

March • 2007



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IN MEMORIAM



Reverend Kevin Shanley, O.Carm.
October 17, 1931 – February 25, 2007

Severe Stroke Ends The Life Of Carmelite Reverend Kevin Thomas Shanley

Fr. Shanley's 30th Anniversary Column Appears In This Issue

With deep sadness the Order of Carmelites of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province reports the loss of Reverend Kevin Shanley, O.Carm., who died at the age of 76 on February 25, 2007 at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, where he has been in hospice, after a severe stroke that he suffered, February 10, 2007.

Father Kevin, will be waked at The National Shrine of St. Therese, 8501 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois on Thursday, March 1, 2007 from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm with a wake service following at 7:30 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 8404 Cass Avenue, Darien, on Friday, March 2, 2007 at 10:00 am. Visitation will also be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Friday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The Very Reverend John Welch, O.Carm., Prior Provincial of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province, will be celebrant. Internment at Mount Olivet Cemetery

in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darin, Illinois.

Kevin Shanley, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of the late Michael Joseph and Mary Margaret (O'Neill) Shanley on October 17, 1931. His parents were Irish-born immigrants who came to the United States in the late 1920's. Kevin Shanley was enrolled in Saint Aloysius grade school before entering the Carmelite Junior Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts. Graduating in May of 1949, he attended Mount Carmel College in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He made first profession of vows in August 30, 1950 in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania and his solemn profession in September of 1953, in Washington, DC. Continuing his studies at Saint Bonaventure University, he earned his BA degree in Philosophy and History in 1954. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1956 in Hamilton, Massachusetts.

After his ordination, Father Shanley received a MA degree in Theology from Whitefrairs Hall, Washington, DC in 1957; a MA, in Journalism from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1967; a MA, in Psychology from the Adler Institute of Psychology, Chicago, Illinois in 1985 and a D.MIN., (Doctorate in Ministry) from University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois, in 1996. Additional graduate studies included Catholic University of America, Washington, DC (Journalism); Canisius College, Buffalo, New York, (Education); Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana, (Journalism); Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, (Education); Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, (Celtic Studies); University College Dublin, Ireland, (Irish Studies).

As a newly ordained, Father Kevin began his career at the former Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, Illinois where he served

Continued to page 7

Chicago Celts For Immigration Reform Call For Action

Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform have fired up the campaign again for your call to Springfield to help get a favorable bill passed for the undocumented Irish in the U.S..

Take action by calling your state and national representatives to insure that they support the bills being presented on both the state and national levels.

Illinois is home to 3.2 million immigrants, yet many of these immigrants cannot drive legally because they don't have a Social Security number. We need our legislators in Springfield to pass the Road Safety and Mandatory Insurance Act to help immigrants drive safely and legally!!

Call these State Senators and Representatives, State Senator James Deleo

217-782-1035, State Representative Joe Lyons 217-782-8400 and urge them to support the Road Safety Bill, so immigrants can drive safely and legally.

Call Congressman Rahm Emanuel 202-225-4061 and urge him to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Legalization.

CCIF will have two floats in the major St. Patrick's Day Parades this year - one at the South side Irish Parade on March 11, and another at the Downtown Irish Parade on March 17th. All are invited to support the cause by showing up and marching in either or both parades.

A fund-raiser will also be held at Hawthorne Race Course on March 25th at Noon. Call Billy Lawless at 773-294-8009 for information.

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Newberry To Hold Republished Book Launch Of James T. Farrell's Works

The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton St., Chicago, will hold a book launch party for the republishing of the O'Neill-O'Flaherty Pentalogy, Volumes I and II. James T. Farrell's A World I Never Made and No Star is Lost have been out of print for fifty years. The novels are being republished in spring and fall of 2007, with new introductions by former Newberry fellow, Charles Fanning. The book launch party to com-

memorate the Irish American author will be held on March 17, 2007 at 10:00 am with Charles Fanning of Southern Illinois University - Carbondale as speaker with comments by Alan Wald of the University of Michigan.

A World I Never Made and No Star is Lost will be available for purchase at the Newberry Library's A.C. McClurg bookstore. Admission is free. No reservation is required. 312.255.3700.

Retiring in Ireland

Retirement villages, which are not uncommon around the world, have just hit the Irish market with the creation of a 21 acre resort retirement village by Glendale Estates Limited. Glendale Estate offers purposely designed barrier free homes, offering 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.

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ments, that maintain and promote independence with the additional benefits of a range of social and leisure activities and which have more in common with resort hotels than care facilities, are likely to attract Irish people from around the world, who have always considered returning home.

The late 1990s saw an enormous Irish economic growth of twice the rate of the USA and four times the rate of the rest of Europe. It would be hard to argue that the improving Irish economy does not bring many Irish people home. The economy however, is just an enabling force in the return to Ireland by Irish people abroad from what, deep in their hearts, has always been a desire to "come home".

As the old proverb goes: "Níl aon tínteán mar do thínteán féin", and now it really can be!

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Queen of Martyrs Church to Erect St. Michael Shrine

The Rev. David Simonetti, Associate Pastor of Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church in Evergreen Park, Illinois, had an idea come to him after saying a final prayer during Mass on Sept. 28, the day before the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. "Like lighting the idea came," he recalled, "I swear to you I saw it."

Simonetti saw a shrine to St. Michael the Archangel that would be dedicated to the unsung heroes of the community: our firemen, policemen and servicemen, whose recognition is long overdue. He pitched the idea of the shrine to the pastor of Queen of Martyrs, the Rev. Ed Mikolajczyk, who approved. The shrine will be dedicated to all Police, Fire, and Military personnel who "protect and defend God's beloved people" and will be located on parish ground, facing 103rd St. Plans call for a large statue of St.

Michael the Archangel resting on a concrete platform. A prayer to St. Michael the Archangel would be engraved on the front of the concrete platform. The statue would be flanked by two benches; an eternal flame would burn a few feet in front of the statue on a small concrete base. Simonetti is relying on fundraising efforts, raffles and donations to pay for the shrine. With the community's involvement and financial support, he hopes the shrine can be dedicated in the Spring. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to Queen of Martyrs Rectory, 10233 A. Central Park Ave., Evergreen Park, IL 60805.



Milwaukee to Host Theatre Festival

Milwaukee will celebrate the best in Irish theater from May 15-20, 2007, when nine theater groups from Ireland, Canada and the US compete in the 14th Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival at the UWM Peck School of the

Arts Mainstage Theatre. Local group Milwaukee Irish Arts last hosted this prestigious festival in 1997 and will once again welcome actors, directors and technical crews, as well as Irish culture and theater aficionados to their Irish-American community.

Further information about play schedule, ticket reservations, volunteer opportunities, and hotel and airfare promotional rates is available at: www.actiringish.org.

Former Church of Ireland Building To be Developed Into Teach Cheoil

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann has unveiled plans to develop a Teach Cheoil on the site of a former Church of Ireland building in Kilrush, County Clare. 'Teach Cheoil Chill Rois', scheduled to open in summer 2007, is expected to host live traditional music performances and seisiúns, educational events, lectures and exhibitions. The 140-seat venue will serve as an outreach centre from Cois na hAbhna, the Comhaltas Regional Resource Centre in Ennis and will include a stage area and small tea/coffee facility. The board of Teach Cheoil Chill Rois is currently planning a programme of events for Summer 2007.

Contact Siobhán Curran, Secretary, Teach Cheoil Chill Rois, c/o Town Hall, Kilrush 065-9051047 or email scurran@clarecoco.ie.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST



The future for Irish America is bright with optimism. Recent years have seen more: Irish Fests, Irish newspapers and other media, cultural programs at universities and parades for St. Patrick's Day. Also United States census data show that more Americans in the South are declaring themselves as Irish American.

As we move into the new century we want to know where we are going as a people. We want to know what will be our heritage in an America that is quickly changing demographically.

In this marvelous book by Peter Quinn, *Looking for Jimmy: A Search for Irish America*, he tries to answer some of these questions.

He wrote *Banished Children of Eve* and last spring published *Hour of the Cat*. Both books are about aspects of the Irish American experience. Now he has written *Looking for Jimmy* about the past, present and the possible future of Irish America.

The book is filled with illuminating ideas, beautiful use of language and great quotes. Quinn has a

gift for unerring use of dramatic example. *Looking for Jimmy: A Search for Irish America* by Peter Quinn. Overlook Press/Woodstock, NY, 2007. ISBN: 978-1585678709; Hardcover; 320 pages; \$26.95. www.overlookpress.com.

Quinn shows how we retain "...the imprint of the past." Indeed, that is the central idea of the book. Quinn points this out in several powerful, pithy statements: "...the future is mortgaged to the past," "...today entails yesterday," and "...proximity of the past."

Memory is critical to understanding the Irish American person. We may not remember the individual facts of Irish American history, but we remember the emotions felt by our ancestors.

"... memory is embedded in the way we love, hope, believe. Tamed, sublimated, suppressed, it will not disappear. It pulls on us like moon's elemental urgings on the sea."

Most Irish Americans came here because of the Great Famine (1845-1850). Few of us remember the hateful and embarrassing facts about hun-

ger, eviction, fever, immigrant ships, cholera, etc. The Famine created a profound feeling of helplessness: of events beyond our control. Those experiences seared our memories and our spirits.

When our ancestors came here they weren't interested in the possibility of happiness, economic philosophy or social mobility. "What counted was putting food on the table, keeping a roof overhead, finding some measure of

were Irish Americans.

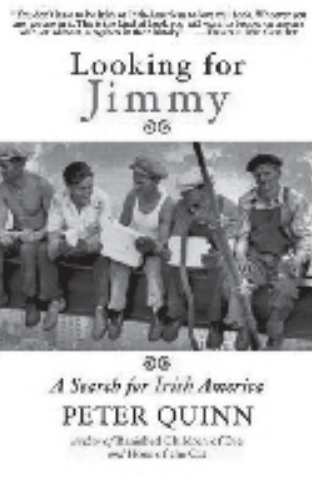
Quinn uses the example of the Irish political machines as examples of their attitude of service to mankind. "...free-market capitalism creates winners as well as losers (and during the Famine the losers among the Irish numbered in the millions.) Even if by some miracle the playing field were made perfectly level, there would be large numbers... unable to compete. The local political organizations couldn't theorize these people out of existence or chalk their fate off to the gods of macroeconomics."

Respect for all people—rich and poor alike, the feeling of responsibility to offer help to others, and even of human kindness, grew out of the Famine experience."

"The Famine was rarely recalled in its specifics... Yet, unspoken, unexamined, largely lost to conscious memory, the Famine was threaded into Irish America's attitudes, expectations, and institutions."

Throughout the book, Peter Quinn bravely reveals a lot about himself and his family. I admire his openness and matter-of-fact candor, like this quote about his family that came here during the Famine era. "In families like my own, a human chain of emigration was created, new immigrants sending back the money to would-be ones, a process that continued over half a century until every aunt, uncle and cousin was in America."

These quotes sum up Quinn's ...continued to Page 65



security..." Irish American politics was about security, not philosophy.

President, FDR had been Governor of New York. He was strongly influenced by Ed Flynn, Irish American "boss" of Tammany Hall. Many of FDR's advisors in the "brain trust"



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Tinker's Dam

by Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley



In great Irish tradition St. Patrick's Missionary Society celebrated 70th

Virtually from the time that St. Patrick brought the Faith to Ireland in 432 A.D., the first missionary activity outside the confines of the Roman Empire, the Irish have been engaged in being missionaries throughout the world. This is still true to this day and, please God, will be true until the end of time. It might well be said that the Irish appreciated their gift of the Christian Faith so well that even during St. Patrick's time in the Emerald Isle, or shortly thereafter, the Irish decided to share their precious gift of Faith with people around the globe. Since that

time Irish priests, brothers, sisters and laity are to be found in some of the most remote parts of the globe. This might well be considered as the "Spiritual Empire" of the Irish who conquered not with a sword but simply with the Cross of Christ.

THE ST. PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

It is in this great tradition that the St. Patrick's Missionary Society was founded in 1932, some 70 years ago. The Society, with headquarters at Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow, Ireland, has missionaries in many parts of Africa and elsewhere who are spreading the Faith among the native peoples.

Through the kindness and generosity of Fr. Gary Howley, the editor of the group's excellent "Africa" Magazine, much information is available. For example, the St. Patrick's Society has ordained some 526 priest members to date for the missions. Equally important, the group has many students in Africa preparing to be missionaries. This

bodes well for the future.

FOUNDED IN IRELAND

While the St. Patrick's Missionary Society has grown out of the Church's missionary efforts in the 20th Century, it owes much to the example of Bishop Joseph Shanahan of the Holy Ghost Missionaries.

Born in Tipperary in 1871, young Joe Shanahan had a strong desire to be a missionary and to preach the Gospel in foreign lands. After ordination in France, he embarked for Southern Nigeria where he soon became known as an innovator and an inspired evangelizer. In his creative vision, he saw the need for an educational ministry. By 1905 he was in charge of the mission and established an educational system, which not only aided the growth of the Church but also changed Nigeria greatly.

As the Nigerians gladly accepted both the Faith and a new system of education, there arose a greater need for missionary priests, brothers and sisters.

RETURN TO IRELAND

To resolve the problem, Fr. Shanahan determined to return to Ireland and the famed Maynooth College, Ireland's National Seminary and formation place for thousands of missionaries who labored to bring the Faith to so many nations. During World War I, in 1916, the Maynooth Mission to China became the Missionary Society of St. Columban. Rather than spending only a few years on the missions and then returning home, a life-long commitment was required.

In this circumstance, Fr. Shanahan sought missionaries for Nigeria. His first volunteer was a young seminarian named Patrick J. Whitney from the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. This future founder of the St. Patrick's Missionary Society was a seminarian with seemingly fantastic energy and enthusiasm, along with great physical strength and dedicated perseverance. He would shortly be ordained a priest. Following ordination, Fr. Whitney was joined by Fr. Thomas Ronayne of Dublin.

RETURN TO AFRICA

Together with the newly consecrated Bishop Shanahan, the trio returned to Nigeria in 1920. The following year, around Christmas time, Fr. Whitney conceived the idea of founding a new missionary society for the vast vicariate of Southern Nigeria. It was an idea whose time had come.

Initially, Fr. Whitney envisioned a diocese in Nigeria entirely staffed by Irish diocesan priests with a back-up organization in Ireland to give it support and direction. For the time, it was an extraordinary plan but it

proved to be the basic foundation idea that would one day be realized in the St. Patrick's Missionary Society, and would have great influence far beyond the borders of Nigeria itself.

A SOCIETY IS FOUNDED

During his years in Africa, Fr. Whitney had been involved in fund-raising for the Holy Rosary Sisters headquartered in Killeshandra, Ireland, as almost a sideline activity. In this way he built up many contacts, which would later benefit the newly founded society of the St. Patrick's Fathers. He also started a magazine entitled the "St. Patrick's Missionary Bulletin" which is currently published as "Africa" Magazine.

The foundation date for the new St. Patrick's Missionary Society, appropriately enough, was Mar. 17, 1932. Fr. Patrick Whitney was chosen as the first Superior General of the group, and his wisdom and good judgement proved to be invaluable in many ways for the missionaries. In 1938, Msgr. Whitney, his new title, was made Prefect Apostolic of Ogoja in Eastern Nigeria. But due to his many years of strenuous labor in Africa, his health began to fail and in 1939 he was forced to return to the foundation house at Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow.

There he continued to offer his wisdom and encouragement to the missionaries preparing for their future apostolates. The Lord called him from his labors on July 17, 1942. Msgr. Whitney is still fondly remembered for his personal piety and excellent leadership to those who knew him and worked with him in Africa. His memory is cherished to this day.

THE SOCIETY TODAY

Since those early days, more than 500 priests have been ordained for the missions of the St. Patrick's Fathers. Some of its present membership still work in Nigeria but also in eight other nations of Africa, as well as Brazil and the Caribbean. One of the more promising developments in recent years has been the opening of new houses of formation (seminaries) in Nigeria and Kenya for students from the countries where the missionaries of St. Patrick's labor for the Lord.

In the 1950s, the St. Patrick's Society established houses in the U.S. with a very active group in Chicago who are engaged in promotional work for the missions. Their house at 1347 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, is also a hub of Irish activities.

And all of this has been an extraordinary adventure since young Fr. Patrick Whitney thought up his great missionary idea almost 80 years ago. May it continue to flourish forever!

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Fr. Shanley Passes

Continued from page 3

as teacher and dean of students from 1957 to 1962. In 1962 he moved to Darien, Illinois, where for the next twelve years served as Communications Director for the Province and editor of The Sword, a journal of historical, spiritual and contemporary Carmelite issues. He was also editor of the Carmelite news paper, Carmelecta, which later became the current news magazine, Carmelite Review.

In 1967, in addition to serving in communications, Father Kevin returned to Joliet Catholic high school as Chair of the English Department.

After graduating from the International Summer School of Irish Studies at University in Dublin, Ireland, Fr. Kevin taught Irish history and literature courses in the adult education program at St. Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois, for 17 years. He also directed the "Irish Way" program for American teens at Gormanston College in County Meath, Ireland.

In 1987, after twenty years of teaching, Father Kevin joined the staff at Carmelite Spiritual Center, in Darien. There he served as psychotherapist, conducting his private practice in pastoral counseling, presenting lectures on Irish history, while maintain-

ing the Carmelite News Service (which he founded) and the Celtic News Service. As director of the Celtic News Service, Father Kevin's work became an invaluable tool in the dissemination of Irish news to the various newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations throughout the United States and Canada. He was a regular columnist for Irish American News, Oak Park, Illinois, and Catholic Explorer, Diocese of Joliet, Illinois and the Senior Connection. He has also written columns on Irish affairs in newspapers across the country.

Pastorally, Father Kevin served many parishes where he celebrated Mass, of which St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, St. Daniel the Prophet in Wheaton, and Holy Family in Joliet, Illinois are only a few. On May 26th of last year Father Kevin celebrated his 50th jubilee of Ordination.

Fr. Kevin received many honors for journalism and his work for the Irish American.

In 1961 he received a Newspaper Fund fellowship from the Wall Street Journal. In 1962 and 1963, he received the Outstanding Teacher of Journalism Award. He was the 1977 recipient of the Bronze Medallion from the Irish American Cultural Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1979, he received the Irishman of the Year Award from the Harp and Shamrock Club of Chicago, Illinois. In

1983, Father Kevin received the Honorary Alumnus Award from Joliet Catholic High School, Joliet, Illinois. In 1983, he received two Jesuit Literary Awards. In 1985, the Irish American Society of Will County, Illinois named him, Man of the Year. In 1988, he received the Leadership Appreciation Award from the Joliet Catholic Alumni Association. As a member of the Catholic Press Association, Father Kevin received "General Excellence" awards nine times between the years of 1973 and 1991.

When asked about Fr. Shanley, fellow columnist Tom Boyle said, "The Irish community mourns the loss of one of its own. Father Kevin Shanley was a priest who had the ability to identify with people of all walks of life—rich and poor.

He was down to earth, a man in touch with the realities of day-to-day existence and the ability to bring out the spiritual essence of one's being.

Father Kevin was fiercely proud of his Fenian ancestors and the role they played in Ireland's struggle for freedom.

God speed." "Fr. Shanley was always very supportive of my efforts with Irish American News," said publisher, Cliff Carlson. "He sent me

many note over the years thanking me for the way his columns were laid out, and encouraging me by telling me what a fine job we were doing with the paper and to 'keep up the good work. I remember one month where I had inadvertently left his column out of the paper. He was a real gentleman about it. I also remember attending one of his famous Irish history classes at the Carmelite Center, and was amazed that he taught the entire class from memory - no notes whatsoever!

Last year columnist Frank West and myself attended his 50th anniversary party celebrating all those years in the priesthood. The turnout was huge, as was the love and admiration for the man," continued Cliff.

Columnist Frank West said, "I remember him as being positive, optimistic and uplifting. Whenever I would see him he would ask how my daughters were. He was always kind and helpful. He was a practicing psychologist who blended religious devotion with psychological insight to help people.

I remember one of his early columns was of childhood memories. One of them was that he lived near the Hudson River in New Jersey, and he saw the

Hindenburg dirigible heading towards its base. He was impressed by the size of the dirigible and its enormous shadow.

He always used to send me great notes that ended with 'Keep up the good work,' and I even have one framed on my table.

He will be rewarded for his good work in Heaven!

Irish American News has decided to continue Fr. Shanley's column, Tinker's Dam, as they are timeless, and will be exploring the possibility of establishing a fund or scholarship in his name, and any suggestions are welcome.

Readers are invited to send the paper their recollections, pictures and experiences of Fr. Shanley for a future issue which can be emailed to: cliff@irishamericannews.com.

May he rest in peace. For further information on Reverend Kevin Thomas Shanley O.Carm., or the Order of Carmelites contact the Carmelite Communications Center at 630 971-0724 or visit the Carmelite website at www.carmelite.org.

Due to this late breaking news a few stories were moved to www.irishamericannews.com

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An American In Dublin

John Mooney Talks Diplomacy with Thomas Foley, the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland

By John Mooney

Thomas Coleman Foley is President Bush's third U.S. Ambassador to Ireland since 2001. A millionaire from Greenwich, Connecticut, he presented his credentials to President Mary McAleese at Áras an Úachtaráin in Dublin on October 18, 2006.

Like his predecessors, Richard J. Egan and James C. Kenny, Foley is a "Bush Pioneer" – a major fundraiser who helped add more than \$100,000 for the President's election campaign



Ambassador Thomas C. Foley

coffers. Egan held the position from September 2001 until January 2003, while Kenny served nearly three years, beginning in October 2003.

Prior to taking the position, Foley spent over 25 years in business, having worked at McKinsey & Company, the world's top management consulting firm, and at Citigroup. He founded his own private equity investment firm, The NTC Group, in 1985.

Iraq

An expert in privatization funding, the ambassador's prior public service experience was a seven-month stay in Iraq, where he was in charge of converting nearly 200 Iraqi state companies to private ownership. From August 2003 through March 2004, he was a business and financial expert for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), helping to lay the groundwork to rebuild the market-based economy that had been in place pre-Baathist regime of the 1960s. (He described the effort to rebuild the Iraqi economy "the mother of all turnarounds," paraphrasing the late Saddam Hussein's famous war cry.)

"The plan was to get state entities back up and running and to attract foreign investment," said Foley, who earned his undergraduate degree in economics and later an M.B.A. from Harvard.

By December 2003, the Bush Administration accelerated handover of the government to the Iraqis, which signaled the end of his assignment.

"Many of the expected benefits haven't been realized yet because of security issues. I'm confident once security problems go away, investment will come. That's the economic stimulus needed in Iraq," Foley said. "Further economic development and job growth has to be achieved by a sovereign Iraqi government."

Foley believes his efforts were fruitful and that only time will tell whether the overall Iraq War effort can be labeled a success. He has not maintained contact with officials in the violence-riddled nation and noted that much has changed since he left the country two and a half years ago.

"Being in a war zone never seemed as risky to me while I was there as you would think by just watching TV," he explained. "Beheadings and other acts of violence make the headlines, but progress building schools and hospitals has not been covered in the media."

Foley received the Department of Defense's Distinguished Public Service Award in June 2004 for his service in Iraq. Upon his return home, the businessman resumed presidency of the NTC Group and also was named Chairman of TB Wood's Corporation, which makes and markets electronic and mechanical power transmission products.

Irish View of Presidents Bush and Clinton

Over the years, Ireland has generally been a loyal ally of the U.S., in part because America has been so welcoming to its people. However, President Bush's popularity has fallen among the Irish because of his policies in Iraq.

"Ireland is a neutral country, and they are particularly sensitive to governments that could be perceived as generating hostilities in the world," the U.S. Ambassador explained. "I think there is a bias that relates a lot to their history, and the President has suffered from that. Ireland generally supports global war on terror, but some diverge on whether Iraq is part of it. Most people don't have strong feelings either way, but the group that disagrees is quite vocal."

The ambassador also realizes that George W. Bush will likely never achieve the popularity of his predecessor, Bill Clinton, on the island of Ireland.

"President Clinton took a very strong personal interest in the Northern Ireland Peace Process, for which he earned and deserved a lot of credit. The Irish are very appreciative of his efforts and their affection is well-deserved," Foley said, adding that the peace process has continued to move forward during the current White House administration.

"Iraq has overshadowed other foreign policy areas, but people should know that President Bush is committed to helping Northern Ireland and spends quite a bit of time on it," said Foley, who met with experts including Mutual of America chairman Bill Flynn, an architect of the peace process, before taking the post in Dublin.

Irish Roots

All of Foley's Irish ancestors came to America during the Famine. His family long ago lost touch with kin-folk in Ireland, but he does know that his father's side came from Waterford and that his paternal grandmother was named Loughlin. His mother's maiden name was Coleman (his middle name) with roots in Dundalk, Co. Louth. Foley's maternal grandmother was a Flynn from Cork.

There is only anecdotal evidence of the specific towns and parishes from which his relatives came, so the ambassador has hired a genealogist to research his family history. Dermot Ahern T.D., the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has offered to help, partly because of the Dundalk ties. Although Foley's family has been in America for well over a century, he takes great pride in his heritage.

"My ancestors left because Ireland couldn't feed them. To see the strong Irish economy now is a nice homecoming for me. Going back and understanding the culture where you came from has been a wonderful experience," said Foley, who was offered the position because of his strong ties and ability to work with the President, rather than through the career diplomat route, the other path to ambassadorship.

A Day in the Life

Foley describes the job as "a great job; fun, but a lot of work." He oversees all U.S. governmental operations, such as granting work and student exchange visas and providing consular services for Americans in trouble – those who have lost their passports, for instance. The ambassador is also the President's personal representative at official functions.

The diplomatic role is very important, since the ambassador is in charge of relationship between the two coun-

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tries. He receives instruction (called a demarche) from State Department or the President to communicate U.S. government policy or perhaps try to sway a vote at the UN or the signing of a trade agreement. This might involve calling upon the Prime Minister or the Minister in charge of specific policy area in the Dail.

The most challenging part of the job involves handling issues of disagreement. As with any ally, Ireland is not always totally in agreement with all areas of U.S. policy. The State Department and the White House provide guidance on global issues and clarification on policy stances.

"Understanding U.S. foreign policy not something you can pick up from reading the newspaper," the ambassador explained. "Many issues are complicated, Guantanamo Bay, for instance, and in those instances State Department would provide background."

Preparation for the Post

"Part of the selection process is choosing someone who will have good judgment without hand-holding and doesn't make mistakes," said Foley, who credits his stint at McKensey & Co., the management consulting firm, where he sharpened his problem-solving skills. "Clients come to McKensey with problems; we analyzed them and implemented solutions. That's what consultants, lawyers, doctors and ambassadors do."

At Citigroup, where Foley handled acquisitions and structured financing, he utilized negotiating skills not required for his McKensey assignments. Running the NTC Group has provided him with leadership and management skills as CEO. Foley has applied all of this business experience to his position as ambassador, since he is responsible for an embassy staff of 140. However, he has discovered that what motivates individuals in the private sector is different for those in foreign service.

"In the business world, people are financially motivated, but in foreign service, they are motivated by other things like making a difference, politics, travel, and being exposed to different cultures," explained Foley, who plans to stay in the position for the remaining two years of President Bush's term. "It's a different culture, a different mix of interests, from the business world."

Some aspects of the job require training. For instance, every embassy has a protocol officer. Before Foley presented his credentials to President McAleese, he went through a dry run of 35 steps in the process and was provided with

pictures of the Anas. Foley made a couple of wrong turns, but laughed off the minor faux pas ("Fortunately, you're not graded at the end").

Naturally, there are perks.

"You don't carry your own bags and wait in line at the airport. I was escorted through a special exit where people from the Irish government and the U.S. embassy addressed me as 'Your Excellency.' I don't get that at home!"

Biggest Adjustments

The toughest part of the job arises when there are differences of opinion between the two countries.

"Sometimes when world events happen, communication doesn't solve problem. People just disagree," Foley explained. "It presents a diplomatic challenge. In all countries, there is a vocal group hard to please on any subject. I haven't had bad occurrences yet, but the former ambassador several times had to explain U.S. policy and wasn't well received."

Handling the media and responding to questions about U.S. foreign policy and global events are new to Foley and most other ambassadors who are political appointees.

"There is a focus on American Ambassador in Dublin. Having to respond on short notice—it's new, but I've enjoyed that," he said. "Security is quite high for any U.S. Ambassador, which was not part of my private sector experience, but certainly something I was exposed to in Iraq."

The pay scale is similar to that of U.S. Senator (\$165,200 per year), which is far less than Foley earned in the private sector.

"Anyone who accepts ambassadorship for the pay didn't do their research," said Foley, who looked into accepting a symbolic \$1 per year in salary, but was daunted by the complicated paperwork required to do so. "As an Irish American, it's a real honor to serve. It's an interesting post and, there is a special relationship between the countries."

Free Time

Foley has taken advantage of the opportunity to visit parts of Ireland outside Dublin. He said the most interesting experience was visiting New Grange at the Winter Solstice (at the invitation of the Minister of Public Works) to witness the sun go through passage tomb. He recently won 60 euros (about \$90) on a horse at Leopardstown, where he was invited to give a trophy to one of the featured race winner at

the track. During Thanksgiving break, his 16-year-old son, Thomas Coleman Foley, Jr., came to visit. Together they played golf at Lahinch and enjoyed the medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle.

The ambassador says he is thrilled to experience Ireland's economic miracle first-hand. Most of all, he likes getting to know the people and understanding the Irish psyche and culture.

"I have encountered a recognizable and familiar temperament and humor," Foley said. "They're so friendly and waiting for opportunity to laugh. People also are very direct and candid. They don't hold back."

Home Away From Home

The U.S. Ambassador's residence in Dublin dates back to 1776, the year in which America declared its own independence from Britain. Built by Colonel John Blaquiere, who held the title of Chief Secretary, the home was purchased by the British Government and made the official residence of all the Chief Secretaries until the 20th century. Its inhabitants included Arthur Wellesley, Robert Peel, Lord Randolph Churchill and his son, Winston, who as a small boy, liked to roam the gardens. Sir Homer Greenwood, the last Chief Secretary, left the residence in 1922, after Ireland gained independence.

The U.S. was one of the first countries to recognize and establish diplomatic relations with the new Irish Free State. The first official American government representative in the newly independent country, Frederick A. Sterling, arrived in 1927. When the Republic of Ireland was established a number of years later, the residence was upgraded to full embassy status.

George A. Garrett was appointed the first U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary on March 17, 1950. Eventually, the embassy offices relocated, and the building became primarily the home of the ambassador. The U.S. government has made extensive renovations to the house and property, which consists of 65 acres of lawn, orchards and gardens, and three cottages. The ground floor of the residence comprises a ballroom, reception and dining room, library, office, kitchen, staff room and laundry. Six bedroom suites and a sitting room are located on the upper floor. The residence is used regularly for entertaining dignitaries, showcasing American art and performers, and otherwise promoting U.S. interests in Ireland.

"It is a great asset for these purposes, as well as a magnificent home," said Ambassador Thomas C. Foley.

Failte Queen Julie Anne Venci!

Julie Anne is a very accomplished young woman. After graduating from Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, she attended Washington University, majoring in pre-med, Spanish and international business. She also went to the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University.

Julie Ann Venci, M.D., now works at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. She is a 1st year resident in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

Julie Anne's Irish roots come from her mother. Josephine Dunleavy was born, bred and reared in Cross Molinda, County Mayo where her brother John Dunleavy, 82, still works the farm. On her many visits to Ireland



Josephine Dunleavy and Julie Anne

Julie has worked in the fields. One day as a young girl working in the bog, Julie asked her mother if this why they say "Mayo God help us?" Julie Anne is well-traveled, Ireland, Eastern Europe and South America. Julie Anne still enjoys Irish step dancing and giving back to the community. She volunteers as a doctor for homeless people and, being fluent in Spanish, she translates for patients at the hospital. Beauty, brains and talent. As the Irish say, she's easy on the eyes.

By the way, Julie's dad, Steven Venci is from Hungary.

Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

boylethekettle@irishamericannews.com



Todd Stroger

An old Scottish proverb says blood is thicker than water! What does it matter anymore? Nepotism pervades county government, it's become an outright joke! It's like the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland: "In that direction," Toddler said waving his hand round, "lives a hatter and that direction," waving the other hand, "lives a March O'Hare. Visit either you like: they're both mad." "But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice Q. Taxpayer remarked. "Oh, you can't help that," said Toddler: "We're all mad here, I'm mad, you're mad." "How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice Q. Taxpayer. "You must be," said the Toddler, "or you wouldn't live here."

Can this guy be recalled for

malfeasance, misfeasance, or maybe madfeasance? Whatever you do, don't inhale mercurous nitrate, That's what made the hatter mad. Beware the Ides of March! Sing along now... "We're on the one road sharing the one load. We're on the road to God knows where." When Jan Schakowsky introduced Todd Stroger at the UIC Center during Barack Obama's campaign rally, he was roundly booed. Barack Obama should have been booed for endorsing him.

Joe Biden

Mean Joe Biden called Barack Obama names! Talk about distorting a well-intended remark to provide fodder for the media. If Joe Biden had said clean-cut and well-spoken in referring to Barack

Obama, end of story.

Now that Barack Obama is officially in the race, you can expect a lot more of these distortions. Don't worry, somebody will offend the African-American community even though many African-Americans say he's not black enough, and therefore, unelectable.

Senator Obama defended former African-American presidential candidates, Jesse Jackson, Shirley Chisholm, Carol Mosely Braun, and Al Sharpton, as being articulate, in reference to Joe Biden's remarks. You could say Senator Obama's remarks were sententious, but inflection, the tone of voice, is crucial to intent. Did Joe Biden intend to offend Barack Obama? I say no!

Carlton Cards

Get ready for your annual slap in the face! I can't wait to see what kind of insults Carlton Cards has for the Irish this year. More foaming green beer, people drunk on the barroom floor. Please boycott this company and American Greetings, their parent company, along with Target stores, for selling these base, insulting cards. Erin go bragh!

Kilkenny Cats

The gang will fly in from Kilkenny March 13th on Aer Lingus and then the fun begins. The welcome mat is out for the Brennans and the Marnells.

Global Warming

I finally saw Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." Global warming is really no surprise. For years the oil companies have lobbied against fuel efficient cars. Congress after congress knuckled under while allegedly oil companies bought up technology that would improve fuel efficiency. One of my friend's in high school got his hands on a device at an auto show that was installed between the carburetor and the intake manifold. The device was less than a half-inch thick and consisted of a copper screen and an impeller driven by the air intake. His mileage went from less than 30 mpg to over 55

mpg on a 1951 Plymouth convertible with a straight-6 engine. That device never made it to the retail market.

Obama

I think the man's in for a rough ride! "Rock star"? He has broad personal appeal and served in the Illinois legislature, also taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago, impressive credentials.

Chicago Sun Times columnist Mary Mitchell wrote: "The discomfort some blacks have with Obama has nothing to do with his resume or his ethnicity, but the simple fact that he is a light-skinned black man who was able to cross over to mainstream America." Then she says: "For me the black experience has been growing up in poverty in a public housing project and overcoming that poverty to achieve a measure of success."

Here we go again with the "woe is me" mentality. If growing up in poverty is a prerequisite to run for

President, I'm qualified. Widowed with five children in 1943, my mother didn't have public housing to fall back on. We paid rent. We received no welfare. She instilled in her children a strong work ethic and charged us all room and board as soon as we were able to work. My first full-time job came at the age of 13. So, let's get beyond that. Let's stop the "woe is me" thinking. Barack Obama is as much white as he is black. If he is elected will his Cabinet be all black? Hardly! It's been said he's a Socialist. He is already promoting universal healthcare, while our government has trouble, lots of trouble, managing Medicare and social security. The social security trust fund has been tapped too many times for the general fund. The pork barrel is full.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! See you at the Downtown Parade and remember this year's theme, "Pro Deo Et Patria" (For God and Country) honoring our military chaplains. Remember to celebrate the day with dignity.

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Pictured are Kevin Durkin, President of the Chicago Bar Association (left), and Ed McElroy. Durkin will be a guest on Ed McElroy's "Community In Focus" program which airs weekly on Comcast channel 19. The program will air on Tuesday, March 6 at 8pm. Kevin Durkin has been an Attorney since 1980 and is currently a prominent lawyer in the field of Aviation. He is a Partner of the Clifford Law Firm with offices located in downtown Chicago.

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The hall will open at 6:30 pm. The ticket cost is \$20 for adults (\$25 at the door), \$5 for children ages 5 to 16 years old, and children under the age of 5 are admitted for free. A delectable corned beef buffet dinner will be served along with your choice of beer, wine or soda. A cash bar for mixed drinks will also be available. Music will be provided by Vito & Brian.

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March Entertainment

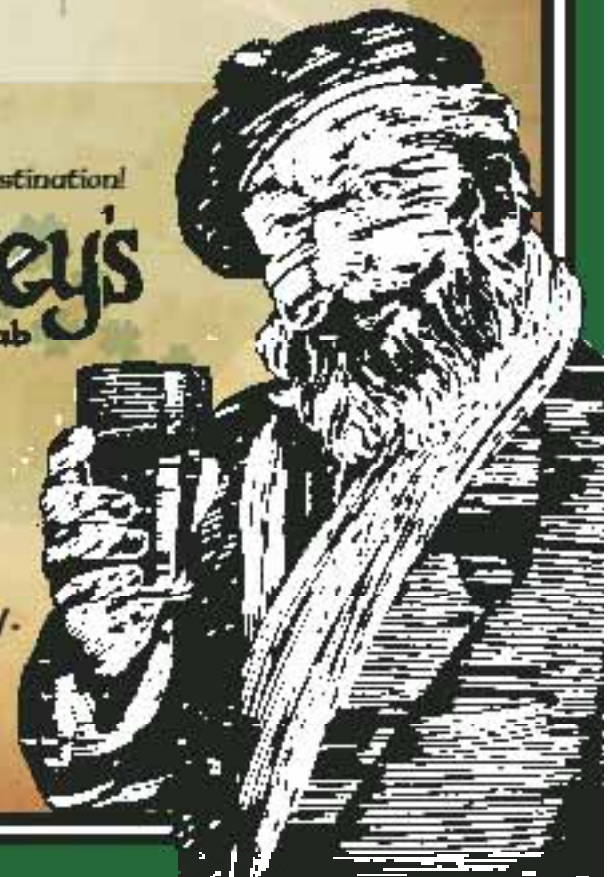
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(Happy St. Patrick's Day)

to

All the readers

of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



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in the Irish American News

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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



Beannacti Ar La Feile Pádraig – Blessings on St. Patrick's Day

Happy St. Patrick's Day to our readers. May you enjoy the day in the memory of Ireland's national apostle, St. Patrick.

The first official Chicago St. Patrick's Day parade was held on O'State Street in 1956, the year after Mayor Daley was elected. It was led by Mayor Daley, U.S. Naval Admiral Dan Gallery, a Chicagoan from Mount Greenwood, and a World War II hero, who led his heroic sailors in capturing the first German submarine (and many secrets), which is presently anchored in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry on South Lakeshore Drive. They were accompanied by the beloved pastor of Old St. Patrick's Church, Fr. Tom Byrne.

Despite the weather it was a glorious and memorable occasion as Tommy Ryan's famed Shannon Rovers led more than 100 units comprised of over 40 gaily decorated floats, depicting the theme of the parade, "St. Patrick and Ireland", with marching units from all the active Irish-American organizations in the Midwest, including the Chicago GAA, A.O.H., and other units. An estimated 300,000 spectators lined the route and cheered the participants as they passed by from Wacker Drive to Jackson. Parade Coordinator, the late Dan Lydon, Mel Loftus, still hale and hearty, Jimmy Mitchell, Gabe Barrett, and others did a tremendous job in putting together the units and monitoring them all along the route.

St. Patrick's Downtown Parade March 17

The Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be Francis Cardinal George, and the theme of this year's parade will be centered on Irish-American military chaplains.

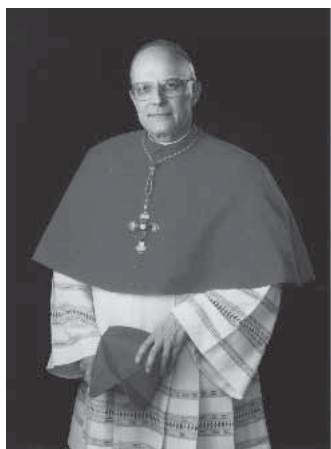
Parade starts at Noon at Columbus and Balboa and heads North past the reviewing stand where The Ryan Clan, Boy Ryan Sr. and son, emcee, just across from the beautiful Buckingham Fountain.

If you're Irish or not, be there!

It was a great start with the presence of such important people and it demonstrated the power of Chicago-Irish at that period of time and no doubt it proved to other ethnic groups the Irish American love and affection for their beloved national apostle St. Patrick and their ancestral home Ireland and their adopted country the great United States of America. Other ethnic groups did follow with their own parades after the Irish had led the way.

Likewise on the great Southside of Chicago Irish Americans had already launched their own community's tribute to St. Patrick since 1953. That historic day, the Sunday prior to the feast day, thousands of people lined S. Ashland from 8300 to 79th St. where the first parade in honor of the Saint turned east on 79th St. to Racine and St. Sabins' Church for a benediction with the late Cardinal Samuel Stritch. This too was a memorable occasion and hats off to the leaders, Jack Allen, Charlie O'Sullivan, Bill Hennessy, Tom McNamara, Columbus De Chatalize, John Joyce, Jim Shannon, and others. This parade was the forerunner to the great Southside parades that we have today.

So as we proudly participate in both parades this St. Patrick's Day we should be mindful of what these parades are all about, namely to honor St. Patrick, Ireland and our great adopted country, our homeland today. We certainly owe thanks and appreciation to the many fine men who started it all over 54 years ago, under difficult circumstances and in a much different time. They lit



over the torch and handed it on to other generations until today we have what no other big U.S. city has, two spectacular parades that during the years was honored by the presence of the President of the United States, the Vice President and other important political leaders. We have every reason to be proud of our ancestry and of our Saint. See you at the parades.

Chicago Inches Towards Olympics 2016

With the recent announcement that the U.S. Olympic Committee has decided to submit an entry for the 2016 Games Chicago inches toward becoming the host city with only Los Angeles to beat for the honor. The other world contestants are Tokyo, Rome, Rio de Janeiro and Doha, Qatar.

The Chicago Committee directed by Pat Ryan and others have been hard at work for the past few months with glorious success so far. They have already topped the financial goal just for the domestic phase and \$20 million more is expected by the end of March, for the international campaign. As Mr. Ryan says, Chicago doesn't do things in a minimum way as we continue to raise funds and be prudent.

No doubt such a worldwide event would greatly enhance the good image that Chicago already

has with millions of visitors visiting annually from all over the globe. Mayor Richard M. Daley whose well known leadership and foresight has inspired such a venture says, "What we see is a great opportunity to rebuild common ties, schools, infrastructure, and mass transit, in preparation for the Olympics. It gives you a global identification."

2016 is also the 100th anniversary of the glorious Easter Rising in Dublin, when a handful of brave men and women faced the might of the British Empire and declared Ireland, all 32 counties, to be free and prepared and did die for that noble cause. The whole world, at least where lives an Irishman or woman, will be celebrating that historic event.

Hopefully, Chicago Gaelic Park and The Irish-American Heritage Center will be well prepared for such an occasion and will have programmed fitting sporting events, hurling, football, handball, Camogie, etc. and displays of historic events, books, etc. for all the world to see. It will be a glorious occasion for Chicagoans of Irish ancestry.

American Board GAA Elects Officers

Our congratulations to well known Chicago gael, Eamon Kelly for his fine report of the recent American Board GAA

which convened at Boston and elected the following officers for the coming year: Chairman, Tom Dolan, Chicago; V/C Liam Moloney, Frisco; Joey Lydon, Boston, Secretary; Malachy Higgins, Frisco, Treasurer; Michael Dermody, Registrar; Eamon Kelly, PRO, Chicago; Michael O'Connell, Boston, Youth Officer; Pat Callaghan, Boston, Hon. Pres.; and our own Harry Costello (Man for all seasons) was the popular Convention chairman.

We congratulate Tom Dolan, Cu Chuculainns, Chicago for his election as chairman, three years in a row. He is also the delegate to Congress in Dublin, which convenes annually. Congratulations also to popular Eamon Kelly, well known Chicago gael for his election as PRO. We missed his dynamic presence last year and feel sure that this year we will be kept abreast of what is happening not only in Chicago but throughout the board.

For more information and a list of all the clubs in Illinois go to: www.nagaa.org/clubs/clubsByState.php?state=IL.

U.S. Immigration Legislation Promising

With the advent of the Democrats taking control of congress
Continued to page 36

80 Years and 4 Generations of Service

In 1924 Harry P. Sullivan opened on 63rd and Claremont in Chicago. His son, Raymond J. Sullivan worked with him and helped open a second location at 63rd and Western.

His son, Terry M. Sullivan, worked with him, and in 1984 Terry opened the Downers Grove location.

For the last 5 years, his son Brian has worked with him.

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MRNORTH to Release New CD

Irish quartet MRNORTH released a five-song digital EP on the Rock Ridge Music label in November entitled "Sleeping Dogs". The EP is an appetizer for the New York City-based band's full-length album, "Fear & Desire," which will be released in early 2007.

Both "Sleeping Dogs" and "Fear & Desire" allow the listener to feel an enormous lift with each song from start to finish, just as it is delivered by MRNORTH in

their live performance. The music exhibits an incredible unity and tightness among its four members, and Smith delivers the songs with one of the most powerful and original voices in music today.

Fans and press can hear "Sleeping Dogs" online at PureVolume.com at <http://www.purevolume.com/promotions/mrnorth/sleepingdogs/>.

Out There

by Eleanor McEvoy

Out There features twelve brand new Eleanor McEvoy compositions, plus a co-write with Dave Rotheray of The Beautiful South and interpretations of Marvin Gaye's "Mercy Mercy Me" (The Ecology) and Lowell George's Little Feat song "Roll 'Um Easy."

"I certainly don't write the 'I crawl through five miles of broken glass to savour your indifference, my darling' sort of songs, though I have always done a pretty good line in 'cheesed-off but proud after the breakdown!'" Eleanor McEvoy

Out There breaks new ground for Eleanor McEvoy in that she has scored all the arrangements and provided most of the music for the album. Liam Bradley joins her on percussion and Dave Rotheray plays bass on "Quote I Love You Unquote", a song composed after Dave and Eleanor became musical associates following the Hometown and Sam Brown tour; Eleanor was their special guest.

Eleanor McEvoy is one of the leading singer songwriters of her generation, she is also a fine and much respected multi-instrumentalist in both contemporary and traditional music.

From her early career honed and developed in Ireland, Eleanor has gone on to become an artist and performer known for her stunning live performances resulting in a devoted world wide fan base

Her critically acclaimed canon of work spans numerous albums, singles and appearances on a multitude of compilation albums and studio session.

Today she is recognised as Ireland's most successful female singer songwriter having enjoyed personal chart success and numerous cover versions of her own songs.

Dist: RSK Entertainment



Eamonn Coyne and Kris Drever - Honk Toot Suite

Renowned tenor banjo player Eamonn Coyne teams up with guitarist Kris Drever on Honk Toot Suite (Compass 4448), an eminently appealing collection of tunes and songs showcasing the gifts of each of these talented



Celtic musicians in turn. The concept behind the music was simple: both Eamonn and Kris (son of Ivan Drever) contributed music that reflected the different styles that have influenced their playing over the years.

Traditional tunes and songs were complemented by the addition of several original compositions and the end result is one of the most enjoyable duet albums to be released in the genre in recent years.

www.compassrecords.com

World of Joyful Song

Fourteen choirs from five different countries combine to add strength to the current revival in popularity of male choral singing in a CD released by Sain Records from North Wales.

The choirs combine to present a feast of music ranging from Wagner to Elvis, from spirituals to folk and from hymns to arias. The London Welsh Male Voice Choir is joined by two choirs from Canada, one from Australia, Glasgow, Corby, and Wye-combe, and seven from Wales - Brymbo, Caron, De Cymru, Gyr-lais, Morrison RFC, Mynydd-islywn and Tre-lawnyd.

World of Joyful Song, Double-CD, 35 tracks. www.sainwales.com



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A Beautiful Community: Mission for Meghan

By Katie Hamilton

In September of 2005, Championship Irish dancer Meghan Henry was diagnosed with a Wilm's Tumor in her kidney, signaling the beginning of her brave fight against cancer. The Irish dance community has rallied around this seventeen-year-old dancer, demonstrating the power of prayer, hope and support that others can bring.

"She is such a beautiful, honest girl that, if she didn't get sick, you would say, this is a teenager who has seen everything going on around her and decided to stay on a good and healthy track," said Meghan's aunt, Diane Budz.



Throughout treatments and tests, Meghan, a dancer with the Trinity Academy based in the Chicagoland area, continued attending practices and focusing on staying in shape. "Dancing was my life," said Meghan. "Sometimes I go to dance and get sick but I try my best to keep up with everyone. Some days I can't. It helps me, to exercise and see my friends."

After she was diagnosed, Meghan had surgery to remove her kidney and began chemotherapy. She celebrated six months of being cancer-free by participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life with her Irish dance teammates. Just two weeks later, in August of 2006, Meghan relapsed. The Wilm's Tumor had metastasized to both lungs. She has undergone extensive chemotherapy and at the time of this publication going to print, had undergone a stem cell transplant—the first of two needed—at Chicago Memorial Hospital.

At the 2006 Midwest Oireachtas, her last competition to date, Meghan once again proved her abilities. Her treatment plan was altered, resulting in chemotherapy sessions in the three days leading up to the competition. Nevertheless, Meghan managed to take the stage and compete in the Girls Ceili Over 15. Her team, of which she was named captain, came in eight out of 32 teams.

"She has such a great attitude," said fellow Trinity dancer Cristin O'Meara, 17. "Even when she's not dancing at competitions, she's there supporting you. She'll practice with you; she'll critique you. She has an amazing personality and attitude that you can't even believe that she's going through this because it hasn't affected her attitude in any way. It's hard to believe it's happening to her."

"It's amazing because a lot of times you look at the dance community as very competitive," said O'Meara. "All the schools seem so separate and then this happens and you realize how united this is and what a team this dance community is. We're not separate schools. We're one group and one entity. It brings us back to the whole picture of what it's really about."

A variety of efforts have already been made by various parts of the community. For example, The Meghan Henry Wilm's Tumor Awareness bracelet was created by a fellow dancer, who is donating the sale profits to the Henry family. The 2006 Autumn Feis, sponsored by the Dennehy School of Irish Dance, raffled off an Irish dance basket. Meghan, who pulled the winning ticket, said it seemed like the whole feis came into the hallway to watch.

Others have arranged for businesses such as Jewel and Buena Beef to hold special deal days, where a certain percentage of that day's sales goes toward Meghan's medical expenses. In December, Meghan rang the bell at the Chicago Stock Exchange while Trinity dancers raised money among the stock traders and other employees in the stock market that day.

Mission for Meghan

A benefit for Meghan will be held on March 31, 2007 from 7 to 9 pm at U.S. Cellular Field. Budz, along with a committee of about 30 organized the benefit. Tickets are \$35 per person and includes food and beverages, and entertainment including performances by The Larkin and Moran Brothers, Railroad Gin, the Trinity Irish dancers, and famed Irish piper—and Meghan's grandfather—Kevin Henry. There will also be a silent auction, a grand raffle and few other surprises. According to Budz, the benefit will be "an incredible evening of entertainment."

Budz said that Sue Henry, Meghan's mom, said her biggest fear was to be unable to give Meghan the treatments she needed because they couldn't afford it. "We all want Meghan to live and we want her to afford it," said Budz.

"If you really look, you can see some small changes," said O'Meara. "But you walk in and the first thing you notice is a smile on her face and the brightness in her eyes. It's inspiring."

<http://www.missionformeghan.org/benefit.php>. Please order tickets by March 24th.
<http://www.missionformeghan.org>

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T radition In Review



By Bill Margeson

Top TIR 2007

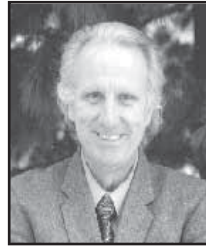
March always brings The Top TIR Awards, and this year is no exception. 2006 was a great year for the music, and you read about all the good parts here in Irish American News. As usual, it is time to hand out the Awards for the best of the best. These are among the oldest of the major international Awards, and one of the most eagerly sought. Chicago is second in size only to Philadelphia in the States as an Irish market. These Awards carry that major market muscle right through the musicians worldwide. And the recognition for these Awards is worldwide. You should support each of these artists by purchasing their albums, going to their concerts and generally rolling out the red carpet wherever you see them. They are special. They are a gift. So is their incredible music. The envelopes, please!

Female Newcomer of the Year

A gorgeous, crystal-clear voice meets a deep understanding of the music. Kathleen MacInnes broke on the scene in a major way this year with a stunner of an album on Greentrax, *Og Mhadainn Shamhraidh: Summer Dawn*. She is from South Uist in Scotland's Western Isles. Kathleen is a well-known presenter on Scottish television, as well as an accomplished actress. What we care about here is her voice. Magic. Almost all the album is in Scots Gaelic. No matter. This voice is a treasure. She is a major artist, and will be around a very long time. Watch this star get brighter and brighter. This is truly world-class talent. Wow!

Song of the Year

Dave Gunning is from Nova Scotia. His album, *Two Bit World*, is an incredible piece of music. How does one so young get such insight, never mind such talent? A great voice for his music, he is wonderful. We saw him twice in concert in 2006 and were moved to our socks each time. His magnum opus so far has to be this



year's Song of the Year, *New Highway*. Written about Nova Scotia, this song is also perfect for Ireland, as well as anywhere else where tremendous economic development has changed everything. Folks in Ireland will tell you that the Celtic Tiger economy has been wonderful for the country, and that there has also been a tremendous loss of what it is that made Ireland so special for so long. The country is forever changed, and not all for the better. Swords do indeed

have two sides. *New Highway* is all about what is lost, not gained. The song, and Gunning's genius, offer the knowledge that it is the same everywhere. We all want "the new highway". Then, we get it. "Be careful of that which you truly desire, for it will surely be yours." Last year's winner of this award, *Wildflowers*—performed by Cathie Ryan and written by John Spillane—joins this song in being two of the most moving musical moments we have experienced. *New Highway* is far more than a great song. It is an anthem of genius that has meaning for people in all countries where the economy is rising tide lifting many boats, but not all. Yup. We said it. We mean it. Genius.



Male Musician of the Year

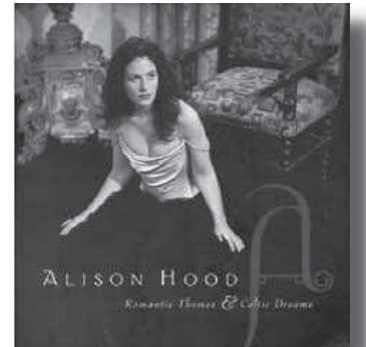
J.P. Cormier is the easy winner here. Fiddle, guitar, banjo, mandolin, keyboards, bass, drums. Name it. This Cape Breton musician is the best band we have ever heard. He stunned thousands of new fans (including us) at last year's Irish Fest in Milwaukee. That got us listening to his albums. They are masterpieces, pure and simple. It is not that he plays all these instruments. It is that he plays each extremely well. Extremely. In the final analysis, there are no words. Get an album. No words necessary. Your ears'll tell you. The 100%,



real, true deal. Cormier is a wonder.

Female Musician of the Year

Alison Hood is the great piano player of Ireland. Her solo album, *Romantic Dreams and Celtic Themes* is one for the ages, and should be declared an Irish National Treasure. Alison received her Ph.D. from Trinity in Dublin, and her specialty and thesis were on Chopin. While doing it all, she became aware of Dublin's own John Field. Called "The Irish Romantic", Field was born in 1782, invented the nocturne!! and was idolized by Chopin, among others. This album has been out a few years, and is actually out of print, believe it or not. Produced by Phil Coulter, it is surprisingly understated for him. Alison's playing is the deal. This is gorgeous music, played perfectly by a true musician of the highest caliber. We have played no album more since discovering it this past year, thanks to radio partner, Shay Clarke. You can get on a wait list, or perhaps score a used CD on Amazon. Do what you have to. This is hauntingly beautiful music, all written by John Field. That genius meets Alison Hood, and we are all the better for it. Were I to get my hands on only one winner this year, this would be it. The more we listen, the more we are enchanted by the music and this musician. Good Lord, this is wonderful!



Many artists consider this Award the biggest of The Top TIRs. Well, so be it. There could be no easier winner. McNally's *Row of Flats* by Mick Moloney is, indeed, what we called it the first time we heard it. A masterpiece. Any regular reader of this column knows how much we love Moloney's music. More than any other living artist, Mick has been critical in the development of the whole study of Irish-American music. He is a lovely banjo/guitar player with a terrific voice (more on this later). He is also a musical Doctorate with a deep grasp of the whole, vast subject of Irish music as it came to be played and recreated in America. He can sit in a trad session with the best of them. But, how many could go from that, and perform a brilliant version of "My Dad's Dinner Pail"? The whole album features music rooted in the turn of the 20th century from such seminal creative forces as Harrigan & Hart. Never heard of them? The liner notes to this album are worth the price alone. There is such a sense of joy at work here. This is no dry academic presentation of musical history. We cannot possibly imagine a better voice for these fully orchestrated songs. If you can listen to this album and not tap your foot and smile, we owe you a pint. There is no album

Vocal/Instrumental Album of the Year

Many artists consider this Award the biggest of The Top TIRs. Well, so be it. There could be no easier winner. McNally's *Row of Flats* by Mick Moloney is, indeed, what we called it the first time we heard it. A masterpiece. Any regular reader of this column knows how much we love Moloney's music. More than any other living artist, Mick has been critical in the development of the whole study of Irish-American music. He is a lovely banjo/guitar player with a terrific voice (more on this later). He is also a musical Doctorate with a deep grasp of the whole, vast subject of Irish music as it came to be played and recreated in America. He can sit in a trad session with the best of them. But, how many could go from that, and perform a brilliant version of "My Dad's Dinner Pail"? The whole album features music rooted in the turn of the 20th century from such seminal creative forces as Harrigan & Hart. Never heard of them? The liner notes to this album are worth the price alone. There is such a sense of joy at work here. This is no dry academic presentation of musical history. We cannot possibly imagine a better voice for these fully orchestrated songs. If you can listen to this album and not tap your foot and smile, we owe you a pint. There is no album

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Friday 3/30	Seamus O'Keefe and Jerry Moore
Saturday 3/31	Conellan

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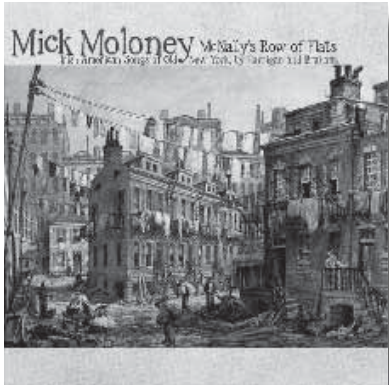
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13	Thomas Giblin
14	Hughes Academy Irish Dance
16	Don McElhinne
18	Joe McElhinne, Don McElhinne
17	Glen Barone
22	Katie Sullivan
29	Acoustic Thing



we loved more this year. God, how we hatepretentiouswriters who call albums, "important". Forgive us. This album is important—if you want to understand and enjoy the full range of truly Irish music. And to think, this tradition was almost lost! Don't just sit

there. Go get this. Just the best. Easily.

Male Vocalist of the Year

Mick Moloney. See, we figure if you put this album out, and it is perfect, a huge part of it has to be the singer. Now, we don't claim that Mick is a singer in the line of Tommy Fleming or Andrew Murray of The Munnelly Band. What we DO claim is that Mick has the perfect voice for the kind of material in McNally's Row of Flats. That is what Male Vocalist of the Year is all about. The voice meets the material. We honestly cannot think of any other singer who could have understood, loved and performed this music better. If you haven't heard it yet, get it. You'll see. Or, is it, "you'll listen"? Either way, the whole thing is fantastic. Good boyo, Mick!

Instrumental Album of the Year

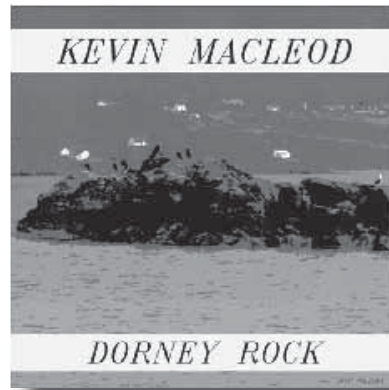
Haven by Flook. Well, they just keep winning and winning. What do you expect? This group is now approaching an iconic status. And, deservedly so. This album is the latest bit of genius from this brilliant quartet. John Joe Kelly is everyone's choice for best bodhran player, Sarah Allen on flute is the driving wheel for the four, Ed Boyd on guitar brings a distinct sound to the group as he continues to blaze new ground in the accompaniment category with his powerful approach and unique chordings and Brian Finnegan is the master on the tin whistle and flute soaring above it all with incredible solo after incredible solo—while always displaying a generosity of musical



spirit not often found in the business. We don't need to explain Flook to you. If you know them, there is no need. If you don't know them, you would not be reading this column in the first place! What a group. And, they just seem to be getting better. Flook! Wow! Wow!

Male Newcomer of the Year

Now, realize that a lot of the people who win a "newcomer" Award are not newcomers! But—and this is the deal—they are newcomers to US. The whole Irish/Celtic/Scottish/Welsh/World/Canadian/Irish-American thing has gotten so vast, we don't claim to be keeping up with it all. Impossible. No apologies. So, we are sure Kevin MacLeod is well known in Scotland, as he should be. His Greentrax album, Dorney Rock is phenomenal. All instrumental, we have the lad playing a lot of mandolin, guitar, and assorted other treats. This is a wondrous piece of work. All the guitar/banjo/tenor guitar/bouzouki/dobro/cittern/mandocello/mandolin/finger and flat



pickers in the world can dazzle with technique. They can play real fast. Make a lot of notes in a short period of time. Big deal. What is rare is to find those musicians who also have soul and a real grasp of the heart of the music. Then, they have to be able to translate it all to us. Meet Kevin MacLeod. He is joined here by some great

guest artists, but it is MacLeod who is the deal. There are literally thousands of wannabes out there who hope to play for a great company like Greentrax. How many get to do it? That tells you all about MacLeod. Dorney Rock is not his first solo album, but it is the first one we have heard. It is a great album by a terrific musician. Scotland knows him well. Now, so do we. Better late than never. A master.

Female Vocalist of the Year

Scotland's Eddi Reader is just out with perfection. This is her second win in this category. The other was for The Songs of Robert Burns. This go round it is Peacetime on Compass Records. Gorgeous. This woman has that perfect combination of voice, soul and style. No one else sings like this. Like all the great artists, you can hear her across the room at a party, and say—that's Eddi Reader! Strong alto. This is a real, adult, grown up, full, intelligent and emotionally compelling woman singing, and she has never been better. Shepherd's Song defies description, and her version of The Calton Weaver will get you hoppin' for sure. The great news is that she is going to be at this year's Irish Fest, so we'll all get to see her. The rest of the year we just get to hear her, and this album makes certain that will be magic. She is a unique talent, and a gift. She is wonderful.

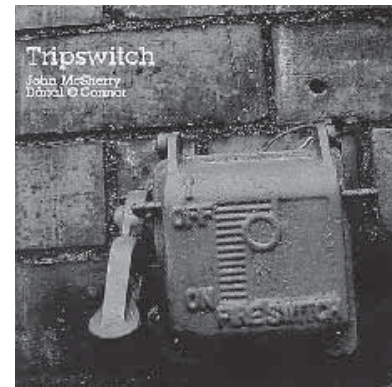
Instrumental Cut of the Year

Compass Records in Nashville put out a real winner this year in Trip-switch. Terrific album by John McSherry and Donal O'Connor, son of last year's Musician of the Year and legendary fiddler, Gerry O'Connor. It is an all-instrumental bit of brilliance. We loved the whole thing. The album was McSherry's follow-up to last year's Instrumental Album of the Year he put out with Michael McGoldrick, At First Light. Are we beginning to see a pattern here? It finally dawned on us why we kept going back and back again to listen to a set of four reels including "Johnny Going to Ceili/Sean McGuire's/John Doherty's/The First Month of Summer". It is because they are the ultimate realization of a terrific set of reels played with intuition, style, soul and real ability. This is a cut perhaps easily overlooked on this album. It is not a huge, ambitious set of reels full of sound and fury. It is just the archetype of the traditional set of reels. Instrumental Cut of the Year, for sure!! What it is all about.



Concert of the Year

Any show of Dave Munnelly's at Irish Fest in 2006. The regular reader knows we discovered this band in Ireland a few years ago, and they have done nothing but get bigger and bigger since. Right now, there is no more loved group in the tradition. Munnelly is arguably the best button box player in the world, though Paul Brock fans may want to wade into that debate! What is not arguable is



that every audience member who saw these shows smiled a LOT, danced on their feet and had a ball. You had to be there. Weren't? Good news. They're back for the 2007 Fest in August. This is a uniquely gifted group of musicians who are having a ball onstage while playing unexcelled

trad music. The regular reader knows we are proudly in the bag for this group, and we don't deny it. We love the best. These guys are the best. Period. Up Munnelly!!!

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Saw Doctors play Chicago March 17

Top Irish rock band, The Saw Doctors, will celebrate this year's St. Patrick's Day with a big concert in the Vic Theatre in Chicago on Saturday March 17.

Tickets are available from all Ticketmaster outlets.

The Saw Doctors will play nine US shows in March including a New York show at the famous Nokia Theatre in Times Square in Manhattan on Saturday March 10.

During the past twelve months, The Saw Doctors have toured non-stop in the USA, Europe and the UK, promoting their recent studio album entitled The Cure. The Galway band have visited the USA on five separate occasions,

travelling from Florida to Chicago and from California to Long Island. In January 07, The Saw Doctors played at the Governor's Ball in the State of Maryland. Newly elected Governor, Martin O'Malley, whose ancestors come from Maam Cross on the Mayo/Galway border, flew The Saw Doctors from Ireland to the US for the Inaugural Ball in Baltimore MD on January 17.

Last Summer, The Saw Doctors played every festival from Gaelic Park Irish Festival in Chicago to Shetland Folk Festival, to Dubai and back again for the V. Festivals in England. In November, The Saw Doctors turned up

at Celtic Park, Glasgow, playing three songs before the Manchester United vs Celtic Champions League match.

Back in Ireland at the beginning of February 07, The Saw Doctors became the first band to play at Croke Park this year on the occasion of the switching on of the new floodlights at the Dublin GAA Stadium.

Now in their nineteenth year as a touring band, The Saw Doctors revolve around the songwriting partnership of Davy Carton (Vocals) and Leo Moran (Guitars). Former Waterboys founder, Anthony Thistlethwaite plays Bass Guitar and Saxophone and the line-up is

completed by Galway musicians, Kevin Duffy on Drums and Éimhín Cradock on Drums.

The Saw Doctors came together in Tuam, Co. Galway in 1988 when Leo Moran got together with Davy Carton after his punk band Blaze X disbanded, despite the fact that their first single "Some Hope" was chosen as Single of the Week on Irish radio.

Success came early for The Saw Doctors - their second single, I Useta Lover, went to Number One in Ireland in September 1990 and was still Number One that Christmas. The Saw Doctors then re-released their first single N17 and on the back of I Useta Lover's success,

N17, which was produced by Mike Scott of The Waterboys, went to Number One. The first album, If This Is Rock and Roll, I Want My Old Job Back, was Number One for most of 1991.

After picking up a lot of Irish press and entertainment awards in the early nineties and posting a second Number One album (All The Way From Tuam), The Saw Doctors set about touring the UK and in February 1996, the band's third album "Same Ol' Town" went to Number Six in the UK Top Twenty, yielding two Top Twenty UK singles, World of Good, and To Win Just Once. The Saw Doctors appeared on Top of the Pops in January and July 1996 to promote the two singles.

"From country to punk to pop and rock'n'roll", explains Leo Moran on their success, "we stole all our favourite bits". In a Saw Doctors' song, you'll listen in vain for the usual swaggering rock clichés about life on the road, drug problems and easy sex. Instead, continuing the tradition of all-time greats from Woody Guthrie and Hank Williams, their songs range from bringing in the harvest, to running away to join the army; from the plight of Ireland's unmarried mothers to the effect of strong religion on a nation's youth; from playing gaelic football against a neighbouring village to loving the prettiest girl in town but lacking the courage to tell her.

Over the years, The Saw Doctors have built up a reputation as a great live band. Paul Sexton of The Times in London observed that "if they could bottle the sort of bonhomie that can make an entire concert hall feel better, The Saw Doctors would have the medicine show to end them all". www.sawdoctors.com.



The Saw Doctors

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IAHC Hosts Sunday Music Concerts

The Fifth Province Lounge at the IAHC will feature "Second Sunday Concerts", acoustic/folk music performances, at 7pm on thesecond Sunday of each month beginning in March 2007. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

The series kicks off March 11, 2007 and showcases Chicago's top acoustic/folk performers, as well as visiting artists. Local musician, Kat Eggleston, will emcee the series. The March performance features musician Chris Walz, and others.

Call 773-282-7035, or Gary Tuber at 847-882-9723.

An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



a practical solution for qualified unauthorized workers already in the country, and pathways to earn eventual permanent residence," noted Bruce Josten of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Bishop Thomas Wenski concurs: "The solution must be prac-

tical and it must be humane. We must fix the system so that it serves both workers and families, ending the deaths in the desert, reuniting families, and ensuring that native and foreign born workers' rights are protected in the workplace."

The Alliance for Immigration Reform 2007 includes the American Immigration Lawyers Association; the Asian American Justice Center, the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition, Tamar Jacoby of the Manhattan Institute, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the National Immigration Forum, the National Restaurant Association, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), UNITE/HERE, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Source: Catholic News Service

Change Of Address

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) have launched a new Internet service for people who need to inform the immigration authorities about a change of address.

All non-US citizens living in the United States are legally required to inform USCIS of a change of address by completing an Alien Change of Address Card Form AR-11. Individuals who have a case pending also need to notify USCIS of any change of address, to ensure that they can receive a decision in a timely fashion.

This is the first phase in an expansion of the USCIS system. Phase two, which is expected to come on stream in May will include additional customer service features, including the ability for applicants with a pending naturalization application also to report a change of address online. Until then, those individuals should continue to contact USCIS by phone at: 1-800-375-5283 to report a change of address. To change Address on line visit: www.uscis.gov/AR-11 and Click "Online Change of Address" in Related Links.

St. Patrick's Breastplate

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.
I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with his baptism,
Through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial,
Through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension,
Through the strength of his descent for the judgment of Doom.
I arise today

Through the strength of the love of Cherubim,
In obedience of angels,
In the service of archangels,
In hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In prayers of patriarchs,
In predictions of prophets,
In preaching of apostles,
In faith of confessors,
In innocence of holy virgins,
In deeds of righteous men.
I arise today

Through the strength of heaven:

Light of sun,
Radiance of moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftiness of wind,
Depth of sea,
Stability of earth,
Firmness of rock.

I arise today

Through God's strength to pilot me:

God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me

From snares of devils,
From temptations of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
Afar and anear,

Alone and in multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and those evils,

Against every cruel merciless power that may oppose my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul.

Christ to shield me today

Against poison, against burning,
Against drowning, against wounding,
So that there may come to me abundance of reward.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,

Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,

Through belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness,
Of the Creator of Creation.

Though the above quoted prayer is often attributed to St. Patrick it is unlikely that "The Apostle to The Irish" composed this beautiful prayer/poem. Scholars are agreed that it most likely comes from the eighth century. Nevertheless, though the writing is not from the pen of Patrick, it is fair to say that the sentiments are certainly in keeping with the beliefs and spirituality of Ireland's patron Saint.

There are three ideas, which I would like to point out regarding the content of the prayer.

Firstly, the prayer speaks of the great sense that the author has of God's all-embracing presence. This is something that was at the heart of Patrick's life. The pre-Christian Irish had a great appreciation for the presence of the divine in nature. This was especially evident in their respect for nature and in the places they worshiped, such as, wells, trees and mountains. Patrick took these "pagan" practices and introduced a Christian element into them. In other words, he recognized what was good and holy in the lives of his flock and celebrated it with them. He opened the eyes of his adopted people to a new vision of how the creator is part of and takes delight in creation. This is expressed in the first chapter of Genesis where we read, "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

In our time there is a growing movement of people who are genuinely concerned about the state of the earth's health. Some Christian leaders see this as a return to paganism. I however, interpret it as a call to return to the command of the creator to people that, we respect and take care of the precious gifts given to us to sustain our lives on earth.

Secondly, this prayer is what we can call theologically, Christocentric. For Patrick and the early Irish Christians Christ was the center and rock on which they built their faith. Patrick and his followers took to heart the message of St. Paul in Romans Ch. 8: "Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ." This was what sustained Patrick in all of his trials in bringing the Good News to the Irish. It continues to inspire us today and invites us to share our sufferings with him who reaches out to save us from whatever bedevils us on life's journey.

Thirdly, at the heart of this prayer is a reminder of the truth reflected in the words of the poet, John Donne: "no man is an island." Christianity is above all a faith, which calls on its devotees to take responsibility for each other and the whole of humanity. The story of the Good Samaritan was important to the early Irish Christians. This is a parable that is particularly relevant to our time when there is such a tendency to take care of number one. Human beings do not thrive when isolated from others. We become more human, more mature, more Christ like as we grow in our capacity to truly empathize with others. When we give of ourselves in the service of others, especially the poor who cannot repay us, then we are truly fulfilling the law of Christ.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the office Tel. 312-337-8445; Cell 773-677-5341; or you can e-mail me at the following: siochan@catholic.org.

Immigration Reform

The 110th Congress will soon consider comprehensive immigration reform legislation. It is expected that the U.S. Senate will consider legislation in late March/early April, with the U.S. House of Representatives taking up a bill during the summer months. During March/April it will be important to communicate with legislators about what elements are required in a comprehensive immigration bill.

The U.S. Catholic bishops have called for a comprehensive overhaul of the U.S. immigration system, which would include the following elements: 1). An earned legalization program for undocumented immigrants, regardless of nationality, which includes a path to citizenship; 2) A future worker program (i.e. "temporary" worker program) which includes protections for both U.S. and foreign-born workers with an option for a path to citizenship; 3). Family-based immigration reform, which reduces family backlogs and waiting times for family reunification; 4). The restoration of due process protections for immigrants; and 5). Policies, which address the root, causes of migration. Any just and humane immigration bill should contain these basic elements.

Specifically, any legalization program must be workable (easily administered) and achievable (with requirements that are not onerous) and should not divide the undocumented population into groups. Any future worker program must contain worker protections, adequate wages, and a path to citizenship for participants.

Please Contact your Senator and Representative as soon as possible with the message that comprehensive immigration reform must be enacted this year with the elements supported by the U.S. bishops.

Alliance For Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The Alliance for Immigration Reform 2007 is a new working group of independent organizations that includes business representatives, labor leaders, immigrant advocates, free-market conservatives, and voices of faith. While differences exist between these groups in other policy areas, they have agreement on a workable architecture for immigration reform. Their common theme: that existing immigration law isn't working for anyone and that Congress must act in this session, before the politics of 2008 take over, to produce and pass workable reform for one of the most pressing domestic policy problems we face.

Despite their varied interests, alliance participants are in accord on the essential elements of the reform that's needed. "Any fix worth the name must provide sound enforcement and a reliable employment verification system that is combined with enough new temporary and permanent visas to meet the needs of America's growing economy,

For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



CORRECTION? Last month this column stated; "US/UK/Israel constitute a true axis of evil. They all employ torture, all are now genocidists, perpetrators of the Supreme Crime. All are robbers of the resources of other nations, all three routinely employ deception, all have assassination teams and perpetrate atrocities to be blamed upon others. All three clothe their crimes in the vocabulary of democracy while claiming to represent the moral high ground." The correction, if one is in order, derives from the following. Are Bush & Co's crimes US crimes? Are all Americans culpable for crimes perpetrated by Bush & Co? Seeing that the vast majority of Americans had been deceived into believing that Saddam's WMD threatened the very existence of the US, is it correct to say that they are accomplices in Bush's subsequent crimes against Iraq? What about Bush's crimes in Lebanon and his international Gulag? Are we, the US, collectively responsible? What about those who did everything possible to stop it; even before the invasion? What about Iran?

BRINGING DEMOCRACY to Iraq? If so, we would allow an Iraqi referendum to decide whether they want us there. We will not allow such a democratic event. Why not? Because we already know the answer. The vast majority of Iraqis want us out, and a large majority of them say Iraqis are justified in killing US soldiers. Had Bush & Co a "...decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind..." they would not have ignored the expressed wishes of the Pope and every nation on earth except Israel and US (for so long as the deception held).

BUSH'S BASE has eroded to twenty-some percent of Americans. Everybody else is onto the lies; especially the two crucial ones; 1) The WMD, and 2) that Saddam was involved with Al Qaeda in 9/11. These are crucial because, had they been true, our war on Iraq would be lawful instead of the Supreme Crime it is. This twenty-some percent is not likely to shrink much further because, being "faith-based," neither evidence, nor justice, nor even our Constitution concerns them. At the core of Bush's base are the millions of Rapturists, mostly in the southern States. They believe that he will bring about Armageddon upon which, being biblical literalists like the Rev. Ian Paisley, they will receive their heavenly reward. Their reward will consist of being "raptured" up into heaven where they will sit at the right hand of God and look down with satisfaction upon the rest of us burning in "the Lake of Fire." (That's a lot of napalm. Have they arranged to have their United Technologies and Northrup dividend checks forwarded to them in heaven?) Because "their bible tells them" that "End Days" cannot occur until Zion (Israel) is restored to its maximum biblical extent

"from the Nile to the Euphrates," they do all in their power to promote that expansion of exclusively Jewish population. Thus, according to them and to their minority of wacko accomplices in Israel, one does God's Work by exterminating Palestinians, Jordanians, Egyptians, Syrians, Iraqis, etc. whose existences thwart biblical fulfillment. Rapturists visiting Israel screamed insults at Sharon when he temporarily slowed his genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

EVANGELICALS. A headline reads; "Ousted Republican US Senator Criticizes Bush on Israel." The text reads "Ousted Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee criticized President George W. Bush's handling of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, saying that the president was bowing to a faction of evangelical Christians who oppose a Palestinian state. Chafee lost to Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse in the last elections. "The religious thing is driving foreign policy here," Chafee said following a speech at Brown University on Monday (Feb 12). Chafee cited comments by evangelical Christians who have said that they do not think Israel should give up any land to the Palestinians. (YNET News/AP)

A **READER** contends that our attacks upon Iraq, Lebanon and, soon, Iran are all Israeli initiatives; that Israel is the only beneficiary of our population-reduction campaigns, and that Iraq's Shi'a vs Sunni civil war is no random event but that Mossad and US/UK assassination teams have been instigating it; that the bombing of the Golden Mosque was probably part of it. We do know that Britain's MI5/SAS/FRU perpetrated precisely such "false flag" massacres in Ireland to be blamed on the IRA.

IN **IRELAND** the people have always been notably sympathetic to Jews. The old "Christ-Killer" slur was never heard in school (where we were taught that He had died for our sins. (This was also true in St. Margaret of Scotland school on Chicago's south side.) Though Jews constitute fewer than one percent of Ireland's population there have been Jewish members of the Dail. One, (Robert Briscoe) was twice elected Mayor of Dublin (or was his son Ben the second Briscoe mayor?). That empathy has always been strongest among the Occupied Irish who, as targets of Brit genocidists, can better sense the enormity of the Shoah. But Belfast today reflects the new reality. Palestinian flags fly throughout the oppressed Irish enclaves, while Israel's flag flies in Brit (Orange) areas. The issue was fully revealed by a letter from the head of Combat 18 to the head of an Orange gang. (Combat 18 is a Neo-Nazi gang in England. Its "18" is from the first and eighth letters of the alphabet; Adolph Hitler.). The letter began by claiming that Combat 18 had always supported

that Orange gang against "the Niggers." (In Combat 18's Neo-Nazi world "Niggers" also applies to Irish and Jews. It then went on to plaintively ask what was Combat 18 to think when their Orange allies have taken to flying the Israeli flag. This flag issue in Occupied Ireland represents something much larger, which is this; those who used to empathize with Jews have switched to supporting Palestinians against Israel, while at least one group of Neo-Nazi allies now supports Israel and its policies.

IT MUSTN'T BE war that we are waging against "international terrorism." Why not? Because, in wartime, the outing of a U.S. undercover agent is treason, punishable by summary execution. Agent Valerie Plame headed the CIA's Nuclear Proliferation desk, one of the most secret and crucial jobs in the defense of America. Her husband, Ex-Ambassador Joe Wilson, was the whistle-blower who exposed Bush's forgery-based claim of "Saddam's negotiations to buy uranium oxide from Niger," a claim that bolstered Bush's earlier war-"justifying" fabrications about the "danger" Saddam posed to America. Evidently, to punish Wilson and to intimidate other truth-tellers, Bush & Co "outed" Valerie. It has now been revealed in Federal court that Cheney, Wolfowitz, Feith, Rove and Libby all participated in that vile act of treason (oops, leaking). But they have not been summarily shot, nor even charged with treason, so we must not be at war.

GREAT NEWS! Last month you read here of the trial of two noble Palestinians here in Chicago and how the US Court agreed to take the case against them after the German gov't refused to try them because the case was based upon prepared confessions they had signed under Israeli torture. The verdict is rendered. The Chicago jury found them not guilty of any of the terrorism charges. It did, however, find them guilty of the much lesser charge of Obstruction of Justice. Their obstruction is a fact - they had, indeed, refused to cooperate with the Feds who were framing them for Israel. Here's to two honorary Irish republicans named Mohammed Salah and Professor A. Ashqar! Here's to their courageous defense attorneys Moffit and Deutch who provided the jury with an education about life in Palestine under Israeli tyranny that I'd never before heard uttered in public. May it help to bring an end to our funding of Israel's genocide of Palestine. Our funding of it continues to shock the conscience of the world, and is one of the three reasons given by Osama bin Laden for 9/11. For years nearly half of our total foreign aid has gone to Israel. To keep those funds flowing, approximately one percent of it returns as bribes to our congressmen. In this way our taxes are used to our detriment to fund Israeli crimes instead of good works or American interests.

THANK YOU, Atty. Tom Durkin. I've never met Mr. Durkin, but was immensely impressed by his op-ed piece (Trib, 2/8/07) on the Salah/Ashqar trial. It was headlined;

"Terrorism in Our Courts" and described how the Federal judge allowed Israeli agents to create opinion-molding theater in her courtroom. He quotes then-USAG Ashcroft saying; "...the two men played a substantial role in financing and supporting international terrorism... (and) took advantage of the freedoms of an open society to foster and finance acts of terror." With these powerful words "our" USAG worked in tandem with Israeli torturers and against justice in a US court. Ultimately, the jurors proved intelligent and patriotic enough to ignore Ashcroft, the judge, and the Israeli spooks. While observing that trial for a few days it became clear to me that as important as the outcome was for the two defendants, it was crucial for our nation. A gov't victory would have established secrecy as the norm in our courts, also the use of tortured confessions. It was clear that the life of our republic itself was at stake. A gov't victory would also have given a green light to a third frame-up of me by MI5/FBI. And they wouldn't have to fabricate their evidence against us as they did before. Under the new standard created by a gov't victory against Salah/Ashqar I would be convicted for the truths I've written here. Mr. Durkin's admirable piece ends with; "What should also not be lost on anyone is the extraordinary effort of the Muslim-American communities in Chicago and Virginia that rallied around the Salah family and his co-defendant, Abdelhaleem Ashqar. To fight the government in the face of potential life sentences is no small effort unto itself. It's even more daunting to raise the money it takes to bring in lawyers who are talented enough to attempt to level the playing field the government gets in its federal courts. If it takes a village to raise a child these days, it truly takes a community to stand up to the government. We should all take note as a community and pay attention before it is too late."

BRIT TERRORISM in Occupied Ireland has, until now, been totally covered up by the US, UK and Irish gov'ts abetted by the news media in all three nations. So far as I know my web site, www.terrorismireland.org, remains the sole compilation of overall facts as to the identity of the murdered and that of the groups who murdered them. But the official curtain is now partly opened on what close observers have always known. Some news media recently exposed one Orange murder gang run by the Brit police Special Branch. The gang, a UVF branch, is now acknowledged by the police to "probably" have murdered (in chronological order) Peter McTasney, Sharon McKenna, Seán McPartland, Eamon Fox, Gary Convie, Thomas Sheppard, John Harbinson, Raymond McCord jr and Tommy English. As their names suggest, the last four were Protestants. During the past decade Orange murder gangs began turning their guns on each other. This gang, from the Mt. Vernon/Newtownabbey area, is just the tip of the iceberg. Frequently, Catholics phoning the police to report a murder in their homes would have to wait a while. They wouldn't

be told the reason for the delay, which was that the "investigating" police officers hadn't yet finished chauffeuring the murderers to and from their assignment. The name of this utterly corrupt Brit police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) was changed to the PSNI. All of its murderers remain in uniform, untouchable. That is only one example of the evil in Adams & Co's call to republicans to join that same police force. All of the deadliest of the atrocities were perpetrated by Brit forces but officially blamed on Irish republicans. It typically took a few weeks before the identity of the murder group became generally known (upon which the gov't announced "pursuit of justice" immediately evaporated). The one exception is the MI5/FBI/RUC bombing of Omagh. Because it was an IRA device the UK/US agents who murdered with it have not yet even been charged, and the news media's truth-telling about it hasn't been repeated enough to overcome the Big Lie.

MORE GOOD NEWS! During the past decade you have read here of the Ex-Limerick man living in London who was robbed of his home by the Inland Revenue (IR), Britain's IRS; how their fraudulent claim of some £ hundreds became a lien against his £400,000 house from which they evicted him, sold it and kept all of the proceeds. When the courts, law enforcement and his political representatives all refused to enforce the law for him, in extremis he sought help from the Irish embassy and Irish newspapers in England. I personally witnessed and was shocked to see his urgent requests met with crude insults by his MP, by Irish Ambassador Barrington and The Irish Post and (to a lesser degree) The Irish World. There is a hero in all this; an Englishman, Philip Inman, Finance Reporter for The Guardian. Inman, essentially alone, has championed justice for Cullinane in his columns. Cullinane also credits the Irish American News. It appears that his long nightmare is coming to an end.

EASTER LILIES, the little paper ones from Ireland's National Graves Association (NGA) and worn in the lapel, will be distributed this Easter week. Ever since 1926 when the new "Irish" gov't made it clear that the graves of Ireland's dead heroes were to be unmarked and forgotten, the NGA, a group of private volunteers, have installed and maintained those graves; first out of their own pockets, and later, helped by an annual Easter Lily campaign. They have done so all these years despite constant harassment by gov't officials who frequently raid them, rob them of their little treasures and confiscate the paper lilies. Chicago Irish have always been free to wear them. However, beware of frauds. The Friends of Irish Freedom are the NGA's sole Chicago distributors of these lilies. Though others sell them in Chicago, none of the proceeds go to the NGA. The main (or perhaps, sole) Chicago distributor of those others is a long-time mole for MI5/FBI.

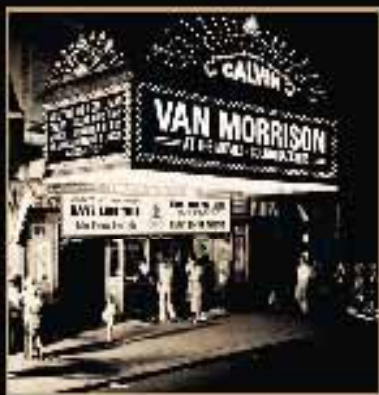
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CELEBRATE St. Patrick's Week

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9956 S. Western Ave
Phone (773) 239-3212
All Times Approximate

Sunday 3/11 - Southside Parade Day!
11 am Face Painter
2pm til late Tommy Moran Show
4pm Shannon Rovers
5pm The Little People
6pm O'Hare Step Dancers

Friday 3/16
6pm Emerald Society Bagpipers
7pm O'Hare Step Dancers

Saturday 3/17 - St Patrick's Day!
5pm Shannon Rovers
6pm The Little People
7pm O'Hare Step Dancers

Having a House Party?

Fox's Comed Beef & Cabbage
1-30, \$7⁹⁵ • 51-100, \$6⁹⁹ • 101 or more, \$6⁴⁹



Face Painter
& Ballooners
each of
these days

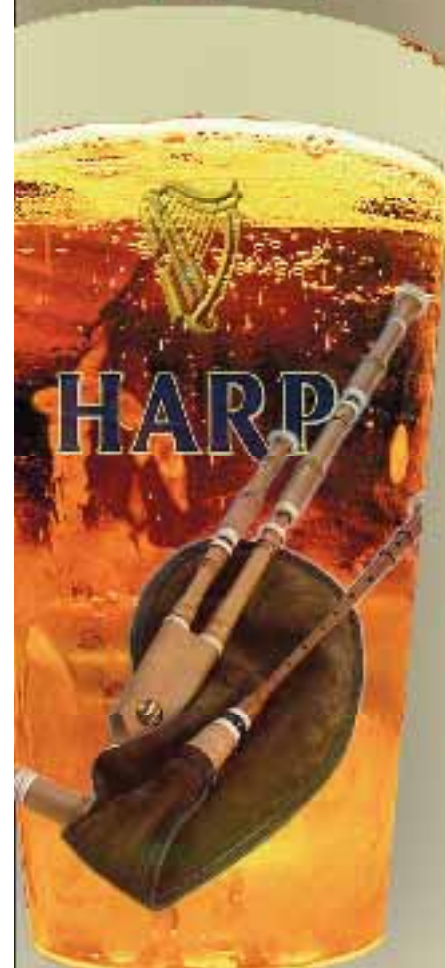
Fox's Oaklawn
9240 S. Cicero Ave
Phone (708) 499-2233
All Times Approximate

Friday 3/9 & Saturday 3/10
5 to 9pm Billy Leathem
9 til 1am John Dillon
8pm Step Dancers
9pm Emerald Society Bagpipers

Sunday 3/11 Southside Parade Day!
12 til 5pm Billy Leathem
5 til 12am John Dillon
5:30pm Emerald Society Bagpipers
6pm The Little People
7pm Lavin Cassidy Dancers
7:30 Shannon Rovers Bagpipers
8pm O'Hare Step Dancers

Friday 3/16
5 til 9pm Billy Leathem
9 til 1am John Dillon
7pm Lavin Cassidy Dancers
7:30 O'Hare Step Dancers
8pm The Little People
9pm Shannon Rovers Bagpipers

Saturday 3/17 - St Patrick's Day!
12 til 5pm Billy Leathem
6 til 12am John Dillon
4pm O'Hare Step Dancers
5pm The Little People
6pm Lavin Cassidy Step Dancers
7pm The Little People
8pm O'Hare Step Dancers
9pm Shannon Rovers Bagpipers



Open Daily at 11am
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Traditional Irish Music Instruction and Performance

Irish Music School Chicago

"Visions Of Ireland" At WTTW Soon

Visions Of Ireland showcases the land of saints and scholars like never before. A helicopter-mounted camera shares the vantage point of the Irish faeries of ancient lore for serene aerial views above the fog and mist, the remote Skellig Islands, the magnificent windswept Cliffs of Moher—and the perfect angle from which to kiss the Blarney Stone. The program will premiere on PBS stations beginning Saturday, March 3 at 9 pm (check local television listings or visit www.pbs.org/tvschedules). Visions Of Ireland will premiere nationwide Saturday, March 17th at 9 pm on WTTW (check local listings or [pbs.org/stationfinder](http://www.pbs.org/stationfinder)).

The "Emerald Isle" is a place where myth and legend coexist with booming modern legacy of invigorated economic strength. Visions Of Ireland reveals all its "forty shades of green" following an itinerary from Sligo to Belfast to Galway to Dublin that explores timeless country glens, abundant fishing ports, the famous golf courses of counties Kerry and Cork, and more.

Rich narration gives context for the stunning high definition aerial and ground views of this little island of grand historical significance, all set to a soundtrack that includes the fiddles and pipes of traditional jigs and reels and modern Celtic rock.

Visions Of Ireland is the 18th pro-

gram in WLIW New York's VISIONS series. These programs have thrilled PBS viewers nationwide, providing a visual itinerary, an emotional visit to the family homeland, a souvenir of the trip of a lifetime or the virtual realization of a fantasy vacation. Programs in the series include Italy, Germany, France, Scotland, England and Greece.

Visions Of Ireland will be available on DVD with bonus material this March exclusively through PBS stations or [wliw.org](http://www.wliw.org) <<http://www.wliw.org>>—click "pledge online". Bonus material includes guided tours of Glendalough and Dublin by The Irish Tenors' Karl Scully and Anthony Kearns. To pre-order a copy, visit [wliw.org](http://www.wliw.org) <<http://www.wliw.org>>—click "pledge online" and search Visions Of Ireland.

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CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY
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 —Mary Ann & Suzanne

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Don't forget your traditional Irish Breakfast! We have fresh Sausage, Rashers, Black and White Puddings as well as Boiling Bacon.

Mon Closed
 Tu-Fri 10am-6pm
 Sat 10am-5pm
 Sun 10am-3pm

HOURS

Take Acting Classes In Ireland

The Irish Theater May Term (May 14th - June 1st 2007) is a course designed for students who have previously taken drama courses, and now want to focus their craft through the study of Irish drama. The program is ideally suited to American students who have a May Interim term at their college.

The Irish Theater Summer School (July 2nd - 27th 2007) offers students the chance to learn about Irish Theater and acting through a study of text and performance. It focuses on the plays and playwrights that have made Ireland a world name in theater.

Both the May Term and the Summer School concentrate on the works of four major writers: John Millington Synge, Séan O'Casey, Samuel Beckett and Brian Friel, and will also include a practical study of more contemporary writers including Martin McDonagh and Marina Carr. www.gaiety.school.com or call 00353 1 6799277

MERCY HOME NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

South Side Irish Parade, Sunday, March 11
 Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 17

Help at-risk youth by distributing Shamrock pins for donations in support of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls

• It's Easy! • It's Fun! • It's Meaningful

Please contact Mercy Home for Boys & Girls (312) 738-7578, or visit www.mercyhome.org



Upcoming Events at the Irish American Heritage Center

3/2-3/25 Art Exhibit
Contemporary American Celtic, New Visions 2007



PIG image by Cynthia Maoyt

3/11 3pm Ireland On Parade Concert
A Celebration of Irish music and dance
featuring Patricia Brady, the Irish Nightingale



Riviny Irish Dancers

3/25 2pm Transforming Ireland Into A New Nation:
the Yeats Family Lecture

3/31 and 4/1 Saturday at 7pm and Sunday at 3pm
Imperfect Balance: A Women's Art Series Celebrating
Women's History Month

4/1 2pm Author Reading Rus Bradburn of Paddy
on the Hardwood: A Journey in Irish Hoops and
fiddle player Paddy Jones team up for reading and
concert



3/4 2pm IAHC Library Lecture Series
Irish Boxing in Chicago
5pm The Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance
Kick off St. Patrick's Day with a festive dance

3/8 8pm David Munnely Band in Concert
Direct from Ireland!



DAVID MUNNELLY BAND

3/11 7pm Second Sunday Concert Series
Folk music performances in the Fifth Province

3/16 7pm Irish Dance Chicago
Showcasing performances from Chicago's
Irish dance schools



Photo courtesy of the Mullane School of Irish Dance

3/17 1pm-midnight St. Patrick's Festival
The finest in local Irish music, dance and
children's activities

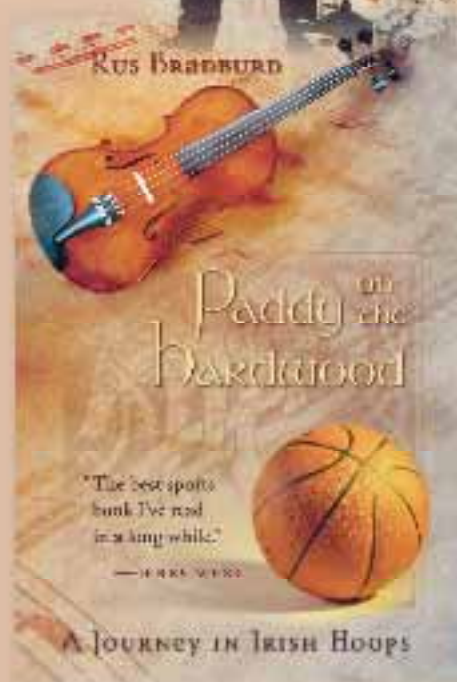


Tim O'Shea and Jonathan Roche

3/18 2pm-10pm St. Patrick's Finale
The family fun continues in the Fifth Province



The Irish Heritage Singers



For more information on these and other events
at the Irish American Heritage Center, visit our
website at www.irishamhc.com
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WEEK**
MARCH 10TH - 17TH

SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH:
DJ Marco \$4.99 Plus Of Smithwick's

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH:
Pub Quiz at 7pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH:
Guinness Mini Pint Sampling

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH:
Guinness Glass Giveaways

THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH:
Irish Session at 7pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH:
St. Baldrick's Day

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH:
THE DAY ITSELF
Live Music starts at Noon
\$10 cover starts at 8pm

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MARCH GREATNESS at Fox's Orland Park

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**Bagpipers • Irish Dancers
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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day through 3rd week of March!

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Live Entertainment
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American Theatre Company's Damon Kiely Directs 'Oklahoma!'

American Theater Company (ATC) will usher in 2007 with its highly anticipated revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! Oklahoma! will star ATC Ensemble members Matthew Brumlow, Suzanne Petri, and Marty Higginbotham and will be directed by ATC Artistic Director Damon Kiely. The production will emphasize the darker, grittier aspects of the story, and will be scaled to the intimacy of ATC's one-hundred-seat theater with a stripped-down style including a cast of just twelve backed by a period-accurate four-piece string band.

"We're here to tell great American stories, and Oklahoma! is the first great American musical story," says Kiely. "We couldn't be more excited to offer Chicagoans the chance to reconnect with a masterwork of the American theater."

In Rodgers and Hammerstein's Okla-

homa!, perhaps the most popular of all American musicals, ranchers and farmers clash as they try to carve out a piece of the American dream, forming the backdrop for a romance between a headstrong cowboy and a farmer's daughter.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! will be performed at American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St. in Chicago. Tickets are \$20 during previews. Throughout the regular run, tickets are \$30 on Thursdays, Saturdays at 4 p.m., and Sundays, and \$35 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Student and group discounts are available. ATC's box office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on performance Saturdays and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on performance Sundays. For reservation or further information, call (773) 929-1031 or visit www.atcweb.org.

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SUNDAY
MARCH 11th

SHOW STARTS
at 8:00pm

TICKETS
\$10.00
advance
\$12.00
day of show

St. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL 2007

Your ticket to a world of great entertainment!

Your early St. Patty's Day Party!
Irish Rovers
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The Charleston Daily Mail

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SATURDAY MARCH 17th
MUSIC & FUN
ALL DAY LONG

YOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

8:00am
GAA GAMES-LIVE
EAT DRINK & CHEER

8:30am
6-NATIONS RUGBY ITALY vs IRELAND
EAT DRINK & CHEER

9:00am
BUS to PARADE*
EAT DRINK & SING

12:00pm
SALMON'S LEAP
EAT DRINK & SING

2:00pm
Sprioard Damhsa Irish Dancers
EAT DRINK & DANCE

4:00pm
the SAND CARVERS
EAT DRINK & SING

6:00pm
LARRY NUGENT & FRANK QUINN
EAT DRINK & SING

9:00pm
Sprioard Damhsa Irish Dancers
EAT DRINK & DANCE

9:30pm
FITZ & the CELTS
EAT DRINK & SING

10:30pm
SHANNON ROVER BAG PIPERS
EAT DRINK & CRY

11:00pm
the SAND CARVERS
EAT DRINK DANCE & SING

\$ 10.00 ALL DAY

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MARCH 12th

SALMON'S LEAP

TUESDAY
MARCH 13th

mulligan stew

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 14th

STAND

THURSDAY
MARCH 15th

TIMOSHAK & KATHAN ROOPE

FRIDAY
MARCH 16th

MICHAEL McDERMOTT

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AUDITORIUM THEATRE
of Roosevelt University

An Inspirational Chat With Author/Speaker Matthew Kelly

By Elizabeth Kelly

"You were born to become the best version of yourself. This is your essential purpose. Embrace this one solitary truth and it will change your life more than anything you have ever learned. In every situation, simply ask yourself, which of the options before me will help me become the best version of myself?" ...so states inspirational speaker/writer, Matthew Kelly in one of his early works, *The Rhythm of Life*.

And in his work, *Call to Joy*, Matthew wisely suggests that "By placing our feet firmly on the ground and allowing our consciousness to be raised to Heaven, we can allow the wonders of the sacred to fill every moment of each day."

I recently spoke with Matthew Kelly, who I did hear speak at St. Michael's Church in Chicago, several years ago. I was inspired then as I am now, having learned more about his mission and purpose in life. A few of our words follow here.

Matthew, please provide us with a brief overview of who you are, including: your ancestral origin, family, childhood, schooling, cultures that you have lived within, and where you presently reside?

I was born and raised in Sydney, Australia. I had a relatively normal childhood as far as a childhood goes. I'm 33 years of age. I am the fourth of eight boys. I do not have any sisters.

I have been living here in the U.S. for the past five years. I presently reside in Ohio.

For those in our reading audience who might not be familiar with you, please describe what you believe to be "your calling" in life? How did you come to conclude this?

Well, I started thinking about life, the purpose of life, at age 15, 16, 17, and again at age 18. I then graduated from high school and went on to business school at the University of Western Sydney in Australia, UWS.

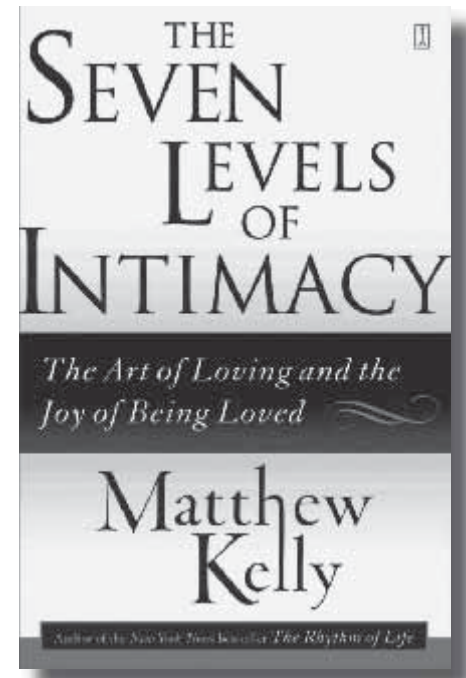
While in school, I was asked to give a talk, a talk that naturally evolved around my experiences as a young person of 19 years. I spoke about my activities in school, in a competitive world, but mainly I simply voiced my thoughts about the purpose of life. Tapes were made of this first major formal speaking and were publicly circulated. Soon I began giving more talks; then writings emerged from these talks.

In my talks today, whether in a high school, university, or private corporate setting, I often touch upon how our modern day culture is far too focused on money. We might not articulate it directly, but it would appear many people mistakenly believe that with more money, they will be happier. This of course is wrong. Happiness isn't derived from the material world! It is derived from the self, including the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual self. And the physical-self expresses this level of happiness.

Do you have a mentor who helped lead you to these philosophies?

I honestly don't have one particular mentor, but I do have an insatiable appetite for new learning, whether it be the acquisition of and listening to new audio books, studying a new topic, or taking a new course.

As far as famous characters in history are concerned, I must say I have much admiration for Pablo Picasso. Picasso was a creative genius.



So many artists might paint a picture or write a song, then land success. Which is perfectly fine. Yet, once they do, they use that successful image or musical melody as a "cookie cutter" and recreate it over and over. They choose to stay with that one success once they find it, never wanting to venture out into the experience of change, of life, once they have found this comfort zone.

Yet Picasso finds success and keeps on going in a new unknown direction, continually. He didn't after all just wake up one day and say, "I'm going to create the Blue Period today." It was a completely new discovery. Throughout his life he constantly created new art periods, new styles. And more importantly, in spite of the critics' negative words and comments about his unusual art creations, he persevered. He's certainly labeled a genius today, but not back then.

"As for myself, I am inspired to follow my creativity where it leads me."

What/Whom inspired you with the writing of your first novel?

While still residing in Australia, at age 20, I began with the publication of some small prayerful meditations. The whole point of these pieces was to help people think about their lives. Yet, these meditations aren't in print now.

Within that same year, in 1994, Harper Collins approached me to write a book. I submitted a proposal, which further expanded on my public speaking topics. The book was titled *Call to Joy*.

Call to Joy expounds on a spiritual experience I had as a teenager.

"In a quiet, unsuspecting moment, the barriers that separated Heaven from earth were torn down, and my eyes and ears were opened to the things of the spirit. Over the months and years, starting with that night, I have come to realize that the possibilities that exist for you and me are beyond our wildest imaginings. By placing our feet firmly on the ground and allowing our consciousness to be raised to Heaven, we can allow the wonders of the sacred to fill every moment of each day."

My first major novel, *The Rhythm of Life*, expands upon the themes within *Call to Joy*. I first published *Rhythm of Life* in 1997 and then again in 2004.



Matthew Kelly. Photo by Sigrid Estrada.

This novel focuses on the realization that our essential purpose in life is to become the best version of our selves. This continues to be the core theme of all of my public talks as well, conversing with people about all they can be.

Other written works in print include, Perfectly Yourself, 9 Levels of Experiencing Happiness, and The Seven Levels of Intimacy will be released in January 2007. My web site, www.matthewkelly.org, lists my written works and public speaking schedule.

How broad of an audience do you reach?

My foundation is based in Cincinnati, Ohio. All public speaking events, whether within a school or a corporate setting, are scheduled from this site. I also fulfill requests to serve as a speaker or consultant for private business groups through

my consulting division, Beresford Consulting. My audience is quite broad. Approximately 60% of my audience is inclusive of high school/college students and approximately 40% is from a business or corporate setting.

The message of my words to a corporate audience, always state that a corporation can never become the best version of itself unless its employees have become and are expressing the best versions of themselves. A company will naturally always benefit from a healthy employee base. Unfortunately the tension in the workplace, between employer and employee, has always been there. We have to always strive to resolve this. And certainly a base of healthy employees impacts the health of an organization.

I receive more than 400 e-mails a day and over 1,000 pieces of written mail each week. The majority of this mail is inclusive of positive feedback towards my talks, my books. A few indicate that their lives have changed radically as a result of my words.

Clearly, knowledge makes such a difference in people's lives.

How long will you keep at this mission?

Indefinitely. I hope to do this for my whole life and continue with my own personal growth. Having the opportunity to be exposed to so many amazing people, each day, and learn from their highs and lows is amazing. I also enjoy the travel.

What do you think of Ireland and its people?

I've now been there 16 times and have done quite a bit of public speaking in many settings. And sure I have an obvious curiosity of the people, as they are the root of my ancestry. Yet also, the Irish people have a wonderful welcoming spirit.

Ireland Reawakens The Art Of Beverly Faulkner

Irish American artist, Beverly Faulkner claims her first "real" painting endeavors began in 1968, when supported and encouraged by the late Ralph T. Hall of Branchport and Carol Lee Ayers of Blairstown, NJ. She engaged in a lot of experimentation and learned by doing. She continued in her "strictly amateurish" mode for the next decade. Yet, frustration eventually halted these early attempts as she could not find her own direction, style, or focus. So she put the paints away.

"Sometimes it takes a lifetime to find the niche wherein we fit best. I was very fortunate to have found my bliss in Ireland in the early 1980s when I took my mother back following the passing of my father. It was indeed a memorable journey for during that first trip to Ireland everything shifted and clicked into place and I came home and bought new paints, new brushes, and started again with renewed inspiration and determination! This time I knew that I had found what I was meant to be doing and I retired from a job in horticulture in order to build a studio and paint full time."

Props that Beverly records on canvas range from humble dwellings to important historical landmarks

and often included are the ubiquitous sheep as well as the dogs that so brilliantly assist in herding them. The wild swans of Ireland, so embedded in Irish mythology, are also favorite subjects. With each return visit she is reassured and nurtured by the land itself. "I will not run out of material, and I have never regretted my decision to follow my heart."

Her medium is oil on linen canvas, and her style is her own as she is entirely self-taught. Recently she has bolstered her inventory by offering archival Giclées of some original works.

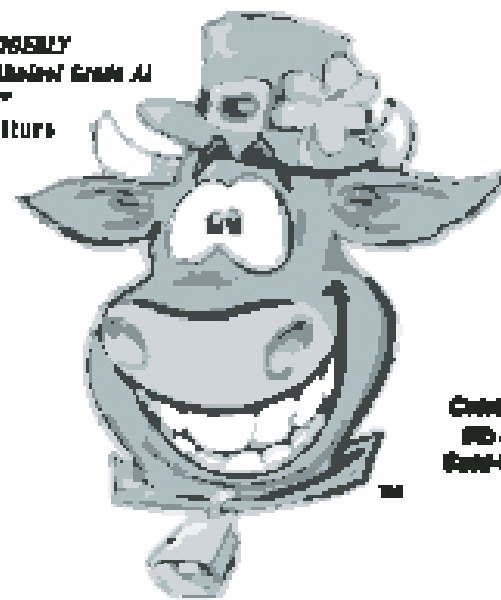
She has won many awards and has had successful shows at galleries in New York, Pennsylvania, at Keuka College, Keuka Park, NY and at Mansfield University in Mansfield, PA.

Beverly's work is avidly collected by several patrons, and her original works hang from Maine to California, and also abroad in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Belgium.

Commissions of Ireland are accepted and visits to her studio are welcomed by appointment. Beverly can be reached at 315-536-4296, e-mail: eirebybf@eznet.net, or by visiting her web site: www.eirebybfaulkner.com.

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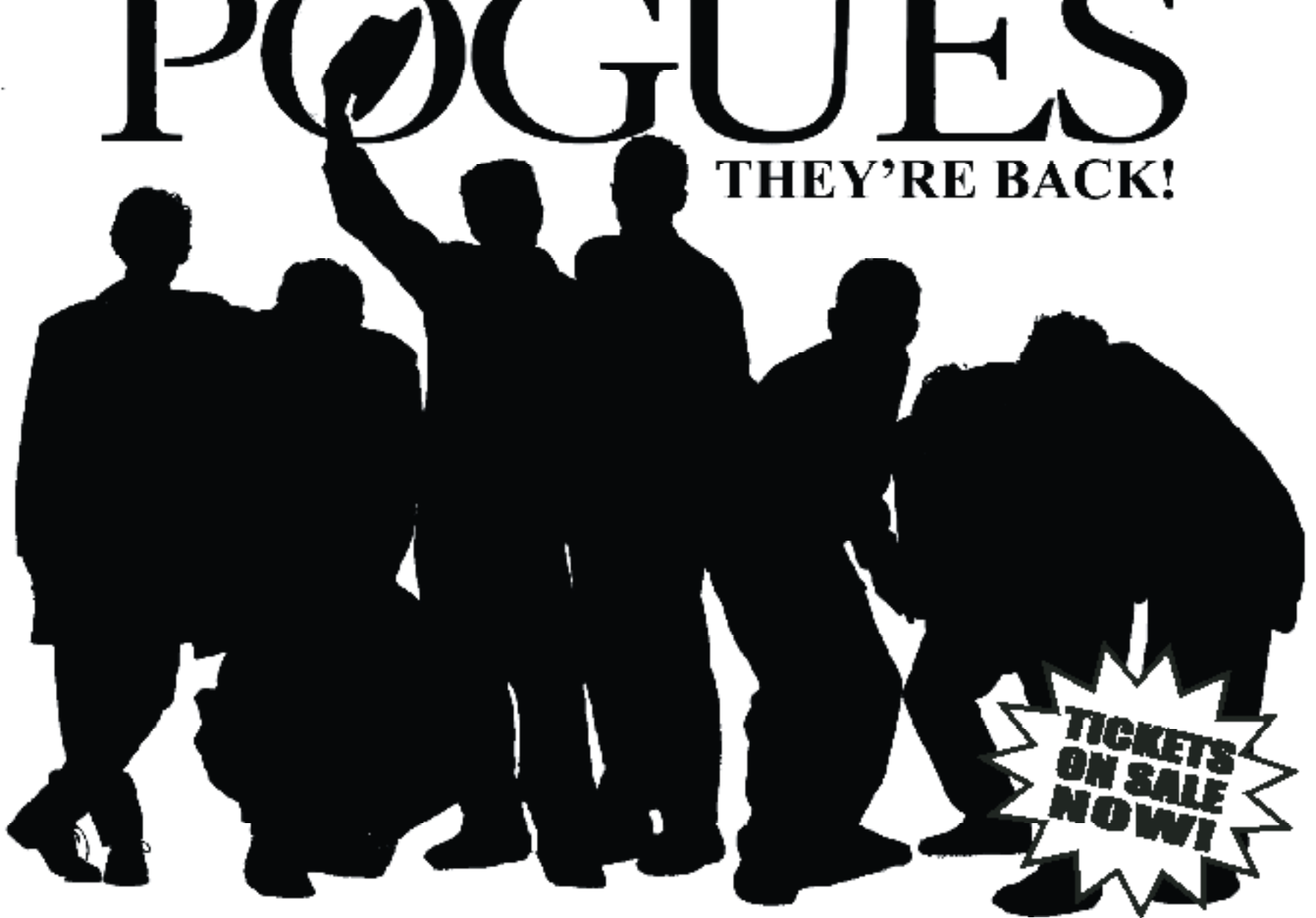


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A Life Concluding

He fell in love for beauty,
He fell in love for gold;
He fell in love for reasons
Too many to be told.

He fell in love for passion
And longed each day for such
As would fill his nights in sensing
Of taste and feel and touch.

He fell in love in seeking
What never could come true;
To be in love for hopeless things
Was all he knew to do.

He was in love as sightless
As a worm beneath the ground
And he turned from simple kindness
Too dull to be around.

Then he fell in love for glory
And made himself a name
By years of work and effort
For a short-lived span of fame.

There was no road he followed
That led to settled roots
But that he turned alignment from,
Preferring new pursuits.

His reins for simple living
Were dropped and lost in schemes
Of what he sought for happiness
In odysseys of dreams.

Those empty years of casting
His energies to lies
Have laced his heart to tatters
And his aging breath to sighs.

He sits alone each midnight now;
Too late his vision clears
And his tears fall into firelight
To burn like wasted years.

Soon, truth will demand he follow
Where his mind and heart be still;
A heart too dead for dreaming
And a mind beyond beyond all will.

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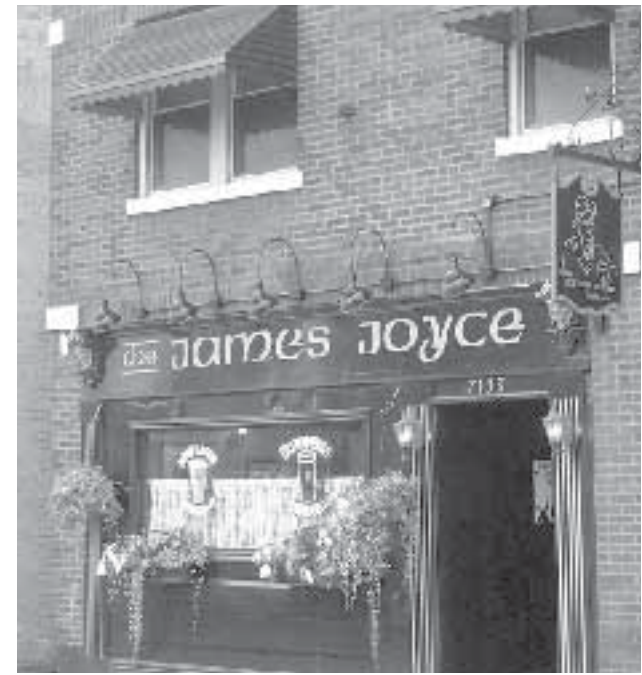


The James Joyce Irish Pub

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A division of Harp & Eagle Ltd.

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



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Newberry Library's Lewis & Clark

The Newberry Library, whose collections in American Indian history are among the finest in the world, has launched its companion website to its much-lauded 2005-06 exhibition "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country: 200 Years of American History." The website examines the initial encounters and relations between the explorers and the Indians, and reveals the legacy of the expedition for a young American nation and for modern American Indian communities. www.newberry.org/lewisandclark.

The website is organized into the same four sections as the exhibition -The Indian Country, 1800: A Brilliant Plan for Living; Crossing the Indian Country; A New Nation Comes to the Indian Country; and The Indian Country Today - and includes images of all but a few of the items that were on display at the Library. Visitors will also find the complete text of interviews with American Indians that were originally presented on interactive media kiosks in the Newberry's exhibit hall. The website also includes an extensive list of secondary sources and online resources related to the project in addition to transcripts of important government documents and reports. www.newberry.org.

11th Annual Siamsa na nGael Celebration of the Celtic arts

Siamsa na nGael is a compilation of extraordinary performances by the finest Celtic artists in the areas of music, dance, and storytelling.



Catherine O'Connell

Award-winning journalist Bill Kurtis will serve as special guest narrator. Additionally, beloved Chicago performer Catherine O'Connell returns to thrill audiences with her beautiful, captivating voice. The evening would not be complete without performances by the Trinity Irish Dance Company, Old St. Patrick's Concert Choir, Metropolis Symphony Orchestra, Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band, and much more. World-renowned composers Liam Lawton, Shaun Davey, and Doug Lofstrom will provide the music for the evening celebration of Celtic art.

Siamsa na nGael means good times of the Irish. This music celebration will take place Tuesday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Chicago Symphony Center, 220 South Michigan Avenue.

Proceeds raised support the programs and outreach activities of Old St. Patrick's Church, as well as the on-going artistic enhancement of the church.

For tickets please call the Symphony Center box office at 312.294.3000 or go to www.cso.org. Ticket prices range from \$25-\$55.

Chicago Actress Joins Comedy Production at The Royal George

CeCe Klinger is no stranger to the lives of nuns. As a young girl growing up in Hyde Park, she often saw the nuns in her neighborhood and wondered who they were.



CeCe Klinger

Now, this Hyde Park actress is on stage at the Royal George Theatre, in full habit, in the hit comedy, Put the Nuns in Charge! She shares the role with three other actresses: Kathleen Puls Andrade, Elaine Carlson, and Patricia Musker.

A sequel to the hit, Late Nite Catechism, this latest comedy by Chicago playwright Vicki Quade puts the character of Sister back in the classroom. But this time, Sister is teaching about the Seven Deadly Sins of behavior.

Quade calls Put the Nuns in Charge!, "a funny refresher course in a modern look at the Golden Rule. Sister has her own opinions on just about everything, from the shade of your lipstick to the I-Pod in your pocket." Where Late Nite Catechism creates a nostalgic look at Catholic upbringing, The play applies that upbringing to today's modern problems. The Chicago Tribune calls the show, "sharp, funny, and richly humane."

Born Cecilia Klinger in 1960, the actress adopted the nickname CeCe as her stage name.

She was baptized Catholic and attended Hyde Park's St. Thomas the Apostle church during a time when the Mass was still said in Latin.

Klinger was raised in a religious melting pot. Her Mother was a Roman Catholic from the north of England, and has English and Irish heritage. Klinger's physician father is Jewish from Hungary.

"My father read the Bible to us when we were kids," Klinger remembers. "It was his way of teaching us morals."

She currently teaches acting at Victory Gardens Theatre.

"What I really love is that I can use all of my years as a teacher and bring that to the role of Sister," Klinger says. "It's fascinating to me how people respond to that particular outfit. It's a whole new world for me to explore."

"Ritual is so important in our lives and it's sorely lacking," she says. "People come to the show to see those icons again, to see the holy cards, the rosary, a nun, and to remember together."

Put the Nuns in Charge! runs every Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Royal George Theater, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago. Tickets are \$30. For more information, call the theater at 312.988.9000 or

A Word With Father Boland

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



April 10, 1917. On that historic day, as the United States prepared to enter the Great War raging in Europe, 300 representatives from Catholic parishes in Chicago met with Archbishop George Mundelein for one purpose: to increase financial assistance for the growing numbers of poor families and individuals living within their parish boundaries – regardless of their religion. The result was the founding of the Board of The Associated Catholic Charities and its coordination and service arm: the Central Charity Bureau. The nucleus of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago had been formed.

Ninety years have passed, but the needs of the people we serve today are strikingly similar to the needs of 1917. Our country is

again at war; poor families and homeless individuals still come daily to Catholic Charities for emergency food, clothing, rent and shelter. In greater than ever numbers, we still preserve families, provide homes for children, safeguard seniors, welcome the immigrant and the refugee, offer recovery to the addicted, and speak for the poor to the public and presidents.

As we have since the beginning, Catholic Charities works closely with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in 1857 in Chicago, whose spirit of "loving and serving the poor for the love of God" drives our mission of charity.

The early years of the Central Charity Bureau were filled with crises. Not only did our country go to war in 1917 at the cost of 115,000 American lives, with twice that number disabled; but the influenza epidemic of 1918 and 1919 took a terrible toll: 600,000 lives in the United States; more than 8,000 in Illinois.

"As a result," said Archbishop Mundelein in 1919, "a very large number of families were left fatherless, motherless and orphaned." In the nine months previous, the Bureau had brought relief to over 10,000 people in Chicago with money, clothing, doctor's care and medicine.

Long before state agencies for the care of children or the aged existed, when sources of public funding were few and unreliable, the Catholic Church was the "safety net" for the poor. The generous Catholic lay people in their parishes, the priests and

religious, Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul collected funds and distributed them to the needy in their own homes or in institutions which they built and funded.

The Central Charity Bureau's official summary for 1920 not only records that 6,374 families were helped financially, but paints a heart-rending picture of the time: "1,862 families unemployed; 1,217 widows; 506 women deserted." Tuberculosis, permanent physical disabilities, old age, blindness and insanity were some of the other painful causes of poverty for these families.

In fulfilling their sole purpose "to lessen the suffering of the widows, the orphans, the sick, the friendless, and the penniless," the Central Charity Bureau functioned not only as the funding conduit for the charitable works of parishes and institutions, but also as the direct service provider to the needy throughout the community; and as a voice advocating with government for financial relief for poor mothers and children.

Catholic religious orders such as the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul had long traditions in the archdiocese of providing residential care and maternity services for unwed mothers and their infants in institutions such as St. Vincent's Hospital and Infant Asylum, established in 1881. Since 1849 other orders and the Chicago diocese itself had provided care for "dependent children" who were orphaned, neglected, or whose parents could no longer care for them. In February, 1921, the Catholic Home Bureau (now Catholic Charities' Maternity and Adoption Services) was incorporated in the State of Illinois so that it would have the legal authority to place infants and children from Misericordia Hospital and Home for Infants and St. Vincent's into loving adoptive homes.

These agencies and institutions were among the 30 that were funded in the 1920s in the developing federation of the Central Charity Bureau, which would in a few years be known as The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

But harder times were coming. The Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression had devastating consequences, especially for the poor. During these difficult times, the extraordinary generosity of Catholic people and parishes and the quiet, selfless work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society kept many families intact.

Peace continued to elude the world. World War II broke out, followed by the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars: each conflict in each era produced its own unique crises and cries for help. Revolutions and national conflicts in Cuba, Kosovo, Africa and other parts of the world raged, creating untold suffering and refugees – even as they do today.

But Catholic Charities continued to respond decade after decade to victims of war, poverty and persecution, continually proving a saving grace and a "safety net" for the poor, the suffering and the outcast.

With vision, compassion and competence, Catholic Charities in Cook and Lake Counties resettled refugees, welcomed, initiated programs and residences for men and women recovering from substance abuse, healed the wounds of war and domestic violence through counseling, provided job skills for unemployed workers, child care for working mothers, and built housing for low-income seniors and homeless veterans.

For 90 years, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has been a refuge for people who are suffering poverty or distress – lifting up struggling families and individuals, helping them to achieve self-sufficiency and

renewed human dignity as children of God. More than ever, we publicly address and work to end the causes of poverty; advocating constantly for the poor in our Archdiocese and our country.

Our works of charity continue. On April 11, Catholic Charities will begin the celebration of our 90th Anniversary Year by dedicating the St. Leo Residence for Veterans and the Veterans Affairs Clinic on the campus of St. Leo the Great Parish on Chicago's South Side. Cardinal Francis George will welcome 141 formerly homeless veterans and bless their new home, where they will live in safety and rebuild their lives, their health and their skills until they are independent once again, enjoying the fullness of dignity that is rightfully theirs.

Catholic Charities continues to hear and answer "the cry of the poor." In 2006, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago served 895,000 families, seniors, children, the hungry and homeless in 168 programs at 156 service sites. Today, we are the largest not-for-profit social service organization in the Midwest and one of the largest voluntary social service organizations in the United States.

Thanks to the leadership of His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago; our outstanding Board of Advisors and dynamic Junior Board; our 2,590 dedicated staff members; our 8,400 devoted volunteers; the vital collaboration of parishes and pastors, and the great generosity of our donors – Catholic Charities joyfully celebrates 90 years of charity and looks forward to a future of loving service to God's poor.

I am deeply grateful for your support in the past. Please keep Catholic Charities in your prayers as we thank God for the last 90 years, and move with gratitude into the future.

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A Review Of Maeve Binchy's Whitethorn Woods

By J. A. Sebastain

Murder, mayhem, mystery. A medium, a marriage proposal, and a meandering bypass. Irish author Maeve Binchy has written another classic in her 16th novel, *Whitethorn Woods*. Set for March 2007 release in the United States, this newest Binchy novel recounts tales of fictional Irish characters all sharing the common root, the town of Rossmore, Ireland.

The grande dame of best-selling romantic novels (*Nights of Rain and Stars*; *Light a Penny Candle*; *Dublin 4*; *Tara Road* to name only a few of her novels) is in top form with this new novel, full of warmth and humor, hopes and dreams, wishes and prayers. In fair measure, there's also greed, infidelity, mental illness, alco-

holism, domestic violence, murder, mystery, and local mayhem. Stitching together a series of linked vignettes, Binchy's *Whitethorn Woods* tells a tender tale of a change and tradition, of families, and of land.

The stories tell of conniving land-grabbers, of lost family connections, of struggling singles and suffering married couples, of aging parents, and asks who's to care for family and farm. There's the long-lost New York relative with a connection to Rossmore, a story told in the voice of a teenager. There's also the voice of conscience, as a lawyer tries to answer questions about speculators buying farmland around the sacred well of St. Ann, a holy shrine of dubious origin deep

in mumbled breath. Tales of miracles bring local parishioners and strangers alike. Indeed, every July 26th, on the feast of St. Ann, people came from far and near to pray at St. Ann's well, a place believers visit to ask the mother of the Virgin Mary to intercede, like a medium, for them, mainly in matters of the heart - finding a fiancé, holding on to a husband, blessing a family with a child, or returning a child taken from the pram. The believers want to protect the holy well that had never run dry and prevent construction of the new road through *Whitethorn Woods*.

Who else to turn to but Father Brian Flynn. Father Flynn himself isn't sure what to think. Whatever else St. Ann may have done, she had not visited Rossmore in Ireland, found a place in the woods, and established a holy well that had never run dry, of that Father Flynn was certain. But in a country fast becoming secular, he wondered where did all the superstition come from? He didn't know what to say to the parishioners, including Marty Nolan, who had been offered huge sums of money for his farm near St. Ann's well. Or what to think when even his own sister was coming back from England to pray at the well for a husband.

Father Flynn knew the visitors to St. Ann got more at the well than his parishioners did in St. Augustine's Church, Rossmore, where he served as curate. The old curate lived in a world of certainties, a place where a priest was important and respected, where there was an answer for every question asked. For himself, only uncertainty and mystery. He heard himself pray on the feast of St. Ann that he might

"hear the voices that have come to you and know who these people are."

Indeed, Binchy lets us hear the voices of her characters, their thoughts, dreams and fears, and peek into the lives of her characters. Characters like Neddy Nolan, not the sharpest knife in the drawer, who seeks the aid of the local barrister, Myles Barry. Myles, who had been to school with Neddy's older brother Kit, was the lawyer Neddy turned to when the speculators offered to buy the family farm. Meanwhile, Neddy's brother Kit, serving time in England, had read an announcement that there was money to be made out of the home and family that he had long abandoned. Kit writes a letter to Myles Barry to have his interest in the property properly recorded and acknowledged. Sure, as the eldest son, the land should rightly be his: his old dad was elderly, frail, and unable to make any real decisions on the matter of the homestead and the youngest brother Ned was in fact mentally handicapped.

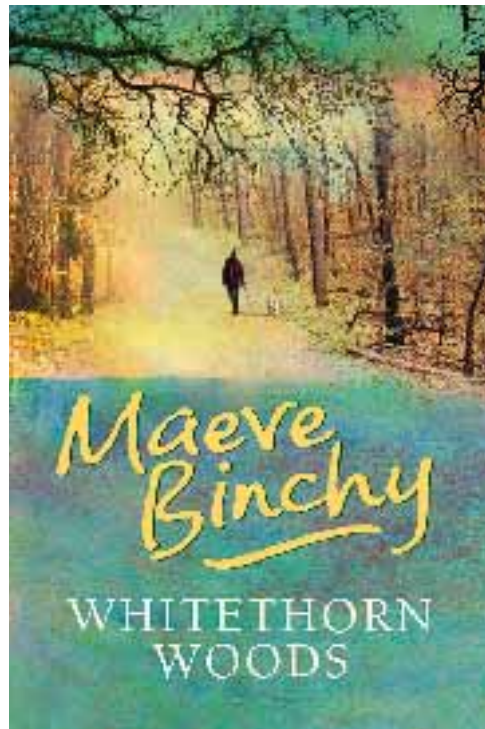
Young Neddy, who had lived with Kit in England but soon returned to Ireland after an unsuccessful experience working construction together, is known throughout the town as a wee-bit-slow. In the first-person voice, Neddy assures us that he never wanted to be the sharpest knife in the drawer. With only one sharp knife in the kitchen, sure everyone was always talking about it with fear of some terrible accident, and the kitchen running red with blood. The too-quick-to-jump-to-assumptions about

Neddy makes for some hearty laughs as we come to know the Neddy and the Nolan family.

Like walking at dusk passed open windows, insides exposed, Binchy gives us a peek into Rossmore homes: into the Nolan's extended clan, including Neddy's new wife, with her own story to tell of her days in Dublin; the Flynn's family dynamics, the elderly Mrs. Flynn, who lived alone; Brian Flynn, a priest struggling with his place in changing community; Judy Flynn, a sister/daughter/single adult finding her place in Rossmore after her 10-year absence; and Eddy Flynn, a wheeler-dealer son/brother/husband/father/businessman, who sees his big chance to make some real money with land deals.

As an outsider looking in, we glimpse the fragile, delicate ties that hold families together, and understand the unseen roots of home, of land, of a place called Rossmore. All roads begin and end in Rossmore in *Whitethorn Woods*. This quick paced, compassionate story is a welcome addition for a Binchy fan. For those who have not yet been introduced to her wonderful writing, there's no better place to start than in the homes of Rossmore, Ireland.

J.A. Sebastain, a Chicago lawyer and Binchy fan, whose Mum and Dad are from the far northwest coast of Inishowen Peninsula, County Donegal, at the base of the Gap of Mamore, where, on the 15th of August, believers from near and far pray at the sacred well of Our Lady.



The St. Patrick's Day Parade queen and her court have been selected for 2007. This year's queen is (left) Julie Anne Venci, a doctor at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, IL. Her court consists of (l to r): Jennifer May Moss, Kerry Ann Brennan, Maggie Cogan, and Julie Popp. The young ladies were chosen out of 109 who participated. Picture taken just before the queen was announced.

The Pirate Queen

The epic new musical from the authors of *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*, will begin previews on Broadway on March 6th and open on April 5th, 2007 at the Hilton Theatre (213 West 42nd Street, NYC; A Live Nation venue).

The Pirate Queen is a spectacular musical adventure celebrating the legendary Irish Chieftain Grace O'Malley. Based on her real-life story, *The Pirate Queen* tells of a compelling, inspirational woman; a heroine who led an extraordinary life as a pirate, chieftain, lover and mother in 16th Century Ireland. Commissioned and produced by Moya Doherty and John McColgan, the producers of *Riverdance*, this new musical combines classic storytelling and a sweeping score, with the powerful, vibrant traditions of Irish dance and song, to create a modern musical event that is both an historic romance and a timeless epic.

The cast of 42 is led by Stephanie J. Block (Grace O'Malley), Hadley Fraser (Tiernan), Linda Balgord (Queen Elizabeth I), Marcus Chait (Donal),



Jeff McCarthy (Dubhdara) and William Youmans (Bingham). Broadway veterans Graciela Daniele joins the creative team (musical staging) and Richard Maltby, Jr. joins the writing team (book & lyrics).

The Pirate Queen features a new score from the Tony Award-winning team of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, one of the most successful teams of author/composers in musical theatre. The new musical will be directed by Tony Award-winner Frank Galati.

Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



This story is true, only the names have been changed, as well as the embellishment and complete fabrication of all the actual facts

Our story begins a few weeks before the Super Bowl last month. I had just returned from lunch to the office of the

resident wise guy, who remarked, "Yeah, well they got operations for everything these days... hysterectomy, vasectomy, and when a woman wants to become a man, she gets an addaictomy!"

I told Zoe it looked like she would have an interesting semester in that class. I then promptly forgot about the whole conversation, until the day before the Super Bowl.

That's when my old buddy Paul Chowderhead called me to discuss the game. I asked him where he would be watching the Super Bowl. Now it was Mr. Chowderhead's turn at apoplexy.

Paul was in a state of consternation as he told me of the annual invite to his cousins to watch the game every year in his family room with Mrs. Chowderhead and the Chowderhead kids. His cousin had called and asked if she could bring a friend, a friend who just so happened to have had a sex change operation several years back.

I said, "This friend wouldn't by any chance go by the name of Delilah McFinn, would he..she?"

When Chowderhead picked the phone up off the floor he said suspiciously, "How the hell did you know that?"

"Take it easy," I said. "Just because I know the name of the transsexual who is going to be your Super Bowl babysitter, doesn't mean I travel in those circles!"

Chowderhead was in a pickle because he didn't know how to politely say ixnay to his cousin and at the same time he knew his Super Bowl would be ruined by the uncomfortable feeling of Delilah curled up on his couch. And how would he explain to the Chowderhead children why Mrs. McFinn suddenly turned into Duke the Bruiser when Devin Hester ran back the opening kickoff for the Bears?

Fortunately for my pal Paul Chowderhead, Delilah was a no show for the Super Bowl. He and his family breathed a sigh of relief and went on with their lives. Zoe Buttafuccho tells me about her professor doing an occasional "man scratch" in mid lecture but otherwise the class is ho hum everyday dreary.

Was the world always this weird?

It seems to be ever more odd as I age. I guess there's a lot about the future I'm not going to miss at all, like transsexual quarterbacks in the Super Bowl. I hope to be in heaven by the time US President Richard Simmons III declares March 11th as a national holiday, "Gay Day". Why March 11th? Well to quote President Simmons, "because that's the 69th day of the year, silly!"

Yikes! And a happy St. Patrick's Day to you Delilah McFinn!

National Pebble Manufacturers, where I have a marketing gig. Our gal Friday, Zoe Buttafuccho, is a college student when not working part time for the Pebbles. Zoe is a young lady of 20 with a bubbly personality and the best secretary we've ever had at Pebbles. However, she was in a state of apoplexy when I walked into the office that day.

"Oh my Gawd, wait 'til I tell you what happened today!"

It was the first day of the second semester at the University and Zoe had encountered a strange new teacher in her honors class. The professor was dressed as any woman of a certain age would and introduced herself to the class as Delilah McFinn. I told Zoe, "You got an Irish teacher. You're lucky!"

Zoe said, "Listen to this, she introduces herself, and says she is 65 and has two grown children who haven't spoken to her in years. Then she asks the class, 'Do you know why they haven't spoken to me?'"

The class is nonplussed by this question and Delilah tells them, "They haven't spoken to me because I used to be a man!"

Delilah then proceeds to tell all the students about her sex change surgery and hands out a book with pictures of her when she was known as Duke McFinn.

Now we got a big laugh out of this at the Pebbles office, especially Jimmy O'Connor our

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Taoiseach Honours Founder of Airport Duty Free Shopping

An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. recently launched a major exhibition honouring Dr. Brendan O'Regan—the man credited with inventing airport duty-free shopping. The Clare Museum exhibition, entitled Empowering the People: The Career and Achievements of Dr. Brendan O'Regan, celebrates the life of one of Ireland's most noted peace ambassadors and initiators of commercial and industrial initiatives.



Dr. Brendan O'Regan's many achievements include the setting up of the world's first Duty Free Shop at Shannon Airport, the establishment of the Shannon Free Airport Development Company and the founding of Co-operation Ireland—the single largest organisation working in the area of peace and reconciliation in the island of Ireland. The exhibition, which has been approved by the Six Mile Cross native, will honour all of his achievements and feature some of the many academic and civil accolades he has been awarded throughout his incredible career.

Empowering the People: The Career and Achievements of Dr. Brendan O'Regan will remain on display at Clare Museum until May before being placed on display at various museums around the county.

For more on Clare Museum, Arthur's Row, Ennis, County Clare, Ireland log on to www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/claremuseum/index.htm, telephone 00353-656823382 or email claremuseum@clarecoco.ie.

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Finola Hughes: Ballet, Soap and Style TV

By James Bartlett

Around town at the moment are large posters of Finola Hughes, soap actress, author, style guru and host of the #1 rated Style Network reality series "How Do I Look?" which started its sixth series last year: "They made me wear a pink dress, and I'm really not a pink dress girl at all. Eventually I only agreed to do it if I could wear my skull and crossbones necklace, which is my homage to growing up in the punk era!"

The Irish connection is immediately apparent in her first name: Hughes's father was born in Cobh, County Cork, and she has many childhood memories of the large city in the south west of Ireland: "We spent every summer in Cork, just sitting on the doorstep outside the pub. All our relatives are there. When we first went to Cobh, mum pointed out the thirty houses, two pubs and two churches - I guess you just went from one into the other!"

She last went to Ireland around 15 years ago, when she and her brother went on what she called a "pilgrimage" to see all their relatives: "We went all over the country, and saw everybody. We must have put on 10-15 lbs in weight from all the food! We ended up in Cobh, at dad's grave. He was born in an area that was directly on the strand, facing towards the mainland. He was the one who had kept the family together by writing lots of letters, but now both my parents are dead, it's my cousins in Cork who have taken up the torch. They also researched our family tree too; my grandfather was Welsh, and he came over to Ireland and met my grandmother."

Born and educated in Notting Hill Gate in London, Hughes studied ballet from the age of 10, and in 1980, she originated the role of The White Cat in the premiere company of the legendary Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, "Cats": "When I was around 23 years old, I went over to America - did the Joan Collins thing. I had always wanted to go to the States and dance with American dancers."

Her movie debut came when Sylvester Stallone cast her opposite John Travolta in Stayin' Alive, a movie whose style and fashion still casts a shadow today: "That was it. I knew I wanted to come back again, that it was exactly what I wanted. I packed, came out here, and didn't know what the hell I was going to do! I needed a job, and then about six months after arriving and living on my friend's couch at first, along came General Hospital. They

had created a character, and I seemed to fit exactly what they were looking for - a female European spy. I was a heroine, but I had a dark side too. This was back when Europe seemed the center of espionage, before the wall came down".

To soap opera fans, the rest is history. Hughes became the mysterious "Anna Devane" on ABC daytime drama "General Hospital" from 1985 to 1992, but after her character died in an explosion on a boat she took time out to do movies and other projects. That was until 1999, when she returned to the daytime television schedule on ABC's "All My Children" - though she was again playing Anna, now seemingly resurrected: "The Head of Daytime (programming) asked if I would be interested in moving to New York, and I said yes. You don't ever die in soaps, you know. It's their form of recycling."

But it did get confusing, as I originally started again as another character, and it got so far down the line that I then had to play Anna's twin to get her character back in."

With her tongue firmly in her cheek - Hughes won an Emmy® Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in 1991, as well as three additional nominations in the same category - she spoke about this acting challenge: "Once I proved myself thoroughly incapable of playing both of them, they sent one of them off to Istanbul, and Anna was back."

She made it a trio of returns in May 2006, when she played Anna once again back on "General Hospital": "It's the closest thing to a 9-5 job you can have, working on a soap opera, and it's really good fun. I would do it again if they asked."

Being on screen every day inspired Hughes to come up with some concepts for new programs herself, and in 2003 Style Network asked her to host the official coverage of Olympus Fashion Week: "I had already approached them with several ideas, and in the end they sent me to see some people in New York who said, "We don't like any of your ideas, but we think you'd be perfect for this." I was excited about it from the beginning, even though I wasn't used to reality."

"How Do I look?" was the program she was perfect for, and it's now closing in on its 100th show after 6 seasons: "It's been brilliant, a really great time. We started guerilla style, and now we've been going for three years."

Hughes is host of the show, which has a mission to help the stylistically challenged transform



Finola Hughes

themselves into true fashion enthusiasts. In each episode, she joins two close friends or relatives and a professional stylist, all of whom take turns helping to transform one lucky candidate into a beacon of style. Top fashion, hair and beauty experts are also on hand to complete the makeover.

Will the newly-transformed person be able to guess who is responsible? Will they hate the new look and wonder, "What were they thinking?" Or, will they be delighted - or surprised - at how well their friends and family truly knows them? It can get very emotional, but Hughes keeps the peace as everyone heads towards the ultimate question: "How Do I Look?"

As for her own choices, Hughes is a fan of Alexander McQueen, Chloe, and "vintage stuff" and says, "you can't go wrong with H&M". She also loves small boutiques, and the fashions of punk queen Vivienne Westwood: "I dyed my hair black, and my husband had a band at the time. Even though I was in Cats, I couldn't hold a tune to save my life. Still, that was the idea then, really, wasn't it? Because of my training as a ballet dancer, my class mate Toni Basil (she of 1982 pop hit "Hey Mickey") was in my class, and we thought up this strange hybrid together called "punk on point", which was a real mix of punk and ballet. There we were in the school rehearsal space, jumping around to The Clash and The Sex Pistols. It was very weird!"

Punk styles have come and gone out of fashion ever since - Johnny Depp and his performance in Pirates Of The Caribbean bought pirates back onto the catwalk - and she still finds the look on the

street: "It gets reinvented every few years, given a new edge. I had an old pair of bondage pants from BOY that I'd kept for years, and they were in pretty good nick. I was wearing it in Gucci a few years ago, and this beautiful 19-year-old girl came up to me and asked about them. I told her they were from London in 1979 and she said "oh, so they're vintage!" Funnily enough, I wore a pirate shirt for the opening night of Cats - a really flowing, fluffy-wristed thing. You must wear them with irony, or it won't work!"

Unless the soap world comes calling again, Hughes has other plans for the future: "I like to do more on fashion, de-mystifying it on television. Style's important, but so is being yourself. I make terrible mistakes all the time, but you've just got to be yourself. Try and look effortless - look like you".

New episodes of "How Do I Look" can be seen on The Style Network every Monday at 9:00PM ET/PT on Style in the USA.

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Gaelic News

Continued from page 15
in the recent election a good U.S. immigration bill, favourable to the Irish, looks likely. The Senate bill should be ready for passage soon and a house version seems possible later. President Bush is

expected to sign the legislation passed in both houses, and hopefully it will go into effect later this year.

Senator Ted Kennedy, who will be the new chairman of the Senate Sub-committee on Immigration and other security matters will spearhead the passage of the McCain-Kennedy bill and with John McCain expected to be running for the presidency in 2008 it should be a winner for all.

Louie Gutierrez, a Chicagoan, a good friend of former Streets and Sanitation Clareman, John Halpin, and Jeff Flake, a Republican, will sponsor the legislation in the house and it should all be tied up by the Fall. Needless to add it can't come soon enough for the many Irish waiting for such a chance to become permanent residents of our great country.

A vital provision of the Senate legislation is expected to allow applicants to remain in the U.S. whilst their applications are being processed. This will be a big plus because otherwise an applicant could be stopped coming back into the country, under the current law.

Congratulations to all concerned. The Irish Reform group played a major part with other nationals in bringing this serious problem to what looks like a good conclusion. Our congrats also to hard working Fr. Michael Leonard and his many fine workers, such as Maureen O'Looney and others. And we never must forget the men and women of the 60's and 70's, the American-Irish Immigration Committee, who opened the doors of Congress, and first fought the problem for the Irish and others deprived entrance, because of the changing of U.S. Immigration laws in 1965-67. Our congrats also to the Irish Reform Movement who fought and won amnesty for so many in the 80's.

Congrats Maureen O'Looney

With her countless friends all over Chicago and indeed our country and in Ireland we join in congratulating our own "Fair Lass from County Mayo," Maureen O'Looney who will be celebrating 40 years of excellent service to her many customers at her well known Shamrock Import Store, at 3150 North Laramie Ave., Chicago. We join in wishing her good health and continued success in the years ahead. This fine Irish lady with her own Irish radio show, heard every Wednesday night, is a household name in Chicago and her unassuming manner endears her to her many friends.

We list just a few of the many Irish causes that Maureen has been actively involved over the years: worker on the first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1953, both on the South and Northwest side of the city; active in the formation of the Chicago GAA in the formative years; Treasurer of the Pres. John F. Kennedy National Park in Co. Wexford, Ireland in 1963; active worker in the American Irish Immigration Committee 1956-72; with Mary Rose Teahan started Camogie in Chicago and played at Shewberidge Stadium; and a very active worker on the Joe Doherty and McBride Principles causes. She was active with the late Hugh and Josephine O'Hara, in the establishment of the Irish American Heritage Center and she was with Liam O'Brien and his small committee when funds were being raised for Gaelic Park. Congrats Maureen Agus Slainte.

Trans Atlantic Flights to Land at Knock Airport in Co. Mayo

Knock Airport, in Co. Mayo, Ireland may be equipped to land trans-Atlantic flights as early as next year, Ulick McEvaddy, board member of the Knock Airport told the Irish Echo recently.

"I would say that U.S flights will land at Knock in the next 18 months," he said. He recently rejoined the board after an absence of 17 years. He is the owner of the U.S. based refueling company, Omega Air and is chairman of Huntstown Park Ltd., who are proposing to build a second terminal at Dublin Airport where the company owns land.

According to the report Knock airport expects to receive flights on charter routes from Washington, Baltimore, and New York airports in the first part of the international expansion. No doubt Chicago will be added eventually and travelers from Connacht will be able to land in their own backyards.

"Congestion in the Bermuda triangle, as the skies over the European air routes are sometimes called, is a big problem for the long haul carrier, especially," he said. "They can burn up a lot of fuel having to wait at 10,000 feet for a landing space. Having an uncongested airport on the fringe of Europe would be very useful," he added.

British Government Admit Police Collusion

In a recent British government report, police in Ulster (Northern Ireland) have "colluded" with Protestant paramilitary informers protecting them from prosecution even as they were implicated in murders and other violent crimes, according to a Chicago Tribune story, "Police Collusion Found in Northern Ireland."

In the 1990's it is reported police officers gave the criminals immunity in exchange for information, according to a three-year investigation by an independent police Ombudsman. The police even went so far as to block weapon searches, helped in drug dealing and even a bomb attack. They even went so far as to pay one informer in more than 10 murders in excess of \$150,000 a year.

And the best spin that Prime Minister Tony Blair could put on all this "collusion" is to say "It's deeply disturbing, totally wrong and should never have happened." But, trying to whitewash the report he added, "It's all about the past, these events could not happen now."

Nationalists in the province have long cried out for justice and protection against such brutality and discrimination, but to no avail. But as Nuala O'Loan, impartial Ombudsman said, "It's easy to blame Junior officers for the problems, but they couldn't have prevailed without the knowledge and support at the highest level."

Pull your British troops and influence out of Ireland, Mr. Blair and let the Irish people decide their own destiny. Such a bold move would in a small way compensate for all the injustice allowed to operate under your government.



Maureen O'Looney and Alex McCaskey

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IAHC St. Patrick's Day Celebrations With A Family Focus

The IAHC will host one of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March at the Center. What makes the IAHC's events different than the many throughout Chicago is that it spans the full weekend—from March 16-18, 2007.

The party includes live music, dance and food and is geared toward families. What makes it unique is it all takes place under one roof. This year's activities promise to be the biggest the IAHC has ever hosted for St. Patrick's Day. People wishing to celebrate the holiday can come early and stay all day, beating the bar crowds and cold weather. The IAHC is a smoke-free establishment.

The weekend kicks off with will a large-scale Irish dance event, Irish Dance Chicago, on Friday, March 16, 2007, at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free with a paying adult.

Irish Dance Chicago showcases the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish dancers, all on one stage. The event presents the talents of locals dance schools Spriorad Damhsa, The

Norton-Healy Irish Dance Academy, Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance. Mullane Champion Irish Dancers, McNulty Irish Dancers and The World Academy of Irish Dancing. There will be live music performances with The Academy of Irish Music and The Irish Music School of Chicago.

On Saturday, March 17, 2007, the IAHC will hold its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale annual event has as many as 3,000 attendees throughout the day. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight and include traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. This year, the children's area will remain open later to

accommodate families with more activities for kids than ever before, including face painting, karaoke and balloon art. Live entertainment includes Chicago Irish dance schools and live music with local Irish musicians. Entertainment includes music by the Matt Stedman Band, the Dooley Brothers, Anish, The Academy of Irish Music and Finbarr Fagan's Band.

Tickets for the St. Patrick's Festival are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if purchased before March 16. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult. Only 3,000 tickets will be sold!

On Sunday, March 18, the family fun continues with the St. Patrick's Finale from 1pm-10pm. The



Dooley Brothers

Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: March is bringing you a set of two eclipses that will effect you in a way that is not easy to pinpoint. The full moon eclipse at the beginning of the month and the new moon eclipse in the middle of the month will be in your sector of hidden matters. You will not uncover the hidden message until soon after the midmonth.

TAURUS: You are not so perplexed by the eclipses of March 2007 as your neighbor Aries so lend a hand or a sympathetic ear. Eclipses have an uncanny way of triggering concrete events in life so look for some manifestation in the area of friends and acquaintances.

GEMINI: The eclipses of March 2007 are not so easy on you this time because they are making stress angles to your sign. You will have to be patient with the current state of cosmic affairs but they will pass. Eclipse effects have a way of lingering though.

CANCER: The eclipses of March are not going to affect you adversely. You will do well to use this opportunity to boost your pet projects. You may want to foster a budding romance or welcome the birth of children or grandchildren.

LEO: The planetary weather of March 2007 is going to be more challenging for you because of the position of planet Saturn in your sign. You must

be very circumspect about decisions that you make for yourself and anyone who depends on you.

VIRGO: The eclipses of March especially bring pressures to bear on you. This planetary weather occurs directly opposite your sign and focuses on direct confrontation for you. Depending on the placement of all of your planets, you could be drawn into situations that will test your mettle.

LIBRA: You could find yourself in a serious romantic attachment regardless if you are ready for it or not. You might run, but you cannot hide. Also, your resistance to a meaningful partnership may lead you to a succession of unfulfilling flings.

SCORPIO: The position of the eclipses of March 2007 may draw you into a romantic situation that you cannot run away from. If you have children, they may also be a source of concern. The romantic situation may not be all bad though, you could fall into something good.

SAGITTARIUS: The eclipses of March are going to bring you challenges that you may or

may not welcome. The stress angle to your sign will bring basic family issues to a head. You will be able to more clearly see the problems before you and as a result, be better equipped to cope in these areas.

CAPRICORN: You are being given a unique opportunity to find a solution to your most pressing problems. The eclipses of March will bring to light some solutions to the obstacles blocking some of your dreams.

AQUARIUS: You will definitely see some changes in your financial world. The eclipses of March 2007 fall in you second sector of wealth and personal possessions. Wouldn't it be great to win the lottery? But beware, don't bet the farm!

PISCES: These eclipses that are occurring in the sign of Pisces are all about you! The month of March will bring the sign of the fishes into the spotlight. Anything could happen depending the placement of the rest of your planets. Hold on to your hat!

party takes place in the Fifth Province Lounge and includes live music, including the Chancey Brothers at 2pm, Donofinn at 4:30 and Finbarr Fagan's Band from 7pm-close. Tickets are \$5, with children 12 and under free and can be purchased at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Blasting Bobo

Back in those more innocent days of the late '70s a week wouldn't have been complete without a visit to the sweaty, grimy and utterly wonderful Baggot Inn, situated near Stephen's Green in Dublin. One of the best bands that Ireland ever produced played there—The Blades and their writer and lead singer Paul Cleary. With such timeless classics as "Ghost of a Chance" and "Dublin City Town" under their belt most of us just assumed they would be huge at some point in the future. It didn't happen for them, although Paul later went on to front an equally fine band called The Partisans. A couple of years ago a retrospective of the Blades was released—"The Last Man in Europe"—and a whole new generation discovered what mine knew: that this was a band that deserved to make that leap into the big time.

In a typical twist of cosmic irony they often shared their billing with another Paul—Paul Hewson, soon to become planet-saver, scourge of the Establishment (supposedly), God to Africans everywhere and in his incarnation as Bono the Bore, lead singer with the U2 Corporation. I've never got the point of U2's music, but there's no denying that it takes real talent to stay at the top of the game in such a cut-throat industry. So good luck to them. In particular I always

get the feeling that drummer Larry Mullins would be happy to just play rock music and ignore his lead singer. I can see how he must feel that. I'd be happy to spend the rest of my days ignoring Bobo—and no, that's not a misspelling, I just have certain views on grown men with infantile names like the Edge—but he's kind of hard to avoid. Every time you open a paper there he is being photographed with another dodgy politician or the dictator of some repressive country. If he would just sing his songs, play his music and quit lecturing we poor mortals on how to live our lives I would be a very happy little person. Or if he was more like his wife, who manages a great deal of charitable work without the fanfare that her husband craves and needs, I could also live with that.

Still, I feel a little bit of vindication this morning. The world is catching up with me. A couple of months ago in this column I wrote disparagingly of U2 Ltd and its decision to move its empire to the Netherlands. Having availed of the Irish Artist's tax exemption for almost twenty years (the same deal that was set up by the discredited crook and all-round bent politician, Charles Haughey) they sensed that they were going to have to part with a few bank notes and pay tax towards the infrastructure of this country, just as we—the little people—do. You know, such unimportant things as schools, hospitals, roads. The little things that big rebellious rock icons don't bother their heads with. Their heads are weighted by loftier matters such as ending famine, ending world debt and bringing about world peace. In fact they sound like old-time Miss World contestants: "My hobbies are looking after blind children

and working for world peace." Yeah, love, of course they are.

When I wrote the previous article I had a few people saying "Oh, that's just Brady being a grumpy git again"; but a surprising number seemed to share my view of Bobo the hypocrite. Indeed, the top Irish concert promoter Jim Aiken has now attacked the singer, much to my delight, needless to say. "U2 are capitalists, but it's sort of shaded. I believe the ultimate charity donation is to pay your taxes in the country where you live. U2 are arch capitalists—but it looks as if they are not."

That particularly hit home for me as a friend of mine has been agonising over her ill mother this week. She has been on a corridor trolley for two days now as she waits for a hospital bed in this rich country. As the harassed doctor admitted this morning, they are simply underfunded. It's at times like this that we could do with a few extra euros from the likes of the U2 corporation or even some of the wealthy Captains of Industry who choose to spend their time outside the country in case they might be asked to give something back to the land that made them rich. But I guess that helping a limping hospital service isn't quite as cool as a photo opportunity with smiling Africans. After all, sick Irish just don't tug at the heartstrings in the same way. Do they, Bobo?

The Labour finance spokeswoman Joan Burton adds: "I am surprised that U2 are not prepared to contribute to the Exchequer on a fair basis. In the context of all the work Bono has done for Third World Debt, it's interesting to note that some of that tax might have gone towards the Ireland Aid programme."

As I've said, though, that probably wouldn't have seemed as cool as being photographed with walking God-complexes like President Bush or handing a pair of sunglasses to the Pope. And if that's the way you think, Bobo, then all I can say is, "Damn you."

Damn you!

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8th annual St. Patrick's Day Festival

Friday, March 16th and Saturday, March 17th

Friday, March 16th

Irish-American

Pub

- 12-3 Clan na Gael
- 5-7 The Narrowbacks
- 8-10 Daily Special
- 11-Close Stark Raving Dad
- Tent- opens at 5
- 6-9 The Sandcarvers
- 10-Close Hooked on Sonics

Saturday, March 17th

All Irish \$7 Cover

Pub

- 11:15-11:45 Trinity Irish Dancers
- 12-3 Rowdy Irishmen
- 4-7:30 Clan na Gael
- 9-Close 3 Men In Kilts
- Tent
- 11-2 Fun Festivities
- 2-5 St. James Gate
- 5:15-5:45 Trinity Irish Dancers
- 6-9:30 5 Points Trilogy
- 9:30 Emerald Society Bagpipers
- 10-Close The Larkin and Moran Brothers

Larkin & Moran Brothers



St. Pat's Day Schedule

- 11-1 Tommy Nevin's in Evanston
- 4-7 Muldoon's in Wheaton
- 10-Close The Kerry Piper

3 Men In Kilts

reunite for St. Paddy's Day

Saturday from 9-close.



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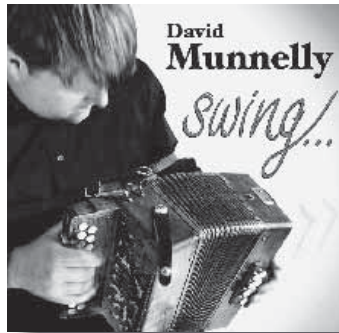


David Munnelly Band At Center

Direct from Ireland, The David Munnelly Band will appear at the Irish American Heritage Center on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$15.

The David Munnelly Band is one of Ireland's top young groups, featuring some of the most exciting established and rising stars of Irish music. The band has been making waves on both sides of the Atlantic and their style is reminiscent of the Irish American dance halls of the 1920's.

Born and raised in County Mayo, David Munnelly is a charismatic young Irish button accordionist and an award-winning composer. He toured with The Chieftains from the age of 21 to 25, and is featured on their CD, Water from the Well. From the same talented family that gave



the world Riverdance fiddle sensation Eileen Ivers, David Munnelly is the latest member to take the international music scene by storm. He was honored as the 2004 and 2005 Composer of the Year in Ireland.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Celtic Evening At College Of DuPage

Award winning, popular singing and recording artist, Gavin Coyle, will be uniting the community with the incredible beauty and music of Ireland, through "A Celtic Evening", a St. Patrick's Day Concert, to be held on March 17, 2007, at McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, at 7:30 PM. Accompanied by Michael Flynn, the evening will be dedicated to the ballads and lilting melodies of Ireland, performed by Gavin Coyle, one of Ireland's finest singers. The concert is sponsored by Community Bank of Wheaton/Glen Ellyn, and J.B. Winterberry. Proceeds will benefit



People's Resource Center programs, to feed, clothe, house, and train people in need. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door on the day of the concert.

Tickets are limited, and will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. They can be purchased at the McAninch Arts Center ticket office, by calling 630-942-4000 and on-line at www.AtTheMAC.org.

For additional information regarding the St. Patrick's Day Concert, please contact the People's Resource Center at 630-682-5402, ext. 233.

Michael Collins Irish Whiskey and Gaelic Storm "Wellie Up To The Bar" Together

Michael Collins Irish Whiskey has announced its sponsorship of the modern Celtic band, Gaelic Storm.

With loads of contagious energy, Gaelic Storm channels the rowdy communal feel of an Irish pub with raucous sing-alongs, driving pipe sets, and spirited fiddle tunes in both their popular recordings and compelling live performances.

This St. Patrick's Day weekend, look for Gaelic Storm and

Michael Collins at Chicago's House of Blues on March 16th and 17th. In addition, the two will host events at bars leading up to St. Patrick's Day. Look for members of the band taking turns as guest bartenders or join the band for a meet and greet after the show. Michael Collins and Gaelic Storm also plan to appear together at the biggest Irish festivals around the country throughout the year.

For more information, visit www.gaelicstorm.com.

Women's History Month at Center

Imperfect Balance, a performance series celebrating Women's History Month, featuring Jamie O'Reilly and Anne Hills performing original music by Michael Smith, and performance art by the Women's Art Series Connective (www.chicagowasc.com) will be presented on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 7pm and Sunday, April 1, 2007 at 3 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets are \$25 with special rates for seniors, students and groups.

In this inaugural event, the Irish American Heritage Center teams up with producer Jamie O'Reilly to present music, theater, visual art and literature exploring the power and beauty of women creating art out of trauma. The performances will wrap up a year-long multi-disciplinary arts project with the newly formed Women's Art Series Connective; a group of Chicago-based women writers, performers and visual artists. Books related to the theme will be on display in the IAHC Library throughout the month of March.

For more information on Imperfect Balance or to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035.

Flourishing Oideas Gael Irish Language Programs

Increasing interest in Ireland's culture at home and internationally, chiefly in North America and in the European Union, has made Gleann Cholm Cille, the popular summer location for the Oideas Gael Irish language & cultural programmes. In 2006, over 1,500 people from 30 different countries, attended weeklong courses in the picturesque southwest Donegal valley.

Oideas Gael courses are not just for absolute beginners, but also ideally suited for individuals, who have been out of touch and are now keen to brush up on their conversational Irish.

The most popular programmes are the Irish language courses for adults, offered at all levels. As these courses focus on spoken Irish, in a relaxed but stimulating environment, adults discover a propensity for language learning above their expectations. While an Irish person may initially feel nervous, learning in the company of a Japanese, Swedish or Italian native, they rise to the test and accept the challenge with vigour.

Cultural holiday courses are also offered in Hill walking,

Donegal Dances, Marine Painting, Archaeology, Landscape & Environment, Harp, Bodhrán & Flute-playing and Celtic Pottery.

The cosmopolitan mix of people ensures that 'The Glen' is a lively centre of cultural activity all through the summer, with the best of traditional music and craic.

Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, the programme director, says a large proportion of the learners from abroad might have no links with Ireland, yet inevitably develop a love of all things Irish through the programme music, dance and/or literature.

"We teach Irish in a manner that makes it accessible for people. It's not all study; there are varied activities including dancing, singing, all through Irish. It makes it interesting for people. It's amusing at times, but some of them are better at Irish than English," he says.

For more information on the Oideas Gael culture programmes call 011-353-74-973-0248. Fax 011-353-74-973-0348. E-mail oideasgael@eircom.net. Internet www.oideas-gael.com.

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 Music with D.J Morgan 9:30-1:00

Friday March 16th
 Shannon Rovers Pipe Band 9:00pm & 10:00pm
 Music with D.J Mark 10:00-2:00am

Watch the Erin Go Brawl fight live @ 8:00pm
 Irelands John Duddy Vs The Bullet Anthony Bonsante @ Madison Square Gardens NY

Saint Patricks Day
 Music with Jerry Eadie 2:00pm-5:00pm
 Shannon Rovers Pipe Band 5:00pm & 10:00pm
 Music with Morgan Fingleton 6:00-8:30pm
 Music with D.J Mark 9:30pm-2:00am

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IRISH festival MARCH 1st-17th

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

- 8:30pm Tin Lynott (Thin Lizzy Tribute)

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

- 9:00pm Donnybrook (Irish)
- Queen of St. Patrick's Week Nominations



THE PRODIGALS

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

- 8:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00pm The Prodigals (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover
- Queen of St. Patrick's Week Nominations

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

- 5:00-7:00pm Irish Music Sessions
- 8:00pm Young Dubliners (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

MONDAY, MARCH 5

- 3:00-7:00pm Irish Dance Class
- 9:00pm Dart Tournament



FLOOK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- 8:30-11:00pm Open Mic Night

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Glengarry Boys (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

- 8:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00pm Dublin City Ramblers (Traditional Irish) \$5 cover
- 10:30pm Queen of St. Patrick's Week Crowning

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

- 8:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm Elevation (U2 Tribute) \$5 cover



YOUNG DUBLINERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

- 7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00-11:30pm Flook (Irish Folk) \$10 cover



GLENGARRRY BOYS



ELEVATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

St. Patrick's Day Family Celebration

- 1:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 2:00pm Irish Dance Lessons
- 3:00-6:00pm Aidan O'Toole (live Irish music) PLUS Irish face painting, jewelry making, Irish tales

MONDAY, MARCH 12

- 3:00-7:00pm Irish Dance Class
- 9:00pm Dart Tournament

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

- 8:30pm Tuesday Night Trivia

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

- 8:30pm Aidan O'Toole (Irish) \$5 cover

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:00-10:00pm Michael Collins Party
- 8:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm The McCabes (Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

- 8:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 9:00pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm Green Tea (Celtic Fusion) \$5 cover

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 St. Patrick's Day

\$10 cover after 2:00pm.

No one under 21 admitted after 2:00pm.

- 8:00am Eggs & Kegs Irish Buffet
- 11:00am Trinity Irish Dancers
- 12:00 noon Aidan O'Toole (Irish)
- 4:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 5:00pm Sloppy Joes (Rock)
- 6:00pm Irish Bagpiper
- 6:00pm The Ballydoyle Knights and a Toast to Ireland
- 9:00pm Presentation of the Queen of St. Patrick's Week and her court
- 10:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 10:30pm The Wolfe Tones-Derek Warfield (Irish)
- 11:00pm Trinity Irish Dancers



GREEN TEA



THE WOLFE TONES

B Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan

It's A Long Way To Tipperary, But Not To Ballydoyle Irish Pub

There are many great public houses in Chicago's Western Suburbs. Few have an equestrian tie like Ballydoyle Irish Pub in Downers Grove. You'll not find the same thundering hoofs you would at the Ballydoyle Racing Stables in County Tipperary. Rather the thundering performances of Irish dance is what this one is known for. The waitstaff help to make up the



troupe which dance regularly on Monday nights. Don't worry about arriving late... you'll still be able to see. The hard oak stage is built upon a hydraulic lift able to rise up a few feet from the base, allowing even those far away a good view.

The exterior bears a great resemblance to an authentic Irish village of storefronts that owner Phil Cullen

encountered on personal journeys with family and friends to the old country. Come in to the Gothic-meets-mahogany wood décor—a cozy mélange of American antiques collected over several years and put together to make a welcoming countryside pub. If you have accidentally missed mass due to your indulgence in Irish breakfast, move from your barstool to have a seat in the bona fide wooden confession booth in the Cathedral Room. Getting to it can be your penance, since you must find your way through the secret passage in the library to end up there.

The salad menu is rather extensive; certainly longer than anything you'll find across the pond. Starters include the usuals of chicken tenders, potato skins, or nachos. If you want to be adventurous, order the Corned Beef Bites—a house original. A tasty mixture of corned beef and cream cheese, breaded and fried, with cocktail sauce on the side is an tasty beginning to this Irish culinary jaunt. Other interesting twists to the typical include cheesy tater tots, BBQ chicken quesadillas and blue crab cakes. Or warm up with the cream of potato soup or homemade chili.

Vegetarians will fill up with the asparagus and bleu cheese salad. If not, there are several other options, such as the goat cheese salad, featur-

ing medallions of goat cheese, breaded and grilled over caramelized walnuts, beets and mixed greens, or the pretzel salad, sporting mini pretzel pieces tossed with poppy seed dressing over a rainbow of vegetables. Chicken, steak, shrimp or tuna may also be added to any choice of the dozen-or-so salads.

The wide selection of usual suspects in the way of comfort



Elevation



The Prodigals



Flook

butter cream frosting covered in chocolate sauce will devastate only your diet. The St. James cheesecake towers are wrapped in a pastry shell and strawberry puree and the Irish Cloud is definitely worth the suggested twenty minute wait. Pillows of fluffy meringue are served atop fresh berries along with vanilla ice cream.

Great music is big on the menu at Ballydoyle as well. Ballydoyle was voted The Best Irish Pub by two magazines in 2006. The Guide to the Irish Pubs of Chicago called it "one of the most incredible pubs we have ever been in". Their March festival is one of the reasons why. For seventeen days in March the pub boasts an incredible lineup of acts, including The Wolfe Tones, Derek Warfield, The Dublin City Ramblers, The Prodigals, Flook, Elevation, The Young Dubliners, Donnybrook, Green Tea, The McCabes, and The Glengarry Bhoys. Visit the pub Thursday through Saturday to hear some of the best bands in the area (not all Irish). Join in with your instrument on Sunday between 5 and 7 to participate in the traditional sessions. Dart tournaments on Monday and trivia night on Tuesday make early in the week a good time to stop by.

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For an authentic Irish experience in Downers Grove, visit Ballydoyle Irish Pub and Restaurant, 5157 Main St., Downers Grove, IL 630.969.0600, www.ballydoylepub.com. Visit between 10.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m., on Sunday, 11.30 a.m. and midnight Monday-Thursday, 11.30 a.m. and 1.00 a.m. on Friday and 11.30 a.m. and 2.00 a.m. on Saturday. Maureen Callahan is a columnist and freelance writer living on Chicago's Gold Coast.

Concerts

Karan Casey & Crooked Still

Saturday, March 17th 8pm
\$28, \$18 Old Town School Members, \$16 Seniors & Children

As a member of the group to see, Karan Casey has been artistically acclaimed all over the world as one of Ireland's greatest singers. "One of the most distinctive voices in Irish music today, Casey was here to reveal and expand on her talent to convey her strong social message." - *Wolfe Tones*

Crooked Still "may be the most important folk group to emerge from Boston... a mix of the best art music and pop with a deep understanding of American traditional music's raw and oldie groove." - *Burton Banks*

Lúnasa & Dervish

Saturday, March 24th 7&11pm
\$22, \$20 Old Town School Members, \$18 Seniors & Children

Lúnasa are not your typical traditional Irish group. Like the younger generation of the old time musicians such as Billie Holiday or Duke Ellington, pushing the boundaries of the genre as jazz and beyond, Lúnasa are redefining Irish music by going right to the heart of the rhythm. "The sound is described as "chipmunk music" by Irish Music Magazine. "The musicians of Dervish play a hard hitting high times that are, fun, and always all to party with singer Cathy Jordan's shattering lead."

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Fri. Mar 2	9pm	ELEVATION a U2 Tribute (\$5 Cover)
Sat. Mar 3	9pm	New Jilement
Thu. Mar 8	9pm	Fireplace Songs with Brendan
Fri. Mar 9	9pm	Another Pint
Sat. Mar 10	9pm	Anish
Sun. Mar 11	4pm	Ploughboys
Mon. Mar 12	8pm	Paddy's Day Hospitality Night w/ Siobhain
Tue. Mar 13	All Day	Jameson Whiskey Night
Wed. Mar 14	9pm	The Callahan Brothers
Thu. Mar 15	9pm	Brendan Loughrey
Fri. Mar 16	9pm	Salthill Mines

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Sunday, March 11

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		11am	Hatfield Sisters w/Jeff Linblade & Kate McMillan
		2pm	Sullivan School of Irish Dance
		3pm	Three Men in Kilts
		5pm	Pipes and Drums
		6pm	Brendan Loughrey
		8pm	The Ploughboys
Sun. Mar 18	4pm	GALWAY TRIBES IDOL FINALE!	
Thu. Mar 22	8pm	Brendan Loughrey Pub Songs	
Fri. Mar 23	9pm	Nappertandy	
Sat. Mar 24	9pm	The Neverly Brothers	
Thu. Mar 29	8pm	Brendan Loughrey Pub Songs	
Fri. Mar 30	9pm	Leadfoot	
Sat. Mar 31	9pm	Meet The Beetles	

"Without question or hesitation this is one of the finest Paddy's Day entertainment lineups I have ever seen! Heck, the whole month of March is outstanding! Truly Irish March Madness!"
- Niall's Dad

Kennedy's Kitchen, "A Pocketful of Lint"

by Joseph Harvey

We Irish know that our music is at its best in spontaneous moments: the back snug of a small pub after hours, singing with friends on a sidewalk as we walk home in the rain, or sitting in the kitchen over pots of tea. Kennedy's Kitchen plays its music there, in the kitchen, the heart of any Irish home, where our music is at its intimate best. On stage and on recordings they strive for that same intense intimacy, the mystery, wonder, and just pure darn fun of our ancient music.

A Pocketful of Lint, their third CD, shows the comfort and polish of almost ten years together. The first years they sessioned as friends, family, and neighbors just getting together each week to play traditional Irish tunes and to sing a bit as do so many Irish in pubs, coffee houses, and homes all around the world. These last five years Kennedy's Kitchen has been a working band, and it shows. With A Pocketful of Lint the band has arrived. Their original compositions and fresh takes on old favorites honor the tradition while showing astonishing ambition for a local band from South Bend, Indiana.

Sleeping Under The Tables, the opening track of



Kennedy's Kitchen at their concert with Tommy Makem at the University of Notre Dame
Photo by Patrick Ryan

the CD begins with a traditional sound, a bare whistle and bodhran. The track then builds, bringing the listener from the old world sitting by the hearth to a big, full, new sound. That first tune is original, by Nolan Ladewski, the band-leader John Kennedy's nephew, but it sounds ancient. It might be a Donegal tune, repetitive, driving, the sound of an army in the final maddening march to an inevitable war. The next two tunes in that opening track are well worn veterans, The Musical Priest and The Salamanca. Many tracks on the CD begin this way, a traditional, spare sound, perhaps an unaccompanied voice, and then instruments and layers are added while maintaining the traditional core of Irish music... which is the intense love of melody.

In a pub or concert, an evening of music with Kennedy's Kitchen is a carefully unplanned event, John says, "We know how we intend to start a show and we know how we intend to finish up, but we let the middle of an evening take care of itself. The best musical moments are usually surprises so we try to leave room for that to happen." In Kennedy's Kitchen hear whistles, fiddle, guitar, bodhran, mandolin, tenor banjo, bass, songs (both old and new), voices (both old and young), stories (exaggerated to the point of being true), all together with John Kennedy, his nephew Nolan Ladewski (O'Brien), Chris O'Brien, Bob Harke, and Rob Weber. No, they have not put out a cookbook yet,

but it's only a matter of time.

In concert you might hear a moving recitation or an unaccompanied voice raised in song. In a pub you might hear the sacred text of Finnegan's Wake, the unabridged version, telling of how Saint Patrick himself converted the pagans of ancient Ireland to the church and the message of self-sacrifice by singing to them in the language that they understood: whiskey, the water of life. In concert or pub you'll tap your toes to jigs, reels, and hornpipes played with imagination and joy. On a great night, if only for moments, we'll all feel like we are sitting together in a small kitchen, that we've known each other all these years, shared the tragedies spoken of in our songs, and risen together again and again to dance and sing another day.

The Kitchen performs in the Chicago area at: TJ Maloney's on March 2 at 9pm; the Tara Room as part of Gaelic Park's annual celebration on March 11 from 2:30-5pm; and, as of press time they've been in conversation with the Irish American Heritage Center about a performance there on March 18, but nothing is confirmed, so check the calendar. For other performances visit the virtual Kitchen at www.kennedyskitchen.com. They've links to their myspace page and you can listen to and purchase music from their CDBABY.COM site.

IFC To March In St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Irish Freedom Committee will march in this year's downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day parade, Saturday the 17th, to remember the 35th anniversary of the 1972 British Army massacre of fourteen innocent civil rights marchers on Bloody Sunday, in Derry, Ireland.

On January 30th, 1972, fourteen Catholic civil rights marchers were slain in cold blood by British Army snipers using high power assault weapons, as they marched for basic human rights in Derry, Ireland. Half of the dead were under the age of 20, and many were shot in the back as they ran or as they tried to rescue the wounded. No British army officer has been charged with the murders, or sentenced to even a day in prison.

The IFC held events across the country this



year to observe Bloody Sunday. January 30th, events in Boston, Massachusetts; and Albuquerque, New Mexico; remembered the victims and educated the community. In Boston, a six-hour event in a packed bar in Cambridge paid tribute to the memories of the dead with a long moment of silence after their names were read out, followed by poetry readings, speakers, and Irish republican bands playing into the night. In Albuquerque, a

day-long educational screening of the film "Bloody Sunday" powerfully and accurately told the story of the British Army massacre and cover-up, with a lively question-and-answer session finding the passion for justice is alive in New Mexico.

Veteran Irish Republican Frank O'Neill, former political prisoner and three-time hunger striker, will lead the IFC in the parade. Marchers are welcome to join. Call 312-560-9311 for assembly point and meeting time.

An Easter commemoration will be held on Sunday April 15. www.irishfreedomcommittee.net.

Andy White To Perform At The Celtic Knot Public House

Andy White will make his second visit to the Celtic Knot Public House on Sunday, April 1, 2007 from 8pm to 11pm. It is April Fool's Day, but, seriously, there is no cover.

Andy White has worked with the likes of Peter Gabriel and Tim Finn, been the A of ALT, won awards and critical acclaim for his albums and toured the world with his acoustic guitar.

He is on tour with Iowan piano and accordion virtuoso Radoslav Lorkovic, who features on the new album, "Garageband".

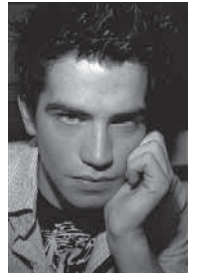
Belfast boy Andy White, is a rock and roll star in his own land. He has merged pop sensibility with lyrical excellence, social commentary and acoustic guitars ever since his debut album "Rave On, Andy White" in 1986. Andy has released eight solo albums, two compilations and a live album.

Andy will perform in the dining room, so why not have dinner, sit back and enjoy the uniqueness of an Andy White show? 626 Church Street in Evanston, IL. (847) 864-1679, and reservations recommended for dinner.

Schoolboy Gets Friendly With Actress

By James Bartlett

Screen beauty Cate Blanchett was announced as an Oscar nominee for her performance in Notes On A Scandal recently, but there's a lucky young Irish actor who is sharing in the acclaim—and was the envy of many—when he got very up close and personal with her during the movie.



Foroye and Derry College student Andrew Simpson, 16, stars alongside Blanchett as a cocky schoolboy whose affair with his art teacher, played by Blanchett, leads to scandal and disaster for everyone involved.

Simpson, who lives in County Donegal, told BBC Online that he wasn't intimidated to play alongside such big movie stars, although he was worried when he found out about what was going to happen on his debut in front of the camera: "The first day I stepped on set, my first scene was one of the sort of contentious scenes—it was a sex scene—so that was pretty difficult to start with. But because they threw me in at the deep end it made everything else easier."

It wasn't as glamorous as many people might think, as some of the other sex scenes were filmed outdoors and at night: "It wasn't going to be anything seedy—Cate Blanchett and Judi Dench, they wouldn't sign up for anything that was going to put anyone in a compromising situation, so I knew I was in safe hands."

Dench has also been nominated for a Best Actress Oscar for her performance as an obsessive fellow teacher, although Simpson isn't disappointed he won't be walking up the red carpet in Hollywood too: "No, I don't think my part's big enough for a nomination, but you never know, I might get to the Oscars yet."



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By Martin J. Healy, Jr.
Senior Partner



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.

SLIP, TRIP AND FALL

As we enter the home stretch of winter, we still encounter hazards such as snow, ice or water as we walk about the city. Soon it will be spring and summer, the snow will be gone. During this time of year our office will frequently get calls from individuals who have injured themselves through slips, trips and falls in various public places, private premises and work places, often suffering serious injury. Some callers are surprised to learn that certain cases that they thought may not have been actionable under the law or compensable under the Workers' Compensation Act are indeed just so. Likewise, unfortunately, we have to tell the occasional prospective client that the law provides no compensation for them based on the facts presented. Each and every slip, trip and fall must be analyzed for specific factual circumstances to determine whether or not a person has a basis under the law to seek compensation.

NATURAL ACCUMULATIONS

The most common call we get regarding slip, trip and falls involves ice, snow or sleet. As a previous column outlined, the general rule is that a land owner is not liable for injuries resulting from natural accumulations of substances such as ice, snow or water. In addition, the land owner has no responsibility to continuously remove water tracked in by customers who have walked through such natural accumulations, whether snow, water or ice. An injured party may have an action if an unnatural accumulation causes the injured party to slip or fall. For example, a leaky drain pipe may cause water to accumulate or pool which in turn, turns to ice and causes a fall. The leaky drain pipe in this situation creates an unnatural accumulation rather than the accumulation provided by nature itself and for this reason the entity responsible for the pipe would be liable to anyone who falls.

PUBLIC SIDEWALKS

Another common scenario involves injuries on municipal sidewalks. The general rule is that there must be notice of the defect to the city to have a case. There are two methods of establishing notice - actual notice and constructive notice. For actual notice to apply, the municipality must be aware of the defect for a reasonable time through a written report or a complaint by another person.

Another method of establishing notice is constructive notice. This occurs when there is evidence that the defect was in existence for such a length of time, or was such a magnitude, that it is virtually impossible for the municipality not to have been aware of the defect. For example, parties have been successful through presenting testimony of neighbors that a pothole had been in existence on a sidewalk or on a street for several years.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

A third fact pattern we see is the party who is injured in commercial premises such as a grocery store, shopping mall or restaurant. The classic example is the shopper who slips on a banana peel in the grocery store. A common impression is that the mere fall on the premises of the grocery store will be sufficient for that injured party to recover compensation from the store owner. This is not the case. The simple act of slipping on the banana peel in the grocery store, in and of itself, will not create liability. The injured party must show that the owner had notice of the banana peel being present (actual notice) or should have known the banana peel was present (constructive notice). Similar to the previous example, one way of showing that the grocery store owner should have had knowledge of the banana peel being present is testimony that the banana was old or worn, or, that there were marks of banana peel throughout the aisle indicating that it has been tracked upon for some time.

In addition, grocery stores may have cameras on the aisle and an injured party through subpoena may be lucky enough to obtain such video coverage.

If such evidence is not available, a party will have to prove constructive notice. For instance, a party could demonstrate that the banana display was unbalanced, uneven or in such a precarious position that the grocery store owners should have anticipated that bananas would fall to the floor.

WORK INJURIES

Another area where falls are common is at work. Frequently, we receive calls from workers who slipped and fell on the job and want to pursue a workers' compensation claim. Once again, like the common law analysis, the mere tripping and falling in the work place and resulting injury is not sufficient to establish a workers' compensation claim. In order to be successful, that workers' compensation claimant must demonstrate that something about the employment placed them at an increased risk of falling when compared to the general public.

For example, if a worker fell and broke an arm, but does not know what caused them to fall, compensation will usually not be available. This is known as an "idiopathic," or unexplained, fall. An injured worker might truthfully say that he tripped over his own feet. Here again, the mere fact that it happened on the employer's premise, will not subject the employer to workers' compensation liability.

However, take that same injured worker but they were carrying something work related, such as tools, which prevented them from breaking their fall, and instead they break their hand. This case would be compensable under the Workers' Compensation Act because carrying work material is something that the average general public is not doing on a regular basis. This is known as increased risk.

Likewise, where an injured worker trips over work-related materials, or a defect in the stairs or something that involves the work activity, the employer will be subject to liability. Claimants have also been successful alleging that their fall was as a result of being required to hurry or run while performing their duties.

To be compensable under the Workers' Compensation Act, employment related risks must be those to which the general public is not exposed, such as a risk of tripping on defect at the employer's premises, falling on uneven or slippery ground at the work site, or performing some work-related task which contributes to the risk of falling.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INJURED IN A FALL

So, if you happen to trip and fall and suffer an injury, first and foremost, we recommend that you closely observe what it is that caused you to fall, whether it be a defect in a stair, a sidewalk, a leaky drain pipe or a piece of fruit. If possible, take photographs of the defect or offending obstruction as soon as

possible after you have fallen. In most circumstances, the premises owner will take steps to rectify the condition soon after you fall and therefore you must act promptly to take photographs (today, many cell phone are equipped with cameras). Third, if possible, obtain the name, address and telephone number of witnesses, so they can later confirm the facts of your accident.

Finally, avoid giving a recorded statement to any insurance or investigative body regarding the circumstances of your fall. The person questioning you has a job to do - to save the insurance company money. In most circumstances, that is at your expense. The person taking your statement most likely has done this hundreds of times before and is quite skilled at leading you into saying something that isn't necessarily accurate.

Hopefully none of the above circumstances will ever happen to you. Unfortunately, we see them happen everyday in all types of places and conditions. As always, we strongly recommend that you seek the advice of counsel when looking into these matters as you can be sure that the municipality, store owner or your employer has already done so.

JACK CANNON

THE HEALY LAW FIRM

Jack Cannon was raised in Ireland and is a member of The Healy Law Firm. He has been representing injured parties in the State of Illinois for fourteen years.



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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Jim and Ed's Excellent Adventure:

Roving Washington D.C.

No matter how far I roam or what I'm doing, you'll never find me far from the men of Notre Dame, if not in person than in spirit.

I can blame two of my more Spirit-filled Fighting Irish associates for my recent trip to Washington D.C. It started routinely enough, Kevin Gallagher, my roommate who became a priest, was getting married.

If you wondering if that is not a column in itself, it probably is. Suffice to say that there is a little known procedure by which an ordained priest can legally (as far as Canon Law goes) become a um... non-priest. I imagine many who leave the collar for cohabitation didn't check in with Rome. Kevin did, in a process that took years and years and long before his betrothed said "I do" to their first date. As of this writing "Father What-a-Waste", as the Reverend Gallagher was known while an undergrad at Notre Dame and at a handful of parishes after seminary by admiring women is wasted no more. I'll waste no more licentious space on him other than to confirm he has fulfilled his marital duties as of this writing while continuing his lifelong pattern of unknowingly causing girls to swoon in church, whether in prep clothes, Roman Collar, or Groom's best. My eyes will roll the next time I join Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher at Mass and the usual happens again amongst the admiring female churchgoers. Handsome dog.

Flying Sailor with Stethoscope

Our story of historical and sometimes hysterical adventure this month begins with me whisking along the serpentine highways of Washington piloted by the nautical grand-offspring of the O'Donnells and Brennans of Ireland, and my best friend, one Commander

(Dr.) Edmond Flood Feeks, United States Navy Medical Corps. He can go by many titles: physician, naval aviator (combine the two to make flight surgeon), former private Christian school teacher and current rescue flight surgeon when naval personnel are launching or returning aboard the Space Shuttle. Ed will neither confirm nor deny the standard naval astronaut's ability to travel in excess of 900 miles in diapers. Ground operations by lovestruck orbiter crew members are not his realm, and you can read that story in coming months in the National Enquirer or True Detective Stories, take your pick.

Having seen the Formerly Fatherly Gallagher take vows instead of give them, I was assisted by the Commander in reaching my urgent Sunday destination: the tux shop to drop off my groomsmen's attire. I am probably one of the few people who can say I get chauffeured and lodged by a modern day Dr. McCoy of the USS Enterprise. Yep, instead of a starship Ed was the chief medical officer of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise in the late 1990s. There is nothing more Geeky Chic than e-mailing your best friend at an address that's something like Bones@usnavy.enterprise.mil During the Christmas time hostilities of Operation Desert Fox against the efforts of Saddam Hussein to shoot down coalition fighters over the No-Fly Zone, I impishly e-mailed Ed once as the missiles and attack planes just started to fly on national television.

Jim@home: Say, Ed, how's the... um... weather?

Ed@enterprise: The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful!

Meanwhile, Circling the Nation's Capitol

"Dammit Jim, we're gonna be late!"

is not an infrequent tongue-in-cheek epithet when Ed and I get together every few years. He's a doctor, not a timetable. And I rarely keep one.

In this case, the hour was approaching 5 p.m. in Northern Virginia and the two of us were attempting to see another naval officer, former president Gerald R. Ford, lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda until 6 on this Sunday. I wasn't the least bit surprised when Ed said he'd like to go pay his respects when I suggested it at the last minute, which is inevitably my style. Ed loves his country, loves the naval service and has a well-developed sense of tradi-



Navy Commander Ed Feeks talks with fellow mourners of President Ford.

tion, honor, courage and commitment.

Me... I like to witness history, and I had a personal history with the late president and commander-in-chief. In 1976, about the time that Ed was taking his first oath as a scholarship midshipman in the University of Notre Dame Naval ROTC program, I met President Ford. Well, shook his hand really. He was campaigning for Illinois Republicans with then-States Attorney James Thompson at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg. I worked my way down through the crowd, a high school Junior who grew up loving tales of the country's leaders and hoping I too could be President one day.

Somehow I got into the front of a line of people outside the mall by where we all thought he might be. Sure enough, Thompson, Mr. Ford and a host of other GOP'ers running for something or other got out and worked the crowd. Ford came up to me and shook my outstretched hand. Hard. Really hard. Painfully hard. "Hi nice, to see you!" he said and from all other accounts you've read lately he probably meant it. He meant business, too.

Later in that campaign I was reading Time Magazine in social studies class and saw that Ford remarked to reporters, as he soaked his hands in icewater after thousands-per day of campaign handshaking, that gripping as hard as possible prevented bruised and tender hands. For him at least. For me I found it hard to ever think of him as a weak president after the crush-grip.

A Ford in My Future

Later at Notre Dame while Ed admired (or more likely perspired) his work as

my first squad leader in the Battalion of Midshipmen, my American Presidency Seminar class would travel to the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Ann Arbor to do research and examine many hand-signed documents and other papers of his presidency. You could also watch all the taped stories of the broadcast White House correspondents of the day. They were fellows named Rather and Brokaw and Koppel. I think they are still in the news business somewhere but they did okay after that. All I can say for sure is that my Dad later found Ted Koppel's luggage abandoned once in Florida and Ted was quite grateful when Dad tracked him down in Washington at some show called Nightline. Turns out it was Mrs. Koppel's bag with Ted's tag. Dad knows what's important in life. He and I visit presidential museums as a combination hobby and vacation. You guessed it—Ford's museum in Grand Rapids was the first of many we have traveled to from Chicago over the years.

Ed, unlike me, knows that being on time is important so as we fought traffic and time it became increasingly clear that we were pushing it before the visitation of Ford in the Rotunda was about to come to a close. After a quick sidetrip past the Washington Naval Yard and Marine Corps Headquarters at 8th and I (Ed knew I had to see them before dark, what Tom Clancy-aholic could resist?) we found a spot a few blocks from the capitol building.

Just like Star Trek's Dr. McCoy, Ed had a theory and prescription... and darned if it didn't work. Ed changed to his Navy Dress Blues and winter bridgecoat before he left because he heard a rumor that for President Reagan's visitation, service members were escorted to the head of the line. Were we ever! As the lines stretched along several avenues before snaking into the Capitol we were told to walk directly into the south entrance closed to the public years ago and directed sans escort up a narrow staircase with a small wooden sign hand-lettered MEMBERS ONLY PAST THIS POINT. Family Ties

You know the rest from the news coverage or any photographs you've seen of presidents lying in state. But not this: Just before Ed and I turned away from the honor guard and flag-draped casket an aide came up to Cdr. Feeks and said "Sir, President Ford's son would like to thank you for coming and paying your respects." As Ed was handed a specially embossed commemorative card with pictures and titles the President held from naval officer to Commander-in-Chief, I glanced over from the dual lines of mourners and saw Steve Ford looking not too unlike my high school magazine pictures of him but also much like his father when a young congressman in this very building.

As Ed and I emerged onto the rear

portion of the porch and steps looking West toward the Washington Monument and the nearby White House, we sensed we were a part of history or at least, part of the naval tradition that says you look after your own regardless of generation or type of service. In Ed's line of work he tends to the living and has seen more than his share of the departed.

His many sacrifices (a Catholic family in the service with 8 kids does not live with much of the riches of this world) and those of all who serve this country were also honored this day. National service with a personal touch. After answering a few questions from a self-described "Big Navy fan" visiting from California, Ed and I walked down the steps of the Capitol past a large Christmas tree. He stopped and turned to me with a distressed look.

"Jim! I forgot to pin on my flight wings when I was getting dressed!" Serious breach of protocol. At least for Ed. "Not to worry, I can top that," I said as we turned up Constitution Avenue. "About 10 years ago Father Gallagher and I finished a great breakfast of eggs, bacon and sausages when Kevin looked up and said 'Jim! It's Ash Wednesday and I just ate meat!'"

While my two friends of Irish Catholic heritage were understandably horrified by their perceived misdeeds, I have a strong feeling the Heavenly Father forgave Kevin his meat and Steve Ford's father-- Ed's wingless wardrobe, both with knowing smiles for Loyal Sons of Notre Dame.

That such uncharacteristic screwups happened with me present are par for the course.

As Kevin started his honeymoon beneath a sunset on a sunny beach, Ed and I walked together down a cobblestoned side street into the darkening twilight and cooling fog of the descending Washington evening and talked of friends and family and adventures shared past, present and future.

Jim McClure is a former naval officer and print and broadcast freelance journalist. You can reach him at JimMcClure71@aol.com

FitzGerald's Goes Up in No Smoke

Patrons checking FitzGerald's website may have noticed a vote-off on the club going smoke-free. FitzGerald's, 6614 Roosevelt Rd. in Berwyn, IL, had been considering it for several months but wanted some customer input. Due to the overwhelming response (8 to 1 in favor) and the many customers who made positive comments on the recent smoke-free shows, the decision was made to make FitzGerald's nightclub and SideBar music room permanently smoke-free. Smoking will still be permitted in the SideBar itself and in outside spaces.

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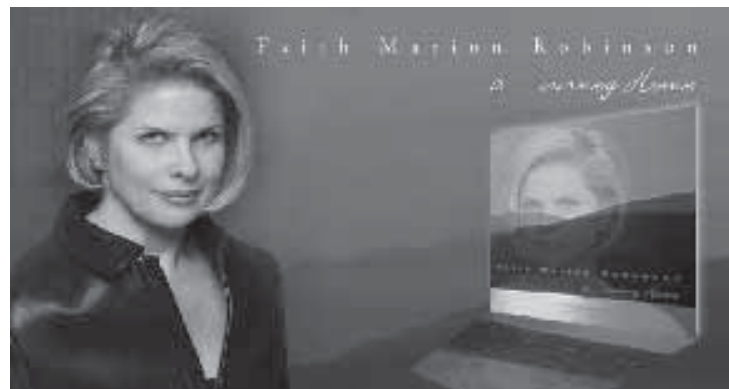
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Faith Marion Robinson -- A Journey Home

Interviewed by Joy Waitkus
In her debut recording "A Journey Home," vocalist Faith Marion Robinson leads listeners to a place filled with treasured souvenirs of Ireland, her home away from home. The recording successfully paints

Come to think of it, it even goes back a bit further to 1985 to when I first heard "The Town I Loved So Well" by Phil Coulter. Once I heard this song I knew that I would someday record it because I felt very strongly about the message, that it is much



Irish sounds, instrumentation and melodic sensibility over both traditional Irish and American selections in a fit that sounds surprisingly natural. Produced by Faith and Ray McLaughlin, who also serves as keyboardist for Irish entertainer Daniel O'Donnell, and engineered by Seamus Cullinane of Foster and Allen, the work was recorded in Roseland Recording Studios in Moate, Co. Westmeath, Ireland. It features fine studio musicians, who move among the Irish and Broadway selections with remarkable finesse, putting a truly Irish stamp on Robinson's vocal style, which is delicate and expressive, full-bodied and soulful. (www.faith-marionrobinson.com).

We recently spoke with Faith about the album.

Where does the title "A Journey Home" come from? I had been singing all my life and I was compiling songs at a time when I wanted to give expression to multiple aspects inside of me, or should I say the many "I's" that reflected my journeys and home, and coming back to myself. These included coming back to my roots as a singer as well as to my Irish family and friends, and to my mother, who had nurtured my talent. She was sick at the time and passed away in August 2006. I wanted to dedicate a musical body of work to her. She was suffering from Alzheimer's and I thought as her disease progressed that the music of the CD might help to keep us connected longer.

How long did it take to record the album? Well we started in 2003, after the retreat, going back and working with Andy and Phil at the Singers Forum and with music consultant Marlene Williams in choosing the songs. We worked on interpreting the lyrics and music for a few years until everything finally "jelled."

more of a metaphor to me for not only the specific Irish town, but also for every town, village, city or country that is in conflict. The words just spoke to me -- a transcendence of a sort.

What was the role of producer Ray McLaughlin? Seamus Cullinane, the engineer, introduced me to Ray in November of 2004, the keyboardist, who has been with Daniel O'Donnell since 1992. Seamus suggested the musicians and Ray then took the songs that I selected and set up the arrangements with the different musicians. In early 2005, I went over to Roseland Studios in Ireland and began the recording session where the musicians laid the tracks and I did the first vocals.

What was his greatest contribution to the work?

His ability to listen to an artist and find the artistic "sweet spot" like on a tennis racquet... I think that's an amazing talent, it's a musical translator in a sense, also his amazing talent as a musician and his ease in working with the studio musicians, a consummate professional.

Do you feel that the approach he took was influenced by all the years he's spent performing with Daniel O'Donnell? Well he has been working with recording artists for a number of years, in my experience he seems to have refined his ability to know what songs work for an artist. I think that was reflected in his choosing one of the songs I was recording, when I explained the elemental reasons why I chose it. He thought perhaps this would be a great song for Daniel, and wanted to give it to him. That was the "The Twelfth of Never," and Daniel took it on his next tour.

That's great, you must have been flattered. I was and on a related note, when Celtic Woman did their "A New Journey: Live at Slane Castle,

Ireland" DVD, I noticed very interesting similarities to my CD, "A Journey Home." It must be something in the air -- and I guess it's bit like the old phrase that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

How did you select the songs for this album? I came up with a theme, an idea -- old Irish songs, Irish standards and songs close to my background in the theater and cabaret set to the background of Irish music -- and I started mixing at the cauldron.

Who were the studio musicians on this album and what did they play? Ray McLaughlin was on the piano and keyboards, Dessie Sheerin on bass guitar, Ivan Gillyland on acoustic guitar, Glenn Flynn on steel guitar, Danny Sheerin on backing vocals, and Gerard Fahey on Uilleann pipes, whistle and bouzouki.

From listening to the album, it is clear that the studio musicians you used were well versed in both Irish traditional and contemporary styles. What do you think they added to your work? Well if they represented a meal, they would be the appetizer, the entrée and the dessert, and I perhaps, the cherry on top.

In what ways do you feel that this recording is an expression of who you are as an artist and as a person?

I feel this recording is a cumulative expression of my feelings at a particular point and time that I wanted to share...with the hope that it would bring joy to others.

What's next on your artistic agenda? Well there's a new CD in the

works and I'm really looking forward to getting back into the studio and revving up my creative juices again. Joy Waitkus is a freelance journalist based in New York City. She has also worked for Kyodo News, NHK and BridgeNews in Tokyo.

24/7 Creates New Jobs In Ireland

24/7 Customer, a premier global provider of business process outsourcing services, today announced the launch of its global delivery center, in Northern Ireland, UK. The 500-seater delivery center is the first for 24/7 Customer in UK. In alignment with the 24/7 Customer "Multi-shore"™ global delivery model" this is its seventh global delivery center.

Located in Belfast, the state-of-the-art delivery center will provide integrated customer lifecycle management services in customer interaction, customer intelligence and back office support. This near shore delivery center will primarily focus on providing services and solutions in the telecom, retail, technology and banking/financials sector for clients in Europe.

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Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



Kerry's new senior football team manager, Pat O Shea, found the going hard when he faced his first big test on opening day of the National Football league against Mayo. O Shea, had taken over from the highly successful Jack O Connor, who stepped down from the team manager's job after winning last years All Ireland title. Normally when the Kerry county Board go in search of a new manager, they look to someone who has a pocket of All-Ireland medals to show for his hours on the football field.

But when Jack O Connor, a very good footballer, took over the hot seat in the ' Kingdom', he had no such awards backing his selection. Yet he ended up as a major figure-head in the hard grind of competitive inter county football.....and successful too. His successor, Pat O Shea, who has steered Dr. Crokes to win the County senior football championship and a place in the All Ireland Club semi finals, had no

intercounty experience as a manager. Now he takes on the biggest assignment ever handed to a club player and only time will tell whether he makes the grade in the hot seat.

Admittedly, losing the county's opening League tie against Mayo in February was a major setback, but O Connor suffered the same fate in the opening round of last year's League, but that didn't stop Kerry winning the League and All Ireland double.

Ironically, Kerry weren't the only major county to fall by the wayside in that opening League round this year. That applied to Dublin, Cork, Armagh, Laois, Galway, Down - counties with strong claims for inclusions in the play off stages. A strong factor backing O Shea's approach to this major role, is his fine coaching record. He has coached his club to Under 21 success as well as senior. His next big challenge is to win over the Kerry supporters who always let their feelings be known when success is not instant. That

happened to a former manager Paidi O Shea. When asked on a Kerry radio programme what he thought about the Kerry supporters, O Shea used a couple of expletives which did not help his relationships with the team followers.

It goes without saying, that Kerry supporters expect to win the coveted ' Sam Maguire Cup' every year as All-Ireland winners. when they fail to accomplish that feat, they immediately call for the head of the team manager. Who would want to be a team manager? The National League offers the present Kerry manager an

opportunity for team building, his only outlet really, for the forthcoming championship and the Kerry supporters should bide their time before the head hunting starts.

Luke Dempsey, the Longford team coach, has hit out at the system which is forcing counties to exploit weaker opposition by building up their scoring averages. This applies to the London team, which week after week, are suffering unmerciful hidings from the stronger teams in the group. In their opening round of the 2007 National League, Longford beat London by 26 points and it is

safe to state, that the same will be happening for the rest of the League campaign. The top four teams finishing in Div 2A head for promotion to Div 3 for the 2008 League series. The Exiles play a major role in deciding on placings by virtue of how much they lose by, in their games.

Luke Dempsey explains the situation ' We were alongside Leitrim on six points last year, but because they had a better scoring difference, they finished in fourth place, while we finished in fifth place. thats why every county will try and beat London by as much as possible, which

Erin Go Brawl

Duddy vs. Bonsante

The IBA World & WBC Continental Americas Middleweight Championships will be held at The Theater at Madison Square Garden, New York, NY, Friday, March 16, 2007 on pay-per-view.

Unbeaten middleweight contender Giovanni Lorenzo will fight veteran "Doctor" Robert Kamya in the 10-round co-feature March 16 on the "Erin Go Brawl" pay-per-view event, headlined by "Ireland's" John Duddy taking on The Contender I star Anthony "The Bullet" Bonsante in the 12-round main event, live in The Theater at Madison Square Garden.

"Erin Go Brawl," presented by Irish Ropes Promotions, will be broadcast live in North America on cable and satellite pay-per-view starting at 9 PM/ET, 6 PM/PT. The event is being produced and distributed for pay-per-view by Integrated Sports and will be available in more than 50-million homes in North America via iN Demand, TVN, DirectTV

and Dish Network in the USA, as well as Viewer's Choice in Canada, for a suggested retail price of only \$24.95. The full "Erin Go Brawl" PPV broadcast will be available to viewers outside of North America via streaming video subscription on www.secondsout.com.

Duddy (18-0, 15 KOs), rated No. 7 by the WBO and No. 9 by the WBA, defends his IBA World and WBC Continental Americas title belts against Bonsante (29-8-2, 17 KOs), the reigning IBA Americas and Minnesota State middleweight title-holder.

Also fighting "Erin Go Brawl" is 2004 Irish Olympian middleweight Andy Lee (7-0, 4 KOs), world-rated super featherweight Maureen "The Real Million Dollar Baby" Shea (9-0, 4 KOs), the unbeaten Clancy brothers - heavyweight James (9-0, 1 KO) and cruiserweight Mark (6-0-1, 1 KO) - from Clare, Ire-

land and now fighting out of Boston, 2004 Irish National Senior amateur champion Henry Coyle in his pro debut and welterweight Martin Wright (2-0-1, 2 KOs),



John Duddy

who recently signed a promotional contract with Irish Ropes. All bouts and fighters are subject to change. 212.835.1582 or going on line to www.irishropes.com.

Shamrock Rovers FC Hoops Head For Dallas

The Shamrock Rovers Football Club have accepted an invitation to participate in the highly prestigious and world-renowned Dallas Cup competition in Texas this April. The Hoops will participate in the Under-19 Super Group section, and their first game will be against famed Brazilian club, Sao Paulo FC on April 4th at Pizza Hut Park Stadium.

Shamrock Rovers are the first club from the Republic of Ireland to be invited to participate in the Dallas Cup, which is now in its 28th year and attracts entrants from all over the globe.

"We are delighted to receive the invitation and in doing so the organisers have recognised the positive strides the club has made

in recent times", says Hoops' Youth team manager Stephen Fennell. "It's a great opportunity for our young players to compete amongst the elite of world football. Although we are under no illusions of the level of the potential opponents, we are confident that we will be competitive."

The downside for Rovers is the cost—bringing a squad and backroom team to Dallas for the duration of the competition will cost the club in the region of E40,000. Several fundraising activities are in place to generate funds for the trip, but the shortfall will be considerable and the Hoops are eager to encourage sponsorship. "While it's a great honour for Rovers to be invited to the Dallas Cup, the reality is that it's a considerable

financial undertaking for the club," says Rovers' chairman, Jonathan Roche. "It's a task that we're facing head-on."

"We would certainly welcome any offers of sponsorship, and we will be seeking the support of Irish people and businesses both here in Ireland and amongst the Irish diaspora in the USA."

Potential sponsors of Shamrock Rovers' Dallas Cup campaign can contact the club offices at (phone) +353 1 460-5948 (email) info@shamrockrovers.ie (fax) +353 1 460-4875.

Shamrock Rovers Club Offices & Shop Unit C9, Centrepoint Business Park, Oak Road, Dublin 12. The office hours are 9am-6pm GMT, Monday-Friday.

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is doing them no good. It gave us no satisfaction to beat London last time out by 26 points, but we had to go flat out because others will! The Londford team boss believes that London would be better off by being outside the League altogether and concentrating on the Tommy Murphy Cup. He also believes that the GAA should set up a Task Force to examine the football set-up in England, possibly with a view to having more competitions amongst teams over there. London lost all their seven League matches last year, conceding 11-104 in the process.

The dishing out of 'yellow cards' is obviously not going away. Referees spokesman, Fr. Seamus Gardiner said, there is no question of a 'get tough' policy being introduced. The Rules haven't changed, he says, since last season, so if something was illegal last September, it's still illegal now. A total of 27 yellow cards and three red cards were handed out in the Dublin-Tyrone and Kerry-Mayo first round League matches. None

We Get Letters

Dear Editor,

Imagine if, after ignoring your mortgage payments, you convinced your bank to renegotiate the terms of your loan, dropping the interest and giving you more time to pay it off.

Then imagine that despite making only two payments in nearly a decade, you still owned your home. If you're an average homeowner, you're thinking "dream on."

But this scenario is very real for a particular group of influential investors who received a stat-backed loan two decades ago and now owe more than \$28 million after failing to pay up.

As Illinois' new State Treasurer, I serve as the state's banker. It is my job to protect the interest of the state's shareholders, the citizens of Illinois. When it comes to this sweetheart deal, I say enough is enough.

The foreclosure proceedings that are currently underway against the owners of the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield will finally bring an end to this ugly chapter in Illinois politics.

In 1982, the hotel investors received \$15.5 million from the state to build the hotel. Even after former state powerbrokers let them off easy by twice renegotiating the loan and inking favorable deals for their benefit, the investors have failed to make good on the loan.

The state has only received two payments since 1997 and none since 2002, resulting in over \$28.4 million owed in unpaid principal and interest.

After all the backroom deals and

of the games mentioned were over physical in any way, yet the two officials in charge are reckoned to be the best in the business, Pat McEaney (Monaghan) and Maurice Deegan (Meath), yet between them, they flashed 30 cards.

But team officials claim that too much time is spent by referees taking names of guilty players, thus disrupting the continuity of play. On the other hand, team manager Mick O'Dwyer and others are complaining that the physical dimension is being legislated out of football by an overly strict disciplinary system. I must confess that some of the yellow cards handed out in games at present are for petty infringements. I would consider it fair comment to stress, that before the card system was introduced, Gaelic football was of a much higher standard than at present. In my time as a football referee at All Ireland level, I found no difficulty officiating at major matches when the card system was still in the womb of time.

unfulfilled promises, the best course of action is to pursue foreclosure and receivership proceedings. The hotel owners have failed repeatedly to honor their obligations to the state and do not deserve the opportunity to cut yet another deal at taxpayers' expense.

Placing the hotel in receivership is the equivalent of hiring a new manager. This is the best way to prevent the hotel from falling into further disrepair, protect jobs and revive the operations so it can finally turn a profit.

At this point, foreclosure will allow the state to auction off the hotel to the highest bidder, generating the maximum return for taxpayers. The only parties harmed by the foreclosure action are the borrowers, who will have to pay taxes on the loan and whom we cannot afford to let off the hook.

Having inherited this financial boondoggle when I took office earlier this month, I will not allow it to fester and cost the state and taxpayers more money than it already has.

Sincerely, Alexi Giannoulas
Illinois State Treasurer

Letter To The Editor:

Gerry McGeough has declared he will be standing on the Independent ticket for election in the Northern Ireland Assembly election, 2007 against Sinn Féin in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone constituency. Gerry is a staunch senior figure in northern republicanism and an ardent nationalist from Tyrone. Gerry stands for a united Ireland and doesn't understand how Sinn Féin can justify asking Nationalists to put on the Crown forces uniform and ask

Celtic Woman — A New Journey

The five young Irish women who wowed audiences in Celtic Woman last year return to PBS with another young singer in the cast: New Zealand-born international recording star Hayley Westenra, whose forebears hailed from County Monaghan, Ireland. Celtic Woman — A New Journey, recorded at historic Slane Castle, will air on Chicago's WTTW

Channel 11 on Thur., March 8, 7:30pm; Sun., March 11, 8pm; Mon., March 12, 10:30pm; Wed., March 14, 12:30am; and Sat., March 17 at 7:00pm (all times tentative.)

Slane Castle provides the perfect backdrop for the musical — performed by singers Chloe, Lisa, Méav, Orla and Hayley, and violinist Máiréad — once

South Side St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 29th Annual South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade will step off at 12 noon on Sunday, March 11, along Western Avenue beginning at 103rd Street and continuing south to 115th Street. Approximately 120 families, schools, civic organizations and businesses will march along the parade route through the Beverly and Morgan Park neighborhoods. The Beverly Breast Cancer Walk, a Mother's Day Walk benefiting Little Company of Mary Comprehensive Breast Health Center, will serve as the South Side Irish Parade's 2007 grand marshal. The parade will also honor the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA), for 60 years of service to the Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood.

"The South Side Irish Parade is

thrilled to honor both The Beverly Breast Cancer Walk and BAPA in the 2007 parade for their dedication to the South Side. Both groups are wonderful advocates for the residents of Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood", said Annie Coakley, parade coordinator.

The Beverly Breast Cancer Walk began seven years ago when Carol Moriarty, her sister Nancy Mulcahy, and her good friend Lisa O'Brien decided it was time to make a difference in their own community in the battle against breast cancer. They organized the first walk on Mother's Day, 2000 where about 30 women gathered at Ridge Park for a 3-mile walk and raised about \$1,000. Since then the outpouring of support for the walk has been overwhelming.

today your columns ring with a truth which is now being shared by millions of Americans. The November elections are a testament to that sea change.

The current issue of The Economist (hardly a left wing magazine) shows what has happened to the Bush/Blair alliance and the negative impact that relationship had on the political parties of the leaders of both governments. Additionally, the new book by former US President Jimmy Carter, clearly exposes our Middle East policy with a keen eye to the unhealthy influence of Israel on American foreign policy.

If this trend continues Chris, you may find that your column has become a "middle -of-the-road feature"!!

We have had recent contact with the Cunnanes in Ballintubber and we are hopeful that they might visit the US sometime this year or next. They will likely be staying in the Philadelphia area where they have more family and friends. But, if they get to the US, we will see them.

Take care. Al Kearney

again arranged and written by composer David Downes.

Since the release of the Celtic Woman CD and DVD in March 2005, the CD has been certified gold and the DVD certified platinum. The CD literally made history — setting the all-time record for the number of consecutive weeks in the number one position on the Billboard World Music Chart.

In 2006, the walk included over 5,500 women, men and children and generated over \$160,000 for the Little Company of Mary Cancer Center.

Founded in 1947, BAPA is a model for grassroots community organizing, bringing together staff and volunteers to advocate for all aspects of neighborhood living. BAPA may be best known for its popular special events including, the Home Tour, the Ridge Run, Music Under the Stars, the Snowflake Ball and the Beverly Hills Cycling Classic.

www.southsideirishparade.org or call 773.393.8687.

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Beverly Arts Center Celebrates Irish Culture

The Beverly Arts Center (BAC), 2407 W. 111th St., Chicago, will host family activities, music, comedy, contemporary Irish cinema and more during March. The month is highlighted by the Center's

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8th annual Chicago Irish Film Festival March 2 through 7, and the 3rd annual South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Family Fest, Sun., Mar. 11, noon to 5 p.m.

"The Parade celebrates family and tradition," said BAC Executive Director Mike Nix. "We're offering families a place to bring their 'wee folks' to celebrate Irish culture while enjoying Chicago's best parade." The BAC's Family Fest provides a warm, friendly place from which to watch the South Side Irish Parade, as well as entertainment, food and activities.

From its vantage point at 111th and Western, the BAC offers a terrific view from indoors or outside as the South Side Irish Parade's pipers, bands, clans and floats march down Western toward 115th Street.

Inside, families will enjoy live bands playing traditional and not so traditional Irish Music, an Irish comedian, bagpipers, Irish dancers, and movies and crafts for kids. Admission to the Family Fest is \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

Start your Parade Day with green bagels! The BAC Auxiliary is selling plain green, plain and cinnamon bagels for \$10 a dozen, including cream cheese. Orders must be placed and prepaid by Mar. 3 and picked up from the BAC on Mar. 10.

Irish rock group Black 47 will play Thurs., Mar. 15, 8 p.m. According to Rolling Stone, their music "explodes with declarations of gnashing street poetry punctuated with wailing uilleann pipes." The New York Times called their music "Rowdy, catchy and unrepentant." Tickets are \$25 (\$30 for first four rows) in advance or \$30 on the day of the show.

"Tequila & Shamrocks," a comedy show

featuring performances by Chicago comedians Paul Kelly and Patti Vasquez, is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day, Sat., Mar. 17, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

A master storyteller and quick ad-libber, Kelly's real life humor and unique physical style have made him a favorite headliner in Chicago and across the US. Called Chicago's funniest, most intelligent comedian by Chicago Magazine, Kelly's interactive routines are filled with hilarious situations that audience members recognize and relate to.

Tickets and information about all of these events is available by calling 773-445-3838 or visiting www.beverlyartcenter.org. Beverly Arts Center is a not-for-profit, multi-cultural regional facility providing fine arts education and programming.

Fenians on St. Patrick's Day Tour

Irish Rock Road Dogs, The Fenians are heading out on their 9th consecutive national St Patrick's Day Tour. This year they will be joined by Cleveland-bred, Chicago-based whistle, flute, and Uilleann Pipe master Brian Bigley.

The Midwest leg of their tour will include: Fri., March 9th, Columbus, OH at Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., (614) 486-4722, Doors open at 8; Show at 10; Tickets \$5

Sat., March 10th, Racine, WI at Memorial Hall-Racine Civic Ctr; Fundraiser for Racine Literary Council, 72 Seventh Street; (262) 632-9495; Special Guests: Frogwater & Kinsella Dance Academy; Tickets \$18 Adults, \$13 Seniors & Children- Doors open at 4:30, Show at 6

Sun., Mar 11th, Chicago, IL at The Abbey, Chicago, IL, 3420 W Grace, (773) 478-4408, Doors open at 7pm; show at 8pm; \$10 Advance tickets; \$12 Day of show. www.thefenians.com.

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A Monument of Their Own Hundreds gather in Brooklyn cemetery to honor Irish GIs slain in Korean War

53 years after an uneasy truce left divided the Korean peninsula, comrades, family, and supporters unveil monument to 27 Irish-born soldiers and one Marine who didn't make it back.

By Alex Féthière / TheWildGeese.com

The year 1953 brought an uneasy truce to the Korean peninsula, leaving North and South Korea divided and wary of each other to this day. More than 50,000 American military personnel died in the three-year war, along with more than 2 million others. Twenty-eight of these American fatalities were Irish nationals.

Three of the 28 -- Cork native Army Pfc. Maurice Angland, Kerry-born Pfc. John Canty, and Limerick son Pfc. Patrick McEnergy -- called Chicago their home, while a fourth, Pfc. Patrick Augustine White, who hailed from Louth, resided in Moline, Ill. Pfc. Michael Fitzpatrick, born in Mayo, resided in Whiting, Ind., and is buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, in Worth, Ill. (See the sidebar "The 28 Irish GIs Who Died in the Korean War.")

Sandwiched between World War II and the Vietnam War, less exalted than the former and less controversial than the latter, the so-called Korean Conflict gained a reputation in the West as "The Forgotten War." And those who fought it have had to scrap to gain the recognition that their sacrifices deserved, including American citizenship for the foreign born.

Hundreds of Irish-born immigrants filled the ranks of the 500,000 U.S. military personnel serving in Korea, fighting under the United Nations flag with forces of 16 other nations. Upon their return, just like all other immigrants then, they had to wait a mandated five years before becoming eligible for U.S. citizenship.

1953's Public Law 86, though, cut a break for those immigrants who would serve in the regular U.S. military. Going forward, they wouldn't need to serve in a declared war nor have to wait the statutory five years, only between 90 and 180 days.

However, the new law did not include a grandfather clause, nor include reservists, so the war's Irish GIs had to wait for the old requirements to be met, and the dead had to wait for John Leahy. On Oct. 14, a resplendent and warm day, a monument was unveiled in honor of the 28, and Korean War veteran Leahy had a chance to consider anew his accomplishment and that of his allies, the granting in 2003 of U.S. citizenship to the 28.

Many of those who helped were among the 250 people gathered under a powder blue sky at Green-Wood Cemetery, in New York City's borough of Brooklyn. Green-Wood,

founded in 1838, encompasses 478 acres and four lakes, and is among the most beautiful and historic cemeteries in the world. Leahy, a native of Lixnaw, County Kerry, was one of several speakers at the unveiling of the two-ton, gray granite slab that bears the names of the 28, along with a Celtic cross and epigraph.

Leahy told the throng: "Today is possibly the proudest day of my life. ... These 28, just after crossing home plate, they're now in a beautiful clubhouse and have a monument of their own." He went on to eulogize his fallen comrades, while noting that the memorial is about 60 feet from the final resting place of Matilda Tone, widow of Theobald Wolfe Tone, an enduring symbol of Irish republicanism.

Leahy, a sergeant with the 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion during the war, pushed for 27 years to gain citizenship for his fallen comrades. He had received a citation for capturing a spy in Korea, and chuckled dryly when reflecting on the impact of his immigrant status then: "I got a citation for catching a spy and couldn't get (work in) the Post Office upon coming back!"

Mayo native John T. Jennings, a medic with the 32nd Infantry Division in Korea, said, "We had to be three years in the service and five years in the country before we qualified (for citizenship). You couldn't even sweep the street with a broom without being an American citizen." He called the monument "long overdue" and was visibly pleased that his fallen comrades had finally received this recognition.

Irish Consul General Tim O'Connor, the Korean Consulate's Kim Wanjoong, and Breandan O'Caollai, deputy consul general of Ireland, were only a few of the dignitaries who addressed the throng, flanked by U.S. Army soldiers bearing flags and rifles. Kim thanked the Irish-Americans for their services and sacrifice, then went on to say, "In particular, we owe the current economically prosperous and politically democratic Korea so much to the 28 Irish-Americans who gave their lives in the war."

Ray O'Hanlon, senior editor at the New York-based weekly Irish Echo, sounded a similar note during his keynote address when speaking of John Toland's book "The Forgotten War," saying: "The Koreans and the Irish are very similar people. Indeed, Toland described the Koreans as the Irish of East Asia. We have a very

similar outlook on life, very similar temperaments, very similar habits." Both countries have been dominated and divided, as well, but this went unmentioned in the day's spirit of international camaraderie.

O'Hanlon congratulated Leahy, along with deceased Vietnam War veteran Brian McGinn, and the committee that had worked for posthumous citizenship and, subsequently, the memorial. "There's something about stone," O'Hanlon said, "and today we have stone, we have permanence, enshrined memory and legacy."

The local Mayo, Leitrim, and Cork societies helped raise money and awareness of the need for a memorial, and representatives were present to celebrate the occasion. "We have to commend those 28 that died -- our hearts go out to them, I'm glad they're finally at rest and properly remembered. God bless America and God bless Ireland," said Mike Regan, past president of the Mayo Society. Many from the County Leitrim Society of New York, more than a century in existence, turned out, including their Vice President Helen Lavin. She is the niece of Patrick J. Lavin, a private from Leitrim whose name is etched in the first column of the memorial stone.

Tigue Murphy, treasurer of The Irish Korean War Memorial Committee, said the Committee raised \$18,000 and was gifted with \$10,000 from the Irish government, "Whatever we had left over we gave to Green-Wood Cemetery, for perpetual care. They paid for this (reception), they paid for the (monument's) foundation, they put the shrubbery around, and didn't take any money (for any of these)."

Murphy said that the memorial had been shopped around to various venues, including Arlington National Cemetery, whose officials indicated "they needed the space to bury soldiers." For a while the Committee was so desperate that "we were seeing who was putting up a flagpole, so we could put their names on it." Eventually, Green-Wood approached the committee, Murphy said.

Green-Wood President Richard J. Moylan said in a written statement: "America has been made strong by the contributions of both our military and hard-working immigrants. Throughout the cemetery's history, we have always honored our war dead, dating back to men who lost their lives in the American Revolution and the Civil War. So it was fitting that Green-Wood Cemetery honor these brave Irish-born soldiers who died so that generations to come might enjoy the freedoms of this great country."

GI Who Survived War Emigrated With Cork Neighbor Who Didn't

By Gerry Regan / TheWildGeese.com

In November 1948, at age 20, Denis Forde found himself crossing the Atlantic with two other fellows from the village of Rockchapel in Cork. Forde was drafted into the U.S. Army 20 months after his arrival and shipped to Korea, and so was Maurice Angland, one of his Rockchapel traveling companions. Unlike Forde, Angland never returned from the three-year war there, dying of wounds received in combat Oct. 4, 1951.



Forde served in the Army's 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion, rising to the rank of sergeant. "I gave 11 months and eight days in the front lines. I was a forward observer, so I was actually in front of the infantry. I was planning targets, calling in artillery shots. I had to set-up shots in front (of the enemy's lines, often as close as a quarter mile), in high ground. Dug in, everybody had to dig in." He was awarded a Bronze Star for his efforts, which led to the destruction of more than 50 enemy supply vehicles.

"I could see them," Forde recalled. "I could see them at night, their trucks, moving at night. In Korea, all the fighting was done at night mostly." On his first night in Korea, he said, his unit lost 105 of 165 men in hand-to-hand combat during an attack by the North Korean army. "I did not know what was going on," he said, but fought for his life, killing a number of the enemy. He later transferred to field artillery.

Forde, unlike his landsman Angland, was never wounded, though he almost got hit by shrapnel. "(The enemy spotters) were doing the same thing we were. If you lit a cigarette ... I'm sure everybody was smoking then in those days. If they made a mistake like that, we'd recognize that. I had several close calls (with death), but it didn't mean nothing to me. I just kept on going."

The starkness of Korea's terrain has stayed with him these 50-plus years. "Korea was a funny place, a destitute country, very poor. At that time, it was desperate. And a lot of hills. And very cold in the winter and hot in the summer."

Despite the harshness of Korea's landscape and immense poverty, Forde said he rarely, if ever, found himself nostalgic for home, for Ireland. "We were too busy fighting, to do what you had to do."

After the war, he worked for United Parcel Service and local utility Con Edison, in construction, and other jobs. In 1957, he joined the New York Police Department, where he served 22 years, rising to detective, and was assigned to the NYPD's Organized Crime Bureau. At 78, he still works, back in construction.

Forde, who served on the committee that supported the recent monument campaign, goes back to Cork at least once every other year, he said, and includes a visit to Clonfert Cemetery. "Every time I go back, I go to visit Maurice's grave."

Rockchapel parish included less than 1,000 residents then, Forde said, and he knew Angland back home, but they were not chums, each attending a different one of the parish's two schools. "He was a very, very quiet guy, a real nice guy. His sister was over ahead of him, I believe. In Chicago. ... He had a tendency to be skinny. He was as big as me. 5-foot-8."

Forde, unlike Angland, arrived here as an American citizen, since his father, Daniel, had lived in the United States for a time, and took American citizenship. He said he wasn't sure why he emigrated: "I have no idea. I just got itchy and just decided to come here."

His father served in New York's "Fighting 69th" regiment during World War I, where he was wounded. His father moved back to Ireland. "He had 100% disability (when he returned from overseas duty)," Forde said. "He was shot up." Returning to Rockchapel, Forde's father operated a small farm, aided by Forde's mother, himself, and four brothers, two stepbrothers and two stepsisters. "I was the only one who came (to America)," Forde said.

After he and Angland took their leave upon docking in Manhattan, Forde said, he didn't keep in touch with Angland, and never saw him again. "He went off to Chicago. When I came back (from Korea), I heard that he died from friends, that he was buried in Ireland. It was not good news to hear."

Irish GIs Who Died In The Korean War

Five of the 28 Irish-born GIs who perished in the Korean War were born in County Kerry, including Marine Pfc. John Patrick White. Four were born in Cork, Roscommon and Limerick. Mayo was the birthplace for three, Leitrim and Antrim two, and Longford, Galway, Tipperary, and Louth one each. A complete list, drawn from the "Irish in Korea" Web site (<http://www.IrishInKorea.org>) compiled by Brian McGinn, follows:

- Maurice Angland, Pfc., Army, born Meentinna, Rockchapel, Co. Cork, resided Chicago, KIA Oct. 4, 1951, buried Clonfert Cemetery, Newmarket, Co. Cork.

- Mark James Brennan, Sgt., Army, born Ballinamore, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, resided Greenwich, Conn., died June 18, 1953, buried St. Mary's RC Cemetery, Greenwich.

- John Canty, Pfc., Army, born Ahabeg, Lixnaw, Co. Kerry, resided Chicago, died Aug. 26, 1951, buried Kiltomey Cemetery, Lixnaw.

- William (Billy) Collins, Pfc., Army, born Tullig South, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick, resided Queens, N.Y., KIA May 18, 1951, buried Long Island Nat. Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y.

- John Corcoran, Pfc., Army, born Coolikerane, Millstreet, Co. Cork, resided Lafayette Parish, La., died Oct. 2, 1950, buried Calvary Cemetery, Lafayette Parish.

- Michael Fitzpatrick, Pfc., Army, born Cappagh, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, resided Whiting, Ind., KIA Aug. 18, 1951, buried Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Worth, Ill.

- Bartholomew Galvin, Cpl., Army, born Gorticurrane, Annascaul, Co. Kerry, resided Weymouth, Mass., KIA Sept. 1, 1950, buried Aghlish Cemetery, Annascaul.

- Michael Gannon, Cpl., Army, born Dooniver, Achill, Co. Mayo, resided Cleveland, KIA Feb. 13, 1951, buried Bunnacurry Cemetery, Achill.

- Michael Patrick Hardiman, Pvt. E-2, Army, born Moyne, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, resided Philadelphia, KIA March 6, 1951, buried Fairymount Cemetery (near Loughglynn), Co. Roscommon.

- Daniel Christopher (Donal) Harrington, Pvt. E-2, Army, born Ardnacluggan, Eyeries, Co. Cork, resided Brooklyn, N.Y., KIA Jun. 6, 1951, buried Old Cemetery, Castletownbere, Co. Cork.

- Michael Herlihy, Pfc., Army, born Mount Falvey, Scartaglen, Co. Kerry, resided San Francisco, KIA Sep. 12, 1951, buried Ballydesmond Cemetery, Co. Cork.

- Daniel Joseph (Danny) Keogh, Pvt. E-2, Army, born Cartron Upper, Drumlish, Co. Longford, resided Sparks, Nev., KIA Mar. 17, 1953, buried in Drumlish Cemetery.

- Michael Thomas King, Pfc., Army, born Atiaghgrana, Elphin, Co. Roscommon, resided U.S. at large, KIA Feb. 13, 1951, buried Shankill Cemetery (near Elphin).

- Patrick Joseph Lavin, Pvt. E-2, Army, born Glackaun, Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim, resided Bronx, N.Y., KIA Jul. 10, 1953, buried St. Raymond's Cemetery, Bronx.

- Philip Columba Lynch, Pvt. E-2, Army, born Brooklawn, Kilconly, Co. Galway, resided San Francisco, KIA Aug. 27, 1951, buried in Kilconly Parish Cemetery.

- Michael A. McCormack, Pfc., Army, born Church Park, Taughmaconnell, Co. Roscommon, resided Boston, died Jul. 22, 1952, buried Taughmaconnell Cemetery.

- Patrick McEnery, Pfc., Army, born Turaree Lower, Glin, Co. Limerick, resided Chicago, KIA Nov. 13, 1951, body not recovered.

- William John Mills, Pvt. E-2, Army, born Enniskillen Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, resided Jersey City, N.J., MIA Nov. 5, 1951, declared died while missing (body not recovered) Dec. 31, 1953.

- William Francis Murphy, Pfc., Army, born Shandon Street, Cork City, resided New York City, taken POW, died in captivity May 18, 1951, body not recovered.

- Thomas Joseph O'Brien, Sgt., Army, born Ballyvistea, Emly, Co. Tipperary, resided New York, N.Y., KIA Oct. 26, 1950, body not recovered.

- Alphonsus O'Connell, Cpl., Army, born Sarsfield Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick City, resided New York City, N.Y., KIA Oct. 29, 1951, buried Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y.

- Owen Prior, Pfc., Army, born Derradda, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, resided Providence, R.I., died Jul. 21, 1952, buried Coraleehan Graveyard (near Derradda).

- Thomas Stephen Quinn, Pfc., Army, born Clooninsla, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon, resided Toledo, Ohio, KIA Oct. 6, 1951, buried Calvary Cemetery, Toledo.

- William (Billy) Scully, Pfc., Army, born Kilgrena, Galbally, Co. Limerick, resided Manhasset, N.Y., KIA Jan. 14, 1951, buried Galbally Cemetery.

- Patrick Sheahan, Cpl., Army, born Leitrim Middle, Newtown Sandes, Co. Kerry, resided New York City, KIA Oct. 4, 1951, buried Murhur Cemetery, Moyvane, Co. Kerry.

- Thomas John Ward, Pfc., Army, born Osman Street (off Falls Road), Belfast, Co. Antrim, (raised in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan), resided U.S. at large, KIA Aug. 22, 1950, buried in Donaghmoyne Cemetery, Carrickmacross.

- John Patrick White, Pfc., Marine Corps, born Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry, resided New York City, taken POW Sept. 24, 1952, body not recovered.

- Patrick Augustine White, Pfc., Army, born Lisdoon, Dundalk, Co. Louth, resided Moline, Ill., KIA Oct. 6, 1951, buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk.

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Located at Star Plaza, Route 30 and Interstate 65 in Merrillville, Indiana, T.J. Maloney's is one of the most popular destinations for St. Patrick's Day celebrating in Indiana. On Saturday, March 17, at the Raddison Hotel Ballroom, they will be hosting live music from noon til 2 am with 6 live bands, prize drawings, performances by Irish Step Dancers and Pipers

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Voice of the Immigrant

By John W. Kearns, Attorney at Law



Attorney Kearns practices immigration law and general practice from Chicago, Illinois. We invite questions or topic requests by email: jwkearns@hotmail.com. Please call or email with questions about immigration, business, or general law or American culture. Consultations by telephone or in the office can be arranged by calling: (312) 738-2529. See advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper.

Online Change Of Address: All non-U.S. citizens are required to report a change of address within 10 days of moving by completing a Form AR-11. USCIS customers, with cases pending, should change their address as soon as possible after moving. All non-citizens and USCIS customers, with cases pending, can now submit change of addresses online. Before going online, you should have: (1) USCIS receipt number (if you have a case pending with USCIS); (2) new and old addresses; (3) names and biographical information for any family members for whom you've filed; and (4) date and location (port of entry) of your last entry into the United States. Always be sure to confirm that the change of address has registered.

Consulates No Longer Accepting I-130 Window Filing: The Department of State has informed embassies and consulates that the recently adopted Adam

Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act requires all immigration petitions for family-based categories (Forms I-130 and I-600) be approved by immigration officers from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security. Consular officers overseas are no longer authorized to accept or adjudicate immigration petitions. This change is effective January 23, 2007.

Immigration Application Fees To Double Or Triple By June: The USCIS has announced a substantial filing fee increase for application processing, in most cases doubling or even tripling the current fee. These fees are the "tax" that is paid to the government and have nothing to do with the fees that private immigration service providers, such as attorneys, travel agents, notaries, or your neighbor are going to charge you for their services, although you can probably expect to see those fees even-

tually go up proportionately as well.

Here are some examples: Work permits (employment authorization) will go from \$180 to \$340. I-130 Alien Relative Petitions will go from \$190 to \$335. Adjustment applications (for a green card) will go from \$325 to \$905. That means that an entire marriage case application (without travel permit) will go from \$765 to \$1,660. I-140 Immigrant Worker Visas will go from \$195 to \$475. I-129F for K (fiancé) visas will go from \$170 to \$455. Appeals and Motions to Reopen or Reconsider, which recently went from \$110 to \$385, now go to \$585, so you better be serious about keeping your case open.

Citizenship applications will go from \$330 plus \$70 for fingerprints to \$595 plus \$80 for fingerprints, or a total of \$675.00. This may cause a hardship for elderly citizenship applicants whose working children will not help them pay the increased fee. Luckily, there is a "fee waiver" process for "inability to pay." This decision is at the discretion of the Service which just raised the fees because their costs are going up, so that this waiver is not going to be so easy to get without truly "compelling reasons." They have tightened up the criteria upon which that decision may be based, and limited the applications that can qualify. The problem is applying for a fee waiver on an application when there is a support requirement involved. For example, permanent residents are sup-

posed to be self-supporting and filing taxes that list income exceeding 125% of the poverty guidelines. So, while there is no support requirement for citizenship, if a naturalization applicant seeks a fee waiver, do you think the interviewer will want to see the past tax returns in deciding whether to grant the fee waiver? Since, in the naturalization interview, they ask about taxes just because of the "good moral character" requirement, either the person fails to meet the support requirement or he has filed phony tax returns, committing tax fraud. Pick one.

Here's what the USCIS says about this waiver. Try to read between the lines, and good luck! "USCIS also has the ability to waive fees on a case-by-case basis for "inability to pay," considering all factors, circumstances, and evidence supplied by the applicant including age, disability, household income, and qualification within the past 180 days for a federal means tested benefit." (In other words, if the applicant "qualified" for a federal means tested benefit, there's a big chance they violated the support requirement to maintain permanent residence.) "Fairness requires that there be compelling reasons when granting an individual fee waiver to one applicant while making others applying for the same benefit or service pay full cost." Fee waiver re-

quests are now limited to the following applications: Form I-90; Form I-751; Form I-765; Form I-817; Form N-300; Form N-336; Form N-400; Form N-470; Form N-565; Form N-600; Form N-600k; and the Forms I-290B (Appeal) and Motions to Reopen or Reconsider filed with USCIS.

By the way, 2007 Poverty Guidelines have been issued and should be used now.

Required Disclaimer: The information provided in this article should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. While the statements contained herein reflect the opinions of the author only, and not the publication or its editors, the information provided may be a summary or compilation from other sources, who are gratefully acknowledged hereby. The contents are intended for general information purposes only, and you are urged to consult with a lawyer concerning your own situation and any specific legal questions you may have. © Copyright John W. Kearns.

Elgin Children's Chorus

The Elgin Children's Chorus members experience music through listening, creating and performing. Come and be dazzled by an expansive range of vocal harmonies and techniques as the Chorus presents "Vocal Chords" on Sunday, March 11th at 3:00pm at the Elgin Community College Arts Center, 1700 Spartan Drive in Elgin.

Call 847-622-0300, www.elgin.edu/arts, or Arts Center Ticket Office at 1700 Spartan Drive in Elgin.

St. Xavier University Launches Non-Credit Irish Studies Program

Saint Xavier University celebrated its new non-credit Irish Studies program recently with Irish dancing, live traditional music and key leaders from Orland Park and Gaelic Park.

Classes begin in Spring 2007. Students will explore Ireland's heritage through an interdisciplinary program of history, the Gaelic language, literature, art, film and music.

Saint Xavier offers the non-credit certificate program at its Orland Park campus through the School for Continuing and Professional Studies.

Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaugh-

lin thanked the university, saying, "I congratulate Saint Xavier on this endeavor and offer any assistance to make this a world-class program."

Gaelic Park President John Griffin noted Saint Xavier's own Irish heritage, beginning with the first six Sisters of Mercy to come to Chicago. "After 160 years and all obstacles that have been overcome and all of the good works that have been done as a result of those six young, brave Sisters of Mercy, their efforts will result in the study of their Irish culture and heritage," Griffin said. (708) 633-4711 or e-mail walder@sxu.edu.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Daniel J. McLaughlin
Mayor of Orland Park



Celebrating the launching of the new Irish Studies certificate program offered at Saint Xavier University's Orland Park campus are Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin (c) plays it up with traditional Irish musicians David Arwine (left with guitar) and Jim Thornton (accordion).

MICK

By Mike Morley



wishes granted him in a futile attempt to beat the devil. In one notable try he wishes to be reincarnated in pleasant surroundings with Margaret and no other men around.

Bedazzled

At the end of January Bertie Ahern met with Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street. They announced that Northern Ireland's Assembly Election would go ahead as planned on March 7; but warned that if power-sharing failed, they'd scuttle the process.

Blair said the election was: "being held for the explicit purposes of endorsing the St. Andrew's Agreement and of electing the assembly that will form a power-sharing executive on March 26..." Asked whether he thought DUP leader Ian Paisley was ready to go into government with Sinn Fein, Ahern said: "I'm satisfied that he's signed up to the St. Andrew's agreement if the issue of policing was dealt with. And it has been."

The reporter might as well have asked Edgar Bergin whether Charlie McCarthy was going to quit the act. Paisley has never been other than the English lap puppet that gets to say all the outrageous lines.

Of course it's a done deal. Who's going to be the pooper that spoils a €200 Billion party? And would he be around long enough to brag about it?

Irish Finance Minister Brian Cowen said last month that if devolved government is restored: "I have an unallocated reserve in our national development plan of over 100 billion in terms of capital investment between 2007 and 2013". Cowen said the money would be provided for projects like the Dublin to Londonderry road. Hell, with that much bread floating around, they could call it "King Henry VIII Highway" without risking so much as a raised shillelagh.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown has been dangling a large carrot, a £50bn (sterling) peace dividend before Northern Ireland's politicians. But the New Statesman's John Kampfner quotes Ulster Unionist Reg Empey saying that none of it would be new money. "Brown's 'new money' turns out to be the old trick of using proceeds from the sales of existing government offices that are then rented back from private landlords."

Whatever the deal turns out to be, you can bet it will be more Faustian than the deal made by Dudley Moore in "Bedazzled", the 1967 British comedy where short-order cook Stanley Moon (Moore) sells his soul to the Devil (Peter Cook) to gain the love of Margaret, his co-worker at a fast-food joint. Moore uses up the seven

He finds himself dressed in a flowing habit and bouncing on a trampoline, transformed into Sister Luna of the Leaping Nuns of the Berylian Order.

Bertie Ahern and Foreign Affairs Minister Dermot Ahern have met in Dublin with relatives calling for public inquiries into the murders of loved ones. The families are encouraged by Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's report revealing collusion between the royal police and loyalist gunmen in at least 15 murders. After the meeting, the Foreign Minister said: "The Taoiseach indicated that he would like to deal with this before the General Election." That's going to be a tall order. Better throw in 7 more wishes.

Relatives for Justice quotes these figures: "In the north of Ireland 3646 people have lost their lives as a result of the conflict. 363 people have died directly as a result of actions perpetrated by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British Army - 75 of whom were children. The overwhelming majority of those killed posed absolutely no threat whatsoever - they were unarmed when killed. 89% of those killed directly by the State were from the nationalist/republican community. The combined actions of the British State and Loyalist forces are responsible for 1414 deaths."

"Some 15,000 Irish Republicans went to prison during the course of the conflict serving a total of 100,000 years. In relation to killings by the State only 4 serving members of the British Army went to prison serving a total of 15 years and 3 months. All were subsequently released significantly early into their sentences and reinstated back into their regiments, two were promoted. No Royal Ulster Constabulary members were ever sentenced to imprisonment."

American Death

Last December Fr. Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus predicted that the "brutal and unprovoked beating" in July 1997 by the RUC of an American in Belfast would be a hot issue in the New Congress. The victim, John Hemsworth, was born in Kearney, New Jersey in 1958. A few years later the family moved back to Northern Ireland. He had returned to work in the U.S. several times over the years and had planned to settle here permanently with his family.

In July of 1997 Hemsworth was walking home when RUC land ro-

vers turned onto the street, pursuing a gang of youth. The vehicles had to stop where the roadway ended, blocked by traffic bollards. The police then targeted Hemsworth who, as he told his lawyer three days after the incident, identified himself as an American citizen. "They were in front of me. One turned and came toward me. I said, 'I'm just going home, I'm an American citizen.' At that he hit me in the face with his truncheon. I fell to the ground. He called me a Fenian bastard. Another one was shouting, 'Move, move, you Fenian bastard.' He kicked me on the left side of the jaw. I started to get up. Another one hit me on the back with a truncheon." Hemsworth suffered a broken jaw and other injuries.

Had he later agreed with the police version, that he was involved in protesting annual marches by Orange Order Protestants, he would have been entitled to compensation for his injuries from the Northern Ireland Office. But Hemsworth repeatedly told investigators that he was merely on his way home when attacked.

That November, Hemsworth suffered a minor stroke. He was hospitalized on Dec. 27, suffering from severe headaches. He died on Jan. 1 1998 of a "catastrophic" stroke. A subsequent forensic report, written by Professor Derrick J. Pounder of the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Dundee in Scotland, found the beating at the hands of the RUC was the sole "direct underlying cause of death." Hemsworth is survived by his wife and son.

"It is a disgrace that the killing of this Irish-American has received such little attention, and it is an outrage that his family has received no justice," said McManus, who had not known of the case until receiving a letter last September from John's 72-year-old father, Michael, in Belfast, imploring help: "The British Attorney General promised the family that we would have an inquest into my son's death but eight years have passed and nothing has happened. I wrote many, many letters to American politicians but not one gave me the courtesy of even an acknowledgement. It is hurtful that some of these politicians and the President's envoy can meet relatives of victims of the violence but never had the time to meet me."

Fr. McManus is launching a campaign in the US Congress and had planned to pursue the issue with Dr. Mitchell Reiss, Special Envoy for Northern Ireland. "I have a lot of confidence in Special Envoy, Mitchell Reiss. He has shown great interest in individual cases, like Pat Finucane"

As we noted last month, Reiss was replaced in January by neo-conserva-

tive politician and Trilateral Commission member, Paula Dobriansky.

As I've said before, don't expect to see any of this in whatever favorite "news" service you're buying. Happy mushrooms need to be kept from light on a strict diet of BS, (bully soup?). As of press time last month, I had not seen any stories from US sources about Nuala O'Loan's Report on Royal Police aiding Protestant death squads in the North. But a couple days later a few turned up. The New York Times ran a column, lukewarm account by Eamon Quinn, a Belfast business editor. He's still referring to the IRA as "the outlawed group". The piece was upstaged on the page by a much sexier story, with pictures, of scavengers on a beach gathering loot from a ship wrecked off England. The Washington Post did carry a little longer story which was more balanced, and contained quotes from Martin McGuinness.

And I was really surprised to see that Time had a story listed on the internet about Raymond McCord Sr., father of a Protestant victim of the UVF. But when I looked through Time at the public library, it was not there. Looking back to the web, the story was not even listed in Time's European edition. It appeared to be a piece written for the net only, and accessible only if you search the Time site looking for it, specifically. It's a cute new twist to plausible deniability and "hiding in plain sight".

"H" Blocker

Rudy Giuliani has thrown his hat

in the ring. Perhaps a few voters will remember the role he played in keeping Joe Doherty locked in a Manhattan jail cell for almost a decade despite numerous federal court decisions in Joe's favor. But, let's be realistic. Voters are more likely to read about Leroy "Nickey" Barnes, whose book about his life as 'Mr. Untouchable', one of New York's top heroin dealers, will be in stores this month. Nickey was in for life, but began to rap when he felt his homies outside weren't taking care of business. Rudy was happy to help Nicky out with his voice lessons... all the way out. Nickey got walking papers, and a new handle in the Witness Protection Program. Now he's an author.

Now that Rudy's been drafted for President, maybe voters will be reading that Jimmy Breslin tidbit: "Giuliani did not attend the war in Vietnam because federal judge Lloyd McMahon wrote a letter to the draft board in 1969 and got him out." The occupational deferment was rare and usually reserved for police and public figures. Rudy was clerking for the judge at the time.

Then again, do voters care anymore about draft dodging when electing a President?

Watch: Irish Journal Television Chicago cable- CAN, Channel 19: Monday 7PM, Tuesday 2PM Comcast- (Elmhurst bills) 41 West suburbs- Channel 19: Tues 7:30 PM Comcast- (Skokie bills) 24 North suburbs - Ch. 19 (or 35): Tues 6PM E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net © Mike Morley 2007

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!



**Terrence O'Brien
President**

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Succession Law In Ireland

By Gwen Bowen

Part One:

There is a saying "where there's a Will there's a relative". Never a truer phrase has been written. Inheritance Law in any country is hugely important to the Society it governs and given that Inheritance law deals with the passing on of land one can imagine it's importance to the Irish.

Traditionally in Ireland the beneficiaries and family have been ruled by the Will and the directions given in it. There has been and still is a huge amount of respect for the testator and the solicitor involved in drafting the will. There have been a number of high profile cases highlighting beneficiaries' rights and also cases where Wills were

improperly made. The legislation in Ireland is mainly based around the Succession Act 1965. This law unfortunately reflects the Ireland of yesterday. Attitudes are certainly changing.

Property values have increased exponentially in the last number of years. The structure of families changed dramatically from the nuclear family to differing combinations of first and second families and non marital relationships.

One of the growth areas in litigation has surely been the litigation ensuing on the death of a relative where there is confusion over the will, suspicion as to how the Will was made and by disgruntled beneficiaries.

Many emigrants may find that on the

death of a family member they are left very confused as to how the procedure in Ireland works. They may not get a copy of the will and if they do they may not be able to get answers from the executor or his lawyer (solicitor) on how the Estate is progressing or in regard to their entitlement from an Estate.

There can be good reason for this as the lawyers obligations are to the executor and to the Estate and to give advice to someone who might be seen as attacking the Estate flies in the face of those obligations. Indeed you should not take advice from the lawyer as it may not best serve you.

Below are listed some of the more common problems with details as to how these can be dealt with.

What is the position where there is no will?

The beneficiary being a child of the deceased has been excluded from or given a minimal amount in the Will.

The will is unlike anything discussed by the deceased prior to death and there is a suspicion that the decease may have been under the influence of some party or may have not understood the will.

The property left to a beneficiary has been occupied by someone else and they are refusing to give it up.

The executor is refusing to administer the Estate and the beneficiary has no idea as to when they will receive their benefit.

Problem #1

What is the position where there is no will?

A full search for the will should be undertaken with local offices, banks etc. If no Will is made, property passes under the Rules of Intestacy.

Married person with children property in the sole name of the deceased the property passes two thirds to the spouse and one third between the children of the deceased.

A widow or a widower or an unmarried person with children, property would pass equally amongst the children of the deceased (both marital and non marital children)

For those in second relationships if no will is made their partner may not benefit at all if no will is made as the legal spouse and children of the deceased would have priority.

Not married and no children: If you do not have children or spouse, the property would pass equally amongst brothers and sisters of the deceased and if any of your brothers and sisters predeceased the deceased their share in the property would pass to their children (ie the nieces and nephews).

Example.

John from a family of five dies a bachelor leaving two sisters surviving and a brother and a sister have died before him. His predeceased sister never married or had children his brother died

leaving four children.

The quarter share due to the sister goes "back into the pot" so the property is then divided in three and the one-third share that would have been due to the brother goes to the four children and they get one twelfth each.

If a person dies with no will the next of kin are entitled to Extract a Grant of Administration to the Estate, this means to obtain a document which allows a person to deal with the deceased's real and personal property. The entitlement to extract the Grant follows the entitlement to benefit. If you live abroad you will need to appoint a person resident in the State to extract the grant for you.

A common problem is that a nephew or niece abroad who may have an entitlement feels that they cannot interfere with the Estate if an Uncle or Aunt entitled to extract the Grant is still alive. However the right to sue for your entitlement under an Estate is lost six years after the date of death. If the Aunt or Uncle do not want to deal with it they can renounce and the next tier of persons entitled can take on the mantle.

Problem #2

You feel you have been excluded or treated unfairly in a will

This most commonly occurs when a surviving parent passes on. For example a widow dies with four children and leaves all her property to two children and nothing to the other two. There is applicable to a disappointed child of the deceased to seek the Court to enquire as to whether they have been treated unfairly. This is called a section 117 application after the provision in the act.

Unlike a surviving spouse a child has no automatic right to a share in their parents Estate where a Will is made. The court will look at the child's circumstances at the date of death of the parent and if the disappointed child can show that there was need for such provision they may be successful. These can be quite divisive actions as they involve brother and sister against one another or may involve children litigating against their parents new spouse. One of the rules is you cannot litigate against any share left to your own parent but the phenomenon of second marriages will increase the litigation in this area quite some amount.

People say that Section 117 actions cause incredible bitterness and cost a lot of money to run and this is true but in a lot of cases it is the Will itself that causes the bitterness. Even though this may never have been the intention of the person making the will. They may have left a field worth to their mind €5,000.00 to someone but with the rapid expansion of towns etc it could well be worth €300,000.00.

Most of these type of actions settle but if they do not they can often drain

an Estate of it's assets as if there is a stateable case most often the courts will allow the costs of the enquiry into the Will from the Estate.

However be warned that litigation which is viewed as vexatious and frivolous will be charged to the person bringing such an action. An experienced Probate Solicitor should be able to advise you on the merits of your case and it is very important to be open and honest in this vein as otherwise you could lie at the loss of the costs. If you do not agree with the lawyer you can seek a second opinion but be aware that there are never any guarantees as to how a case will run. In view of the high level of costs you may be asked to pay a retainer in these matters.

It may be wise to try to discuss matters with the family to see if some solution can be reached but beware of the time limits.

It should also be borne in mind that many emigrants were made the sole beneficiaries of their parents wills and may have been left the home house in the hopes that they would come home. They may often find themselves at the receiving end of a Section 117 action and at sea as to how best to deal with it. Indeed in some cases the emigrant beneficiary may be very happy to compromise the matter and it should be noted that Deeds of family arrangement can be entered into by the beneficiary and other family members if it is felt that this would be more beneficial to family relationships. However there is no obligation on the beneficiary to make any such arrangement.

TIME LIMITS: There is a very strict time limit for a section 117 action and that is six months after the issue of the Grant. There are no exceptions Given that you could administer an Estate in a matter of six to eight weeks this is very short.

If a parent dies details of the will should be sought as soon as possible and if there is difficulty in having a copy of it handed over a Caveat should be lodged. This will compel the Court to inform your lawyer when an application is made. The executor is not obliged to hand over the Will but if they refuse to give a copy of it, it could be grounds for raising suspicion. Once the Grant of Probate/Administration has issued you should issue proceedings as quickly as possible and serve notice on the executor/administrator that they should not distribute the Estate until such proceedings are dealt with.

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Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



ano...They were awesome and I imagine some savvy promoter will have them in

teach the bird to say "Barleycorn are Brilliant!" but he just ignored me... obviously Paul's side of the family. It was home from home... thanks you guys.

Mossy Moran

Of course there was Irish entertainment at this huge Irish event and I was delighted to see that Mossy Moran one of my absolute favourite Irish singers was featured. Mossy is from Waterford and I see him at many festivals during the season. Mossy's current album "Navigator" is terrific and I play it regularly on "Blarney on the Air" Monday nights on 90.9 FM Chicagoland and WDCB.com everywhere else. Mossy is a true troubadour. If you like Paddy Reilly... you will love Mossy. His version of "Bodenstoen Churchyard" is the best that I have ever heard.

The Singing Nuns

I have seen the Singing Nuns many times over the last 15 years. They have featured at many Irish festivals in Ohio, particularly Dublin, Oh, and I have always regarded them as a novelty act... but never again. The Singing Nuns from Washington State are truly entertainers. Their heavenly songs sustained me during that cold 9 days in Cleveland and they won the hearts of thousands, as they sang their way through an amazing repertoire of songs.

With 10 albums to their credit... of course there is an "Irish Album"... this heavenly choir kept me going all day.

They are traditional Catholic sisters from the order Mary Immaculate Queen from St. Michaels Convent in Spokane, Washington. They teach children, do all kinds of neat stuff, and I love them all. Check out their website singingnuns.com. Their Irish album is called "Rainbows End" and their other album, "The Glory of the Brave;" should be in every household and school. They should do "The Half Time Show" at next years Superbowl.

My American Idols-Singing Nuns

The Rooster: O'Yeah!

Yep! The Rooster AKA Dick Goonan, showed up before I left Cleveland and I was sooo glad to see him. After 8 days of dog talk and birdie cherp. Dick came back from his Florida trip and took me on the town. We went to "The Public House" a Cleveland Pub where Kevin McCarthy and Dave Morrison were playing. It was amazing.

Dick was going to take me to other places that night, but I could not leave "The Public House." McCarthy was incredible on guitar and Dave Morrison on harmonica just brought me back to a happy place. They played Blues, Rock, Irish, and just about played every genre I've ever liked. What a blast. The very best version of Tupelo Honey I've ever heard.

John O'Brien, both Sr. and Jr. were there and I thank them and all my Ohio friends for looking after me so well.

the USA soon.

www.getthecraic.com

It was a beautiful spring morning in St. Stephens green when I went to visit the lads at digital audio productions on Merrion Row. The daffodils were there... I could not believe it. SPRING!

Dusty Rhodes told me all about this new weekly podcast for the Irish worldwide, it sounds like fun. The show is presented by the Irelands favourite presenter Ian Dempsey and will feature a light hearted look at what's happening at home and in Irish America each week. I may be called up on from time to time to let them know what's happening in Irish America. Check it out... its brilliant. I had to ask my son Conor what a podcast was... now I know.

Anyway, the week just flew by and the good folks at Aer Lingus looked after me superbly as usual. I met Joe Cullen, of Velvet Green on the return flight. He was in Donegal for a wedding. "Me auld pal" John Paul Lawless was also on the flight but you know these Galway Lads... 1st class all the way—and no time for the riff-raff in coach... only kidding lads.

Cleveland—early February

After only two nights at home in Chicago I was off on the road. Cleveland was my first event of the year. The Home & Garden Show ... dedicated this year to Ireland. I was an invited guest. Blarneyhome.com was on the road again.

The I.X. center in Cleveland is an awesome structure... just beside the airport it covers 860,000 sq. feet and was used to produce U.S. Army Tanks during the Second World War... every inch of it was used for the show and on Irish Castle and Pavillion were its centerpiece. There was a huge Irish influence provided by the local Irish associations and vendors and I, as a fixture at Ohio events eared, a place there. I love Ohio and Cleveland... but I am usually here in the summer, 90 degrees plus. In early February it was bone chilling. My phone froze, my digital camera froze, my shampoo froze... it was the coldest I have ever been and YET... I had a great time—I had a ball.

I was staying in the home of Paul and Peggy, from Brigid's Cross with their two dogs and budgie (Parrot). I'm sorry, the bird was bigger than a canary and smaller than a turkey... who knows? I loved the dogs... The dog's loved me. Paul, Peggy, and Ritchie were touring in Florida and I was in charge... I spend 10 days trying to

What a mad month it's been, I went from balmy spring in Dublin to Artic subzero in Cleveland, to that major snowstorm in Pennsylvania, an ice storm in Valley Forge, then back to a major thaw in Chicago... weird weather, but my next sweep takes me south to Dallas, West Palm Beach, and Atlanta... yep—that's the ticket, a bit of sunshine for Shay.

Dublin—late January

I arrived home in Dublin and it had gone... it's a new Dublin now, with new places and new people. I'm not saying it's a bad Dublin, but its different... my "rare auld times" are finished and in place is a throbbing metropolis for a new breed of cosmopolitans... its good for some, but for myself, it will never be the same. Is it not like this for all emigrants?

Enough of this sentiment... I digress... Family and friends are what its all about and some things never change. My new granddaughter Alex is beautiful and Josh, my grandson is as cute as a button. It was great to see and spend some time with them all.

I stayed in Kilmacud with my mum and had a lot of fun with my son, my daughters, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and friends. It was a tonic for my soul... I had missed them all dearly. I avoided business like the plague and luxuriated in the bosom of my family and in the nectar brewed by Arthur Guinness... "You can't beat it with a stick"

Whelans in Wexford St. was packed when Midwest's super duo Switchback took the stage on Wednesday night. Brian and Marty were brilliant and I had brought some Dub's along. We were treated to a super set... the best of Switchback in my own hometown. The lads were touring Ireland with a busload of fans and were obviously breaking thru to the natives with their blend of bluegrass Celtic soul. These guys never cease to amaze me and for you all in Chicagoland, you can see them at McNally's in St. Charles on March 16th as part of the McNally's St. Patrick's Day-week. What a show... don't miss it.

The Coronas

Also playing at Whelans that night were the Coronas, a new Dublin Band featuring Mary Black's son,..... no, that's not fair... these guys are brilliant... wait and see, or better still check them out at coronaonline.net. The Coronas are the Conor Egan on drums, Graham Knok on bass, and Danny O'Reilly on guitar, vox, and pi-

Book Reviews

Continued from page 5

ideas. I'll let him speak for himself.

"Yes, then, Irish America is rich, successful, influential... with its lists of successful entrepreneurs and zillionaires. We're headed somewhere, that's for sure. The momentum of the journey is increasingly weighted toward the American part of the Irish American equation, which is why we came here in the first place..."

"Today Irish America is powerful enough and wealthy enough to decide for itself where it's headed and what it will take on the journey. Wherever we may end up, suburbs or city... or the outer end of the galaxy, it is we the living who will choose what will be recorded, remembered, redeemed from silence and oblivion by scholarship and art."

- Free labor in 1860's and Free Trade today- "...the theory of 'free labor' which was central to the Republican Party, was an attack on the ability of the working class to organize and make collective demands on factory owners and industrialists... For the Irish... the Republican theory of free labor could only have reeked of the free market orthodoxiesthat had allowed the British government to abandon relief efforts while they starved."

- Abolitionists of the 1860's wanted to end slavery but they despised Irish people: "... a significant segment of the Abolitionist community harbored a dislike of Catholics in general and the Irish in particular..." More abolitionist hypocrisy: "An Abolitionist such as Thaddeus Stevens, ... far-seeing in his vision for freed slaves was an ally of the coal mine owners in Pennsylvania and an opponent of Irish mine workers."

- Reformers in the late 1800's denounced Irish political leaders and called them "bosses" but they did not see their humanity: "... consider Johnny Ahearn, leader in the Fourth District on the Lower East Side [of New York City]. His constituents... 'were about half Irishmen and half Jews'... Ahearn was as popular with one race as the other. He eats corned beef and kosher meat with equal nonchalance, and it's all the same to him whether he takes off his hat in church or pulls it down over his ears in the synagogue.' When Ahearn died, people in his district sat shiva and the street peddlers overturned their carts in a sign of mourning. Of how many reformers could this be said?"

ROCK ON CLEVELAND... see you in the summer.

Valley Forge Pa... really Cold... but Awesome.

I could have gone home to Chicago after Cleveland, but there was that major snowstorm coming from the West, so... I went East. I stayed in Lewisburg, Pa. with my fellow Celtic Warriors, Danny O'Neill and his good wife Sue. I had a great time there... the snow came and went, but I was in good company and in a beautiful place. Danny, Sue, and their family and friends looked after me and I saw the prettiest town in P.A. in its snow glory. I will go back to visit Lewisburg in the summer. It's a beautiful place.

On Friday, Danny and I headed for Valley Forge, dodging closed highways and byways. It was an adventure.

The Fifteenth Annual Greater Philadelphia Midwest Scottish and Irish Music Festival and Fair, has got to be the longest Celtic event to type ever... but it was my first time there and the only thing long to type is the Stellar lineup. Dougie McLean, Seven Nations, The Prodigals, Bad Haggis (who are really good), The Elders, Searson, Sythian, and millions more, in a show produced by Bill Reid and his organization, East of the Hebrides Entertainment. This is a model for winter events. Bill and his wife Karen know their stuff and it was so good to be among the Celtic crowd again.

The Circle is Unbroken... this indoor Celtic festival was amazing. Eric Rigler... the piper... you remember "Braveheart." He is Bad Haggis and their new album. Wine Dark Sea is brilliant.

The Elders are always amazing and are now on tour in Ireland... it was great to see them again.

I also urge you to check out Lissa Schneckeburger. She was also terrific. As usual I've run out of time and I have so much more to tell you.

NEXT MONTH—Dallas—West Palm Beach—and Atlanta

Ireland on Parade at IAHC

In a unique pre-St. Patrick's Day show, Ireland on Parade will be presented at the IAHC on Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 pm by PBD Associates, Inc.

Performances by The Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Chicago Police Department, the world champion dancers of the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, Soprano Patricia Brady, tenor and Center member Mark Piekartz, The DePaul University a cappella choir and emcee Eamonn O'Neill.

Tickets \$15, IAHC members are \$10 and seniors and children are \$5. 773-282-7035.

March Events at Gaelic Park

The Irish Sopranos will visit Gaelic Park, on Saturday, March 3rd, with the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at the cost of \$20 per person.

The Dublin City Ramblers will perform on March 10th at Gaelic Park. The Dublin City Ramblers perform great Irish folk and ballad songs. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show beginning at 8 p.m.

Batt Burns, storyteller from County Kerry, will visit on Saturday, March 16th beginning at 8 p.m. in the Celtic Room. Burns is known for the gift of gab throughout the world and is regular contributor to Irish radio programs. He will share the folklore and legends of Ireland with his humor and wisdom. Tickets to this show are \$10.

On Sundays in March, enjoy the food and music at the popular Celtic Suppers. Entertainment provided by Velvet Green on Sunday, March 4th, Jerry Gleason on Sunday, March 18th, and Gerard Haughey on Sunday, March 25th. The Celtic Suppers are the perfect meeting place for large groups, and for only \$16, a buffet including soup, salad, choice of entrée and dessert is served. Children are welcome; under 12 years old admission is \$9.

Gaelic Park will elect a new Irish Festival Queen and a Queen's Court

at Gaelic Park's Celtic Supper on Sunday, March 4th. For the admission price of \$16, the Celtic Supper, beginning at 4 p.m., includes an all-you-can-eat buffet until 7 p.m. and dancing music provided by Velvet Green until 9 p.m. All of the Queen contestants and the winners will be announced at the Celtic Supper. The newly selected Irish Festival Queen will enjoy participating in ceremonies, contests and festivals during the Irish Festival of St. Patrick's Day Week and will be given the high seat atop the Gaelic Park St. Patrick's Day parade float. Gifts and prizes valued at over \$1,000 will also be presented to the Queen. The newly elected Queen's Court will also participate in the activities and receive many prizes.

Wednesday, March 7th, 2007 Gaelic Park will host the Monthly Musical Luncheon, which begins at noon and lasts until 4 p.m. For the modest cost of \$13, the Musical Luncheon includes an afternoon of lively entertainment including Irish step dancers, dancing and a delicious sit down lunch including dessert.

This year marks the 40th year Martin Fahey will host Ireland on Parade, the celebration of the music and dance of Ireland. Ireland on Parade began in 1967 at Ford City and after

eleven years moved to the Glendora House where it stayed for 13 seasons before moving to Gaelic Park. Gaelic Park is proud to have hosted Ireland on Parade, now a multi-generational tradition, for 15 years. Also known as "Irish Week", Ireland on Parade is part of the ten-day celebrations at Gaelic Park in honor of Ireland's patron saint, Patrick. Participating in Ireland on Parade this year are The Jerry O' Loughlin School of Irish Dancing, The Irish Music School of Chicago and The Katie Hughes School of Irish Dancing on Thursday, March 8th; The Foy School of Irish Dancing and The Lavin Cassidy School of Irish Dancing on Friday, March 9th; The McNamara School of Irish Dancing and The Mulhearn School of Irish Dancing on Tuesday, March 13th; The Webber School of Irish Dancing and The Mullane Academy of Irish Dancing on Wednesday, March 14th; The World Academy of Irish Dancing, The Irish Music School of Chicago and The Blackbird Academy of Irish Dancing on Thursday, March 15th; and The Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dancing and The Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing on Friday, March 16th. Doors open each evening at 5:30 p.m. with the first shows beginning at 7 p.m. each evening. Admission is free. Delicious, hot food is also available for purchase

beginning at 5:30 p.m.

On South Side Irish Sunday, March 11th, come to Gaelic Park for the Monthly Mass and Breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. with a delicious breakfast served in the Emerald Room after Mass. The traditional Irish breakfast includes bacon, sausage, soda bread, and black pudding. The cost is \$6.

Doors will re-open at 1:30 p.m. to four continuous stages of entertainment for the entire family. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under. Entertaining in the newly remodeled Emerald Room are The Larkin & Moran Brothers at 1:30 p.m.; Arranmore at 5:15 p.m.; The Dennehy School of Irish Dance at 7 p.m. and Siochan at 8 p.m. In the Tara Room is Kennedy's Kitchen at 1:30 p.m. and Larry Nugent and Martin Doyle at 5:45 p.m. In the Carraig Pub Gerard Haughey will perform at 1:30 p.m. and Mulligan Stew at 6:30 p.m. Lastly, in the Celtic Room will be children's entertainment.

St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17th, events include The St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for which tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in advance. Entertainment will be Velvet Green and a special show by The Cross Keys School of Irish Dance. Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch served at noon with music and dancing until 3 p.m. Also, Gaelic Park will host a St.

Patrick's Day Dinner and Show with Dave Coady. A family style dinner of corned beef and cabbage will be served at 7 p.m. Tickets for this dinner are \$40 and do require reservations.

Also on St. Patrick's Day, the Tara Room will hold children's entertainment to begin at 1:30 p.m., at 3 p.m. the students from The Irish Music School of Chicago will play, Week Back will perform at 4:30 p.m.; The Lavin Cassidy School of Irish Dance at 8:15 p.m. and Pat Guinee will play at 8:30 p.m. A hot buffet will also be available for purchase beginning at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free for the St. Patrick's Day activities in the Carraig Pub and the Tara Room.

The Carraig Pub will be busy with Dan McGuinness at 3 p.m. and Gerard Haughey at 8 p.m. Every Thursday in the Carraig bring the whole family to a traditional Irish music session beginning at 7:30 with The Irish Music School of Chicago and instructors Sean Cleland, Pat Finnegan and their students friends and family. Also enjoy delicious fish at the Lenten Fish Fry every Friday.

Weekends at the Carraig Pub enjoy free entertainment beginning at 9:30 p.m. and Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. See their ad elsewhere in this paper for entertainment listing. 708 687-9323. www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

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Investment Ideas

By David Gaffney
of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Member SIPC



invaluable for avoiding family conflicts and possible court intervention should you become unable to make your own health care decisions.

Living will. A living will expresses your intentions regarding the use of life-sustaining measures in the event of a terminal illness. It expresses what you want but does not give anyone the authority to speak for you. Therefore, this document combined with a health care power of attorney is essential to express your intentions should you not be able to do so.

Revocable living trust. There are many different types of trusts with different purposes, each accomplishing a variety of goals. A revocable living trust is one type of trust often used in an estate plan. You can change a revocable trust's provisions at any time during your life and if you act as your own trustee, you continue to manage your investment and financial affairs. By transferring assets into a revocable trust, you can provide for continued management of your financial affairs during your lifetime, at your death, and even for generations to come. Your revocable living trust lets those

assets in the trust avoid probate and reduces the chance that your personal information will become part of public records.

Once you have executed the appropriate documents for your estate planning needs, you should review them periodically to make sure they remain current given any changes in your situation. Creating your estate plan may not be as overwhelming as you imagined. By working with a team of professionals, including your financial consultant, CPA and attorney, you can create a solid estate plan.

A.G. Edwards does not render tax or legal advice. Consult with your tax

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

This article was provided by A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Member SIPC.

The Five Most Important Estate Planning Documents

Most investors avoid estate planning because it usually involves unpleasant topics such as death, incapacity and taxes. But no matter your age or how much money you have, you need an estate plan to protect yourself, your family and your assets. Before preparing your estate plan, you should understand some of the key documents involved in the planning process.

Will. A will provides instructions for distributing your assets to your family and other beneficiaries upon your death and names a personal representative, or executor, to distribute these assets. Your attorney can customize its provisions to meet your needs and your stated wishes. If you have minor children, you can also designate a guardian for them.

To be effective, a will must be filed in probate court. The court oversees payment of liabilities and the distribution of assets and your personal representative will usually have to hire an attorney. Because a will does not take effect until you die, it cannot provide for management of your assets if you become incapacitated. Additional documents will be needed for incapacity issues.

Durable power of attorney. A power of attorney is a legal document in which you name another

person to act on your behalf. This person is called your agent or attorney-in-fact and can be given broad or limited management powers. It is important to keep in mind, you should choose this person carefully because he or she will generally be able to sell, invest and spend your assets.

A traditional power of attorney terminates upon your disability or death. However, a durable power of attorney will continue during a period of incapacity to ensure your affairs are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. A durable power of attorney will also terminate upon your death.

Health care power of attorney. A durable power of attorney for health care authorizes someone to make medical decisions for you in the event you are unable to do so yourself. This document can be



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March 17
14th Annual West Suburban Irish
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Passport Information You Can Use!

City Clerk Miguel del Valle reminds Chicago residents that the federal requirement to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air will begin on January 23, 2007.

"It's important for all Chicagoans to be aware of these new travel requirements and prepare accordingly," stated del Valle. "Under the new regulations, citizens will need to have a passport even when traveling by air to Canada and Mexico."

The new federal regulation is part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which requires all citizens to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality to enter or re-enter the United States from within the Western Hemisphere.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the passport requirement does not apply to

U.S. citizens traveling to or returning directly from a U.S. territory. U.S. citizens returning directly from a U.S. territory are not considered to have left the United States and do not need to present a passport. U.S. territories include the following: Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swains Island, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Adult passports are valid for 10 years. Regardless of whether a person is traveling abroad or to a U.S. territory, it's a good idea to have one," stated del Valle. "If you're planning to travel outside the U.S. you should begin the passport application process as soon as possible to avoid any delays or extra costs for expedited services."

Chicagoans seeking to apply for a new or updated U.S. Passport have several options:

β First Time Application for a U.S. Passport

To apply for a U.S. Passport for the first time, each applicant must appear in person at an official passport acceptance facility with proof of U.S. citizenship, two passport specific photos and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. Passport acceptance facilities in Chicago include: the Office of the City Clerk, the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and most U.S. Post offices. To find a passport acceptance facility near you, visit the City Clerk's website at www.chicityclerk.com for a direct link to the U.S. Department of State's passport facility search page.

β Renewal of a U.S. Passport

According to the U.S. Department of State, passport renewal applications must be mailed by the applicant themselves. Consequently, the City Clerk's office cannot process a passport renewal. However, you can obtain a passport renewal application at the Clerk's office.

You can renew by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change. For more information about renewing by mail visit the Clerk's website at www.chicityclerk.com for a direct link to the U.S. Department of State's website.

As an official U.S. Passport acceptance agency, City Clerk del Valle's office provides full passport services including expedited processing and passport photos. U.S. Passport services are available at the following City Clerk offices:

City Clerk Passport Program in City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., Room 100, Chicago, IL 60602

312-744-2020 Mon-Fri, 8-4 pm.

City Clerk Satellite Office

5301 S. Cicero Chicago, IL 60638, (312) 745-1100. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

U.S. Passport services are also available at the City Clerk's north side satellite office located at 5430 W. Gale Street.

Regular Processing (6-10 weeks)

Adults (Age 16 & older) \$67.00

Children (under 16) \$52.00

Expedited Processing (2 weeks)

Adults 16 & older \$127.00

Children (under 16) \$112.00

The passport fee must be in the form of a check or money order only. Cash or credit card will not be accepted for the passport fee. Make check payable to the U.S. Department of State. There is a separate \$30 execution fee that can be paid in cash, check or money order payable to the City Clerk.

For more information about accepted forms of ID, passport photo requirements and a link to the Passport section of the U.S. Department of State's website please visit the City Clerk online at www.chicityclerk.com. You may also call the Clerk's office at (312) 744-2020 for more information about the City Clerk's U.S. Passport Program.

Carefree Driving

Taking to the open road in a self-driven car has long been one of the special joys of travel in Ireland, although picking a place to stay can sometimes be daunting. Now CIE Tours offers a series of pre-booked self-drive vacations, priced from \$598 land-only for 8 days.

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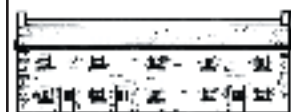
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Ireland on Parade at Gaelic Park

The legendary "Ireland on Parade" led by its well known leader, Mayo man, Martin Fahey, will present Ireland's song, dance and music with local and international Irish entertainers, the evenings of March 8 through 17, except

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donated by the well-known Gaffney Travel of Oak Lawn, with total donations to the heroic Medical Missionaries of Mary, will be announced on St. Patrick's night.

Started 40 years ago at Ford City by the maestro and Dean of Irish Radio programs in Chicago, Martin Fahey, and many other fine Irish entertainers like the late Tommy Masterson, Noel Gaffney, Marty Byrne and others, this unique program has found its ideal spot at Chicago's Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

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Master Piper Liam O'Flynn Wins 2007 TG4 Traditional Music Awards

World-renowned piper Liam O'Flynn heads the list as the recipient of the TG4 Gradam Ceoil (Traditional Music Awards) 2007 announced in Dublin recently. Kildare man O'Flynn has been a member of some of the most influential traditional music groups including Planxty and has also performed specially commissioned orchestral suites such as The Brendan Voyage to national and international acclaim. He is acknowledged as Ireland's foremost exponent of the uilleann pipes and has brought the music of the pipes to a world wide audience.

The award winners are: Gradam Ceoil - Liam O'Flynn, Ceoltóir Óg na bliana (Young) - Fiachna Ó Mongáin, Gradam Saoil (Hall of Fame) - Paddy Cronin, Cumadóir na bliana (Composer) - Jim McGrath, Amhránaí na Bliana (Singer) - Dara Bán Mac Donnchadha Gradam na gCeoltóirí (Musicians) - Ciarán Mac Mathúna

An independent Panel of Adjudicators selects recipients of the TG4 Gradam Ceoil. Kildare man Liam O'Flynn has been a member of some of the most influential traditional music groups including Planxty and has also performed

specially commissioned orchestral suites such as The Brendan Voyage to national and international acclaim. The awards will be presented at a televised Gala Awards Ceremony and Concert that will take place in the Cork Opera House on Easter Sunday 8th April where the winners will be joined by a host of special guests. These include Liam O'Flynn, Sean Keane, Paddy Glackin, Arty McGlynn & Rod McVey, Paul Brady, Danú, The West Ocean String Quartet, Jim McGrath & Pat McManus, Paddy Cronin, Jackie Daly & Donal O'Connor, Dara Bán Mac Donnchadha, Fiachna Ó Mongáin & family and Kevin Corbett.

Ceannasaí TG4, Pól Ó Gallchóir says that the Gradam Ceoil is the firmly established awards scheme for traditional music. "This year we celebrate the 10th



Ciarán Mac Mathúna and Liam O'Flynn



Paddy Cronin

year of the Gradam Ceoil and the roll of honour of recipients over the past decade is indeed a veritable who's who of great musicians. Our sponsorship of this great project is another aspect of our role as the television home of traditional music, with a combination of lively session programmes from the hearth of the tradition, archive programmes and informative and illuminating documentaries on the music and those who made or make it."

The concert on Easter Sunday in the Cork Opera House will be broadcast on TG4 the following night 9.30pm and it may be viewed worldwide on www.tg4.tv.

Micheál Molloy Benefit

A benefit is being held for Micheál Molloy, a native of Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo, Ireland. When Micheál was in his twenties, he began to suffer from a severe form of arthritis known as Ankylosing Spondylitis. This condition cause severe pain, restriction of movement and eventually led to both of Micheál's hips being replaced. In September 2005, Micheál had an accidental fall. He sustained a C5 spinal cord injury. He is paralyzed from the shoulders down. He has endured many complications and remains hospitalized. The monies raised from this benefit will defray Micheál's current and life-long expenses.

The benefit will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, on Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 4:00pm until midnight. Donations are voluntary at the door. Food, music and entertainment will be provided, as well as a silent auction.

The Micheál Molloy Benefit Trust Committee is requesting donations to help make the silent auction a success. Suggested items that have worked well in previous silent auctions include: empty baskets or large decorative containers; decorations/stuffing for baskets, i.e., ribbon, tissue paper, cello wrap; gift baskets, gift certifications, gift cards; items to fill baskets (toys, wine, bath or food products, etc.); Irish items (i.e., Irish linen or lace, Waterford crystal, Belleek, etc.); carpenter, electrician, cook, etc. (donation of day's work); and sports memorabilia.

Donations can also be made directly to State Bank of Countryside, 6734 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois 60525. Attention: Renee Sannes. Checks should be made payable to: Micheál Molloy Benefit Trust.

For further information, visit www.michealmolloy.com.



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