. Later, with the help of some friends from Callan, Co. Kilkenny where he was born, he opened his second school, Mount Sion, in Waterford city. In due course, the CBS tradition spread abroad to Britain, U.S., Africa, Australia and even Gibraltar; over 30 countries in all.

Irish-American Swimmer Helps Break National Record

Young Irish-American swimmer Ed Hunt, with others in relay, helped to break the national record for this event at the Texas Age Group championship recently. Other swimmers were Seth Stubblefield, Cole Brewer and Zack Walters.

They posted a time of 7.05.66 to drop more than two seconds from the national age record for the 13-14 800 free relay. More than 50 Texas top teams competed.

This event has long been regarded as one of the premier events leading up to potential Olympic Games placing, so it was a very important win for the young swimmers. We wish them every success and no doubt we will be reading more about them in future.

Young Ed Hunt is the son of John Hunt Jr. and his charming wife who reside in Texas and we offer them our sincere congratulations. And of course young Ed is the pride and joy of our own John Hunt, Sr., legendary Irish Nationalist in the Chicago and Midwest area. Congratulations all around.

Love for Ireland, its culture, games, language, song, dance and music was always taught in CBS schools. I learned my hurling and national pride in Kilkenny city, CBS. For all his heroism and inspiration, Edmund Rice was beatified by Pope John II in 1996, and will hopefully be sainted someday. Readers are asked to pray for his canonization. One "miracle" has already been attributed to his intercession; one more is needed for sainthood. The prayer for a favour is, "O God, look graciously on your son, Edmund Rice and be pleased to grant many favours and graces through his intercession, so that all may know he now enjoys Eternal Life, through Christ Our Lord. Amen."

Lots of Action at Gaelic Park

Lots of action, skill and stamina can be expected on the playing field of Gaelic Park during the month of August, with hurling and Camogie (Ladies hurling), Gaelic football teams, men and women, and juveniles competitions. Winning teams will represent Chicago in the North-American GAA playoff over the long weekend in September.

Champions in all codes will take on the best of other cities in the playoff. Last year Chicago won five titles, against including some "big ones"—Cuchillians in hurling and St. Brendans in football. St. Bridgets also captured the ladies senior football title.

The forced withdrawal of Harry Bolands in senior hurling and Wolfe Tones in senior football from competition this year was caused by the unfairness of the present U.S. Immigration laws which virtually excluded young Irishmen and women from coming here. Herculean efforts are being made all around to right this wrong and allow western Europeans, Irish, English, French and others to be given proper recognition in Visa selection, if for no other reason, than due to the mighty contribution of our earlier Irish ancestors in building and defending this great country.

As I have often written in this column, the problem dates back to the changing of the U.S. Immigration laws in 1965, because of what President Harry Truman and Congress declared was discrimination against some countries. No doubt some discrimination was evident

in the old National Quota System, which was adopted in 1920 and under which all of us who came here in the mid-forties entered the country legally.

But Congress failed to research all the angles in changing the old law, such as the Irish pattern of immigration, and all the new law did was to reverse the discrimination, therefore handicapping the Irish and other western Europeans. For example the new law was based on family unification. A good solid reason. But in the distribution of Visas the first year, 1967, the Irish only received a few hundred, whereas other countries with other patterns of immigration, brought in whole families, numbering in the thousands. And that's the way it's been since.

The American-Irish Immigration National Committee, of which I was Chicago chairman, pointed out the wrong and the harm it would do. With the aid of other countries we got the Rodina bill passed in the House, but unfortunately it "died" in the senate. The bill "would not handicap countries like Ireland" and would allow a floor number of 10,000 Visas annually to the Irish and other western Europeans. The State Department and Congress made that promise, "No country will be handicapped." Unfortunately, it was never kept. Had it been in effect over the years there would be very few, if any "undocumented Irish" today. The Irish received a fair amount of Visas in the 80's but that was only part of what is due. The Irish Immigration Reform Movement should look into this unfairness; but they have their own way of doing things.

Benefit for Young Athlete

Please don't forget the date for the fundraiser for the young Chicago athlete, Chris Doherty. He is the 12-year-old St. Symphorosos student on the southwest side of the city who developed Hodgkins Lymphoma. The date is Sunday, September 28, at Hawthorne Racecourse, 3501 So. Laramie in Hickory, 4-10pm.

You can help by sending a check payable to KICKIN4CHRIS, to Fifth-Third Bank, 5235 West 63rd. Street, Chicago, IL 60638, or visit www.kickn4chris.com for more information. Chris's parents are John and Debbie Doherty

continued to page 16

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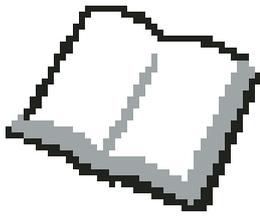
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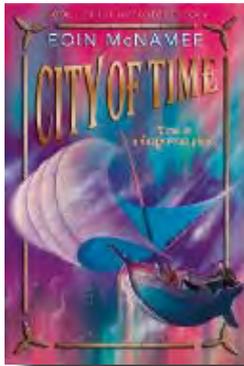


Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Time is Running Backward!



Imagination. How central this is to Irish literature! Imagination of a different reality is a theme that occurs repeatedly in Irish literature.

If we believe in something, does it become real? If we believe in a reality different

from our own, does it become real? What is human imagination? Where does it come from? Is it part of being a human being? How can imagination be developed and enriched? The book's press release says: "... a powerful ice people are trying again to run time backwards, erasing the very existence of mankind."

Eoin McNamee wrote this book of fantasy for children (ages 9+14) and hopes it will "... be part of the enfolding of a child's imagination."

It is the second novel in the trilogy about time. I reviewed his first book in this series, *The Navigator*, in the spring of 2007.

McNamee has written award-winning novels for adults, and now writes science fiction for children. He lives in Sligo with his wife and two children. Time for us flows from the past to the present, to the future. But what if it were made to flow backwards? Eventually would be nothingness, just emptiness.

In this fantasy thriller, powerful enemies of our humanity and jealous of human society, plot to reverse time "so that all that is left is emptiness, nothingness."

These fantastical evil-doers scheme to have the earth run out of time. For us time is eternal and unchangeable. But what if it is finite, like

Stalking Irish Madness

By Patrick Tracey

In this powerful, sometimes harrowing, deeply felt story, Patrick Tracey journeys to Ireland to track the origin and solve the mystery of his Irish-American family's multi-generational struggle with schizophrenia.

As long as Tracey could remember, schizophrenia ran on his mother's side, seldom spoken of outright but impossible to ignore. Devastated by the emotional toll the disease had already taken on his family, terrified of passing it on to any children he might have, and inspired by the recent discovery of the first genetic link to schizophrenia, Tracey followed his genealogical trail from Boston to Ireland's county Roscommon, home of his oldest-known schizophrenic ancestor. In a renovated camper, Tracey crossed the Emerald Isle to investigate the country that, until the 1960s, had the world's highest rate of institutionalization

the sun's energy?

The characters in the book become aware of this attempt to change time. "the fabric of space and time is loosening... as it does so, gravity is... getting stronger. The earth is starting to pull the moon closer."

"Gravity keeps the moon in orbit around the earth..."

"Soon gravity will bring the moon to within a few hundred miles of earth, and then..."

"When the moon is so close it will cause havoc—massive tides, tsunamis, ... earthquakes."

Owen, the Irish boy who is the hero of these novels, realizes that the cause is the reversal of time. He realizes that this "was another attempt to plunge his world into darkness and emptiness."

"...This is a fantastical world, complete with brand new page-turning action, ingenious inventions and extraordinary characters..." says the press release.

Although written for children, I found *City of Time* strongly held my attention. The writing is suspenseful, colorful and uses words of a high order.

As a former teacher, I recommend *City of Time* as a wonderful way to encourage children to learn new vocabulary and to use vivid phrases.

Teenagers and adults will enjoy this mind-expanding book.

City of Time by Eoin McNamee. Random House—Wendy Lamb Books, New York, 2008. 336 pages; \$19.99. www.randomhouse.com/kids.

News of Irish Plays?

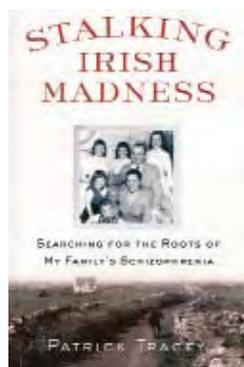
We have a rich tradition of Irish theater: a golden sense of imagination and uncompromising truthfulness. I love to see those plays and to write about them.

Please send news of upcoming productions of plays written by Irish or Irish American playwrights to me at IAN's mail address or email me at: fwest@iannews.com.

for mental illness, following clues and separating fact from fiction in the legendary relationship the Irish have had with madness.

Filled with history, science, and lore, *Stalking Irish Madness* is an unforgettable chronicle of one man's attempt to make sense of his family's past and to find hope for the future of schizophrenic patients.

Stalking Irish Madness: Searching for the Roots of My Family's Schizophrenia by Patrick Tracey. Bantam Dell Publishing Group, New York, 2008. Hardcover; 288 pages; \$24.00. www.randomhouse.com.



Something for Every Irish American



Finding Your Chicago Irish is a wonderful book! I've put off writing this review because I want to do this exciting book justice, and tell Chicago Irish Americans how helpful and informative it is.

The book's 192 pages are packed with information about all kinds of events that Irish American would enjoy. The author put in an enormous amount of time and effort to compile the data. Much of it was gathered first hand when she went to these events and interviewed the people involved.

There is information here about Irish American sports events, restaurants, music, radio, film, even shopping! To put it simply, there is something in this book for everyone.

Included in *Finding Your Chicago Irish* are addresses, phone numbers and often websites for all these places and events.

The author, Sharon Shea Bossard, and her husband, live in the Chicago area. She's

a member of several organizations, including the Illinois Women's Press Association and the Writers' Workshop of Barrington. To learn more about her, go to her website: www.findingmyirish.com.

Her first book, *Finding Your Irish*, received excellent reviews (including one in this column). And it "... has been featured on numerous radio and television talk shows in Ireland and the United States."

I especially enjoyed the section about theater, I have seen, and liked, several productions by the Seanachai Theatre Company, the Shapeshifters Theatre Company and the Gaelic Park Players.

Each of these ensembles provide "compelling productions and programs that focus the energy of artists on the common goal of exceptional storytelling."

I was personally interested in Bossard's discussion of the *Irish American News*. This outstanding newspaper serves the Irish American community. Pardon me for favoring it, but we keep you "... up-to-date on all things Irish in Chicago and throughout the world." The author sums up with this comment about the newspaper: "this entertaining, informative newspaper will become a household fixture."

The book is well written; uses a lively writing style; is carefully researched; and a joy to peruse. And fun to use.

Finding Your Chicago Irish by Sharon Shea Bossard. Lake Claremont Press, Chicago, 2008. 192 pages; \$16.95. www.lakeclaremont.com.

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6th Annual Long Grove Irish Days



Long Grove Irish Days festival runs August 30 and 31, September 1, 2008 (Labor Day weekend) from 11am to 7pm each day.

This celebration of all things Irish is three fun-filled days of music, dance, food and fun in historic downtown Long Grove. Live performances throughout the event feature well known

Irish musicians, as well as Irish step dancing from the area's finest dancing schools.

Performances include Gavin Coyle, Baal Tinne, Katie Sullivan Band, Three Men in Kilts, the Jeff Ward Band, and Donnybrook. The Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band will appear all three days. (See www.LongGroveOnline.com for a complete music schedule).

Kevin Horton, two-time world Irish dance medalist will be on hand to perform. Kevin, originally from Mundelein, is in his 6th year with Riverdance, the renowned Irish Dance troupe. Also performing will be Anam Mor's Tyler Schwarz, the All Ireland dance champion.

Highlights of the three-day festival also include:

- "Best Legs in a Kilt Contest" – 6:20pm each evening. Winners will take home a trophy and bragging rights. Bring your own kilt or borrow one from Paddy's on the Square that day.

- Irish Dog Contest – every dog is Irish this weekend. Registration for dog prince, princess, king, and queen are ongoing from 11 to 3 pm daily at the Dog House, located at 405 Robert Parker Coffin Road in downtown Long Grove. (Phone 847-634-3060).

- Enjoy plenty of Irish food and drink, provided by Winston's. Long Grove restaurants, bakeries and specialty food shops will also have assorted Irish goodies, as well as their regular menus.

- Visit cultural tents, including an Irish travel tent, a genealogy tent, Gaelic tent and the Irish American Heritage Center of Chicago tent.

- The Wee Ones Activity Center offers crafts, games and storytelling.

- A town-wide "Saving O' the Green" summer clearance sale.

- Pint glass give-away – save receipts from Long Grove Shops for a total \$150 or more, and receive a FREE Long Grove Irish Days pint glass.

- Free admission, free parking and free live entertainment. Long Grove Irish Days is sponsored by Paddy's on the Square and The Irish Boutique.

Located near Routes 53 and 83, just north of Lake Cook Road, Long Grove Historic Village is a picturesque and historic village with buildings that date back to its early beginnings in the 1800s. These charming buildings of yesteryear now house an exceptional variety of contemporary shops, galleries, and restaurants for today's lifestyles. www.LongGroveOnline.com or call the Visitor's Information Center at 847-634-0888.



Long Grove Music Schedule
Saturday, August 30 — Fountain Square

11am – noon	Academy of Irish Music
12:20 - 12:50	McNulty Irish Dancers
1:10 – 1:40	Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band
2:00 – 3:00	Gavin Coyle
3:20 – 3:50	Irish Dog Contest Awards
4:10 – 4:50	Kevin Horton & Friends Irish Dancers
5:00 – 6:00	Baal Tinne
6:20 – 6:50	Best Looking Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition

Sunday, August 31 — Fountain Square

10:00 – 10:45am	Mass celebrated by Father Ryan, St. Francis de Sales
11:00 – noon	Irish Music School of Chicago
12:20 – 12:50	Trinity Academy of Irish Dance
1:10 – 1:40	Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band
2:00 – 3:00	Katie Sullivan Band
3:20 – 3:50	Irish Dog Contest Awards
4:10 – 4:40	Anam Mor Irish Dancers
5:00 – 6:00	Three Men in Kilts
6:20 – 6:50	Best Looking Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition

Monday, September 1 — Fountain Square

11am – noon	Cu Roi
12:20 – 12:50	Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance
1:10 – 1:40	Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band
2:00 – 3:00	Jeff Ward Band
3:20 – 3:50	Irish Dog Contest Awards
4:10 – 4:40	O'Hare School Champion Irish Dancers
5:00 – 6:00	Donnybrook
6:20 – 6:50	Best Looking Men's Legs in a Kilt Contest

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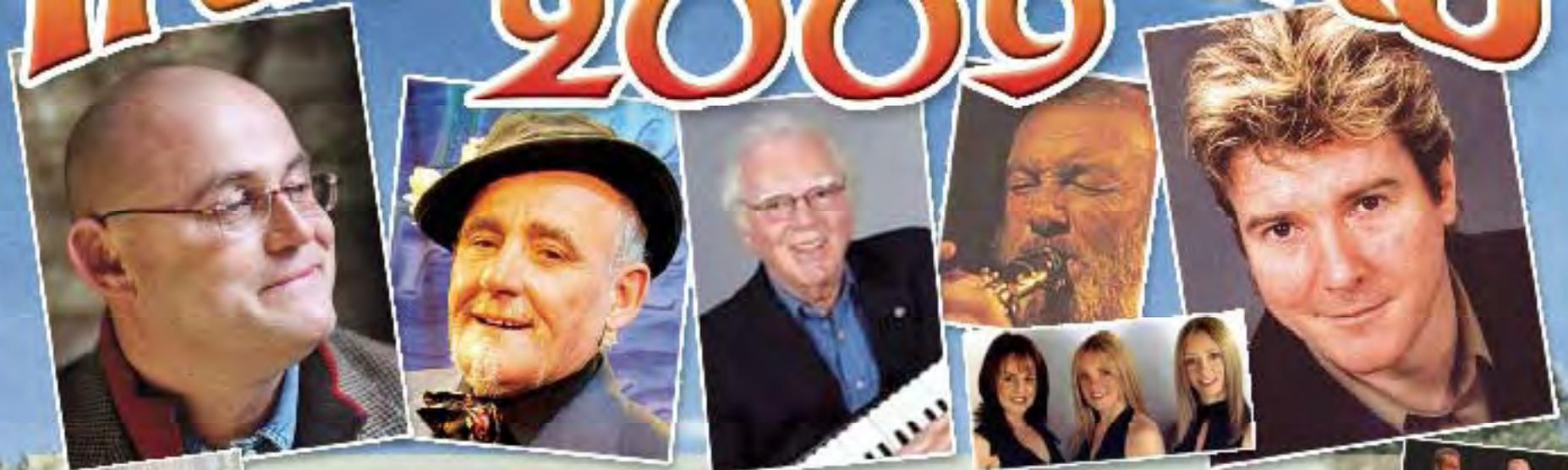


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Mayo Peace Park - Garden of Remembrance

By Michael Feeney, Chairman Mayo Peace Park Committee

County Mayo on the west coast of Ireland was the initial departure point for thousands of Irish emigrants, who made their way to Kingstown Harbour in Cork, to catch the big ocean liners heading to America. They went off to make a new life for themselves; most of them never returned to the land of their birth. America, Canada, Australia and Great Britain were the countries where the Irish emigrated to in those days; rarely mainland Europe.

In 1876, a total of 128 Irishmen served with the seventh Cavalry, it is recorded that three Mayo men were at the battle of the Little Big Horn. They were: Pvt. Thomas Hughes, Company H, who was severely wounded in a hill-top fight but survived the wars; died Aug. 12th, 1911, in Nashville, TN; Pvt. Patrick Kelly, Company E, who died with General Custer's column; and

Pvt. Francis O'Toole, who enlisted on the Dec. 2nd, 1875, and who died sometime later in the Wild West.

The American Civil WarsawthreeMayomen gain very high rank; Bre-vet Major General William Sewell Joyce, NJ, Brigadier General Joseph Walter Burke, OH, and Brigadier General Robert Horatio George Minty. I wondered how many other Mayo men served in those wars, if those three men made it to the top.

While researching the war dead of Co. Mayo from WW I, I found that a large number of Mayo men fought and died with the American Forces, many more died in WW II, and later I discovered five died in the Korean War, and three in Vietnam. Once again I wondered how many Mayo men actually served and how many were injured in those wars—questions which will probably never be answered. Having met many relatives of those men from World War I & II, Korea and Vietnam, I can tell you the grief and anguish is still with them.

In 2008 I was proud to help organise the erection of U.S. Military headstones on the graves of U.S. Army Chaplin Fr. P.J. Gallagher from Errew, Castlebar, Co. Mayo and U.S. Marine Martin Cooney from Achill Island, Co.



Mayo. Their bodies were repatriated to Ireland but their families never had the money to install a grave for them, remaining in unmarked graves for 85 years. Now with the assistance of Patrick Gorman from Dixon, who helped us from the American side, we have developed the graves and installed proper U.S. Military headstones, so that their bravery will not be forgotten. We are grateful to the U.S. Military for their assistance in providing and shipping the headstones, and to Pat Gorman for making the arrangements. The pride in the eyes of the family relatives when the work was completed made it all the hard physical work worth while.

We are now finalising the development of the Mayo Peace Park, Garden of Remembrance, in Castlebar, the county town of County Mayo, which

isto honour and commemorate 1,053 Mayo Soldiers who fought and died with the American, Australian, Canadian and British forces in World War I. It will also honour and commemorate all who served and died in World War II, Spain, Korea, and Vietnam and in recent times those who died with the Irish Army on U.N. Peacekeeping operations in Lebanon.

It may seem strange to an outsider but these brave people were never

PHOTOS - taken at the installation of military headstones for the graves of U.S. Army Chaplin Fr. P.J. Gallagher and U.S. Marine Martin Cooney in May.



commemorated in their own hometowns before now, mainly for reasons rooted in the past. This project is the first of its kind in rural Ireland, and is gaining international focus as perhaps one of the most important commemoration events in the whole of Europe to mark the 90th Anniversary of the ending of World War I.

President of Ireland Mary McAleese will officially open the memorial garden on Oct. 7, 2008; many ambassadors, government ministers and military representatives will attend from a number of countries. There are people returning home from all parts of the world to join in the commemoration celebrations in honour of their loved ones who laid down their lives for world peace in their time. The Irish Army Band of the Western Brigade and the British Army Band of Pipes and Drums from the Irish Guards Regiment from London will

provide musical entertainment for the occasion. A Remembrance concert and a special dinner will mark this unique occasion. Anyone with a military interest is welcome.

The Mayo Peace Park Committee is a volunteer community group dedicated to honouring their war dead. It is dependant on benevolent contributions and is registered as a charity in Ireland in order to raise the funds necessary to complete the €500,000 project. They were fortunate to have the site donated in recognition of their work and commitment and have been given very generous contributions by ordinary people, at home and abroad. This support has brought the project to its present stage of development; another €100,000 is all that is required to finish the project.

Anyone interested in donating or finding out more about the group should visit www.mayomemorialpeacepark.org or www.mayopeacepark.co.

Mrs. Tess Rainey, RIP

The Mayo Peace Park committee in Castlebar County Mayo, Ireland, have expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Tess Rainey of Chicago, who was President of the Chicago Mayo Association and a friend and supporter of this project. She was intending to attend the official opening this October, but God in his wisdom called her home, May she Rest in Peace.

Taoiseach signals new campaign on illegals

Deaglan De Bréadun, Political Correspondent in New York

The Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, yesterday signalled that the Government would be launching a new drive to resolve the issue of the undocumented Irish in the US.

The plight of undocumented Irish people has been an issue for successive Irish governments over many decades. The liberal quota traditionally allocated to Ireland by the US was severely curtailed in 1965 but the Irish government of the day chose not to lobby against the American decision at the time.

More recently, joint legislative proposals from Senators Ted Kennedy and John McCain offered hope that a resolution could be found.

Relations between immigration activists, notably the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform (ILIR), and the administration led by former taoiseach Bertie Ahern finished on a sour note with allegations that the then government was not lobbying with sufficient vigour for a bilateral arrangement between the two countries.

However, after an hour-long meeting

with Mr Cowen, ILIR spokesman Cianran Staunton expressed confidence that a new era in relations with Dublin had begun. "There is no comparison," he said. "Brian Cowen fully understands the issues." He recalled that Mr Cowen as minister for foreign affairs was responsible for setting up a task force on the diaspora and had subsequently established the Irish Abroad unit in the department, charged with looking after the welfare of Irish citizens overseas.

Speaking to a gathering of several hundred at the Irish Consulate on New York's Park Avenue, Mr Cowen said Irish immigration to the US was "an issue that will be a priority for me" in the coming months and years. He also referred to the need for a strategic review of this entire area.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Mr Cowen said that although the number of undocumented Irish in the US was smaller than other ethnic groups, "we always have to remember that behind those statistics there's a human story in each individual case".

As a constituency TD he was particularly aware of "some very difficult situations that people find themselves in".

Minister for Foreign Affairs Michael Martin would be in the US in September, he said, adding: "He'll be lobbying on the Hill (Capitol Hill) on this issue. It's a priority for our administration to try and sort this out.

"The relationship between Ireland and America should be sufficiently strong to accommodate a solution here. What I am aware of is that in an election year this is an area of policy that everyone's steering clear of at the moment.

"We have a responsibility to continue to lobby and do so as effectively as we possibly can. . ."

He said the the Government was prepared to look at a "reciprocal" visa arrangement with the US. "We can perhaps be more proactive on our side in making sure that more Americans, particularly young people who want to come and visit and work in Ireland, that they get the chance to do so as well." This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times.

Fiona McEntee Joins CIIS Board

Fiona McEntee is the most recent Board Member of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support. She was born and raised in Knocklyon, Dublin. During her undergraduate studies, Bachelor of Civil Law, International in University College Dublin (UCD), Fiona embarked on an exchange program. That resulted in a year of law school at DePaul College of Law. After an exciting year in Chicago, Fiona returned to Ireland to finish her undergraduate degree. With Chicago always looming on her mind, she set about a permanent move back to the States.

Fiona has been back full-time in

14th Annual Catskills Irish Arts Week

July 13-19 will see another sensational week in the historic Irish American hamlet of East Durham in upstate NY for the 14th Annual Catskills Irish Arts Week hosted by the M.J. Quill Irish Cultural and Sports Centre. They have assembled another terrific lineup of entertainers who will continue to make the CIAW the place to be for serious fans of Irish traditional music

and dance. For one week every July, the town of East Durham, New York is alive with the sounds and sights of traditional Irish music, dance, crafts and culture. This week only gets better with age as they uphold the very vibrant New York tradition of keeping the music and dance alive and well in the Catskill Mountains. www.east-durham.org/irishartsweek.

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.

If You Are Injured, Beware Of What The Insurance Companies May Be Doing

The day began like most days for a construction worker from Ireland. In the early morning hours, he drove his work van to a construction site. As he sat in traffic waiting to make a turn, a speeding school bus slammed into his van from behind. The force of the impact pushed the van across the street into a drainage ditch.

The young worker was significantly injured in the collision, and was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury. For several years here received treatment

for severe headaches, memory issues and nerve damage to his leg. Despite evaluation from a series of specialists, the injuries were permanent.

As a result, the young man pursued a claim against the bus company's insurance company to receive compensation for his injuries, medical expenses and inability to return back to work in the construction trade.

Logic would suggest that the matter could be resolved given the facts of the case. Unfortunately, rather than

acknowledge its responsibility under the law, the insurance carrier chose to dispute the claim.

How did it do this? Not by having the worker evaluated by a top notch doctor to determine the extent of his injuries. Not by sending the worker for diagnostic tests to measure his physical capabilities. Nor did the insurance company attempt to offer a fair, appropriate settlement. Instead, the insurance company sent out a surveillance team to hide in the bushes and videotape the activities of the young man.

The surveillance team followed the worker for several days. But the insurance company wasn't interested in an accurate depiction of the victim's activities, as no attempt was made to film him as he went to his doctor visits or rehabilitation sessions. Instead, the insurance company presented edited snippets of the young man going to the gas station, going to the store and getting in and out of his car. The insurance company intended to suggest that the severe injuries did not interfere with the man's daily activities or have a significant impact on his life.

The case was tried two years ago resulting in a multimillion dollar verdict. The trial court excluded the insurance company's video from evidence. Recently, the Illinois Appellate Court unanimously held that such edited videotape was improper, and that it was correct to exclude it as evidence. The court explained that edited videotape suggests that an injured person is capable of extended periods of activity, when, in fact, the activities are performed only for a short period.

This case highlights the lengths some insurance companies go to avoid their responsibility. It also serves as a cautionary tale for these individuals with a claim against an insurer. If you have been injured and are making a claim beware. The man in the bushes

might not be a gardener, but a cameraman attempting to paint an unfair and inaccurate picture of your injuries.

In the interim, while the insurance company has refused to settle the matter, one positive thing for the young Irishman is that interest must be paid by the company on the

original verdict at a rate of 9% per year while the insurance company pursues various appeals.



By Kevin T. Veugeler

2008 Irishfest-La Crosse Set for Aug. 8-10

Slated for Aug. 8-10, this year's Irishfest-La Crosse will include familiar favorites such as the Celtic Heavy Athletics, also known as the Highland Games; a kilt run and harp competition; and the ever-popular Irish Toast Contest. But, it will also introduce two new competitions: an Irish Baking Contest and Tug O'War.

In addition to the contests, the three-day festival will feature Irish dance shows, an Irish market and a cultural tent. A wee folks area and tea garden will also be part of the festivities. Of course, traditional Irish music will also be part of the event.

Gaelic Storm, which channels the rowdy feel of an Irish pub on raucous sing-alongs, returns to the festival for the third consecutive year, and Scythian, which performed a rain-shortened but exceedingly memorable set during last year's event has been slated to return. In addition, the Fuchsia band,

one of the top Traditional bands on the tour circuit, makes its debut on the Irishfest-La Crosse main stage. And in a near last-minute booking, the Celtic Tenors, which have established themselves as one of the most successful Classical Crossover artists to come out of Ireland, will also be among the featured acts. Other scheduled acts include harpist Barry Byrne; dulcimer player Leah Haram; the Mickey Finns, the house band at New York City's Paddy O'Reilly's pub; folk artist Turner Collins and na Brioc; crossover sensations The Elders; and harpist and singer Shari Lowe Sarazin.

Admission is just \$6 and grants access to all Irishfest-La Crosse activities on any day - including music.

For more information about Irishfest-La Crosse, including a complete schedule of activities and performance times visit www.irishfestlax.org.

18th Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival

Celebrate the richness of Ireland through lively music, savory Irish food and world championship dancing at the 18th Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival, September 5-6-7, 2008 at Riverplex (between Sandcastle and Waterfront, behind Costco Wholesale) 1000 Sandcastle Drive, West Homestead (Pittsburgh), PA 15120. Hours: Fri.-4pm to midnight, Sat.-11am to midnight, Sun.-9am to 6pm. Admission: \$8.00 adult advance, \$10.00 at the gate, \$8.00 Senior (60+)

and Students with ID, \$5.00 Military Active/Retired with ID, \$3.00 children (3-12 years), under three is free! Tickets can be purchased at the gate or in advance at www.sandcastlewaterpark.com. \$2.00 Admission Friday 4-6pm, Half Price Admission Friday 6-8pm with College ID.

Discover the Irish culture firsthand as you enjoy an authentic Irish marketplace, extensive children's area, and four continuous entertainment and cultural stages. Visit the variety of Irish dogs, dance the jig, play the harp and Irish drum, and learn the Irish language. Celebrate Gaelic Mass on Sunday. There's fun for the entire family.

This year's entertainment includes Gaelic Storm, Pogey, Glengarry Bhoys, Beoga, Screaming Orphans, Gabelle, Cahal Dunne, Dennis Doyle, Michael Murphy and the Shannon River Band, Matthew Craig and The Kerry Tipper Band, Red Hand Paddy, Hooley, Mike Gallagher, Burke Conroy Irish Dancers, Pittsburgh Ceili Club, Pittsburgh Irish Reelers, Bell School of Irish Dance, Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance, Corned Beef and Curry, Terry Griffith, Ballet Academy of Pittsburgh, Mark Guiser, Alan Irvine, Patrick Regan and many more to be announced. (Program subject to change.)

For information call (412) 422-1113 or visit www.pghirishfest.org.

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 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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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Rafferty may have outsmarted himself.

I was impressed with young Rafferty because he showed up at Irish Fest last month in the Fifth Province bar with two young ladies on his arm.

My wife and sons opted for snoozing that gorgeous Sunday afternoon so I lit out alone for the fest. I told the lovely Mary, "There will be plenty of people I know there!"

Circling the Heritage Center in search of parking, I heard someone shout to my car, "Hey you f---ing Irish p----!"

I couldn't see who said it but it felt good knowing that I had been recognized, whether by friend or foe.

Years ago I performed my show, Go'n'East on Ashland, at the Heritage Center and I also have fond memories of some great concerts at this Irish cultural oasis. I've never had a bad time there. I lucked out with a parking spot only two blocks away and marched in to buy my ticket. The young lady at the door questioned me before putting the "over 21" bracelet

on my wrist, "Do you think you might be doing some drinking today?"

I might indeed.

Bumping into Frank McNichols as I walked in the door was serendipity because he had just come from the Michael Collins Whiskey tasting and offered me a free shot glass, "The tasting just ended but there's another one at four."

I'll have to check that out in a couple of hours.

I bought some beer tickets before making my way outside to the food tents and figured I'd set a base with some fish n'chips and lemonade. I was on a mission to find somebody, anybody I knew, maybe even the guy who cursed me out as I drove by earlier.

I cruised the Grafton Street Market, checking out all the Irish gift shop stands. Came across a t-shirt that said "Irish Yoga" and featured pictures of guys passed out in various uncomfortable poses. Real classy.

In the music tent I noticed a young Irish gal in the crowd with tattoos all over her arms, neck, and shoulders.

Can just imagine the parents of the boy who comes home and says, "Mom and Dad I'm gonna marry an Irish gal!" and then shows up with this emblazoned bimbo. Mom says, "Crikey, she's got drawin' all over her bosom!"

Took a tour of the Heritage Center, checked out the new library, very impressive. There was a guy with a brogue beguiling a packed room of micks with tales of Yeats. Maybe someday my book will be discussed here and some turkey bird will deliver a lecture on the insignificance of it all.

Outside again I saw a big fat guy wearing a green t-shirt that said, "Irish Guys Do It Better!" Most of the women there would give him an argument on that one I'm sure.

As I was leaving the beer line a guy offered two extra tickets to the lady bartender, his tip supposed. She turned to me and said, "You want these?"

I do indeed, ma'am. Thank you!

Waltzed through the auditorium where a theatre company was performing a one-act play while a dozen people stared on in distracted boredom. This was uncomfortably familiar to me and I scurried from the scene to the Fifth Province.

There at the bar was none other than our editor and publisher Cliff Carlson with IAN columnists Frank West and Scott Powers. I belled up for a free one and we all engaged in some

high level Irish journalist conversation. Our editor showed off a new camera that he will use to shoot videos and put them on the IAN website. Cliff vanished to chase down another story when I suggested he start putting a centerfold in the paper.

And then Rafferty and his girlfriends showed up. They were perfect foils for Scott, Frank and I to engage in some lighthearted ribbing. The girls wore hats that said, "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" and Rafferty's said, "Fight Me, I'm Irish", which he disavowed.

We learned their names, Fai, Leah, and Raf. He was from Boston and saw an ad in the Red Eye and thought it would be fun to hit the fest with his two nubile friends. I asked them, "Are you enjoying the craic?"

"I beg your pardon?"

We had to explain the term craic as well as Slainté, but they learned fast and the next thing I know the girls are yelling "Slainté" in every direction. Ten minutes later I overhear Rafferty's boyish seduction of the girls. "Come on, whattya say we do just one shot?"

Oh Rafferty my lad, you are a dirty dog.

I took my leave of those at the bar and made my way back to the music tent, stopping to pick up raffle tickets for a trip to Ireland. It was getting close to six now and suddenly I knew

everybody. I spotted Southside Jack Kelly and bumped into Danny Boyle the plumber twice in ten minutes. Both times he asked me, "How much longer are you goin' to be here?"

I've got two beer tickets left, that's how long!

Rocking with the crowd to the tunes of the Makem brothers I spy Rafferty and his darlin' gals. Leah spots me and delivers a high five, "Great Craic!"

It was indeed, the sights and sounds of a fun summer afternoon at Irish Fest.

Monday morning I call the Heritage Center to ask if I won the trip to Ireland.

"Who is this?"

I told her.

"No... ye didn't."

I wonder how Rafferty did.

Powers Behind The Bar

IAN's own Sharing a Pint columnist, Scott Powers, will be a guest bartender at The Atlantic (5062 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago) from 8-11pm on Saturday, Aug. 30th. All tips from the evening will go to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, which provides help to families of Chicago Police Officers who were killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty. Stop by—and tip well!

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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!



St. Brendan's

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 haircare, maple furniture, in-room whirlpool baths, walk-in rainfall showers and a high-speed internet connection area in each of our 28 guest rooms.

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The Rochester Inn is located in historic Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. You will enjoy the history plus restored historic buildings throughout this charming community! This vibrant downtown offers many restaurants within walking distance, quaint shops and an old-fashioned drive-in. Nearby attractions include championship golf at Kohler's Whiting Straits and Jack Nicklaus' newest signature course, The Red.

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



Oscar Wilde, a man who spent two years in prison for homosexual acts, was not exclusively gay. In fact, before he became besmitten with Alfred Lord Douglas or "Bosie," the person who was instrumental in the talented writer's downfall, Wilde pursued an active heterosexual life. He assiduously courted Frances Balcombe, a Victorian beauty, but to no avail. She preferred Bram Stoker, the Dublin author who penned the powerful and engaging novel Dracula.

After Balcombe, Wilde turned his attention to Constance Lloyd, a London socialite who set her hat at him. She was the daughter of London lawyer Horace Lloyd, a senior Queens Counsel. Following a short courtship, Wilde and Lloyd married in Paddington in 1884. By many accounts, the early years of the Wilde marriage were happy and the couple seemed very much in love. They had two children – Cyril who was born in 1885 and Vyvyan, a second son, who arrived a year later.

That all changed a decade later when Oscar achieved success as a poet, novelist and playwright. By then, he had become infatuated with Bosie, the self-centered son of Lord Queensbury who was 16 years his junior. This relationship led to Wilde's doom. The unconventional triangle caused the Wilde marriage to flounder and society in general to take notice as well. Private affairs in Victorian England were all very well so long as they remained—well—private. But once they became public, that was quite something else. They could no longer be swept under the rug and ignored.

Tables Turned

After Wilde unsuccessfully brought a slander suit against Bosie's father for calling him a "sodomite," society, in a twist worthy of any of Wilde's masterpieces, turned the tables on the ill-fated playwright. Wilde was convicted of "gross indecency" for engaging in "the love that

dares not speak its name" and went to prison for two years. He never again wrote anything of note—apart from the poignant Ballad of Reading Jail and died a short few years after his release.

Until relatively recently, the good people of Ireland, not excluding those of theater, have not been entirely comfortable with Wilde and his work. When I was a lad in Ireland, his plays were never presented at the Abbey. One might speculate that this was not so much because of Wilde's bisexual orientation, but because of his criminal conviction. Others seemingly got away with things. For example, Brendan Behan's plays were presented even though he sometimes purported himself to be a pederast. He once allegedly bellowed at a group of women who had incurred his displeasure at a social function "I could do yez all and yer young brothers as well." But Behan was never convicted of criminal sexual acts. So his work went on.

Dublin citizens, however, were not totally deprived of the pleasure of seeing Wilde's work at that time. His plays were presented at other end of O'Connell Street from the Abbey in the Gate Theatre where Hilton Edwards and Michael McLiammore happily performed.

Constance Wilde

A decade ago, the Abbey decided to swallow its long held distaste of Wilde and commissioned Thomas Kilroy, a one time play editor at the Abbey and a former professor of English at UCG, to write a play about the playwright. Kilroy came up with *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde*. This attempted to look at Wilde from the perspective of his suffering wife. The play opened in the Abbey in 1997 and last month it was the final presentation of the 2007-08 Season, directed by Irishman Joe Dowling, in the McGuire Proscenium at the Guthrie, an impressive theatre on the banks of the Mississippi in downtown Minneapolis. The play, which no doubt reflected considerable scholarship and industry on the part of the author, was a blend of fact, fiction, whimsy and surrealism. There were three speaking parts, that of Wilde, his wife, and Bosie played by Matthew Greer, Sarah Agnew and Brandon Weinbrenner, respectively.

These characters were supported on a stark cavernous stage by a half dozen mostly mute figures that periodically burst into song, macabre dance routines, mime and puppetry. Whatever connection existed between the lines being spoken and the song and dancer routines was not obvious to this reviewer. In addition, there were

musicians on keyboard and cello who played eerie music as some of the dialogue was going on. This made it hard to hear. And at various times, a collection of puppets were used to portray the Wildes and their children at different stages of their lives.

The play covered the arc from Constance and Oscar meeting in Merrion Square in Dublin in 1884 to their last encounter when he was a prisoner in England. But the play did not progress in a logical linear timeline. Instead, it hop-scotched in a disconnected fashion. There were scenes of Constance seeking a divorce and Oscar pleading for her not to, of her escaping to the continent to avoid the lurid media and protect her children, and of Oscar and Bosie quarreling about various things that couples quarrel about, but mainly about money. According to the play, Oscar fleeced Constance to support his profligate life style. The play, billed as "magical" by the Guthrie, fell far short of that. While it had some lines that were Wildean, there were not enough to make it work.

Perhaps there really has been a change of heart about Wilde at the Abbey in Dublin. The Abbey's first presentation of its 2008-09 Season will be *An Ideal Husband*. The play will run for six weeks starting August 14.

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David Munnelly Band in Concert

David Munnelly & his multi-award winning band will be appear locally at the following venues.

August 21/Chicago, IL: Lincoln Square Concert Series; Giddings Plaza, 4731 N. Lincoln Ave., 7pm. Info: 646-262-9222 or islandheart@gmail.com.

August 22-24/Peoria, IL: Erin Feis; Riverfront Park, All Day Event. www.erinfeispeoria.com.

William Christopher in Church Basement Ladies

The hilarious new musical comedy will make its Chicago premiere at The North Shore Center for Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd. in Skokie, previewing September 10, opening Thursday, September 11 at 7:30pm and closing September 27, 2008. William Christopher, the Evanston native who played "Father Mulcahy" for



11 years on the show that many consider to be the best TV sitcom of all time, M*A*S*H, is coming home to headline the musical comedy that mixes the silliness of Nunsense with the homespun humor of Prairie Home Companion.

Church basement Ladies is a celebration of the church basement kitchen everywhere and the wonderful, unsung women who work there. Set in 1964-65, the show is a funny, heartfelt reflection on the four women who tirelessly prepare the food and solve problems for the congregation at a rural Minnesota church.

Tickets: (847) 673-6300 or www.northshorecenter.org. Show info: www.cbl-chicago.com.

Scenes From The Big Picture Premieres at Seanachai Theatre

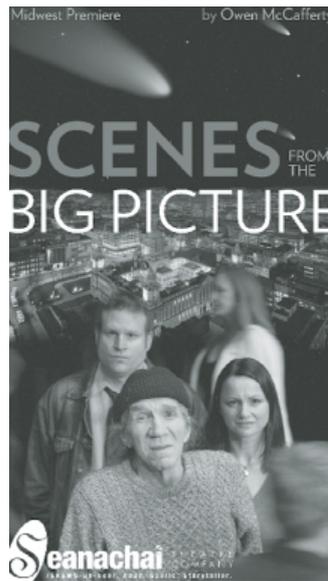
Belfast. The Troubles. But not the kind you think.

Playwright Owen McCafferty smashes the "big picture" into vivid snapshots of intimate groups of people. Moving from shops to pubs to life on the street, the play masterfully weaves together the lives of 20 characters in 40 scenes into a single day of contemporary Belfast life.

This production makes its Midwest premiere August 28-October 5, 2008 at Chicago's Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph St. (between Wabash and Michigan), 312-742-8497.

This is the 2nd year in a row that Seanachai has been selected by Chicago's Dept of Cultural Affairs to showcase at the Storefront Theatre.

www.dcatheater.org/shows/show/scenes_from_the_big_picture/



Biggest Hits Slated for Fall & Winter at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place

Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook Terrace's productions of the mega hit musicals Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story and Meet Me in St. Louis will be presented at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut Street in Chicago, this Fall and Winter.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story will open Sept. 19 and run through Nov. 2, followed in November by Meet Me in St. Louis, opening Nov. 19 and running through Jan. 4. Both productions had sold-out runs during the 2007-2008 season at Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook Terrace.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story is a rock 'n' roll journey through the life of the legendary singer/songwriter Buddy Holly, who shot to stardom in 1957, only to be tragically killed in a plane crash two years later.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story will be followed by the charming

musical classic Meet Me in St. Louis, an utterly entertaining experience that the whole family will enjoy and a perfect holiday outing.

Travel back to the turn of the century St. Louis, where the World's Fair is coming soon—and so is a world of changes for the

Smith family. Featuring show-stopping dance numbers and a treasured score, Meet Me in St. Louis includes the beloved songs "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Boy Next Door," and "The Trolley Song".

Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place is located at 175 E. Chestnut Street in Chicago. 312.642.2000 or www.ticketmaster.com.



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Open Auditions for Dancing at Lughnasa

The Beverly Theatre Guild is holding open auditions for their first production of the 2008-2009 season, Dancing at Lughnasa, written by Brian Friel. Hopefuls will be asked to participate in readings from the script.

Open auditions—no appointment is necessary—will be held on Sunday, August 17th from 3-6:30pm (registration ends at 5:30pm) and Monday, August 18th from 7-9:30pm (registration

ends at 8:30pm). Call Backs (if needed) will be on Tuesday, August 19th from 7-9:30pm. The auditions will be held at Salem United Church of Christ, 9717 South Kostner Avenue in Oak Lawn.

773-284-8497 or beverlytheatreguild@juno.com or www.beverlytheatreguild.org.

Performances are at The Morgan Park Academy Arts Center, 2153 W. 111th St., in Chicago, on Friday, October 17th, 8pm; Saturday, October 18th, 8pm; and Sunday, October 19th, 2pm. *Possibility of a second weekend*

The Full Monty at Marriott Lincolnshire

The hilarious Broadway musical The Full Monty runs through Sept. 21 at The Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive in Lincolnshire.

This heart-warming comedy centers around six out of work and out of shape steel workers. Jerry, Dave and their buddies all desperately need money, so they hatch a scheme to put on a show when they see the enthusi-

asm the local gals have for the male strippers who have come to town. But Jerry realizes that they will have to offer something "different," like going "The Full Monty!" Will they triumph over their fears, their nerves and their zippers? Filled with razor-sharp humor and toe-tapping pizzazz, this is a one-of-a-kind musical that bares its soul to reveal its heart.



L to R: KC Lupp (Jerry), Jason Shuffler (Ethan), Michael Gerhart (Harold), Milton Craig Nealy (Horse), Stephen Schellhardt (Malcolm) and Joe Coots (Dave) star in The Full Monty, which runs through September 21 at Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. 847.634.0200 or www.marriotttheatre.com Photo by: Dan Rest

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Gaelic Park August Events

Monthly Musical Luncheon

The Monthly Musical Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 6th, 2008 beginning at noon. It's an exciting way to break up the week with an afternoon of wonderful food, dancing and music by Joe Cullen. Tickets are \$13 and include all entertainment. Reservations are required so please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 to reserve seats or for more information.

The Feast of Our Lady of Knock

Chicago Gaelic Park will commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Knock on Monday, Aug. 18th, 2008 at 7:30pm.

The miracle of Our Lady of Knock began on a rainy evening in Aug. 1879. Fifteen witnesses saw a bright light shine over the Knock Parish Church in an Apparition that included the Blessed Virgin Mary along with Saints Joseph and John. The faithful watched and recited the Rosary in the presence of this apparition for over two hours. Miracles began only days after. Pilgrimages to Knock, Co. Mayo began in 1880 and over the years, visitors have grown to over half a million with exceptional healings such as that of the terminally ill. The personal pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II in 1979 to commemorate the centenary of the apparition and recognize Vatican approval and validation inspired even more devotion to the Shrine.

Gaelic Park honors this astonishing event with Benediction, Rosary and Procession to the beautiful Grotto. Refreshments hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary will be available after the ceremony.

Heritage & Harvest Day

The annual Heritage & Harvest Day will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

Old time farm implements such as the threshing machine will be on hand for viewing along with an exhibition on preparation of milk for churning, piking the straw and making sugar. There will also be a Connemara pony exhibition, a homemade apple pie contest, youth football and hurling games, and a traditional Irish music session with Sean Cleland and the students from Irish Music School of Chicago.

Games will be offered for both kids and adults. Kids games include a three-legged race, water balloon toss, obstacle course, pillow fight, and more. Adult games testing strength and stamina will be played, as including barrel races, a water

balloon toss and Skittles.

Irish photographer, James Fraher, will give a lecture on photographing in Ireland in the Tara Room. Fraher's photographs have appeared in more than 150 music recording covers and other publications. His photographs are part of the permanent collections at the Smithsonian Institution, the Chicago Blues Archive at the Harold Washington Library and the University of Mississippi Blues Archive.

There will also be a set dancing performance and a barbeque on the



Bernie Glim & Country Roads

outdoor patio complete with ribs, hot dogs, ice cream and a variety of beverages.

Carraig Pub Hosts Musicians

Gaelic Park is also home to the Carraig Pub, the place for a great night out with music and great, mouth-watering food. The Carraig serves favorites such as corned beef sandwiches, shepherd's pie, fish & chips, ribs, chicken and many other entrees and appetizers.

Music is also big at the Carraig with free entertainment every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers. This month's entertainment includes: Saturday, Aug. 2nd, Rico Quinn; Friday, Aug. 8th, Bernie Glim & Country Roads; Saturday, Aug. 9th, Pat Guinee; Friday, Aug. 15th, Kieran Conway; Friday, Aug. 22nd, Jerry Eadie; Saturday, Aug. 23rd, Joe McShane; Friday, Aug. 29th, Johnny & Coax; Saturday, Aug. 30th, Mulligan Stew. Entertainment for Friday, Aug. 1st and Saturday, Aug. 16th will be announced at a later date.

Thursday evenings the Carraig hosts a traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Gaelic Park also telecasts Gaelic Games, rugby and soccer matches. Please call for upcoming games and times.

Please visit Gaelic Park's website at www.chicagogaelicpark.org for a full calendar of upcoming events at the Carraig as well as a complete menu and drink specials, information on special performances, banquets, Gaelic Park cultural activities, and much more or call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323.

GAA Games Held at Gaelic Park

The Gaelic Athletic Association hosts Gaelic games of football and hurling each weekend at Chicago Gaelic Park.

Irish rules, with very skilled players, a "hurley" stick made of ashwood, and a very hard ball called a "siothar" (pronounced slitar). The object of Hurling is for players to put the siothar between the opponents goalpost either over the crossbar for one point, or under the crossbar into a guarded goal, for three points. Body checks, side-to-side shouldering and shirt pulling are common as well as slashing at the siothar. No protective padding is worn and helmets are optional.

Admission to the games is \$6.00. Refreshments such as sausages and chips, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs hamburgers and ice cream are available at all games for a small price.

Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 987-9323 for more information and also visit Gaelic Park's website at www.chicagogaelicpark.org for a full calendar of upcoming events, special performances, information on Gaelic Park's cultural activities, and much more.



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That remark could tighten up your scrotum. Of course, the perfunctory apology followed.

Jesse Jackson, Sr., will be in line for an ambassadorship to Zimbabwe. Jesse Jackson, Jr., reprimanded his father for his remarks as he is Senator Obama's National Campaign Manager and desperately wants to be appointed to his Senate seat, which is probably the only way he'll ever get to the Senate. Then his wife, Sandi, can take his seat in the House of Representatives! Whatever happened to the Jackson Five? Why not treat to yourself to some bridge mix?

IAHC Elections

The IAHC has elected new officers: Bob McNamara, President; Alan Duggan, Vice President; Clark Callan, M.D., Treasurer; and Kathy Mahoney, Secretary.

Bob McNamara had this to say: "I am looking forward to an exciting year for the Center. The Irish American Heritage Center is a real gem for the city of Chicago. Our founding members and long-time volunteers have built an outstanding organization. We need to celebrate their successes and begin to bring that same sense of community and home to other generations and to the wider Irish community in Chicago."

"Our focus for the next year will be to expand our programming and increase the quality and quantity of events, to strengthen the administrative and financial structure of the organization, and to widen our audience. All the pieces are in place for success—we have an excellent Board of Directors, outstanding volunteers and a new CEO, Colin Moore. Look for bigger and better things from the Center real soon."

Trip the Sod

A number of Irish film shorts were shown during the IAHC annual festival. There was one American contribution. Trip the Sod: A Portrait of a Young Irish Step Dancer, is an 8-minute biographical documentary about Dierdre, a 9-year old girl who's a competitive Irish Step Dancer in Chicago. Through Dierdre's story, the film celebrates Irish heritage and demonstrates how engaging your ancestral culture fosters a sense of identity of a person during their formative years. Directed and produced by Dierdre Lee, MFA Candidate, Film & Video, Columbia College Chicago. The film was a pure delight. The star of the film is Dierdre Kozici, daughter of Chris and Siobhan Kozici.

Big Oil

Commodities traders are getting rich and the price at the pump keeps on climbing. There are many factors that contribute to this dilemma. James B. Sloan, a prominent anti-trust attorney, has filed a suit against OPEC for price fixing.

The major oil producers and refiners are lining up in opposition to this law suit, including the United States Chamber of Commerce who has filed an amicus brief in opposition to the "refined petroleum products anti-trust litigation"

Their argument centers on "The Act of State" and "Political Question Doctrines" claiming constitutional underpinnings and the separation of powers between the three branches of government, Executive, Judicial, and Legislative. On this premise, they seek to dismiss the case which was filed in the U.S. District for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.

I do not claim to fully understand the complexities of this issue, however, the argument is that the anti-trust litigation interferes with the Executive branch of government, conduct of diplomacy, in other words, foreign policy. It seems to me our foreign policy over the last 7-1/2 years has been totally dysfunctional.

Foreign countries, like Saudi Arabia, have an enormous presence in our markets. They own 50% of Shell Oil, Venezuela owns Citgo, Russia owns Getty Oil (Lukoil), etc.

Now, at long last, new refinery capacity is coming online in 2010 at Port Arthur, TX, Motiva Enterprises, owned by Shell Oil and Saudi Refining. We desperately needed additional refining capacity but it's not exactly a free market enterprise. These are integrated companies that control the oil from the well head to the gas pump.

Even the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Exxon Mobil, reducing the punitive damages for the disastrous Exxon Valdez super tanker oil spill in 1989. A jury originally awarded \$5 billion in punitive damages in 1989 against Exxon Mobil. In 2006 the Federal Appeals Court cut the award in half. Now the Supreme Court has ruled 5-3 to cut the punitive damages to \$507.5 million, an average of \$15,000 per victim. "Big Oil" wins again! Exxon Mobil's profit for 2007 was \$40.6 billion.

Time to start shopping for a good horse, or in the case of we Irish, and "ass and cart." We can produce methane gas from the manure.

I contacted the Media Relations Dept. of United Airlines to find out whether or not they were a member if the US Chamber of Commerce

as the CEO of United Airlines and the CEO's of most major airlines sent out an email to all the frequent flyers asking them to contact their congressman and ask them to reestablish more stringent controls on energy resources and conservation. Subsequently I contacted the Air Transport Association who has put out a five-point plan, of which we will list only the titles here. Full info can be obtained at www.stopoilspeculationnow.com/site/page/the_solution.

1. Re-establish strict position limits on energy commodities.
2. Close the London Loophole.
3. Regulate "swap trades."
4. Fully close the "Enron loophole."
5. Bring transparency to all energy trading.

Where?

This came to me via email from a good friend in Pensacola, FL. The unstated comparison of the floods in Iowa and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Draw your own conclusions.

"Where are all of the Hollywood celebrities holding telethons asking for help in restoring Iowa and helping the folks affected by the floods?"

Where is all the media asking the tough questions about why the federal government hasn't solved the problem? Asking where the FEMA trucks (and trailers) are?

Why isn't the Federal Government relocating Iowa people to free hotels in Chicago?

When will Spike Lee say the Federal Government blew up the levees that failed in Des Moines?

Where are Sean Penn and the Dixie Chicks?

Where are all the looters stealing high-end tennis shoes and big screen television sets?

When will we hear Governor Chet Culver say he wants to rebuild a "vanilla" Iowa, because that's the way God wants it?

Where are the people declaring that George Bush hates white, rural people?

How come in two weeks, you may not hear about the Iowa flooding ever again?"

Irish Fest Shamrock Stars

Formerly known as the Irish Idol Contest, this year's winners were: in the 13-18 yr. old group, Ashley Davy, who sang "The Last Rose of Summer." Winner in the 4-12 yr. old group was Mikala Walsh, who sang "Car-rick-fergus."

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber
Alfresco in the Kitchen

Foodies all over the world are beginning to come out of their own kitchens and head into local venues for the newest culinary trend arranged around a social setting—the food festival. These events are a great way to sample the signature dishes and desserts of the local chefs which they freshly prepare on site in outdoor booths. Vendors, such as champagne and wine vineyards, chocolatiers and bakeries, and other food artisans are scattered among the rows of restaurant tents. These people—chefs and merchants alike—are always happy to discuss their latest nouveau ingredient with any interested listener. The festivals are initiated by local restaurateurs, major food channels and many towns and cities. London 2004 was the first year in trying the idea of a grand scale food festival. In June 2006, The Taste of Dublin was launched. A year later, Edinburgh and four other cities held their festivals. This past June, Cork City held their first Taste of Cork. The successes of these festivals not only help with local restaurant business, but will encourage tourists to search out the newest epicenter of culinary experiences.

The food festival idea began back in London with a modest number of local restaurants, chefs, and food and beverage distributors. Word got out about the enticing food and talents displayed. This, in turn, attracted some of the more well-known chefs who were searching for the next big thing, in new names and creative dishes. Professional culinary and secular crowds alike gathered to sample the offerings at the individual tents and booths. At the end of that day, there was an understanding that people are interested in developing their repertoire of new foods, finding new chefs and talents, and wanting to try the latest restaurant without investing time and money into the unknown.

In Ireland, The Taste of Dublin June 2008 was held in the Iveagh Gardens, a grand, gothic spread of land just south of St. Stephen's Green in the middle of Dublin City. This year's event was a wealth of culinary exhibits and food, not to mention the brilliant chefs and talent. After paying a nominal entrance fee, patrons bought coupons, or food 'florins',



to buy samples of the restaurants' offerings. The event had many sponsors including wine and beverage companies, fine hotels, and national newspapers. Individual stages and tents had their own sponsors where guest chefs from L'Ecrivain, a famous Dublin restaurant, King Sitric, a seafood eatery just north of Dublin in gorgeous seaside Howth, and the Ballymaloe House and Ballymaloe Cookery School held court. At The L'Ecrivain, chef Derry Clarke served a four course meal in the corporate tent. His menu is an elegant mélange of Irish/French classic cuisine, while always aware of the best seasonal produce. The King Sitric restaurant, named after Irish King Brian Boru's son-in-law, boasts a grand seafood menu and yet is simple in presentation, allowing the honest flavors of the ingredients to shine. With Ballymaloe House and School, owner Darina Allen and instructors Rachel Allen and Rory O'Connell guided a small student audience for an hour through several recipes made legendary by the school's widespread reputation.

Though there are many more restaurants at the Dublin show, the vendors also attract attention. The list started with the AGA, or traditional Irish stove company. It is a skill to cook in/on the AGA, but when mastered can produce great food. Moving along the list, chocolate shops, cheese makers, home made ice creams and Italian specialty treats stood out. Further down the alphabetical list, Celtic whiskeys and wines were also of interest. By the time a person finished wandering the grounds, what started as hunger pangs became satisfaction, since many of the vendors' samples are free.

These major food events are becoming more popular world wide. With famous chefs becoming superstars and 24-hour TV food stations, it's easier to educate oneself in the art of haute cuisine. All one has to do to meet their food hero is watch the local papers (NE Ohio, November 14-16) or book a flight to Ireland. So go back to the motherland, find your cousins, and take them to the next food event. Food's just another thing you will have in common. Bon Appetit!

The following recipe is an adaptation of a dish from the Howth restaurant, King Sitric. It has simple, fresh ingredients and can be used with any variety of meaty or flaky fish.

For more about the Ireland food festivals, go to www.tastefestivals.ie



Salmon with Tomato and Pepper Relish

3 roma tomatoes, diced
1 red pepper
1 orange or yellow pepper
1/2 red onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 c dry white wine
4 basil leaves, chopped
1 T. olive oil
2 salmon (though any fish will work)
Baby spinach

Place peppers under the broiler and carefully char. Place in paper bag for five minutes then peel and chop, discarding seeds. In skillet, warm oil. Gently cook onion and garlic on medium, careful not to brown. Add rest of ingredients

and cook until ingredients are soft. Can be refrigerated at this point, or kept warm to serve.



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Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan

Mystified at Lakeview's Mystic Celt



From the ancient castles surrounded by folkloric tales to winding cobblestone roads giving way to the tall, majestic Cliffs of Moher, Ireland is a country whose tradition is steeped rich in mystic tales. But it is not all myth and fantasy. An important segment of Irish his-

tory includes the fierce and mighty Celts. We often forget that this is a people which shaped and colored the landscape of all of Western Europe during the Iron Age (750 BCE to 43 CE), spanning almost literally, the whole continent. The Celts we think of today mainly live

in the area of present-day Ireland, Wales, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Cornwall and Brittany, France.

Leave it to the Vaughan family to operate a pub in Lakeview in honor of our lively ancestors.

If you're lucky enough to catch manager Les Fitzgerald at work, you'll not only get a traditional Irish welcome, but also some great stories about late nights working in Dublin's Temple Bar district when U2 would randomly stop in.

This pub has some of the best fare around, for traditional grub with a classier flare. The bacon-wrapped meatloaf in sweet chili sauce with mash is the best in any pub, anywhere. The Guinness steak pot pie is another fine choice to keep the cold away this winter. Comfort choices abound in shepherd's pie, bangers and mash and a great version of mac and cheese, the first I've ever seen to include chicken, if you wish. There are also a few chicken creations, a New York strip or salmon to pick from.

The salad choices are also rather expansive. The Mystic Cobb, the house version of an everything salad, features eggs, bacon, avocado, olives, apple and turkey. The goat cheese and chicken offer a break from the usual salad menu, as does



the southwest salad, topped with cheddar, black beans, avocado, corn and tortilla.

Vegetarians are often left out of any choice on the Irish pub scene, but the Celt offers the best choice of meatless options I have seen in awhile. From the margarita pizza to the hummus and veggie appetizers, to French onion soup or chili, also offered in a meatless option, to the grilled vegetable wrap to the mac and cheese, those who don't care for meat won't leave hungry.

There is also a lighter, but not less filling menu offering wraps and sandwiches. Traditional favorites from burgers to barbecued chicken to salmon to a tasty club make another great alternative to

accompany the excellent draught Guinness.

Stop by on the weekend and grab a plate in the buffet brunch line between 9 and 3. At \$9.95, it's one of the neighborhood's best values. Wash it down with \$4 Bloody Mary's to help chase away those hangovers. If you're hungry late, this is also a great option, offering a full menu until close every night, while you watch all soccer, rugby and football games on the flatscreens. \$4 burger and fry Tuesdays, or half-price appetizers and bottle-of-wine Mondays are just a few of the reasons to come by.

While you're here, give the staff your email to be included on the monthly email list for an invitation to a free party sponsored by various liquor distributors. Or throw your own for up to 80 people in the spacious backroom of the bar.

For a great Irish pub with a real neighborhood feel, stop by The Mystic Celt at 3443 N. Southport in Chicago's Lakeview district. 773.529.8550 www.vaughanhospitality.com

Maureen Callahan is a Chicago freelance writer and columnist; missmaurencallahan@yahoo.com.

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- Larkin & Moran Brothers
- Chicago Celtic Bagpipers
- Kathleen Keane & Joe Cullen
- Bug
- Celtic Aires & Meyer School of Irish Dance
- Anam Mór Irish Dancers

Outdoor Gaelic Mass with Reverend Karl Langsdorf
Sunday, Sept. 7
11:30 am - 12:45
(See website for details on free entrance - Doors open 10:45 am)

Wee Folk Area
Children of all ages are welcomed Irish crafts, dancing lessons, folk singing and games \$3.50 children's admission.

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Tradition
In Review



Next month is going to be a record-setting CD Slam with a ton of great new stuff that has backed up in the "to review corner". As usual, only the best. You know, or should, that we don't write negative reviews, as we only review what we like.

Being published once a month leaves us no time for some of the snippy, cute comments favored in secondary Irish markets, such as New York. This is Chicago, baby. Keep reading. This will get inter-

esting as we take a break from the usual review process to fill you in, as usual, on Milwaukee's Irish Fest, the third weekend in August, and then to finally get a load off our chests.

Milwaukee. The Big Kahuna. With co-founder Chuck Ward recovering from a bout with cancer (he will kick its butt, be sure) you might have worried about this year's Fest. No need. Another winner.

First, go. To those few of you who wimp out every year, and we know

who you are, just go. You can visit no prettier setting, family-friendly, and the biggest music bargain on the planet. Don't mow the lawn, get tired and say, "we'll do it next year." Bull. Just go.

What to see? Mark this well. Visit the Galway area, and catch Trad on the Prom and the Kane sisters. Also, check for Furry Village. The Barra MacNeils from Nova Scotia. Monto. The Omagh Choir.

The Maimin Cajun Band from Galway looks good! Fun. The Fuchsia Band—FAB. And, find the Jeff Ward Band. One of our faves. We know that is too much for one day. Go for two or three. Now, just go. There is nothing like it anywhere in the world.

Time to unload! Here they are—observations of the current scene. If you disagree, keep it to yourself.

1. Welcome to the new director of the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago, Colin Moore. We really, really hope he corrects the almost artistically criminal record of the Center—post John Daly's exit. There is NO excuse for the long-standing and continued ignoring of Irish music performance. There is a lovely auditorium that sits and sits and sits vacant for decades, as it is rarely used. The Salon Series started by John Daly has been abandoned for almost a year. We personally know of people who have volunteered after being requested to volunteer, to help in this area. Then totally ignored. The Center needs, after all these years, to finally get serious about Irish music, and fully earn the title of "Heritage" Center. The new guy has the background to do it and we wish him well. We'll see if he can negotiate the political thickets.

2. The continued downside of Irish music is continuing at virtually every major festival this summer. Irish rock.

Irish rock. Irish rock. Regardless of what my musically autistic Public Radio partner, Shay Clarke feels, there IS no such thing as Irish rock. Rock groups not good enough to get hired as rock groups bang on the drums and electric guitars, insert the word "Ireland" every few bars and get hired all summer. Most Irish "music" festivals are now little more than rock festivals. Demographics rule as they continue to chase the 23-year-old beer swiller out to find women—or men. A drunken Irish pickup festival is more like it. Slowly, but surely, as we have told you, this rock nonsense is driving Irish festivals under, as they seem to have lost all sense of balance while chasing the rock dollar. Milwaukee, Cleveland and Columbus excluded here, though we DO worry about Columbus and Cleveland, a little.

3. American tourism to Ireland keeps falling. Economic worries, \$4 gas, and the incredibly weak dollar are all major parts. But, the biggest reason is Paddy's greed. Most everything in Ireland is overpriced and under-serviced. Ireland is hurting and does not know or care. Go to Dublin and let us know how long it is nowadays before you even HEAR an Irish accent, as foreign workers are packing every restaurant and hotel. The Irish have adopted, in large measure, the worst of the American tourism industry. Little value or care for their customers. The Celtic Tiger thinks it will roar forever. It won't. It is already dying. The best way to avoid this is to be on a tour, where value and fun still reign, or be very careful with whom you choose to share your \$6-\$7.50 pints.

4. One of the most troubling aspects of having friends in Ireland built over 25 years, is that the current

anti-President Bush sentiment that is virtually unanimous through the Island, has metastasized into a quiet, but deeply felt anti-Americanism. That will be denied and denied, and it is true. If the Irish affection for America rests on who is President, then they are not a real friend in the first place, as they become more and more "Europeized". We have grown tired of people in other countries who think they know what is going on in America by watching CNN, and then—as in Ireland—having the enormous discourtesy to confront their guests about it all.

5. Most traditional musicians hate playing ceili music. Most will deny this when you ask them about it. It is true. There ARE exceptions, but not all that many. They are right, that majority. As Ireland's greatest composer, Sean O'Riada was reported to have said when asked to describe ceili music, "It is neither music, nor Irish." We'll leave the dancers out of this for now!

6. When will Gaelic Park get around to fixing its dreadful sound problem at the annual Festival on Memorial Day weekend? There is NO control put on the "Irish" rock groups that come in booming their volume levels. This year, as in the past, we sat through the rare trad offering from Liz Carroll and John Williams and were treated to the BOOM BOOM BOOM coming from the rock tent throughout Liz and John's set. It aurally dominates everything, and it is reprehensible. Gaelic Park—fix it. It has been a problem for years. There are lots of ways. First, tell the damned bands to turn it down. That is ONE cure. There are others.

We're tired of observing. That'll do—for now. See you in Milwaukee. Ta!

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the Gan, and the Dooley's played a great set. The entertainment just went on and on, but Gaelic Storm stole the show on

The Festival season is in high gear as we weary Celtic road warriors traverse the country on the Irish Festival circuit.

Recently it's been Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Colorado, and in Chicagoland, the Highland Games and the Irish American Heritage Center's Irish festival. Now it's time for the trio in Ohio, where we have Cleveland, Dayton and Dublin in a row.

It was great to see Gaelic Storm at the Celtic Fling in PA, especially since the release of their new album, *What's the Rumpus?* They were just back from their Australian tour and in top form. The new album only took days to reach number one in the world music category charts—no surprise to me.

Barleyjuice rocked at the Celtic Fling in Lancaster, touring to support their new album, *Bonnie Prince Barley*. Great sets from Enter the Haggis, The Tartan Terrors and Scythian, also. According to my daughter Saoirse, and many of her friends, Scythian are the best looking guys on the circuit, nice guys too, and bursting with talent. All four of these major Celtic Rock bands are just getting better.

The Oklahoma Celtic Festival was also a fun event. Boru's Ghost and Arabesque are great entertainers—I wish they would travel more. Festival organizers take note.

The Illinois St. Andrew Society put on a great show at the Polo Grounds in Oakbrook, IL—the classiest Highland Games I've ever attended. Searson were the headliners. Great organization and great people.

Traci, the missus, went to Denver for the Colorado Irish Festival. She tells me that it was also a fun event with music provided by Gaelic Storm, The Elders, Cathie Ryan and Solas, among others. Great fun always in Denver.

The IAHC hosted Irish Fest in Chicago and it was a blast. Super turnout for an incredible line-up. The Makem and Spain Brothers, Solas, our own Larkin and Moran brothers, just back from their Irish tour, were brilliant. There was a contingent from Kansas City, my friend Pete Maher of the Midwest Irish Focus was there along with a bevy of beauties from the Kansas City Irish festival. Gan Bua were there without

Sunday evening.

It was a huge welcome back to Chicago for Jessie and the lads and they were on fire as they thrilled the capacity crowd with favorites and some tunes from the new album.



History of Irish Rock — Ward Irish Music Archives

The Ward Irish Music Archives was established in 1992 and is now the largest public collection of Irish music in America, located in Milwaukee at 1523 Wauwatosa Ave. and open to the public, but you can visit on-line. It encompasses over 40,000 Irish recordings and music memorabilia from songbooks to sheet music and concert posters to instruments. Make this pilgrimage when next in Milwaukee—it's worth it.

The Ward Irish Music Archives is Milwaukee Irish Fest's educational arm and recently developed traveling exhibits that can be seen by a wider audience as they tour festivals and events. Having seen many of these exhibits, I can tell you they are educational, entertaining, and a huge addition to the cultural value of any Irish Festival.

There are exhibits on The Great Irish Tenor, John McCormack, Bing Crosby, and legendary Irish-American composer George M. Cohan. There is even an exhibit on 75 Years of RTE (Ireland's National Radio and Television Station). But the one I can't get enough of is The History of Irish Rock. It's brilliant!

It's been touring for a few years and I've seen it in many places, but each time I find something new that chronicles, through displays and artifacts, the development of rock

music in Ireland. It includes 40 biography's, video presentations, and is visually enticing and historically accurate.

This, for me, is pure nostalgia. These are the times I've lived and observed at close quarters as I grew up in Dublin and spent so much time with family in Kells Co. Meath. I saw it all—the Ceili Bands became Showbands, Showbands morphed into R&B Bands, then into Rock. It all started in the 50's and is still going on today. I had minor part's in this menagerie myself, so you can imagine how much it means to me personally.

Van Morrison and Rory Gallagher were both in Showbands. Eamonn Carr, drummer from Horslips was the son of a Ceili Band drummer and band leader. Thin Lizzy and Skid Row were bands we saw twice or more each week and Ian Whitcomb and Bluesville were a local band. These were magic times for a frustrated musician turned D.J., but it was my well spent/misspent youth and I wouldn't trade it for all the Guinness in St. James's Gate.

Enough already. Suffice to say, this exhibit is great.

Barry Stapleton is the Director of the Irish Music Archives and likely one of the foremost experts on Irish Music in its broader sense. Barry, a trained baritone, used to sing opera. Music drew him to Milwaukee's Irish Fest where he volunteered until becoming Director of the Archives in 1999. He now doubles as music coordinator for the fest, along with Ward brothers, Chuck and Ed.

The History of Irish Rock exhibit was at the Gaelic Park Irish Festival in Chicago in May; the Celtic Fling in Pennsylvania in June; will feature at LaCrosse Irish Fest next month in Wisconsin and, later this year, the Irish Festival in Baltimore, MD.

This month their new exhibit, The History of

Irish Traditional Music, makes its debut at the Dublin, OH festival; will be at Milwaukee Irish Fest and later at Kansas City Irish Fest.

This exhibit explores the journey of our great legacy of Traditional music from O'Carolan to the present day. It highlights the Great Era of O'Neill, The Golden Age of Recorded Irish Music with Michael Coleman and Tom Ennis, then into the present day with the Chieftains, Liz Carroll and Mike Moloney and many more. Plenty of audio in this exhibit.

"It's all about creating awareness," Barry says, "of opening up and expanding what Chief O'Neill did. What O'Neill did in his time, we at the Irish Music Archives are doing in our time, preserving the legacy of Irish music for generations to come."

Barry tells me they are digitizing the exhibits and they'll be online soon at www.irishmusicarchive.com.

Van The Man

Van Morrison was at the Rosemont Theatre last month to promote his new album *Keep It Simple*. Traci went along to see Van, as she's been a lifelong fan and according to her, the magic is still there. The new album lives up to expectations as Van in his inimitable way, cruises through 11 beautiful songs that range from blues to ballads. Another great album.

Heathers

Young Dublin twins, Ellie and Louise McNamara, have been touring America recently bringing along their own brand of acoustic music. They are 18 years old and just finished high school in June. They call themselves Heathers—check them out on myspace.com/heatherswhatsyourdamage. Great kids with an impressive musical pedigree.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



A Little Bit of Anger Does You Good!

I've been looking over some articles that appeared in this column over the last few years. I'm pleasantly surprised to see that I got some of it right, at least. Perhaps I over-egged the pudding with anger too much of the time, but then again a lot of the injustices in this world lead one in that direction. I'm not someone that believes that anger achieves nothing. It can be productive. Anger can be very productive. A pity that we're not (as of writing) sending some of it in the direction of that prize swine, Robert Mugabe. Pity there wasn't oil there. The place would be overrun by now. Still, Britain's Gordon Brown—while smiling that rictus grin that has been known to send small children and grown men into fits of unadulterated fear—has just wagged his finger at him and told him he's been very bad but let's not bring sanctions into it just yet. And very few even batted an eye last month when the arrogant and bloody bastard stayed in five star luxury at the U.N. Conference on Food and Agriculture! Tell me the truth; if this were a novel would anyone believe it? Never mind, Queen Elizabeth has taken back the knighthood she gave him so he can't call himself 'Sir' anymore. And it only took fifteen years. Do something about Mugabe? The last Ice Age arrived faster.*

So yes, let's have a bit more constructive anger. Just look at the amount of people who spend their whole lives in a coma, or feel that they've 'done their bit' if they stick a couple of coins into the tin of every goddaw who accosts them in the street.

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Do you remember 'give a penny for the poor black babies in Africa?' Or saving up tinfoil (as kids we used to call it silver paper) to take to school in order to help the poor people abroad? Tin foil? What was that about? I don't think we ever questioned it. It just let us know we were helping the 'poor unfortunates' in other countries.

It's a pity that we hadn't gotten angry or listened more closely to what people like Dr. Noel Browne were even then hinting at. A pity we hadn't been taking a closer bloody look at what was going on in the Magdalen Laundries and some of the Industrial Schools. A pity we hadn't been razing the citadel of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid and demanding to know why the hell he was living in greater opulence than the Pope when there was genuine poverty in this country. And just why were the politicians that were supposed to be working for us living in terror of this cut-price bogymen? Why weren't we storming the Dail and the churches and DEMANDING to know why deviant priests were being quietly sent to other parishes to continue their ghastly crimes? I'm fed up with hearing that nobody knew. **SOMEBODY ALWAYS KNOWS.** Of course, it was in the same manner that no one knew the goings-on of the phoney squire and crook Charles Haughey; no one knew of the mistress that the taxpayer was keeping; no one knew where his ill-gotten wealth came from (he was a shrewd investor, apparently, har-de-har); and if one member of the media had spilled the beans that person would have been signing on for unemployment benefit pretty damned quickly.

The Celtic Tiger economy was here years before it was recognised. We never saw any of the money of course because Haughey and his fellow crooks—the Golden Circle who left the tax-payments to the little people and kept their accounts in the Cayman Islands—had set up an alternative economy where they got richer while people died on hospital trolleys. And now that the boom is over; now that building has stopped and house prices are plummeting; now that the money is spent we still have people dying on those same (probably literally) hospital trolleys. In 2002 we were given the usual empty prom-

ises from the liars of Fianna Fail. There would be hardly anybody on waiting lists, complete revolutionizing of the health system and on and endlessly on. Yet as of now Health Minister Mary Harney presides over a system where 21,300 patients have gone without treatment and languished on the waiting list for more than three months. And as to germs, well, if you want to get sick, go into hospital. It's like playing Russian roulette with only one empty barrel.

I read last week of an Irishman who had been attacked by an alligator in Mexico. He was overjoyed that he was being treated in a Mexican hospital and not an Irish one. No wonder the Irish journalist Terry McGeehan simply refers to the Health Minister as Morticia Harney.

Some years ago I wrote here of my loathing for that smug term, 'The Celtic Tiger.' For a start it was NEVER everybody who benefited from it, no matter what you hear. And it led with a frightening ease to a society that didn't give a damn about anything except property, five sun holidays a year and making shed loads of loot. I remember writing that I looked forward to the day when some of these chancers were on the street with a cup in their hand, even if I was sitting next to them. Well, it's happening faster than I expected and it might just be good for us. At least we won't have to listen to the Usual Suspects talking about the helicopter that they've hired to get to the horse-racing or how much they spent on champagne last week. Best of all, we might see a few less programmes hosted by that dreaded spawn of a society given too much money too fast—the 'celebrity chef' Irish actor Brendan Gleeson (who recently starred with Colin Farrell in the gloriously politically incorrect "In Bruges") put it: "Everybody has eaten the cake. We have stuffed ourselves at the party and now we have cake sickness... I think that the baby has been thrown out with the bathwater. The sense of community is gone. So people need to ask questions."

And there's something that always draws me up short. In other days the church, for all its many faults, served as a centre of community and in some rural areas it still does. It's not for me, but I do see that the disappearance of trust in the Church has left a huge void in society. I don't have any answers, but it does need to be replaced by something. At least the keen interest in sport here is a start, but that leaves a lot of people out. On a personal level, though, I'm delighted to see people realise that they were led up the garden path by a corrupt institution that was headed by

supposedly celibate men who handed out advice on marriage and female problems while backed by an insanely wealthy city-state straight out of mediaeval times. Then again, it's no harm to see the company they keep being exposed for the graspers they are either—the politicians and the solicitors, for example. I've heard the expression 'turning away from the Church and back to God' on more than one occasion since the start of our recession and that's no bad thing.

To return to the beginning of this article: I think it is far better to pick a couple of charities that you respect and trust. Concentrate on them. You can't look after everybody, not without driving yourself into an early grave you can't; but you can always do just a little bit. And while we're on the subject, kudos to Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, who donated so generously to Iraq. I haven't always been crazy about Jolie—didn't trust her motives, I suppose—but in this case it's a pleasure to be wrong. And I always have admired the quiet and unfussy way that Sandra Bullock donates money. She's a remarkable woman and is probably representative of the many caring celebrities that we don't hear about. God knows there's plenty of the other kind, who can't have one of their maids make out the grocery list without telling the world and its cameras how bloody great they are.

And finally, the Lisbon Treaty once more. No doubt you're bored to tears by it at this stage, so I'll be brief.

I found another reason that I'm so glad I voted "NO." Why? Because yesterday Bono announced that he voted "YES." According to the Great One, we plebs don't understand the concept of Europe—and not just us. The Europeans don't understand the concept of Europe either. But wait! Help is at hand! Bono DOES UNDERSTAND IT and The Majestic One will be there to guide we morons through it for "Lisbon 2: The Correct Answer," appearing next year, courtesy of a corrupt politician near you.

Praise the Lord!

* Wouldn't you know it? As I send this (July 1) Mugabe is being greeted warmly by the African Union. He's being hugged and congratulated and there's a lot of Looovve in the air after his landslide victory as the only candidate in Zimbabwe's elections. You can bet good money that almost all African governments will refuse to say a single word against him. That would be too much like backing the West. Taking Western money is all right; hosting well-meaning Western celebrities is all right; just don't ask us speak out against Robert Mugabe. After all, he is one of our own.

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Sharing a Pint



By Scott Powers



the Irish American News' book reviewer, he had saved up plenty to keep me interested for this particular morning, the following morning and for a few thousand more ahead.

With West, it's not just his knowledge of great Irish playwrights ranging from the old school's George Bernard Shaw to the new school's Conor McPherson or that authors can't write Irish-related books quick enough to keep up with his reading habits, it's that he's so passionate and animated about these works as well.

As I maneuvered through traffic, I find myself watching him as much as the other cars. He punctuated sentences with "Oh, man" or "Wow" and often he described someone's work with his body movements as much as he did with his words. I had wished the drive to the Heritage Center lasted as long as one to a far-away state rather than the actual 20 minutes it did.

I guess I should also be lucky he was there in the car. As it often does with him, a book nearly overtook his night.

"I was reading and reading last night," he said. "I thought, 'No, I got to go to sleep. I got to get up this morning and meet Scott.'"

Thanks, Frank, for doing so.

In what I viewed as a moving history lesson on Lawrence Ave., John Millington Synge, Shaw, McPherson, Martin McDonagh, the McCourts, Declan Hughes, Shirley Jackson, Eugene O'Neil, Thomas Lynch, Oscar Wilde and Brian O'Nolan were among the names West worked through, and

there were certainly others I missed.

It's these writers who touch West the most because their words are full of humanity, humor, important questions and they possess enthusiasm for life. And unlike when he first started, there are certainly more of these types of books in circulation than ever before.

"I just hope my health holds up a while," said West, who is a retired social studies teacher. "I want to be writing for a long time. It's such a great period for Irish literature."

Among the period is Anne O'Farrell, a Dublin-born writer, who we were seeing speak that morning at the Heritage Center. West had written a review of her newest book Michael in last month's IAN and was in attendance to give her a brief introduction and show his support.

His review had been, of course, positive. Only three times in 32 years of reviewing books—you do the math because I can't—he's given a thumb's down. One he could remember despising was a book about Michael Collins. A major reason for his success is he doesn't re-

view every book that falls through his mailbox. About one out of every five gets the affirmative nod. His formula is simple, but proven.

"If I'm interested in reading the book, the reader will be too," he said.

Before I began writing in this space, I had been a reader of the IAN and West's for some time. His column was one I always looked forward to because 1) it wasn't a political rant about Chicago, Ireland or who knows what, 2) he always had a great book to recommend.

Now with personal access to West—he'll probably decide to change his cell phone number and e-mail after this—I told him I needed some new book suggestions while we were at the Irish Fest. When he stepped into my car later that week, he had a bag with him that included two books for me.

That's Frank West.

Now if only he'd read them to me, so I could really forget books, movies and plays. Email sharingapint@yahoo.com to share comments or column suggestions.



Scott Powers and Frank West

no \$25 admission fee for his balcony seats.

My only complaint is he doesn't have intermission cocktails or that great movie-theatre buttered popcorn. Otherwise, he's the perfect entertainment package. I may just share a pint with him every month from here on out.

He and I have crossed paths a few times over the past few years and have had the occasional conversation. But it wasn't until the Irish Fest at the Heritage Center this past month that I had my first real chance to talk to him. Later that week, we got together again, attended a literary event at the Center and discussed books, plays and more at further length throughout the morning.

Well, mostly he talked, and mostly I listened. It was perfect for me. Aside from not being a morning person—anything between 4am and 11am constitutes my morning—West is simply more interesting than me.

After picking him up at his home, which I was jealous was only a few blocks away from Wrigley Field, I discovered a simple formula to enjoy myself for the day. I would ask him a question about a book, a movie or a play, watch the road and listen. With 67 years of life and 32 years as

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



I'm sitting here trying to type this column the day after the Irish American Heritage Center Festival and I'm still in shock, not to mention completely bushed. What a great weekend! I honestly think that this was the best festival they've ever had there. The weather was far better than predicted, the crowds came out and the bands, for the most part, were in tune. There was such great music this year. I didn't get to see the

the gates, selling the tickets, working the bars and cleaning up the mess afterward. My hat's off to you all. Without the army of workers the festival wouldn't exist.

Soap Box Time

Enough about festivals and fun, it's time for me to drag out the old soap box, mount up and proceed to preach. One problem we get at festivals is folks having way more to drink than is prudent and then trying to drive home. It's never good and always dangerous. Some festivals have instituted designated driver programs with buttons identifying the designated driver which entitle that person to free soda and water. A nice idea. Saturday night I nearly got clipped by a big swerving SUV that ran a red light. Thank God for good brakes. I could carry on like this but a dear friend went thru the experience of being hit by a drunk driver, wrote an essay on her experience and gave me permission to use it.

Due to space constraints, her essay is posted on the IAN website, (www.iannews.com) and I encourage you to read it for the profound impact it will make on your view of drinking and driving.

I hope you can all make it to the festivals this summer, have wonderful times and get home happy and healthy. Slainte!

Finding me is never difficult. Weekdays I'm usually in my store gazing at my new ceiling, (another story, another time) so stop by and say Hi at 47 S. Villa Avenue in Villa Park or call at 630-834-8108 - weekends I'll be under tent behind a pile of CDs.

performances inside the building because I was busy in our booth but I did make a point of watching "Dyed in the Wool." They are one of my favorite local bands and our good friend Kim Bigler sat in with them on bodhran this year and also danced to one piece of music. She's a very talented ballet dancer and certainly showed off her talent this weekend. It was great to see and hear and I hope the band keeps her in the lineup.

A couple other bands definitely deserve mention. The Makem and Spain Brothers never fail to deliver with great songs sung in perfect harmony and their performance this year was no exception. The Dooley Brothers performed a couple of great sets of old favorites and many off their new CD Black Sunshine, a definite must have. I missed seeing and hearing Gavin Coyle perform but I knew when he was finished because people streamed out to the booth and bought every CD of his that we had in stock.

The real heroes of the festival were all the volunteers who worked like beavers getting everything ready, manning

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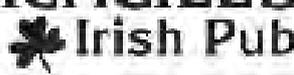
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 - c. total price charged for all charges including

parts, labor, sales tax, and any additional charges (ex., storage charges or administrative charges);

These are just some of the requirements of the Automotive Collision Repair Act, 815 ILCS 308. But keep in mind that when these auto body repair shops claim a lien of your car for non-payment, any violation of the Act is a bar to the lien asserted by the auto body repair shop. 815 ILCS 308/65. So, if you think you are being swindled, but an auto body repair shop is threatening you with detention of your car based on a mechanic's lien, suit, auction, etc., be aware that an violation of the Automotive Collision Repair Act, bars any purported lien of the auto body repair shop. 815 ILCS 308/65.

Pursuant to the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505/2Z, any violation of the "Automotive Collision Repair Act" is an unlawful practice within the meaning of the Consumer Fraud Act. Therefore, a consumer, upon prevailing either by settlement or verdict, can sue for his attorney fees and court costs pursuant to 815 ILCS 505/10c.

For those of you who have found this article informative, I hope you will consult an able consumer fraud attorney if you

ever feel you've been lied to or cheated.

Next month, I plan to write about the "Home Repair an Remodeling Act" and the "Home Repair Fraud Act." Since most of us usually rely on Irish contractors and sub-contractors for home-repairs, my next proposed column will probably not be helpful to most. The words "shyster" and "Irishman" are, in my experience, oxymorons. But I hope that this column about "shyster" body shops will help you vindicate any rights you feel have been violated.

Laws to Regulate Auto Body Shops: Automotive Collision Repair Act

If you bring your car into an auto body shop for repairs, you are protected by the Illinois "Automotive Collision Repair Act." Actually, you are not "protected" by the Act, but the auto body shops operating in Illinois are regulated by the Act, which means nothing unless they (1) know the requirements of the Act; (2) abide by the requirements of the Act; or (3) violate a consumer's rights under the Act and the consumer retains knowledgeable legal counsel.

The purpose of the Automotive Collision Repair Act was to "improve communication and accounting between collision repair businesses and motor vehicle owners." 815 ILCS 308/5.

The Act regulates businesses that engage in cosmetic repair, structural repair, or refinishing of motor vehicles with defects related to accident or collision. 815 ILCS 308/10.

The Act requires auto body shops to do the following:

1. Obtain specific authorization from the consumer before commencing work in excess of \$100.
2. Disclose the following before obtaining authorization to commence work:

- a. a written estimated price for labor and parts for a specific repair and the final cost cannot exceed 10% of the written estimated price for labor and parts without oral or written consent from the consumer; OR

- b. a written price limit (maximum) for each specific repair which shall not exceed that limit without oral or written consent of the consumer. 815 ILCS 308/15.

The Act requires that if you need to have the car towed in the auto body shop cannot undertake a diagnosis or repair for compensation unless:

- a. the auto body shop has prepared a written estimate or a firm price quote of the price for parts and labor;
- b. the consumer has approved the written estimate or firm price quote, by phone or otherwise, after being given all pertinent information from the written estimate or firm price quote;
- c. the consumer has given his or her oral or written consent to the diagnosis or repair.

If the consumer's consent is oral, the auto body shop must note the name of the person authorizing the repair, the date, the time, and the telephone number called. 815 ILCS 308/35.

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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



Health Fairs

Catholic Charities Health Fairs are great places to "take the pulse" of a parish or neighborhood. And every summer, that's just what we do at four parishes in Chicago and the south and west suburbs.

Moms and dads and their infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and school children of all ages – and even grandparents – take advantage of the free health services at the Saturday fairs.

On August 23, Catholic Charities will hold our fourth and final Health Fair of the summer at St. Frances of Rome School, 1401 S. Austin

in Cicero, right across the street from Catholic Charities' West Suburban regional office. Registration for all adults, children and seniors takes place between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.; and medical care continues until all are cared for.

In their seventh year, the Health Fairs are just one of the many community services offered by Catholic Charities to and for parishes. Other parishes benefiting earlier this spring and summer were Our Lady of Tepeyac and Immaculate Heart of Mary/Holy Cross in Chicago, and St. Anne in Hazelcrest. Catholic Charities works in cooperation with many parishes, and we are especially grateful to the pastors, pastoral staff and parish volunteers who have so generously welcomed the Health Fairs to their areas.

Open to the public and staffed by volunteer nurses, doctors and dentists from numerous hospitals throughout the area, the Health Fairs offer free medical and dental exams to adults, children and the elderly, and immunizations for children. Optometrists and podiatrists are available to provide eye and foot examinations;

and medical screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes are conducted.

An enormous amount of information and a great variety of services are available at each Health Fair. Families or individuals needing emergency food, clothing or shelter; maternity services; substance abuse or HIV information; nutrition programs for children or the elderly; obesity education, smoking cessation, mental health information or family counseling; or other social services, can speak to a Catholic Charities representative or one of our service partners in their community to receive help.

Medical or social service referrals are provided on the spot to Health Fair participants who need immediate or additional care. For families in need of assistance, the Health Fairs provide a "one-stop shop" approach to needed health care.

Believe it or not, there are still many people in the Chicago area who receive no medical care, because there are not a lot of options for people who don't have health insurance. Every day throughout Cook and Lake counties, thousands of low-income "working poor," hungry and homeless families and individuals come to Catholic Charities because they do not have enough food, money, work or health insurance. Almost all have unmet medical needs. These are the uninsured or underinsured people who need our Health Fairs.

One of Catholic Charities' generous young Health Fair volunteer organizers summed up her convictions and experience this way: "I re-

ally enjoy working on the Health Fair, because I believe that promoting good health can make such a difference in people's lives. Being in good health is so basic to having a good quality of life, and everybody deserves access to good health and a good life.

"For various reasons, the people Catholic Charities serves often have less access than the general population to the resources needed for good health. The Health Fairs give Catholic Charities the opportunity to reach out to the people they serve about their health and well-being, and to educate them about health, prevention, and the resources that are available to them in their community to keep them in good health. One of the best features of the day is the way the whole community comes together and works together to provide services and connect people to ongoing care."

The need for health care, like the need for food, is a basic human need; and, like food, it is a human right. I am deeply grateful to all the generous doctors, nurses, dentists, medical and social service professionals and volunteers who donate their time and services to help their brothers and sisters who are in need of health care.

For more than 90 years, Catholic Charities has been responding to "the cry of the poor." Please join us in prayer and in these works of charity as together, we meet the basic human needs for our neighbors in Cook and Lake counties.

For further information about the August 23 Health Fair, call Catholic Charities West Suburban Regional Office at (708) 222-1491.

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Sporting Log

Sean Og. O Ceallachain



The Government grants scheme to GAA players is in jeopardy at present following the cutbacks forced on the Government because of the current state of the economy. The GAA and the GPA have been warned by the relevant Ministers that a whole range of programmes are threatened in various sections. Earlier this year the GAA and the Gaelic Players Association were told by the Government that they would pay the grants this season, but whether they identify them as an area where savings can be made in 2009 and beyond, remains the problem. The relevant department of Arts, Sports and Tourism have not made any comment on the matter. But with all Ministers under instructions to curb spending, the grants scheme which was finally put together earlier this year could well come a cropper under severe pressure. Under the scheme, more than 1900 inter-county players will receive grants ranging from 1,500 euro to 2,500 euro per head depending on how long a team survives in the championship.

The scheme is operated by the Irish Sports Council and is linked to various expenses incurred by the players in their pursuit of excellence. The 3.5m commitment was given for 2008 but the agreement also noted that the amount required for the scheme in subsequent years will be determined by the Government. That leaves it up to new Minister Martin Cullen to decide if he will continue to provide funding from 2009 on. As all Ministers have an obligation to make cuts in their budgets it would be an easy decision for Minister Cullen to use the sports grants as a victim of the all-round cutbacks. The GAA have stressed all along that if the grants scheme falls by the wayside because of cuts in budgets, the GAA will not pick up the pieces and fund the scheme out of their own resources. The GPA who played a big part in getting the grants will be at war with the Association. We must wait and see. Ironically, a situation has already blown up in County Laois over these grants. Laois

hurlers who stayed away from training sessions recently are facing a shock, when they apply for funds under the new Government grant scheme. Those involved could have their grants cut by half or refused if they are deemed to have broken the terms of the agreement that had been worked out between the GAA and the GPA and the Government. Sadly, Damian Fox, the Laois hurling manager, who was very good at his

job, resigned, and few could blame him. Only 10 players out of a panel of 26 turned out for training. Even then seven of them were late turning up for the start of the session. There were genuine reasons because some players had picked up injuries but more than half didn't bother turning up. It will be interesting to see what steps the Irish Sports Council will take in this particular case, the first of its kind.

Kieran McGeeney, All-Ireland winning Armagh football captain, who took on the job of Kildare football team manager, had an unhappy start to his reign, when the team lost to Wicklow in the Leinster senior championship over a month ago. There were strong rumours that he was stepping down from the post. He told me he has no intention of giving up after one outing and is there for the start of the National League.

Harrington Repeats as British Open Champion

Padraig Harrington edged out Ian Poulter and overtook Greg Norman recently to capture The 137th Open Championship title at Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Southport, England. It is Harrington's second consecutive win at the Open and gives him back-to-back wins coming off his victory at the Irish PGA Championship.

The win is even more impressive given the status of Harrington's wrist earlier this week, having sprained it in the practice rounds.

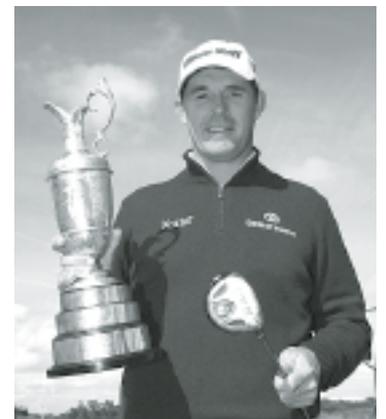
On his way to bringing the Claret Jug back home to Ireland for a second time and becoming only the fifth back-to-back Open winner in the last 50 years, Harrington overcame not only injury but less than perfect weather conditions, with wind, rain and cool weather throughout the tour-

namment, as well as the added pressure of defending his championship. The win makes him the first Irishman to win two major tournaments as well as the first European to win back-to-back Open Championships since James Braid, who did so in 1906.

Starting off the final round, Harrington had lost his lead with tough holes on the 6th, 7th and 8th, but charged back with birdies at 13 and 15 to give him a two-shot lead. Following a precise approach shot with his Wilson Staff FYbrid 5-wood,

Harrington sunk a five-foot putt for eagle on 17 to stretch his lead to four shots. He closed strong at the 18th hole by striking a solid tee shot to make par and clinch the victory, finishing with a final-round 1-under 69 and 3-over-par 283 for the tournament.

This championship is the latest in what has been a stellar year thus far



for Harrington, who has recorded four top-10 finishes, including a fifth-place finish at The Masters. Harrington, a Wilson Staff professional since 1998, is instrumental in the development of the new Wilson Staff irons, driver and wedges. For information on these or any other Wilson Golf equipment, visit www.wilsonstaff.com.

New Coach at Gordon Tech

Gordon Tech High School recently appointed Shay Boyle their new Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach. A 1999 cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Boyle earned a BA in business administration with a double major of marketing and computer applications. He is also a 1995 graduate of Weber High School in Chicago where he was a 4-yr member and team captain of the basketball team, and an all-conference baseball player.

From 2005-2008, coach Boyle served as assistant coach at Loyola University Chicago under head coach Jim Whitesell. From 2002-04, he served as assistant coach at Lewis University under coach Whitesell, where he helped guide the Flyers to an impressive 47-15 (.758) overall record, a 29-2 home mark and a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances.

During the 2003-04 campaign, Boyle helped direct the Flyers to a 24-7 record and their first Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship in 16 years. Lewis earned the #1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

In 2007, Boyle helped Loyola to its first 20-win season since 1984-85. His work on defense paid off as the Ramblers surrendered only 64.8 points per game, the lowest mark by a Loyola team since 1950-51.

"Score an Audition" for the GALS League

There will be Tryouts for Women over 50, who want to play a fun, modified game of basketball with others who desire an organized form of exercise with a little competitive spirit.

Agile women (with and without basketball backgrounds) are invited to attend the special GALS (Grand Allstar Leagues for Seniors) tryouts on Sunday, August 24th, at the Homan Square Park District Gym from 1-4pm, 3559 West Arthington, in

Chicago (5 blocks south of the Eisenhower Expressway.)

Judges will be the Captains and members of the teams formed in January of this year along with representatives of the Chicago Sky and Chicago Bulls. GALS players will also demonstrate the Rules for this most genteel and enjoyable game.

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By Frank J. Mahon



Educating Brigid - Part II

Part 1 can be viewed at www.iannews.com Under columnists tab go to frank mahon - july 2008

Born in County Longford, Brigid Duffy and her family moved to Chicago when she was a little girl. Her parents both lived in Chicago for a time before they knew each other, but both of them returned to Ireland during the Great Depression. Annette and James eventually met, were married, and had four daughters. Since Ireland was not exactly the land of opportunity for young women in

those days, Annette Duffy decided that the family should move to America, so her daughters would have a better chance for a good life and a good education.

Brigid, their eldest daughter, has had both, as it turns out. Her mother would have been very pleased to know that her foresight paid off. And through Brigid's careers in education and in the theatre, she has always found ways to "pay it forward." And ingeniously, she has found ways for one profession to inform the other.

Brigid, who studied acting at the

Goodman Theatre School of Drama, first got her Equity Card at Candlelight Theatre in the late 60s, playing in *The Boyfriend* for director Bill Pullinsi, whom she knew from the Goodman. But after the show closed, Christmas was approaching, and Brigid needed extra money. Since she had a degree in education, Brigid took a temporary job teaching gradeschool. She found that she loved teaching and her "temporary" job lasted 34 years—teaching first and third grades. Of course, the classes put on lots of plays.

She kept acting herself until her own children came along, and after that, performed only occasionally. She and her husband, actor Charles Gerace, wanted the normalcy of a "traditional life," so she was semi-retired from professional theatre in those years. The kids are all grown now. Their son Sean is a writer and their daughter Erin is a teacher. But as for their mother, once the acting bug bites...

In 1991, Brigid won a Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching. Along with it went a sabbatical and free tuition to Northwestern. Not surprisingly, Brigid took a lot of drama classes. Also not surprisingly, she decided to go back into acting professionally. She was cast in John Hughes's film *Baby's Day Out*, *Unsolved Mysteries*, and *Hedda Gabler* at Steppenwolf, to name just a few roles. Then Irish Repertory of Chicago came along in the late 1990s, and Brigid was cast often. She and her husband Charles worked together in *Well of the Saints* by J.M. Synge.

Both Brigid and Charles served on the board of Irish Rep, and tried to help keep Irish Rep afloat, but by the time they became involved

at that level, it was already too late. Irish Rep had already struck the iceberg. Brigid believes that Chicago still needs an Irish theater, and Irish Rep could have made it with the right leadership. "There were very serious financial problems," she says. Most theatres have financial problems. But Irish Rep had FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. Brigid feels that it failed because of poor business management and poor play selection. "One person tried to do everything, and there weren't enough bodies to do all the jobs." But still, she says being part of it was something that made her very proud. "We always got good notices... It was heartbreaking."

Brigid Duffy loves working in the atmosphere of what some call "The Chicago School" of acting. "There's something so real about working with Chicago actors. Everything is so authentic—there's no fakery. They are really concerned with delivering the playwright's content in the most authentic way—no histrionics."

Brigid also thinks having taken a long sabbatical from acting proved to be valuable as well. "It's good in a way to be away from it, to be studying other people, and to be carrying on with your life—because you learn a lot about the craft. And when you go back, the more avenues of your life that you bring together, it's more interesting than being totally immersed all the time. Most of the actors that I admire have real lives—because (the theatre) gets so insular."

Besides acting, another way Brigid has gotten back into theatre has been to offer her services as a dialect coach for theatres such as the Goodman, Northlight, and Irish

Repertory. She has learned, however, that sometimes a dialect coach can do too good a job. An authentic regional Irish dialect can be so authentic, that it can be almost unintelligible to American audiences.

So what makes Irish drama so distinctive? Brigid thinks it's the language. "That grasp of language is so the center of an Irish play. The biting humor. The new writers, like Martin McDonough and Conor McPherson are coming out of such a rich history of language, and humor, and compassion... The newer crop of Irish playwrights are clever, but for a play that's beautiful, that's really moving, that's really humorous, that just breaks your heart—there's no one like Brian Friel."

Other favorite Irish playwrights of Brigid are Sean O'Casey and Eugene O'Neill. She considers O'Neill an Irish playwright by virtue of the hugeness of his drama. Like O'Casey, the "Irishness" is in his language and his character development. "It's his Irish bones in there."

And Sean O'Casey? "His comic sense in the middle of chaos, in the middle of tragedy—he's able to have you crying one minute, killing yourself laughing the next."

Brigid feels that Hugh Leonard is underappreciated and bemoans the fact that John B. Keane, "an important writer," is practically unknown in this country. Other than O'Neill, Beckett and Wilde, why are Irish plays not as well known by American actors? Brigid thinks that there is a mindset among actors that Irish plays are difficult to do. She doesn't think they are, but that's the perception.

But then again, actresses like Brigid Duffy always make it look easy.

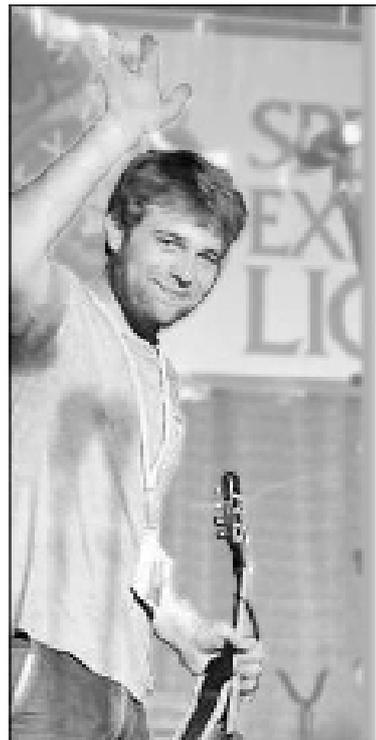
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Intro of Retirement Villages to Ireland

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

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

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

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

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

Retirement villages are seen by residents as places to live as opposed to "care settings".

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

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

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

The true meaning of the term retirement village, specifically one which offers more than 100 homes, is a relatively new concept in Ireland. There are relatively few examples, apart from Glendale Estate in Tullow, County Carlow.

Internationally, retirement villages offer high levels of service, care and support within environments that maintain and promote independence. Also, they have the additional benefits of offering a rather wide range of social and leisure activities. They truly have more in common with resort hotels than care facilities.

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

Glendale Estate retirement community, Tullowphelim, Tullow, County Carlow, Ireland. Phone: 011-353-59-151184. Website: www.glendale.ie.

Saw Doctors Get Lifetime Achievement Award

Legendary Irish Supergroup The Saw Doctors were presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2008 Meteor Ireland Music Awards in celebration of their illustrious career in the Irish music industry.

The Saw Doctors are this year celebrating over 20 years in the music business, having achieved international acclaim across the globe with

classic hits such as 'N17' and 'I Useta Love Her', which holds the record for Ireland's biggest selling single of all time and the number one chart position for nine consecutive weeks.

Local summer tour dates include Sat., Aug. 16 and Sun., Aug. 17 at Milwaukee Irish Fest, and Cleveland's House of Blues on Fri., Aug. 22.

www.sawdoctors.com.



L-R: Eimhin Craddock (Drums), Kevin Duffy (Keyboards), Leo Moran (Guitar), Davy Carton (Vocals), and Anthony Thistlethwaite (Drums). Photo by Kyran O'Brien.

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HOURS



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Irish Eye and Ear on Chicago News

One of the legendary keys of success in the broadcast news business is never sounding like you left the Chicago area, supposedly the best

D.C. at the age of 30 with the yen to start a new career in broadcast journalism, an age when most journalists are hanging up their spikes.



non-accent for news.

It comes somewhat easily for WBBM Newsradio's Mary Frances Bragiel, a native of the northwest suburban suburb of Arlington Heights who has worked in television in Colorado, Virginia and Chicago as a general assignment reporter. You can often hear her reports on weeknights and weekends on Newsradio 780 AM, and from time to time she still appears on television, giving live reports on breaking crime stories to the likes of Nancy Grace on CNN and Greta Van Susteren on FOX News.

"You never know what each day will bring in the news business, that's what I love about it." Rubbing elbows with legal commentators comes naturally to the former paralegal who grew up leaning on the advice of her father, a corporate lawyer in Chicago. Ultimately the law wasn't for her, The George Washington University grad returned to Chicago from Washington

They Say Thirty Is the New Twenty

And so eight years after graduation and stints in law and public relations in D.C., Bragiel found herself back in Chicago under a familiar roof.

"I did the whole bit some college kids do when they get out of college, only this time as an adult living at home with my parents, getting a part time job waiting for my big break in television." Bragiel got a paying internship behind the scenes at WGN Radio working with one of Chicago's most famous radio newspeople, Lyle Dean.

"Lyle would let me do some voice tracks from time to time and I'm glad my Dad got to hear me before he passed away." A fatal heart attack took him away but in two weeks her answer to prayer from a Heavenly Father came. Her first full time on-air job as a television reporter in tiny Grand Junction, Colorado. She went

without looking back.

"I'm a practicing Catholic and faith is important to me. It has given me a strength of knowing that things happen for a reason and God is behind it if you trust him."

Ski resort Grand Junction is a long way from the bright lights and big stories of Chicago. "I think I can do without that much snow for the rest of my life," laughs Bragiel, who would later jump some 130 markets from the Rockies to the Blue Ridge at the NBC station in Roanoke, Virginia. Less snow, more potential for the impossible dream of getting back home to Chicago.

The usual route once you make it to a medium-sized television news market is to step to a larger and nearer city... say an Indianapolis or Minneapolis... then make the needle in a haystack leap to Chicago.

Blue Ridge to Big Shoulders

Bragiel went back on faith to try and make it happen, returning home and working part-time in customer service at Tiffany's on Michigan Avenue as live news trucks rolled by and she wondered if she would have one last crack at TV in her mid 30s. "That was a long... nine months," she says with an amiable sigh. 2001 wasn't the best year, or economy, for risky career moves.

"I did want to be back near my family if I could, I'm close to my mom and four sisters," says Bragiel, whose roots are close to much of 19th century Chicago, half Polish and half Irish. "My Dad was Polish, my mom's maiden name was Finn from kin in County Mayo and grandmother on my mother's side was named O'Connell from County Wexford. One Grandfather was a policeman working the beat at 11th and State."

Mary Frances, who went to high school at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, has fond memories of her mother making her St. Patrick's Day lunches of Corned Beef

and Cabbage and Root Beer before heading downtown to join Mr. Bragiel for the parade. "St. Patrick's was always a big day in our household," she says with a somewhat whimsical smile. Perhaps because she's not the only Mary Bragiel from Arlington Heights.

Mary Frances' sisters include "Mary Katherine, Mary Ellen, Mary Clare, Mary Colleen," she notes with a bemused grin. "Mom is Mary Irene, my aunt is Mary Ann, Mom named a rabbit Mary Doe and a horse Mary Mary." As if growing up a tall red-head wasn't enough of an indicator. "Yes, we're a bit Irish Catholic." The many Marys Bragiel even nicknamed their father "Mary Fred."

Many "Mary" Happy Returns

She attributes getting back home more to faith than the luck of the Irish. Bragiel ended up reporting on television from Chicago for CLTV... the Chicagoland television 24 hour cable station found on most television cable systems in the suburban area and a few within the city as well. During her time there she would also have stories of a national nature appear on CNN.

Three years ago she made the jump to radio to the city's top news station, where careers are measured in decades rather than years. "I like the stability I see there and the people are just wonderful. I've been fortunate to make and keep friends in all the places I've worked."

Getting up at 3 a.m. some days, working late into the evening on others, Bragiel often sees the unfriendly side of life with a Chicago filled with backstabbing political stories and crime filled streets and suburbs. Bragiel has received most national exposure for her continuing reporting on the story of missing Stacy Peterson who vanished from the south suburbs last year, the second of former Bolingbrook Police Sgt. Drew Peterson's wives to meet an uncertain end.

The notorious case has brought a return to television, and national attention for Bragiel. Whenever there's a break or a twist in the case she usually ends up on TV commenting nationwide on MSNBC, CNN or FOX in her off-radio hours, a six-foot tall veteran back on the small screen. "They like to turn to radio reporters," she explains. "The television reporters are usually tied up with their own broadcasts."

The Honking Drew

Peterson's cat and mouse game with reporters and lawyers was most likely the reason Bragiel had a very noisy addition to her live national television report for Fox News' Greta Van Susteren on May 21st.

BRAGIEL: Oh, apparently -- ap-

parently, that is Drew's car, I'm told by neighbors. So obviously, Drew may be watching this program right now and we're talking about him and talking about today's events, so...

VAN SUSTEREN: My money is on it that Drew has hit the -- has hit the key and sounded the alarm. That's a riot.

BRAGIEL: You think so? You think -- he is a funny guy, according to him, and this is how he handles the stress.

"Yeah he set the car alarm off on purpose," says Bragiel, who thinks Stacy may never be found but if Peterson is ultimately charged with murder, it will be for the mysterious bathtub death of his third wife. "The evidence is gathered and analyzed, now it's up to the grand jury."

Bragiel, like so many reporters that have juggled in the Peterson media circus, has had some interesting encounters with Peterson on and off camera. "Usually I talk to him by phone when I'm working a story. You can see how he could be very charming and witty, especially to a younger woman. One time it got a little creepy when he first wanted to know what I was wearing."

Clothed in Mercy and Grace

The reporter wears many hats when not on the airwaves. She is especially active in volunteering through her near north Catholic parish and its outreach to the homeless, as well as baking for the Misericordia Heart of Mercy Home for the developmentally disabled in Chicago while serving as a member of the Misericordia's Woman's Auxiliary Board.

"I work with, meet and serve some truly wonderful people volunteering. I think single people with no children should make the time to reach out for others."

After 12 years in the rough and tough news business, Bragiel seems to have softened a bit the past few years. She keeps a competitive edge running and training for an upcoming half-marathon, but the dog-eat-dog world of news seems far away when she talks animatedly about the people and purpose in her life of late.

A matter of faith? "It's a matter of realizing how blessed I have been, and knowing that with a slight change in circumstances I too could have ended up in a tough spot. We all can."

In a fast-paced, high profile career Mary Frances Bragiel beams when she talks about where her life's journey has taken her. Much more joyful in person than her often sober and staid on-air demeanor, it's clear she's excited about life back home in Chicago and perhaps yet another Mary down the road.

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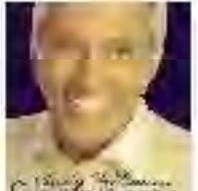
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IAHC August News and Events

Hizzoner: Daley The First Returns to IAHC

The critically-acclaimed production of Hizzoner: Daley the First returns to the IAHC as part of its Summer and Fall 2008 tour. Hizzoner played to 8 sold out audiences when it was performed at the IAHC in May 2007.

Mayor Richard J. Daley (1902 - 1976), authoritarian politician, family man and dynasty builder, whose life was inextricably bound to Chicago, the city he loved, is explored in Hizzoner. Written and starring Neil Giuntoli, the show opened March 2, 2006 at Prop Thtr. Hizzoner calls forth from history of the 60's and 70's while featuring a theatrically intimate look at the man atop Chicago's political machine.

Giuntoli has a rich history with Chicago beginning with his great uncle, former Chicago



Mayor Anton Cermak. This is the fourth play Giuntoli has penned for Prop Thtr. Giuntoli's additional credits include movie and television roles in "Shawshank Redemption," "Memphis Belle" and "Waterworld" among others. His notable TV guest appearances include "The Jeff Foxworthy Show," "CSI: NY," "CSI," "Monk," "NYPD Blue," "Ally McBeal," "Chicago Hope," "Seinfeld" and "ER."

Performances at the IAHC are:

Friday Oct. 24 at 8pm, Saturday, October 25 at 8pm, Friday, October 31 at 8pm, Saturday, November 1 at 8pm, Sunday, November 2 at 2pm, Saturday, November 8 at 8pm and Sunday November 9 at 2pm.

Tickets are \$30 for seniors and \$35 for the general public. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

IAHC Offers Irish School Classes This Fall

The fall semester of Irish School at the Children's Center for Cultural Studies returns this fall at the IAHC.

Kids ages 6-16 can take lessons in Irish heritage, culture, customs, language, art and music, through drama, storytelling, crafts and games. Classes include Irish Language studies, the Teen Theatre Workshop and Celtic Mythology and Art.

The fall semester runs from Oct. 4-Dec. 6 and classes are on Saturday mornings

from 9am-Noon. Fees are \$40 per class for IAHC members and \$60 for non-members. Discounts for families apply.

To register children for classes, just show up at the first class and be ready for your children to have a great time while learning about all things Irish!

For more information on all children's educational programs at the IAHC, contact Director Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

Study the Beauty of the Kells

The IAHC School of Celtic Art continues its Traditional Celtic Art Class this fall.

This beginner and intermediate class for teens and adults teaches students easy-to-master techniques for knot work, interlacing, spirals and color. The semester runs from Sept. 16-Nov. 18 from 7-9pm on Tuesday nights. The price is \$125. To register, call Frank Crowley at 773-773-612-6584.

Irish Fest Raffle Winners

The 2008 Irish Fest Raffle drawing was held on July 13 at the 23rd annual Irish Fest at the Irish American Heritage Center. The winners are:

Grand Prize-Round Trip Tickets to Ireland on American Airlines; Eugene Brady

First Prize-4 Tickets to a White Sox game; Maureen Malinowski

Second Prize-2 tickets to a Cubs game; Mark Moran

Third Prize-One night stay the Irish Cottage in Galena; Angela Birt

Fourth Prize-Overnight Stay at the Westin North Shore; Sean Walsh

Fifth Prize-4 lawn tickets to Tony Bennett at Ravinia; MW Dooley

Sham-ROCK Stars!

Winners Announced

Two talented children won top prizes in the 2008 Sham-ROCK Stars! Contest, held at the Irish American Heritage Center's Irish Fest in July.

The two-day singing contest began Saturday with a round of preliminary auditions. Each contestant was required to perform a modern or traditional Irish song. The top four finalists in the two age groups took part in a "sing-off" on Sunday. Winners were chosen based on the scores from a panel of judges and the audience response.

Mikayla Walsh, 12, of Lemont was the winner in the younger division and Ashleen Davey, 15, of Lake Barrington, won in the older division.

Prizes include a round trip limo ride, downtown restaurant package and a chance to record a public service announcement for the IAHC that will air on Radio Disney, AM 1300.

The annual festival, held each July at the IAHC, also featured a Mashed Potato Eating Contest, live music, food, cultural programs and a Hooley Happy Hour for singles.



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Mick

Mike Morley



Patriot Games

Taig (or Teague): an even blacker ethnic aspersion than that used to name this space each month. Says Wikipedia: Rarely heard outside Ireland and Scotland, taig is the most vitriolic slur word in use against Irish Catholics and has been used by loyalists in Northern Ireland in slogans like: "If guns are made for shooting, then skulls are made to crack. You've never seen a better Taig than one with a bullet in his back" (It doesn't roll from the tongue like poetry; but then they're billyboys, not Irish lads.) With a bit more literary effort they did manage to coin: "Don't be vague, kill a Taig".

That brand of bigotry, though rarely reported in the US, and despite "the peace process", remains prevalent. When a new housing development in Boveedy. Co. Derry was smeared recently with the notice: "no Taig buyers", Sinn Fein councillor, Billy Leonard remarked: "To experience this type of graffiti in 2008 is truly disgraceful". Well, Billy, who ya gonna call?

I was surprised though to run across the T-word while looking for a bit of inspiring Irish-American history to include in a July 4 greeting. What I found would more appropriately be added to a July 12 greeting.

Most Americans will remember that the Boston Massacre of 1770 involved British soldiers firing into a mob of Boston citizens. Some may

recall from their Catholic or public school books the name Crispus Attucks, the first person hit. Few will remember that five citizens were killed, nor the names of any of the other 4 dead.

Attucks, a seaman, believed to have been born of an African father and Natick Indian mother, was known around the Boston docks as "a hard man and a drifter". Like many Boston citizens, especially sailors, he resented the two regiments of British troops sent to the city 18 months earlier to keep order and assure collection of customs duties. Seamen were often forcibly impressed into the British navy, and as laborers ashore, had to compete with troops taking the king's wages and working off-duty for lower pay. There had been confrontations that week with the soldiers, and this night several groups wandered the streets "looking for trouble".

One group began harassing a guard at the Customs House and a detachment of soldiers came to his rescue. Attucks, at the front of a mob of about 60 people, some of whom were throwing rocks, ice and sticks, grabbed a soldier's rifle and reportedly struck him to the ground with a club. The soldiers fired, and Attucks was killed, struck twice in the chest. Two others also died at the scene. The last of the five to die was Patrick Carr; an Irishman apprenticed to a local tailor, who lingered on nine

days until his death on March 14—a sad but fortunate fact for the soldiers who killed him.

John Adams, recently the subject of a popular biography followed by a TV series, and who would later become second President of the US, decided to defend the soldiers. Considering the mood of the city, it was an unpopular choice at the time. But whether Adams was hedging his bets in the growing colonial struggle, we cannot know.

In arguing for the defense, Adams characterized the mob as:

"a motley rabble of saucy boys, Negroes, and mulattos, Irish teagues and outlandish jack tars... shouting and hazing and threatening life... whistling, screaming, and rending an Indian yell... throwing every species of rubbish they could pick up in the street."

He also reminded the court that the leaders of that mob were not upstanding citizens of the good city of Boston: "And it is in this manner, this town has been often treated, a Carr from Ireland, and an Attucks from Framingham, happening to be here, shall sally out upon their thoughtless enterprises,... and... there are not wanting persons to ascribe all their doings to the good people of the town."

That Adams was defending the soldiers in a capital trial might be seen to excuse his use of such incendiary slurs to describe certain non-white, non-Protestant citizens of Boston. But even so, the fact that no objection was recorded is revealing. The prosecution counsel, John's firebrand cousin Samuel Adams, didn't call him to task on the issue. Nor is there evidence that any of the angry Americans packing the courtroom took exception that

John Adams (soon to be enshrined among "The Founders")* was using words oozing with such obvious religious, racial and class prejudice. It appears that despite their objections to paying taxes, the colonists' ideas of who belonged in the liberty and equality fraternity, and who would be blackballed, pretty much matched those of their estranged relations back home in England.

John Adams won the trial, but it was not his eloquence or legal prowess that ultimately saved the British soldiers. Adams did not find it too ignoble to use as the knockout punch for the defense the alleged testimony of "the Irish Taig", Patrick Carr, six months dead, in the first recorded use of the "dying declaration" exception to the rule that excludes hearsay evidence.

Dr. John Jeffries, one of the physicians who attended Carr, was called to the stand. Jeffries claimed he had a long conversation with the dying Carr who told him he felt the soldiers fired in self-defense.

Q. Were you Patrick Carr's surgeon?

A. I was...

Q. Was he [Carr] apprehensive of his danger?

A. He told me... he was a native of Ireland, that he had frequently seen mobs, and soldiers called upon to quell them: whenever he mentioned that, he always called himself a fool, that he might have known better, that he had seen soldiers often fire on the people in Ireland, but had never seen them bear half so much before they fired in his life...

Q. When had you the last conversation with him?

A. About four o'clock in the afternoon, preceding the night on which

he died, and he then particularly said, he forgave the man whoever he was that shot him, he was satisfied he had no malice, but fired to defend himself.

Now, whether or not Carr actually spoke as Jeffries testified, the words would be believable to a colonial jury. Carr, though a "Taig", was a Christian, inclined to express forgiveness as death approached. And Carr's statement that British soldiers had no inhibitions whatever against shooting people in Ireland would, unlike now, have been no news to those Americans, British exiles, packing the courtroom.

The fact that Jeffries was a Loyalist must have been known by both the prosecution and defense. When the Revolution finally began, Dr. Jeffries sent his family to England, then left with the British military and was commissioned Surgeon-General of the British forces in North America.

Cousin Sam Adams acid comment to discredit Jeffries' crucial testimony was simply that the word of Roman Catholic Carr carried little weight in Protestant Boston.

*(You may have noticed that "The Founding Fathers" is no longer in polite usage—in deference I suppose to "The Founding Mothers.")

Perhaps we'll discuss other patriots next month.

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MICHIGIAN

High Kings in Grand Rapids on Sept. 17

The High Kings will perform at the Devos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids, MI on Wednesday, September 17th at 8pm. Ticket prices range from \$35.50 to \$60.50 and can be purchased at 616.456.333 or www.ticketmaster.com.

The balladeers of the High Kings, Finbarr Clancy, Brian Dunphy, Martin Furey, and Darren Holden, all have names and musical pedigrees that

resonate with Irish music lovers. Produced by the same folks that brought us Celtic Women, the High Kings have a new U.S. tour this September, which is expected to sell out in all their venues. The Grand Rapids performance is their only stop in Michigan on this tour, and their only Chicago date is Sunday, September 21, at Park West. After September they return for a much anticipated tour of Ireland.

Kalamazoo Irish Fest September 28-29

By Neil Mullally

The Irish American Club of Kalamazoo, Michigan, has scheduled that community's annual Irish Fest for 2008 on Friday and Saturday, September 28 - 29. The Fest hours on Friday are from 4:30 pm until midnight, and on Saturday from 10:30 am until midnight. Admission is \$7.00 per adult, and children 12 or under accompanied by an adult are admitted free. On Saturday college students with school ID can buy their tickets at half price. The Fest's venue is Kalamazoo's permanent downtown festival park, Arcadia Creek Festival Place.

On Friday evening the mainstage

performers will include Embarr, Whiskey Before Breakfast, Harvest Home, and the popular regional band Fonn Mor.

On Saturday, the full entertainment line-up will showcase The Irish Dance Company of Lansing, the Quinn School of Irish Dance, the Kalamazoo Pipe Band, String Cheese, Freshwater, Rare Combination, Kennedy's Kitchen, Donnybrook, and Belfast Gin.

Freshwater hails from Mount Pleasant in northern Michigan, and Rare Combination finds its talented members in the Battle Creek/Kalamazoo area. One of Rare Combina-

tion's lead musicians is Father Patrick Murphy. Chicago and northern Indiana Irish music fans should be no strangers to Kennedy's Kitchen and Donnybrook, because both bands appear regularly in Chicagoland, Merrillville, and South Bend. Belfast Gin is a Celtic rock group from Kalamazoo, and a past winner of the "Battle of the Celtic Bands" there.

At the Session Tent musicians are welcome to drop by to create their foot-stomping, hand-clapping music with others who love to entertain the appreciative fest patrons.

The Heritage Village is popular with everyone attending the Fest. The Irish American Club sponsors the Irish Tea Room, where tea, coffee and scones are served. Genealogy research guidance is provided by experts from the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogy Society. The Pendragons Guild's skilled calligraphers demonstrate the fine art of medieval lettering, illumination, and drawing of Celtic designs and knots. Members of the Kalamazoo Weavers' Guild take observers back in time as they spin wool into thread, and weave the thread into cloth, with several of their creations also on display. Even a palm reader and Celtic healing shaman are on hand.

The Irish Marketplace has a full array of purveyors of Irish goods and food choices.

Families with young children must visit Ti na nOg (Land of the Young) Children's Center. Special activities such as handcrafts, games, and face painting await the wee ones there.

Kalamazoo is located east of Chicago on I-94, and is a pleasant, all expressway drive of 145 miles, with a driving time of between 2 - 2.5 hours. For more information and to get updates, go to www.kalamazooirish.org.

Irish in Michigan

Book Review by Frank West

This is an outstanding book. In its brief length of 63 pages of text (92 with index, etc.) it tells the amazing story of the Irish in America. Our ancestors came here to find work and the freedom to improve life for their families.

From the time the first Irish settled in Michigan, in the early 1800's, they built the railroads, worked on farms, in factories and saw mills, for the lumber and fishing industries, etc. The thing common to all of this is that they were to work hard—very hard.

About this the authors, Seamus and Eileen Metress, say "They deepened and smoothed harbors. They also worked on the docks and the boats on the lakes. They drained the swamps, tilled the fields, and cleared the land. They excavated and built the early ca-

... continued on next page



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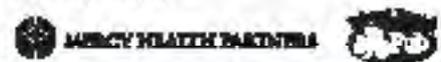
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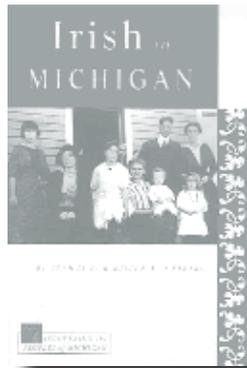
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MICHIGAN

nals and roads with sheer muscle power and later constructed the railroad grades



and tracks in the same manner. Later they became key operatives in the growing manufacturing sector where they were involved in union organizations as well as local community development."

I'm astonished how similar the reasons for coming to Michigan are to those of my own ancestors coming to Illinois.

When my grandfather came from Ireland, he could only find work in Boston as a laborer's helper. He came to Chicago and worked for several years on the railroad docks unloading box cars.

After several years of that, he was accepted by the Chicago Police Department. My grandmother worked as a domestic servant in a mansion on his beat. They married and began a family.

Why Irish people came to America, and where they traveled to find work is a fascinating story. And that story is told in this jewel of a book.

Irish in Michigan by Seamus and Eileen Metress. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, 2006. 93 pages; \$8.95. www.mspress.msu.edu.

The future for our Irish American heritage is bright. More and more Americans are declaring themselves as of Irish descent in the 1990 and 2000 censuses. There are more books and plays published each year by Irish and Irish American writers. And there is an increasing awareness and promotion of our literary, cultural, and musical heritages.

I'll close this review with a quote from this wonderful book. Greater awareness among young Irish Americans of their heritage may have two effects: "Pride in their own ethnic background may allow them to feel more comfortable with themselves..." and "It may also enrich their lives with a sense of identity and belonging in a society that seems to grow more rootless."

Michigan's Famine Memorial

By Neil Mullally

Michigan's An Gorta Mor Memorial is located in the Irish Hills district of Lenawee County in southeastern Michigan, near the city of Adrian. After years

Michigan Irish Music Festival Set for September 12-14

By Neil Mullally

The best ever! That's the inside word from Festival Director Chris Zahrt on the 2008 Michigan Irish Music Festival, to be held on the weekend of September 12-14, in Muskegon, Michigan. Now in its 9th year at its unique concert venue on the shores of Muskegon Lake, the festival's reputation as a first class event draws an audience from the Midwest and beyond.

Headlining the 2008 festival will be Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Teada, The Barra MacNeils, and Millish. Returning favorites include Switchback, Seamus Kennedy, Lawrence Nugent, Blackthorn, Fonn Mor, Kennedy's Kitchen, Peg & Collette, and The Muskegon Police and Pipe & Drum Corps.

Festival Entertainment Director Tom Schaub considers this year's line-up to be one of the strongest he has booked in the festival's history. He is especially enthusiastic about introducing Millish to a wider audience in the band's home state of Michigan. Schaub comments, "Last year when I visited the festivals in Dublin and Milwaukee, I asked several of the performers whom they think is the hottest up- and- coming band on the scene, and they answered Millish. Millish is breaking into the main festival circuit, and we are glad to have them with us this year." For more information on the Ann Arbor based Millish, whose members include a champion fiddler and a champion uilleann pipe player, go to www.millish.com.

With the performers using three stages, the entertainment is non-stop during the festival. And in the Pub Tent there is more entertainment,



of fundraising by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. Patrick's Division #1, of the City of Adrian, the Memorial was completed and dedicated in 2004.

The Memorial is located on the grounds of St. Joseph's Shrine (yes, there is a statue of St. Patrick at the shrine, too), and is an imposing portal



Scythian (shown here at the 2000 festival) will be returning this year to the Michigan Irish Music Festival.

along with a fine Irish Food Court where there is no problem for festival-goers to find their favorite sustenance and libations. When added to all that are the Dance Stage, the Session Tent, and the exhibits in the Cultural Tent, and the Limerick Contest, no one can avoid having a great time!

Many vendors travel to Muskegon to join the festival's Irish Marketplace, where they make available the best in Irish jewelry, clothing, crafts, recorded music, and more. IAN's own Shay Clarke is a frequent participant in the Irish Marketplace.

Because the festival is truly a family event for patrons of all ages, the festival provides an extensive "Wee Ones" area near the County Kerry Stage. There parents will find a variety of activities for children from toddlers to teens.

On Saturday the Michigan Irish Music Festival also sponsors its Feis, which attracts some 700 dancers from Michigan and other states. The Feis is held at the nearby L.C.

structure. The platform of the Memorial consists of thirty-two black stones, each representing an Irish county. The flagstone center of the base and the two columns are made of stone quarried in County Donegal. The Memorial's focal point is the lintel (cross-beam), which is an actual stone step from Penrose Quay in Cork, where many famine ships left Ireland. In the center of the base is a large, empty bowl symbolizing the Great Hunger. Along the background of the Memorial ground is a low stone wall, as found throughout Ireland. The Memorial is moving in its stark simplicity.

The Irish Hills area is also the home of the Michigan International Speedway for Formula 1 racing. The Memorial is located on U.S. Highway 12 in the Irish Hills. For more information and travel directions, go to www.visitlenawee.com and click on Irish Hills.

and Brian's performance here.

On Friday evening from 5-6pm, admission to the festival is free. After then adult admission on Friday is \$6.00. Adult admission on Saturday is \$12.00, and on Sunday \$10.00. Three day passes are available for \$20.00. Admission for children ages 6-12 is \$2.00 each day, and children under 5 are free. Special lodging rates are listed on the festival's website.

Those low admission prices are possible thanks to the festival's major sponsors, which include Mercy Health Partners, Guinness, Budweiser, Verizon, Huntington Bank, Shape Corporation, Pro-Phone Communications, Independent Bank, Muskegon Community College, and Pioneer Resources.

Muskegon, Michigan, is located 180 miles north of Chicago on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Driving time from Chicago is about three hours. Some Northside travelers find it convenient to take the high speed Lake Express Ferry, which operates between Milwaukee and Muskegon. To purchase tickets and for details about the Michigan Irish Music Festival, go to the festival's website www.michiganirish.org. You can also sign up there for email updates about the festival.

An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Following a number of enquiries for information on Immigration through investment, I am supplying the basic overview as provided by U.S.C.I.S.

Immigration through Investment Overview

Under section 203(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(5), 10,000 immigrant visas per year are available to qualified individuals seeking permanent resident status on the basis of their engagement in a new commercial enterprise.

Of the 10,000 investor visas (i.e., EB-5 visas) available annually, 5,000 are set aside for those who apply under a pilot program involving a CIS-designated "Regional Center."

A "Regional Center:"

- Is an entity, organization or agency that has been approved as such by the Service;
- Focuses on a specific geographic area within the United States; and,
- Seeks to promote economic growth through increased export sales, improved regional productivity, creation of new jobs, and increased domestic capital investment.

"Alien investors" must:

- Demonstrate that a "qualified investment" (see below) is being made

in a new commercial enterprise located within an approved Regional Center; and,

- Show, using reasonable methodologies, that 10 or more jobs are actually created either directly or indirectly by the new commercial enterprise through revenues generated from increased exports, improved regional productivity, job creation, or increased domestic capital investment resulting from the pilot program.

Eligibility

Permanent resident status based on EB-5 eligibility is available to investors, either alone or coming with their spouse and unmarried children. Eligible aliens are those who have invested—or are actively in the process of investing—the required amount of capital into a new commercial enterprise that they have established. They must further demonstrate that this investment will benefit the United States economy and create the requisite number of full-time jobs for qualified persons within the United States.

In general, "eligible individuals" include those:

1. Who establish a new commercial enterprise by:
 - creating an original business;
 - purchasing an existing business and simultaneously or subsequently restructuring or reorganizing the business such that a new commercial enterprise results; or
 - expanding an existing business by 140 percent of the pre-investment number of jobs or net worth, or retaining all existing jobs in a troubled business that has lost 20 percent of its net worth over the past 12 to 24

months; and

2. Who have invested—or who are actively in the process of investing—in a new commercial enterprise:

- at least \$1,000,000, or
- at least \$500,000 where the investment is being made in a "targeted employment area," which is an area that has experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate or a rural area as designated by OMB; and

3. Whose engagement in a new commercial enterprise will benefit the United States economy and:

- create full-time employment for not fewer than 10 qualified individuals; or

- maintain the number of existing employees at no less than the pre-investment level for a period of at least two years, where the capital investment is being made in a "troubled business," which is a business that has been in existence for at least two years and that has lost 20 percent of its net worth over the past 12 to 24 months.

As always, should you need any further information please contact the office.

New Board Member

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is happy to announce the addition of a new board member. She is Ms. Fiona McEntee and hails from Dublin. Fiona is an immigration attorney and will in future be available to our office, providing help and assistance on a pro bono basis. We are delighted that Fiona has joined our center and very grateful to her for providing advise on a wide range of issues.

Wait For the Brick

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick

smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and drove the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car, shouting, "What was that all about and who are you?"

Just what the heck are you doing?

That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money.

Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please mister ... please, I'm sorry... I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded.

"I threw the brick because no one else would stop..."

With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car.

"It's my brother," he said.

"He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out his fancy handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and May God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the little boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention! Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me @ sliabhanoir@yahoo.com. Or 312-337-8445.

We Get Letters

July 5, 2008

Dear Editor,

In reference to John Fitzgerald's Letter to the Editor concerning the Christian Brothers in July's paper, I feel compelled to add my voice and share my own experiences as a Christian Brother pupil of 11 years duration (1960-71). My Primary and Secondary education at Marino and Fairview, Dublin respectively, afford me a long-term perspective and a adequate basis for fair reflection of my experiences.

They are most overwhelmingly positive in so many different ways. Over the years I have learned of some horrible departures from my own experience and this letter is not intended to diminish or mitigate any of these crimes against children, but hopefully to show that the greater number of Irish Christian Brothers were exactly as John Fitzgerald and I remember them. Selfless, dedicated and uncompromising in the pursuit of what was for them a vocation as opposed to an avocation. I can recall countless hours of instruction and revision in preparation for exams, hours after school coaching us in Football and Hurling and so on. These "extras" were provided above and beyond what might have been expected of lay teachers. Lay teachers, laden with family responsibilities were, through no fault of their own, limited in their capacities to deliver very much outside "school hours".

Certainly one was expected to be on time, have homework completed, pay attention in class, be respectful etc. and there were penalties for any shortcomings on our part. However for the most part, and keep in mind that 11 years is a decent length of time, I have no memory of a punishment undeserved or extreme in any way.

Finally, having come to America (University of Pittsburgh) on a scholarship, the preparation provided by these men allowed me to complete a 4 year Undergraduate program (BA Magna cum Laude) in 2 years, at night, while working a minimum of 20 hours a week as allowed under my visa provisions. I can assure your readers that this was NOT so much a function of my own academic capabilities as it was the countless hours of guidance and encouragement of the Brothers who endowed me with the ability to challenge 36 College credits successfully in the basic degree requirements outside my elected major. With no disrespect intended to my erstwhile classmates, the Brothers had fortified me far beyond what I had even realised at the time. I was grateful then and continue to feel a responsibility to raise my voice in support of these men.

Yours Sincerely,
Sean McClorey
Pittsburgh, PA



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Would These Five "Rules" Work For You?

One of the really nice parts about writing a newspaper column is that you get mail from your readers. Fortunately most of the emails I have gotten over the last several years have been positive. But they tend to be "atta boy" type comments. I don't get a great number of specific suggestions or comments about future columns. However, in response to my May column, I did get such a specific recommendation.

A dear friend, Maureen Kane Wade, who has been a teacher and career guidance counselor for a lot of years, said she made it a point to tell "her" kids that there were five "things" they needed to do to keep their jobs. As the kids say, damn straight stuff:

1. Show up every day
2. Be on time.
3. Follow directions
4. Get along with your co-workers
5. Be able to be trusted.

Show Up Every Day

If you are fortunate, the majority of your (fellow) employees show up at their work place most days. What if they don't? You lose the ability to interact with them. You don't have access to their best thinking. You don't have the continuity of action/reactions that is present when you review yesterday's decisions/deliberations with your fellows.

The absence of an employee upsets the cohesiveness of the team; the absentee needs to be brought up to speed when s/he returns to work. At some level, that is a waste of valuable time. Had the person been at work the previous day, you wouldn't have to dedicate your time to playing "court reporter". Think about any set of circumstances when a key player is missing; the team simply doesn't operate the same.

Should attendance be a hiring criterion when people are being interviewed? Don't you think you should be exploring the interviewee's work ethic? Even if a person is a great performer isn't his/her contribution to the team significantly lessened if you don't know if they cannot be relied upon to be there.

Is the employee 'PRESENT' when they are physically present in a meeting? Shouldn't you at the super-

visor expect them to be fully invested in the immediate conversation?

Be On Time

Timeliness has been a fetish of mine for as long as I can remember. It fascinates me how lovely; thoughtful people can be oblivious to other people's time. Obviously one interpretation of a person's late arrival is their disdain for the other person's time; my time is clearly more important than yours. I had a client who was "always" late for staff meetings. His team saw it as a lack of respect problem rather than a time management problem. The boss was "dissing" his staff. Even when he did in fact have something more important to do, he was not forgiven for his tardiness. The presumption was that he is always late anyway, why should I believe that he was really more gainfully occupied with some other matter this time?

Once you get past the lack of respect being evidenced, you have the practical considerations. If a person is late by 15 minutes, it might mean that you now have 15 less minutes to handle the scheduled agenda items. Alternatively, the tardy person has put the squeeze on the other person(s) in attendance.

Commonly people will say, s/he is always late, plan for it. Sounds nice, but it is the rationalization of an enabler. A friend of mine has a 15 minute rule; if the other person is late by more than 15 minutes, he leaves the rendezvous point. He says he refuses to be held hostage by another's insensitivity. What's your experience, do you think a 15 minute rule would be helpful in your dealings with others?

Follow Directions

Again, an issue that seems so obvious, how could it be a problem? Well, it is for many people. To start with, giving understandable directions is a challenge. We may be telling someone to do something that we know backward and forward, how could the listener not know what is meant? Try to describe to another intelligent person how to change a baby's diaper. Many of us who have changed hundreds of diapers normally don't think about how it is done; we just know. But obviously if you have to explain it to someone else, they don't know. So you need to

work on your ability to either give or accept understandable directions.

If the direction giver is not clear in his/her expectations, ask for clarity at the front end. Don't wait until both of you are frustrated by the explanation. If you don't agree with the directions, respectfully ask for clarification, it will minimize the chance of misunderstanding. Better to annoy the direction giver at the beginning of the process, than later on, when a lot of time has elapsed, at which time you are also fighting a significant time problem.

Get Along With Your Co Workers

One of the biggest problems with people being properly integrated into a new job situation is their inability to get along with their fellow employees. To a very large extent, it can be facilitated by your decision to get along. Not to roll over, but to get along. Frequently new hires don't establish alliances with their fellow workers. They haven't acquired the support of their fellows. Instead they believe that the deciding factor of their success will be the product of their work or their industry knowledge.

Think of the people who have been successful in your own organization. When the boss asked how the "new person" was doing, s/he received positive feedback because the new employee had acquired support, not because s/he had sold the biggest order in the firm's history. On the other hand, if the response to the boss' question is timid and reserved,

that probably will be perceived negatively by the boss.

To acquire the support of one's fellow co workers does not require you to be a panderer or unusually solicitous, but rather you need to be true to yourself. I heard someone say, "I don't know what it will take for you to be successful, but I do know what it takes to fail; trying to please everyone."

Need To Be Trustworthy

Some people are defined by their trustworthiness; even their enemies know that you can "go to the bank" with their word.

Examples of trustworthiness have to be "demonstrated" not just stated. Many of us want to see evidence. Will these people do what they say they will do? Are you seen as a trustworthy person? If a fellow employee tells you something in confidence can they be comfortable in believing that you will hold this matter in the strictest of confidence?

Well, what do you think of Maureen's admonitions to her students? How do they apply to you and your employees? Maureen's comments could be useful for individuals at any level in an organization, but the thrust of them seems to be directed towards the new employee, perhaps a recent high school or college graduate just entering the work force.

Two other friends have offered to provide other perspectives. In my upcoming column in September, Bob Ward, a very accomplished executive search consultant, with

his own firm headquartered in Naperville, will provide a view of what clients tell him they want in their new employees. In my November column, Tim Corry, Vice President-Human Resources for Jewel Food Stores, will provide his perspective as an employer of a large number of people at all levels.

In addition to the five rules Maureen Kane Wade has suggested to her students, I would add one more. As professor and author, Jeffrey A. Timmons, says, "ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU ARE GOING TO DO. It is the glue and fiber that binds successful relationships." It seems to me that this rule could be the synopsis of all the above five. Carpe Diem.

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

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Chris Fogarty



WHAT HAPPENED to our economy; to gas and food prices, to so many mortgages now "upside-down"? How did the corporations manage to again quash organized labor? How did CEOs get to usurp the wealth created by corporate workforces? Nearly all of the pain and injury is due to gov't policies. Bush's \$10 billion per month criminal war on Iraq would, by itself, eventually bankrupt our nation (unless he actually pulls off his robbery of its oil). While Bush is responsible for his Iraq war and the sub-prime mortgage scam, part of other damages is due to earlier administrations.

OUR MILITARY in Iraq and Afghanistan are grossly underpaid. As enlistments drop, so do standards. Convicts and mental incompetents are now recruited. Meanwhile, our 130,000 force of mercenaries are carefully vetted; not for technical competence but for political orientation. Entre to that \$1,600 per day and all found life of leisure and criminal impunity is granted only, or mostly, to Republicans. Their construction competence is such that, so far, thirteen of our serving armed forces have been electrocuted by faulty wiring in showers. Fourteen hospitals for which US contractors have been paid to build don't actually exist. The money was paid to contractors who never even began construction.

BUSH'S WARS and his other decisions have all proven to be treasury-looting opportunities for his corporate cronies. Ditto Katrina: the money ostensibly spent for its victims was given directly to corporations, \$3 billion for 100,000 trailers that proved to be formaldehyde-contaminated and continue to cost us \$130 million annually to store. Bush contractors operate on a pay-to-play basis – whoever pays the biggest bribes gets the contracts.

IT WAS ABOUT OIL after all! Bush/Cheney's "Strategic Framework Agreement" (SFA) proves it. Under its terms Iraq's 1958 nationalization of its own oil resources is undone. It restores the self-same four oil giants that, as set up by the Brits in 1930, had looted Iraq's oil until 1958. The four wrote the new oil ex-

ploitation "contracts" which they merely handed to Iraq's Nouri al-Maliki as mandates. The SFA makes Iraq a permanent vassal state coerced by 52 new US bases manned by troops immune to Iraqi laws. Thus the 1.3 million dead Iraqis are nonentities. Ditto the untold hundreds of thousands injured. The five million refugees we have created cannot return due to ongoing violence. We pump their oil as if it's ours, after reducing their cities and towns to rubble. And despite the propagandists' "patriotic" blather, our 4,120 troops' deaths comprise part of Bush's Supreme Crime.

THE SUB-PRIME SCAM; the largest swindle ever, is now roiling international markets. Its perpetrators still strut the corridors of Bush power, unprosecuted. A bio: As senator, Phil Gramm was successfully \$lobbied by Enron which had constant access to his office. Gramm's wife Wendy was appointed to Enron's board of directors. Enron Chief Ken Lay co-chaired Gramm's 1992 presidential campaign. After defrauding \$billions with gov't complicity, Enron collapsed and a few of its officers were convicted, but not its enablers in gov't. In 2000 Sen. Gramm surreptitiously introduced "The Commodity Futures Modernization Act." The Republican controlled congress enacted it to "reduce red tape" and to "free up our futures markets." That was the law that "legalized" the sub-prime swindle that has now wrecked the international financial system and our once-almighty dollar. In addition to the current wave of foreclosures and corruption of the world's retirement funds Gramm's Commodity Futures Modernization Act has created skyrocketing prices at the gas pump and food stores. According to The Nation magazine, prior to his entry into political office Gramm was a producer of soft-core pornography movies. Having been so instrumental in creating the sub-prime scam and its consequent wave of foreclosures, Sen. Gramm now \$advises the Union Bank of Switzerland on how to escape its effect. He is also chief economic and financial advisor to Sen. McCain, and last week

referred to his scam's victims as "a nation of whiners." This is no plug for Obama whose toadying to AIPAC's genocidists (along with Hillary and McCain) speaks for itself. American patriots have never been more challenged; our gov't systematically violates nine of our Constitution's first ten amendments. It is very doubtful whether our Constitution will ever be restored.

THE "MISERY INDEX," the sum of US unemployment and inflation rates, is now the highest since January, 1993.

CAPITALISM TRIUMPHS! Good old Free Enterprise wins! That is how financial TV is "reporting" yesterday's \$100 billion giveaway to the main sub-prime predators. They hadn't completed palming off on pension funds all of their fraudulent "AAA-Rated" paper and had thus bankrupted themselves. Why such gov't largesse to those bankrupts? They, the mortgage companies, along with medical insurance companies, are massive political contributors, including to Obama's and McCain's campaigns. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac alone had spent \$200 million to buy freedom from the regulations prohibiting the very crimes that had now ruined them. They own or guarantee some \$6 trillion in mortgages, some of it fictitious. Sen. Phil Gramm was their main man. As McCain's financial guru his trail of wreckage will continue.

TORTURE. Bush's British collaborators are backing away. According to The Guardian (7/11/08) Britain's Defense Ministry will pay a total of \$5.6 millions to ten Iraqi families including that of Baha Mousa. Brit soldiers tortured the ten, local hotel workers, beating Mr. Mousa to death, inflicting 91 separate injuries before dumping him into a latrine. Mousa's children will share in the compensation. An earlier court martial had cleared all soldiers of the crimes excepting one who, earlier, had admitted his participation. Meanwhile, Physicians for Human Rights has just published a report detailing the medical evidence of detainee torture at the hands of US personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantánamo. US Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (Ret.) wrote the report's preface that accuses the Bush administration of war crimes. He wrote: "The profiles of these eleven former detainees, none of whom were ever charged with a crime or

told why they were detained, are tragic and brutal rebuttals to those who claim that torture is ever justified. Through the experiences of these men in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantánamo Bay, we can see the full scope of the damage this illegal and unsound policy has inflicted – both on American institutions and our nation's founding values, which the military, intelligence services, and our justice system are duty-bound to defend.

"In order for these individuals to suffer the wanton cruelty to which they were subjected, a government policy was promulgated to the field whereby the Geneva Conventions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice were disregarded. The UN Convention Against Torture was indiscriminately ignored. And

Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: The total solar eclipse of August 2008 will fall in your sector of creativity. If you don't believe you have any creative talents, those latent or denied gifts could come roaring to the forefront for the world to observe. Also you could have a possible addition to your family. "Oops!"

TAURUS: Someone creative may enter your private world. You will be given a possible chance at profound happiness that is all your own that you will keep very private and out of the limelight. This suits you just fine because you tend to be a private person anyway.

GEMINI: The whole gang is with you this month. The flurry of activity can be mind boggling. You may be up for some serious comings and goings and a lot of errand running for a possible move or new job, or both.

CANCER: Suddenly you have a lot of financial dealings for better or worse depending on the aspects in your individual chart. If you were born in the first half of July the financial situation is a bit rosier than if you were born in the second part of the month.

LEO: The spotlight is on you this month as a rare total eclipse of the sun puts you at center stage. New ground can be broken in areas that will promote you in the best possible light. Use this time to further your personal projects.

VIRGO: There is a lot going on that you are blissfully unaware of. Someone in the background is reeling in awe of you from a distance. Or, someone is championing your cause anonymously. There is also a chance that some sort of shenanigans going on behind your back.

the healing professions, including physicians and psychologists, became complicit in the willful infliction of harm against those the Hippocratic Oath demands they protect.

"After years of disclosures by governmental investigations, media accounts, and human rights reports, there remains no doubt that the current administration has committed war crimes. The only question remaining is whether those who ordered the torture will be prosecuted." Where are America's patriots; those sworn to defend its Constitution?

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

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

LIBRA: You are in the process of shifting your world around. Finances, job, and even personal relationships are undergoing far reaching changes that will make your life a happier and more complete one. Don't be afraid to open new doors while closing others.

SCORPIO: Your tenth sector of career and public image will be very much in the foreground. Do or say nothing that will come back to haunt you. If you are beginning a personal relationship with someone you want to last, use patience and caution. All eyes are on you so watch it.

SAGITTARIUS: The new moon eclipse is helping your cause so do not squander this opportunity. You are about to meet new people from some other culture or have a possible chance to travel. You will be greatly enlightened by new and unusual experiences.

CAPRICORN: Your health could use some serious attention. This does not mean that you have major issues related to this area but it could indicate a need for some revisions in the area of diet and exercise. Try to get enough rest.

AQUARIUS: Your significant other could be giving you fits. The total eclipse in Leo, the sign directly opposite yours, represents everything and everyone outside of yourself. Also you will be the recipient of a lot of attention and it would be to your advantage to behave with dignity and restraint.

PISCES: This is no time for fence sitting. You have a tendency to waffle on important issues and this time decisive action is called for. Use this time to prove your mettle and put your best foot forward in your most cherished plan.

Visit Nine Irish Brothers in West LaFayette, Indiana

The founding of Jameson's Dublin Distillery in 1780 established a tradition for quality and success. On Monday, August 11, from 7:30-9pm, O'Bryan's Nine Irish Brothers (119 Howard Ave. in West Lafayette, IN)



Publisher Cliff Carlson at Nine Irish Brothers with owners Jerry and Jan O'Bryan

will host an informal tasting, led by Whiskey Expert Andrew Featherstone, exploring the Jameson product line. Registration is limited to 40 people. Accompanied by appetizers, the tasting will last approximately one hour and will be followed by an informal question-and-answer session. The price of \$20 includes appetizers and tastings for one person. The full amount must be paid upon registration. If you would like to register, call (765) 746-4782. O'Bryan's Nine Irish Brothers

We Get Letters

07/03/08

Browsing the IAN

I have just finished browsing my July edition of IAN and would like to mention a few things regarding some of the columns this month.

1. Sporting Log. Sean Og, definitely need to change the name of this column to "The GAA Log."

2. Sharing a Pint. Scott Powers, Scott says, got married on April 25th in Spiddal Ireland, she's American but her family is half Irish/half British roots, so I say half of me loves her and half of me hates her, even in joking, why would half of you hate her because her family has half British roots? Scott, do you really know what you are insinuating, I was born in Wales which makes me British, "Do you hate me"?

3. For the Republic. Chris Fogarty, another depressing column this month from Chris, after reading page for page and feeling quite happy, you then get to the last one and depression sets in, Brit bashing, Bush bashing, The Bush gang, Which Brit Reg't starved your relatives, Who are the Terrorists, The Irish holocaust, he is surely a bundle of laughs every month, Is Chris going to Ireland once and for all to sort out the British single handed, let me know in the August edition of the grand IrishAmericanNews. Tony (Chesterton, IN)

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