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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

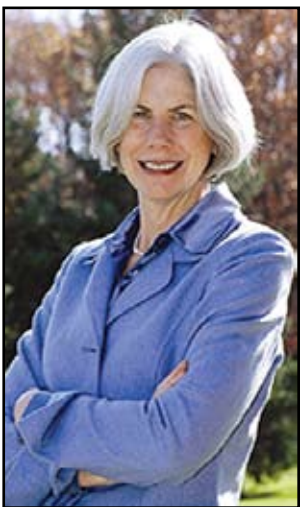
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Picture of Grace: A Sunny Day in Sligo



The beauty of the Irish landscape, in this case, Glencar Lough in Sligo at the Leitrim border, jumps off the page in this photograph by Carsten Krieger, an image taken from her new book, "The West of Ireland." *Photo courtesy Man-made Images, Donegal.*

In Charge at the BPL



Amy Ryan is the multi-tasking president of the venerable Boston Public Library — the first woman president in the institution's 151-year history — and she has set a course for the library to serve the educational and cultural needs of Boston and provide access to some of the world's most historic records, all in an economy of dramatic budget cuts and a significant rise in library use.

Greg O'Brien profile, Page 6

Nine Miles of Irishness



On Old Cape Cod, the nine-mile stretch along Route 28 from Hyannis to Harwich is fast becoming more like Galway or Kerry than the Cape of legend from years ago. This high-traffic run of roadway is dominated by Irish flags, Irish pubs, Irish restaurants, Irish hotels, and one of the fastest-growing private Irish clubs in America.

BIR columnist Joe Leary checks it out. Page 12.

Madame President and Mr. Mayor



Ireland President Mary McAleese visited Boston last month and was welcomed to the city by Boston Mayor Tom Menino. Also pictured at the May 26 Parkman House event were the president's husband, Dr. Martin McAleese, and the mayor's wife Angela Menino. The president maintained a busy schedule during her visit, including receiving the Solas award from the Irish Immigration Center. The BIR will have extensive coverage in our next issue. *Photo courtesy Boston Mayor's office.*

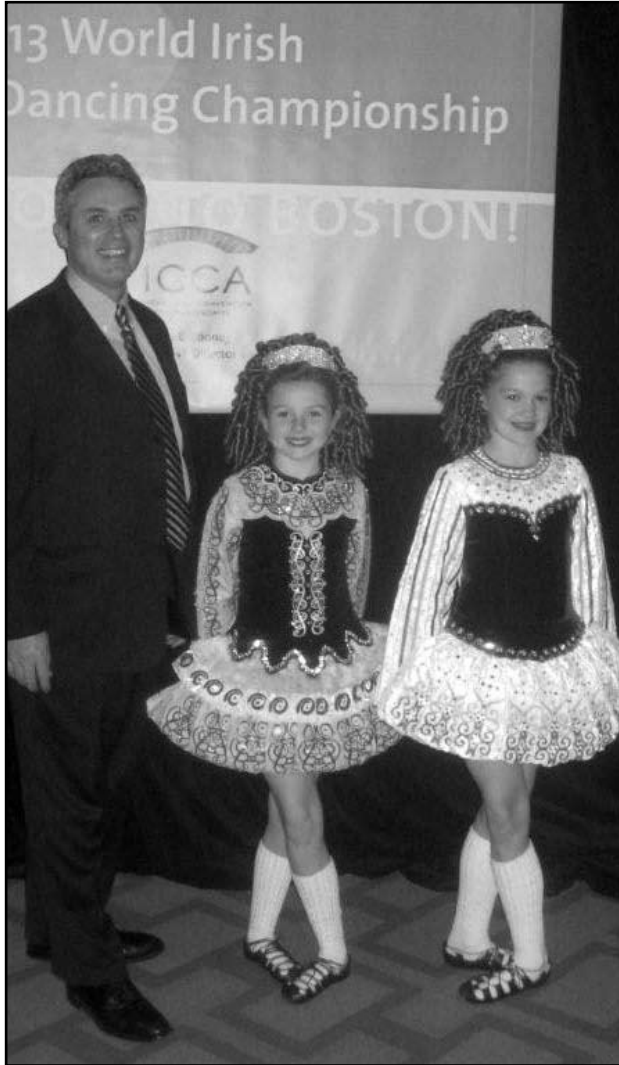
Irish Dancing Championships Are Coming to Boston in 2013

An Coimisiún le Rinci Gaelacha (The Irish Dancing Commission) has awarded Boston, and the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the 2013 World Irish Dancing Championships. Boston won the event in competition with more than 20 other cities around the world.

This will be the second time for these championships in the United States, and the first in Boston. Glasgow, Scotland, Dublin, and Belfast are hosting the event through 2012.

"We're so pleased to be bringing this unique event to Boston," said James E. Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, which owns and operates the Hynes. "We were in competition with Chicago and other big cities, and we won based on our award-winning facilities, our top-tier service and – we admit it – being the most Irish city in America. We can't wait until 2013."

"Ireland has a long association with Boston, and the strength of Irish dancing in the city and its environs is a very tangible illustration of its bond with Ireland," said An Coimisiún le Rinci Gaelacha spokesman Seamus O'Se. "One could almost say that, as far as the decision on a venue 2013 World Championships was concerned, this was a one-horse race. We are looking forward to working closely with the people of Boston over the next four years to make this the greatest Irish Dancing



Mary Rose McKenna, 11, of South Boston, James E. Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, and Delia Doherty, 11, of South Boston, pose in front of a banner welcoming the 2013 World Irish Dancing Championships to Boston

event ever".

"As a father of four Irish Step dancers, I can fully appreciate the level of excitement with

Boston being chosen as host to this world class competition," said Massachusetts state Sen. Jack Hart. "Young dancers

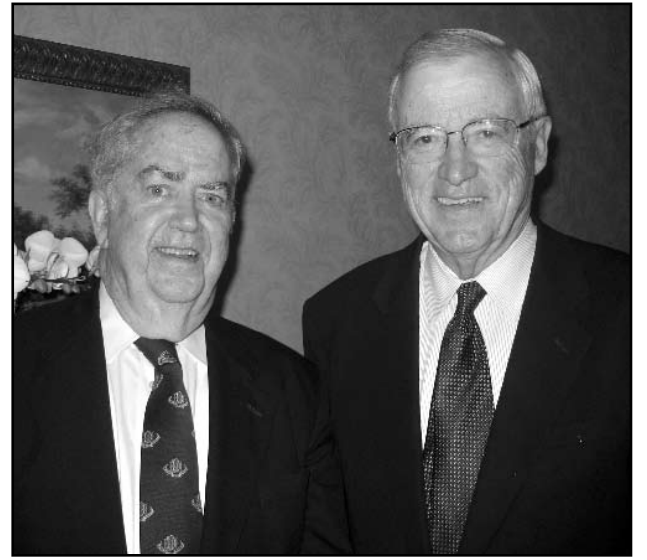
from all over the globe must qualify to participate in this event. I welcome these dancers to our great City of Boston."

The event will bring more than 6,500 competitors and their families to Boston. Teams from Ireland, Great Brit-

ain, Europe, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand are expected to attend the eight-day competition, which will start on March 24, 2013. The event is expected to generate 17,800 hotel room nights in Boston and an estimated \$11 million in economic impact to the city and Commonwealth.

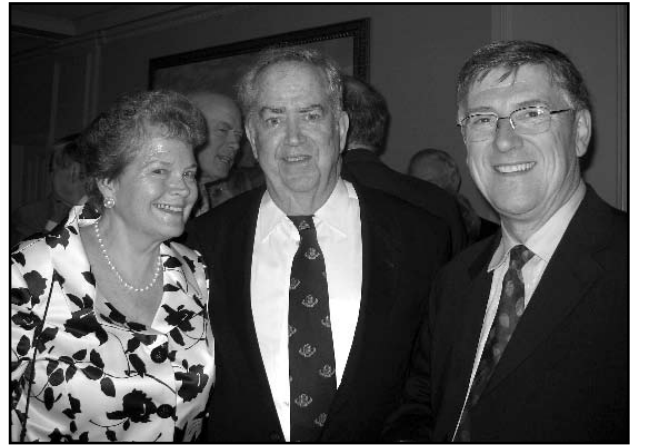
"We are honored that Boston was chosen," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "This event will not only bring together Boston and Ireland once again, but will also showcase our talented cultures in a new way through dance."

Dancers will compete in age-grouped solo competitions from under 11 years old up to senior level, which is for dancers over 21 years old. The program of events will also include Ceili and Figure Dance competitions as well as Dance Drama. Separate competitions are organized for male and female competitors in solo events. Team competitions have sections for mixed and unisex teams. Philadelphia hosted the 2009 championship and venues were packed throughout the week.



EIRE SOCIETY CITES TWO WITH GOLD MEDALS

The Eire Society of Boston presented its Gold Medal Awards to two recipients, Michael Donlan and John Culliane, above, at its annual banquet at the Omni Parker House on May 7. Below, Susan and Michael Donlan share a picture with Irish Consul David Barry. Photos courtesy Karen Thornton.



Jurys Boston is Now The Back Bay Hotel

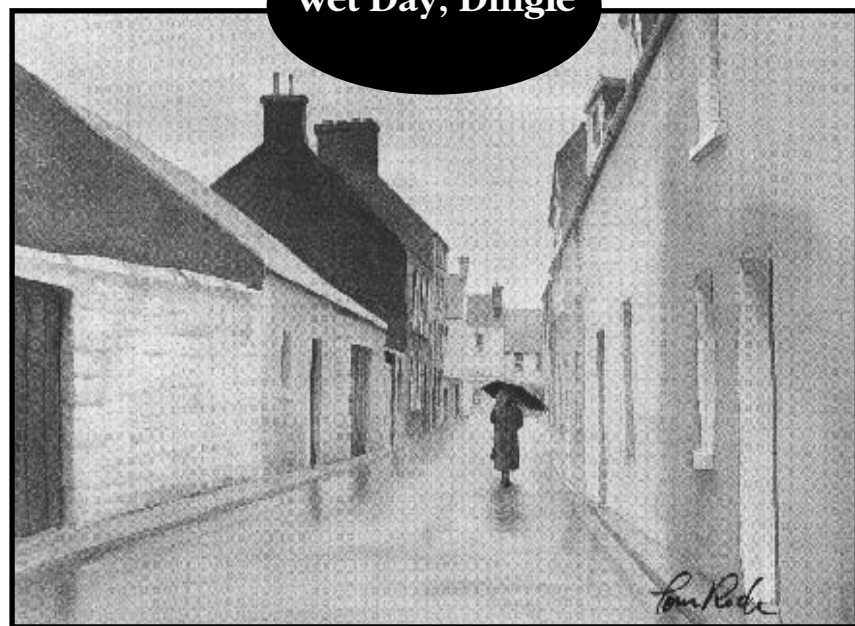
The Doyle Collection, a group of urban hotels based in Dublin, is celebrating five years in the Back Bay with new signage and design—and a new name: The Back Bay Hotel. After converting the historic Boston Police Headquarters building into a contemporary destination, the Doyle Group opened the Jurys Boston Hotel in June 2004 with 225 guest rooms, and home to five meeting rooms, the Stanhope Grille

restaurant, and Cuffs, An Irish Bar.

Said hotel general manager Stephen Johnston: "The Back Bay Hotel's new name is a celebration of our roots becoming firmly planted in the Back Bay neighborhood, the evolving tastes of our guests, and a vote of confidence in the Boston business community. We are proud to have struck a chord with our guests, who enjoy the blend of classic details, Irish Boston heritage,

and modern interpretation, all in harmony with the Back Bay's charm."

Based in Dublin, The Doyle Collection – formerly known as the Jurys Doyle Hotel Group – is a privately-held hotel group managing eleven luxury hotels spanning six major urban centers in the U.S., Ireland, and the UK, representing 2,300 rooms and approximately 1,400 employees.



Lithograph from original watercolor by Dublin artist Tom Roche - each signed individually, Matted and framed in gold wood 12" x 14" \$75.00.

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Jack Shaughnessy Sr. accepts his honorary degree at the Stonehill College Commencement on May 17. Stonehill College photo.

Stonehill Hails Shaughnessy

Stonehill College has awarded business innovator, Boston community leader, and philanthropist Jack Shaughnessy Sr. a Doctor of Business Administration degree "for his role in the development of Boston and his dedication to service."

The honoree was cited at Stonehill's 58th Commencement, held on Sun., May 17, for its 568 graduates listened closely to several inspiring speeches.

Shaughnessy, who used his entire life savings to purchase the first

hydraulic crane in the city of Boston, went on to create Shaughnessy Crane Service, Inc. The recipient of numerous charitable awards, he is widely recognized and respected for his work as a humanitarian.

Around Town: The Irish Beat / Carol Beggy

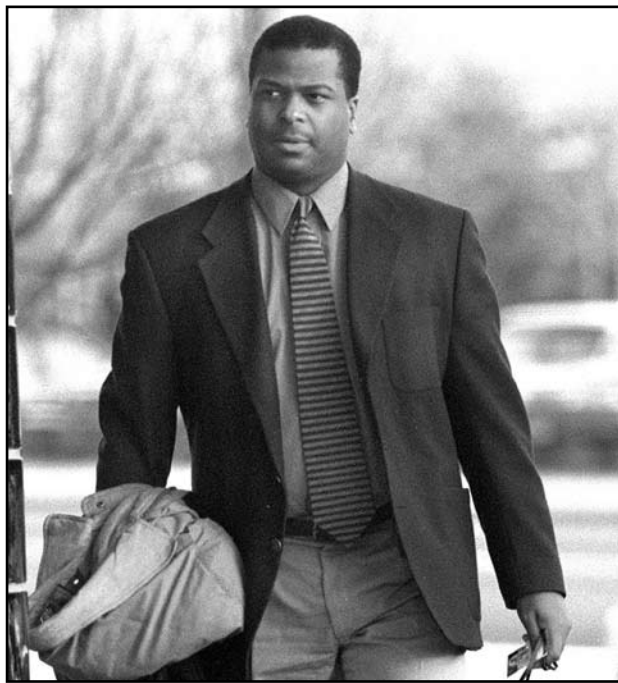
Boston author-professor **Dick Lehr** is a very busy man these days and he seems happy to be so. His latest book, "The Fence: A Police Cover-up Along Boston's Racial Divide," is just arriving in stores and he's already received a starred review (a very big deal) in Publishers Weekly.

"This is where it begins, and I'm looking forward to getting out there and seeing how people respond to this story," Lehr told us from his offices at Boston University where he teaches journalism. Still, he'll admit when pressed, his favorite part of process is when he's knee-deep in the reporting of a story, sifting through documents and interviews to piece together a more complete version of what really happened. "With 'The Fence' and the others, most readers know something about the story, so you have to go beyond what's already out there and figure out if what's out there is actually true."

"The Fence" is a true-life story of what lead up to and the aftermath of a night in 1995 when African-American Boston Police officer named **Michael Cox** was mistaken for a murder suspect by his fellow police officers. It's also the story of an Irish-American officer, **Kenny Conley**, who was chasing down one of the actual suspects while Cox was being brutally beaten by other officers. While the formerly reserved Cox was recovering from his severe injuries and Conley had returned to his job in the South End, neither man could see how they would be dragged into one of the more tragic scandals to hit the Boston Police Department.

"It's not an easy story for anyone to look at, and you can see that even those in the middle of what was going on couldn't see what was happening to them," Lehr said. "There isn't a person in this book who is the same at the end as they were in the beginning."

Like the movie "Rashomon," the book tells the same story from many perspectives, only instead of a camera,



Michael Cox, above, and Kenny Conley, at right, were Boston Police officers in action on a cold night in January 1995 when a chase after a murder suspect turned ugly as fellow officers began beating on Cox, who they believed to be a drug suspect. The silence of various participants in the aftermath of the mistaken assault was a scandal for the Police Department and the city.



Lehr uses the intrepid reporter's tools of hours of interviews, days of walking the streets looking for details, and poring over countless documents to search for a complete account of Cox's beating, the ensuing cover-up and fallout. As the book jacket proclaims: "Both men had dedicated their lives to serving the Boston Police Department, and when they needed the BPD to stand up for them, they both came up against the infamous blue wall of silence."

"The Fence" is already getting great reviews and includes jacket blurbs from some of the city's key observers including one from Los Angeles Police Chief **Bill Bratton**, a Boston native who previously ran the MDC's, the city's, and the T's police departments as well as New York City's: "Like cancers that never seem to be cured, the inextricably linked ills of racism, public corruption and police misconduct continue to surface in Boston (and indeed in America). In his disturbing new book, Dick Lehr vividly presents another example of how difficult it is to face up to, let alone resolve, these conflicts." Others quoted include bestselling novelist **Dennis Lehane**, and Harvard Law professors **Alan Dershowitz** and **Charles Ogletree**.

A former investigative reporter for The Boston Globe, Lehr is the co-author of "Judgement Ridge" and the New York Times bestseller "Black Mass," which he wrote with former Globe writer and editor **Gerard O'Neill**. (The big screen version of "Black Mass," the story of **James "Whitey" Bulger**, his brother **William Bulger**, and former FBI agent **John Connolly**, is in pre-production in the Boston area and famed Irish writer/director **Jim Sheridan**, of "My Left Foot" and "In America," has scouted locations in the area.)

But Lehr isn't letting the Hollywood shine change his life. "I'm just glad to see that 'Black Mass' will finally get its due," Lehr said, "but no, I don't even know if I'll get to visit the set. I'm not expecting that will change my life greatly." Lehr is kicking off a season of public appearances with a June 23 event at the Boston Public Library. For more information on his projects or public appearances for "The Fence," see dicklehr.com.

When it came time to select the first young doctor for the **Thomas S. Durant** Fellowship for Refugee Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, the selection committee knew they had someone special in **Dr. Kristian Olson**. Now, Scientific American has validated that choice for the whole country, naming Olson as one of the "Scientific American 10," a list of researchers, politicians, business execs, and philanthropists who have worked to making sure that new technologies will benefit everyone. He is joined on the list by **President Obama**.

Olson is the program leader for the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology in Boston, which provides low-cost resuscitators and incubators to the developing world to save the lives of newborns. The 38-year-old pediatrician and internist was the first doctor to receive the Durant fellowship at MGH, named for the late Dorchester resident and MGH physician who visited more than two dozen refugee camps during his 33 years as a doctor.

Olson told Scientific American that several years ago, after his wife had given birth to triplets after a difficult labor, Olson realized that not every newborn has the

same chances for survival. "That understanding made Olson an even more ardent champion of deploying simple and inexpensive technologies that will enable newborns to survive outside the protective shelter of high-tech medical centers," **Gary Stix** wrote in the June Scientific American.

Dr. Durant's son, **Stephen**, a clinical psychologist at MGH and co-director of the MGH Sport Psychology Program, was effusive in his praise for Olson and his achievements. In a congratulatory e-mail to him, Durant wrote: "My dad would absolutely jump for joy over this, Kris. It IS the medical equivalent of winning the rugby championship! It is so perfect and so much what Doc as about. Coming up with practical solutions that respect and empower those needing the help, so that they can do it themselves. We could not have picked a better first Durant Fellow. I am proud of you."

Donations to the program can be made to the Dr. Thomas S. Durant Fellowship, Massachusetts General Hospital, 55 Fruit St., White 1003, Boston, Mass., 02114, Attn: Danica Mari.

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After a few years of director and actor changes and financial uncertainty, it looks like "The Fighter," Paramount Pictures' movie about Lowell boxing champ "Irish" **Micky Ward** is actually going to be filmed. And it looks like director **David O. Russell** and his team will be spending a lot of time in Lowell. Despite the uncertainty, one thing has remained consistent: Dorchester's **Mark Wahlberg**, who has reportedly been in serious training for almost three years to portray the former welterweight champ.

It looks like Wahlberg will be joined on screen by **Christian Bale**, whose recent roles include Batman in "The Dark Knight" and John Connor in "Terminator Salvation." Bale is slated to play **Dicky Eklund**, Ward's half-brother, a boxer who became Ward's trainer. (Previously both **Matt Damon** and **Brad Pitt** had been in talks to play Eklund.) Also in talks to join "The Fighter" is **Melissa Leo**, who was nominated for an Oscar this year for "Frozen River." She was in Boston last year filming "Don McKay," with **Elisabeth Shue** and was in **Brad Gann's** 2007 Boston-set drama "Black Irish." Boston Casting has begun casting the extras who will be needed; filming is scheduled to begin by July.



Former Irish Prime Minister **Dr. Garret FitzGerald**, above at left, an internationally respected scholar and journalist, spoke recently at the "Summit on the Future of Vermont" at the University of Vermont's Burlington campus. FitzGerald, who is known as much for his fast-talking, quick-witted speaking style, served two terms as Prime Minister and was previously the country's Minister for Foreign Affairs. Long one of Ireland's most popular politicians, FitzGerald is a much sought after speaker and has spoken on campuses throughout the United States. Also attending the forum on the future of the Green Mountain state was **Jim Brett**, president and CEO of the New England Council, shown at right.



David O'Shaughnessy has some pretty large shoes to fill as he replaces **John E. Drew** as the CEO of The Drew Co., the Boston-based real estate development and management company that built the World Trade Center and the 426-room Seaport Hotel in South Boston. O'Shaughnessy is shown at right with **Jim Carmody**, general manager of the South Boston hotel.

Boston Irish Reporter's Calendar

If your club or organization has an item or event for the Boston Irish Reporter calendar, send the necessary details to calendar@BostonIrish.com and please include a daytime contact name and telephone number.

June 7 – Irish Music Session, Canadian American Hall 202 Arlington Street, Watertown 3-7 p.m. \$8. 781-899-0911, www.cceboston.org. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann holds its regular session on the first Sunday of the month. All musicians are welcome to participate.

June 12-14 – Worcester Irish Music Festival – WIN TIX! Hibernian Cultural Centre & Fiddlers' Green, 19 Temple Street, Worcester. worcesteririshmusicfestival.com. Plenty of great music and dancing, cultural activities, food courts and family fun.

June 20 – John Boyle O'Reilly Commemoration

at Holyhood Cemetery, Brookline, Frank Ford: 978-686-5214. massaoh.org. The annual commemoration, which is sponsored by the Mass State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, will begin with the offering of Mass by Rt. Rev. Liam Waters, OSA Chaplain, Division 8 AOH Lawrence. Dr. Joseph Downs, Mass State Historian of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, will deliver the oration. Refreshments served at the Watertown AOH Hall.

July 25 – 7th annual Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival, Indian Ranch Performance Center, 200 Gore Road, Webster, MA. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15 in

advance, \$20 at gate. Children and seniors, \$10 in advance (8-16 yrs.), \$12 at gate. Kids are free. 1-800-841-0919. blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com A great one-day festival packed with top bands, step dancers, competitions and vendors, all in a beautiful setting. Free Parking. Shuttle bus \$2, and encouraged please.

July 30 – Sir James Galway in concert, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox. \$17 - \$51; 8 p.m. 1-888-266-1200; bso.org. Celebrating his 70th birthday, Sir James Galway will perform with his wife, the flutist Lady Jean Galway, and pianist Phillip Moll.

Publisher's Notebook

President McAleese Stops by the Hub

By ED FORRY

Ireland President Marty McAleese was in Boston in May, visiting the city for three days after a trip to western Massachusetts where she was commencement speaker and an honorary degree recipient at Mt. Holyoke College.

In the state capital, McAleese and her husband, Dr. Martin McAleese, were welcomed at a Parkman House ceremony by Mayor Thomas Menino and his wife Angela. The official party posed for photos with invited guests, and afterwards the Irish president chatted over coffee, pastry, and fresh fruit.

McAleese is in the fifth year of her second seven-year term as president. She said she had come to the elective office after a career in law, and expects to step down in 2011, due to a statutory two-term limit.

Although born and brought up in the North, she and her husband have lived in Dublin since she first took office in 1997. Born Mary Lenaghan, she said her dad was from Roscommon. "We sold our home in Belfast four years ago, and built a new home in Roscommon, next to my father's home," she told guests.

She said her husband, a dentist with a specialty in orthodontics, plans to return to his work in Honduras in central America. Dr. McAleese is also quite an athlete: As a Gaelic footballer, he won an Antrim Senior Championship medal in 1973, and he has completed three marathons, including Berlin, London and Virginia Beach.

Most of the President's visit to Boston took place after the BIR's press deadline; we'll have more complete coverage in our July issue.

Volvo Boats Stir Attention

Also last month, in Boston Harbor, seven world-class "extreme sailing" boats lay in port for more than two weeks on a stopover of the Volvo Ocean Race, one of the world's most formidable "extreme" nautical adventures. Spanning 37,000 nautical miles and more than 2,600 hours of "extreme sailing," the around-the-world ocean marathon began last October in Alicante, Spain, and will conclude in St. Petersburg, Russia, later this month. Prior to the first boat's arrival in Boston on April 26, the sailers visited Capetown, South Africa, Kochi, India, Singapore, Qingdao, China, and Rio de Janeiro. Other stopovers include the current Galway, Ireland, then Marstrand and Stockholm in Sweden, a return to Alicante, and the finish in St. Petersburg.

The Boston home base was Joe Fallon's Fan Pier on the South Boston waterfront, and the local favorite was the Green Dragon, sponsored in part by Tourism Ireland. The Green Dragon team was greeted by local well-wishers who came out to see the Dragon into port, and also by Maurice Keller from Good Food Ireland, who presented the crew with a well-deserved Green Dragon Buttie; an organic Irish fillet of beef, topped with sea salt, West Cork Country relish, and freshly baked bread! On the day of departure, Sat., May 16, a flotilla of local boats, large and small, were scattered about the harbor to watch the beginning of the race to Galway. We were fortunate to be aboard a ferry boat hosted by Tourism Ireland that day, and watched as a cold fog slowly enveloped the tops of the downtown buildings, and eventually most of the harbor. By the time the boats began the race, visibility was reduced to several hundred feet, making it difficult for viewing from the shore, including crowded vantage points at Fan Pier and at Castle Island. A feature of the local event was a three-day Irish Festival that was free and open to the public. One performing group really stood out: "Trad on the Prom," a Galway-based performing troupe featuring Máirín Fahy and Band, made multiple performances before increasingly enthusiastic crowds. Billed as "The Number One show in Ireland, a spectacular celebration of Irish music, song and dance," Trad on the Prom more than lived up to its billing. The group is booked to play all summer long on the strand in Galway. If you're headed there this summer, don't miss them!

Commentary

Use Northern Ireland Peace Process To Guide Mideast Talks, Says Cullinane

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Having seen peace take hold in Northern Ireland, John Cullinane, who was involved in job-creation and in the peace process in the North, believes that Northern Ireland can serve as a road map for those seeking peace in the ever-fragile, ever-volatile Middle East.



Robert P. Connolly

"Northern Ireland represents for me an excellent model for peace in the Middle East. It's not perfect, but where else in the world did anyone resolve the kind of problems that were resolved in Northern Ireland," asks Cullinane, who has joined with others to try to distill and identify those aspects of the

Northern Ireland model that could be transportable and effective.

The first major step is in selecting a "friendly interventionist" for the Middle East, Cullinane says.

In Northern Ireland, the friendly interventionist was President Bill Clinton, who stood alongside the Irish and British governments and used the power and allure of the White House to nudge Northern Ireland's political leaders down the path that eventually led to the Good Friday peace agreement.

In the Middle East, Cullinane says, "President Obama is going to have to carry the ball, but he has with him Hillary Clinton, George Mitchell, and Jim Steinberg, all of whom were involved in Northern Ireland." Mitchell, the former Senate majority leader who served as the peace talks mediator in the Northern Ireland process, has been appointed as the U.S. peace envoy to the Middle East.

"Interestingly enough, in Northern Ireland, the English and others proved they couldn't solve it themselves and that's why they needed a friendly interventionist, and Clinton was that person and America was that force. Clinton resolved England's terrorist problem when they couldn't do it themselves, despite their vociferous objections. That's what we've got to do for the Middle East."

Cullinane, the software industry pioneer, philanthropist, and local businessman, says a second major step involves defining a vocabulary for talking about a solution to the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Commentary

At-large Contenders Are Running the Real City Council Race

By JIM O'SULLIVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Asporting equivalent of Mayor Thomas Menino's poll numbers reported May 10 in The Boston Globe would perhaps be sitting in the audience of a heavyweight fight watching the reigning champ flex and shadowbox, then realizing that you're the one due in the ring.

The once-in-a-century numbers appear to put Menino, for the moment, virtually out of reach. It's a long summer and it could be a nasty autumn and fall, but for the time being City Councillor Michael Flaherty (who falls to Menino, 61-23, in the poll), Councillor Sam Yoon (a 63-21 loser), and entrepreneur Kevin McCrea (70 to 7) had better get creative or resign themselves to being "opponents."

The Flaherty troops are rattled, but argue that he can rough up the mayor with a tight message and a disciplined ground game, saying Menino's consistently muscular poll numbers don't reflect the level of disgruntlement with the prospect of electing a mayor to a 20th year in office. And Yoon's camp says their guy could catch fire.

Perhaps. But for right now the best campaign in Boston (other than the Patrick v. Legislature tilt unfolding acrimoniously up on the Hill) is the race for the four at-large City Council seats. It's the most interesting field in recent memory. The 2005 roster was a good one: Flaherty, Felix Arroyo the first, Yoon, Steve Murphy, state government legacy John Connolly, mayoral daughter Patricia White, and mayoral son Ed Flynn.

This one's better. Incumbents Connolly and Murphy are both on the ballot. Arroyo's son, of the same first name, is running. Ego Ezedi, who put 20-year district Councillor Charles Yancey through a stern test in 2003, is running. A former top Kerry aide, Ayanna Pressley, and a Patrick aide, the inimitably named Tito Jackson (who's going to scoop up votes on name alone), and a former Romney aide, Robert Fortes, are running. A former senior Menino aide, Tomas Gonzalez, and former Flaherty and Maura Hennigan aide, Andrew Kenneally, are in, too.

A guy who cut his teeth in politics by running as a Nantucket Republican, Doug Bennett, put on an im-

To that end, Cullinane has helped to develop six key concepts that can guide and inform a peace process in the Middle East.

Those key concepts are Hope, as in providing people with a vision of a peaceful future; Leverage, in the sense that an intermediary needs to have influence with the parties; Participation, making sure that people on all sides have the chance to vote on a plan; Livelihood, making clear that a solution will yield economic benefits or a "peace dividend;" Self-Determination, ensuring that all parties can count on having legitimate political power, and Leadership, meaning that circumstances are created so that political leaders on the ground can feel comfortable in advocating for new arrangements.

"Look at the Friendly Interventionist model and the six key points. That's the solution and that's what King Abdullah (of Jordan) has said is a brilliant way forward," Cullinane notes.

The six points, which flow from a message-distillation process Cullinane created after founding Cullinet Software Inc. in the late 1960s, evoke much of what was discussed as the peace process unfolded in Northern Ireland.

Certainly, there was much discussion in the North of the hope for something better than three decades of conflict, of the economic benefits that would and did follow a settlement, and for voters on both sides of the Irish border being able to bless the outcome. "If it can be done in Northern Ireland, it can be done anywhere, and this is the kind of new thinking that you need in the Middle East," says Cullinane, who is part of a larger effort that includes leaders from the American Jewish community and Palestinian leaders as well.

A key concept that has to be imported from the Northern Ireland peace process is allowing all parties to have seats at the table.

"In the Middle East, we hear, 'We can't talk to Hamas unless they meet these conditions' and that's exactly analogous to Northern Ireland, where the unionists would say: 'We can't talk to the IRA-Sinn Fein until the IRA gives up their weapons.' And, you know they're not going to do that. So people who don't want to talk set up these impossible hurdles for the other side to jump over, but you really can't allow that to happen.

Says Cullinane: "What happened in Northern Ireland wasn't going to impact America very much but what happens in the Middle East definitely does -- and has. Our children and grandchildren have a big stake in this. The No. 1 problem in the world is the Palestinian-Israeli problem, and they can't solve it themselves."

pressive signature-gathering blitz. There are, among others, Hiep Nguyen, Sean Ryan, and Jean Claude Sanon.

Past fields have featured candidates whose sole hopes for survival past the September preliminary to the November general were exciting one or another bloc of voters -- usually ethnically based, but also tailored to interest groups. This year, to crank any of the serious voter bases into action, all the reckonable candidates will have to compete with demographically similar rivals.

So they'll need to carve across the traditional voter indexes. One of the oft-forgotten brocards of the electoral politics behind the city's four at-large seats is that voters get four votes -- count 'em -- to cast. They can use four or zero, but you could have a ballot that hit up four different demographic groups, or just one. Either way, candidates know they have to broaden their appeals.

Because of the four-vote quirk on the at-large ballot, candidates "drafting" behind one another have permitted individual campaigns to focus on these narrow voter caches -- not always confined to ethnicity and often involving the even less easily veiled appeals to labor unions -- in the hope that a top-heavy field meant less competition for those "hmmmm okay," leftover votes. This year's ballot runs too deep for that.

This is what Boston politics looks like after the long, excruciating throes of the development of the heavily hackneyed "New Boston." (Please, pray the political masses to the departed soul of James Kelly, please let the field this year not try to out-"New Boston" each other.) First the test of the modern Boston pol was the ability to excite a previously flaccid ethnic bloc (or, if you happened to be Irish or Italian, one that had been active already), and now the test is -- or should be -- to find another way. Yes, tend your backyard, but the way to win is to follow the threads through the neighborhoods and past the traditional tribal borders.

If the press and political activists grow bored with a mayor's race already threatening to be a blowout, the at-large race could provide an undercard that will feed the electoral jones for that dwindling number of Bostonians who still feel it.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Child Abuse Report Jolts Church, State, Media

Compensation Remains Large Issue

BY LIAM FERRIE
THE IRISH EMIGRANT

GALWAY -- After listening to the testimony of victims and others for some eight years, the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse published its report on Wed., May 20, and since then the issue has totally dominated all sections of Irish media. The report delivered a damning indictment of the religious orders for their management, in the middle decades of the last century, of industrial schools, reformatories, and other institutions caring for children.

The seven-person commission, chaired by Justice Seán Ryan, was established in 2000 to look at what happened in the relevant institutions from 1936 to the present day, but in effect found itself focusing on the period between 1936 and 1970. Most of the institutions in question were run by the Catholic Church although the State had ultimate responsibility.

The report found that "sexual abuse was endemic in boys' institutions" and that the children in most institutions lived in a "climate of fear." The Department of Education was also severely criticized for failing to properly inspect the institutions and for its "deferential and submissive attitude" towards the religious congregations.

Violence against the children in the institutions

was widespread and was often inflicted gratuitously rather than to maintain discipline. Even for the norms of the period the violence was extreme. Sexual abuse was a feature of all the institutions in which boys were detained although there were often only one or two perpetrators in an institution at any given time. The problems were exacerbated as the boys who complained were frequently punished and when an abuser was identified, little action was taken. It was usual for the abuser to be sent to another institution where the behavior would continue.

Although given a pseudonym in the report, the case of former Christian Brother Dónal Dunne was frequently recounted in the media. He was, according to the report, "a serial sexual and physical abuser" who "taught children in the primary and secondary school sector in Ireland for 40 years. He was eventually convicted of sexual abuse in the 1980s."

In the executive summary the report states, "He began his career as a Christian Brother and after three separate incidents of sexual abuse of boys, he was granted dispensation from his vows. This chapter (14) goes on to describe this man's progress through six different schools where he physically terrorized and sexually abused children in his classroom. At various times during his career, parents attempted

to challenge his behavior but he was persistently protected by diocesan and school authorities and moved from school to school. Complaints to the Department of Education were ignored."

This case was used to illustrate "the ease with which sexual predators could operate within the educational system of the State without fear of disclosure or sanction." Media reports went on to say that one of Dunne's victims went on to become a teacher and, when in 1982 he found that Dunne was still teaching, he went to the Department of Education in an effort to have him removed from his post. Even at that stage it was the victim who was regarded as the troublemaker and the Department went out of its way to find reasons to avoid taking action against Dunne.

Although much of the violence and sexual abuse was perpetrated by priests and brothers, many complainants accused lay staff and older boys within the institutions of similar behavior.

How the children came to be in the institutions was also a major issue. Being born out of wedlock, having one parent die, and school truancy were among the reasons used to commit children to an institution.

While more than 1,000 people recounted abusive experiences to the Commission, 284 spoke of acts of kindness by both religious and lay staff.

By the next afternoon the focus of the debate on the report had shifted from the victims to who should be responsible for compensating them. Ten years ago the Government and the religious orders reached agreement that the latter would contribute a total of 127-million euro towards a compensation fund for the victims of abuse at religious-run institutions. It is now estimated that this will be little more than 10 percent of the total cost and Opposition politicians are demanding that the Government reopen negotiations with the religious orders.

The Conference of Religious in Ireland indicated that none of the congregations involved had any plans to renegotiate the deal. A spokesperson for the Christian Brothers made it clear that this was not an option as the order had no appreciable assets left. All the schools and playing fields that the order had owned have been handed over to a lay trust that was now managing them for the benefit of the community.

The clamor to have the deal renegotiated may be related to the forthcoming elections. There is no political capital to be gained from a report on events of 40 years ago. However, if it is linked to an event of ten years ago, fingers can be pointed at current politicians.

Over the past ten years the Residential Institutions Redress Board has been dealing with applications for compensation and has paid out a total of 787-million euro to 12,436 applicants. A further 1,394 applications have still to be finalized. In addition to the compensation, lawyers have been paid a total of 138.5-million euro to date. (The report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse is available online at childabusecommission.ie.)

Cardinal Brady Offers
Apologies and Sympathy

There were many expressions of regret and sorrow from religious leaders and others in authority following the publication of the report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse. Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, was among the first to comment. The report, he said, "throws light on a dark period of the past" and "makes it clear that great wrong and hurt were caused to some of the most vulnerable children in our society. It documents a shameful catalogue of cruelty: neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, perpetrated against children. I am profoundly sorry and deeply ashamed that children suffered in such awful ways in these institutions. Children deserved better and especially from those caring for them in the name of Jesus Christ."

The Cardinal hoped that the publication of the report would "help to heal the hurts of victims and to address the wrongs of the past."

Commentary

Election Upheaval Is Expected in Ireland; Economic Woes Blamed on Political Leaders

BY JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Despite the worldwide nature of the economic recession, Irish voters are charging their own political leaders with the responsibility for their country's problems. It is often said that perception frequently becomes reality. Ireland's leading political party has been unable to



Joe Leary

convince the voters that it is dealing with the current recession decisively and effectively.

A shocking Irish Times poll of 2,000 voters, conducted in the middle of May, shows a nearly complete lack of confidence in Prime Minister Brian Cowen and his Fianna Fail government. According to the poll, Cowen's personal approval rating has dropped to 18 percent of the electorate and his party's overall approval rating is now only 21

percent.

Ireland is holding three elections on June 5, and it will be almost impossible for Fianna Fail to recover in time to prevent startling losses. There are local elections to choose city council members and other local officials. There is the European Parliament election to choose the Irish members of the European Parliament (MEP). And there are two elections for Members of the Irish Parliament to fill vacancies.

Fianna Fail is expected to do very poorly in local elections and the vacancy elections but because of the way the districts are drawn they will maintain three of their four MEPs.

Regardless of the outcome on June 5, the loss of faith in the current leadership is more testimony to the severe impact of the recession on the economy and on people's lives rather than to the actual performance of Cowen and his Fianna Fail Ministers. The Fine Gael

and Labour opposition leaders are more interested in gaining power than in solving the crisis and it is much easier to criticize than be constructive. They are turning up the heat every day. It is doubtful that different leadership will be able to change the economy, but that is the way of politics.

That being said, perhaps the government could have mitigated the storm if it had been more proactive earlier. The problem is the ever-changing landscape, with unexpected severe problems arising weekly. The leaders of the banking system, for instance, have thoroughly disgraced themselves with many losing their jobs as a result. They were deliberately borrowing funds from each other in order to confuse annual reporting figures.

In the meantime, people are suffering and becoming very angry. If national elections were held today there is real doubt the current government would survive. The elections on June 5 will provide substantial clues as to how much trouble its leadership is facing.

The polls have also offered some positive news. It appears the Irish voters are ready to approve the new European Union Constitution as amended by the so called "Lisbon Treaty." When the treaty changes were first presented to the Irish voters, they were soundly defeated in an outburst of rural nationalism even though all major political parties, with one exception, urged their voters to approve.

Cowen has repeatedly called for the Irish people to approve the treaty. In fact, he has given assurances to other European nations that this time the Irish voters will endorse the changes. The vote has not yet been scheduled but it should come soon and may be a very positive outcome for Cowen's reputation in Ireland. The only significant party pushing for a "No" vote is Sinn Fein.

Of course, should the economy begin to grow again and the 11.4 percent unemployment rate start falling, Cowen will be considered a genius and his future will be secure. Unfortunately for him, that scenario does not look like it will come to pass any time soon.

Reflections

'He Ascended Into Heaven'

BY MSGR. THOMAS J. McDONNELL

At the time of Sputnik – first space orbit – the cosmonaut hailed as a hero by many blatantly observed that in his travels, he did not find "heaven." It would seem that technology proved that heaven was a myth. Some discussion took place. However, this largely became a footnote in the history of "progress."



Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell

Meanwhile, millions of Christians continue to recite the Creed. In addition, in the recitation they accept as an article of belief that Christ indeed has ascended into heaven. Because it is part of our dogmatic system and not merely something irrelevant, it might be well to turn our attention to

this truth to try to decode the practical relevance for our life.

The use of the word "ascends" connotes the idea of rising. And in our case, (backed by the imagery of Sacred Scripture) it may be interpreted as a rising out of sight, beyond human boundaries. However, the boundaries

of which we are speaking are even beyond the normal categories of space and time. And these thoughts we must keep in mind as we try to "locate" heaven.

Basically, heaven may be said to be the place where (in its broadest sense) the Body of the Risen Christ is present. The Creed describes the Lord as "sitting at the right hand of the Father" – the seat of power, judgment, and forgiveness. Such are our feeble attempts to try to concretize a mystery, using imagery with which Christians were familiar.

As we think about the Ascension, we probably instinctively think about Christ separating Himself from this world. Again, Scripture bolsters this idea. But we may also broaden our scope so that it would include not the separation of earth from heaven but the idea that Christ brought earth and our concerns into heaven. I think this is more in line with the observation in the Letter to the Hebrews that Christ now lives "to intercede." He brings our needs and desires before the throne of the Heavenly Father.

At this point, we might digress a little to reflect upon the power of Christ's intercessory prayer. As we know from the Book of Revelation, Christ carries in His Resurrected Body the wounds of His Passion. The very sight of this must cause the Father painful memories

as He recalls the pain of Calvary and every time the Father looks upon them, He must also recall the love Christ had for His brothers and sisters that compelled Him to undergo such suffering for them. With these two currents of thought running through the Father's mind, do we really think that He will refuse His Son's prayers on our behalf? In a way, such a refusal might be interpreted as prolonging Christ's Passion.

Secondly, in our prayer of intercession, we always ask "through Christ Our Lord." This is not an empty phrase; it is an exhortation to have in our minds "the mind of Jesus Christ" (Phil.). Our attitude should be that of Christ – ready to do the Father's will no matter the cost.

When Christ was about to ascend into Heaven, He made a promise that He would be with us all days. In a mystery of reversibility, Christ brings heaven to earth. And this, too, is part of the mystery of the Ascension. In Baptism, He bonds with us – promising to walk with us and support us every step of our lives. And this bonding means that He brings us and our concerns before the Father.

His promise to be with us embraces the Church, which is His Body. There is a unique sacramental structure associated with the Church whereby we actually

BIR Profile

Boston is No Mystery to the BPL's New President, Amy Ryan; She Brings Experience and Perspective to Her High-Wire Act

By GREG O'BRIEN

Amy Ryan hardly looks like the bookworm that she is. Resembling a university president more than a stereotypical librarian, the multi-tasking, cerebral president of the venerable Boston Public Library (BPL)—the first woman president in the institution's 151-year history—has set a motivating course for the BPL to serve the educational and cultural needs of Boston and to provide access to some of the world's most historic records, all in an economy that is forcing dramatic budget cuts and yet has seen a significant rise in library use.

Let's do the numbers. With a numbing collection of more than 33 million books, maps and manuscripts, the Boston Public Library—the first library in America to allow the public to borrow books, the first to establish a children's room, the only public library that also serves as a presidential library and one of two public research libraries in the United States—has 26 neighborhood branches in addition to its august Copley Square “palace of the people” on Boylston Street, as gifted architect Charles Follen McKim called it in 1895. Today the central library complex has close to one million square feet of space, and offers a mother lode of the system's more than seven million books, 500 computers for public use, 7,000 programs and events, nearly 170 professional librarians, wireless access at every branch and a 24/7 online reference service. Each year more than 3.4 million people visit the BPL, and another 4.6 million regularly connect to the BPL, a department of the City of Boston, through its website: bpl.org.

As BPL President Ryan is now absorbing the affects of state and city budgets cuts totaling more than \$5 million and how to provide the same level of superior service, library use is a record high. Last month, for example, more than 300,000 books were checked out of the Copley branch alone, a ten percent increase of last year. A full plate in hand, Ryan—a problem solver with the enthusiastic support of Mayor Tom Menino, whom she praises for his commitment to the BPL—is sure to find her way.

Public library use is traditionally on the increase in a recession—the subject years ago of Ryan's master's thesis at University of Minnesota graduate school for library science. “In down times,” she says, “people turn to public libraries for reading and research, and to learn more about personal finance and job skills. Forgive me for saying the obvious, the Boston Public Library is free!”

But all told, this is not your grandmother's library, although it still contains the artifacts of a world renowned museum: several of William Shakespeare's original folios; original music scores from Mozart to Prokofiev's “Peter and the Wolf”; the Sacco and Vanzetti death masks; and the personal library of John Adams, to mention a few. The BPL, with its signature Old World design, a symbol of the Athens of America, remains the Library of Last Recourse for Massachusetts and is an official depository of U.S. government documents, U.S. government patents and United Nations documents.

So how did this 58-year-old fresh water lake swimmer raised in rural White Bear Lake, Minnesota, who was born in Sandusky, Ohio on Lake Superior, speaks in a slight nasal Midwestern twang—and pronounced the word aunt (“ant”) as if it were a four-legged insect until someone not so politely informed her the correct dialect was “ont”)—become president of Boston's most prestigious and intellectual of institutions? And to boot, after a six-month nationwide search and the vetting of 150 top candidates by a search committee headed by James I. Cash, Professor Emeritus of Harvard Business School and John H. McArthur, former Dean of Harvard's Business School.

You can't judge a book by its cover, she would say.

The daughter of Boston area natives, the youngest of four children, Ryan, a third generation Irish American, was infused with Boston culture and intellectual curiosity since childhood. Before her Boston appointment last October, Ryan was Director of the nationally recognized Minneapolis and Hennepin County library system and honored by the City of Minneapolis for her leadership in merging the two systems—a prototype for other cities to follow. Her transition to the Hub has been as seamless as a season segue from the Celtics to the Red Sox, given her family history here.

Ryan's late father, John Paul, with roots in Tipperary, worked in management and sales for Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, starting his career in the Boston area after his Army Service in World War II. Her late mother, Ann Elizabeth (Hickey) whose family comes from County Armagh in Northern Ireland, was a housewife, later managing women's sportswear stores outside Chicago where the family lived for a spell, as Weyerhaeuser moved her dad like a Triple A ballplayer from Boston, to the State of Washington, to Ohio, to Minnesota, to Illinois and back to Minnesota—typical of the day in management sales. The couple met in Newton where Ryan's mom, who worked for the Draft Board at the time, inducted her dad into the Army. It was love, perhaps tough love, at first sight.

Ryan in her early years was shaped through her parents' example and schooling in the humanities. She



BPL PRESIDENT AMY RYAN:
Our roles: information, navigator, teacher, mentor.

attended high school in Illinois, but most of her life was spent in Minnesota near St. Paul. She describes her father as “smart, caring, a successful businessman and an exceptional downhill skier,” who taught her the sport. She says her mom was “loving, funny and had a commitment to education.” She always encouraged Ryan and her two sisters, Lydia and Susan, and her brother, Geoffrey, to read. Ryan is a voracious reader today, consuming a broad range of books, but with a recent fascination for fiction set in Boston. She has just finished Dennis Lehane's *A Given Day*, and is now reading Ann Patchett's novel, *Run*.

“I had a happy, uncomplicated childhood,” she recalls in an interview from her spacious BPL office. “My parents fostered independence and intellectual pursuits.” Both had a “Boston quality,” Ryan says. “They were very witty, articulate and intellectually challenging; they had a passion for learning, questioning and conversation. They had an Irish look to them that you don't see in the Midwest.”

Ryan's mom encouraged her to pursue a library career. After graduation from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minn., she earned a Master's degree in library science from University of Minnesota, and was off and running on a library career that has turned as many heads as pages. “I never looked back,” she says. “I realized my passion, then followed it.”

With more than 30 years of collective public library management experience in the Minneapolis Public Library system and the nearby Hennepin County Library system, overseeing library administration, partnerships and development, Ryan in 2008 merged the two to become a landmark united public library

system with 41 libraries and an estimated 750,000 active library card holders who annually borrow 16 million books, an average of 17 books per resident. To do so, Ryan invoked her considerable communication, political and business skills for various approvals needed from the Minnesota State Legislature, the Hennepin County Board, Minneapolis City Council and an elected library board. The merger saw the full integration of library staff, resources and management structure. Such skill sets required for the merger will be essential for setting a course for the Boston Public Library in the new millennium where public libraries have morphed beyond their brick and stone walls, becoming more relevant today than even a generation ago. The role of libraries is changing, not waning, with the technology of the times.

“Libraries today are extraverted institutions, not introverted ones, as they once were,” says Ryan, noting the days when often the most frequently heard comment from a librarian was a “shush,” followed by an index finger to the lips. “Libraries today are cultural anchors that foster learning initiatives and partnerships with schools, government agencies, businesses and non-profits. We are the embodiment of the American Dream, helping to manage the flow of information and responding to the technologies of the day. Our role is information navigator, teacher and mentor. Years ago, one would look to a library for a single answer to a question, now librarians help users navigate through 65 million Internet hits.”

Managing a public library in a troublesome economy is indeed a high-wire act, says Ryan, noting she has set priorities to offer the greatest number of resources in demand to the largest number of individuals in the city. These priorities include advancement of learning, literacy, academic support for schools and career support and research.

Ryan's mother, no doubt, would be pleased. “My mom would be proud; being appointed president of the Boston Public Library flows from my childhood. It's a complete family circle,” she says. In walking to work every day, Ryan passes her parents' former home at 90 Commonwealth Avenue on her way from Beacon Hill where she lives with her husband Steven Kaufman, a Brandeis and Northeastern University graduate who has taught college English and writing. The couple have four children in an extended family: Chloe, a senior at Simmons who graduates from the same college next year exactly a century after her maternal grandmother, Mary Gertrude Rock; Madeline, who is preparing to attend graduate school in teaching English in Minnesota; Noah, who works in energy conservation; and Hallie, an artist and mother of two.

Eight months on the job, Ryan concedes there are times that she walks around the BPL pinching herself, as she plies her way through the millions of books, manuscripts, maps and artifacts in a setting as intellectually reverend as ancient Greece or Rome. And who wouldn't in her shoes. Ryan is all passion and focus with high-energy Midwestern values and a dash of wide-eyed gusto. She is the embodiment of the founding ideals of the Boston Public Library, as initially espoused by founders George Ticknor, Edward Everett, Nicholas Marie Alexandre Vattermare, Joshua Bates and Josiah Quincy, Jr.

A first in every way, Amy E. Ryan is just what the BPL needs after century and a half: new blood and a female perspective.

Greg O'Brien is editor and president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based in Brewster. The author/editor of several books, he is a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter and has contributed to numerous regional and national publications.

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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

The Sky Is Falling -- Yes, the sky is definitely about to come crashing down on Ireland and the US corporations that operate on the isle if **President Obama's** proposed tax changes go into effect. At least that's the entrenched belief of the Wall Street Journal, that bastion of unfettered capitalism and loosely regulated financial transactions and



Bill O'Donnell

accountability. The Journal's view of a whitening down of the ability of American companies doing business in low-tax Ireland to retain more of their earnings is being called "Obama's Global Tax Raid, or, in simpler terms any beleaguered CEO can understand, "a revenue grab." Few surprises there.

The negative impact on low-tax countries (Ireland has the lowest tax rate of any EU member at 12.5 percent while the US corporate tax rate is 35 percent) of Obama's crackdown on US companies allegedly using foreign tax havens to shelter multinational profits is expected by many to hit Ireland particularly hard. The concern there is that US tax policy under Obama will cause American firms to flee Ireland, costing jobs and revenue for the Irish exchequer. The threat to the future of Irish economic health is such that top executives of the Irish government's Industrial Development Authority were quickly dispatched to Washington in early May to make the case for Ireland ahead of any sweeping changes.

However, when all is said and done and US tax deferral policies impacting US firm's foreign operations go into effect, there is a widening belief by Irish economists that Ireland will come out slightly bruised but fairly close to revenue neutral. Professor **Ronald Davies** of University College Dublin suggests that what matters for firms with multiple foreign locations is their average overseas tax, which would have high-tax countries like Germany used to offset liability on Irish earned income. Davies's final word on attracting overseas investment is simple: Ireland should continue to focus on those policies that have proven successful over the past 20 years in bringing and keeping investment to Ireland.

Rose Kennedy Greenway & Mothers Walk -- On Mother's Day weekend, members of the O'Donnell-Flaherty family were on Boston's waterfront to catch the opening ceremonies of the Mothers Walk Wall on Atlantic Avenue. The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, a splendid swath of greenery and history cut from the land ceded back to Boston by the Big Dig, is also where you find the Mothers Walk. The Greenway Conservancy (rosekennedygreenway.org) has a novel way to remember mothers. My brothers Phil and Jim and I lost our mother to cancer over half a century ago and were delighted to find a way to memorialize a life cut short.

She was first-generation Irish, daughter of immigrants **Tadgh** and **Annie Flaherty**. **Anne Flaherty O'Donnell** first lived in Kerry Village and later with her family until her marriage in Dorchester's St. Mark's Parish. She died young, never seeing the Boston of today, but the conservancy offers inscribed pavers with name, birthdate, and a brief salute. To cut to the chase, we signed on and easily found our paver as promised on the Mothers Walk between State & Milk Streets. There it was!

It is comforting for her three surviving sons to know that Anne from Fields Corner will be a permanent part of the city of Boston, very close to the original harbor water mark, and in the shadow of the Custom House and the Grain Exchange.

Children Used In Dissident Hate Campaign -- Some may call them dissidents but in reality they are break-away Irish republicans, brutally trying to reinvigorate a deadly campaign to rid the island of its British presence by

murder and other means. One of the most insidious tactics is the attempt at recruiting children as young as 13 on websites urging middle-schoolers to "join the struggle."

These web sites glorifying violence and luring impressionable youth into a culture of death are the combined brainchild of the Continuity IRA, the so-called Real IRA, and the INLA. No friends of peace or justice.

One internet page promises to "protect the republican communities from the PSNI, hoods and most of all loyalists." Other sites feature young men with weapons and balaclavas, adroitly marketing death and destruction for yet another generation of lost young people.

Did You Know ... that Northern Ireland is the most successful region in Europe over the past eight years for software development centers? The North's success is attributed to its high caliber talent, links between industry and academia, and a healthy investment climate. One of the earliest companies involved in the software centers was Boston's Liberty Mutual, quickly followed by Allstate.

Ireland's Improbable Gender Gap -- Despite the two Marys -- **Mary Robinson** and **Mary McAleese**, who have served the Republic of Ireland as President with distinction continuously for 18 years -- there exists today in Ireland a formidable gap, a veritable chasm between the genders when it comes to elective office. Given the scarcity of female office holders today compared to other countries in Europe and beyond, Ireland had ranked No. 63 in the number of elected women. Following recent elections, Ireland has fallen further behind and now ranks 88th, behind Sudan, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Kazakhstan. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, which keeps track of such things, estimates that at the current rate it will take 370 years for the percentage of women in Dail Eireann to reach 50 percent.

Due Process Run Amok -- One thing that distinguishes most Irish is the soft spot we have for those immigrants, documented or not, who yearn to come to the United States. However, there are exceptions and one of those is clearly the case of the Ukraine-born **John Demjanjuk**, the Nazi extermination camp guard who, US authorities allege, was responsible for helping to kill 29,000 men, women and children during the Holocaust in the second world war.

The US has had the goods on this guy for over 30 years but a series of court challenges and similar legal maneuverings involving at least five countries has kept this war criminal from deportation since 1977, a 30-year legal wrangle that makes a mockery of border control. Added to the documentation was the false personal data he used on his application to fraudulently enter the United States.

Not to put too fine an edge on a complicated situation, but one is forced to ask why young Irish men and women by the hundreds in the worst days and beyond were stopped, turned around, and sent back to Ireland on the next flight for the flimsiest of reasons while this accessory to mass murder was allowed the hospitality of this country for all those years?

RANDOM JOTTINGS

In a golfing spectacular that rivals the **Francis Ouimet** victory over two of England's finest in the US Open in 1913, **Shane Lowry**, 22, a County Offaly golf amateur, ran away from the professionals at Beltray to win the Irish Open. As an amateur he was not eligible for the \$650,000 first prize but he has turned pro and will undoubtedly prosper off and on the course. ... The Kerry County Museum in Tralee has been named the top museum in Ireland for 2009. ... On May 17, Ireland marked the first national Famine Memorial Day. This year's ceremonies were held in Skibbereen, Co. Cork, with plans for next year set for

Co. Mayo. ... Ryanair may dazzle some travelers with its now famous low fares, but charging passengers more than \$50 for airport-issued boarding passes is larcenous by any measure.

What will Belfast Unionist **Reg Emepey** of the shrunken Ulster Unionists, comprised now of a single MP, do if she decides not to run again? Will the Tories skip out of their new partnership? ... Urban politics comes to Dublin: Beginning next year the Mayor of Dublin (previously a council member chosen by his peers) will be elected directly by the citizens of Dublin. ... Belfast created its Ombudsman watchdog role in 1969 but the post has been unoccupied since 2004. Sounds like the Mass. Senate's ethics legislation. ... Starting in July, Irish taxi drivers will have to pass tough testing if they want to work in Dublin and other cities. Can Boston be far behind? ... It's been a tough patch for **Tony O'Reilly**. Although a major contributor along with the Ireland Fund to the new library at Queen's University, he has requested that it not be named for him, as had been planned. ... The other shoe drops: Former US Ambassador to Ireland **Thomas Foley**, who announced his engagement as he headed home in January, returned to Ireland and he and **Leslie Ann Fahrenkopf** were married in a County Kildare churchyard. ... New York Governor **David Paterson** reportedly leaked some false, damaging information to the press about **Caroline Kennedy** after she quit her troubled US Senate candidacy. The governor was upset, it seems, that Caroline's departure would brand his senate selection as his second choice. His poll numbers reflect his smear tactics.

A third bridge over the Foyle in Derry will likely be named for the town's favorite son, **John Hume**. Construction should be complete by October, 2010. ... Finally, after months of shoppers in the Republic flocking to Newry, Derry, and Belfast, supermarkets in the 26 counties have at last begun to cut their prices. Slow learners, it seems. ... Waiting for a solution to the great \$50 million bank robbery in Belfast? Forget about it. The best police can do is convict a father-and-son team of laundering purloined bank notes, but no convictions for the heist itself. ... It's May and you're Bewley's Hotel in Dublin's Ballsbridge where it's never too early. The hotel, just entering summer, is advertising for, of course, Christmas parties. And why not!

Travel For Dollars -- One of the emerging growth industries is what is generically called "Medical Tourism." This entails people who need, or in the case of cosmetic surgery, want to find a cost effective (read cheaper) way to access medical treatment and get a chance to visit an exotic overseas location at the same time. In 2007, some 750,000 Americans traveled out of country to get medical treatment. That number is expected to increase dramatically to 6 million by 2010.

Major target countries who are aggressively marketing healthcare to Americans include at the top of the list places like Mexico, Costa Rica, Philippines, India, and Thailand. However, Ireland is seriously looking at that potential injection of cash and has begun spirited marketing, primarily on the Internet. A quick click into your favorite search engine will get you some 12 million "hits" online. And Ireland has some memorable spots to rehab before going home

The reason for this emerging public interest in alternative sources of medical care is easy to see. If you have no medical coverage you will be able (caveat emptor, as always) to find a surgeon for any procedure from rhinoplasty to heart bypass to a knee replacement. And the price is right. Most surgical procedures performed in overseas countries cost one-fifth or one-sixth what they would cost in the US. Open heart bypass surgery in the US, for instance, now costs around \$100,000 or more. That same

procedure, one of the most performed major surgeries every years in the US, will cost substantially less overseas, averaging \$26,000 in Costa Rica, Korea, and Thailand. The price in India for that surgery is around \$10,000.

A Family Business -- The North's First Minister, **Peter Robinson**, who triples as a Member of the British Parliament, local assembly member, and successor to **Ian Paisley** as leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, is a busy man keeping track of expenses for himself, his wife **Iris** (also an elected MP) and the four members of their family who all work in government for Robinson Pere. The Robinson family's total annual take (salaries and expenses) is \$850,000. No wonder it took so long to move Big Ian out of politics and into retirement. God Bless the mark!

Three Terms Could Be Enough -- I'm hanging in there with the political agenda. I have been a watchful student of the city of Boston, my birthplace, and its politics for most of my adult life save the 16 uneventful months I was resident in the Land of the Morning Calm. I have genuinely liked most of the men who have inhabited the mayor's office, some a bit more or less than others. But good men all. It's not going to happen again with this election, but how my fingers itch to alter that last sentence to read "most of the men and women."

I believe that Boston's modern mayors, two of whom I have worked for, are decent people sincerely interested in improving the city, its service, its infrastructure, and the lives of its citizenry. But there is one nagging thing I have noticed and that is that most of the mayors start to lose a little something off the fast ball around the middle of the third term. After a decade in charge the freshness is gone, the challenges are a bit past their "sell-by" date and senior staff are beginning to cast tired eyes outward to a life beyond City Hall. The average tenure of the last three mayors is 14 years; arguably that's longer than most American corporate CEOs.

In my recall, and I am sure there will be ample rebuttal available, not a great deal of substantive, imaginative, or innovative things happened to brighten those long sunset days. Maybe it's too much to expect that innovation or a burst of energy will be found high on the agenda in the darkening innings of a mayoral term. Maybe key staffers will be invigorated by a burst of creative, out-of-the-box thinking by the boss, but if that happens it's a bonus, and the unintended exception to life as it is lived in City Hall.

Thirty Years on, Time To Forgive -- It was late August of 1979 and the Troubles were entering their second decade when 50 pounds of gelignite exploded under the engine of a boat in the harbor in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo, **killing Lord Louis Mountbatten, Lady Braybourne, 82, Mountbatten's grandson Nicholas Knatchbull, 14, and boat boy Paul Maxwell, 15.**

Also on the boat that day was the twin brother of Nicholas Knatchbull, **Timothy**. He was seriously injured by the blast but he was plucked from the water, survived, and now lives in America and works as a documentary filmmaker for the Discovery Channel. He has written a book, "From A Clear Blue Sky," in which he forgives the IRA assault on his family and speaks of reconciliation and about healing and moving on. His book will be coming out in August at the time of the anniversary.

Lord Mountbatten had been a regular summer visitor for 30 years to Sligo and although there was some minimal security he was considered a low risk from paramilitary attack. It was a senseless attack, I thought at the time. As a close relative of the royal family he had some doomsday marquee value, but today, as was the case almost 30 years ago, it still doesn't make any sense to me, even wartime sense.

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Thank you, thank you, for joining us for our 20th Anniversary on May 27th. We spent the evening at the Westin Copley Place with our guest of honor, the president of Ireland, Mary McAleese. Thank you for making it a such a memorable evening. Without your help, we could not do what we do for the local Irish community. Thank you for sustaining us for the past 20 years and we look forward to many more with you. Keep your eyes turned to the BIR for upcoming events. Full reports and pictures to come next month. We hope you enjoyed Wednesday as much as we did.

Still Haven't Received IIC E-Newsletter? We launched our new electronic newsletter at the beginning of last month and thank you for the feedback you have provided. We hope that the short e-mail bulletins will be useful to you for keeping up with what's happening in immigration news around the country and with what we can do for your individual case. If you still haven't received the e-newsletter but would like to...send us an e-mail to happybirthday@iicenter.org saying so in the subject line.

J-1 Students Will Need Jobs and Housing -- We don't want to leave any J-1 students home-

less and jobless in the sweltering Boston heat. June brings Irish college students to Boston for summer employment with the J-1 visa. As usual IIC will be helping these young men and women find jobs and housing during their time in Massachusetts and we will as usual list your employment and housing ads free of charge in our cyber café. More details to come in the next few weeks, but if you have summer positions to fill, e-mail us at j1summer@iicenter.org or call 617-562-1900, Ext. 61.

Free Legal Clinics in June—Do you need to talk to an immigration lawyer? Have questions about your immigration case or that of a family member? Drop in to have your queries answered by experienced immigration attorneys at a clinic near you:

Downtown — **Every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** in our office at 59 Temple Place, suite 1010. Get off at Park St. or Downtown Crossing Subway.

Allston-Brighton — **Tues., June 9** from 6:30 p.m. in the Kells Bar and Restaurant, 161 Brighton Ave, Allston

South Boston — **Tues., June 30** from 6 p.m. at Laboure Center (directly across from Burger King) 275 West Broadway, South

Boston.

Immigration Attorneys will be present at all clinics. IIC has been providing free immigration legal advice for 20 years this year. For more information about IIC legal clinics, call 617-542-7654.

Congratulations to the Wider Horizons Program graduates!

— Late last month, 20 folks from Newry and Dundalk returned home after completing unpaid internships with organizations throughout the city. The participants not only received valuable work experience, but they also had the opportunity to make friends and learn a new city.

"My internship was in Forest Hills at the Caserly House. It was a great learning experience. I taught math to adults and helped kids with homework after school," said Mickey McNally, a participant in the program. "The program is for another four weeks to help us find employment and now I might think about going into youth work."

If you would like to host a young Irish or Northern Irish person from one of our future Wider Horizons programs this year, e-mail AnnMarie at amariebyrne@iicenter.org or call 617-542-1900, Ext 16. See related story in this

section.

The IIC as Immigration Adviser— Last summer, Governor Patrick asked individuals and community groups to gather information to shape state policy regarding new immigration initiatives. The process aims to better integrate refugees and immigrants into the economic and civic life of the commonwealth. The information for these recommendations will come from a series of public meetings across the state, already conducted, in addition to research, interviews with experts, and input from state agencies.

The public meetings provided an opportunity for individuals in local communities to share with the Governor's Advisory Council and each other their vision of what it would mean to become a more welcoming commonwealth, obstacles to integration, and possible solutions. Among the main points of discussion raised by attendees in almost all of the hearings was the need for the state to issue driver's licenses to immigrants regardless of immigration status — a project that the governor supports for public safety and revenues, but a federal law known as Real ID prevents states from taking action.

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IMMIGRATION Q & A

Abusive Marriage, Legal Permanent Residence: Help is Available

Q. My sister is in the US in undocumented status and has been in an abusive marriage for some time. Her husband is a US citizen and has refused to cooperate with her in an application for a green card. Is there a way that she can do this on her own? Also, she is planning to leave her husband and go to a shelter. What kind of documents should she take with her when she leaves?

A. It is good that your sister is taking the initiative to deal with an untenable situation. If she needs help locating a shelter she can call Safe Link, the Massachusetts statewide domestic violence hotline, at 1-877-7785-2020, or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). It also is very important for someone who has suffered abuse to have strong support and someone to talk to, including friends and family but also professional help from a social worker or counselor. Your sister can contact us at our office (617-542-7654) to speak to our counselor in confidence and explore her options.

Since she is married to a US citizen, your sister may be eligible to "self-petition" for legal permanent residence under the federal Violence against Women Act (known as VAWA). This means that she may be able to file for the green card on her own, without sponsorship or other cooperation from her husband. She can discuss this issue in complete confidence with an immigration lawyer at one of IIC's weekly legal clinics.

It is helpful for your sister and others in similar situations to take as many of the following items as possible with them when they leave:

Identification: Driver's license, passports, birth certificates for herself and any children.

Immigration documents: Visas for herself and children, work permits, complete records of any dealings with immigration authorities.

Husband's information: A certified copy of her husband's birth certificate, of his certificate of naturalization (if applicable), and of the photo/data page from his passport.

Financial information: Checkbooks, credit/debit cards, bank account books/records, safe deposit keys/records, paycheck stubs, copies of tax returns for herself and her husband, current unpaid bills.

Housing information: Lease/rental documents, house deed, mortgage payment book, insurance policies.

Public Assistance information: Documents/identity records from any public assistance programs.

Medical information: Medical records for herself and children, medications, prescriptions, health insurance cards and records.

Education information: School records for herself and children.

Personal items: Changes of clothes, address book, pictures, jewelry, items of sentimental value, children's favorite toys and other items, keys for house, car, office.

Relationship information: Marriage license, copies of any restraining orders, any evidence of abuse, including reports from counselors, a shelter, social workers, or police.

She may have to prove to the immigration authorities that the marriage began in good faith. To do this, it is helpful for her to have letters, cards, emails, etc. that she and her exchanged, photos of the two of them together, gifts he gave her, and proof that they lived together (as shown by both names on a lease or utility bills, for example).

Visit one of our weekly legal clinics for a confidential consultation on this or any other immigration issue. See the schedule in this publication.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.

Matters Of Substance

Summer Arrives...But the 'Blues' Remain

BY DANIELLE OWEN
IIC STAFF COUNSELOR

Thank God, the summer is coming. Bring on the warm weather, sunshine-bright days, and gentle-breezed evenings. Swap out the winter layers for the light tees and shorts we will live in for the next few months. However, with everything being in an upheaval these days, our low, sad, or depressed mood is not always as easily swapped out for a fresh and energetic emotional jump into summer. I hear from people all the time asking, "What's wrong with me?"

If you are finding it hard to "get out from under the winter cloud" you have been living with for the last few months, you are not alone and you are not crazy! You may just need help and support. As immigrants, it is very normal to experience periods of feeling low, sad,

lonely, and upset, especially as all our family/friends are usually at home. Some may just need to chat, explore their current situation and with a few small changes, realize they are doing better than they thought. Others, however, may need regular counseling sessions along with medication in order to feel better. There may also be people for whom depression is a symptom of a much larger problem. Ask yourself the following:

- Do you feel miserable and sad most of the time?
- Do you find it more difficult to do the things you used to do?
- Do you get very frightened or have "panicky" feelings for apparently no reason at all?
- Do you ever feel like having, or actually have, weeping spells?
- Do you still enjoy the

things you used to enjoy?

- Are you restless and can't keep still?

Depression symptoms, left untreated, can create other problems. If, for example, you find yourself using drugs or alcohol more frequently to feel better, you could end up developing a substance abuse problem! Could you also be experiencing some of the following symptoms, along with your depression, that might be related to a painful, upsetting or traumatic event in your past or recent past?

- Do you have nightmares?
- Do you remember painful or upsetting events when you do not want to?
- Are you constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?
- Do you feel numb or detached from others, activities, or your surroundings?

- Do you go out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of these events?

If you have said yes to any one of these symptoms, you could have a condition called "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" or PTSD. Depression is not something you can "snap" yourself out of or "cure" by yourself. If untreated, it can lead to people developing other problems like substance abuse/addiction or masking/ hiding serious conditions like PTSD. The good news is help is available, no matter what your circumstances. Call Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the Irish Immigration Center. Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or send an e-mail to dowen@iicenter.org. Check out our Wellness Screening: iicenter.org/services/documents/CCSWellnessSurveyOnline.pdf.

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161 Brighton Ave, Allston, MA 02134
6:30 pm
January 13th, February 9th,
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Saint Mark's Parish (School Hall)
1725 Dorchester Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02124
6:00 pm
January 27th, March 31st

DOWNTOWN BOSTON
Irish Immigration Center
59 Temple Place
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Boston, MA 02111
4:00pm

VISIT WWW.IICENTER.ORG OR CALL 617-542-7654 TO CONFIRM SCHEDULE

Wider Horizons Program Proves True Bonus for Participants, Hosts

By THE IIC STAFF

After reading an advertisement about the Wider Horizons Program in his local newspaper, Cahalog O'Hare from Castlewelan, Co. Down, decided to apply to participate in the two-month internship program. After being chosen, his aunt encouraged him to take advantage of the opportunity to spend six weeks in the states.

"I was very nervous at first because I did it on a whim and I didn't know what I was in for," O'Hare said.

The Wider Horizons Program provides training and work experience in a new country. Participants are unemployed young adults of Unionist and Nationalist traditions from both the South and the North. The program offers internships in over fifty countries with the hope that participants will foster mutual understanding between their diverse backgrounds.

"Part of the goal of the program is to help young adults from communities that might have never interacted with one another realize their commonalities," said Thomas Keown from the Irish Immigration Center. Wider Horizons is run through the IIC in Boston.

Finbarr Farmer is from Newry, Co. Down, and another participant in the current program. He said

he learned a lot from the range in age and the diversity in background. "The youngest is 18 and I am the oldest at 27 so there's different levels of maturity. There is a wide range of age and Protestants, Catholics, and people from the South and North. On the whole we get along really well," Farmer said.

Families in and around Boston volunteer to host the young adults for the duration of their stay. Not only do they provide a room and meals for the participants, but they also help the new participants to become acclimated to a different city.

"The program really takes them out of their comfort zone and makes them see new things that are out there," said Karen Dudeck, who has hosted three Irish participants in the past year.

The internships range from areas of community service to hospitality to technology. Dudeck said that she saw her students quickly start to feel comfortable, get to know their routine, make friends, and learn a new city.

"I have seen three boys go through the transition. It's hard to get thrown into a new environment, but the support that they have at every detail, from getting to jobs and learning about things, is very structured for the age group," Dudeck said.

"The T-system is easy to get around, unless you are color blind," O'Hare said about living in the new city.

Before the participants embark on their two-month stay abroad, they go through an eight-week program to prepare them for their trip. The current participants are part of the Clanrye group from Newry, Co. Down. They meet weekly at a facility in Newry for pre-departure training.

The Clanrye group has just widened its own horizons by relocating to a new facility at the Slieve Gullion Forest Park. Their headquarters now reside in an 1820 old stone courtyard that provides a spacious place for the group to meet. The Clanrye group shares the space with tourists, visitors, students, and even

wedding parties who travel to the park to enjoy its natural beauty.

"A new facility was greatly needed," O'Hare said. "The old facility is quite cozy, to say the least. It was not very spacious. The warmest part is the toilet because that's the only place the heat works."

The students returned home last week after a graduation ceremony, which celebrates their training and internship programs.

"Any experience is good experience, whether it is positive or negative. This was majority a positive experience; it helps build your character and is something to look back on. I would definitely recommend it. One hundred percent," Farmer said.

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Playing Now: Roddy Doyle's "New Boy"

BY THOMAS O'GRADY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The so-called Celtic Tiger, a period of unprecedented economic prosperity in Ireland, seems now to have lost much of its bite. But its teeth marks—at least in the form of unprecedented social changes underwritten in large part by that prosperity—appear to be deeply permanent, and the title story of Roddy Doyle's collection *The Deportees* (2007) provides one gauge of the transformation that occurred in the country during the Tiger's two-decade flourishing. Bringing back to literary life the character of Jimmy Rabbitte, Jr., the protagonist of Doyle's first novel, *The Commitments* (1987), "The Deportees" is a sequel (of sorts) in that Jimmy, now married and with three children (a fourth arrives in the course of the story), still harbors the dream of managing a commercially successful group of Irish musicians.

In *The Commitments*, the band he organized performed American "soul music"—the songs of Otis Redding and James Brown and Aretha Franklin and Wilson Pickett—under the premise articulated by Jimmy to the band members this way in the 1991 adaptation of the novel to the big screen, directed by Alan Parker: "Do you not get it, lads? The Irish are the blacks of Europe. And Dubliners are the blacks of Ireland. And the northside Dubliners are the blacks of Dublin. So say it once, say it loud—I'm black and I'm proud." In "The Deportees" Jimmy assembles an even more motley crew to perform the music mostly of Woody Guthrie, the so-called "dustbowl troubadour" whose songs both record and represent a substantial swatch of the historical fabric of depression-era American life. Besides the music they perform, the most conspicuous difference between Jimmy's two bands is the ethnic makeup. Reflecting on the radical change that mass immigration from continental Europe, from Africa, and beyond brought to Ireland by the mid-1990s, Roddy Doyle writes in his Foreword to *The Deportees*: "I went to bed in one country and woke up in a different one." This is the country that Jimmy Rabbitte finds himself in two decades after the heyday of *The Commitments* when, bumped into and knocked over by a young Romanian on Parnell Street, then run over by an Italian bicycle courier, he experiences an epiphany that even the ultra-cosmopolitan James Joyce would have had trouble imagining exactly a century earlier. Helped to

his feet by the Romanian lad and by an African woman, he realizes that his new band must literally embody Dublin's new multi-ethnic demographic: "Jimmy's head was hopping as he stood up. . . . But he was grinning. Jimmy had his group."

Detailing the evolving dynamic—both musical and interpersonal—of *The Deportees*, the rest of the story reads as a sort of parable of multicultural co-existence in latter-day Dublin. Indeed, comprising an imposing lead singer from Africa named King Robert, a drummer from Moscow, a young woman guitarist from America, a djembe drummer from Nigeria, a woman singer from Spain, a Romanian father and son on accordion and trumpet respectively, a guitarist from Roscommon, a female survivor (still purple-haired) of Dublin's punk scene of the late 1970s on bass, and sixty-year-old traveler Paddy Ward as an additional lead singer, the makeup of the band is fraught with tensions, suspicions, and the potential for profound intercultural misunderstandings. But with Guthrie's music of social conscience, and of social consequence, as their common denominator, *The Deportees* transcend their differences to emblemize—clearly—Roddy Doyle's vision for a harmonious new Dublin.

In fact, that vision is the common denominator for the eight stories that constitute the collection, though it may be expressed most powerfully in the one titled "New Boy." As its universally familiar title hints, this story is about a "new boy," a black African immigrant named Joseph, on his first day in a classroom of fellow nine-year-olds. Immediately targeted for abuse by young hooligans Christian Kelly and Seth Quinn, Joseph has to learn how to interpret and to negotiate the social codes that operate in this microcosm of Dublin itself. Carrying, unbeknownst to his classmates, the emotional baggage of earlier childhood trauma in his war-torn native country (unnamed in the story), Joseph proves altogether capable of handling both the verbal and the physical bullying inflicted on him: his unruffled response to Christian and Seth actually ruffles them to the point that they come around to forming what would have seemed at first an unlikely alliance with the "new boy." Constructed partly in opposition to the nosy classroom know-it-all Hazel O'Hara and partly in opposition to their well-intentioned but mostly ineffectual teacher (whose last name Joseph never catches), this alliance reinforces in comic fashion Doyle's serious belief in

Dublin's—and Ireland's—multicultural future.

Well, actually Dublin's multicultural *present*, for in his typically witty fashion Doyle has the ultimate bond between Joseph and his tormentors hinge on their joint recognition of their teacher's incessant repetition of the word "now." Putting into the teacher's mouth every imaginable variation on the word's grammatical versatility—from a tut-tutting "Now now" to a general alert that there is schoolwork to be done to a stern warning regarding unacceptable classroom behavior—Doyle reminds his readers through the teacher's unconscious verbal tic (in the course of the narrative she says the word at least twenty-eight times, with almost as many different inflections) that this story does represent Dublin *now*: that the city has changed utterly and irreversibly and that the entire populace must adjust and adapt and individuals must accordingly learn not only tolerance for but also generous acceptance of the "otherness" of others.

Aptly, then, the adaptation of "New Boy" as a short film by Irish-American writer and director Steph Green has been added to the roster of films available for free online viewing at the Responsibility Project website sponsored by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company as a spin-off of their publicly acclaimed series of "pay-it-forward" television commercials. The website explains: "We thought, if one TV spot can get people thinking and talking about responsibility, imagine what could happen if we went a step further? So we created a series of short films, and this website, as an exploration of what it means to do the right thing." In an interview on the popentertainment.com website, Green explains how Doyle's story first appealed to her: "It's really interesting the degree to which we are strangers—and not strangers. What does it mean to have to sit next to someone? That's the same in a classroom as on the bus. There is something about the humanity of that which I like looking at." Starring Olutunji Eburn-Cole as Joseph, Norma Sheahan as the teacher, Simon O'Driscoll as Christian, Fionn O'Shea as Seth, and Sinead Maguire as Hazel, the adaptation was nominated for an Oscar in 2009 in the short film category. Just eleven minutes long, the film of "New Boy" can be viewed at responsibilityproject.com/films/player/new-boy.

Thomas O'Grady is Director of Irish Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Carty on Sports

Upstart Green Dragon Gets Hearty Welcome to Boston

BY KEN CARTY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

True to its seafaring heritage, Boston played generous-yet-practical host to the Volvo Ocean Race when the seven boats that make up its fleet arrived on May 8. These 11-man teams are nearing the end of a nine-month journey, coving 37,000 miles.

Following a 15-day, 5,000-mile journey from Rio de Janeiro (one of only 11 stops during the race), Ireland's entrant in the race—the 70-foot Green Dragon—made a majestic yet tardy entrance into Boston Harbor. Despite being 20 hours behind the leaders, the Dragon, like many Irish natives before her, was eager to

come ashore.

"This leg proved to be a big disappointment," said Dragon skipper Ian Walker, whose crew was warmly greeted by many local Irish during their two-week stay in port. "We were in sight of five boats and sailing well. We can only hope we don't lose touch with the fleet and live to fight another day."

While moored at South Boston's Fan Pier, the boats and their crews were given the royal treatment. An estimated 100,000 people participated in a number of events by the harbor, including visiting the Puma Pavilion to enjoy a number of musical acts. The Green Dragon put on a good show before the

thousands of spectators in Boston, finishing in third place during a short harbor race.

Focus is on Bulgaria -- All eyes will be on Sofia on June 6 when Ireland take on host Bulgaria in a crucial World Cup qualifier. With four qualifying matches remaining, the Irish are in second place in Group 8, two points behind the Italians, and five points ahead of third-place Bulgaria, which has a game in hand. For Coach Giovanni Trapattoni & Co., a win on the road would all but guarantee Ireland a top-two finish in the group. (The nine group winners automatically qualify for the World Cup with the second-place finishers advancing to an



The Green Dragon during its journey to Boston.

additional playoff round.) Following the Bulgaria game, Ireland is off until the fall when the team will travel to Cyprus on September 9, before they host two massive home games against Italy (October 10) and Montenegro (October 14).

GAA activity in Canton -- The Gaelic Athletic Association's Boston Northeast Board kicks off its full league play this month. Beginning on Sun., June 1, and running through late August, the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton will host more than 100 games in three sports (Gaelic football, hurling, and camogie). More than 20 teams, ranging from senior men's to juniors to ladies, take part in the competition. If you haven't taken drive down to Canton you are missing out. Visit boston-gaa.org for schedules and directions. Some early-season GAA hardware was recently awarded. The Boston Shamrocks won the Orla Benson Cup while Tipperary captured the Kiernan Sheehan Cup following a 3-18 to 0-7 victory over Father Tom's. In the Pat O'Brien Cup, Aidan McAnespien

advanced to the finals with a 1-20 to 3-4 win over the Connemara Gaels.

Ruggers return to North America -- For a second straight year, Ireland's senior rugby squad will be playing stateside in the Setanta Challenge Cup. This time, the Irish will visit the West Coast, when they take on the USA on May 31 in Santa Clara. The game kicks off the Eagles' international season as they face Ireland, the reigning Six Nations champion, and it will also mark former Ireland coach Eddie O'Sullivan's first match at the helm of the USA. A year ago, Ireland dispatched of a feisty U.S. team, 46-22, in East Hartford. During this trip, Ireland also took on Canada (May 23 in Toronto). "It's an honor to face Ireland in my first test as the Eagles coach," said O'Sullivan. "It will be strange to face off against a team that I know so well, but at the same time that will make the occasion even more special."

The Notebook: Scotsman Alex Ferguson has done it again, leading powerhouse Manchester United to another English

Premier League title. The Red Devils captured their third straight crown following a drab 0-0 draw with Arsenal on May 17. For Ferguson it is his 11th league crown in 17 seasons, while United have now won 18 league titles, equaling the record held by Liverpool. "It makes you want to go on forever," said the 67-year-old Ferguson, who has won 25 major trophies in his 23 years at Old Trafford. . . . The race in Scotland is down to the last day as two Scottish Premier League teams, Celtic and Rangers, have been huffing and puffing to get across the finish line first. Rangers have a two-point lead entering the final round and a win at Dundee United would snap Celtic's three-year reign as champions. If Rangers were to drop points, Celtic would snare the title with a home win over the Hearts. . . . The Boston Irish Wolfhounds ended their second season in the USA Super Rugby League with a pair of defeats - 26-10 setback to the Potomac Athletic Club on April 25, and 31-5 to the New York Athletic Club a week later.

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

They're all gone now, the racing boats headed off across the Atlantic to Galway and beyond. But for more than two weeks in early May, Boston's Fan Pier was abuzz with activity as the seven racing boats in the 2009 Volvo Ocean Race put in to the port of Boston for a stopover. Along with activities galore, and great attractions both on shore and in the water, the events had a distinctly Irish flavor as one boat, the Green Dragon, was sponsored by Tourism Ireland, and boasted a largely Irish crew. So they gathered for a "Meet the Irish" reception on Thursday, May 14 at the Atrium in Boston's John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse, with dignitaries from near and far enjoying a festive evening of music, food and drink. Officials from "Let's Do It Galway," sponsor of the Ireland stopover, came together with their Boston counterparts for an evening of social networking.

1.) Alison Metcalf, Tourism Ireland; Jamie Boag, Green Dragon crew member; David Hassett and Alex Baldwin, Fenway Sports Group; 2.) Malachy Byrne, Donegal; 3.) Gerry Cassidy, Brockton; Sen. Tom Kennedy, Brockton; Sen. Steve Tolman, Brighton; 4.) James Fitzsimmons, S.E.I. Ireland; Andrea Cleghorn, Bedford, MA; 5.) Mary Conroy Henderson, Westwood; Brian Nolan, Galway; 6.) Patrick Bench, Business Director, Comm. of MA; David Barry, Irish Consul New England; 7.) Enda O'Coineen, Ireland, author, adventurer; 8.) Josephine Shields, Brookline; Joe Leary, IAP, Newton; 9.) Michael O'Connor, Irish Cultural Centre; Judge Patrick King (retired), Brookline; 10.) Joe Byrne, Tourism Ireland; 11.) Cate McGrail, Eire Society, Belmont; Catherine Shannon, Irish Charitable Society, Scituate; 12.) Members of the Galway music group "Trad on the Prom" delighted the audience with their performance; 13.) Peter Ward, Country Choice Meat Supplier, Nenage, Tipperary; Orla O'Malley, Westport, Mayo.



Sand Dunes, Salty Air, and Irish Heritage

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

On Old Cape Cod, the nine-mile stretch along Route 28 from Hyannis to Harwich is fast becoming more like Galway or Kerry than the Cape of legend from years ago. This high-traffic run of roadway is dominated by Irish flags, Irish pubs, Irish restaurants, Irish hotels, and one of the fastest-growing private Irish clubs in America.

It is nearly impossible to describe the intensity and all the details of the Irish celebration on Cape Cod in a single article. But it is possible to provide enough information so that readers can appreciate the deep feelings of loyalty and pride towards our Irish heritage that exist today in the Cape Cod community.

Though Irish ship captains and many early Irish immigrants have been part of the Cape Cod scene for over 300 years, the explosion of public Irishness began just over 30 years ago with the arrival of the famous Irish entertainer Noel Henry (1949-1995) and his purchase in 1976 of an existing motel/restaurant complex that he happily renamed "The Irish Village." The property is now owned by the entrepreneur Jack Hynes and serves as a focal point for many Irish activities.

Bridget O'Leary, an Irish Village staff member from Drogheda, was asked why she liked Cape Cod so much. "Because it is just like home," she said. Danny Flynn, a Dubliner and also an Irish Village employee, agreed, "I love it here, I've been in the USA for 14 years and I'm never leaving the Cape."

In this year alone, Route 28 in Yarmouth and West Dennis has witnessed hundreds of Irish music performances, a glorious two-hour St. Patrick's Day parade on March 7 and a locally sponsored Irish five-mile road race on May 9. The parade, only four years old, is a good example of the growing Irish influence on Cape Cod. The parade committee this year published an 8½x11, 80-page commemorative program supported by 130 organizations and businesses including the police and fire department associations. Proceeds from the program partly funded the parade. An aggressive energetic parade committee has already begun preparations for 2010.

There is an Irish American Club of Cape Cod, a Cape Cod Celtic Society, a new division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians (The Thomas P. McCann Division) in Barnstable County that was established in 1998, and another new organization begun less than five years ago, The Sons of Erin, all centered in the Hyannis, Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich area.

If you want to use your computer to find out about Irish Activities on Cape Cod go to capeirish.com for Bill Black's CapeIrishNews page. Featured on the website last month was the Memorial Day holiday Cape Cod Ceili Weekend at the Cape Cod Irish Village, starring Boston's Larry Reynolds Jr. and Brendan Bulger.

But sitting before a computer is no substitute for a personal visit to this part of Irish Cape Cod. Shamrocks are everywhere. The "Green, White, and Gold" stands in front of motels, bars, restaurants (like Giardino's, which is far from Irish), and stores like Wild Daisies, which claims the largest collection of Irish jewelry on the Cape. And there is hardly an eating place no matter its parenthood that does not have Irish named dishes on its menu. It seems the Irish are important to everyone, not just each other.

A visitor should consider starting the day at the famed Keltic Kitchen at 415 Main St (Route 28) West Yarmouth and enjoying the featured Irish Farmhouse breakfast – \$11.50, (2 eggs, rashers, sausages, black and white pudding, mushrooms and tomatoes w/toast). For flavor and authenticity the Farmhouse breakfast competes with any found in Ireland. David Dempsey – a Dubliner -- and his wife Margaret own and manage the establishment. David works in the see-through kitchen and Margaret manages the crowds and front service, ably assisted by family members when they are home from school. They also offer The Keltic Scramble, The Keltic Benny (eggs Benedict on corned beef hash), The Keltic Burger, and a wide assortment of choices for most any taste. During the busy summer, relaxed crowds wait outside until they are called in by Margaret.

David and Margaret opened the restaurant in the mid 1990s and it has been attracting a year-round business ever since. Out back is David and Margaret's new enterprise, the Keltic Kottage, a gift shop offering clients hundreds of items from Ireland. The store features hard-to-find Irish sauces and candies and is the place for Odlums Irish flour, an indispensable ingredient for real Irish soda bread. Energetic David said, "I'm thinking about opening for lunch and dinner in the summer, the demand seems to be there."

David got his start as a "fry cook" at the Irish Village when he came to the Cape from Dublin in 1984. The Village is just down the road on the opposite side of the street, at 512 Main. This is a center of much of the current Irish activity on Cape Cod and is certainly a contributing catalyst for all that has occurred with the growth of Irish activities over these last 10 years. Jack Hynes of Cavan, who bought the Irish Village in 1987, is supportive of most any new Irish idea that comes to his attention. For example, he was host to the Sons of Erin Club for its first organizational meeting, and he sponsored the recent Irish five-mile road race.

Among other projects, Jack is a meaningful contributor to the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Cape Cod Celtic Society. Lew Taylor, a principal of the Celtic Society, says Jack is a rare man and he has nothing but the highest praise for him.

The Irish Village is as friendly a hotel as there is on Cape Cod. There are 138 "comfortable" guest rooms set



Cape Cod Irish Village, West Yarmouth

Joe Leary photos



David Dempsey, Keltic Kitchen owner



Claddagh Inn, West Harwich



Tomas MacCormaic and Nick Lawler at the Irish Village



Bridgid O'Leary and Colleen Enright at the Irish Village

up for vacationing families. And Hynes employs many Irish-born to manage the business. Marie and Pat Enright arrived from near Tralee in 1985 and remain as employees today. Today, they are joined by daughter Colleen who works the front desk on occasion.

A visitor to the Irish Village Pub may meet Tomas MacCormaic, an enthusiastic organizer of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and native of Northern Ireland. Tomas talks and works at 90 miles an hour so try to slow him down if you want to have a conversation.

A full description of all that is offered at the Irish Village can be found on their web site, capecod-irish.com.

Moving down the road to 585 Main Street visitors

will find Molly's Restaurant and Bar, which claims to be the largest sports bar on Cape Cod. Owner-manager Jim Murzic ("My mother was a Callahan") offers "American cuisine with an Irish accent. We have 100 items on the menu and are open year round." Molly's has the exclusive rights to the live broadcast of the Irish RTE Setanta network of GAA games, soccer and rugby, and pays an annual fee of \$14,000 for the privilege. The Munster Final last year between Kerry and Cork was seen here by a strong crowd of mostly Irish-born fans at 8 a.m. on a cold rainy Sunday morning as Cork earned a stunning come-from-behind victory.

Perhaps the most amazing story of the thriving Irish presence on Cape Cod is the extraordinary new Irish

Mark a Nine-Mile Run Along Old Cape Cod



Joe Shea, O'Shea's Irish Village, West Dennis



The Irish Pub on Route 28



Captain Parker's collection of Police and Fire Department Badges



Daniel Shortt, owner of Wee Packet in Dennisport



Bartender Carol Keller at the Sons of Erin

club, The Sons of Erin Cape Cod. Now located in its own building at 633 Main Street, the club has seen its membership grow from a small group of 5-6 organizers to its current membership of 1,263 dues-paying Irish and Irish Americans, of whom half live on Cape and half live off.

Says President Bob Bagge: "We have become a big family that enjoys being together celebrating our Irishness." The club is open all year long and even its careful treasurer, "Big Mike" Nicklaw, is surprised at how fast the club has grown. And Club Secretary Carole Shea, an officer since the founding, calls the club "our very own home."

The motto on the club's cards announces, "Promoting

Irish culture, heritage & pride." The first organizational meeting took place on Nov. 20, 2004, at the Irish Village at the instigation of a few founding members -- John Kane, his nephew Mike Nicklaw, and Carole and Mike Shea. About 40 people attended, set up a core committee, and the club was formally born. In light of today's economy and the difficulties Irish organizations are having everywhere, it is remarkable that the Sons of Erin managed to find and tap into this gold mine of latent Irish interest on Cape Cod. About 10 percent of members are Irish-born with the remaining Irish Americans. To join, you must have at least one grandparent Irish or Irish American.

The club offers an attractive menu four nights a

week, set dancing several times a month, Irish music on Fridays and Saturdays, and an active, inexpensive bar. Sons of Erin Cape Cod is a private club, so you must be a member to participate. If you are Irish, this is a place you want to be.

For a steady diet of Celtic music, O'Shea's Olde Inne at 348 Main Street in West Dennis is hard to beat. Says owner Joe O'Shea, "We are the home of traditional music on Cape Cod. We present performances seven nights a week every week of the year except Christmas Eve."

O'Shea promotes his establishment with great enthusiasm. A tall man, his grey beard and long grey hair tied behind his head form an interesting picture. He welcomes his guests in his loud friendly voice and encourages singing and table conversation between all his customers.

He says he bought this business three years ago because of this wonderful house. "It has great acoustics -- great bones." He stressed the inn's focus on food and music rather than alcohol, though the bar was quite active during a recent visit. Irish Farm House Skins at only \$4.95 are a favorite bar food and Joe's Irish stew at \$12.95 is one of his best sellers.

Another Irish graduate of the Irish Village experience is David Shortt, a Dubliner who now owns the long-popular Wee Packet restaurant at the corner of Lower County Road and Depot street in Dennisport. David is another of the self-reliant, hard-working native Irish who in recent years have created lives for themselves and their families on Cape Cod. He came from the South side of Dublin in 1994 and can now boast of a growing family and a successful business.

The Wee Packet offers homemade Irish corned beef, black and white pudding, and a full Irish breakfast to its customers every day. The Wee Packet is also open for lunch and dinner and David is planning to open an Irish gift shop in July for his growing loyal customers.

One of the more interesting Irish gathering places on Cape Cod is the Claddagh Inn and Irish Pub in West Harwich. The Irish-American Connell family has owned the property since 1969 and renamed it The Claddagh Inn and Irish pub in 1990. This is an Irish family full of life and the love of conversation, music, and fun.

Their logo in the St. Patrick's Day Parade program book features the line, "I filled my bladdagh at the Claddagh." During a recent visit three generations of Connells were in the Pub either working or enjoying their guests. Located in a weathered Victorian house set back 75 yards from Route 28, the pub is downstairs offering a large bar food menu with Kerry tips (marinated sirloin tips) and a Gaelic Steak bathed in Jamison's Irish Whiskey. Cathleen Connell manages the establishment while her mother Eileen keeps a close eye on things.

A brochure invites "Genteel Biker Friends" as the Connells are Harley Davidson fans. Another brochure proclaims "Erin Go Bragh" with the Claddagh motto "Friendship, Loyalty and Love" printed on the front page. This is obviously a fun place and one where a visit will pay off.

There are many other fine Irish restaurants and pubs, all of which play a part in the explosion of Irishness on Cape Cod. Along Route 28, Captain Parker's owner Gerry Manning is a generous supporter of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The restaurant is open year round and always seems to have eager customers to an establishment that boasts more than 4,000 Police and Fire Department patches on its walls.

Then there are Doyle's in South Yarmouth and Jake Rooney's in Harwichport, which have sizable followings, and the two Clancy's restaurants just off Route 28 in Dennisport are generous supporters of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Moving to the arts, the famous Irish artist Mary McSweeney has her studio on Cape Cod on Route 6A in Cummaquid. Her studio is open from May to October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but if you cannot make it then she asks that a call be made to her studio for an appointment (508-362-6187).

Then there are the smaller places further down Route 28 in Chatham. The summer-only Song of Ireland Gift Shop, owned by Kathy Burke White, presents a variety of gifts and Irish clothing to her customers. And the Nantucket Wild Gourmet & Smokehouse, owned by Irish born Peter O'Donovan, offers year round an unusual array of smoked fish and other unique delicacies.

Far away on the Falmouth side of the Cape, Liam McGuire's, a highly popular pub, regularly plays Irish music to enthusiastic crowds. A more detailed description of McGuire's is not included here since the focus is on Route 28 and the Irish community in the Mid-Cape area. Says Jack Hynes of the Irish Village: "We can get to Quincy faster than we can get to Falmouth. It is a different world."

Many years ago both President John F. Kennedy's family and Speaker "Tip" O'Neill's family, when searching for a relaxing vacation atmosphere for their summer homes, decided upon Old Cape Cod. The Kennedys built the famous Kennedy compound in Hyannisport and the O'Neill's chose Harwichport.

Would they have joined the Sons of Erin on Cape Cod? Would some members of their families have breakfast at the Keltic Kitchen, or maybe listened to the Celtic music at O'Shea's Olde Inne? We can only speculate, but at the least they would be amazed by the exciting new Irishness on Cape Cod.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
TRAVEL & MORE**

It Seems to Be a Time of Reckoning For Irish/Celtic Music Festivals

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston and Eastern Massachusetts residents whose summer plans include a sampling of Irish/Celtic music festivals may have to work a little harder to whet their appetites. Some Massachusetts area summer events that have become familiar stops for Irish/Celtic music enthusiasts have been cancelled, or are on uncertain footing, for 2009 — and possibly beyond. Off the calendar are the Cape Cod Celtic Festival, the Western Massachusetts Highland Games and Celtic Festival, and the Blackstone River Theatre Celtic Festival in Cumberland, RI; the ICONS Festival also has ceased operations, although a smaller-scale festival may take place in its stead.

There are some happy exceptions to the disquieting trend, however: Worcester's Irish Music Festival [worcesteririshmusicfestival.com] is slated for June 12-14, for example, and the Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival has announced plans for its seventh edition, on July 25 at Indian Ranch in Webster, Mass.; [blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com]. In addition, many major folk/roots festivals in Massachusetts and New England, such as Greater New Bedford Summerfest and the Lowell Folk Festival, include Irish/Celtic acts in their line-ups. Still, festival organizers say, there is undoubtedly a chill in the air for summer festivals, especially those with a specific focus like Celtic music. Nor is it hard to identify the most immediate source of this ill wind: the economic downturn and its far-reaching impact on consumer spending as well as corporate sponsorship. New England weather also has to be considered a factor, organizers add, especially for festivals where much of the events and activities take place outdoors.

It is also possible, they say, that — financial crisis aside — the Celtic music scene is in a general state of flux, having experienced in the past decade a considerable infusion of new performers and varied styles, the influence of ever-evolving audio and video technology, and increasing attention from a wider audience than ever before. In this long view, the recession could be regarded as the inevitable pause following a hectic



Liam Clancy and company during the finale of last year's ICONS Festival, held at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England. The ICCNE expects to announce early next month whether it will sponsor a festival in 2009.

Sean Smith photo

period — an interlude of consolidation, loss, and adjustment. Whatever such big-picture gazing, festival organizers ultimately have to take the measure of their own respective situations, using the recent past and the foreseeable future as yardsticks. And more than a few have concluded that for now, the numbers just won't add up.

CAPE COD CELTIC FESTIVAL

Lew Taylor, president of the Cape Cod Celtic Society and director of the Cape's festival, which began in 2003, explains that the four-day event's educational component of workshops and tutorial sessions helped support its performance component; concert revenue alone, he says, would not have enabled them to get acts such as John Doyle & Liz Carroll or Jerry Holland. This balance seemed to be working well, especially given the festival's limited geographical reach, "until last year, when we got hit with \$4 a gallon gas and \$4 milk — understandably, people are going to be reluctant to spend their money on a Celtic music festival, no matter how good it is."

Lack of corporate sponsorship and advertising dollars worsened the situation, but Taylor says the festival also needs an infusion of fresh organizational energy and vision: Having closed his business and taken "a real job," he explains, he simply does not have the time to do all the behind-the-scenes work it takes to put on the event. "I'm disappointed we're not having it this year, but I was so afraid that if we lost money we couldn't pay people," says Taylor. "Nor did I want to get involved in putting together a one-day event. If someone else wants to, that's fine. Or maybe somebody can come in with a well thought-out plan to keep the festival on the scale it has been. The festival situation has changed, my situation has changed, so there clearly needs to be a change in how things are done."

BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Although based in northern Rhode Island, the Blackstone River Theatre Celtic Festival enjoyed a solid audience base in Massachusetts its first two years,

according to director Russell Gusetti, in part because of the theater's regular offerings of Celtic and other folk music during the year. The festival has included a mix of local, regional and international acts, such as The Clancy Legacy, Trouz Bras, Paddy Keenan, Bua, and April Verch, and expanded from four to five stages (one for dance performances) in its second year.

But Gusetti — who co-organized the Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival for three years — wasn't able to do anything about the weather last year: The festival took place "on the fifth day of a classic summer heat wave," with temperatures in the 90s and high humidity. What had been a healthy-sized crowd of about 2,500 in 2007 decreased by half in 2008, he says.

More ominously, Gusetti adds, was the less-than-enthusiastic degree of corporate sponsorship he encountered in the months leading up to the festival — which, he notes, was before the financial crisis came to a head. "I really felt that this was a kind of precursor. Corporate sponsorship is often a hidden, but incredibly important, part of organizing a festival; it's a needed cushion." When he considered the festival's prospects for 2009, Gusetti saw a state unemployment rate of more than 10 percent and a general atmosphere of unease, and decided this was a year to miss. Gusetti acknowledges that there are risks and obstacles that come with taking a year off — for example, having to regroup the organizational structure once you decide to hold the event again — but concluded it made no sense to continue as before. "Everyone seems to be afraid, even if they do have a job," he says.

"All the people we festivals rely on are having tough times, and are in a 'wait and see' mindset." Should the outlook improve, Gusetti would move the festival to June, which holds the promise for decent weather and not quite as much competition for music lovers' dollars. The corporate end, however, will once again play a prominent role in determining whether the festival can re-start, and in what form. "I think the days of one or two big sponsors are probably over," he says. "You could have more of a do-it-yourself thing, where you

(Continued on page 16)

Kathy Griffin: Off The D-List And Into The Wang

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

I had a chance to speak with comedian Kathy Griffin just before she headed out on her latest tour, which hits Boston June 12 and 13. She happened to be in Mexico, and due to the challenging phone system, it took three attempts for us to connect. Then we were cut off in mid-conversation. From irreverent to thoughtful, the Emmy Award-winner chatted about everything from celebrities to family. Here's an edited portion of our international conversation.

BIR: So are you in Mexico for fun or work?

KG: I'm in Mexico for five days of pure pleasure. I'm also going to get a little bit of the swine flu... I'm wearing a gas mask. And hazmat suit. And a bikini.

BIR: You've played Boston a lot the past few years. Boston's been good to you?

KG: Boston has fantastic audiences! They are smart. They do not suffer fools. And you better deliver. And they're good laughers... I'm gonna have an A-List weekend in Boston with two shows at the Wang. I think that's where Bill Maher did his last special, but I won't be wearing that weird Ed Hardy costume that he wore.

BIR: He was here with Ann Coulter.

KG: (indignant) Well I won't be. I can't tell you how much I'm not going to be with Ann Coulter. (Note: Kathy once had to follow Coulter on "The Today Show" immediately after one of Coulter's controversial eruptions.)

BIR: You always look so calm on stage. Do you ever get stage fright?

KG: I do get stage fright sometimes. It's never to the point where it doesn't end pretty much when I walk

out there. Meaning, I'm sort of nervous and I'm always going over new material and writing new material. But once I'm out there, I'm just excited to see people.

BIR: Like you're walking out in front of a bunch of friends?

KG: And by friends I'm assume you mean gay men? Well who doesn't want to walk out into roomful of a bunch of hot gay men.

BIR: What can we look forward to hearing about at the Wang.

KG: Well first of all, it's not for the faint of heart. Don't bring the kids. I don't want to hear about your kids. I don't want to see your kids. I don't think you should bring your Bible -- that's not going to save you -- it's going to be too late. And there's going to be a lot of colorful language. And negativity. Now if that's your idea of a good time, come on down.

BIR: Your Mom and your Dad have become so beloved by your fans because of "My Life On The D-List." It was very touching when you went to Dublin to scatter your Dad's ashes.

KG: That was such a great moment. It was a great trip and I'm really happy that the "D-List" covered it. It was kind of like a gift to my Mom.

BIR: It must have been very emotional.

KG: Of course it was. It was an odd thing [when]



my Dad had passed away. I didn't want to be insensitive to my family, but I also didn't want to not even acknowledge it on the "D-List" show because he was such an integral part of the show. My dad was every bit as witty and clever and sweet as he was portrayed on the show.

BIR: Was that your first time to Ireland.

KG: That was my first time to Ireland, can you believe it? It was the shame of my family. One of the many ways I've shamed my family.

BIR: Your Dad always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye. What is it that typifies the Irish sense of humor?

KG: I'm a hundred percent Irish, both sides. You know, my Dad had that great dry wit as well as a way to, as my Mom says, "give somebody the business." The great thing about my Dad is that he really had a unique quality of being able to say anything and get away with it because he had such an innate sweetness... But I also will tell you that's really where I got my No Censorship Gene. My Dad lived out whatever he felt. And he had the rapier wit to go with it... I blame my Dad for basically teaching me that if you think it's funny, it's okay to say. And then I blame my Mom for everything else.

BIR: Like father, like daughter.

KG: Right, right.

BIR: What's your take on the whole Susan Boyle thing in England with Simon Cowell?

KG: I love Susan Boyle. I like her with one eyebrow. Or two or three. I'm not picky. I celebrate her spirit. I want her to go the distance and I want her to smash that [expletive] nine-year-old kid, whoever that kid

(Continued on page 16)



A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during the year.

— Sean Smith

'Trad to the Bone'

Celtic music is played all over the world, on stages before capacity crowds in venues of all sizes and settings. But however you dress it up, and wherever you take it out, the music sounds most at home in an honest-to-goodness session, whether in a pub or in someone's living room.

And it is this very essential element of Celtic music that will be celebrated in the June 8 edition of BCM Fest's Celtic Music Monday series at Harvard Square's Club Passim. "Trad to the Bone" will feature some of Greater Boston's best session musicians from the Irish and Cape Breton traditions: Mainstays such as Matt and Shannon Heaton, George Keith, and James Hamilton will represent the Irish aspect, while Doug Lamey will lead a group of Cape Breton players. No matter how experienced or accomplished a musician is, a good session can offer a number of benefits: inspiration, education, socialization, and relaxation. Those who regularly perform in concert settings say they often find a session as a means of recharging their batteries, and an opportunity to just play music without having to worry about things like stage presence or sound systems.

"It's a place where we can all have fun sharing a common passion, whether it's around the corner from your house, or 3,000 miles away," says Keith, a fiddler who has performed with Robbie O'Connell and Aoife Clancy and appeared in "Christmas Celtic Sojourn." "Irish music crosses remarkable boundaries. I've made many fast friends from hugely different walks of life that I would never have met were it not for Irish music. The ability to play traditional music is a ticket to nearly anywhere, and the session is the train station."

Of course, everyone has his or her own idea of what a good session is, adds Keith, who's been a regular at The Burren, The Druid, and the Brendan Behan sessions, among others. For some, it might mean a crowd of 30 musicians or more playing tunes everyone knows, whereas others prefer a small gathering (half a dozen or less) in which the repertoire is less widely familiar.

"In the end, though, everybody wants to get something out of going, whether it be a new tune or three, or just having had a fun night out. But when the stars are aligned correctly, a good session can lift your spirits just as much as any great concert or hard-won sporting event, leaving you skipping home in the wee hours of the morning."

Part of what makes a session attractive for Hamilton, a California-born flute player whose resume also includes appearances with O'Connell and



This month's BCM Fest Celtic Music Monday will celebrate the "trad to the bone" session.

Sean Smith photo

Clancy as well as at BCM Fest, is the combination of skills, experience, and styles among the players. While in some situations the differences may be too varied, he says, when it works the result is a joy to behold.

"The music at the session is raw and visceral," says Hamilton, who sits in at the Burren, Druid, and Behan sessions, among others. "To see the level of excellence at which it's played, by people who may not be even remotely professional, is wonderful. You can't help but be drawn in."

Keith and Hamilton have their own checklists for what defines a "good session." Keith likes a small-group size (ten or less), in which the musicians listen well to each other and adapt as necessary to make the music "sound, and feel, as good as possible for everybody there." Other key facets, he says, include a common sense of rhythm among the players, and the selection of tunes — "all the ones you love, none of the ones you hate. Some of the best sessions I've been to involved playing dozens of tunes I used to love, and hadn't thought to play recently. Discovering an old favorite tune is a bit like meeting an old friend after being apart for a year."

Hamilton looks for the right mix of instruments, not only in terms of sound but repertoire: "If there's too many fiddles, chances are the flute, pipes or other instruments will know only so many of the tunes," he explains. "If there are too many flutes, then all the tunes will be in G." He also prefers "an even level of musicianship among the players so there's not too much frustration"; a good accompanist, he adds, "is gold — somebody who can give you perfect rhythm, who knows the tunes and isn't just playing chords."

Is it possible for non-musicians, or even people with little or no previous exposure to Celtic music, to enjoy watching a session? Hamilton thinks so — it has to do, he says, with not only listening to the music but picking up on certain nuances.

"How close are the musicians sitting next to one another? Are they paying attention to one another, picking up on what's happening with a tune and where it's going? If they all know each other well, and the tunes that they're playing, most of the time they only have to look at one another to switch to another tune or perhaps do a

variation on the tune they're playing. It's fascinating, and enjoyable, to watch that kind of communication.

"That's why, in my experience, a musician who's a great performer isn't necessarily someone I want to play with in a session. A performer has to know how to 'switch off' to be a good session player, because in a session it's not about standing out from everyone else; it's about blending your ability with the other musicians so that together you produce this incredible music.

"Ironically, though, when you see a group of session musicians who are doing that, it's as exciting as any performance."

Admission to BCM Fest Celtic Music Monday is just \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. To reserve tickets, go to clubpassim.org.

BCM Fest Music Cruise June 14 -- One of the most popular BCM Fest events, the fourth annual BCM Fest Music Cruise out of Gloucester Harbor, will take place Sunday, June 14, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Come ride the schooner Thomas E. Lannon with a "crew" of BCM Fest performers, including singer Michael O'Leary, fiddler Doug Lamey, accordionist Susie Petrov, harpist Carol McIntyre, piper/whistle player/singer David de la Barre, banjo/mandolin player Steve Levy and guitar/bouzouki player Lin Swicker. Your donation of \$50 (most of the proceeds go to benefit BCM Fest) will land you a spot on deck of the 65-foot schooner, where you'll spend the evening cruising around Gloucester Harbor while listening to great tunes and singing along with a good sea chantey or maritime song.

This event has sold out for all three years it has taken place — so don't be left behind on shore! For information and reservations, go to the Thomas E. Lannon Web site [schooner.org] or call 978-281-6634.

Performer application deadline July 1 -- Just a reminder that the deadline for performer applications for BCM Fest 2010 is July 1. It's easy: Just go to bcmfest.com, download an application, and follow instructions. If you have a question about BCM Fest, or you'd like to sign up for the BCM Fest e-mail list, contact us at bcmfest@gmail.com.

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Time of Reckoning For Irish/Celtic Music Festivals

(Continued from page 14)

put together whatever kind of support you can. That could be better in some respects, because perhaps you'll have more freedom to do the things you want without worrying about your relationship with the sponsor. But thing is, it still costs money, and you have to find that somewhere.

"Of course, there's also the possibility of cutting back, maybe doing one stage, and with acts that are less expensive — but maybe also lower quality. But do you really want to run the risk of disappointing people? They might get so turned off they'll decide it's not worth supporting you at all any more."

ICONS/IRISH CONNECTIONS

The situation facing the ICONS Festival is similarly uncertain. The festival, originally called Irish Connections, took place for years at Stonehill College in Easton before moving to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England campus in Canton in 2004, undergoing an expansion of scale and concept, and in 2007 changing its name to ICONS. Like Blackstone River Theatre, ICONS was bedeviled by a tightening of corporate purse strings and a run of uncooperative weather. After enduring a deluge in 2006, the festival moved in 2007 to an August date, only to encounter blazing heat, and then last year to September, which brought cloudy skies and light but persistent rain — and all this on the eve of the financial crisis. With less-than-hoped-for attendance results behind them, and a grim economic outlook in front of them, the management team that produced ICONS, led by festival director Brian O'Donovan, decided not to put on the event this year. However, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England — which has operated the festival since 1989 — has been considering the possibility of organizing a festival for early fall that would most likely be closer to the older Irish Connections

model. Interviewed late last month, ICCNE Executive Director Sean Grant said a decision would need to be made by early July for there to be any hope of a festival happening. "There certainly has been no shortage of interest or curiosity," said Grant. "Our phone has been ringing off the hook, with people — performers as well as members of the public — wanting to know about the festival."

"The board is trying to come grips with the situation and looking at any number of questions. What should we do to recognize the 20-year tradition of ICCNE running the festival? How do we do this in an economic fashion? Can we get the volunteers we need to run the event? And, of course, we're trying to answer the question as to whether families would come out to the festival without tremendously affecting their income." Reflecting on his experiences with Irish Connections/ICONS, O'Donovan says blaming the weather may seem an obvious, even expedient, route to take — but there's no escaping it.

"We had a 'golden period' of great weather for many years, and then there were three out of four years where it rained, or it was blazing hot, and unfortunately, this made a huge impact on the festival. You can have a hard-working staff and a great program of events, which we did on both counts, and you can devise the best possible plans and find ways to improve the operation from one year to the next — but if the weather is bad, you simply won't get the turn-out you hope for." O'Donovan adds his voice to the chorus of concern over the decline in corporate sponsorship: "There's definitely a pulling-back, and the thing to realize is, it's not just in entertainment but in areas like healthcare and other quality-of-life issues. So you really need a strong commitment to not-for-profits, especially including those in the arts world, with support from government and cultural organizations, as well as the public. A tough time, to be sure." There may be better days ahead — how

far ahead is a matter of conjecture — for Celtic festivals, but organizers wonder what those days might look like. Lew Taylor thinks that the Celtic music scene may have reached a saturation point and, financial crisis or not, was in for a change one way or another.

"I see the 'Riverdance' phenomenon as something like what happened with Garth Brooks and country music," he explains. "Riverdance" helped to whip up a lot of attention to Irish music, and this interest has built and built, and now the wave has crested. Maybe eight to ten years from now, the wave will crest again, and there'll be another influx of new performers and new ideas. But for now, I think things are starting to ebb. That doesn't mean there isn't, and won't be, good music to hear and great performers to see, but the interest that was there will not be on the same level." O'Donovan feels Taylor's view has some validity. "There seems to be, increasingly, a big divide in terms of public interest. Some people feel that it's not worth going to see a Celtic music event unless it's a big extravaganza, like a 'Riverdance' or 'Celtic Woman.' And then on the other extreme, other people are more interested in the small, intimate settings and venues, like in a club or a pub. That leaves a whole lot of territory in between, and it's not easy to figure out how to strike a balance that will satisfy both groups."

Yet, like Taylor, O'Donovan is confident in the staying power of Celtic music. "These things tend to be cyclical. If you've got a solid core, then you know you'll survive the ups and downs. The essence of the music will always continue in the background, because it's always been something shared by friends and family. That will not change."

Along the same lines, Russell Gusetti thinks the summer festival chill, along with other deleterious effects of the economic downturn, could help to reinforce the relationship between Celtic music and its aficionados — especially in this neck of the woods.

"Let's face it, in Massachusetts and New England we are very fortunate to have so much in the way of Irish and Celtic music, whether it's festivals, concerts, sessions, or simply this great community of musicians. I'm sure that on the one hand, most people appreciate what we have, but it can also be quite easy to take all this for granted. The fact is, putting on a festival or a concert takes a lot of work — and then in the end, you're often at the mercy of the weather."

"So maybe, because of what's happening, people who love the music will think about going a little extra to support it: volunteering or helping out somewhere, spreading the word, and all those 'little things' which can make a difference."

Griffin Headed to Wang

(Continued from page 14)

is, trying to screw everything up for her. Screw him. Life is too short. I hope she buries him.

BIR: What about Joan Rivers winning "Celebrity Apprentice?"

KG: Oh I'm so thrilled . . . What a triumph for a comedy chick, for a 75-year-old chick, for a strong woman, for a smart woman. I loved it. . . . You know . . . I was part of the one of the final challenges on Team Rivers. It was very fun and exciting. And when I went there and taped it, [Joan] was so like frazzled. And she was saying it had been a very difficult experience. I didn't even know what I was walking into. But then when I started watching the show, I was riveted.

BIR: You two have been friends for a long time.

KG: She's awesome. She's a mentor and an idol and a pal.

BIR: Your new season of "The D-List" starts this month on BRAVO. What can we expect this time around?

KG: It's fantastic. It's action packed. This year the story line is that I'm trying to get off the D-List once again. And I'm enlisting the help of celebrities to give me advice. So in every episode I get advice from an A-Lister. Any kind of helpful guidance they can give me. And so in Episode One, I have Bette Midler, which is very exciting. Episode Two, Lily Tomlin, who's adorable and hilarious. Episode Three, Paula Dean. Episode Four, Paris Hilton. It goes on and on. It's really quite a show.

BIR: Have you shot the entire season?

KG: We're still working on it a little bit. It's the show that never ends. We tape it forever.

BIR: And that's life on the D-List.

KG: (laughing) Yup.

Kathy Griffin LIVE at The Citi Wang Theatre, June 12 & 13. Tickets: 866-348-9738. Season Five of Kathy's reality series, "My Life On The D-List," debuts June 8 on BRAVO.

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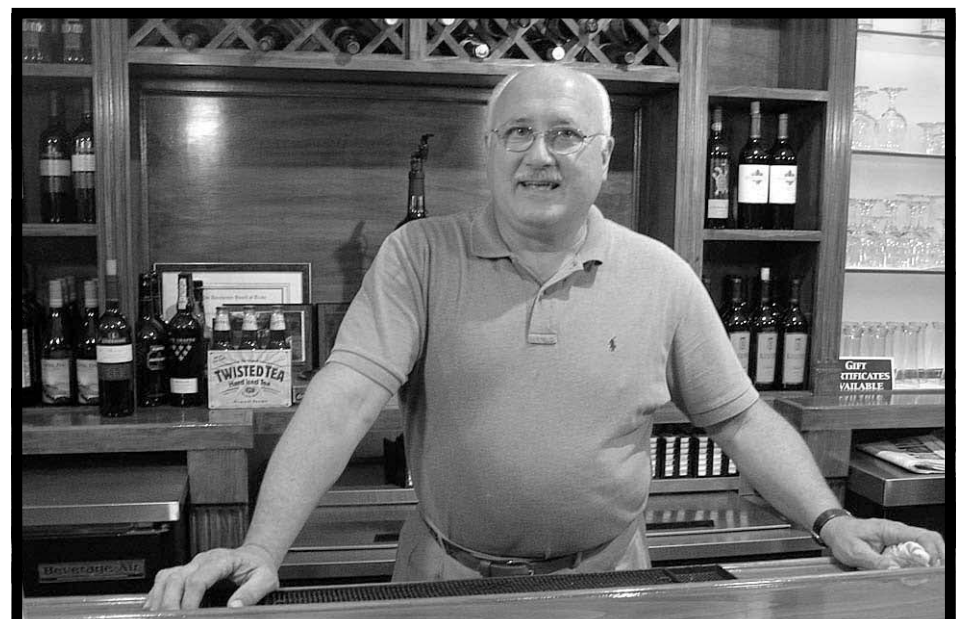
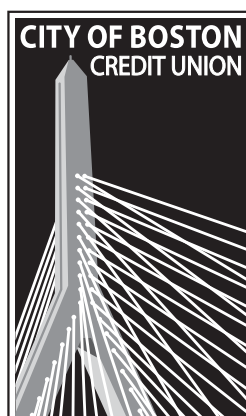


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BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH

The Elders, "Gael Day" ... Enter the Haggis, "Gutter Anthems" -- With the arrival



of June, many an Irish/Celtic rock music fan begins to think of days reveling in the warm sunshine at some outdoor concert or festival, the smell of sunblock mingling with the taste of a cold Harp or Guinness and the strains of a bass-and-drums-assisted

tune set or uptempo rabble-rouser of a song. So it's timely indeed that two bands considered among the best of the Celtic rock genre have recently released new CDs.

From the proverbial American heartland of Kansas City, The Elders are more than a decade old; Toronto-based Enter the Haggis is a little younger, having come together "in the early 2000s," as they put it.

There are some other significant differences. The Elders take more of a tried-and-true — maybe "traditional" is not an inappropriate word? — approach to their Irish/Celtic rock, putting banjo, mandolin, accordion, fiddle, flute, whistle, and bodhran right alongside the rock-styled electric guitar, bass and drums, plus keyboard and sax, and interpolating excerpts of a jig, reel or march in breaks or fills between verses.

The songs themselves, meanwhile—all written by the band with the exception of Steve Earle's "Galway Girl"—are manifestly rooted in Irish history, geography, spirit, and mythology. Some are scruffy, scrappy tales of hopeful redemption ("Better Days

Ahead," "Lucky One Time," "Only Good News"); others are respectful, anthemic tributes to Irish durability and experience ("LuckotheIrish" and "Decoration Day"). "Red-Headed Man" and "Ghost of Ontario" evoke the much-discussed love of a good yarn among the Irish, while "Raging Sea" is a brisk, devil-may-care, cradle-to-grave portrait of life in a fishing village.

Although there is plenty of wry, dry, throwaway humor, the material here is presented with a certain palpable respect and restraint, rather than the full-bore ("bore" being the keyword) assault on senses and sensibility that all too often comes with rock-n-roll Irish. It helps in no small way that lead vocalist Ian Byrne, ably supported on backing vocals by Norm Dahlor, Brent Hoad, and Steve Phillips (the non-singing members are Tommy Sutherland and Joe Miquelon), sounds as if he's singing from the heart, rather than with a smirk.

Enter the Haggis certainly has Celtic trimmings, via Brian Buchanan's fiddle and Craig Downie's Highland pipes and tin whistle, and they periodically display obvious Scottish as well as Irish influences, as shown on "Litter and the Leaves" and "Cameos." But "EtH" has plenty of other musical inspirations on which to draw, and in comparison with The Elders, displays a distinctly harder rock edge, Buchanan's keyboards and Trevor Lewington's guitar often girding the songs. And while some of the songs have the micro-historical focus or sweep — "Noseworthy and Pierce," for example, is based on a collection of tales by Newfoundland author Robert Parsons; "Broken Line" is based on the struggles of Lewington's grandfather and other farmers against the construction of an oil pipeline — there is less of the obvious connection to Celtic lore and zeitgeist.

Which is not to say



that Enter the Haggis doesn't play quite listenable, and catchy, music: "Suburban Plains" is a pleasingly heartfelt recollection of childhood, set to an African-flavored guitar and rhythm back-

ing; "Murphy's Ashes," a tune composed by Buchanan, contains some masterful piping by Downie; and the chorus to "Sea of Crutches," a plea for meaningful connection in an over-connected world — with guest vocalist Miranda Mulholland — will no doubt have them singing in the aisles.

Those who eschew Irish/Celtic rock as a genre may or may not have their minds changed by either of these CDs, but that really isn't the point here. You can focus on the connections to traditional music, if you wish, but the main idea is to simply appreciate the music on its own terms: good hooks, well-played, and perfect for a summer's day.

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: At the beginning of the Ballyclare May Fair two local people were selected as 2009 May Fair King and Queen. The competition took place at Ballyclare Comrades Social Club where Joanne McKay and Alex Kaoma received their crowns. Each contestant had to perform a party piece and Joanne had composed a poem entitled "Ballyclare, a Wee Town." A passenger service agent at Belfast International Airport, Joanne was accompanied on the night by her parents, her boyfriend, and his family. Meanwhile Alex impressed the judges with his musical talents and since his win has already enjoyed a drive in the Mayor's car.

Armagh: After eighty years of serving the community Magheralin Evangelistic Memorial Hall closed its doors last month. Known locally as Soye's Hall, it was built in the 1930s by Jimmy Soye, manager of Johnston and Allen's linen factory, in memory of his late wife. The construction work was undertaken by local builder William Callaghan and the hall opened as a mission centre, with non-denominational meetings featuring speakers from every church background. Among speakers associated with Soye's Hall have been Daryll Kidd, William and Sadie Patterson, and Billy and Jean Andrews. It will now be put on the open market.

Carlow: Having heard from a number of young couples that the cost of a wedding was deterring them from taking the final step, Father Paddy Byrne from Bagenalstown has come up with a novel alternative. He has suggested that, as is common with baptisms and First Communions, several couples should be married at the same time during the course of the weekly Mass, and hold their receptions either in the local parish hall or in their own homes. Father Paddy has suggested that a specific Sunday in June or July could be set aside for couples who would like to be married, and he also points out that the cost of hiring a parish hall is about 20 euro an hour.

Cavan: Gifted young golfers Leona and Lisa Maguire from Ballyconnell are continuing to make names for themselves in the golfing world. Last month, Lisa took first place in the Lancome Irish Women's Close Championship, held in Co. Cork. Although her twin sister Leona was eliminated early in the competition, she had her own moment in the sun when she was named as Sportswoman of the Month by the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council. Her nomination follows her success at the Scottish Open in Troon and the French International Under-21 championships. While the fourteen-year-olds continue to concentrate on their golf, they also have to give some time to their Junior Certificate exams, which they sit next year.

Clare: Torrential rain put a stop to a record attempt in Ennis, but it didn't deter the thousands who turned up for the occasion. The Special Olympics Fundraising Team had organized a massive Siege of Ennis, hoping to break the record of 8,400 participants set in Cork four years ago. However the weather meant that some 6,000 people joined in the dance, led by Ennis men Michael Donnellan and Anthony Sharkey to the music of the Kilfenora Ceili Band. According to organiser Brian Moore the Team hopes to restage the attempt next year.

Cork: More than 1,600 past pupils and friends of the Convent of the Infant Jesus gathered in Drishane last month

for a series of events to mark the sisters' centenary. When the convent was founded the sisters established a Knitting School and two years later a boarding school was opened, and subsequently a residential school of housecraft and a farm. The events to mark the centenary included flowers being placed on the graves of deceased nuns in Drishane cemetery, and a pageant in the Green Glens Arena in Millstreet that featured the local pipe band and Scór dancers. A Mass was celebrated by Bishop of Kerry Bill Murphy and a history of the order, "The Voyage Out," edited by Catherine Kilbride and Deirdre Raftery, was launched by Maura Walsh.

Derry: A recent meeting of the Policing Board in Derry made history when it was conducted entirely through Irish. A live translation service through headphones was available for the more than 100 people who attended the meeting, chaired by former Mayor of Derry Gearoid O hEara. Assistant Chief Constable of the PSNI Judith Gillespie, in describing the meeting as a truly historic occasion, said she never would have believed, when she joined the force nearly 30 years ago, that she would be attending such a meeting. Speakers in Irish at the event included two PSNI constables, Una McVeigh and Peadar Heffernon, as well as chairperson elect of the Board Barry Gilligan.

Donegal: The top secret Donegal Corridor, used by Allied airmen during the Second World War, will once again echo to the sound of a flying boat when a war veteran will take the controls for the first time in 64 years. Eighty-six-year-old Ted Jones, now living in Dublin, will take to the skies from his former base at Enniskillen and fly along the narrow strip of airspace to the Atlantic. One of his memories is of the night-time missions when they used to fly towards the St John's Point lighthouse in Donegal Bay and shine a bright light down on to the lighthouse keepers.

Down: The Grand on Market Street in Downpatrick closed down in the early 1990s and since that time the town has been without its own cinema. Now, however, a new facility will shortly be available, with brothers Martin and Gerald Barrett opening the 1,000-seat, 6-screen Eclipse Cinema. Among twenty staff already appointed are Maureen Daly as cinema manager and Roisin McManus as deputy manager. The complex will also include shops and restaurants and the Funky Monkeys soft play activity centre, owned by Suzanne and Scott Kidd from Castlewella. The Barrett brothers have not yet revealed the title of the first film to show at the new cinema.

Dublin: Seán McArdle, co-ordinator of the Bank of Ireland's National Enterprise Week, was so impressed with the Farmers' Market held at the bank's College Green premises last month that he is trying to persuade the bank's directors to sanction it as a weekly event. The mid-week market comprised some twenty stalls as well as roasting hogs on spits in the courtyard. It is estimated that up to 40,000 euro was spent at the market, which offered jewelry as well as food, and a second market was held at the bank's Baggot Street headquarters the following day.

Fermanagh: In 1944, General Dwight D. Eisenhower paid a visit to Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, a fact not revealed until very recently, and last week the school staged



a re-enactment of the top-secret visit. The general had inspected the American troops on the school's playing fields before they headed to the Front and the re-enactment was staged by the Wartime Living History Association, which provided both the troops and the general. Guest of honor for the occasion was the American Consul, Susan Elliott. Local man David Hassard led a motorcade of army jeeps from Castlecoole Estate, driving the 'General', played by Eddie Lynn. Also taking part was local man Michael Gilmore.

Galway: The part of Galway city centering on the oldest mediaeval area has long been known locally as the Latin Quarter. Now it has been officially designated so. The new name of the area, which takes in St Nicholas's Church, O'Brien's Bridge, the Spanish Arch, Middle Street and Buttermilk Lane, was officially announced by Town Crier Liam Silke. The idea arose during preparations for the arrival of the Volvo Ocean Race into the harbor last month and came to fruition through a partnership involving Let's Do It Galway, the City Council, and the Garda Síochána.

Kerry: Karen McGillicuddy has been selected as the Kerry Rose for 2009, the fiftieth year of the competition. Karen, who is a classically trained singer and musician, teaches in Gorey, Co. Wexford, and is a member of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust; she intends to study for an MEd in Special Needs. She is a member of a number of clubs in her hometown of Killorglin, including the Parish Choir, the Rowing Club and the Pantomime and Drama group. The twenty-four-year-old, who is sponsored by the West Holiday Park, will support the Kerry branch of Down Syndrome Ireland during her year as the Kerry Rose.

Kildare: Early last month, a new bus service, aimed at people with specific needs that are not met by other transport services, was launched at The Gallery in Athy Library. The orange, blue and white Southlink bus, parked on Barrow Quay, was launched by South Kildare Community Transport, who have been supported in the initiative by the Town Council and the Community Library. The wheelchair-accessible ser-

vice will be particularly suitable for small groups, with a maximum of sixteen, who want to arrange social outings to the cinema or shopping expeditions. Southlink also hopes to provide a regular service to hospitals in Naas and Portlaoise.

Kilkenny: When President Mary McAleese visited Kilkenny city last month to be conferred with the Freedom of the City she also attended the launch of a historical project at the Kilkenny Education Centre. The project, "Stepping into Kilkenny's History," involved a number of national and secondary schools across the county and some sixty children attended the event. First to meet the President were Aoife Scannell, Ciara O'Keeffe, Lauren Valentine, and Kate Nolan from fourth class at St. John of God National School. Sixth class pupils from Scoil Ciarán Naofa David O'Brien, David Sutton, Jemma Fitzgerald, and Aaron O'Neill were joined by their teacher Orla Brennan for a photograph with President McAleese.

Laois: In conjunction with the closing this year of the Brigidine Secondary School in Mountrath and the Patrician Brothers school in Ballyfin, a committee has been set up to honor the founder of the local schools. The Dr. Delaney Memorial Fund has the aim of providing a memorial to the man who founded the two schools at a time when education was lacking in the area. Born in Paddock, he was educated at a Briscola hedge school and later in France, subsequently becoming a priest. On the fundraising committee under president Dr. Pat O'Dwyer are Michael Lalor, Anne Hetherington, Marie Phelan, and Maura Reynolds.

Leitrim: Brendan Flynn's farm at Tonnagh, Carrick-on-Shannon welcomed two new arrivals last month, both unusual. First to arrive was Half Pint, a miniature horse which was fourteen inches high at birth and is expected to reach a maximum height of just twenty-eight inches. He will be kept by the Flynns as a future herd stallion. The second arrival, and a first for the county, was a baby black alpaca, known as a cria, which is slightly larger at eighteen inches high. The cria, which has been christened Arnie by the Flynn family, will be kept as a companion to Half Pint.

Limerick: The National Harp Orchestra, based at Harbison's Irish Harp Centre and Music School in Castleconnell, represented Ireland at the European Youth Festival in Austria last month. The twenty-five members of the orchestra were accompanied by family and friends and led by Janet Harbison, who set the school up seven years ago with her husband Malcolm Gillis. The Irish group, which tours both nationally and internationally, was among almost 200 music schools gathered in Linz for the Festival. The Castleconnell school has some 400 pupils and 22 teachers.

Longford: A group of 17 visitors, including one primary pupil and two secondary students from the French towns of Landevant and Landaul, both twinning with Ballymahon, spent some time in the area recently. They were met by Tim Caffrey, Frank Sheridan and Breege Murray and since they had driven up from Cork they were able to pay visits to Longford Town, Athlone, and Galway, as well as enjoying a tour of County Clare. While in Ballymahon the visitors helped set up a pen pal scheme with children in a primary school in the town, for students from the age of nine years.

Louth: When Eimear Burke and her fellow-students were organizing their final project they found themselves short of one vital person, but it turned out not to be a problem since Eimear's grandmother came to their rescue. Eimear and Emma Dunlop, Chris Mooney, Ciara Scott, and Aisling Callanan were making a film, "Sophie," for their final year project in Dundalk Institute of Technology. They had no difficulty casting most of the parts for the film but needed an elderly woman to take on one of the more important roles. And it was here that Nancy Burke stepped in to make her screen debut and, according to her granddaughter, she was "brilliant."

Mayo: Mayo was represented by two students at the recent Bank of Ireland National Student Awards. Seventeen-year-old William Doherty, a student at Our Lady's Secondary School in Belmullet, was named Senior Student of the Year 2009 for Entrepreneurial Spirit. One of William's projects was to sell his own paintings of Bellacorrick Power Station to retiring employees on the day the station was demolished. Meanwhile Shane Nally from St. Colman's College in Claremorris was named Senior Sport Student of the Year 2009. Last year he captained the county minor team to the All-Ireland final, and also led his school's team to victory in the Connacht Colleges Senior Football Championship.

Meath: The excavations at the site of the new Nobber GFC juvenile pitch have just been completed after six weeks and they have revealed evidence of both late Bronze Age and Early Mediaeval activity. Bronze Age discoveries included a fullacht fiadh and an accompanying deer antler, as well as an adjacent round house measuring six meters in diameter. The remains of six properties, with two corn-drying kilns, two baking ovens and pits have proved to be dated from mediaeval times, with the properties related to the Bridge Park site. Archaeologist Alan Hayden believes that the pitch site and the Bridge Park site were part of one large mediaeval site.

Monaghan: Students from national and secondary schools

(Continued on page 21)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Sensational End to Irish Open Golf - Although he is 16th in the world amateur golf rankings, few people had heard of 22-year-old Shane Lowry before last month but now he is a household name. The Clara, Co. Offaly, native, won the Irish Open Golf Championship at Baltray in Co. Louth and did so in the most remarkable fashion, in a playoff against a hardened pro, Robert Rock. The son of former Offaly football star Brendan Lowry hoped to make the cut when he received an invitation to play in the Open, his first ever tour event. He attracted some attention after the opening round when he shot a 67 for a share of tenth place, but there was a feeling that he would fade after that. He didn't. He is only the third Irish player to win the tournament, after John O'Leary and Pádraig Harrington, and is only the third amateur to win on the European Tour. Robert Rock's consolation was to take the first prize of 500,000 euro.

Cardinal Makes History at C of I Synod - Last month, Cardinal Seán Brady became the first Catholic Primate of Ireland to attend a Church of Ireland General Synod Eucharist service. The service took place in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh. Referring to his presence, which not so long ago would have been unthinkable, the Cardinal suggested, "We live in remarkable times."

Armed Gardaí Patrol Tralee - Armed gardaí have been deployed in Tralee in an effort to contain a violent feud among two Traveller families. The decision to place armed gardaí in the Co. Kerry town followed a number of violent incidents and the purchase in the town of large numbers of slash hooks and Stanley knives.

Ireland Today: Our Thanks to Siobhan King

Pauline and I would like to thank Siobhan King, in Swinford, Co. Mayo, who compiled the last two editions while we were gallivanting around northern Europe. As usual Siobhan did a great job and allowed us to relax on our holiday.

-- LIAM FERRIE

Nine days ago a slash hook was used to smash the windscreen of a stationary car while a woman sat inside. On Wednesday three men appeared in court on charges relating to offensive weapons and causing damage to cars and were remanded in custody.

New Code Launched for Sale of Alcohol - An end to special offers on alcohol in stores, and the discontinuing of alcohol-only advertising by retailers on TV and radio are among the measures in a voluntary code of practice launched by the Department of Justice, the Department of Health, and trade representatives. A maximum of 25 percent of newspaper or magazine advertisements will promote alcohol. Measures will also be taken to ensure that alcohol is on display in just one location in a store and that it will not be necessary for customers to walk through this location to reach non-alcoholic products. The voluntary code has been agreed to after Minister for Justice Dermot Ahern announced plans to introduce legislation aimed at curbing the misuse of alcohol. He has now put these plans on hold.

MPs' Expenses Row Travels to Belfast - A huge controversy in Britain about the level of expenses claimed by Members of Parliament has extended to Sinn Féin and the Democratic Union-

ist Party. While many in Britain question the propriety of Sinn Féin receiving any expenses, given that the party's five MPs refuse to take their seats, the fact is that the expenses are paid as part of the Good Friday Agreement. More detailed questions were, however, asked about the level of rent being paid for three properties which the five MPs use while in London. The monthly rent claimed in respect of two of the properties is 3,600 and 5,400 pounds, respectively; no figure was given for the third. The right-wing Daily Telegraph, which published the details, claims that an estate agent had estimated the market rent for the first two properties to be 1,400 and 1,800 pounds, respectively. The same Irish landlord owns all three properties.

Later First Minister Peter Robinson defended himself and his wife against allegations made in the Daily Telegraph. The paper stated that he and his wife, Strangford MP Iris Robinson, had claimed 30,000 pounds for food allowances. Robinson said this was an accumulation over four years and represented about 73 pounds a week; he did, however, say that an inadvertent error had led to both claiming the same expenses, and this had been corrected.

Blasphemy Law Proposed - There has been some debate

arising from a decision of the Government to introduce a blasphemy law. Most of those commenting seemed to object to the idea and there was certainly no public demand for such action prior to the Government announcement. Minister for Health Mary Harney has clarified the matter by explaining that blasphemy is banned by the Constitution and that the Supreme Court pointed out that without a law backing this up no prosecution could succeed. The alternative would be to hold a referendum in an attempt to remove the ban on blasphemy.

Gormley announces Election of Dublin Mayor - Minister for the Environment John Gormley has announced that, from next year, the mayor of Dublin will be an elected position. The holder of the office, who will be paid the same salary as a Government minister, will have responsibility for transport, planning, and waste management in the four local authorities.

New Liffey Bridge Arrives in Dublin - The new Samuel Beckett Bridge, which will span the Liffey from the junction of Custom House Quay and North Wall Quay to Sir John Rogerson Quay, arrived in the Liffey last month, having been brought by barge from Rotterdam. It should have been brought through the East Link Bridge to its new home but windy conditions caused the abandonment of two attempts and it was Wednesday before this operation was completed. The harp-like structure is the work of architect Santiago Calatrava, who also designed the James Joyce Bridge near Heuston Station and the Chicago Spire, Garret Kelleher's 2,000-foot condominium block that is currently on hold. The 120-metre bridge, which will

rotate 90 degrees to allow ships upriver, should be open to traffic early next year.

Cars to be Restricted in College Green Area of Dublin - By 15 votes to 12, Dublin City Councillors voted to create what is being called a "bus gate" in the College Green area of the capital. The plan is to ban cars from the area between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and again between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday. Implementing the proposal will require changes in road signage and the provision of alternative access to certain car parks. The Dublin Chamber of Commerce and some councillors believe the change will create serious problems for retailers in the city centre.

First Stretch of M3 Opens - The first stretch of the M3 motorway, the subject of much controversy due to its proximity to the Hill of Tara, was opened by Minister for Transport Noel Dempsey late last month. The four-kilometre access road to Navan and the inner relief road is expected to reduce heavy goods vehicle movements through the town and to save up to 20 minutes for traffic bypassing Navan.

Eircom to Shed 1,200 Staff - Eircom has reached an agreement with the Communications Workers Union that will result in 1,200 redundancies, half from contract staff and half from full-time employees. Under the agreement there will be no compulsory redundancies among full-time staff. Eircom currently has some 7,300 employees. The deal also means pay cuts of between 5 percent and 10 percent, no performance related bonuses for the next two years, and reductions in subsistence and mileage allowances. The goal is to achieve annual saving of 130-million euro.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

From Roscommon to Wicklow

(Continued from page 20)

in Castleblayney attended the recent launch of a mental health initiative in Iontas, Castleblayney. The initiative, the work of community group Partners in Learning, was launched by Dr. John Owens, a former chairman of the Mental Health Commission. The Partners in Learning group has previously been instrumental in establishing the Youth Café in the town, and in reviving the scouting movement in Castleblayney. Designed by the young people, "Reach Out" has issued fridge magnets with helpline numbers to all families in the community, and secondary students are to receive key rings giving the same information.

Offaly: Offalyman Noel Joyce, who has been paralyzed from the chest down since he was involved in a mountain bike accident four years ago, has invented a new braking system for his wheelchair. Noel, a former member of the Defence Forces who is now as student in Carlow, used sketches and computer-aided designs to come up with the more user-friendly brake and he now hopes that it will attract the attention of a manufacturer. Already the braking system has been entered in the James Dyson Award creative engineering competition.

Roscommon: Last month, the first race meeting of the year was held at the newly refurbished Roscommon Racecourse. Included in the new facilities is an expanded upstairs bar centrally located to the bookmakers and the tote, and little expense has been spared on its

refurbishment, according to racecourse committee chairman Shane Fleming. The area can also be divided so that groups can have their own private room while still being able to see every part of the course. For the first meeting in the new upstairs bar the committee provided finger food for race-goers.

Sligo: Anne Killoran from Tubbercurry was in the Red Cow Inn in Dublin last month in the hope of taking the national Granny of the Year title. Anne qualified in the regional heats at the Slieve Russell Hotel in Cavan to represent Connacht/Ulster in the All-Ireland competition. Her main sponsor was local election candidate Roger McCarrick and the idea behind the competition is to raise funds for the Special Olympics team. Before she left for Dublin Anne, who runs Killoran's restaurant with her husband Tommy, was wished well by two of her grandchildren, Niamh and Luke Foley.

Tipperary: Dog handler Francis Coleman of Moneen Kennels in Roscrea has had a double victory in the past couple of weeks with his German Shepherd Bruno. First, they competed against 19 other handlers in the Irish Working Trials Club of Ireland Championship show in Dublin and came out top. The duo repeated their success in the obedience trials at the South Tipperary Canine Show in Thurles, taking a second national title. Francis says he has received valuable help and guidance from Seamus Brophy of Shepherd's Cottage dog training in Nenagh.

Tyrone: The final event of

the season for the Omagh Music Society last month also marked the end of Rev. John Murdoch's 14-year period as conductor of the choir. For the farewell concert in St. Columba's Parish Church many former members of the society joined current members in a performance of Handel's "Messiah." John Murdoch first became a member of the choir 35 years ago and will now rejoin the 'back row of the tenors' until he retires from his position as minister of First Omagh Presbyterian Church and moves away from the town. He will be succeeded as conductor by David Robertson from Fivemiletown.

Waterford: A new municipal cemetery just off Ballybeg Drive at Kilbarry has received almost universal approval from local residents in Ballybeg and Kilbarry. A meeting was held in Ballybeg at the end of April to give residents an idea of what the completed facility will look like. Being created on waste ground at a total cost of a million euro, it will be known as Kilbarry cemetery since it is in close proximity to the original Kilbarry graveyard. The ten-acre multi-denominational graveyard, with extensive landscaping, is expected to be open by next March.

Westmeath: Terri Brady and Ian Murphy, both from Mullingar, and Elaine Leavy from Killucan are to spend the month of July in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya, respectively, working for the Irish charity Camara. The charity, named after the West African word for "teaching with experience," aims to educate African communities

in information technology as well as providing schools with refurbished computers. Terri, from Ardmore Road in Mullingar, has already spent time in Rwanda, while for Ian, of the town's Chestnut Grove, and Elaine it will be a first trip with the charity.

Wexford: Bishop Denis Brennan was the guest of honor at celebrations to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Scoil Mhuire National School in Coolcotts. As he blessed the classrooms, Bishop Brennan was accompanied by parish priest of Clonard, Father Jimmy Moynihan. Among other visitors welcomed to the school during the week by principal Pat Goff were the members of the original fundraising committee, who helped to raise the full 100,000 pounds for the school in 1983. And the new extension, with its purpose

built autism education unit, was officially opened during the week by Minister for Education Batt O'Keefe.

Wicklow: More than 1,000 people have signed a petition in support of pensioner Jim Stakem, who for the past 30 years has run a fast food facility at Glendalough, in addition to holding the key to the barrier and keeping the toilets in good condition. For the past two years Jim has been the only trader to tender for the job of providing refreshments at the important tourist site, but this year three other tenders were received by the county council and he was informed that the license had been granted to the highest bidder. Jim has been a popular trader in the upper car park with his wife Margaret and many are both sad and outraged that he has lost the pitch.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009

BY LIAM FERRIE

Here in Galway the weather was much better than the forecasters predicted. Rain was falling elsewhere and at times we had some overnight or early in the morning, but the sun shone on us for most of the time from Monday to Friday. Saturday morning was very wet but the sun appeared in the afternoon. While the south and east basked in sunshine on Sunday it was cool, breezy and overcast here.

Monday and Tuesday will see some sunshine but Wednesday will be very wet. After that, however, we are promised summer conditions to take us through next weekend.

Latest Temps: Day 14C (57F).....Night 12C (54F)

The Irish Language by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

In the last column we reviewed the many forms of the verb *tá*, both “Independent” and “Dependent” or “After a Particle.” “Independent” means either standing alone at the beginning of a sentence or after a coordinating **conjunction** – where two things of equal value are joined such as “and” **agus** and “or”, **no**. **Ach**, “but”, implies a contrary but it is still a **coordinating conjunction**.

Tá Nóra agus Liam istigh.

“Nora and Liam are inside.”

Bhí Nóra istigh agus bhí Liam amuigh.

“Nora was inside and Liam was outside.”

Bhí Nóra no Liam amuigh.

“Nora or Liam was outside.”

Bhí Nóra istigh ach bhí Liam amuigh.

“Nora was inside but Liam was outside.”

“Dependent” or “After a Particle” indicates that the **verb** is not able to stand alone or follows a **subordinating conjunction** such as “that” in sentences like, “I hope *that* she goes home.” Here the “I hope” would be in an “Independent” form while “she goes home” in Irish requires the “Dependent Form” of the verb **téigh**, “go”.

Be careful not to confuse English “that” which really is two (or more) different words – **homonyms**, words that sound the same but are quite different. “I see *that* book” where “that” points to the book versus “I hope that she comes”. Here “that” is a subordinating conjunction.

In grammatical terms these are called “compound” and “complex” sentences. In Irish, however, you must be able to use the “Dependent” forms to ask both questions and to make negatives as well as using them in dependent clauses.

Bhí Liam istigh.

“Liam was inside.”

Independent

An raibh Liam istigh.

“Was Liam inside?”

Dependent

Ní raibh Liam istigh.

“Liam wasn’t inside.”

Dependent

Nach raibh Liam istigh.

“Wasn’t Liam inside?”

Dependent

Irish has two **subordinating conjunction** forms that can be translated “that”, *go* and *nach*. If a speaker uses *go*, the “dependent” verb is assumed to be positive. If they use *nach* the speaker means that the very same verb form is negative.

Deir sé go raibh Liam istigh.

“He says that Liam *was* inside.”

Deir sé nach raibh Liam istigh.

“He says that Liam *was not* inside.”

Four Irish common irregular verbs have “Independent” and “Dependent” forms. Recall that all simple negatives cause lenition (“aspiration”) This, in effect, means that the four verbs really have two “Dependent” forms, a simple negative and an “After Particle” or “after **subordinating conjunction**” form.

English	Base Form	Past Independent	Past Dependent
“Do, make”	dean	rinne	ní dhearna an, go, nach ndearna
“See”	feic	chonaic /HAH-nuhk/	ní fhaca an, go, nach bhfaca an, go, nach ndeachaigh an, go, nach ndeachaigh
“go”	gabh	chuaigh /HOO-uh/	ní dheachaigh an, go, nach ndeachaigh
“get, find”	faigh	fuair	ní fhuair /OO-uh/ an, go, nach bhfuair /WOO-uh/

There are several alternative pronunciations and even spellings of these forms according to the several dialects of Irish. Learn these and speakers of other dialects will understand you.

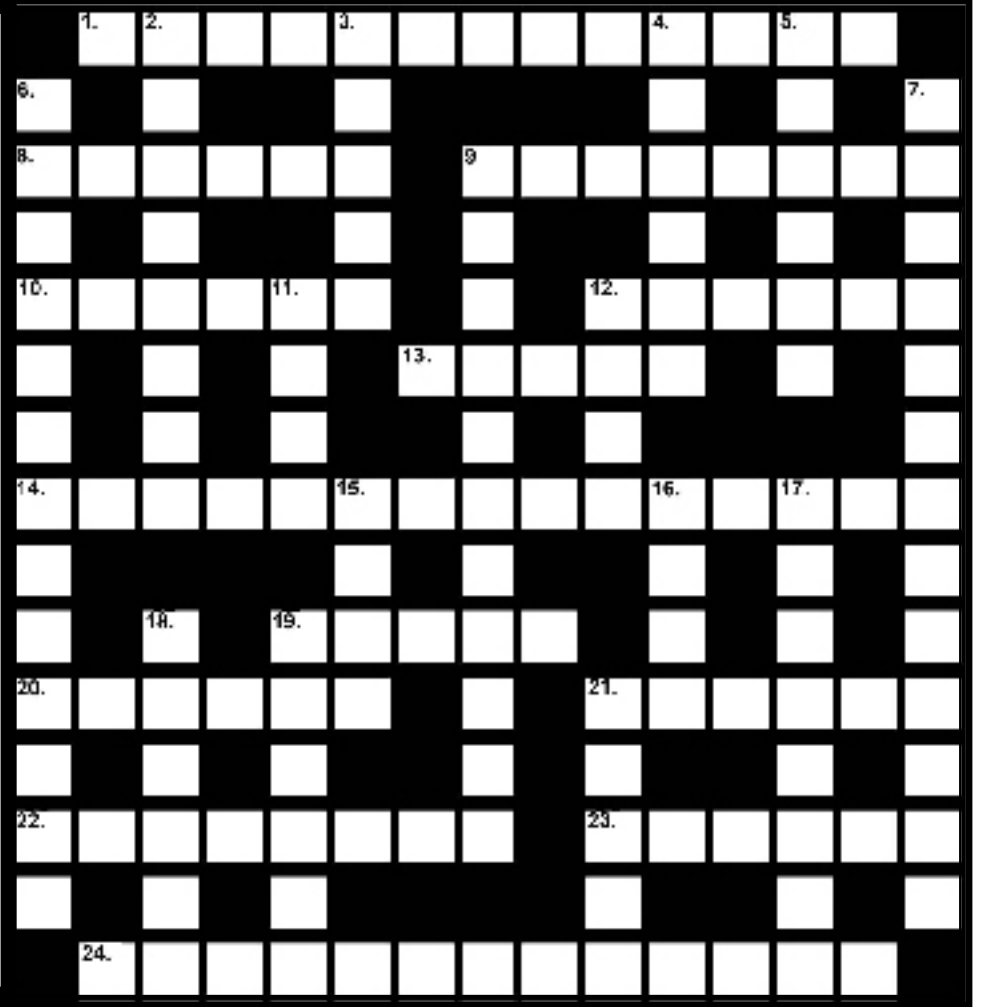
In Dependent Clauses, i.e. after **go** or **nach**, “he” and “she” usually drop the initial **s** – **sé, é: sí, í**.

Try to translate these sentences into Irish. They use *go* in many of its meanings. 1.) “He says that he will be there tonight.” 2.) “I will write a letter tomorrow.” 3.) “We said that we were not there last night.” 4.) “You are welcome.” 5.) “I said that she was very nice.” 6.) “How are you?” 7.) “Very well, thank you.” 8.) “They say that Liam will not be here tomorrow.” 9.) “Patrick and Nora went to Belfast yesterday.” 10.) She says that she will go to Cork.” 11. “Thanks be to God.” 12.) “It’s very cold.”

Answers” 1.) **Deir sé go mbéidh é anseo anocht.** 2.) **Scríobhfaidh mé leitir amárach.** 3.) **Dúamar nach raibh muid ansin aréir.** 4.) **Go raibh maith agat.** 5.) **Dúirt mé go raibh í go deas.** 6.) **Conas atá tú?** 7.) **Go maith, go raibh maith agat.** 8.) **Deir said nach mbéidh Liam anseo amárach.** 9.) **Thánaig Pádraig agus Liam go Béal Feirste.** 10.) **Deir sí go rachaidh í go Corraigh.** 11.) **Buíochas le Dia.** 12.) **Tá sé go fuair.**

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit www.bigwood.com/heraldry



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

- Or find chiller. (anag.) Stepchildren of Aoife whom she turned into Swans on Lough Derravaragh. (8,2,3)
- Protection found in popular Mourne location. (6)
- Pout face up until refreshment appears. (3,2,3)
- Fry air? No, but reduce its pressure. (6)
- Get up on hind legs about per can order. (6)
- Impulses scrambled the last of the Carrickfergus letters. (5)
- Then avoid by cute diversion around engineering work carrying the Dublin - Belfast rail line over Drogheda. (3,5,7)
- Tree falls over after a century on Mediterranean island. (5)
- Threw in at the Gaelic game? (6)
- Make a quick grab for ants all over the small church. (6)
- Stretch little Leonard starts, then finishes after note. (8)
- Salty pool covered up back in Portnoo gallery. (6)
- Sweet stew clan. (anag.) Limerick market town with a Knights Templars castle built in 1184. (9,4)

DOWN

- Oh, lure me in disorder for Bill first proposed and lost by Gladstone in 1885 and passed in 1912. (4,4)
- “Hail fellow, well met. All — — and wet: Find out, if you can, Who’s master, who’s man.” Swift. (5) 4. Storeys one knocks to the ground. (6)
- Recite with a singing voice to nine others in Rosses Point one time. (6)
- Hour train call. (anag.) Kerry mountain popularly ascended through the Hag’s Glen and up the Devil’s Ladder to the peak at 3,314 feet. (13)
- Jests shame pen. (anag.) Irish writer and poet (1880-1950) who wrote ‘The Crock of Gold’. (5,8)
- Owners latch up in neat Mayo village on the Sligo border. (11)
- You must see the faithful dog in Glengarriff, I do insist. (4)
- Ripe conversion of fairy on Greek roundabout. (4)
- Squirrel’s home back in the American garden in

pretty Ardmore. (4)

16. Last word in mean fashion. (4)

17. Greasy sun out over U.C. (8)

18. E.g. rang up Sligo village underneath Ben Bulbin on the Bundoran road opposite Inishmurray Island. (6)

19. “This goat-footed bard, this half-human visitor to our age from the hag-ridden magic and enchanted woods of — — — antiquity.” Baron Keynes - (describing Lloyd George) (6)

21. Soothe in the meandering vales. (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

Irish Sayings

- “Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”
- “Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”
- “The well fed does not understand the lean.”
- “He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”
- “Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.”
- “A friends eye is a good mirror.”
- “It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”
- “A lock is better than suspicion.”
- “Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”
- “He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”
- “If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn.”
- “Put silk on a goat, and it’s still a goat.”
- “Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout.”
- “A persons heart is in his feet.”
- “It is a long road that has no turning.”
- “Necessity knows no law.”
- “The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.”
- “There is no luck except where there is discipline.”
- “The man with the boots does not mind where he places his foot.”
- “The light heart lives long.”

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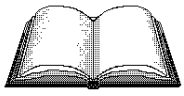
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Boston Irish Reporter Book Review

This Mailman Delivers The Literary Goods

Christian Moerk's Thriller 'Darling Jim' is the Riveting Tale of an Irish Mailman on the Trail of a Smooth-Talking, Cunning Killer

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

With *Darling Jim*, novelist Christian Moerk makes an auspicious debut in the crime-and-thriller genre. His novel is a modern gothic take on two suburban Dublin sisters whose diaries reveal a dark, twisted story of their relationship with a smooth, seductive stranger. They also reveal an Irish town that is so enthralled by the stranger that he can get away with murder – literally. Then, Niall, a young mailman, comes across one of the diaries in the post office's dead-letter bin. He picks it off the pile and begins to read the words of a deceased woman named Fiona Walsh. Her words reach from the grave to render one of the most tragic love stories imaginable. As Niall, obsessed with learning more about the mysterious stranger in Walsh's pages, soon discovers, the story is much more than tragic. It is sinister.

The creator of Irish mailman/detective Niall, Christian Moerk was born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, and lived in Vermont in his early twenties. After getting his MS in journalism at Columbia University, he was a movie executive for Warner Brothers Pictures and later wrote about film for *The New York Times*. *Darling Jim* is his first novel published in America. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

In *Darling Jim*, Moerk weaves the story of how two sisters and their aunt are found dead in their suburban Dublin home. There is a secret behind the deaths, but one that proves too elusive for the police. That all changes after Niall fishes Fiona Walsh's diary from the dead-letter pile. Niall becomes obsessed with unraveling that riddle.

The secret he pursues unfolds amid a backdrop of past and present family feuds and vendettas, resentment, sex, and envy. He learns more and more about the three Walsh sisters -- Fiona, Rosin, and Aoile – and

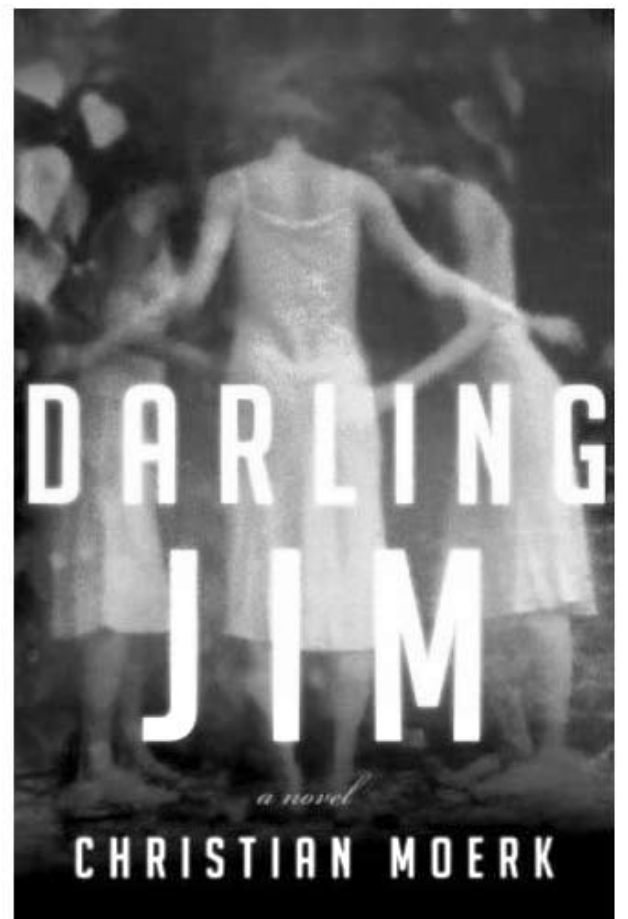
how they all descended into a collective love that ruined all in its path. The path was that of Jim, a charming and enigmatic *seanchai* – a gifted storyteller. Jim roared up on his motorcycle one day in Castletownbere, where his spellbinding, strange renderings of mythic tales soon compelled locals to follow him from pub to pub. At each, he spun his tales' evolving "chapters." Women of all ages were drawn to the handsome and beguiling storyteller.

Niall learns through sleuthing both luck and instinctive that wherever Jim had appeared throughout Ireland, brutal murders had similarly materialized. Locals shrugged off the murders as a "coincidence" – even though all of the victims were young women who not only had fallen hard for Jim, but also bore marked similarities to women in Jim's more macabre tales.

Niall, determined to unmask Jim, hears a warning about him: "The storytellers, you understand, make you look at anything but what's inside themselves. They gain your confidence and make you feel every story is invented for you and you alone. Don't believe them." Niall's dangerous purpose becomes to unmask what's inside the dark figure of Jim and what Jim has done to young women across Ireland.

The opening words of Fiona's diary compel Niall to seek answers, and compel the reader to take that quest with him: "If you have found this diary, you can't save me. But even so, at least REMEMBER me. Promise me you won't forget who I was and how I came to be here. Because being carted out in one of those rubber bags without a soul knowing the true full story is more than I can bear to imagine."

Christian Moerk tells "the true full story" of desire, dark deeds, and a fascinating, frightening, and intriguing villain." The full and horrifying toll that Jim has wreaked upon young Irish woman emerges through the Walsh sisters and through the self-avowed sleuth-



ing of a likable mailman named Niall. For any lover of thrillers with twists galore, *Darling Jim* is a must. So, too, for readers who love thrillers written with flair and skill blended with the perfectly dash of grittiness. Moerk is a novelist to watch and read.

Darling Jim, by Christian Moerk, Henry Holt and Company, hardcover, ISBN 978-0-8050-8947-9, 304 pp, \$25.

New U.S. Book Releases

ANGELS IN MY HAIR BY LORNA BYRNE

For anyone who has ever wondered about the mysteries that lie beyond everyday experience, or doubted the reality of the afterlife, *Angels in My Hair* is a moving and deeply inspirational journey into the unseen world. For as long as she can remember, Lorna Byrne has seen angels. As a young child, she assumed everyone could see the otherworldly beings who always accompanied her. Yet in the eyes of adults, her abnormal behavior was a symptom of mental deficiency. Today, sick and troubled people from around the world are drawn to her for comfort and healing, and even theologians of different faiths seek her guidance. Lorna is trusted for her ability to communicate with spirits and angels—and by sharing her intimate knowledge of the spiritual world she offers a message of hope and love to us all.

Angels in My Hair is an engrossing chronicle of Lorna's incredible life story. Invoking a wonderful sense of place, she describes growing up poor in Ireland, finding work in Dublin, and marrying the man of her dreams—only to have the marriage cut short by tragedy. Already a bestseller in Ireland, her story gives readers a unique insight into the angelic help that is around us and available to us all the time. As Lorna says, "All you have to do is ask."

In this uplifting autobiography, a modern-day Irish mystic shares her vivid encounters and conversations with the angels and spirits she has known her entire life.

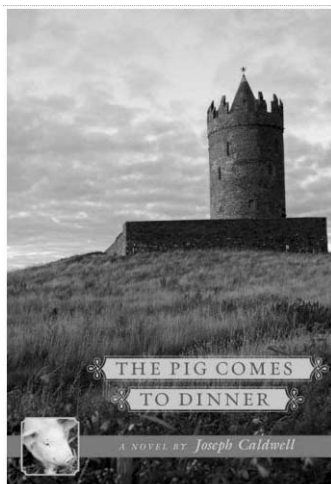
Lorna Byrne asserts that she has been seeing and talking to angels since she was a baby. Now, having raised her family, she talks openly for the first time about what she has seen and learned. She lives quietly in rural Ireland.

Doubleday Religion, hardcover, ISBN 978-0-385-52896-2, 320 pp, \$24.95.

THE PIG COMES TO DINNER

BY JOSEPH CALDWELL

Back to his familiar mischief is the obstreperous creature that romped so riotously through *The Pig*



Eyre, and is now hard at work on her "correction" of George Eliot's "big mess of a novel *The Bloody Mill on the Bloody Floss* – the added expletives a measure of Kitty's consternation."

Kitty's new husband, Kieran Sweeney, is tending the castle's herd of cows when he isn't locked in loving if contentious wrestling holds with his fiery new bride, his former rival in one of their district's oldest blood feuds. Kitty's American cousin, Aaron McCloud, has arrived with his new wife, the former Lolly McKeever, to redeliver to Kitty and Kieran their wedding gift of the troublesome pig, who is not at all welcome at the castle.

But over their lighthearted discord hangs a weightier problem – Kitty's new home is inhabited by two comely ghosts from out of the castle's troubled past. How this haunting couple is dealt with serves only to embellish the allure and humor of Mr. Caldwell's uniquely theatrical storytelling.

Joseph Caldwell, a playwright and novelist whose previous books include *In Such Dark Places*, *The Deer at the River*, *Under the Dog Star*, *The Uncle from Rome* and *Bread for the Baker's Child*, has been awarded the Rome Prize for Literature by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He lives in New York City and is completing the third entry in the Pig Trilogy, *The Pig Enters Hog Heaven*.

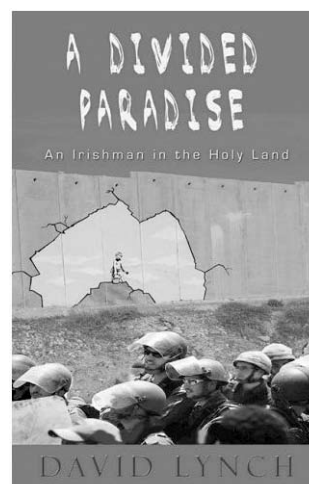
Delphinium Books / HarperCollins, hardcover, ISBN 978-1883285333, 255 pp, \$22.99.

A DIVIDED PARADISE AN IRISHMAN IN THE HOLY LAND BY DAVID LYNCH

A Divided Paradise: An Irishman in the Holy Land consists of interviews, discussions, and articles. While focusing on the contemporary life of ordinary Palestinians and Israelis, the book also delves into

Did It, the best-selling first novel in Joseph Caldwell's Pig Trilogy. But in Mr. Caldwell's entertaining porcine sequel, *The Pig Comes to Dinner*, the porker has some more serious business to attend to.

All of the charming characters of the previous book are present again in this delightful new story. Kitty McCloud has bought an ancient Irish castle with the profits from her popular revisions of classic novels like Jane



the contested history of the region, and provides accessible background to the conflict.

It is an exciting and readable description of ordinary life in one of the most conflicted, newsworthy, and interesting regions on the globe. Including chapters focusing on the internal contradictions of Israeli life, David Lynch animates stories from both sides of the divide.

Lynch is an award-winning freelance journalist, who has written extensively for the Sunday Business Post and Daily-Ireland, with a particular focus on the Middle East.

New Island Books / Dufour Editions, paperback, ISBN 978-1-84840-013-9, 392 pp, \$26.95.

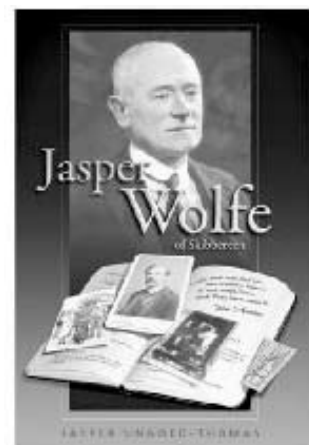
JASPER WOLFE OF SKIBBEREEN BY JASPER UNGOED-THOMAS

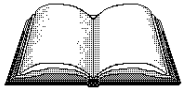
Stories are still told in West Cork about Jasper Wolfe. He led a remarkable and dangerous existence in the turbulent early years of the 20th century. A highly successful lawyer in Skibbereen, he was a strong supporter of Home Rule and gave an acclaimed speech at the rally in London in 1912 that launched the Irish Protestant Home Rule movement.

After Easter 1916, he was appointed Crown Solicitor for the City and West Riding of Cork, and put the Crown case at the inquest into the murder of the Republican Lord Mayor of Cork. Having been thrice sentenced to death by the IRA, he became a defense lawyer for dissident Republicans after the Civil War.

In 1927, he was elected to the Dail as an Independent candidate. Jasper Wolfe was clever, convivial, and hard drinking. Personally fearless, he was cherished for the stories of his exploits. More seriously, he stood for an Ireland at peace and at ease with itself.

Collins Press / Dufour Editions, hardcover, ISBN 978-1-905172-71-9, 300 pp, \$39.95.

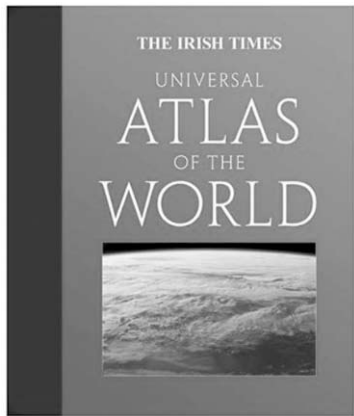




BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND, COURTESY OF READIRELAND.COM

The Irish Times Universal World Atlas



The first ever world atlas to be published with The Irish Times has a unique 32-page section at the front with mapping and geographical information for the whole of Ireland. A detailed world section follows with fascinating geographical information from every corner of the world. 190 pages of mapping provide an amazingly detailed view of the Ireland and the rest of the world with geographical information beside each map giving extra detail about each area. The authoritative and accurate reference mapping reflects all recent political and geographical changes around the world. The comprehensive index illustrates the detail of this atlas. It contains over 50,000 place names that are fully cross-referenced with alternative and former names.

Main features: Irish section with detailed maps of each of the provinces / Latest mapping, images and statistics on topical issues facing Ireland today from climate to tourism / Historical map section shows how the world looked over the last 150 years / The latest satellite images / Updated plans of 32 of the world's great cities are also included / Geographical reference section with flags, statistics and facts for all the world's countries / Comprehensive index to over 50,000 place names.

Sinn Féin and the Politics of Left Republicanism

By Eoin O Broin

Sinn Féin is a growing force in Irish politics. Now the country's third largest party, Sinn Féin have been one of the central architects of the peace process and are increasingly setting the terms of political debate in Ireland north and south. Despite this, the party remains much misunderstood and often misrepresented. In *Sinn Féin & The Politics of Left Republicanism*, Sinn Féin activist Eoin O Broin explores the ideological and organizational origins of the party, charts its history and recent political development, and assesses possible futures. He argues that Sinn Féin is part of a distinct left-republican tradition



Sinn Féin and the Politics of Left Republicanism

EOIN Ó BROIN

in Irish society whose future lies in the globally resurgent radical democratic left.

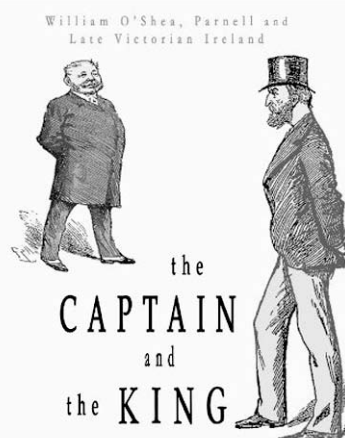
The Captain and the King

By Myles Dungan

Essentially a biography of Captain William Henry O'Shea, this book explores his ill-fated relationship with Charles Stewart Parnell and how his failure to secure advancement in his political career and a sequence of business failures resulted in his taking the divorce case against his wife, Katharine, and Parnell. Although no attempt is made to suggest that O'Shea is a sympathetic character, he is portrayed as a more intelligent and complex personality than the stereotypical buffoon and cuckold presented in most historical narratives. While he was a Whig, a place-seeker, a fantasist, and suffered from over-weening vanity, he is also representative of a political elite that vanished in the 1880's just as the men who replaced them would disappear in 1918. In addition, almost in spite of himself, he performed some useful services during his sojourn in the House of Commons (1880-86) and, prefigured the clientelist politics of the Irish Free State with his constituency work in Clare in the early to mid 1880s. Through his bizarre association with members of the Fenian movement he, ironically, anticipated the move in the same direction made by Parnell after he lost the leadership of the Irish party.

William Orpen: An Onlooker in France

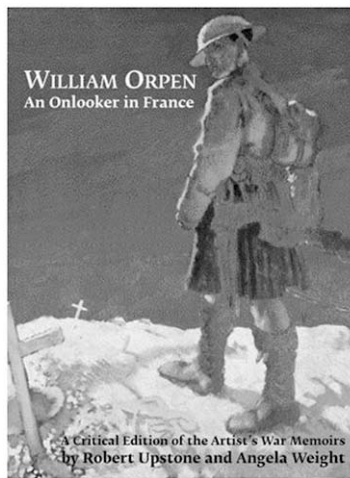
By Robert Upstone and Angela Weight



MYLES DUNGAN

"...a memorable and beautiful reminder of the outstanding abilities of this truly great Irish artist" -- Bruce Arnold, Irish Independent

The best known of the Official War Artists sent to France, Orpen was the only one to publish an extensive memoir of his experiences and observations. He was a talented writer, and his accounts of the last two years of the Great War and the Peace Conference that followed it are vivid, lucid, and shrewd. The book ends with a passionate indictment of politicians and their mismanagement of the War, and the rapidity with which the ordinary soldier was forgotten. This compelling book was first published in 1921. This new edition contains a critical essay by Robert Upstone that assesses Orpen's career as a war artist and the pivotal impact the war had upon him. It investigates the major controversies that marked this period of his life and is set against the wider ambiguity of Irish soldiers supporting the British war effort, while at home in 1916 the Irish Republican Brotherhood pro-



claimed an independent Ireland. Orpen's portraits of generals, politicians, ordinary soldiers, airmen and evocative battlefield landscapes and bitter allegories on the waste of life and futility of war accompany the text. Also included is a catalogue of the Imperial War Museum's definitive collection of Orpen's war paintings and drawings.

Ireland's Misfortune: The Turbulent Life of Kitty O'Shea

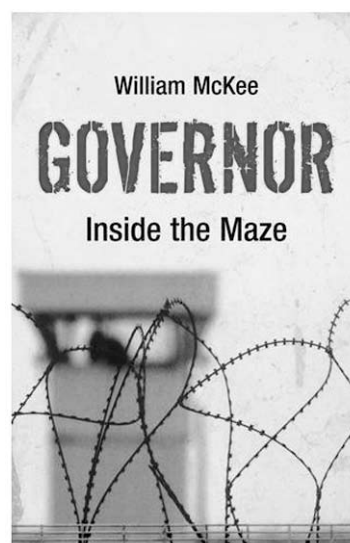
By Elisabeth Kehoe

As dramatic as a good novel, this is the first intimate biography of Katie 'Kitty' O'Shea, the woman whose scandalous love affair with the Irish nationalist leader Charles Stewart Parnell altered the course of Irish history. At the end of the nineteenth century, Charles Stewart Parnell, MP, was the only man who both the English government and Irish radicals believed could secure Home Rule for Ireland. But when Parnell met and fell in love with Katie O'Shea, a married woman, Parnell's life - and Ireland's history - would change for ever. When Parnell was named as co-respondent in Katie's divorce and revealed as the father of three of Katie's children, their affair triggered the most notorious scandal of the Victorian era. Elisabeth Kehoe's vivid biography introduces us to a woman entirely unrecognizable as the home-wrecker and historical catastrophe of subsequent myth. From this book emerges, for the first time, the real Katie O'Shea: a gifted woman who influenced political policy with an acuity and sensitivity sorely lacking in her lover.

Governor: Inside the Maze

By William McKee

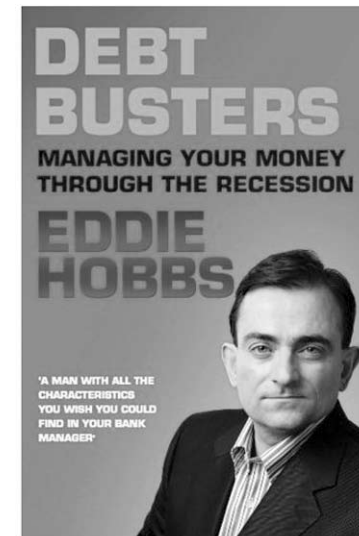
Billy Wright's death was the start of William McKee's descent into life-changing circumstances that would ultimately lead to the loss of his home, health, career, family, and, on a number of occasions, almost his life, both through murder attempts and finally thoughts of suicide. William tells his story with rare honesty and skill. This is



an eye-opening account of what life is really like inside Northern Ireland's prisons. This is a no-holds-barred account of life as a prison governor.

Debt Busters: Managing Your Money Through the Recession

By Eddie Hobbs



Since the publication in 2005 of "Short Hands, Long Pockets," Eddie Hobbs's bestselling guide to personal finance, the global and personal financial climate has changed almost beyond recognition and the cold winds of unmanageable debt, negative equity, and redundancy now blow through many homes. "Debt Busters" is Eddie's timely response to the recession. In this book he explains clearly and practically how to manage your spending and the money you owe even if you feel overwhelmed by your level of indebtedness and come out the other side in leaner and fitter financial shape. Topics covered include: the big economic shift; how Ireland and the world went from easy credit to credit crunch; how to manage your money and your debts through the recession how to take on the banking system with an insider's skill when you're in distressed debt and unable to meet repayments; how the Irish legal system deals with distressed debt; the best tactics for coping practically and psychologically with the stress caused by unemployment and reduced financial circumstances; money-saving tips to beat the recession; where you can go for help.

Damnyakee: A WWII Story of Tragedy and Survival Off the West of Ireland

By Thomas L. Walsh

Damnyankee is the compelling story of a World War II U.S. Navy submarine patrol bomber that ditched off the west coast of Ireland in 1944 in a seething North Atlantic storm. Four decades later an American arrived in Clifden, County Galway, claiming to have been a crew member on that aircraft lost at sea, and striving to somehow reconstruct this tragedy. With the help of a sergeant in the Garda, an Irish schoolboy, and an aging Irish maiden lady, the former bow gunner was able to reconstruct the incident. In the process, he found a way to honor those who lost their lives in the storm-lashed sea that tragic night.

The author's familiarity with Ireland and all things Irish adds additional perspective to the book. From a beginning in Norfolk, Virginia, to a partial salvation at the tiny village of Ailleabreach along the Galway coast, this book has something for both WWII aviation buffs as

well as those hopelessly in love with the West of Ireland.

I Never Knew That About the Irish

By Christopher Winn

In this charming book, bestselling author Christopher Winn turns his attention to the Irish people, taking us on an enthralling journey around their homeland, discovering en route the intriguing and surprising ways the places and their history contribute to the Irish character. As he travels across the Emerald Isle, he unearths the traditions, triumphs, and disasters, foibles, quirks, and customs that come together to make up the Irish people. From County Leitrim, the most sparsely populated county in the Republic of Ireland to County Louth, Ireland's smallest county, discover the site of the first play performed in the Irish language, sail the longest navigable inland waterway in Europe, and watch the horse racing at Ireland's first all-weather racecourse. Illustrated throughout with enchanting pen and ink drawings and packed with entertaining stories and astonishing facts "I Never Knew That About the Irish" will entertain the whole family for hours on end.

Irish Wit: From Behan and Wilde to Yer Man in the Pub

By Sean McCann

Irish wit is an art form, centuries old, yet up-to-the-minute wise, insulting, obscure, profound, and idiotic. For years the Irish have mixed wit with wisdom, as they have porter and whiskey, and to the same intoxicating effect! In this book, Sean McCann has succeeded in distilling the essence of Irish wit -- on love, religion, the 'hard stuff', the English, with a generous mix from Behan, Yeats, Swift, Moore, O'Casey, but above all from 'yer man', the leading authority on everything that grows, breeds, thinks, or computes in the land.

The Best of Irish: A Celebration of Incredible Ireland

By Hannah Mulholland



This is a charming gift book that celebrates everything that's wonderful about the green isle. Ranging from geographical wonders to cultural symbols, literary genius to enduring monuments, there is something for everyone. Also featuring mini-biographies of great Irish men and women, entertaining quotations and fascinating facts, "Best of Irish" is a lovely book championing the achievements, quirks, and cultural wealth of Ireland. This title includes: mini-biographies of Oscar Wilde, Robert Boyle, James Joyce and Bono; tales of leprechauns and shamrock; the Giants Causeway; the Battle of the Boyne; and, the history of Guinness and St Patrick's Day.

Traveling People

A New Summer Begins, and Ireland is Alive With Delights

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In case you've questioned whether you should visit Ireland this summer, be aware the country is alive and well despite the current economic crisis gripping most of the world. True, the economy isn't great in Ireland and there are layoffs and businesses closing there, too, but the upside is that there are also some excellent price breaks everywhere you look -- in accommodation, flights (Aer Lingus, for instance, has been offering many good deals lately) and other areas. And, as always, Ireland offers so many varied activities to suit every age group and any and every interest that you're absolutely certain to find something you'd like to do.

Everyone knows Ireland is famed for outstanding golf courses, horse racing, and breathtaking coastal scenery, but there's so much more to be enjoyed in this island country. And, the trend today is toward the active tourist who wants to get off the tour bus and go hill walking or kayaking or indulge in other forms of outdoor activities and eco-tourism and adventure travel (eco-

other criteria.

You can find fun, water-based activities all over the country. Here are a few suggestions: how about a cruise to the Aran Islands on the Jack B (mohercruises.com), Tranquillity or Queen of Aran (doolinferry.com) -- all from the pier in Doolin -- or a tour of the Cliffs of Moher or sea tour from the Ocean and Country Museum in Letterfrack, Connemara. Another fascinating boat trip would be viewing Clonmacnoise from the Shannon River aboard the Silverline Cruise (silverlinecruisers.com) River Queen out of Banagher, Co. Offaly, or taking a sightseeing cruise on an all-weather catamaran (killarycruises.com) to visit working mussel and salmon farms in Killary Harbor, Ireland's only fjord. Or how about a barge cruise or cruise-golf holiday on the Shannon or signing on for one of many other cruises offered by the Erne Leisure Development Company Limited at their website: cruiseireland.com? There are many other places to rent boats and sign up for cruising holidays too.

Would the kids love to dress up like Vikings for an Adventure Viking Cruise

firma at many other famed fishing spots, too, like Lough Inagh and Derrylare Lough in Connemara and Delphi Fishery (delphi-salmon.com) in Mayo and many other lovely spots around the country. Go to the Central Fishery Board's website at cfb.ie to learn more.

Wouldn't you and your fellow travelers have fun doing something different? Why not sign up for a craft workshop while you visit Mayo in the Westport area? Here are some options from Derryaun Crafts in Drummin (derryauncrafts.com): Thurs., June 11, rag rug making; June 13 and 14, precious metal clay with Maura Dickerson; July 9 and 10, basket weaving with Joe Hogan. E-mail Suzie@derryauncrafts.com for more details.

PONY CAMPS AND MORE

Horseback riding and a pony adventure camp are offered at Markree Castle Riding Stables (markreeridingstables.com) in Collooney, Co. Sligo. For other horseback tours, contact Equitours, Worldwide Horseback Riding Adventures, P.O. Box 807, Dubois, Wyoming 82513, or ridingtours.com, or any of the many companies that offer such tours, including killary.com, hiddentrails.com, authenticireland.com, and many, many more.

Visit the Station House museum in Clifden, Co. Galway, and learn about the Connemara pony, the Marconi Wireless Station at Derrygimla and the development of Clifden by John D'Arcy, or spend a day at Dartfield (dartfieldhorsemuseum.com), Ireland's Horseworld, Museum and Equestrian Park in Kilreekill, Loughrea, Co. Galway, and while you're in Co. Galway, visit William Butler Yeats's Tower home (Thoor Ballylee) and the nearby Coole Park, now a nature preserve but once the home of Yeats's long-time friend, Lady Augusta Gregory.

How about a day at the zoo? Irish President Mary McAleese recently opened a new African savannah exhibit at the fabulous Dublin Zoo (dublinozoo.ie) that will house giraffes, zebra, ostriches, and an endangered oryx. And, down in Co. Cork, there's the Fota Wildlife Park (fotawildlife.ie) where you and other visitors can see animals specifically chosen to thrive in the Irish climate.

Are you interested in the history of aviation



These are some of the many donkeys that welcome visitors to the Donkey Sanctuary in Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork. (Judy Enright photo)

and the famous Flying Boats (seaplanes)? If so, visit Foynes Flying Boat Museum in Foynes, Co. Limerick, (flyingboatmuseum.com) and try out the flight simulator.

NOVEL IDEA

Here's an interesting concept that I read about recently in The Irish Times's weekly travel section. Two Irish women -- Liz Gill and Breda Walsh -- have set up a website called tripmi.ie which aims to lessen the environmental impact of traffic by organizing carpooling not just into cities but all over the country and abroad. By going to the website, internet users can log on and find tripmates for wherever they want to travel and can designate whether they want to be drivers or passengers.

Sandra O'Connell, who wrote the piece, quotes Gill as saying, "I would love it if tourists would use it when coming to Ireland, especially since many of them like to travel the west coast, where there aren't rail links, such as from West Cork to Mayo. And, they might get to meet some real, live Irish folk, which would add to their cultural experience far better than renting a car and stressing out about road signs and which side of the road they're on."

NEW VIDEO

Dr. Tim Campbell, director of the Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, reports that there is a new video presentation on their website (saintpatrickcentre.com) that gives many details about the center. He adds, "We are grateful to the generosity of the Milwaukee Irish Fest Foundation, which has made this possible." If you can't make the trip to Ireland, the Milwaukee Festival every August is huge and, reportedly, the largest Irish festival in the world.

IRISH FOOD

If you're a dedicated diner, there are many good places to stop for lunch and dinner in towns and cities all across Ireland. Some travelers opt for soup and sandwich lunches with a pint of their favorite brew in local pubs, while others prefer finer dining. We've had delicious meals at Cullinan's and the Doolin Café, both in Doolin, Gallaghers of Bunratty (and the recently-opened J.P. Clarke's Pub alongside), all in Co. Clare; Cabots Source at The Linenmill (lunch and dinner) and Nicola's Emporium (lunch and take-out food), both in Westport; the Beehive (lunch only) in Keel on Achill Island and the Granuaille Pub (lunch and dinner) in Newport, all in Co. Mayo; at Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Recess and at Eldon's Hotel in Roundstone, both in Connemara.

Those are just a few of my personal favorites that I make a point to visit every time I'm in that area of Ireland but there are many, many other excellent restaurants and pubs elsewhere and you'll find fresh, locally-sourced food in every county -- and while you're traveling, be sure to visit Kinsale, the gourmet capital of the country, if excellent food is your focus.

TRAVEL PLANS

Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever and wherever you go and don't forget to check the internet for the latest travel specials. When you're in Ireland, be sure to stop by the Failte Ireland tourist board offices (marked with a big green shamrock) for details about festivals and other activities, to secure accommodation, and to learn about the area in which you're traveling.



Most pubs have entertainment, especially during the summer. These musicians were in the Grainne Uaile Pub in Newport, Co. Mayo.

(Photo by Judy Enright)

tourdirectory.com.)

So, what activities can you enjoy in Ireland when you visit? It's June, so water sports and other outdoor activities always top the list. If you want to go to the beach, scuba dive or sail, water ski, wind surf or fish, Ireland has it all and more.

BEACHES

There are seven beaches in Northern Ireland and 75 beaches in the Republic that have satisfied the exacting criteria to earn EU Blue Flag designation, so you'll have no trouble finding somewhere to relax and chill by the sea. Beaches are designated Blue Flags for water quality and safety and services, among many

(vikingtoursireland.com) up the Shannon from Athlone in Co. Westmeath? Viking Splash Tours (viking-splash.ie) aboard WWII amphibious vehicles are also offered in Dublin.

Take surfing lessons on Keel Beach, Achill Island (achill-surf.com) or at Strandhill, Co. Sligo, and Bundoran in Co. Donegal (turfnsurf.ie) or in Kilkee or Lahinch, Co. Clare, and at many other coastal locations.

Or, how about going deep-sea angling, dolphin-spotting, birdwatching or whale and seal watching on the Skellig Dawn (bofinangling.com) from Inishbofin?

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Tedy Bruschi,
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