

Enter Primark, into Downtown Crossing

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

It somehow seems fitting that one of Ireland's top retailers would choose Boston for the chain's first foray into the United States marketplace. When the giant clothing chain, better known as Penneys to countless Irish Americans, announced that it will move into the historic downtown building that long housed Filene's, the news reflected the evolving resurgence of the moribund "hole-in-the-ground" site.

Primark will take over four floors and 70,000 square feet of the Burnham Building as soon as Millenium Partners, the

area's New York developer, completes renovations to the structure. The Boston store is slated to open its doors in late 2015, serving as a springboard for Primark in other cities in the Northeast in 2016. According to Breege O'Donoghue, Primark's human resources and business-development director, "We're hoping in the first year to open nine stores in the northeast corridor."

If a company's past is prologue, Primark is certainly poised to cause more than a ripple in American retailing. In Europe, the chain is part of the clothing and apparel landscape. Primark's saga began in June 1969, when Arthur

Ryan and Micaela Mitchel opened a store named Penneys on Mary Street in Dublin. Within a few years, four more Penneys had sprouted up in the Greater Dublin area. The operation garnered attention in the industry because of its affordable, fashion-forward merchandise and marketing approach, and as the company expanded throughout Ireland and then into the UK, the stores were named Primark except in Ireland where Penneys stood its ground.

The corporate profile notes: "[Primark] today operates in over 270 stores in nine countries in Europe and growing with the first US store opening in Boston in



2015. Primark is our company name and identifies our entire company, while Penneys is a trading name that is used in the Republic of Ireland only. You may have noticed that when we used the name Penneys in Ireland we always follow
(Continued on page 19)



Black 47 will play at this year's Boston Irish Festival as part of its Last Hurrah performance tour.

A June two-step for Boston Irish Festival

Celtic potpourri will enliven ICCNE's campus

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There'll be a last hurrah from Black 47, plus return engagements for Irish-world music fusion act Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul and indie folk-pop crossovers The Screaming Orphans when the Boston Irish Festival's music weekend takes place June 6 and 7 at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton.

Music, dancing, entertainment over two weekends (June 6-7, 14)

The following Saturday, June 14, will see some of New England's best Irish step dancers flock to the ICCNE for the second annual Boston Irish Festival Feis (BIFF), a daylong competition for all ages and levels.

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Larry Kirwan: "Because of the politics and social commentary, I'm very aware that Black 47 has been more than just a band to many, so I really want to finish the whole thing up in a dignified, complete and principled manner."

Sean Smith photo

Larry Kirwan ruminates about the end of the run

For almost exactly a quarter-century, Black 47 has made raucous, often provocative, sometimes outrageous, and always full-hearted music, a distinctive brand of Irish/Celtic rock mixed with hip-hop, jazz, and reggae and imbued with a zeal for social justice and history – and an equally robust spirit of pride, fun and mischief.

But in November, 25 years to the date of their first gig, the band will ring down the curtain. Among the stops on their final tour will be the Boston Irish Festival, June 6-7 at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England [see separate story], where they've frequently appeared over the years throughout the festival's various incarnations.

Recently, Black 47 co-founder, guitarist, lead vocalist, and songwriter Larry Kirwan shared his thoughts on the band's legacy, their final album, "Last Call," and a few more subjects, with Sean Smith of the *Boston Irish Reporter*.

(Continued on page 11)

PSNI wants all the tapes

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN – Northern Ireland police announced last month that they will sue to obtain all of the audio-taped interviews of former militants who described their wartime careers to a Boston College oral history project, a move designed to re-open scores of "cold case" murder investigations in the British territory.

The police last year successfully sued Boston College to obtain 11 interviews of Irish Republican Army veterans discussing the 1972 abduction, killing, and secret burial of Jean McConville, a 38-year-old Belfast widowed mother of 10.

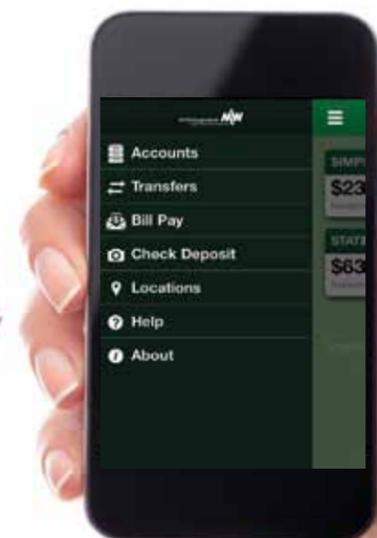
Those tapes were used as a primary basis for arresting Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, who had been accused by some IRA interviewees of being the Belfast IRA commander at the time who ordered McConville's slaying. Adams denied the accusations and was released without charge
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With boost from Richard Foundation, Challenger baseball opens season

By **BILL FORRY**
EDITOR

When the first half-inning of Savin Hill Challenger baseball ended on Sunday afternoon, May 18 the pitcher, Billy Farrell, lingered on the mound for a good, long minute. A long-time civic leader and volunteer coach from Dorchester's Meeting House Hill, Farrell had just watched the bases cleared on a base hit by an autistic boy from Dorchester—Xavier Bell—who had never before stepped onto a ball field.

"This was—by far—the greatest experience I have ever had as a player or a coach playing baseball," gushed Farrell, one of dozens of volunteers who shadowed players for the day. He was ready to pass pitching duties off to the next helper. "Someone else has to come out and enjoy it. I cannot be this selfish."

Like all of the players, some of whom have lost limbs or use wheelchairs due to conditions like cerebral palsy, Xavier had help from a "buddy" named John Joyce, who helped him swing the ball into play and then run to

first base. Among those who scored on Xavier's single was eight-year-old Jane Richard, who lost her leg in last April's marathon bombing that took the life of her brother Martin.

Jane's dad, Bill Richard, beamed from the first-base line and took photos of the action. The Martin W. Richard Charitable Foundation—which Bill and his wife Denise set up to honor the memory of Martin—is a major sponsor of the league. The \$10,000 donation is the first awarded by the charity, which has raised more than \$1.25 million since it was launched earlier this year.

The reasons for choosing Savin Hill Baseball—and the Challenger division—as the "first act of giving" by the foundation are "obvious but powerful," Richard explained. "Martin loved sports, especially baseball, and he played at Savin Hill Little League. Jane is now working very hard to overcome her own physical challenges and as a family we are all-in in helping her and others have the same experiences as other kids," said

Richard.

"To make our first investment in athletics and community, which directly supports our mission, was very important to us. Watching them play and seeing the smiles on all those faces was emotional--there were plenty of cheers (and tears) but overall a beautiful day for an amazing group of kids."

The Challenger division is up and running, thanks to Brendan McDonough, a Savin Hill resident whose seven-year-old daughter Sophia is also playing for the Astros. McDonough has founded Project BIND, a program for non-typical children at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, and Project DEEP, the successful tutoring and high school prep program based in Neponset. Both programs are partners in the new six-game baseball season.

"This comes out of a belief that every kid should be able to play baseball and every kid should experience being on a team," said McDonough. "Secondarily, this creates a venue for typical kids to experience the benefits of helping a child with

special needs and forming new friendships."

About 65 volunteers have signed up to assist as buddies and coaches. McDonough says 29 kids are registered as players—most of them between the ages of six and twelve. Next year, McDonough believes, the league will double its numbers to four teams, with two age brackets. The generosity of the Martin W. Richard Foundation means that the kids have shirts, equipment, and refreshments throughout the year—and trophies that await at the end of the season in June. The Shaw's supermarket company has chipped in with a \$800 donation of water and Italian ices for the kids during each game.

"We have a good core nucleus of 30-40 volunteers per game so that every kid has a buddy, with infield coordinators, bench coaches, two people at home plate and someone running with each kid," said McDonough.

One of the players who thanked McDonough after the inaugural game was Anthony Curioso, a fifth grader at the William



Jane Richard, 8, of Dorchester stepped to the plate for her first at-bat in Savin Hill Little League's Challenger division. Richard lost her leg in the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. Her brother, Martin, was killed in the same blast. Photo by Bill Forry

Henderson Inclusion Elementary School. Anthony has cerebral palsy. "I don't think he slept the night before," said McDonough. "Now he's hell-bent on the

Angels winning the World Series. He's never played baseball before. On Sunday, he was up out of his chair and running around the bases."

O'Toole in line to take charge of Seattle police force

BIR STAFF

Kathleen O'Toole, one-time Boston police commissioner (2004-2006) and former inspector general of Ireland's police force, the Garda Inspectorate, has been nominated to be the chief of police in Seattle.

The announcement of O'Toole's new posting was made in a Memorial Day ceremony by Seattle's new mayor, Ed Murray. She was selected over two men who were also finalists for the job, the chiefs of police in Elk Grove, CA, and Mesa, AZ.

If confirmed by the Seattle City Council, O'Toole will become the first woman to head that city's 1,300-member police force. She will meet soon with members of the council's Public Safety



Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, center, looks at former Boston police commissioner Kathleen O'Toole, right, as they stand with Interim Seattle Police Chief Harry Bailey, left, after O'Toole was introduced as Murray's nominee to be Seattle's new Chief of Police, Monday, May 19, 2014, in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

committee, and the full vote on her confirmation of the council is scheduled to

on June 30, according to

published reports. County Executive John

Lovick, a member of the search committee, wrote in the Seattle Times that "Everyone who lives, works and visits Seattle should feel confident in the selection of Kathleen O'Toole as the next police chief. The impression she left upon me and others on the committee after her interview is still fresh in my mind. I remember former King County sheriff and fellow committee member Sue Rahr and I turning to each other and uttering a silent but exaggerated 'wow' when O'Toole finished speaking with us and walked out of the room."

"Her résumé is far more than a list of accomplishments to brag about at dinner parties. It is a study in successful law-enforcement-agency reforms around the country

— and the world."

The city's police force has been commanded by two interim police chiefs since the former chief resigned under a cloud in April 2013. According to a May 19 report in the Los Angeles Times, the city's police department "has been operating under a federal consent decree that required stiff reforms to combat excessive force and biased policing."

If confirmed by the Council, O'Toole will take the position with a salary of \$250,000.

Cutline: Former Boston police commissioner Kathleen O'Toole, left, speaks after being introduced by Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, right, as his nominee to be Seattle's new chief of police on Monday in Seattle.

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Publisher's Notebook

Oh, those happy days: Red Sox vs. the Braves

By ED FORRY

The Old Town Teams were at it again in late May in Atlanta and in Boston, renewing a baseball matchup with historic roots that were planted in our city early in the last century.

It was the National League versus the American, the Braves versus the Red Sox, two squads that for decades beginning at the turn of the 19th century had been the source of strong feelings and great rivalries among passionate followers throughout New England. That's right: Before there was the storied Red Sox/Yankee rivalry, there was intense competition for Boston baseball fans between our city's two major league squads, the Boston Red Sox and the Boston Braves.

The clashes lasted until 1953, when a financially strapped Braves owner Lou Perini moved his franchise out of our city and on to Milwaukee. For thousands of baseball fans in Boston, it was a sad time, the day when our favorite team gave up the ghost and left us behind.

Last month, the two teams resumed the rivalry in a home-and-home series, two in the vagabond Braves current home, and two here at Fenway Park. But the first glimpse of that Braves logo—the left-facing Indian and the hatchet, the same symbols that “our” Braves were wearing before they abruptly left town—evoked instant memories for old and wizened Braves fan.

Back then, you rooted for one team over the other: you were a Braves fan or a Red Sox fan. The Comm Ave trolley dropped you off at Kenmore Square for Sox games; a mile or so up the street, Braves Field was just off the avenue on Babcock Street. It has been redeveloped and is now Nickerson Field, home park for Boston University.

Sox followers in those long-ago days had their favorites—Ted Williams, Dom DiMaggio, Junior Stephens, Walt Dropo, and Billy Goodman. But in 1952, our Braves featured the future Hall of Famer Eddie Mathews at third, Johnny Logan at short, and Earl Torgeson at first base. The Sox had Sammy White behind the plate, the Braves had Walker Cooper; and on the Fenway mound were names like Ike Delock, Mel Parnell, Mickey McDermott, and Ellis Kinder, while Braves Field featured Vern Bickford, Lew Burdette, Dick Donovan and the great Warren Spahn.

In my neighborhood we favored the Braves. There were all sorts of stories about how they were “the poor man's team,” the come-from-behind “miracle” World Series team of 1914 that almost won it again in 1948 against the Cleveland Indians.

That year, the Braves boasted two ace pitchers—the great lefty Spahn and Johnny Sain, who together won 39 games. “Spahn and Sain, then two days of rain,” the fans would say. It was also the year when it seemed there might be an all-Boston World Series, the Braves versus the Sox. But the Sox lost a one-game playoff to the Indians, who went on to beat the Braves in six.

Unhappily, 1948 turned out to be the Braves' watershed season; four mediocre years followed. After his team finished the 1952 season with 89 losses

and a .418 winning percentage while attracting just 281,278 paying fans to Braves Field, Perini pulled the plug and decamped for Wisconsin, opening the season on April 14, 1953, as the “Milwaukee Braves.”

In every old Boston Braves fan, there remains a bit of fealty for our once-favorite team. Eddie Mathews (512 home runs) and Warren Spahn (363 wins, the best so far for a southpaw) went on to Hall of Fame careers, but, alas, we never got to see the great Hank Aaron (755 home runs) play at Braves Field, as he came up to the Braves from the minors on April 13, 1954, a year after the team left Boston.

This four-game series in late May, full of nostalgia, brought back happy memories of when we were young and baseball was truly special in Boston.



Commentary

Let us praise Boston College

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Contrary to some of the criticism directed their way recently, Boston College and its Center for Irish Programs deserve great praise for the courage and good will they have created with multifaceted programs in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Notre Dame, Harvard, Boston University, and many other universities have active Irish programs, but none with the breadth and influence of Boston College.

Professor Tom Hachey, executive director of the center, says, “We have managed and conducted 110 different programs on behalf of Ireland North and South.” Hachey manages several Irish departments at BC, including the Boston College office building at 42 Saint Stephen's Green in the heart of Dublin.

One of the programs, an oral history project, has become controversial involving lawsuits and a foreign government, but that does not invalidate or diminish the contribution all the programs have made to both Ireland and to peace in Northern Ireland. That is a point critics never seem to mention.

Oral histories are a staple of historical research. The Columbia University Center for Oral History Archives, one of the largest collections of recorded histories in the world, is currently working on an oral history concerning the 9/11 tragedy.

The idea at Boston College was to document the personal testimony of the people of Northern Ireland from both sides who were involved in the “Troubles,” meaning that researchers 50 or 100 years hence could listen to the voices of on-site participants and have a better idea of exactly what occurred. It was a classic historian's project.

Boston College now has some 165,000 graduates throughout the world. There are 14,400 students on campus today being taught and cared for by a community of 133 Jesuit priests, and a faculty of more than 761 full-time professors. It is one of the most selective and highly desirable universities in the United States.

The problem's roots are in Northern Ireland. Its genesis took place some five hundred years with the difficulties between the Catholic Church in Rome, Catholic Ireland, and an “I'll marry anyone I want as often as I want” British king. More immediately things came to a head in the 1960s when Catholics, suffering the hatred and bigotry of the British establishment in Northern Ireland, decided to protest their second class citizenship by demanding equal housing, the right to jobs, and basic human respect.

After decades of extraordinary violence during which some 3,000 died, a peace treaty called the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998, but extremely bitter and poisonous attitudes remained in place for some. It was in this atmosphere that the Boston College oral history project was born. It was a courageous move requiring the independence and objectivity of those involved who were not in the college's ranks. According to some at BC, two of the outside participants were, in the end, not at all objective.

There were 26 individuals whose testimony was tape-recorded, and many of them are, or were, enemies of Sinn Fein, the cease-fire and the Good Friday Agreement. Brendan Hughes and Dolores Price, recognized opponents of the peace process, were among them. Both are deceased but were bitter enemies of Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams when they were alive. The planned oral history, it seems, was tainted from the beginning.

Boston College has not been as naive as some media have made it out to be. The university's lawyers required the project's author, the journalist Ed Moloney, and the interview-tapes reporter, IRA veteran Anthony McIntyre, to sign confidentiality agreements. All participants were told the interviews would remain private until they died, but police investigators in Northern Ireland subsequently persuaded the United



Joe Leary

States government not to allow confidentiality. Ultimately, under a US federal judge's order, BC released a number of interviews to the police in Northern Ireland wherein IRA veterans talked about the 1972 abduction and murder of Jean McConville, a 38-year-old Belfast mother of 10 whom the IRA suspected of being a police informer.

Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness, and other leaders of the Sinn Fein Nationalist political party were among the most influential in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. They still are. However, even today Sinn Fein is the object of hate and derision by those who want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. This includes many of the older officers in the British police force, which is now called the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Collectively, most of the Protestant/Unionist community, including the police, continue their bitter animosity towards the Catholic/Nationalist community and fear that a United Ireland is around the corner. And they think they have found an opening in the Boston College tapes situation.

The PSNI has selected a tragic murder from 42 years ago during the middle of the worst of the violence when Gerry Adams was 23 years old, and through the tapes they are trying to connect Gerry Adams to the terrible crime. This is selective enforcement at its worst. “We will get him somehow.” Hundreds of other, more recent crimes still go unpunished.

Someone or some group of men and women within the British government gave approval to sue the United States under an obscure treaty for the sharing of data thought related to terrorism that they could apply to a 42-year-old murder. Boston College was then forced to give 11 of the 26 tapes it had in its files and give them to the British police as ammunition they might use to harass and arrest Adams. They arrested Adams after he volunteered to go to the police station for questioning and held him for questioning for four days before releasing him with the words “the file will be sent to the prosecutor's office for evaluation.”

This had nothing to do with Boston College; it was a matter of old hatreds and “we will never give up” attitudes. Meanwhile the British government establishment must have been delighted to see Prime Minister David Cameron's Northern Ireland Secretary of State Theresa Villiers endorse the police action.

Nationalist Belfast was shocked. Leaders of Sinn Fein spoke at rallies and various meetings urging caution and patience. Supporters in the United States received calls urging restraint. Some politicians, like Congressman Richard Neal of Massachusetts, spoke out but generally people remained quiet. Had Adams been charged him with a crime, everyone would have been in a very different situation today.

From this distance it is hard to guess what the police are up to. They apparently didn't find enough evidence in the first 11 tapes given to them by Federal Judge William G. Young to charge anyone. He listened to all 26 tapes and ruled that these 11 were the only relevant ones to the specific murder. He also said from the bench that he heard nothing of a serious nature. Something else may be going on. Is this just another fishing expedition? Do they have a back door witness who claims there is more on the tapes or is this just more harassment of Boston College?

The matter of what will happen to the rest of the tapes has yet to be adjudicated. Stand by for more moves by all sides.

As a side note, suggestions were widespread that the Adams arrest was an attempt to damage Sinn Fein during the campaigning for the May 22-23 elections in Northern Ireland and in the Republic. At this writing there is no evidence of that. To the contrary Sinn Fein appears to be doing very well with both electorates. On May 24, the *Belfast Telegraph* reported that the result of the current election giving Sinn Fein over 24 percent of the overall vote makes the party the largest in Northern Ireland. Change is moving fast in Northern Ireland.

Jackie, a priest, and her private side

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacqueline Kennedy's letters to an Irish priest written over a 14-year correspondence have revealed new details about the closely guarded thoughts of the fiercely private former first lady, including her questions of faith following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The more than 30 letters, first reported in *The Irish Times*, were written to the Rev. Joseph Leonard and discovered hidden at All Hallows College in Dublin this year.

They were sold to an expert in rare books, Owen Felix O'Neill, and were scheduled to be sold at auction in Ireland next month but after a public hue and cry the sale was called off.

In 1950, then-Jacqueline Bouvier first met Leonard, a family friend, on a trip to Ireland. She met him in person just one more time, in 1955, after she had married the then-US Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. She described it as a “fairytale visit.”

She and the priest corresponded regularly until Leonard's death in 1964. She sometimes disclosed her innermost thoughts, but on other occasions, especially early on, was more lighthearted, discussing arts and literature and her personal life. In one early letter, she said that Leonard, who was so different from the priests

she had met in the U.S., helped renew her commitment to her Catholic faith.

“I terribly want to be a good Catholic now and I know it's all because of you,” she wrote.

But in a letter dated January 1964, a few months after her husband's assassination, she appears to question that very faith and asks why God would take her husband. “I am so bitter against God,” she wrote.

Additional excerpts:

— In her first letter to Leonard, after he had chaperoned her around Dublin, she said she was “miserable at leaving Ireland.”

— Leonard also made the 1955 visit with Sen. Kennedy memorable. “You will never know how much our visit meant to both of us — of all the places we've ever been together that was — always will be — the best. And why? All because of one person whom there is no one else like on this earth — you.”

— In a 1952 letter, she describes some of her early impressions about her future husband. “I think I'm in love with — and I think it would interest you — John Kennedy — he's the son of the ambassador to England — the second son — the oldest was killed. He's 35 and a congressman.”

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Point of View

Recent controversies at Citizens Energy Corp and at BC just aren't as clear as some contend

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

For a few moments, I thought I was reading the *Wall Street Journal* editorial page, not that of the *Boston Sunday Globe*. The headline of the May 26 piece seemed straightforward enough: "Venezuelan crackdown presents challenge to Citizens Energy Corp., Joe Kennedy II." The deteriorating human-rights situation and crackdown on opponents by President Nicolas Maduro does, as the *Globe* points out, pose pronounced questions for Kennedy's Citizens Energy Corp. because of its long-standing relationship with Venezuelan oil. Under brutal dictator Hugo Chavez, Venezuela provided some 200 million gallons of oil for Kennedy to distribute to Massachusetts residents – generally the elderly and the working poor – in desperate need of help for the fundamental need to stay warm in winter.

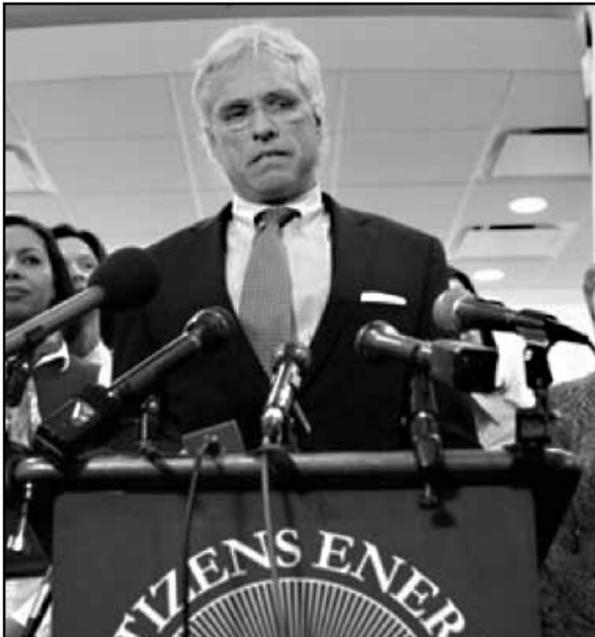
While acknowledging the good that "Joe for Oil" has done, the *Globe* editors quickly shift gears to suggest that Kennedy pressure Venezuela to improve its abysmal human rights record or else "sanction" that nation's low-cost oil. It appears naive to imagine that Joe Kennedy's disapproval could force Maduro to rethink his policies. It is also naive to suggest that Kennedy simply look elsewhere for oil to help the local poor. In fact, he has tried. He told the *Globe*: "I have asked every single oil company, and not one of them has given me a gallon to help the poor." The editors chose to bury that salient point deep in the piece – the sixth paragraph.

Kennedy did not help matters by equivocating: "Is the Venezuelan government worse than the Saudi Arabian government? Is it worse than the Russian government? Don't be telling me I'm in collusion with the Venezuelan government when they're the only ones who have showed some willingness to help the poor."

The *Globe* ignored that hard truth about Saudi and Russian oil to opine that "it is an embarrassing irony. An impoverished and deteriorating country supplies charity oil to the United States." Apparently, if Venezuela were a flourishing oil supplier with serial human-rights violations, its "charity" would be more palatable.

Despite where one's views about Joe Kennedy rest, the words that should most concern the *Globe* and anyone with a shred of compassion in and around Boston are these, to repeat: "I have asked every single oil company, and not one of them has given me a gallon to help the poor."

Did Kennedy make a so-called "deal with the devil" with Chavez and now renew it with Maduro? Yes, but would we even be talking about Venezuelan oil for the poor if even one of America's oil titans or such



Joe Kennedy: "I have asked every single oil company, and not one of them has given me a gallon to help the poor."



Gerry Adams: 'Real connection' to Bay State.

"friendly" foreign companies as BP had show any pang of corporate conscience? Don't be fooled by the slick (no pun intended) commercials of BP, Shell, or other petro players. As Kennedy contends, they have not stepped up to help. Fueling such programs as Citizens

Energy Corp would prove a literal drop in the bottomless barrel of "Big Oil." Kennedy asks, they say no.

The *Globe* editorial is long on condemnation of Venezuela, and rightfully so. The piece's paucity of condemnation toward American oil producers, however, is puzzling. If Kennedy were to refuse Venezuelan oil on moral grounds, would the *Globe's* editorial board find it equally immoral that seniors and families, for whom the low-cost oil has been a lifeline from winter to spring, would be without heat? One wonders, given that the editorial zeroed in on Kennedy and Venezuela – not on the fact that no one would even be mentioning that country's "charity oil" if American oil companies simply took care of their own. Unlike them, Kennedy is not in it to make a buck.

Another dismaying story on the Boston Irish scene has been the evolving furor over Boston College's controversial "Belfast Project." The short-lived arrest of Gerry Adams for questioning in the murder of Jean McConville, a mother of 10 who was abducted in West Belfast in 1972, cast an even harsher spotlight on the program (according to the IRA, which took responsibility for her killing, they suspected she was an informant). As former Congressman Marty Meehan noted, "He's [Adams's] got a real connection to Massachusetts, which makes the fact that all of this came from the tapes at BC somewhat ironic."

The Monday-morning quarterbacking and demands for answers about the ill-conceived "oral history" project are both predictable and necessary. Peter Weiler, a professor emeritus of history at BC, writes in a letter to the *Globe*, "To date, no one at the university has accepted responsibility for a project that has badly damaged the school's reputation and harmed its prized relationship to both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Is nobody going to be held accountable?"

Professor Weiler and his colleagues are correct that accountability in the academic realm is necessary. So, too, however, is accountability beyond Chestnut Hill. As flawed as the project turned out to be, it is a safe bet that its architects' intention was not to hand the British government and US federal courts and law enforcement a means to use the "oral histories" for questionable and cloudy "cases." Why were US jurists and agencies so accommodating to British demands that could impact and even do damage to the still-difficult political climate in Northern Ireland? History will be the ultimate judge, and while that is small solace to the McConville family and so many other victims of The Troubles, the truth does have a way of surfacing – without the heavy-handed opportunism surrounding the "surrender" of the BC tapes.

Life with the Jesuit fathers: a recollection

By TOM MULVOY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Serenity rules over the ample space where neatly placed rows upon rows of plain-looking gravestones, some 750 in all, mark the final resting places of dedicated men who in the long ago invited me into their learning circle and helped steer my young self through the shoals of adolescence and early adulthood as I made my way to who I was meant to be.

No traces of eminence disturb the setting of the rows in the Jesuit cemetery that sits in a grove a short walk down a winding path from the Campion Center in the bucolic town of Weston in Massachusetts; whether noting the death of a university president or a brother who tended to campus gardens, the memorial stones are alike in size, and elegantly austere in their engraved presentations: Johannes W. Sullivan, reads one, the given name in Latin whisking me back almost 60 years to the Jesuit scholastic Mr. Cotter's Latin class at Boston College High School. Below the name are listed three dates: Natus: April 13, 1917; Ingressus: August 14, 1934; Obiit: February 26, 2003. The day he was born, the day he entered the order of the Society of Jesus, and the day he died.

The Rev. John Whitney Sullivan, SJ, a native, like me, of Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, was, as the saying goes, the best teacher I ever had. White chalk in hand, he slowly unwrapped the mysteries of mathematics for the freshmen in BC High's Room 1L in the fall of 1956, his casual classroom manner and explanatory brio a very far cry from the force-feeding of numbers that so many nuns employed in grammar school. I kept in touch with Father Sullivan after graduation until his death, when I wrote his obituary for *The Boston Globe*. In between there were regular lunches, which were easy to arrange because we worked across Morrissey Boulevard from each other, and a special occasion: He gave me the Last Rites in August 1964 when a perforated ulcer almost did me in.

As I walked between the rows and stopped to say a short prayer at two dozen or so stones bearing names that I recognized, I heard their voices again: Ambrosius Mahoney ("Mousie" to some), the hyper-efficient principal of BC High in my time there when 62 Jesuit priests or scholastics dominated the faculty; Eduardus Sullivan ("Big Ed" to everyone), the dean of discipline; the heavy-set Guglielmus Phalen, who taught history as



These are the Jesuit cemeteries (the old one is seen in the background) at Campion Center in Weston. This is where I will most likely be buried. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

Photo by Fr. Jack, SJ

he worked the room like a heavyweight boxer stalking his foe in the ring; Joannes W. Chapman, the legendary, innocent "Chops" who guided us through the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*; Franciscus Mahoney, homeroom teacher-turned omnipresent alumni director; Jacobus Foley, the last Jesuit to shake my hand on graduation day; Arturus MacGillivray, who taught freshman English at Boston College with a fearsomely taut classroom style. Some 40 years later we reconnected when he took to sending me finely honed critical comments of certain *Globe* writers when I was the paper's managing editor; and Jacobus Casey, who gave of his extra time to work on biblical exegesis with a small group of curious seniors at Boston College in 1964.

Today, the Jesuit presence at my old high school is minimal, but the education continues in the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola. Out at Boston College, some 130 Jesuits teach or minister to 14,400 students on campus along with a faculty of more than 761 full-time professors.

My connection to Boston College extends back to my days in infant clothes at the St. Mark's Parish baptismal font. The Rev. Joseph R. Walsh, a cousin of my father, was the rector of the Jesuit community on the BC campus from the 1950s to the early 1960s, and he was the family priest for Christenings and all manner of other commemorations. When the occasion called for a Mass, my brothers and I were often called on to be altar boys in the small chapel in the Jesuit residence, St. Mary's Hall.

This week, I will be welcomed back to Boston College as a member of the 50th Anniversary Class of 1964, a Golden Eagle at long last. I have been blessed for the family that has sustained me all of my life and for the steadfast teachers and counselors who backed me from the get-go with their talents and their time and today rest side by side with their Jesuit brothers, their names etched on their simple gravestones in the spirit of their lives.

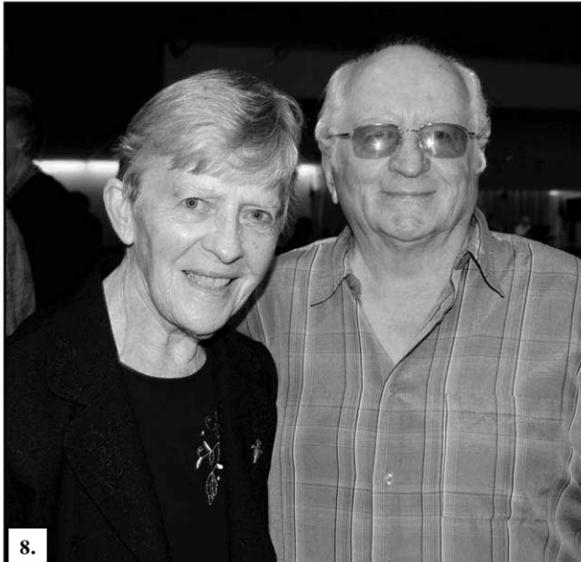
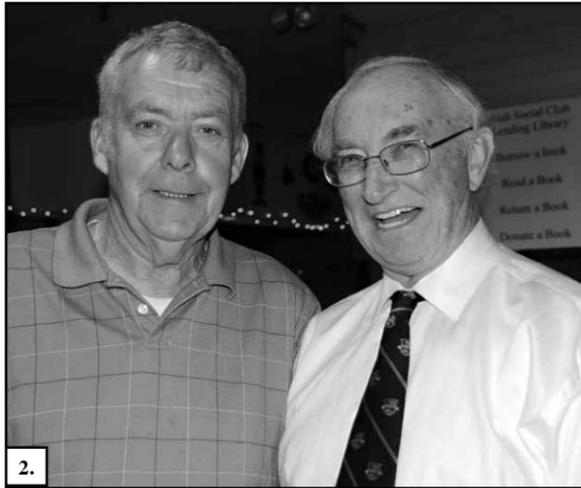
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Hastings

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Irish Pastoral Centre hosted a Volunteer Recognition Evening at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury on Saturday night, May 17. The event gave special recognition to volunteers Maureen Lenihan, Dan Harrington, Arlene Phinney and Mary Carney. Musi was provided by the Andy Healy Band, door prizes were awarded, and net proceeds benefited the IPC programs. The BIR's Harry Brett was on hand for these exclusive photos.

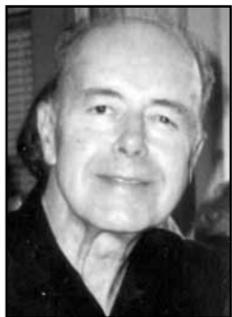
1.) May Gallagher, Needham; Evelyn Flaherty, Arlington; Emer Mezzetti, Newton; Peggy Cormican, Dorchester; Angela Durkin, Quincy; 2.) Doc Walsh, Dorchester; Ken Daly, W. Roxbury; 3.) Janet Hagerty, Quincy; Eleanor McDonough, Milton; 4.) Ginny Hasson, Quincy; Peggy Delaney, Milton; 5.) Helen Charron, Dorchester; Helen Lilly, Dorchester; 6.) Richard And Nancy Burns, Derry N.H.; 7.) Dan Needham, Norwood; Nancy Burns, Derry N.H.; 8.) Sr. Marguerite Kelly, I.P.C.; Jim Culligan, Quincy; 9.) Tony and Denise Johnson Ilacqua, Milton; 10.) John and Trudy Harrington and son Dan; 11.) Mary Ward, So. Weymouth (singer with The Andy Healy Band); 12.) Walter Phinney, So. Dennis; Julie Marotta, Milton; Arlene Phinney, Milton.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

Hunger Strike Charges Shadow Adams—Richard O'Rawe, public information officer for the IRA inmates during the hunger strikes had an intriguing tale to tell of what actually occurred during the 1981 protests. O'Rawe's account of what went down during the negotiations between **Margaret Thatcher's** British government and the Irish republican leadership outside the prison walls makes for intriguing reading. And this story has haunted **Gerry Adams** up to the present moment, according to a story by journalist **Ed Moloney**, who organized and led the BC tape-recorded interviews effort.



Bill O'Donnell

Adams, a bitter critic of the Boston College oral history project, has charged that O'Rawe and others who recorded their IRA experiences were dissidents who disagreed with Adams's embrace of the Good Friday peace plan. But O'Rawe, in his book, "Blanketmen" writes of betrayal, political compromises, and a cold-blooded strategy devised and administered by Adams in his senior role within the IRA.

The O'Rawe tale indicts Margaret Thatcher for four of the hunger strike deaths, but six others who died on strike, alleges O'Rawe, were the responsibility of Adams, who overrule concessions by the British that would have effectively ended the fast on favorable terms to the IRA. Adams's motives for overruling the prisoners' leaders, it is charged, were strictly political. He wanted to assure **Owen Caron's** election to succeed **Bobby Sands** in the Fermanagh-South Tyrone constituency, and ensure that the SDLP would give Caron a clear field in that August's by-election. Also, the belief at the time was that an ongoing hunger strike would strengthen the IRA's electoral position and broaden public support for republicans.

It is Moloney's and O'Rawe's conviction that Caron's success and later IRA/Sinn Fein electoral triumphs came at the terrible price of the six men who needlessly died in 1981 following an ideal that had been politically compromised. In a ironic postscript to the Gerry Adams saga, a recent major poll showed that nearly half of Irish voters believe Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams was involved in the murder of **Jean McConville** forty years ago.

Irish Fear Obama To End US Firms' Tax Breaks—The Man from Moneyball and his concerns about US-based multinationals operating in low tax countries like Ireland and avoiding taxes owed to the IRS at home is clearly worrying the Irish. **President Obama** has personally avoided public discussion on this touchy matter, but White House economic adviser **Jason Furman** spoke to the topic recently. Furman's words, together with European Union's edgy comments about Ireland's low 12.5 percent corporate tax rate, might be leading to some major changes in US tax code.

Furman contends that Ireland must attract foreign investments on the basis of a skilled, English-speaking work force and proximity to Europe rather than on low taxes. Clearly, the US president wants US companies who are paying the low Irish corporate taxes to pay their US headquarters country additional large tax payments. The concept, said Furman, is that "if you are investing in a country with a robust tax system, you would likely not face any US taxes, but if operating in a country with a less robust tax system, you would have to pay US taxes."

The heated debate on both sides of the Atlantic continues, but when the US high corporate tax rate of 35 percent is brought up, little attention is paid to the reality that most US multinationals hardly ever pay that rate, relying instead on generous loopholes and an array of business deductions that reduces actual corporate taxes paid to well below the dreaded 35 percent level.

Jackie, Priest Letters Sale Halted—As our deadline approached it was announced that the sale of 33 letters written to an Irish priest over a number of years by **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis** had been called off. Some news reports suggested that the Kennedy family laid claim to the letters' copyright, and other sources reported that **Caroline Kennedy**, freshly named ambassador to Japan, has asked to be kept informed. The letters, coming as they did both before and after her marriage to **John F. Kennedy** and in the days following the president's assassination, are highly unusual items to reach the open market. Given Mrs. Kennedy's reputation for privacy, they represent a treasured insight into the personal life of one of the 20th century's most intriguing historical figures.

The media reports on the letters and their planned sale mention that the priest who exchanged correspondence with Jackie had died without a will and his order, the Vincentian Fathers, had asserted its ownership of the letters. In most cases that this observer knows of, letters between two people in most circumstances become the property of the recipient, rather than the sender.

It is much too early in the ownership issue between the Irish Vincentians and the Kennedy family to know what the outcome might be. Obviously, the Kennedy Library at Columbia Point would dearly love to add the letters to its collection. There has been conjecture that has found its way into the media, including the *Irish Independent*, that the letters, valued north of \$3

million, might, after negotiations and a possible cash exchange, end up in the Kennedy Library & Museum.

Trump's Bluster Riles Irish Reporters—Several Irish journalists found themselves in some edgy jousting with self-styled billionaire builder **Donald Trump** during his victory lap after his purchase of the golf course and hotel in Doonbeg, Co. Clare, golf course and hotel. The Donald, with nary a humble bone in his overripe body, made some interesting if debatable points about his slick out-maneuvering of the Irish to grab the storm-damaged property for pennies on the euro. He went on to proclaim his bargain buy for millions less than it originally was selling for and boasted that his purchase in Clare "created a great international image for Ireland." Poor Ireland, in other words.

While in Ireland, this international boor even spoke encouragingly of his possible entry into the 2016 race for president, a bit of the BS he uses to con the Irish and boost his television career. When he was finishing telling the Irish what a great man he was and how he was going to make Ireland great once again, Trump was asked about the property in Aberdeen, Scotland, that he bought eight years ago amidst a cascade of high-flying promises. The reality, a fraught word for Trump, is that there is little to mention about the moribund nature of Trump's paradise. He said early and loudly back when he bought the property that he would "invest a billion dollars as well as create some 6,000 jobs." Going on nine years now, the master builder and job creator has made a relatively tiny investment (one-half of one percent) in what he pledged to invest in the Aberdeen property. And the Scots are still waiting for the job crush. Trump blamed his failure there on Scotland's government. Yes, just what Ireland really needs, another obnoxious chancer. Say good night, Donald!

Did You Know ... that in 1965 Professor **James Pantridge** and Dr. **John Geddis**, both at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, used two car batteries to create the world's first portable defibrillator? The invention of almost half a century ago has saved thousands of lives of heart attack victims and is found in health centers, airlines, heart centers, municipal buildings, and public safety facilities across the globe.

Pension Proposals for 'Troubles' Victims—The question of pensions for victims of violence suffered during the 30 years of the Troubles is now a matter of proponents looking for ideas and proposals prior to going to the Stormont Assembly for potential legislation. The initial idea is to see what options and other considerations should be contained in the pension bill. New legislation would specifically exclude those hurt as a result of their own paramilitary activities. It was agreed early on that this exclusion be mandated as part of any new law.

Among the unanswered questions to be posed are: At what age should an eligible person be allowed to draw a pension; how serious should the physical injuries be; and most critically, how to manage a broad mandate excluding persons who were partly or fully responsible for a criminal act; those who were convicted of membership in proscribed organizations; and anyone convicted of a terrorism offense. Still to be agreed on is the pension amount and designated funding for any pension scheme.

One Man's Opinion—There has been a US Olympic Committee delegation floating across America this year visiting cities like Dallas, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco — and Boston. The delegation's goal is to eyeball these cities and others and help discern the level of interest in hosting the 2024 Olympic games. Yes, a decade from now and some hundreds of millions of spent dollars later, one United States city will be crowned "Big Spender." Let the Games begin. Get the ceremonial shovels primed, with only about seven years remaining to build that second metropolis to entertain the torch-lit faithful.

The Games offer a mega-expensive experience for the selected city. Wall-to-wall TV coverage and minute-by-minute, split-second results are the big payoffs for building stadia nobody needs, the enrichment of prosperous contractors, new development projects that create temporary employment, and the burden of what to do with the leftover projects and buildings when it's time to get back to regular business.

And there's the cost: Don't be sanguine about the zillions that the city, state, advertisers, and assorted sponsors will chip in once the nod is given. It took the city of Montreal 30 years to pay off the costs of their 1972 Olympics, and Greece went in the hole over \$9 billion worth of public debt for its 2004 rendezvous with destiny. And they're still a financial basket case. Olympic games are the gaudy moth and candle of the sports fantasy realm.

However, if you're a city with aspirations, a city in search of a second master plan, a city that not enough people know about yet think they might want to visit, I'd say go for it. Put some name recognition out there, some spunky get-up-and-go spirit and, yes, the money in the middle of the high stakes table (don't forget the money), and hope that lightning strikes and they get a **Mitt Romney** or a **Vladimir Putin** to run things.

Or — and this means you, Mayor Marty Walsh, John Fish and similar suspects — please work with what Boston has. As a native who has looked at the innards of cities in 45 states in my time, I know we have a good thing here. Work to make it better, but remember the curse of that Irish Olympic czar and rogue **Lord Killanin**: "If you build it, we will come." Don't take the dare.

Good Show! Riverdance At Twenty—The superlatives have all been uttered, the applause still vibrates across the globe and Riverdance, the wondrous accident, just turned 20. Most of us know the story. As the *Irish Times* put it, "Six minutes and 40 seconds that would put Irish dancing on the world map." A Eurovision TV filler that helped make Ireland famous all over again. It's been a delight, a whirlwind, **Michael Flatley** and **Jean Butler**, the long run of the expanded show at Dublin's Point Depot Theatre and then the world.

In April, Riverdance sold its 25 millionth ticket. It has toured and performed in 46 countries. From its earliest incarnation, the trio that fashioned Riverdance, **Moya Doherty**, **John McColgan**, and **Bill Whelan**, knew they had a winner. In their hearts, on stage, and in the audience, those three creative spark-plugs were believers who saw first what we would all agree we saw later.

The Riverdance statistics mount to help define a unique entertainment. There have been 11,000 performances, a world box office take of \$1.65 billion, 700,000 touring miles, 10 million DVDs and 3 million CDs. And the backstage numbers: 2,000 dancers who produced 60 in-house marriages and 90 "Riverdance babies." And the show is still playing somewhere today. God Bless the Mark.

Former A-I Bank Chief in Hub Bankruptcy Court—**David Drumm**, who has been in the states (primarily Boston) defending himself against fraud and perjury charges while trying to get himself declared insolvent, has hit a few bumps on the litigation trail. The traveling ex-banker who owes millions to creditors large and small (including his former bank) told the Boston court that he "forgot" to list \$1.2 million in cash he transferred to his wife just before he sought bankruptcy here. And earlier he failed to declare he was the target of lawsuits when applying for a mortgage on an upscale Wellesley home.

But the bad faith maneuvering of Drumm, who earned \$18 million between 2004 and 2008, goes on and on, according to reports in the Irish papers. US Bankruptcy trustee **Kathleen Dwyer** argues that the allegations against Drumm should block him from being released debt-free when the court case is finally concluded.

Among its charges the government lists more than a dozen cash and property transfers totaling millions of euros made by Drumm to his wife in the two years just before he sought bankruptcy. This included over a million dollars in cash held in bank accounts. If our traveling banker was moving about shopping for a kind and gentle bankruptcy court, it seems he failed to find one in Boston.

Former Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey, 96, is dead—One of the nicest men ever to be a success in American politics, **Patrick Lucey** ran out a long and memorable life of activism, integrity, principle, and accomplishment. I spent considerable chunks of the 1980 campaign year with Lucey, a two-term governor of Wisconsin. We were thrown together when he signed on as the vice presidential running mate for Illinois Congressman **John Anderson**, who was running for president as an independent. Pat had a grand career, beginning as an elected member of the state assembly, state Democratic Party Chairman, lieutenant governor, governor, ambassador to Mexico, and VP candidate. When it was all over politically, he was happy to return to Wisconsin and his wife Jean. He was delightful company, whether on a small plane over the Midwest under a lightning assault or at a rally in Santa Monica, or even when showing the Anderson-Lucey flag in Hawaii as part of Pat's "50 state campaign." A warm and hugely likable personality, he relished a good story, knew and was liked by all the Democratic leaders everywhere, and was as comfortable in his own skin as any accomplished politician I ever met. Rest in peace, Pat.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Ireland has the world's most expensive petrol. In the Isle it costs \$170 to fill the tank of a small Ford. ... As the *National Catholic Reporter* says, GOP budget chief **Paul Ryan's** recent proposals to double down on the same trickle-down economics reward the rich and slash safety nets. ... It's the 40th anniversary of the worst single atrocity of the Troubles, the Dublin-Monaghan bombings that killed 33. The victims' relatives are suing the police, defense ministry and the secretary of state. ... Has Rupert Murdoch lost something off his fast ball with the WSJ? The Journal under Murdoch has gone seven years without a reporting Pulitzer. ... Mark June 8 all day at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury for a fundraiser for fallen firefighters **Mike Kennedy** and **Ed Walsh**. Details at 617-620-6909.

The Boston College Belfast Project oral histories will make a busload of lawyers a lot richer. ... The Derry city council has everything it needs to get its recycling going except organic waste bins. ... Ireland has paid up 42 percent of the cost of the banking crisis at a price of \$12,000 per person. ... Ireland's psychiatric patients are being sent abroad for treatment at a cost of \$4 million annually while mental health facilities are closing!!! ... The newest Irish ambassador to the Vatican is career diplomat **Emma Madigan**, an appointment that hopefully will bring peace to the edgy relations between the Holy See and Ireland. ... The neighborhood outside Galway had streets dangerously pocked with potholes (sound familiar) so they put up a sign to the town councillors: No vote for you unless you fix our road. Within a week the municipal trucks were out and filling those pot holes. Ain't it grand.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Know your rights on employment

Q. I recently became a naturalized US citizen. I've been looking for a new job, and it seems to me that some prospective employers have been hassling me unfairly about my immigration status. This may be because of my accent or the country I originally came from. Is there anything that I can do?

A. In the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice there is an Office of Special Counsel (OSC) for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices. This office investigates situations like yours, as well as those involving other people authorized under federal law to work in the US, such as legal permanent residents or employment visa holders. In appropriate cases, OSC will sue employers who discriminate against people based on their immigration status or national origin. OSC has published the following guidance on this topic:

Citizenship/immigration status – Generally, an employer may not treat you differently because you are, or are not, a US citizen. [Note: one exception would be certain jobs with the government or a government contractor requiring US citizenship for a security clearance.]

National origin – An employer may not treat you differently because of your place of birth, native language, accent, or appearance.

Document abuse – An employer may not, on the basis of your citizenship status or national origin, demand more or different documents than necessary for completing the I-9 Form, reject reasonably genuine-looking documents, or treat you differently when using E-Verify.

Retaliation – An employer may not retaliate against anyone who files a complaint with OSC or cooperates with an OSC investigation, or who asserts his or her rights under the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A person who believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination for any of these reasons can call OSC at 1-800-255-7688 or visit the agency's web site at usdoj.gov/crt/osc.

Of course, there are other avenues to relief from various types of employment discrimination, including filing a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the relevant state agency. Choosing the right course in a particular case generally will require the advice of a lawyer specializing in employment discrimination issues, particularly as they relate to immigration status or national origin. IIC can make a referral to such a lawyer in appropriate cases.

Visit one of IIC's weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential consultation on any immigration law-related issue.

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 frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIC immigration legal staff.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys are held throughout the Greater Boston area.

For information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Tuesday, June 3rd
IIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston
Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Monday, June 9th
Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton

Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | www.iicenter.org

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Solas Award Celebration to honor inspirational leaders this October

On Oct. 30, the Irish International Immigrant Center will hold its annual Solas Awards Celebration at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Named from the Gaelic word for "light," IIC's Solas Awards recognize the good work of inspirational leaders. This year, IIC will present awards to Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, and others.

The year 2014 is a special one for the IIC, marking our 25th anniversary of assisting immigrants from Ireland and from 120 nations as they integrate into American society, and working with partners to promote reconciliation in Ireland. This year's Solas Awards Celebration will mark the culmination of our year of anniversary activities. IIC expects hundreds of our friends and supporters to participate in this celebration of the volunteers and staff members who have provided

services to thousands of immigrants and Irish exchange program participants over the past 25 years, and of the immigrants who continue to bring so much to our communities. Given the anniversary milestone, it is appropriate that IIC is presenting Solas Awards to Sister Lena, IIC's Executive Director Emerita who has worked tirelessly to promote the welfare of immigrants, especially during

her 24 years of leadership at the IIC. Her efforts to promote solidarity, peace, and justice are global in scale, benefitting people in Ireland, Haiti, Uganda, and beyond.

Proceeds from the 2014 Solas Awards Celebration will support our vibrant, welcoming center that provides legal, wellness, and education services to thousands of low-income immigrant families from Ireland and across the world each year, and help to promote leadership development opportunities for men and women from the island of Ireland. For more information, contact Mary at 617-695-1554.

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Máirtín Ó Muilleoir visited the IIC and took this selfie and tweeted: "Selfie with wonderful staff of @iicenter Irish International Center in Boston. Unconditional support 4 undocumented"

Lord Mayor of Belfast Ó Muilleoir visits IIC

On Tues., May 12, Belfast's Lord Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Boston's Mayor Martin J. Walsh signed a sister city agreement between Boston and Belfast. "Together, Boston and Belfast will strive to foster educational exchanges, promote cultural understanding, and stimulate economic development through our new sister city relationship," Walsh said in a statement. "It truly speaks to our historic connection, genuine ties, and deeply linked heritage."

Matters Of Substance

Celebrating grandparents and their work toward 'recovery' in families

BY DANIELLE OWEN
IIC STAFF

The IIC often receives calls from grandparents wanting to know how to support grandchildren who have been impacted by their parents' or caregivers substance-use problems. No one wants to believe that children are affected by this disease, but research and our work with families clearly indicates they are. The good news is that by giving children clear messages and allowing them to chat about their feelings on this topic, recovery for the whole family is possible—even if the loved one remains ill with addiction.

Following are some of the messages we can share with children impacted by a loved one's addiction?

Sharing your feelings is not being mean or disloyal to your family. When you talk to someone you trust, you begin to feel better and less alone.

When you live with alcoholic/drug addicted parents, feeling afraid and alone is normal. It is confusing to hate the disease of alcoholism at the same time that you love your alcoholic parent.

Remember to have fun! Sometimes children with alcoholic families worry so much that they forget how to be "just a kid."

Find a way to let yourself have fun.

Don't ride in a car when the driver has been drinking if you can avoid it. It is not safe. As adults, we should help protect children from having to ride with someone who has been drinking or is under the influence of drugs.

You have no control over the drinking. You didn't make the problem start, you can't make it stop and you can't "make" anyone use alcohol or drugs.

Children need to know that it is not their fault when their parents drink too much, abuse drugs, or gamble. There are ways they can learn to deal with their parents' alcoholism or drug use. The National Association of Children of Alcoholics (nacoa.org) shares "The Seven C's", a tool to help young people understand that they are not responsible for their parents' or caregivers' problems:

- I didn't **Cause** it
- I can't **Cure** it
- I can't **Control** it
- I can help take **Care** of myself by
- Communicating** my feelings



Making healthy Choice & Celebrating me!

The IIC and others are planning Family Healing Groups this summer in Dorchester, Quincy, and South Boston. If you are interested, contact Danielle at the IIC (617-542-7654, Ext.14, or at dowen@iicenter.org). There are wonderful resources for grandparents seeking to help their families living with addiction. Recovering Connections in the Labour Center, South Boston, is running a "Grandparents Support Group." Call Callie at 617-464-8569 to learn more. To learn more about other community resources – many for free – call us for a consult today at 617-542-7654 ext.14. Change is possible. We can help!

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Irish Cultural Centre's
Boston Irish Festivals
 Once Stonehill... Now Canton



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From Worcester to Broadway

Tony Award winner McGrath bringing 'The Odd Couple' to Cape Playhouse

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Michael McGrath (pronounced McGraw) is a lucky guy. And he knows it. The Worcester native first came to the attention of Boston audiences in Gerard Alessandrini's musical spoof "Forbidden Broadway" back in the 80s. He costarred with Toni DuBuono, the lady who would eventually become his wife.

Since that time, he has established a successful career on Broadway and beyond. Along the way he has picked up a Tony Award (along with Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle honors) for his role opposite Matthew Broderick and Kelly O'Hara in the Gershwin musical "Nice Work If You Can Get It."

His impressive Broadway credits also include "Memphis," "Born Yesterday," "Wonderful Town," and creating the role of Patsy, King Arthur's long suffering sidekick, in "Monty Python's Spamalot." This month he returns to The Cape Playhouse in Dennis to play Oscar Madison in Neil Simon's classic comedy "The Odd Couple" from June 9 to June 21.

Here's a condensed look at our recent conversation:

BIR: In "The Odd Couple," Oscar is the classic slob and Felix is the fastidious neat freak. Which one are you at home?

MM: I'm the Oscar-Felix combo. (Laughing) I can be a little unkempt. There's always a little pile on the floor, which Toni yells at me about. But I love to cook, and I'm a bit of a foodie, and that's very Felix of me. And I'm way into sports, so that's very Oscar of me . . . This show plays as good as it did in 1965. It's amazing how it has held up to the test of time. I think it's a classic.

BIR: Playing The Cape Playhouse is a homecoming for you.

MM: I love working there. My family has had a place in West Yarmouth since the late 70's, early 80's. It's always a great retreat.

BIR: Talk a little about growing up in Worcester. Did the performing bug bite you early?

MM: Way back when, when I was in grade school, grammar school, it was something that I always loved doing. I always liked making people laugh. You know, it's sort of the old adage, being a show off. It sort of morphs its way into an acting career, I guess. I was always in the forefront of performing and singing and doing whatever I could do in those days, when I was a little kid, to get attention in some respect.

BIR: "Forbidden Broadway" has become a cult classic, cleverly parodying musical theater for more than 30 years. Performing it at the Park Plaza Hotel from '85 to '88 had to be a demanding experience, but also a great training ground.

MM: "Forbidden Broadway" has always been one of the hardest shows I've ever done. Anybody that goes into it finds that out quickly. It's very hard on the voice because you use so many different muscles and techniques to get different impersonations . . . It's like doing an opera every night. It was 24 songs a night.

BIR: Since those days, you've had a lot of long runs in New York. Is that a blessing or a necessary evil?



Tony Award-winning Michael McGrath is Oscar Madison, the slob of all time, in Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," playing June 9-21 at The Cape Playhouse.
Photo: Ken Huth Photography

MM: Any actor will tell you it's a blessing, as much as some may complain. To have a long run, and know you have a place to go every night, and you're in a hit . . . it's definitely a blessing. Because it's security. Fame is fleeting but the paycheck is what puts the bread on the table.

BIR: It must have been almost overwhelming to work with Eric Idle, creating "Spamalot." You had a truly impressive cast.

MM: It was an amazing time in my life to work with such people as Mike Nichols and Tim Curry, Hank Azaria, David Hyde Pierce. They were all amazing. And to be in that group – everybody treated everybody as a peer. It was a wonderful, wonderful collaboration . . . When the project was first presented to me, I thought, "How the hell are they gonna do a musical version of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"? I just couldn't see it. None the less, when I was told that Mike Nichols was directing it, I jumped at the chance to be involved, of course.

BIR: And you got to sing the most iconic song in the show.

MM: We worked in New York for five weeks before we went to Chicago to do our out-of-town tryout. . . . I was sitting in the hall outside the rehearsal studio early one morning . . . there was a meeting going on inside . . . Eric Idle came out and said to me, "McGrath, are you familiar with 'Always Look On The Bright Side of Life.' " I said, "Of course I am. Absolutely, I am." He said, "Well you just got a new number." And I said, "What? What?" I thought he meant I should be looking on the bright side of life because I got a new number. And he said, "Always Look On The Bright Side of Life.' It's your new number in the show. We need something to open up the second act and now it's yours." I just looked at him. And then he said – and you may not be able to print this – "Don't **** it up." (Laughing)

(Continued on page 14)



Michael McGrath (left) and Noah Racey (right) are Oscar Madison and Felix Unger in a classic scene from Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," playing June 9-21 at The Cape Playhouse.
Photo: Ken Huth Photography

The Burren looms a hot spot in June

The Burren in Somerville will be quite the hub for Irish/Celtic music in June, highlighted by an appearance by one of the Irish music revival's most iconic singers, and a concert featuring a groundbreaking Irish-American fiddler.

One June 4, **Andy Irvine**, a member of the legendary bands Sweeney's Men, Planxty and Patrick Street, will come to the Davis Street pub to play a solo show. Heralded for his role in helping popularize the mandolin and bouzouki in Irish/Celtic music, and blending Irish, American and Eastern European influences, Irvine has been equally celebrated as an accomplished singer – not only of traditional material but also of his own compositions.

Opening for Irvine will be the West Coast-based duo **Marla Fibish and Bruce Victor**, known as Noctambule, with their acoustically eclectic settings of poetry by the likes of Service, Tennyson, Neruda and St. Vincent Millay.

Two weeks after that will see a visit by **Liz Carroll**, easily one of the most dynamic and innovative Irish fiddlers of the past few decades. A Chicago native, Car-

roll is known not only for her technical ability but also for her talent as a composer of tunes in the traditional vein. In 2009, she became the first American-born artist to earn a Grammy nomination for playing Irish music on the strength of "Double Play," which she recorded with longtime collaborator John Doyle. Among other honors, she was named Female Musician of the Decade by *Irish American News*. At the Burren, Carroll will be joined by guitarist-pianist **Jake Charron**, an accompanist in various styles of traditional and folk music.

The Mari Black World Fiddle Ensemble will open for Carroll and Charron. Black is a fiddler/violinist with distinguished academic credentials from Yale and Columbia, and as much at home with jazz, tango and classical as she is with Celtic, American and Canadian styles.

On June 25, the Prince Edward Island trio **Vishten** will perform at the Burren. Steeped in the French-Acadian tradition, Vishten also incorporates elements of Celtic music and contemporary sounds as well, mustering fiddle, guitar, piano, bodhran, jaw harp, whistles, percussive dance and electric instruments in

masterful fashion. They were enthusiastically received at last year's New Bedford Folk Festival – one of many welcoming receptions they've received throughout the world.

West Clare concertina player **Padraig Rynne** will be the opening act, accompanied by local guitarist **Matt Heaton**, who plays as part of a duo with his wife Shannon, and as a member of The Deadstring Ensemble. Rynne has played with such distinguished figures as Liz Carroll, Donal Lunny, Arty McGlynn and Triona Ni Dhomnaill, and is part of an exciting new Irish-American collaboration, Atlantic I/O.

The Irvine, Carroll and Vishten shows are part of the Burren's Backroom series.

Also at the Burren this month, on June 8, will be a return visit by rising young singer-songwriter **Róisín O**, who comes from a storied musical family and has branched out into her own, very personable brand of music. The Burren was one of the stops on her first American tour last year.

For information on these and other events at the Burren, see burren.com.
– SEAN SMITH

Larry Kirwan ruminates about the end of the run

(Continued from page 1)

Q. Any second thoughts or regrets within the band since announcing that this will be the last hurrah?

LK. I don't think so. Of course, I can only speak for myself. But I reckon you make a big decision and then you go for it. Second-guessing life is no life.

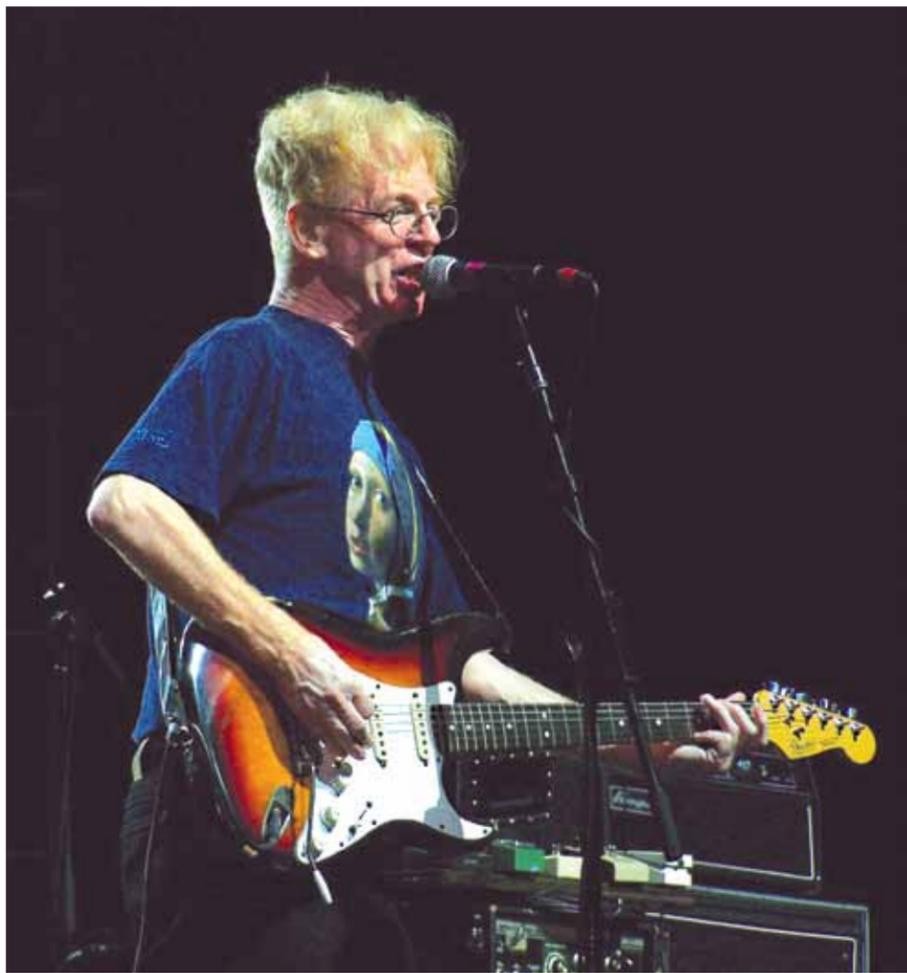
Q. Do people seem to be accepting of your decision? Are you getting "How could you do this to me?" type of responses?

LK. There's a lot of regret from fans, but that's understandable. To some people we were the sound track to their lives, and to others it's "I've just found you and now you're finishing?" But we've always done things our way, so you can't change with the last big decision. Because of the politics and social commentary, I'm very aware that Black 47 has been more than just a band to many, so I really want to finish the whole thing up in a dignified, complete, and principled manner.

Q. In explaining the band's decision to retire, you've talked about "finishing up at the top of our game" and "going out on our terms." Were there any subtle signs and portents suggesting that, perhaps, the energy or focus wasn't as strong as it had been – and so maybe it was time to seriously consider ending the band before things began to seriously degrade?

LK. Not in the least. Had there been any of those "sign or portents" we'd have chuckled it in long ago. It takes a lot of energy and commitment to actually keep a band going, so you need to be enjoying yourself and creatively moving forward on an ongoing basis. I thought we were sounding perhaps better than we ever did, and that was the real impetus. But also to wrap it up on a high note – we've made 14 or 15 CDs, and played perhaps 2,500 gigs. So why not put a cap on it so people can see Black 47 as a finite thing, not a combo going through an endless end but a creative entity that's going out as it came in – with a bang.

Q. Inevitably, when a band announces it's going to retire, people immediately start speculating about whether there'll be a reunion. So, do you foresee that happening, and what circumstances would it take? Or, at least, might there be some collaborations among a few members, as opposed to the band as a whole?



Larry Kirwan: "Because of the politics and social commentary, I'm very aware that Black 47 has been more than just a band to many, so I really want to finish the whole thing up in a dignified, complete and principled manner."

Sean Smith photo

LK. This is it – finito! What's the point in a reunion? We're a band for our times and I don't want to look back. We have an album of all-new challenging songs; we don't want to be an oldies group playing out the fans' favorite requests. But we're also finishing up as brothers. Of course, we'll sit in with each other or play on each other's projects but, as far as I know, there are no plans for that so far – and I definitely don't have any. On the other hand, I've played with Thomas Hamlin (drummer) and Fred Parcells (trombone) since the early '80s, so if I wanted a kick-ass drummer or a virtuoso bone player, I wouldn't go looking on Craigslist.

Q. You'd already decided to retire before you started to record "Last Call." Did that create a certain amount of pressure, to make the "perfect" ending artistic statement, and so on?

LK. No, that idea would be just a waste of time. Albums are about songs – and unless you're talking about "Iraq" or "New York Town" (about 9/11), you're dealing with 12 or 13 songs that you're trying to string together in some meaningful way. I hadn't written for the band in a couple of

years. When we decided to make "Last Call" the songs just streamed out. I think I wrote eight of them in about three weeks. I've always been prolific but it surprised me. I guess that's more and more the way I write: Find a vein, spike in, and write until I'm exhausted.

Q. How did you decide on "Hard Times," by Stephen Foster, as the ending track?

LK. I had written a musical called "Hard Times," about the life of Stephen Foster and the times he lived in. I took a body of his songs and re-imagined them, mostly by shaking off all the dust and calcification that had grown around them. Often while doing so I'd be struck by the way Black 47 could interpret those songs. "Hard Times," in particular, seemed fertile material – mostly because I rarely liked the mournful way it has been interpreted. To me that song feels as if it needs an element of defiance or else it's likely to sink under a wave of self-pity. And who better for defiance than Black 47! It did feel like a good way to finish Black 47's recording career.

Q. In the online song-story notes, and in your blog, you talk about the

less-appreciated, less-known aspects of Stephen Foster's life and work – notably how impressed he was by the ethnic diversity in the music and dance of Five Points. This seems like a recurring theme in Black 47: taking a historical figure or event that has become obscured by the mists of sentimentality or other rose-colored emotions, and putting them in a new light.

LK. One of the good things about finishing up Black 47 is that, for the first time, I'm not under pressure to come up with something new. I realized that part of the impetus for forming Black 47 and writing about Stephen Foster/Five Points came from Charles Dickens's account of his visit to the Five Points. He wrote about the music and dancing and the bands he'd heard composed of African-American and Irish. I was intrigued to know what they would have been playing. From that came the idea of Black 47 – what if you mixed Irish traditional music with the African-American music of 1989 – hip-hop? I was a big drum programmer back then and found that reels placed across hip-hop beats worked wonderfully – that the music was

different from anything I'd ever heard: Listen to "Paddy's Got a Brand New Reel" and "Home of the Brave" from the Black 47 "Independent" CD.

I began to wonder about Foster at that point, too; in what way was he influenced by the music he was hearing in the Five Points dance halls. So, all these years later I'm working on a new production of "Hard Times" and promoting a Black 47 CD – all because I was into Charles Dickens back in 1986. Crazy world!

Q. Also on the new CD is "The Ballad of Brendan Behan" – it's almost hard to imagine that this is the first time Black 47's done a song about him. What has Behan, as a writer and as an historical figure, meant to you?

LK. Apart from our early version of "Patriot Game" – again putting an odd hip-hop beat beneath the greatest protest song – I never wrote anything about Brendan, probably because Shane McGowan was so influenced by him and if you're an Irish songwriter you should keep as far away from Shane as possible – he's such a powerful writer. Like most people I was probably more influenced by Brendan's public persona than his writing. He was the first Irish celebrity and he was ours; not some academic or Anglo-Irish toff but a working class guy who left school at 13. I did admire "The Quare Fellow" and "The Hooseganger" when I became a playwright in the early 1980s.

Q. Pretty much right from the beginning, Black 47's music has sought to explore the ties between Irish and other cultures, especially black and Latino. Can you talk about that connection?

LK. I moved straight to the East Village when I came to New York City and lived among the black and Latino people. It was a whole new life and I could be whomever I wanted. Then I began playing up in the Bronx around Bainbridge Avenue and 204th Street – it was an Irish area completely surrounded by Puerto Ricans and Dominicans. The Irish up there had no connection with their neighbors. But the cultures seemed very similar to me: Catholic, family-oriented, with a fondness for drinking and music. I suppose being a musician I wanted to know how they made their music. But I also enjoyed their culture and they opened me up to new

ways of looking at things.

So, it was very natural for me to incorporate those outside elements in my own music and writing. To me that intersection with those Latino and black cultures was an opportunity not to be missed and I'm still harvesting the possibilities – take a listen to "Salsa O'Keefe" or "Let The People In" on "Last Call."

Q. Being part of Black 47 has never impeded you from getting involved in other projects and activities. What are some current or upcoming things on your plate?

LK. Well, I'm spending a lot of time developing "Hard Times" – which had two successful NY productions – into a bigger project. It's been optioned by some big-time producers and they've encouraged me to take the Stephen Foster story and the Draft Riots of 1863 and bring them into the world of the American Civil War in 1863.

Q. The arrest of Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams last month prompted a great deal of speculation and commentary about the political situation in Northern Ireland – as well as its unhappy history – and how the peace process might be affected. Black 47 has certainly chronicled The Troubles over the years – is this a song with no ending?

LK. I hope not, but the real problem is that people expect The Troubles to be wound up neatly and packed away in a box. As ever, Yeats was on the money: "Much hatred, little room..." All the tragedies won't fade away; they're still there in the hearts and minds of people. It will take acres of time for the problems of centuries to resolve. The Adams arrest is only the tip of the iceberg. There are personal, tribal, and cultural animosities at play here, and the ubiquitous tit for tat of Northern Irish politics.

It amazes me that so many hurts have been put aside for the greater good. The Adams situation is a bump on the road, but it's not a crater. In the end, people have children and want to see them get ahead in a reasonably just society. But the residue will remain. Look at politics in the southern states of the USA, still somewhat influenced by the Civil War and Reconstruction.

For information on Black 47, and to order their CDs, go to black47.com.

'Last Call' – apt finale album for Black 47

Go out on top. Leave 'em wanting more. Better a blaze of glory than slowly dying embers. Whatever cliché you want as a description, Black 47 accomplishes it on their final album, "Last Call." This is hardly the work of a band on its last legs, or cynically going through the motions. There's no apparent diminution of the passion, the verve, nor the cheekiness, bravado and pride that has characterized Black 47's music over its 25 years.

As always, Black 47's

signature combination of brass, uilleann pipes, Irish flute and tin whistle enliven the rock 'n roll foundation and the multitude of subjects and interests lead vocalist/guiding spirit Larry Kirwan explores in his songs. There's cultural crossover in "Salsa O'Keefe" (a paean to the pulchritudinous offspring of a Puerto Rican mother and Co. Mayo father) and the reggae-spiced "Johnny Comes A-Courtin'" – which notes the tragic connection between Ireland and

Jamaica, thanks to Cromwell. Hip-hop populism blazes forth from the sardonic "US of A 2014" ("Asked all the questions but nobody knows/Who stole the scent from the American rose"), while "Let the People In" is a clarion call to scrap anti-immigration views.

Also on display is Kirwan's fondness for writing biographies, whether for the legendary ("Ballad of Brendan Behan"), the obscurely famous ("The Night the Showbands

Died," his tribute to Fran O'Toole who was killed in the infamous 1975 Miami Showband bombing) or friends/acquaintances who left too soon ("Lament for John Kuhlman"). And the familiar acerbic Irish wit – with the barbs aimed at class and social divisions – is there, too, in "Shanty Irish Baby" ("Tired of living with the love-me-nots/wanta go South Side where the love is hot") and "Culchie Prince" ("Ain't seen nothing like it since/a gorgeous

Dublin brasser/wrapped around a culchie prince – ("culchie," in Kirwan's description, being the word for "anyone unsophisticated enough to be born outside Dublin").

The closing number is "Hard Times Come Again No More," Stephen Foster's timeless appeal for the less fortunate, delivered here less a parlor-song lament than a scrappy, street-corner anthem. But, typically, Kirwan – as he explains in the Q&A in this edition



– had more reasons than one might think to make this Black 47's finale. It is, to paraphrase a line from a famous speech several years after Foster published the song, altogether fitting and proper that they did this.

– SEAN SMITH

Scenes from the second annual Féile Cheoil Boston

The second annual Féile Cheoil Boston took place May 17 at the First United Methodist Church of Melrose, organized by Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

(CCE) Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Boston School of Music with support from the Melrose Messina Arts Fund. In addition to competitions in instrument and vocal

categories, the event featured children's entertainment and activities, outdoor performances and an evening concert by the trio Open the Door for Three.



Attendees at the Féile Cheoil enjoy a performance by Jimmy Noonan, Denis Galvin and John Coyne.

Sean Smith photos



Kieran O'Hare, adjudicator for the tin whistle competition, listens to Liam Murphy, 12, of Burlington, Mass.



John Gannon, left, and Rory Coyne team up on melodeon to lead a set of tunes.

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6 Friday – West Roxbury Roslindale Rotary Club Awards Dinner and presentation of the Paul Harris Award for Community Service to Mary Mulvey Jacobson. Doors open at 6 pm. Buffet, raffles, and music. Admission \$25	29 Sunday – Andy Healy
8 Sunday – Firefighters Fundraiser from Noon until 11:00 pm.	JULY
15 Sunday – John Connors and the Irish Express	6 Sunday – Wild Rovers
21 Saturday – Parkway People Reunion	



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Storyteller Joe Keane enthralls his youthful audience.

CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

Maybe, if you're like me, you get a little apprehensive when the phrase "Celtic rock" is mentioned. Perhaps you've heard a few too many recordings or seen a few too many performances of the genre that value force of personality, excessive volume, and a glorification of boorish, if not downright anti-social, behavior at the cost of, say, competent musicianship, variation in tone and mood, and appreciation of subtlety. Well, two recent releases definitely fall into the latter description.

Celtic Cross, "Saoirse's Heart" • Based in the New York City area, Celtic Cross benefits from the solid core of siblings Kenny and John Vesey and Kathleen

Fee; Kenny and John sport impressive credentials with multiple North American championships on fiddle and accordion, respectively, while Kathleen (a Senior North American traditional Irish singing champion herself) gives the band its most

compelling voice, as both songwriter and singer. Two-time All-Ireland banjo/mandolin titlist Frankie McCormick adds to the band's traditional make-up, ably supported by guitarist Walter Ensor, drummer Ryan Cavan and bassist Patrick Dineen; McCormick, Ensor and Dineen also contribute vocals.

The acid test for most any Celtic rock band, of course, is how well the "trad" elements blend with the rock/contemporary aspects, and the fit is most assuredly a comfortable one on Celtic Cross. The fiddle, accordion, mandolin, and banjo are integrated into, rather than self-consciously grafted onto, the rock-pop foundation; there is ample space to appreciate the dexterity of the Vesey's and McCormick while grooving on the licks produced by Ensor, Dineen and Cavan. And most of all, it is Fee's voice – powerful enough for rock/pop but with exquisite tints from her folk/trad roots – that give Celtic Cross its heft.

"Saoirse's Heart," the band's fourth recording, centers on both literal and metaphysical journeys – the travels of immigrants and the progress from the travails of restless, impulsive youth to a wiser, if sadder, adulthood. The title track, which kicks off the album, is a rap-and-rock commentary by McCormick that speaks to the conflicting emotions that accompany the odyssey to the New World ("Why did you make me go?/I haven't done nothing/Out in the world alone/I never seen it coming/Standing in The Bronx as a new arrival/Why would I ever stay, can I see survival?"), with an ethereal refrain from Fee. Songs such as "Water's Edge" and "Hold on for the Ride" are philosophical and didactic, with Fee's reas-

suring presence holding sway.

Titles like "One Last Party" and "Whirl Spin Girl" might – given the indulgences associated sometimes with Celtic rock – suggest nihilism and self-destructiveness, but in fact these are sincere, well-observed lump-in-the-throat recollections of times past, and Fee and the band absolutely nail them: "That's the problem with these daydreams," she sings on "Whirl Spin Girl," "they take the sun away/when we're in the moment/we'll be there to stay." "Best Days," which closes the album, is an infectious brew of blues, funk, and good-natured humor ("I love you on your best days/but not the ones in-between/you got the crazy look in your eyes/it's finally Saturday night"), and you practically can see the smiles on Ensor and Fee as they sing.

The Young Dubliners, "Nine - 9 - Naoi"

• Perhaps no longer quite so young – the band originally formed in 1988 – and only two-fifths native to Dublin, the "Dubs" have by and large left behind their renditions of Irish folk and traditional material to focus largely on their own compositions. Though more boisterous and punk-leaning than Celtic Cross, the Young Dubliners constrain the noise and impetuosity enough to evince a maturity that strongly suggests there's more to life – and Celtic rock – than knocking back the booze and knocking heads together.



"We the Mighty," for example, features that classic 2/4 rhythm without which Celtic rock could not exist, as co-founder/lead vocalist/guitarist Keith Roberts and crew suggest both a reverence for legacy and a new beginning: "Same old story, just a different generation/a traveling people, a familiar situation. . . Call 'em up, tell 'em we're coming over/there'll be no shamrocks/and there'll be no four-leaf clover."

Drummer Dave Ingraham, guitarist Bob Boulding, and bassist Brendan Holmes propel "Say Anything" and "Seeds of Sorrow," with their upbeat, all-in-this-together messages ("Fight the world on another day/this is now and you're OK/take a breath all of this goes away"), arena-ready choruses, and irresistible hooks. "The Rain" and "Deep" are more introspective and subdued, and redolent of acoustic-based pop, with Chas Waltz's fiddle, Boulding's mandolin and lap steel guitar, and Roberts's acoustic guitar particularly prominent. "Only You & Me" is the album's coda, Waltz's piano leading the way and guest musician Eric Rigler on whistle, intertwined with backing vocals and a swell of instrumentation – a sort of 21st-century take on the 1980s-style power ballad.

Black 47's impending departure [see the Q&A with Larry Kirwan elsewhere in this issue] is a loss to the Celtic rock genre, what with the band's propensity for infusing their sound with political, historical, literary, and multicultural interests. But as these two new CDs demonstrate, what remains in Celtic rock is hardly all noise and attitude.

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From Worcester to Broadway

(Continued from page 11)

BIR: Doing "The Odd Couple" is a little like coming full circle, since you worked with Neil Simon in the 90's.

MM: It was one of those things, like meeting Eric Idle. Meeting Mike Nichols. These people are iconic in the business. When you're welcomed into their little club, it's pretty fun. I first worked with him on "The Goodbye Girl" in 1993 with another iconic figure, Martin Short. And Bernadette Peters... I was Martin's standby in that show... I wasn't performing, I was his cover. So I used to sit at the table in the rehearsal

room every day with my script open, sitting next to Neil Simon, listening to his asides and being engaged in conversation with him... I mean, everything that came out of his mouth was hilarious. But you know, sometimes he would just engage me in conversation about my family or the ball game last night or something like that. It's pretty incredible to get a glimpse inside of those people.

BIR: One of your next big projects is brand new. A musical based on "The Honeymooners" with you playing Ralph Kramden.

MM: It's something I'm completely jazzed about

... We've done a couple of presentations in New York with my dear friend Hank Azaria as Ed Norton... We've gotten some great feedback, there's been some great work done on the script. We're doing another presentation -- or what we call a workshop -- in the fall, and hopefully we'll be on stage somewhere, I think on the East Coast, in the spring of 2015. We're shooting for a Broadway opening in fall of 2015.

BIR: At the end of the day, it sounds like a pretty good life.

MM: At the end of the day, it's a damned good life.



Tony Award-winning Worcester native Michael McGrath is Oscar Madison in Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple." playing June 9-21 at The Cape Playhouse.

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.

"The Odd Couple" June 9 - June 21. The Cape Playhouse, Route 6A, Dennis, MA. Tickets: CapePlayhouse.com or 877-385-3911.

Boston, Belfast announce 'Sister City' agreement

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Belfast Lord Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir signed a Sister Cities agreement last month, the first Sister City agreement signed by the City of Boston since 2001. The signing took place at a Seaport Hotel meeting hosted by the Irish American Partnership.

"Together, Boston and Belfast will strive to foster educational exchanges, promote cultural understanding, and stimulate economic development through our new Sister City relationship," Walsh said. "We look forward to new beginnings with our 'sister' Belfast, as this formal agreement goes far beyond a declaration on ink on paper; it truly speaks to our historic connection, genuine ties, and deeply linked heritage."

"Belfast and Boston share enduring links of history and heritage over many years and they will now provide the foundation for a new future-focused Sister City relationship between Boston -- the colleges, life-sciences and Irish American capital of America -- and Belfast -- the fastest-growing knowledge economy of Europe, birthplace of the Titanic, home of Game of Thrones and a world-leader in peace building," said Ó Muilleoir.

"For two decades, the Partnership has been a strong advocate of the peace process in Ireland and has focused in particular in supporting schools and shared education in the city of Belfast," said

Joe Leary, President of the Irish American Partnership. "We are thrilled to see Boston and Belfast unite as sister cities to forge a new future of positive partnership between our peoples."

The agreement is designed to foster stronger economic development, trade and investment, tourism, youth, cultural, faith based exchange and educational linkages between the two cities, and to increase awareness of both cities as being growth cities in the connected health and life sciences, creative industries, tourism, financial services and the knowledge economy sectors.

It commits both cities to identifying activities that can generate new initiatives to further nurture economic, social, cultural and faith based relationships. Boston's Sister City programs operate as non-profit, independent organizations, and are heavily dependent on voluntary support and contributions. During the 1950s, citizens and government officials recognized the importance of developing closer international relations, and the search for a Sister City began.



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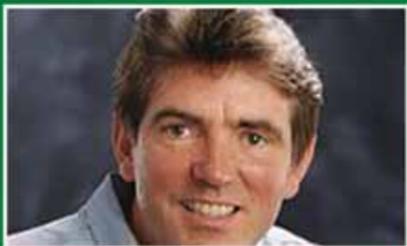
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Celtic potpourri will enliven ICCNE's campus

(Continued from page 1)

The Feis, co-organized with the Walpole-based Harney Academy of Irish Dancing, will cap the first year of a new format for the Boston Irish Festival, with events taking place across three weekends instead of one (the festival began on May 31 with a day of sporting events and children's activities).

Kicking off the music weekend on Friday, June 6, will be an evening concert with the Screaming Orphans and Black 47. The four Diver sisters, natives of Bundoran in Co. Donegal, make up the Screaming Orphans, whose tagline is "where honey and gravel collide." Over nearly two decades, the band – which has 10 recordings, eight of them full-length, to its credit – has combined traditional Irish material with its own melodic pop-flavored songs, touring extensively throughout the US and Europe. They've worked with the likes of Sinéad O'Connor, The Chieftains, Afro Celt Sound System, and Peter Gabriel, and appeared on soundtracks for the films "Magdalene Laundries" and "All the Little Animals."

Following the Screaming Orphans, Black 47, which last fall announced that it will retire this November, makes its farewell appearance at the Boston Irish Festival. Since its founding in 1989, the New York City-based group has been at the forefront of Irish/Celtic rock, mixing not only traditional elements but influences from hip-hop, reggae and jazz; their repertoire delves into social and political issues – in the US, Ireland and the world – as well as Irish historical events and figures like Michael Collins and Brendan Behan, but also is full of romance, humor and cheekiness. [An interview with Black 47 co-founder Larry Kirwan appears elsewhere in this month's *Boston Irish*

Reporter.]

Highlighting the Saturday schedule will be an afternoon concert by Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. A Grammy-winning, nine-time All-Ireland fiddle champion who was part of the original "Riverdance" production, Ivers has long been an enthusiastic explorer of Irish/Celtic music in the context of multiple genres and cultures including those of South America and Africa. The Immigrant Soul ensemble represents an outgrowth of Ivers's childhood in the Bronx, where her exposure to other kinds of music proved to be as significant as her involvement in the Irish traditional music scene.

Saturday will see numerous music acts on multiple stages during the course of the day. Other performers slated to appear as of press time include: Inchicore; the Alfie O'Shea Band; Yokeshire; the Step About Boston dancers; Norman Payne; Erin's Melody; Cat & The Moon; Tommy Byrne and Denis Curtin; The Gobshites; Erin's Guild; The Auld Locals, and the Tom Lanigan Band.

In addition to music, there will be stepdancing shows from local performers; vendors and exhibits; and food and drink.

The June 14 Boston Irish Festival Feis will be exciting and enjoyable "for anyone who likes Irish dancing" whether as a dancer or a spectator," says Liam Harney, founder of the Harney Academy and co-chair of the feis. Hundreds of dancers, ranging in age from as young as four years old to adult, are expected to attend.

What makes the event appealing to dancers, he explains, is the opportunity to meet counterparts from elsewhere in New England, see different styles and approaches, and make a friend or useful contact.

"There will be a wide



The Screaming Orphans will open for Black 47 at the Boston Irish Festival.

selection of adjudicators from outside the state, which is a good experience for dancers to have, and we're bringing in musicians from different areas as well. It's just a way of getting the dancers more stage experience, and exposing them to more of the Irish dance world.

"We're happy to support the Irish Cultural Centre, and Irish dance."

Check the festival website [bostonirishfestival.info] for updates and other information. Tickets can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com/event/699984.



The Boston Irish Festival also will feature a concert by Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul.

Summer Solstice Festival (June 21) an event for all in Cumberland, RI, park

Popular Greater Boston/Eastern Massachusetts Celtic performers Matt and Shannon Heaton, Aoife Clancy, and Robbie O'Connell are among those appearing at the fourth annual Blackstone River Theatre Summer Solstice on June 21 at Diamond Hill Park in Cumberland, RI. The festival focuses on Celtic and world music, dance and culture, and also includes children's entertainment and more than 30 craft and food vendors.

Others scheduled to perform include Pendragon, Cantrip, the duo of Torrin Ryan and Mark Oien, the Panache Quartet, Burning Bridget Cleary and the trio of Laurel Martin, Mark Roberts, and Kieran Jordan. In addition, the event will feature Irish step dance performances and participatory Irish set dancing.

Admission is \$15 adults,

\$10 seniors, \$5 children ages 6-16, children under 5 free. For directions and other information, see riverfolk.org/brtssf or call Blackstone River Theatre at 401-725-9272.

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Traveling People

Thinking unique, extraordinary? Consult Hidden Ireland

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Shouldn't your vacation in Ireland be a complete escape from everyday life? You've saved all year for this outing, so do something totally different and create some amazing memories.

A great place to start is with a unique and extraordinary place to stay, dine, and meet other international travelers. You could hardly do better than to select one of the 36 historic country estates included in an accommodation group called Hidden Ireland (hiddenireland.com). These are all private and historic family homes where the owners welcome and interact with guests and sometimes even head for the kitchen to don aprons and cook breakfast or dinner.

I have stayed at a number of Hidden Ireland properties over the years and can recommend all of them without reservation. I've enjoyed The Quay House in Co. Galway, Bruckless House in Co. Donegal, Clonalis in Co. Roscommon, and Ashley Park House in Co. Tipperary. Each one is unique, reflects the style, heritage, and flair of the family, and is absolutely delightful.

TEMPLE HOUSE

This year, a friend and I each booked rooms at Temple House (Ballymote, Co. Sligo), a magnificent mansion and working sheep farm on some 1,000 acres. Again, it was a wonderful Hidden Ireland experience, enhanced by the warm and sincere welcome extended by sociable and gracious owners Roderick and Helena Perceval. Roderick represents the 12th generation of Percevals at Temple House, which has been in his family since 1665.

Temple House is so much more than a B&B, as are all the Hidden Ireland properties. The house is large but comfortable and, as a guest, you can enjoy first-hand the family antiques, prints, and portraits you might otherwise only see in a museum.

Exceptionally large windows flood expansive rooms with light and high ceilings enhance that sense of spaciousness. The house overlooks manicured gardens, neatly-mowed lawns, the ivy-covered ruins of a former Knights Templar castle, and Templehouse Lake, where boating is available. Location is key to this wooded demesne and, as Roderick says, "From Temple House, you can look out without seeing any lights."

Bedroom décor is classic and old world. Antique beds are fitted with comfortable mattresses and fine linens. Photographs and prints decorate the walls and mantels and flat surfaces display family knick-knacks and memorabilia. Modern touches have been carefully added so as not to adversely affect the historic ambience and include hairdryers, electric kettles for tea making, and thermostats.



Temple House in Ballymote, Co. Sligo, has been in the same family since 1665 and welcomes visitors to experience life in an elegant Irish estate.



The elegant entrance hall, adorned with Perceval family portraits, at Temple House in Ballymote, Co. Sligo. Temple House is one of 36 select and historic private homes in Hidden Ireland (hiddenireland.com), a group that welcome guests for a unique and extraordinary B&B experience.

(Judy Enright photos)



Bathrooms are updated and the showers have excellent water pressure.

Roderick added that the kitchen also has been thoroughly modernized and central heating has been installed as part of ongoing upgrades.

SOCIALIZING

At 7 p.m. one evening, residents gathered around a blazing fire in the sitting room for drinks and socializing. A delicious dinner, made by Helena, followed, and we dined around one large table with a couple from London, two bicyclists from Philadelphia, a businesswoman from Canada, and a retired boxing champ from England – a mixed and most interesting group. Roderick was the chef for the full choice breakfast the next morning and, according to one diner, he made the most perfect poached egg – reportedly the benchmark by which one judges an accomplished chef!

Guests are encouraged to book for at least two nights to savor the house and its surroundings and enjoy the many varied activities in the area. "People like to wind down here," Roderick said, adding that at Temple House "hospitality is the key word. This is so much more than a B&B but it's not a hotel. Guests

are not just renting a room - they are coming to stay at Temple House to experience history and heritage."

We don't always trust TripAdvisor reviews but when you scan through them and there is one glowing report after another, you do take notice. A visitor from Leesburg, VA, wrote, "For those ... looking for fast paced city excitement, this isn't it. This is a country manor house and working farm. Restful and charming, it was the perfect oasis midway through our trip."

Sarah from Brooklyn said, "Who should book at Temple House? Anyone with an imagination, a sense of humor, a longing for the past, a bit of adventure, anyone of any age who craves beauty and whimsy."

And in April this year, Jack from Amsterdam wrote: "Roderick is a fabulous host. His passion for the place shines through. It's got to be a lot of work to keep up something like this, and I'm glad he's done it."

Visit templehouse.ie for more information. Six bedrooms can sleep fourteen in the main house and there is also a four-bedroom, self-catering cottage available. Multi-

night packages are also offered. Temple House is open from April 1 to Nov. 30 and dinner each night is 47 euro and optional.

Hidden Ireland was founded in the mid-1980s and homes in the program are family-owned and run and are chosen for their architectural merit, location, and settings. Evening meals are provided (unless there are quality restaurants handy) because they are, Roderick said, "an experience to be enjoyed."

For more information about Hidden Ireland, visit hiddenireland.com. Owners of historic homes

listed by Hidden Ireland are "passionate about what we do," Roderick said.

BITS AND PIECES

Several years ago, there was a British low-cost airline called Flyglobespan that initiated direct flights from Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK) to Logan and other East Coast airports. The service only lasted a short time before being scrapped. Recently, however, officials from Rhode Island visited IWAK and Neill O'Neill, managing editor at *The Mayo News*, reported that Kelly Fredericks, the chief executive of the Rhode

Island Airport Corporation in the USA, "has told *The Mayo News* he firmly believes that a direct link between Ireland West Airport Knock and the Eastern United States is a real possibility. 'I wouldn't be here if it was not a realistic option,' said Fredericks. He added that such service is probably a couple of years away but that he and the others who visited were pleased with what they saw at Knock 'and we are aggressively and realistically pursuing these types of routes.' " That's great news for all those who love the West of Ireland and would like to get there faster from Boston.

Another story in *The Mayo News* reported that Peacock's, a well-known landmark and hotel in Maam Cross, Connemara, has been sold and the gift shop and hotel will reopen under new ownership, perhaps as early as next month. That's great news for that area and for all those who travel the N59 road from Galway to Clifden. The hotel was completely upgraded in 1999 but has been in receivership for the past four years.

FESTIVALS

On June 28 and 29, Westport House in Co. Mayo will host the Westport Festival of Music and Food featuring many musical groups, including David Gray, Bryan Adams, Shane Filan, Sinead O'Connor, and Kool & the Gang. See westportfestival.com for more details.

Doolin in Co. Clare will be hopping June 13-15 when the Doolin Folk Festival comes to town, featuring the best of contemporary Irish folk including Solas and Damien Dempsey. See doolinfolkfestival.com for details.

The West Cork Chamber Music Festival will be held from June 27 to July 5 at Bantry and includes concerts, master classes, workshops and talks. See westcorkmusic.ie for more.

The Irish Open will be held at the Fota Island Resort in Co. Cork June 19-22. See irishopen.ie for details.

TRAVEL

It's summer and Ireland is buzzing with activity. There are all kinds of events happening across the country. For the most up-to-date listings, visit Tourism Ireland's excellent website – Ireland.com – and enjoy your trip.

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Martina Anderson, centre, celebrates with her husband Paul and Sinn Fein members Martin Mc Guinness and Gerry Adams, left, at the Kings Hall count centre, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Monday, May 26, 2014. Sinn Fein's Martina Anderson has topped the poll in the European elections for Northern Ireland. She polled 159,813 votes, beating the quota by over 3,000 votes to become the first of Northern Ireland's MEP's. (AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

PSNI wants all the tapes from BC/Belfast project

(Continued from page 1) May 4, although police did send an evidence file to British state prosecutors for potential charges later.

Now, the Police Service of Northern Ireland says it wants the entire audio archive, including the accounts of former Ulster Volunteer Force members involved in the slayings of Catholic civilians. In a statement it said Serious Crime Branch detectives were doing this because of the police's "statutory duty to investigate fully all matters of serious crime, including murder."

The move threatened to open up another legal can of worms for Boston College and the two officials who collected the oral history: journalist Ed Moloney and IRA veteran Anthony McIntyre. Dozens of IRA veterans and Protestant militants agreed to speak to McIntyre starting in 2001 on condition their interviews be kept secret until their deaths. Some of those interviewed have said they plan to sue Boston College to have the tapes and any other records of their interviews returned or destroyed. Boston College itself said it was willing to return the interviews to their subjects. The latest police move appears designed to prevent that from happening.

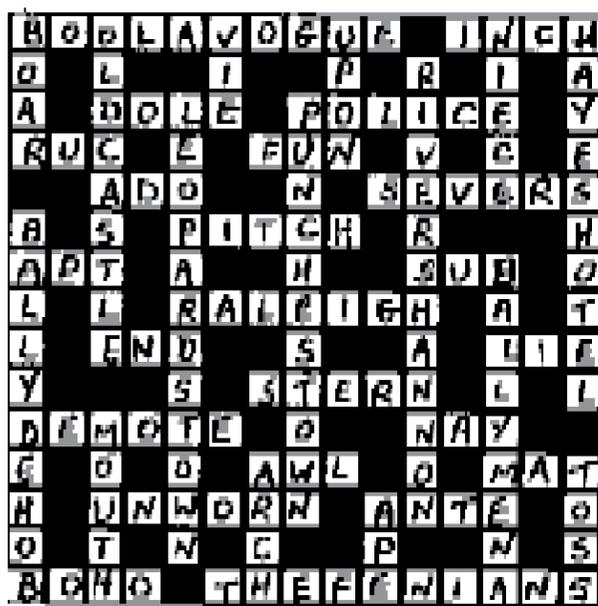
"I call upon the US government to resist this fishing expedition by the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) and to remember that the major casualty of this bid to invade an American college's private archive will be to undermine a peace deal that was in no small way the product of careful American diplomacy and peacebuilding," Moloney said in a statement.

Moloney added that it was "no accident" that police are seeking to seize all the tapes following Boston College's offer to relinquish possession of the tapes to their sub-

jects. NBC News last month initiated its own legal proceedings seeking access to parts of the Northern Ireland audio archive at Boston College.

In its May 6 letter to Judge William Young, the Boston judge who presided over most of the Northern Ireland police-Boston College legal tussle, NBC News said it wanted to see all transcripts, audio recordings and documents that had already been provided to the Northern Ireland police for the McConville investigation.

PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 18



Enter Primark, an Anglo-Irish presence at Downtown Crossing

(Continued from page 1) this with 'Operated by Primark,' which you can see on our shopping bags."

Other UK-based retailers have tested the American waters and foundered. Among the well-known chains that failed to crack the US market successfully were WH Smith, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, and Tesco. Although Ted Baker and Topshop have garnered a measure of success in America, Primark is confident that their stores will flourish here. The company does have reason for that confidence, with its 2014 reputation as "one of the fastest-growing retail businesses in western Europe."

Retail analyst and fashion expert Maureen Hinton told Reuters that Primark's prospects in Boston and beyond are encouraging. "Young fashion is global now. The US tended to be quite conservative in fashion. I think that has changed because of the global access in fashion and entertainment. The main point about Primark is its price positioning...it has all the trappings of the big stores and the feel of a more expensive fashion brand. I am sure that the likes of [US rival] Forever 21 are a bit worried."

Hinton also pointed out that Primark had not exhausted its prospects



for expansion in Europe. "Primark has got potential to become a global fashion brand."

In a media statement following Primark's announcement of its plan for Downtown Crossing, George Weston, CEO of Associated British Foods, which owns Primark, said: "We think we have as differentiated and attractive a proposition in the US as we have in continental Europe and the British Isles. We think we have something special to offer."

The timing for Primark in Boston appears propitious. The long-awaited redevelopment of Downtown Crossing is under way, with residential and commercial space being gobbled up at such sites as the upscale Millennium Place, which has sold every unit. For locals who grew up accustomed to Macy's (the erstwhile Jordan Marsh), Filene's, and the late, great Filene's

Basement, the sight of the recently blighted area on its way back to being a commercial cornerstone of Boston conjures both nostalgia and a sense that Downtown Crossing is indeed on the way back.

As noted in last month's BIR, Downtown Crossing is - again, nostalgically speaking - a fitting locale for the Irish-spawned Primark/Penneys to open. After all, an Irish immigrant opened the first store in Boston 384 years ago, in 1630, and did so on a plot of land on the northeast corner of the future State and Washington Streets within shouting distance of the future Downtown Crossing Primark. No one would have likely called John Cogan "fashion forward," but the purveyor of dry goods, hardware, and other essentials in Boston's first store shared a "retail-forward" approach with Irish-born Primark.

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