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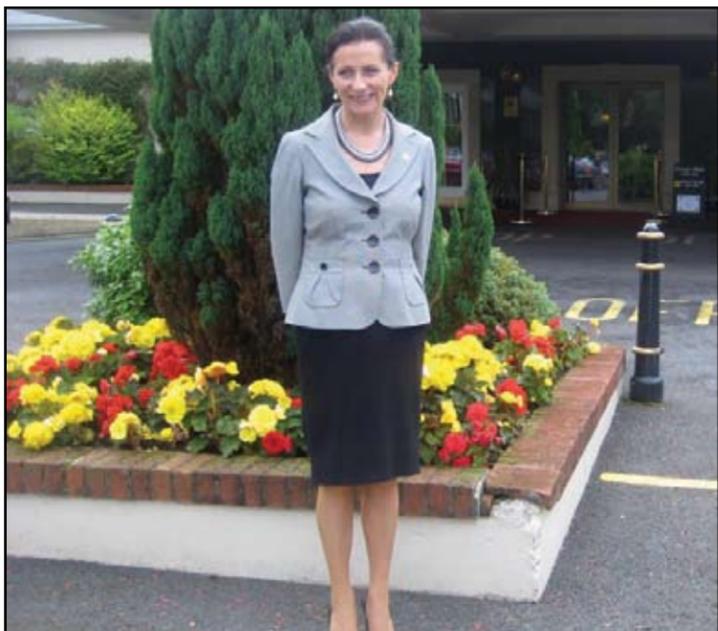
BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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St. Patrick blesses the Ould Sod at the Hill of Tara, Leinster, Co. Meath.

Photo courtesy Tourism Ireland



Fine Touches from Europe

BIR Publisher Ed Forry found touches of European style along with the legendary Irish welcoming grace at his stopping places during a trip to Ireland last year. At the brilliant Harvey's Point Country Hotel, he met up with general manager Deirdre McGlone, at left. He gives an account of his journey, with photos, on Page 29.



Thomas J. Hynes, Jr. is a man who is always on the go. For a profile of one of the city's pre-eminent shakers in commercial real estate, see Page 6.

Inside: Holiday Month Coverage

- A full page of events planned for the Saint's month. Page 10.
- In Arts & Entertainment: The Chieftains are coming; the Reagle Players have a production; BCMFest keeps at it. And much more. Pages 20-26.

Also, the story of a bishop and his bus. Page 27.

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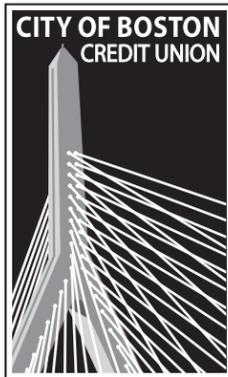
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ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

By CAROL BEGGY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Tanya McRae simply describes the best title for her work in television production as "I do it all." And as anyone who works with her can attest, that's an accurate description.

Originally from New York City, but we won't hold that against her, McRae went to middle school in Amherst and graduated from Cambridge Rindge & Latin High. She has been working as a host, reporter, producer, and writer in Los Angeles for the last 18 years. Her credits include shows on all four networks, and several cable channels including Lifetime, Travel Channel, Discovery, MTV, TLC, E! Entertainment Television, and A & E. She moved back to Boston last fall to be closer to family and heard the buzz around town about "styleboston," a 30-minute independently produced lifestyle show that airs on Wednesdays on NECN. She is now hosting segments and doing business development for the show.

McRae's Irish roots are deep. Her maternal great-grandfather, **Thomas Casey**, was from Waterford. During the famine, when he was eight years old, his family put him on a boat alone and sent him to the United States. Somehow, he survived the journey that killed many others and made his way to St. Louis.



Tanya McRae

As a young man, Casey traveled to Red Wing, Minn., and then eventually settled in Denver. He owned a ranch that he called the Lazy KC (brand for "Casey"). And, says McRae, "Family lore has it that Sitting Bull, on his way to his last meeting with the federal government, bought a horse from Thomas's ranch." In time, Casey built a brick factory with the "KC" brand stamped on the bricks.

On her mother's side, her family traces its roots to County Cork, with the family landing in Philadelphia. In 1854 members of the family were murdered in Know-Nothing riots and those who survived migrated to Minnesota and Denver. But McRae, like so many others, claims a diverse lineage. "My heritage also includes Swedish, Scottish, African American, Cherokee, Lumbee, Cree, and Yuchi Native American tribes."

Another "styleboston" person in the news is one of the show's co-hosts, former Massachusetts lieutenant governor **Kerry Healey**, who conducts interviews for the 30-minute show that was created by former Boston Common editor **Terri Stanley**. Healey's interviews have included Charles Hotel owner **Dick Friedman**, former US Poet Laureate **Robert Pinsky**, and state Representative **Linda Dorcea Forry**.

When **Jeffrey Donovan**, star of the USA Network's hit series "Burn Notice," was an undergraduate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, he used to get up at 4 a.m. and drive the campus shuttle bus to pay his tuition.

Donovan made his comments to **Regis Philbin** and

Kelly Ripa on their ABC morning show "Live With Regis and Kelly" as "Burn Notice" was finishing up its third season.

In the one-hour show, Donovan, an Amesbury native, plays a former "special ops" spy who now helps other people in trouble, is known for his martial arts skills and doing his own stunts. It's a skill he has honed over the years.

"When I went to college, I wasn't good enough to play any sports, so I took up karate," Donovan said on the morning chat show. He later studied akido and Brazilian jujitsu.

And now on "Burn Notice" Donovan practices both his training at the New York University's Graduate Acting Program and karate, but he's actually been hurt on the set. "I got used to the long hours and the tough schedules, but I was injured in the pilot," said the Amesbury High alum. Donovan would train visiting actors on the show's stunts, but no matter how much he would stress it was all acting, "I would get hit in the face."

Fans and friends of Coach **Jim Cotter** and Boston College High School football – and they are legion – have been celebrating the release of Cotter's illustrated memoir, "A True Man for Others: The Coach Jim Cotter Story." A well-attended event was held recently at the school to celebrate Cotter and the book's publication and to raise money to support the school's Cotter Scholarship, Compassionate Care ALS, and The Angel Fund.

Cotter's name is nearly a synonym for BC High football. And now this man, who has been hailed for teaching his players how to be tough and fair on and off the field, has collaborated with **Paul Kenney** for the book in which Cotter calls himself "a Battler." Cotter made his way through BC High and Boston College as a two-sport athlete and worked on the docks, all before returning to his alma mater in 1960 as a teacher. He would go on to become the head coach of BC High's football program, which he would run for 41 years. Now, as the memoir lays out, Cotter is battling his toughest opponent, ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. Kenney is from the Columbia/Savin Hill section of Dorchester where he grew up on the "top floor of a Wattendorf tri-level ranch" and spent his "formative years on the corners of Romsey Street." Kenney met Cotter at BC High in 1967, when the young aspiring writer took Cotter's American history class.

The accolades have been rolling in for the book, including one from BC High alum **Dennis Lehane**, the bestselling author of "Mystic River" and "Gone, Baby, Gone." Lehane writes of the memoir: "A wonderful book about a Boston legend. As colorful, insightful, and enthralling as its subject. You'll end up buying two copies, one to read, one to pass on in hopes of inspiration."

And speaking of Lehane, "Shutter Island," the third feature film to be made from the bestselling author's books, has set box office records for the movie's star and director. "Shutter Island," which was filmed in Massachusetts, opened Presidents' Day weekend and brought in \$40.2 million in the first three days it was in theaters. That's a record for **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Martin Scorsese**.

Boston has been lucky for DiCaprio and Scorsese, who worked together on "The Departed," which brought Scorsese his first Oscar. That film was written by another Boston native, **William Monahan**, who also won an Oscar for that film.



A TRUE MAN FOR OTHERS

The Coach Jim Cotter Story

By Jim Cotter
With Paul Kenney

Scituate native **Nick Flynn** has enlisted the help of some of Boston's best musicians for the release of his latest book, "The Ticking is the Bomb." Flynn added musical performances for his recent appearances at Berklee College's Cafe 939 where he was joined on stage by **Eric Martin (of the Neats and Ilyrians)** and **Drew O'Doherty** for his early performance, and **Bill Janovitz** and **Chris Colbourn of Buffalo Tom**, along with **Franc Graham** for the later 90-minute show.

An award-winning poet and the author of the best-selling memoir "Another [expletive] Night in Suck City," Flynn's book is about how in the months leading up to his daughter's birth in 2007, he became so outraged by the photographs of the torture of the prisoners at Abu Ghraib that he traveled to Istanbul to meet some of the Iraqi men show in the photos.

Flynn spent six years working at the Pine Street Inn, which led to his memoir. He has published two collections of poetry, "Some Ether" and "Blind Huber," and his work has appeared in The Nation, New Yorker, The Paris Review, and The New York Times Book Review.

He is teaching for a semester at the University of Houston and now calls upstate New York home.

Ray Flynn, former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican and Mayor of Boston, will serve as the Grand Marshal of the Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade that will be held on Saturday, March 6. The parade's theme is "Heroes and Heroines of Ireland." Flynn was the Grand Marshal for New York City's St. Patrick's parade in 2007. The parade begins in West Dennis at 11 a.m. at the intersection of School Street and Route 28 and concludes at the Cape Code Irish Village Motel in West Yarmouth.

Gisele M. Michel, well known in the Boston Irish community for her former role as Interim Executive Director and Director of Development and External Relations for the Irish Immigration Center, has been named Executive Director of the Boston Center for Community and Justice (BCCJ). She brings 20 years of experience in strategic management and communication, organizational development, program promotion, community and external relations.



Gisele M. Michel

Most recently, she was founder and president of Icatlyst, LLC, a full service coaching and management consulting firm specializing in helping individuals and businesses optimize leadership and peak performance. In addition to her role with the Irish Immigration Center, she was also Director of the Community Outreach Partnership Center at Florida International University. She is a certified coach through the California and NLP Coaching Institute of San Francisco. She has twice served as a member of the National Planning Committee for the White House Conference on Small Business, and is a former co-chair of the citywide Dialogues on Boston's Ethnic and Racial Diversity.

A graduate of George Washington University, she holds a Master's degree with a concentration in East European Studies and Political Economy from the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently a lecturer in the graduate program of Leadership Management at Northeastern University. With executive offices at 5 Broad Street in downtown Boston, BCCJ is a non-profit agency with a mission to develop socially responsible leaders who will promote social justice in both their personal and public lives, and advance diversity and social justice across Greater Boston.

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Remembering the Great Hunger

By ED FORRY

Ireland's great Famine, also known as the Great Hunger (An Gorta Mór) took place in the middle of the 19th century, caused by a blight on the potato crop in the Emerald Isle. Beginning with the harvest of 1846, and lasting fully for five years, the fungus caused the potato crop to fail. It was devastating to huge numbers of poor Irish families. A family of six could be fed for a year on one acre of potatoes; the vegetable provided all the nutrients needed to preserve life.



Ed Forry

In that half decade it is estimated as many as 1.5 million Irish died of starvation, and because these tenant farmers were unable to provide crops to their landowners, scores of families were evicted from their meager homes. In 1847 alone, 400,000 Irish men, women, and children starved to death, a 12-month span now known known as "Black 47."

In the wake of the catastrophe, another two million people left the island, with many heading to ports in

Canada and the United States in so-called "coffin ships" because many of the passengers, having been squeezed into steerage, did not survive the arduous 3,000-mile, 40-day passage.

The tragic events and human suffering during those years certainly have parallels among people in other places at other times, the earthquakes that caused devastation in Haiti in January and in Chile just last month two recent disasters that give a picture of the enormous struggle the Irish faced.

More than a century and a half have passed since those terrible days, and the story of the famine has largely fallen into the background. In the 1990s a local group established a Boston memorial to the Great Hunger to ensure that the long-ago stories would not be forgotten. A committee headed by the late Tom Flatley erected a memorial park on a small parcel of downtown land at the corner of School and Washington streets.

Writing in these pages in 1997, Joe Leary described the site: "The bronze statues depict two families, each standing on three-foot-high bases. One shows the terrible effects of destructive hunger, a father beaten down, a mother raising her hand to the sky in supplication with her forlorn child hanging her head beside her. The other shows strength, health and resolve, the father and son striding confidently towards a new world with mother looking back wistfully at the devastation they are leaving behind." On the site, eight tablets with words by Boston College professor Tom O'Connor give a brief history of the famine.

Three years ago, I interviewed Tom Flatley shortly before he passed away, and he talked about the memorial: "One day I got a call from Mayor Tom

Menino, who had just returned from Ireland and he had visualized the memorial in Dublin," he said. "He had heard that I would be interested in working on one of those and putting it together and he said he would be fully supportive if we decided to do it. That was the best call we ever got."

Flatley said he turned to two longtime allies for help. "I immediately got a hold of Mike Quinlin, and Mike Cummings, who was with me, and we went in to see the mayor. I then went out that afternoon and we walked the Freedom Trail, all through the city. We went back to the mayor within a few days and told him we believed we had found the site, which is the park where it now exists." Flatley then turned for advice from friends and business associates who had developed the Holocaust Memorial near Faneuil Hall.

"We talked to them and learned a lot from them on their memorial and the way they did it," he said. The Irish Famine memorial was dedicated in June, 1998. "Over a million people visit that site every year," he said, and he hoped that number would grow. "It is a place for people to come, read, and find out that other nationalities and nations throughout the world, who are going through hell on earth, are able to survive in this great nation, as Ireland did and Irish immigrants. That's what it's all about. The key to this," said Flatley, are two words: From tragedy to triumph."

During this month of St. Patrick, I will visit the Memorial and reflect on the terrible struggles of those who came before us. It is quite the appropriate addition to the observance of the Saint's feast day.

Officials See North's Policing Accord As Signaling End to 'Troubles' Era

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Northern Ireland's Troubles began with its police force front and center and in a very real sense may have ended with a grand compromise on the vexing question of where the ultimate control over policing should rest.

In many people's minds, Northern Ireland's Troubles began on Oct. 5, 1968, when civil rights demonstrators marching peacefully in Derry were beaten by baton-wielding police. Images of the attack were captured by television cameras and beamed into living rooms across Ireland and Britain.

Three months later, Catholic civil rights protesters marching from Belfast to Derry were accosted by a Protestant mob on Burntollet Bridge and beaten and stoned as members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary looked on and did little to intervene.

These incidents and many others convinced Catholic nationalists that policing was one of the major problems in the sectarian state that was Northern Ireland.

More than four decades later, much has changed there: Catholics and Protestants now share power in a fragile coalition government and the old RUC has been reformed and given a new name.

But the question of how policing would be controlled was at the heart of a standoff that threatened to bring down the North's power-sharing government and did take it to the edge of collapse.

For months, Sinn Fein, the leading Catholic political party in Northern Ireland, argued that control over policing and justice matters needed to be transferred from British officials in London to officials of the Assembly government in Belfast.

The Democratic Unionist Party, the largest Protestant party, said it would not support a transfer of power until it was convinced that the police and judiciary would be free of undue political interference, and the DUP also sought concessions on the emotional question of how Protestant marching-season parades are supervised.

Months of bargaining and brinkmanship came to a conclusion last month when British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Irish Taoiseach Brian Cowen traveled to Hillsborough Castle outside Belfast to sign a compromise hammered out by the First Minister Peter Robinson of the DUP and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein.



Robert P. Connolly

The memories that March conjures up

By TOM MULVOY
BIR STAFF

To grow up in Boston in the mid-20th century in an extended multi-neighborhood family, where an Irish cultural atmosphere dominated time spent away from school for the children and away from work for the adults, was to know that while the United States held the promise of good things to come, the old country, where your heart was supposed to be, held the memories and the traditions.

And March was the month when it all came together: Thinking about St. Patrick meant thinking of spring, a novena, a parade, a boisterous card game, and trips all over metropolitan Boston to visit older relatives of my father's who smoked pipes and gulped highballs and whose speaking style – rushed, harsh sounds delivered gutturally – spoke to people, times, and places my father delighted in that were out of sight and out of mind for me and my three brothers and sister.

It was never easy to figure out exactly what my teetotaler mother made of it all, but she was always there, always chatting, and remarkably knowledgeable about what was going on with the stay-backs in my father's family over in Oughterard, Galway, whence came my grandmother, my father, and his three sisters to Somerville in the 1920s.

The kickoff to this special month for Catholic school kids in my parish was the St. Francis Xavier Novena, which ran each year from March 4 to the 12th. For about ten years, this was a must gathering for my family and for most of St. Mark's Parish. When I was enrolled in the parish school (September 1948-June 1956) and in high school, every March 4th there came to Dorchester Avenue a Jesuit from somewhere to preach to us for seven straight afternoons and evenings, take your pick. I remember as an early teen hearing a Father Mohan, S.J., enticing the young among the congregation by ending one long sermon with a promise that the next day he was going to take up a three-letter subject that was "certainly of interest to all of you." Of course, we thought it was s-e-x; but, no; it was s-i-n.

Once we had all affirmed our faith via this endeavor, it was time to enjoy the Saint's month. We lived in a five-room flat, but every year during a Saturday night in March it somehow accommodated a dozen or so Irish relatives who came from Somerville and other places

Under the deal, Sinn Fein wins the devolution of police and justice powers that it sought and the DUP gains the protections it requested and the promise of a fresh look at the parades issue.

The transfer of police and judicial powers – the only governmental powers not yet shifted from London to Belfast – is now set to take place on April 12.

Officials said that the breakthrough could mark the true end to the Troubles. "This is the last chapter of a long and troubled story and the beginning of a new chapter after decades of violence, years of talks, weeks of stalemate," Brown said. Cowen called the deal "an essential step for peace, stability, and security in Northern Ireland"

McGuinness, who once battled the police as a former leader of the Irish Republican Army, celebrated the move. "This might just be the day when the political process in the North came of age," he said.

And the beleaguered Robinson, recovering from weeks of political and personal-life turmoil, heaved a sigh of relief and noted, "No future generation would forgive us for squandering the peace that has been so long fought for. I believe that we have taken a considerable step to secure the prize of a stable and peaceful Northern Ireland."

The breakthrough was celebrated by the U.S. government, with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton saying the accord "will help consolidate the hard-won gains of the past decade."

With the agreement now in place, British and Irish officials said that Clinton, whose interest in Northern Ireland dates back to her husband's presidency, will preside over a Northern Ireland investment conference to be held later this year.

While the devolution deal represents an important step forward on two public policy issues, it has the much larger significance of putting the North's power-sharing government on much firmer ground.

Speaking to reporters after the agreement was signed, Robinson said: "If I had said to any of you that we would be sitting here today having agreed to a way forward on policing and justice, and parading, and how to reinvigorate the executive, and that we would have unanimous support within our two parties, very few of you would have accepted such a claim. But that is precisely where we are."

McGuinness, whose relationship with Robinson has been strained and testy, in contrast to the surprisingly cordial relationship he enjoyed with Robinson's better-known predecessor, the Rev. Ian Paisley, predicted that better days lie ahead. "There is a better atmosphere now. Divided we are weak, united we are strong."

Strong and surprisingly united.

to visit and to enjoy endless hands of 45, a card game I never got the hang of. As I recall, preparation for this event by my parents was minimal; they only had to clear all the tables in the house. The players, including my grandmother, brought along victuals, and my Dad went up to Lamont's liquor store and bought ales and beers called, among other brands, Narragansett, Dawson, and Pickwick, and a bottle or two of whiskey for the shot glasses.

The relatives came early and stayed late, suffusing our cozy little abode with merriment and, for my father especially, a rush of tugs on family ties.

Not everyone could join in the card game at once around the dining room table, so non-participants sat in the kitchen and living room talking and talking and talking and often laughing uproariously while the Mulvoy children sat on the floor and listened, trying to make sense of it all.

That was the home game. For the rest of the month, we were on the road. We had no relatives in South Boston, so instead of a front porch or a living room facing the route we made do with the curbstones and watched the parade from knee-level; we took the MTA to Somerville for awfully long visits to our aunts, uncles, and numerous cousins, and we drove out to John Byrne's farm in Milford where one March my father picked up a soldier hitch-hiker along the route and squeezed him into the back seat with me and two of my brothers. And we loved to visit the gregarious Mary and Mike Beatty's house on Highland Ave. in Somerville where twice I went to wakes where the bodies (my dad's Aunt Mary and Uncle Pete) were laid out in open caskets in the parlor while the crowded flat was filled with relatives and friends making good cheer and, of course, praying when it came time to.

It wasn't until I was in high school that I learned how important my father's aunt and uncle were to him and to our family. It was they who in 1921 offered their home as security with the city of Somerville in pledging that their new immigrant relatives, the widow Barbara Mulvoy, her 12-year-old son Tommy, and her daughters Celia and Agnes and Catherine, would not add their names to the community's welfare rolls.

All this happened a long time ago, but each year when another March looms, it was really only yesterday.



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Commentary

SDLP Elects Margaret Ritchie as 'Leader'; First Woman to Head Major Party in North

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In a close election last month, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) of Northern Ireland elected Minister Margaret Ritchie, 51, as its "leader" to guide the party into the second decade of the 21st century. With her ascension, Miss Ritchie becomes the first female head of a major party in Northern Ireland.

By a vote of 222 to 187, Ritchie, the SDLP's only serving Minister in the Northern Ireland Assembly, defeated Alasdair McDonnell, one of three SDLP members in the British Parliament, to gain the leadership seat. The election was called as the result of the resignation of the previous "leader," Mark Durkan, who will remain an SDLP member of the British Parliament in London, representing the Foyle constituency.



Joe Leary

Now that the leadership responsibility has been bestowed upon this independent, hard-working, and determined woman, Ritchie promises to return the SDLP to its former prominence within the Nationalist community in Northern Ireland. Her job will not be easy.

In her first announcement after her victory at the party's cheering convention, Ritchie stated that it was her ambition to become First Minister of Northern Ireland, which would mean that the SDLP would have to become the North's leading party. A highly unlikely prospect over the short term.

But in a surprise announcement, she moved preemptively into the fray by nominating SDLP's North Belfast Member of the Assembly, Albin McGuinness, as her party's candidate for the new post of Minister of Policing and Security. Since the Alliance Party recently refused the position and Sinn Fein and the Unionists have been having a great deal of difficulty agreeing on anything, Ritchie's aggressive decision gained much publicity.

In a telephone interview with the BIR after her victory, she was asked about her plans to rebuild the SDLP.

"First, I want to attract good new people to our party," she said. "Those that believe in our principles and our areas of difference with the other Northern Ireland parties. Second, I want to strengthen and invigorate our internal organization and its systems. I will stress our party's belief in a strong economy and do everything we can to improve the prosperity of our people."

Ritchie endorsed a lower corporate tax rate for Northern Ireland similar to the one that has attracted much new investment into the Republic of Ireland. "The resulting increased tax revenue will reduce reliance upon block grants from London to run our government. I look forward to not having to go to them each year." She added: "We believe in a shared society with all of us benefitting from a strong economy as an essential part of our desire for a United Ireland."

Alasdair McDonnell, the man Ritchie defeated, also



New SDLP Leader Margaret Ritchie with predecessors John Hume and Mark Durkan.

spoke to the BIR: "Perhaps I was too aggressive during the campaign and scared a few people, but I believe firm action is needed to restore the SDLP to its rightful prominence." McDonnell said he is looking forward to the forthcoming British Parliamentary election in his South Belfast district and feels he can win again if he can increase his vote to 38-39 percent of the total. His previous winning election was attributed to a split of the vote between the two Unionist candidates running against him.

Many of us here in Boston have known Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party as the famous John Hume's party and, more recently, as Mark Durkan's party. The SDLP represented non-violent Catholic nationalists who believed in a United Ireland through constitutional government. Formed in 1970, its first focus was on social justice and righting the wrongs perpetrated by the ruling Unionists. The party championed fair housing and fair employment and aligned itself with the Labour Party in the British Parliament.

The SDLP's rival for the Catholic/United Ireland vote is Sinn Fein, which, during the '70s, '80s and into the '90s, believed the use of any means necessary was appropriate and required if real change was to occur. The main difference between the two Nationalist parties was their position on violence and their willingness to use force to achieve their goals. Both, though, are firm believers in a United Ireland and are working hard to join the North and South of Ireland together.

Since the Good Friday Agreement was signed and ratified in 1998, the SDLP has been in decline and Sinn Fein has become more popular. Today, Sinn Fein has 27 seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly and the SDLP has 16. Sinn Fein, the second largest party in the North and the leading Nationalist Party, also elects the Deputy First Minister, currently Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator.

However slowly, Northern Ireland is changing, and though tragic bitterness remains, tedious but discernible progress is being made each month towards a free and open society.

In that spirit, we wish Margaret Ritchie good fortune.

GOP govts say Brown has running room

By JIM O'SULLIVAN
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON D.C. — When state Sen. Scott Brown became U.S. Sen. Scott Brown last month, stunned and wrathful Democrats in Massachusetts questioned how long before Brown would fall into line with the national Republican Party leadership and whether his self-proclaimed independence from partisan strictures would stand up to a GOP hierarchy known for dealing harshly with dissidents.

It had, after all, happened before to a Bay State Republican. Bill Weld, then governor of the Commonwealth, stepped too far to the left of South Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms, and Helms slapped down Weld's hopes of becoming ambassador to Mexico. The populist Tea Party movement has spooked some Republicans into more aggressively distancing themselves from the center, wary they could pay a price for appearing supportive of President Barack Obama and Washington Democrats.

And Brown enters the national scene at a time of intense partisanship — health care, fiscal policy, Afghanistan engendering divisions between and within the parties.

Still, governors from Brown's own party say the Massachusetts rookie has a novel opportunity to range from the leash a bit, because of the campaign message he pushed, the state he represents, and the breathing room encouraged by his vote's pivotal nature. Brown, the Republican CEOs said, has room to operate.

"I think party leaders are respectful of the regional differences," said Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas, a Republican and chair of the National Governors Association. "I don't know the senator personally, but I assume he was elected because he has the intelligence and integrity to represent his constituents and do what he thinks is in the national interest. I don't think party leaders expect blind loyalty from him. They expect a cooperative spirit and a willingness to work across the aisle."

Douglas said, "I think Sen. Brown's election is an opportunity to force the two parties to come together and find some common ground."

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, chairman of the Republican Governors Association and former head of the party's national committee, said Brown would likely not

pay a price with party leaders even if he repeatedly sides with Democrats. In part, said Barbour, Brown's new Senate colleagues would likely recognize that Brown simply deviates from core party norms on some philosophical issues. The Wrentham Republican has, for instance, prompted some buyer's remorse from pro-life groups dissatisfied with his reluctance to tinker with Roe v. Wade.

"I think the answer to that's no, that people who serve with him know that he's not as conservative as some of them are," Barbour, eyed as a prospective 2012 presidential candidate, said when asked if Brown would suffer for bucking the party line.

"In a two-party system, both parties are necessarily coalitions," Barbour told the News Service. "There are lots of Republicans who are not as conservative as Haley Barbour. He should vote for what he thinks is right in the big picture."

Another prospective 2012 challenger, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who vied over the weekend for conservative affections at the Conservative Political Action Conference, also in Washington, was vaguer about whether Brown would be disciplined by party barons for committing apostasies.

"I think each elected official has to make his or her own decisions, so that's something you'll have to ask him and the congressional leadership," Pawlenty said.

Pressure to meet expectations will come not just from the right. Progressive interest groups challenged Brown Monday with an ad questioning his independence, trying to spot him on a Senate jobs bill vote, featuring clips from his election night speech when he touted "the independent voice of Massachusetts."

Unions, whose rank-and-file helped Brown wrest a long-Democratic seat, have already ripped Brown for opposing one of President Barack Obama's labor nominees.

GOP strategists said Brown's instant-celebrity status, overcoming off-the-board odds to win the seat, had brought him some inoculation from usual top-down, fealty-assuring tactics, and said his status as "41," the vote ensuring Republicans could block an unpopular health care bill, had purchased even more protection — rendering him, for the time being, untouchable.

Off the Bench

Needing Someone To Lean On

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Faith is a crutch. It helps those of us who need it to cope with a world that is dangerous, confusing, unfair, and often cruel. We desperately cling to the notion that within what often appears to be chaos and disorder there is purpose and meaning.

Unable to accept existence as the product of random forces that have dropped us on this speck in the universe, we ask why? Unwilling to ignore the madness and enthralled by the beauty, we ask how?

We see in the world of man language, tools, structures, art, music, literature, and organizations, all the product of design and purpose; yet some argue the universe and nature evolved from chaos. Science has or one day will explain the colliding energies from which the universe and life emerged.

Chemistry, physics, biology contain the keys to our existence. These natural forces have and will continue to provide answers to the eternal questions. But how? Who will explain the source of the order that is the very essence of scientific research? Is it all just an accident, a series of coincidences lacking coherence and symmetry?

Are creatures (i.e. men, animals, insects) the only beings capable of intelligent design? Or is it more plausible that creatures themselves are the product of an intelligence that is then reflected in the activities of living things?

Is our reverence for truth, justice, and love, as imperfect as it may be, simply a byproduct of evolution or a reflection of absolute values far beyond our ability to attain? Does it offer an explanation for our own existence, a reason why we were created, and a force to which we are ultimately drawn?

In a way I admire those who can face life without faith. I wonder where they find the strength and confidence to persevere. How do they cope with the madness; the ignorance, deceit, pettiness, suffering, injustice, and sheer arbitrariness of it all?

Either they choose not to confront these dilemmas or possess extraordinary personal resources that enable them to live in a world that for them needs no transcendent explanation — it is what it is. Apparently choosing to ignore the question — Why is it? — they feel no need to look beyond, or having looked, they find only ambiguities.

Without faith they carry on, often leading very good and productive lives. I marvel at their independence and ability to find strength and guidance from within; living off the land without spiritual sustenance.

There are those, like myself, who could not survive in that manner. We would be overwhelmed by the madness in the world and our own weakness. Call it a delusion or pipedream; we need something beyond ourselves to cling to for meaning, hope, strength, and purpose.

Conscious of our own flaws, we see these weaknesses amplified in those institutions that provide essential goods and services — in government and the economy. We acknowledge our pathetic inability to overcome many of our own problems or to fix those institutions formed to help us.

As a judge I was in the flaw business but one need not be in a courtroom to see the evidence of our weakness. It is everywhere.

As creatures, we look for help to our creator. Faith is a continuing act of will, correctly referred to as a "leap." It is beyond reason but not unreasonable. There are compelling signs that the universe and all in it are the product of a benign intelligence.

To some that is preposterous. Perhaps, but not as preposterous as suggesting it is the result of an accidental cosmic eruption giving rise to billions of coincidences. At some point you have to face the question: Where did space and stuff come from?

For the weak and dependent, faith is the vehicle by which we turn to a power beyond ourselves to acknowledge our dependence and pray for strength, guidance, and forgiveness. That power is our creator.

Faith is a lifeline in a tumultuous sea. Having grasped it, one must then determine how to express and sustain it.

Perhaps if I was strong, I wouldn't need it. But then, I don't think anybody is really that strong.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.

BIR Profile

Real Estate in Boston is Tom Hynes's Game, But This Marathon Man Doesn't Stop There

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A student of the classics and ancient Greece, Tom Hynes delights in the story of Pheidippides, the Athenian herald who in 490 B.C. announced the Greek victory over Persia in the Battle of Marathon. As legend has it, Pheidippides ran a marathon 150 miles in two days, then raced 25 miles from the battlefield to Athens to proclaim victory. "We have won," he declared. He then collapsed, dead from exhaustion.

A marathon man of modern-day proportions who once ran the Boston and London races seven days apart, Hynes, at 70 chairman and CEO of Colliers Meredith & Grew, the distinguished full-service commercial real estate firm, is certainly not one to seize defeat from the lips of victory. An individual who made his mark brokering space in buildings that transformed the face and girth of Boston, Hynes—a competitive runner in his day who still works 60-hour weeks, a guy who boldly parachuted out of planes in the Army, who raced down the icy Cresta Run at St. Moritz on a skeleton sled at speeds up to 50 miles-an-hour, a man who has climbed the Matterhorn and just weeks ago braved the summit of Mt. Washington with its hurricane-force winds, an earnest hockey player (left wing) who still laces 'em up and who in recent years endured surgeries from collisions on ice that left him with scars that make the crusty Quint in the classic movie *Jaws* look like a wimp—apparently never read the memo on exhaustion.

Phew!

"I'm a scrubber, a mucker," Hynes says of his athletic prowess.

Hardly.

Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., a nephew of the late Boston Mayor John B. Hynes, who defeated the legendary James Michael Curley three times, has been driven like a puck ever since his father died of cancer when he was eight. "You never get over it," he said from an 11th floor conference room at 160 Federal Street. "It stays with you." He pauses to collect his thoughts. The wound is still raw.

Loyalty and integrity are the cornerstones of Tom Hynes's life, a high-rise of achievement. A lifer at Meredith & Grew, Hynes joined the firm in 1965 after a dangerous stint demolishing ramshackle buildings in the West End for the John J. Duane Company of Quincy, followed by a tour of duty as a Second Lieutenant in an Army airborne unit that was set to parachute into Cuba had the Bay of Pigs invasion been a success, a flirtation with Boston University Law School on the heels of a BC High and Boston College education, and—ignoring the sage advice of "Uncle John," a surrogate father to him—a failed attempt in 1964 to represent his native West Roxbury in the state Legislature.

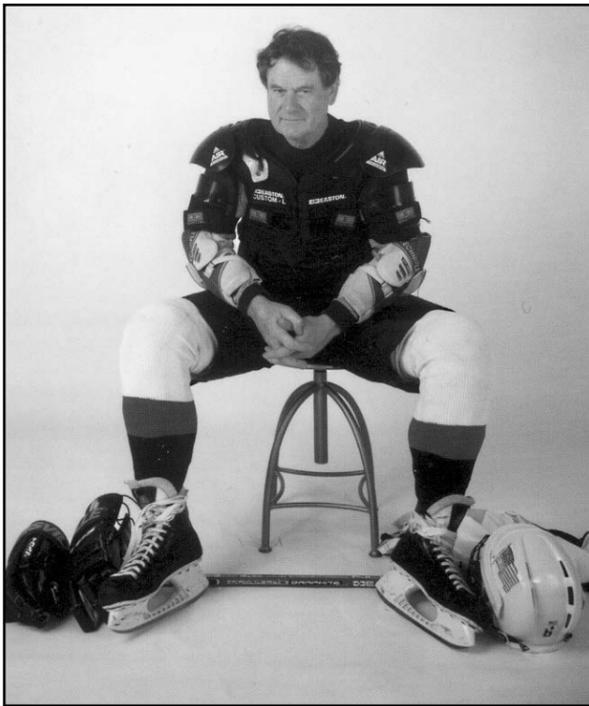
"Don't even think about it," the former mayor told Hynes bluntly, counseling him to ignore law school and politics. "First of all, you're not that smart." His uncle advised that Boston's top law firms only hired from the Harvard Law school at the time and that politics could be a black hole of trouble. "Go into the real estate business; this city has a great future," he urged, then wrote the dubious Hynes a \$200 campaign check. "Good luck," he barked.

Hynes placed a close third in a redistricting race that was reducing three seats to two, with both won by incumbents. Now with a strangling campaign debt and a shattered dream, he got religion—big time—and sought a career in commercial real estate. But the road to success for Irish lads like Hynes, even with lingering City Hall connections, was serpentine. It took him six months to find gainful employment, but it was love at first sight at Meredith & Grew on the lip of an inauspicious start at \$130 a week.

"When I was hired," Hynes recalls, "I thought I'd be [CEO] Tom Horan's first assistant, but the day I started it was as if he almost forgot he had hired me. He gave me a desk between the water cooler and Xerox machine. 'Don't worry about making any deals for the first month or two,' he said in a way that spoke more between the lines. 'But if you haven't made any deals in a while, I'll be around to see you.'"

That was his training session.

A graduate of the School of Hard Knocks at the Duane demolition company where, at the end of work days in summers and briefly after college, he smelled like a "burnt cork, a filthy rotten smell" so horrific that no one would sit next to him on the T, also a seasoned campaigner who was not afraid to knock on doors, and a man fully ambidextrous above the shoulders, thinking with precision from the left side and the right, a poet as much as a corporate type, Hynes embraced the art of the close. "I figured that if I knew how to ask people for their votes, I could certainly ask for their business," he said. When the smoke cleared at Meredith & Grew, Hynes had worked his way up to



Tom Hynes: "I'm a scrubber, a mucker."

president in 1988 and chairman in 2007.

The following year, the firm formally joined forces with Colliers International, a global partnership of independently owned commercial real estate firms with more than 10,000 employees operating from more than 293 offices in 61 countries. "Stability" is the mantra at Colliers Meredith & Grew, which in 134 years has survived 28 recessions, the Great Depression, 6 wars, and 26 American presidents.

So, street-smart Uncle John, a first-generation Irish American with close ties to Lochrea, Galway, knew what he was talking about. The son of Bernard John Hynes and the nephew of Thomas J. Hynes, who emigrated to Boston in their early teens in 1895 (Bernard was a railroad worker and Thomas was a groundskeeper at Harvard who later returned to Ireland), Uncle John had been schooled in humility and had a self-deprecating humor and a knack for keeping his feet on terra firma—lessons that he passed along.

When he was mayor of Boston, he traveled to Lochrea to meet his uncle Tom for the first time. "Hi, I'm Mayor John Hynes, your nephew from Boston," he told his uncle, according to family lore. After a long, uncomfortable pause, his uncle replied, "So?" To lift the awkward moment, a soft voice from the kitchen, the uncle's wife, coaxed the mayor in for tea. As he was leaving, his uncle wept and said to him, "Johnny, I never should have left America."

The story of misplaced opportunities is not lost on Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., who sports a family name in Boston as recognizable as Fenway, but he has never taken anything for granted. His cousin Barry is a former president of the Boston City Council and founder of Nativity Prep and his cousin, Jack Hynes, now retired, was a longtime Boston news broadcaster and commentator of note. Initially, it was a rapid rise to the top for the Hynes family in parochial Boston—from an Irish immigrant to the mayor of the city in one generation.

Now there's another generation leading the charge: Jack's son, John B. Hynes III, the president of Gale International, is building New Songdo City, a planned development in South Korea, and Seaport Square in the Boston Seaport District; and Barry T. Hynes II is a partner in FHO Partners, a Boston real estate firm.

"In my business," Tom Hynes said, "you learn to respect people no matter how they look or how they are dressed. You just never know. You never take anything in life for granted." Particularly family. Ask Hynes about his priorities, and he responds without hesitation, "Family, family, family."

Hynes met his Belgium-born wife Nicole (Delava) when she was a receptionist for a Boston law firm. The couple, married 29 years and living in Brookline with a summer house in Woods Hole, have two children: Vanessa, a Middlebury College graduate and a hockey star as a youth who now teaches art at the Pike School in North Andover; and Todd, an Academic All-American at MIT who captained the football team and played hockey and lacrosse, then worked for Joe Kennedy developing wind turbine projects. He now teaches a graduate course at MIT's Sloan School, and is fine tuning an alternative energy start-up company.

Tom grew up in West Roxbury, and when his father, Thomas, died in 1949, his mother Eleanor (Berry) "never missed a beat. We never knew how tough it would be," Hynes recalled, noting that his mother kept life on an even keel, raising five siblings and

a child from her husband's first marriage. Hynes's sister Eleanor is a retired school teacher living in Washington, D.C.; his sister Ann is a retired chemist living in West Roxbury; his brother Kevin runs an industrial company in South Carolina; and his brother David, now retired, maintained the pristine grounds of the Boston Public Garden for 30 years, a recipient of the prized Shattuck Award as an outstanding City of Boston employee.

Hynes described his father as a patriarchal type, who graciously opened his home to friends and generations of kin. He was an office manager at the 108-year-old Milk Street law firm, O'Connell & O'Connell, where he met his wife. He also worked as a Suffolk County deputy sheriff. Both parents were deeply religious, and believed in a Jesuit education. Hynes went to BC High ("a formative part of my education") where he studied Latin for four years, Greek for three, and French for two. He still keeps at his bedside his *Prose & Poetry* book, first published in 1885, and his *Greek Reader*, although he concedes he can't decipher it now. Hynes also played football at the high school where he was a "scrub" halfback, he insisted, and later at Boston College as a day-hopper where he practiced Monday through Friday, but didn't play on Saturdays against the likes of West Point, Navy, and Clemson.

"I was determined to play football," he says, noting a primal drive that had more to do with motivation than athletic talent. Hynes has always been known as a gamer. For example, he took on the harsh job of knocking down buildings and clearing the mess with a pick axe and shovel just to get in shape. He worked for Duane off and on for four years, quitting for good when a worker next to him was killed in a demolition accident. He then made his run for state rep.

Motivation is the coin of his life. Fling at Hynes a fitting challenge, and he jumps at it—like the time his daughter and son took up hockey. "Other than pond ice, I had never played," he says. But following the lead of his children and encouragement from young Boston Bruin players, including NHL star Joe Thornton (now with San Jose) who once lived at the Hynes household (Meredith & Grew did client work for the Bruins), Hynes years ago joined a local team of ex-hockey jocks, the Flying Squirrels. He still plays on the team, as well as another pickup team, the Former Legends of Hockey, and a "no-name" team at BU. On occasion, he plays in celebrity games with Thornton and rubs shoulders on the ice with Bobby Orr.

How's that for a self-proclaimed underachiever in sports? All of it sandwiched in between climbing mountains, flying down sled runs, and playing golf here and in Ireland with his buddies, a Who's Who of Boston. Friends mirror the man, and at full length the image is striking: the late Tom Flatley and the late Bill Connell, NSTAR Chairman Tom May, Cramer Digital Marketing/Events Solutions CEO Tom Martin, newspaper publisher Pat Purcell, former Citizens Bank CEO Larry Fish, retired Hill Holliday Connors Cosmopolos CEO Jack Connors, former Fidelity Magellan Fund genius Peter Lynch, retired Boston Globe editor Marty Nolan, to name just a few. Most are Irish-Catholic boys from Boston neighborhoods. In a 1986 cover story, the Boston Business Journal dubbed them CWASPS-Irish from the neck up, "Yankified" from the shoulders down.

Hynes clearly was more interested in discussing the achievements of his friends. Instinctively self-deprecating, he is a storyteller who lifts the spirits of others. His office walls are filled with memorabilia and photos of family and colleagues. There are no citations or plaques, but there must be a basement full of them some place. He has served as a trustee and director of numerous companies and organizations, including New World Bank, the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, the Sea Education Association, Prentiss Properties Trust, and as chairman of both the Boston College Real Estate and Investment Council and ONCOR International, an international affiliate of real estate companies.

It is now late on a February day, and as a radiant winter sun sets on downtown Boston, Hynes again answers the call of the rink after fielding a score of business calls and juggling a spate of meetings. The Former Legends are playing tonight, and Hynes is as energized as he was starting the day at 5 a.m. To say that he is a Renaissance man is to say that Leonardo DaVinci was a multi-tasker.

"I'm just trying to stay in shape," Hynes said when asked about his passion. "I'll guarantee you that I'm the worst hockey player on ice! But I have a goal. I have a vision."

And that's what makes him tick. Pheidippides would be duly impressed.

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based in Brewster.

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

What Is It About Irish Passports?

– Last month's assassination in Dubai of a major Hamas leader by a hit squad, possibly Israeli secret service Mossad agents, that included five men with forged



Bill O'Donnell

Irish passports, has erupted into a diplomatic firestorm between Ireland and Israel. Ireland's Foreign Affairs Minister, **Michael Martin**, has met with the Israeli foreign minister in Brussels to express the

Irish government's outrage while the public debate continues to rage on in the press.

This latest episode of using forged or fake Irish passports as cover to cloak the identities of agents involved in clandestine operations is not, sadly, unusual. Mossad as well as **Osama Bin Laden's** Al-Qaeda have used fake Irish travel documents in the past. The Irish government has said that the Dubai incident was "very serious" and had put the safety and security of Irish citizens at risk.

In 1986, President **Ronald Reagan's** former National Security Advisor, **Robert "Bud" McFarlane**, and four other men arrived in Tehran with Irish passports posing as the flight crew of a plane carrying military equipment that Iran had supposedly purchased from international arms dealers. McFarlane and his companions had Bibles autographed by Reagan, a cake shaped like a key, and a number of Colt pistols as gifts for Iranian officials, according to the then speaker of the Iranian parliament. This use of Irish passports drew spirited and angry protest from the Irish government of the day.

The McFarlane debacle eventually was exposed in bits and pieces and Reagan, claiming memory loss, had to explain that he had no recall of authorizing what came to be known as the Iran-Contra affair. There were calls for his impeachment but his popularity, signs of the growing dementia that would eventually kill him, and the lack of a "smoking gun" allowed him to avoid that Clintonian fate.

As a relevant footnote to this latest Irish passport cover use by assassination team members, it should be noted that during an 18-month period in 2008-2009, according to the Irish Foreign Affairs Department, more than 50,000 passports were either stolen or lost. Of that total some 7,400 were stolen, or an average of over 400 a month, which allows for a plentiful supply of Irish passports or passport details that could be useful to international terrorists. This is a problem not unique to Ireland.

Developer, Broke, Looks To Graveyards – In an effort to revive his flagging fortunes, the developer **Bernie McNamara** is looking into buying property parcels in County Dublin to turn into burial sites. There are currently only 37 graveyards in the entire country, or so it's reported, and many have or are near to full capacity. McNamara, a former high flyer during the halcyon Celtic Tiger days has admitted to owing roughly \$2 billion and has been looking for a way to make a comeback.

McNamara's business plan is not that far removed from the 1969 political satire "The Mundy Scheme" by **Brian Friel**. In that play a fictional prime minister of an economically struggling Ireland decides that he has to make a bold move to improve the economy. His idea, which he has to "sell" to his cabinet, is to turn the vast and under-populated West of Ireland into a pricey international graveyard catering to wealthy Yanks who yearn to be buried in the land of their ancestors. This, Friel's prime minister figures, will help turn around the country and ensure that along with the new-found wealth will also come for him a long and fruitful tenure and the love and admiration of an adoring populace.

It's all great fun, full of sparkling, witty dialogue and a closet peek at what

it might be like inside Irish smoke-filled backrooms. The play hasn't had a major staging in years but even reading Friel's play is one long laugh.

US Banking Giant On Grecian Griddle – Investment banker Goldman Sachs is on the carpet with European Union officials over huge questionable financial transactions with Greece, a country now so economically ravaged that the EU is conceding that it will likely have to bail it out. There is widespread dismay in European financial markets that a large part of Greece's problem, which affects the Union and member states' finances, is the way that Goldman Sachs managed some \$15 billion in bond sales to Greece. There are also questions about currency swaps by Goldman Sachs that helped Greece raise a billion dollars secretly, a matter that regulatory EU agencies knew nothing about, enabling that country to hide the extent of its massive deficit.

The euro, the EU common currency in most member countries, recently hit its low point of the past year. A report soon to be published suggests that the weakened euro means potential trouble for Greece and also, surprisingly, for Ireland, despite the decisive action by the Irish government to get a handle on its budget and strong remedial moves on the Irish banks.

Northern Police Issued Bomb Mirrors – The BBC News Service has reported that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is issuing special mirrors that will be used by police officers and civilian staff to scan underneath their vehicles for bombs before starting them up. Breakaway or dissident republican paramilitaries that have split with the provisional IRA in a "unity now, Brits out" campaign of violence have increased their use of car bombs. Mirrors or electronic bomb detectors will be supplied to some 10,000 PSNI employees. The two breakaway factions that include many members who once were allied with the provos are the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA.

These "patriotic" dissidents seem to have little or no concern for the lives of the several thousand Catholics (over 2,700 currently in the PSNI) when they plant lethal car bombs under vehicles. It's far from perfect, but the police service today in the North is 27 percent Catholic. In 2001 Catholics made up a mere 8 percent of the force.

Did You Know ... that Europe's first lifeboat service – and likely the first in the world – was established in 1801 by the Dublin Port Authority in Dun Laoghaire Harbor? Five stations were initially set up in the harbor area and a Howth station was added in 1816. The lifeboat service rescues people involved in shipwrecks and sailors in distress. The acclaimed service was set up following a complete survey of the harbor waters by British Admiral **William Bligh** (1754-1817), who gained some fame earlier in 1789 when he was captain of his own ship, the *Bounty*.

Rome Meeting Underscores Church Crisis – They met for two days with **Pope Benedict** at the Vatican in mid-February. Led by **Cardinal Sean Brady**, they were there for the pro forma Vatican press release deploring the sins of clerical abuse of children but nothing of the bishops' complicity, the fate and future of the 24 Irish bishops summoned to Rome, and nothing on the acceptance of the outstanding resignations that are on the table. There was no mention made of the evil and long-standing practice of shuffling offending priests from one parish to another, nor of the decades of Catholic bishops coughing into their abundant silk sleeves or counting tiles on the parquet floor with averted eyes as priests went on the prowl and kids paid the price. And not a word about the papal nuncio, the Vatican's ambassador to Ireland, and his near-criminal refusal to cooperate with the latest Murphy report on predatory priests and consenting

bishops.

The public probing of sordid church business is far from done. And it deserves to be ongoing and thorough in the face of a ponderously evasive Catholic Church hierarchy. Platitudes, promises, and pieties won't cut it any longer. Looking at articles that ran in Ireland's two major home grown daily newspapers (Irish Times analysis: 'Vatican's Textbook Case of How Not to Manage the News'), (Irish Independent editorial: 'An Opportunity Missed in Rome') it is clear that the reservoir of good will and patience the Irish Church has enjoyed for centuries is at a shameful low.

Cousins' Village Deserves Better – I was dismayed in looking through the Kerryman newspaper not so long ago to discover that the harbor in the home town of my mother's parents, the Flahertys and the Griffins, in Castlemaine, where we have spent good days, is under environmental assault via sewage from the Milltown sewage treatment plant. The plant in Milltown is trying to cope with three times the amount of waste that it was built to treat but it can't do it so. Castlemaine Harbor, Tralee Bay, Valentia Harbor, and Kilmakillogue Harbor are being polluted on a regular basis by waste from an over-filled, dysfunctional treatment plant.

The root cause of the enormous increase in sewage being treated (or rather not being treated) in Milltown is the unfettered development, the thousands of new homes built in Kerry in the past decade with seemingly little or no concern for zoning, sight lines, or adequate water treatment facilities. This zoning free-for-all that came about because of demand by newly affluent Celtic Tiger success stories can be seen throughout rural Ireland. Folks with some newly acquired assets want a home with a view and a few extra acres and local zoning and planning agencies are loath to withhold permission to those who want to build. But that is a dangerous end game with a long-range downside.

One of the byproducts of the pollution is that previously healthy fishing waters, like Castlemaine Harbor, are being strangled and the local shellfish industry adversely affected. A local official summed up the dilemma: "Given the length of time to develop infrastructure, the question is do we stop development altogether?" Well, given the price Kerry is paying in pollution and disappearing fishing areas the answer might very well be, Yes! Maybe a moratorium?

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Hollywood super star **Meryl Streep** is heading for Donegal to Creeslough to do some ancestor research and find out more about her great grandmother, **Grace Strain**, who was born there in 1865. Streep became interested in her Irish links when she was filming "Dancing at Lughnasa." ... The Irish-born polar explorer **Ernest Shackleton** has left a potent legacy from his 1909 Antarctic exploration. Found by scientists recently were five buried crates of hundred year-old McKinlay whiskey and Whyte's & Mackay scotch, all in good shape. ... Shoppers abandoning higher prices in the south have been flocking to Newry and Belfast for lower costs there. Dublin officials figure that the bargain hunters have cost the Republic over a billion dollars in lost revenue this past year. ... The Irish police, the Garda, have been told by their chief inspector, **Boston's Kathleen O'Toole**, that major changes are overdue for the force and are coming soon. ... The Irish Times's **Fintan O'Toole**, Ireland's "angry man," is outselling the retired **Taoiseach Bertie Ahern** in the Irish book stores and deservedly so. ... One of Ireland's major banks, the Bank of Ireland, received a multi-billion dollar government bailout to save it, but turned its back on Leinster House when it was suggested that the bank might show its appreciation by turning over its historic old bank headquarters in College Green. Nothing doing, the bank said. ... Is there

any chance of the "Question Time" that **President Obama** and Republican congressional leaders engaged in a while back becoming a regular feature here like the PM's time in Britain? ... Is the Maze Prison's H-Block hospital wing going to be designated as a listed protected historic site? Ten hunger strikers died there in the 1980s and nationalists think it should be listed and preserved. ... Boston Scientific is cutting thousands of employees worldwide, and their Galway facility is taking a hit to the tune of 175 production workers. ... Our nominee for some kind of "Jerk of the Year" award has to be Bristol County Sheriff **Thomas Hodgson**. This genius has been charging prisoners in his house of correction \$5 a day for the privilege of bunking there. The Mass. Supreme Judicial Court just said nay, nay. Good for them.

Congratulations to **Ted Kelly**, long-time CEO of Boston-based Liberty Mutual, with his plan to build a \$300 million office tower with 500 new jobs in Boston. Kelly has been operating in Ireland for years. He was there early and has been a visionary entrepreneur both here and in Ireland. ... Boston probably doesn't need the money but Waterford, Ireland, does, so they are hosting the Tall Ships that should boost the local economy by nearly \$50 million come 2011. Good move. ... A Derry city councillor with an eye on history and the city coffers is calling for the creation of a cultural tourist trail in the walled city that would recognize historical sites there. It's called a "Journey to Peace" and they do it in Belfast, so why not. ... Kylemore Abbey, a regular stop whenever I am in Ireland, is closing its famed school at the end of the school years this summer. Next to the Cliffs of Moher, I'm told, the astonishingly scenic abbey is the most photographed site in all Ireland. ... Rhode Island Congressman **Patrick Kennedy** did not throw in his chips because he thought he might lose. With his father now gone from the Senate, he simply didn't have the proverbial fire in his belly. He struggled with his demons and made some embarrassing mistakes but he was a good, productive member of Congress who made a lot of friends during his eight terms in office. We wish him well. ... Happy to see the Gael from Scotland, **Susan Boyle**, singing along with the other stars like **Mariah Carey**, **Rod Stewart**, **Bon Jovi**, and **Miley Cyrus** in the "Helping Haiti" video. This most improbable success story is one for the books. Her recent album, "I Dreamed a Dream," has sold 3.5 million copies and she is doing her fame thing in venues around the globe. Great voice, grand story.

Beam Me Down, Scottie – **Scott Brown**, the Bay State's newest US senator, can enjoy a successful tenure as Massachusetts junior senator but he better do his homework and forget the right wing babble. Brown is quoted in the Boston Globe as saying that "...it's time to admit that while the \$787 billion stimulus had the best of intentions, it failed to create one new job." (Jan. 14). The four top economic research firms in America "estimate that the bill has added 1.6 million to 1.8 million jobs so far." The Congressional Budget Office, an independent agency, considers those estimates to be conservative. (**David Leonhardt**, N.Y. Times, Feb. 16)

Leaving On A High in Mellow Mallow – Garda recently found in a small rural village near Mallow a cottage industry with a new twist. Usually it's pot plants in the wilderness, or other times it's a poteen distillery hidden away from law enforcement. This local entrepreneur was selling pot-laced biscuits and butter right next to his poteen still when the garda raided his booming business. The enterprising businessman was also offering something he called Creme de Grass, pot-flavored poteen, with one customer recalling that the unique brew "had quite a strange effect on the auld head."

A Spirited and Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all!

WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN YOU FIND
NEWS ABOUT OURSELVES & OUR TOWN
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CELEBRATES IRELAND.
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Boston Irish Reporter's Calendar

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

March 4

34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon to benefit the South Boston Boys and Girls Club. Anthony's Pier Four Restaurant, 12 p.m. Master of Ceremonies: Senator Jack Hart.

March 5

An exhibition of paintings by Irish artist Brenda Malley "Across the Sea – Seascapes from the Atlantic Coast of Ireland." Irish Cultural Centre of New England, Canton MA. Private reception 7 p.m., open to public at 8 p.m.

March 6

Wicked Irish Fest 2010, a St. Patrick's Day Charity event, to be held on the grounds of Tsongas Arena, 300 Arcand Ave Lowell, MA 01852 from 2 to 10 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Immaculate Conception Church in Lowell, MA. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the event or online at wickedirish.com.

139th annual St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance sponsored by Rev. James T. O' Reilly OSA Division 8 of the AOH at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, MA, 6 to 11:00 p.m. Music by Andy Healey and the Country Roads. For information and reservations call Bob Gauthier at 978-686-2786. Tickets are \$25.00

2010 Cape Cod St. Patrick's Parade gets underway at 11:00 a.m. The parade begins in West Dennis, MA (School St. and Route 28) and concludes at the Cape Code Irish Village Motel in West Yarmouth, MA. For more information, capecodstpatparade.com/.

March 7

Irish Tea Party, Irish Cultural Centre at Elms College, MA Chicopee 413-265-2537, irish-cairde.org. Celebrate St. Patrick with entertainment and refreshments. An afternoon show that features local musicians and dancers, refreshments, raffles and selection of essay contest winners from local children.

17th annual "Irish Classic" 4 mile road race/walk-to benefit cancer research begins at 11:00 a.m. at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA. For information call 978-688-8337. Sponsored by the Claddagh Friendship Society

March 9

Riverdance: Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St, Manchester, New Hampshire, 8 p.m. 800-745-3000 \$34 - \$74 livenation.com

The Chieftains in Concert, The Hanover Theatre, 2 Southbridge Street, Worcester \$43.50 - \$55.50, 7:00 p.m. 877-571-SHOW, thehanovertheatre.org

March 11

The Chieftains in Concert, Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 East Merrimack Street, Lowell \$39.75 to \$49.75 7:30 p.m. 978 454-2299, lowellauditorium.com American-Ireland Fund's Boston Young Leaders St. Patrick's Celebration 7 to 10 p.m. at The Wharf Room, Boston Harbor Hotel. Live music by Irish group Devri, open bar and hors d'oeuvres

March 12

Annual Lawrence St. Patrick's Luncheon, Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA. Music by the Silver Spears Band. Special Guests include members of the Irish Government as well as state and local elected officials. For information and reservations call Jack Lahay 603-898-7766. Sponsored by the Lawrence AOH, the LAOH and the Irish Foundation.

Irish Art Exhibit (open to the public the entire month) to be held at Lorica Artworks, 96 Main Street, Andover, MA. For more information call 978-470-1829.



Dancers from the Harney Academy will be performing at the Robinson Theatre in Waltham as participants in the Reagle Players "A Little bit of Ireland" production that runs from March 12 to the 14th.

March 12-14

Celtic Women: Songs from the Heart at the Citi Performing Arts Center. 866-348-9738.

Reagle Players Presents: A Little Bit of Ireland. Robinson Theatre 617 Lexington Street, Waltham AD: \$35 to \$45, CH (5 to 18 yrs): \$25 Seniors: \$1 off, Students 1/2 price 1 hour before show 781-891-5600, 781-894-2330 reagleplayers.com.

March 13

4th annual Dorchester St. Patrick's Brunch, 10 a.m to 12 noon. All proceeds benefit the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry at Mother Teresa of Calcutta parish/St. Margaret Church. Special guests include actor/comedian Lenny Clarke and Ambassador and former Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn.

"Themselves: An Immigrants Story", free for ages 5 and up, at the JFK Library, Dorchester MA, 10:30am. What is it like to leave home and settle in a new country? Follow a young 19th century Irish woman on a journey to America. Hear about her struggle to begin a new life while keeping her Irish heritage alive in this interactive performance featuring storytelling, traditional music, and an Irish jig! To make a reservation, call 617-514-1644 or e-mail JFKcelebrate@nara.gov and leave your name, the number in your party, and your contact information. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

12th Annual Ancient Order of Hibernians "Dream Trip to Ireland" Raffle. First Prize – a trip for two to Ireland or \$5000. Second prize- \$1200. Third prize- \$500. Three \$250 Fourth Prizes. \$50.00 per ticket, call 978-365-3309.

Clinton MA Leprechaun Society's 50/50 Pot O' Gold Raffle to benefit the "Wounded Warrior Project" in honor of the "Patriot Priest," Rev. Dennis Rocheford. Donation \$10 per ticket, drawing to be held at the Leprechaun Convention, Town Hall, Clinton MA.

March 14

Southie's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. State Senator Jack Hart of South Boston hosts this enjoyable breakfast roast of local politicians, all in good fun, to kick off Irish celebrations throughout the city.

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street South Boston 02210 617 269-HART, jackhart.org Boston Convention & Exhibition Hall 415 Summer Street Boston, MA 02210 617 269-HART, jackhart.org State Senator Jack Hart of South Boston hosts this enjoyable breakfast roast of local politicians, all in good fun, to kick off Irish celebrations throughout the city.

Boston's St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade, walks through the streets of South Boston. Starts at 1pm on Broadway, South Boston.

St. Patrick's Day 5K Road Race & Walk – 70th Running- to benefit the South Boston Boys & Girls Club. 10 a.m., begins at F and West 6th streets. \$20 advance registration, \$25 Race Day Registration.

Author and BIR Contributing Editor Peter

F. Stevens discusses his book "Hidden History of the Boston Irish" with talk show host Jordan Rich, WBZ radio, 10-11 p.m.

March 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast hosted by the Irish American Partnership, 8 a.m., Boston Harbor Hotel.

Charitable Irish Society of Boston Annual General Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Boston Athenaeum, 10 1/2 Beacon Street, Boston, MA.

Seamus Connolly Trio performs at Tamo Bar, Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston MA. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. & 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 617-385-4000, seaportboston.com Traditional Irish music by All Ireland Fiddle Champion Connolly, joined by Laurel Martin (Fiddle) and Kevin McElroy (Banjo, Bodhran, and Guitar).

Continuous traditional Irish music all day, the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St, Lawrence, MA. For information and reservations please call 978-688-8337.

St. Patrick's reception, hosted by the Irish Councilate of Boston, Faneuil Hall, 5 to 7 p.m.

273rd Annual St. Patrick's Dinner, Charitable Irish Society of Boston, Cocktail 6:30pm, Dinner: 7:30pm. The Hampshire House, 84 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. Tickets \$135 per person. Call Paula Carroll at 508-655-8430.

Booksigning, BIR contributing editor Peter F. Stevens, Harvard Coop, Harvard Square, Cambridge 7 p.m.

March 20

WGBH presents Brian O'Donovan's "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," Sanders Theater at Harvard University, 45 Quincy St, Cambridge. 8 p.m., Tickets at wghb.org/celtic, or call 617-296-2222.

March 21

Lawrence Saint Patrick's Day Parade for more information please call Marie Gosselin 978-683-4792.

World Music/CRASHarts presents **Masters of the Fiddle** Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy on Sunday, 3 p.m., Sanders Theatre, Cambridge. For tickets and information call 617-876-4275. online at WorldMusic.org.

St. Patrick's Day 5K "Recovery Run," 11am at Hibernian Hall in Lynn, MA. Registration \$20 prior to March 1, \$25 after March 1.

March 23

Concert, Andy Cooney, "Forever Irish," featuring comedian George Casey, Kate Purcell, the Darragh Carr Dance Troup, et al. Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St., Lawrence MA. Tickets are \$25.00. Call 978-390-3400, Sponsored by Div 8 AOH.

March 27

Booksigning, with Cty Waterfords Author Peter Cunningham, "The Sea and the Silence" Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA 01840 at 2 p.m.

March 28

Concert: Ireland in Song – Celtic Melodies for Voice & Piano, dedicated to the Memory of David R. Burke performed by Terri and George Kelley at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA at 2:00 PM Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library, Free Handicap Accessible.

April 12

Boston College Irish Writers Series: Conor O'Callaghan, poet-in-residence at Wake Forest University. Hosted by the BC Irish Studies Program 617-552-3938 or irish@bc.edu.



Josephine Shield Holds Irish Photography Exhibit

From Mon. March 8, to Fri. May 28, the photographer/artist Josephine Shields will exhibit some 40 of her Irish photographs taken in recent years in Belfast and County Clare. The exhibit will take place at the Brookline Senior Center at 93 Winchester Street. A reception with the artist will be held at the Senior Center on Thurs., March 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.



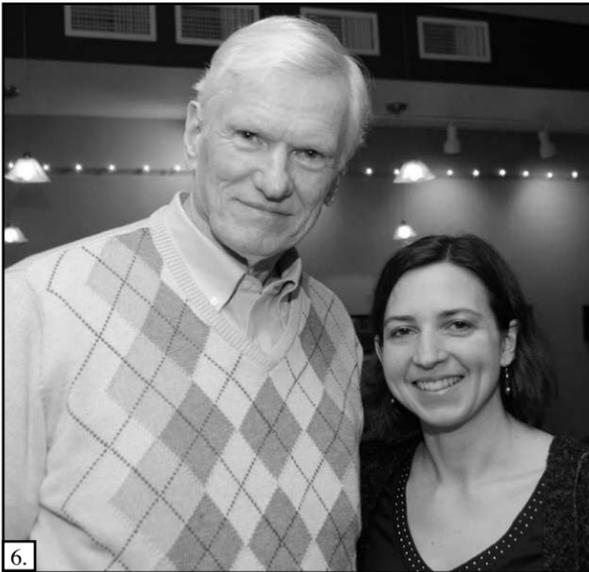
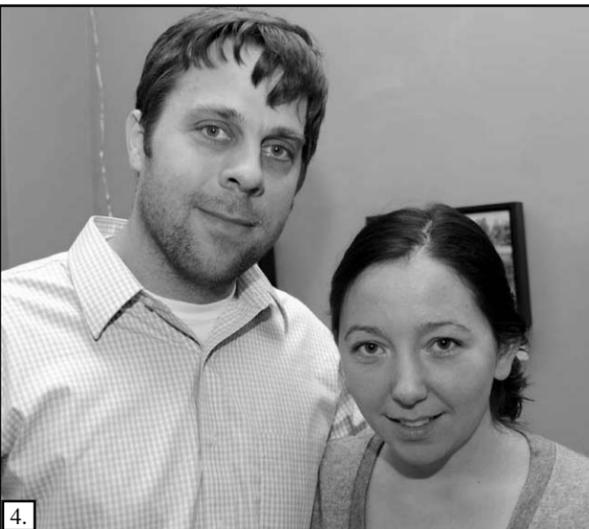
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

A collection of some current work of acclaimed County Cork artist Vincent Crotty went on exhibit February 25 at the Dot2Dot Cafe in Dorchester. A resident of Dorchester Lower Mills, Crotty has been painting for some 20 years in the Boston area. A longtime friend and fellow Kanturk native Father Dan Finn, pastor of St. Mark's parish, Crotty has completed a number of projects at the church, including the conversion of a sacristy room to a chapel, where weekday masses are celebrated. Today's photos show guests at an opening night reception.

1.) Vincent Crotty, Rosanne Foley, Dorchester; 2.) Joe and Gayle Corcoran, Milton; 3.) Paula and Fred Melchin, So. Boston; 4.) Chris and Moriah Musto, W. Roxbury; 5.) Bing Broderick and Marlea Mesh, Dorchester; 6.) Bill Crotty, Hull; Kieran Jordan, Dorchester 7.) David Martin, Weston; 8.) Lee Robertson, Dorchester; 9.) Bridget Christopher, Braintree; John Carroll, Weymouth; 10.) Beth Neville, Marcia Ganter, Milton; 11.) Patti Mullee, Duxbury; Mary Mullee, Pembroke, Marilla Machado, Dorchester; Carmel Mullee, Pembroke; 12.) Chuck Foltz, Dorchester; Linda and Kris Kreitman, Abington; 13.) Yvonne De-Benedictis, Weymouth; Maggie Ricardo, Marshfield; Mary Dever, Dorchester.



All the Best on
Saint Patrick's Day
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The Center for Irish Programs

- Prof. Thomas Hachey, Executive Director

and

The John J. Burns Library

- Robert O'Neil, Burns Librarian

MARCH AT THE JFK PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

CELEBRATE!

FREE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN



Themselves

An Immigrant's Story

Saturday, March 13, 10:30 am

What is it like to leave home and settle in a new country? Follow a young nineteenth-century Irish woman on a journey to America. Hear about her struggle to begin a new life while keeping her Irish heritage alive in this interactive performance featuring storytelling, traditional music and an Irish jig!

Reservations are required. To make a reservation, email JFKcelebrate@nara.gov or 617-514-1644 and leave your name, number in your party and contact information. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

With generous support from:



KENNEDY LIBRARY FORUMS

Ending Child Poverty: The Legacy of Senator Edward M. Kennedy



Sunday, March 7, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund; Shirley Sagawa, a former member of Senator Kennedy's staff; Christina Paxson, Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School and Co-Editor of *The Future of Children*; and others pay tribute to Senator Kennedy's commitment to improving the lives of children living in poverty.

Condolences from a Grieving Nation



Tuesday, March 9, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

After reading thousands of letters sent to Jacqueline Kennedy following the President's death, historian Ellen Fitzpatrick selected 250 to be published for the first time. This collection reflects a cross-section of American life at this tragic moment in our nation's history. She discusses the book with Robin Young, host of WBUR's *Here and Now*.

PEN Hemingway Awards



Sunday, March 28, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Join Patrick Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's sole surviving son, and Dorothy Allison, National Book Award finalist, for the 2010 PEN/Hemingway Awards ceremony honoring an American author's first published work of fiction. The Kennedy Library is the major repository of Ernest Hemingway's works.

All forums are free and open to the public. To make reservations, call 617.514.1643



Spend St. Patrick's Day in Adams Village Home of the Irish Heritage Festival!



Extended parking in main lot courtesy of Rite-Aid

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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a
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signature corned beef brisket
made using a traditional Irish curing
process that dates back over 100 years.

Enter to win our St. Patrick's Day Raffle and
you could win a traditional corned beef
brisket which can feed 10 people. The Butcher
Shop Market will donate 10% of sales over
\$15.00 between March 1 and March 13
to support St. Brendan's Food Pantry.

Shop often and help us in supporting our
neighbors at St. Brendan's Food Pantry.

*Don't forget we carry a wide variety of sausages,
rashers, meat, poultry and deli.*

Join Us For A Pint At

SONNYS RESTAURANT

750 ADAMS STREET

A Great Neighborhood Pub
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The Irish Part of Dorchester

**SERVING Traditional Corned Beef
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The Best Irish Breakfast
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**This St. Patrick's Day,
Cadbury's Button Chocolates
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Gerard's Restaurant

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(617) 282-6370

Come join us for St. Patrick's Day!
**Serving Corned Beef Dinner (red or grey)
all day & night until 11pm**

Noon to 1pm we will have a live broadcast with
WROL radio. Join in the games and win a prize!
Kevin Doherty will be playing his fiddle throughout
the day, breakfast and lunch.

Seisun with Geese in the Bog from 4:30-1pm
Even if you're not Irish come join the fun, have a
taste of Ireland and listen to the great music!

**HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

TRADITIONAL IRISH BREADS & SCONES
HAND-MADE COOKIES
SOUPS AND SANDWICHES
FRESH BAKED PIES
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Happy St. Patrick's Day
from



Join us for a
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❖ *Mention this ad and receive 10% off your lunch
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Ad sponsored in part by the Adams Village Business Association



*May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
May the blessings of St. Patrick behold you.*



Happy St. Patrick's Day
from
Senator Jack Hart
& Family

Irish Quotes & Quotations

"The Irish seem to have more fire about them than the Scots."
– Sean Connery

"The Irish do not want anyone to wish them well; they want everyone to wish their enemies ill."
– Harold Nicolson

"I think there's a bit of the devil in everybody. There's a bit of a priest in everybody, too, but I enjoyed playing the devil more. He was more fun."
– Gabriel Byrne

"There is a courageous wisdom; there is also a false reptile prudence, the result, not of caution, but of fear."
– Edmund Burke

"Though the pen is mightier than the sword, the sword speaks louder and stronger at any given moment."
– Leonard Wibberley,
Irish author of comic novel
"The Mouse That Roared"

"I had that stubborn streak, the Irish in me I guess."
– Gregory Peck

"When I get a very generous introduction like that, I explain that I'm emotionally moved, but on the other hand I'm Irish and the Irish are very emotionally moved. My mother is Irish and she cries during beer commercials."
– Retired U.S. General
Barry McCaffrey

"A Kerry footballer with an inferiority complex is one who thinks he's just as good as everybody else."
– The author John B. Keane

"Ireland is a peculiar society in the sense that it was a nineteenth century society up to about 1970 and then it almost bypassed the twentieth century."
– The author John McGahern

"The immigrant's heart marches to

the beat of two quite different drums, one from the old homeland and the other from the new. The immigrant has to bridge these two worlds, living comfortably in the new and bringing the best of his or her ancient identity and heritage to bear on life in an adopted homeland."
– Irish President Mary McAleese

"Whether it be a matter of personal relations within a marriage or political initiatives within a peace process, there is no sure-fire do-it-yourself kit."
– the poet Seamus Heaney

"Making peace, I have found, is much harder than making war."
– Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein

"A drunkard is a dead man, and all dead men are drunk."
– W.B. Yeats

"He was a fiddler, and consequently a rogue."
– Jonathan Swift

"Dublin was turning into Disneyland with super-pubs, a Purgatory open till five in the morning."
– Joseph O'Connor,
"Two Little Clouds"

"Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity."
– Sean O'Casey

"Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them. There's many a best-seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher."
– Flannery O'Connor

"We have always found the Irish a bit odd. They refuse to be English."
– Winston Churchill

(from "Search Ireland Fun Facts")

"May your pockets be heavy-

Your heart be light

And may good luck pursue you

Each morning and night."



Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Senator Steven A. Tolman
Second Suffolk & Middlesex District
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Irish Heritage Month

March 2010 • Lawrence MA

Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture
Sona Feile Padraig ort.



The Men and Woman of the Reverend James T. O'Reilly Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Foundation of Lawrence have joined forces to present a series of cultural programs for Irish Heritage Month in the City of Lawrence and other venues throughout the Merrimack Valley. These events are the largest celebration of its kind north or Boston. All are welcome. You don't have to be Irish or a Hibernian to come and enjoy these events. They include special exhibits, lectures and presentations, concerts and other musical events, food, children's programs and for the sports minded a Four Mile Road Race. And last but not least the Lawrence St Patrick's Day Parade.

Sunday, February 28, 2010

RECEPTION AND LECTURE BY DOCTOR Clarisse A. Poirier "The Pemberton Disaster: A Story of Tragedy and Survival for the Irish in Early Lawrence" While most workers eventually escaped, the tragedy brought international attention to the young city of Lawrence. Dr. Poirier will discuss the lives and experiences of those immigrant workers. Dr. Clarisse A. Poirier graduated from Merrimack College and went on to complete her master's and doctoral degrees from Boston University's American and New England Studies Program. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled "The Pemberton Mills 1852-1938: A Case Study of the Industrial and Labor History of Lawrence, Massachusetts. Reception at 2:00PM at the Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA. Free, Handicap Accessible. Sponsored by the AOH, LAOH and the Irish Foundation and the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park. For further information please call 978-683-9007.

Monday, March 1, 2010

IRISH FLAG RAISING at 11:00AM, Across from City Hall, Common Street, Lawrence, MA. Free ALL ARE WELCOME.
SHOWCASE OF IRISH BOOKS, C. D.'S, AND D. V. D'S opens for the entire month at the Lawrence Public Library, South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA. The Library is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday's from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Sponsored by the AOH and the LAOH and the Irish Foundation. Free & Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 6, 2010

139TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE sponsored by Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 of the AOH at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, MA from 6:00PM until 11:00PM. Music performed by Andy Healey and the Country Roads. For information and reservations please call Bob Gauthier at 978-686-2786. Tickets are \$25.00

Sunday March 7, 2010

17th ANNUAL IRISH CLASSIC 4 MILE ROAD RACE AND WALK to benefit cancer research begins at 11:00 AM at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA. For information please call 978-688-8337. Sponsored by the Claddagh Friendship Society

Friday March 12, 2009

41ST ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA. Music by the Silver Spears Band. Special Guests include members of the Irish Government as well as state and local politicians. **For information and reservations call Jack Lahey 603-898-7766. Sponsored by the AOH, and the LAOH and the Irish Foundation.**

RECEPTION AT LORICA ARTWORKS 96 Main Street, Andover, MA from 6:30PM to 9:00 PM. For more information call 978-470-1829

MARCH 12- APRIL 18, 2010

IRISH ART EXHIBIT (open to the public the entire month) to be held at Lorica Artworks, 96 Main Street, Andover, MA. For more information call 978-470-1829

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010

LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING featuring Irish Author Patricia Scanlon of Dublin, Ireland, Editor of the "Open Door Series" Patricia was born and lives in Dublin. While working as a librarian she started to write and now has a full-time career as an author and writing teacher. Her bestsellers include: City Girl, Finishing Touches, Francesca's Party, Two for Joy, Double Wedding, and Divided Loyalties. She is the Series Editor and contributing author to the Open Door series, a unique set of books first designed to enhance adult literacy. Patricia teaches creative writing and is involved in adult literacy programs in Ireland. Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840. Sponsored by the AOH, LAOH and the Irish Foundation and the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park. For further information please call 978-794-1655.

Sunday, March 14, 2010

TRADITIONAL IRISH BREAKFAST at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA. From 8:00 to 12:00, Hosted by Mayor

William Lantigua. The Menu includes Eggs, Irish Bacon, Irish Sausage, Barry's Irish Tea, Scones, Brown Bread, Irish Soda Bread, and Black and White Pudding. Tickets are \$9.00. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and LAOH, the Irish Foundation and the Claddagh Friendship Society. For information please call 978-688-8337.

WEDNESDAY March 17, 2010

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

IRISH MUSIC ALL DAY at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St, Lawrence, MA. For information and reservations please call 978-688-8337.
IRISH FILM FESTIVAL 11:00AM at the Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH, and LAOH Free, Handicap Accessible. For further information please call 978-794-1655.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

WHITE FUND LECTURE featuring the Rev. Father James McFadden Wenzel, OSA who will speak on "The Pemberton Mill Disaster: its effect on the Irish of Lawrence and the role of the Augustinians and Sisters of Notre Dame who ministered to them." Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 at 2:00PM Free, Handicap Accessible

Sunday March 21, 2010

LAWRENCE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE for more information please call Marie Gosselin 978-683-4792.

Tuesday March 23, 2010

SPECIAL CONCERT ANDY COONEY'S FOREVER IRISH STARRING ANDY COONEY IRISH AMERICA'S FAVORITE SON, and featuring Ireland's King of Blarney George Casey, Celtic Folk Artist Kate Purcell, the Darrah Carr Dance Troup and Irish America's Greatest Musicians in a special Irish Musical Event at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St., Lawrence MA. Tickets are \$25.00. Please call Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty at 978-390-3400, Mary Ellen Pelletier 978-886-5062 or William Sullivan at 978-682-4875 for tickets. Sponsored by Division 8 Ladies and Men Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING featuring Irish Author Peter Cunningham who will review his most recent book, "The Sea and the Silence" Peter Cunningham grew up in Waterford, the city on which Monument, the town in The Sea and the Silence, is based. His previous work includes a number of thrillers, written both under his own name and under pseudonyms. His novels include Who Trespass Against Us (London, 1993); The Monument Trilogy: Tapes of the River Delta (London, 1995); Consequences of the Heart (London, 1998); and Love in One Edition (London, 2001); and Taoiseach (London, 2004). Peter Cunningham lives in Kildare. At the Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA 01840 at 2:00PM Free, Handicap Accessible. Sponsored by the AOH, LAOH and the Irish Foundation and the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park. For further information please call 978-794-1655.

Sunday March 28, 2010

IRELAND IN SONG – CELTIC MELODIES FOR VOICE AND PIANO dedicated to the Memory of David R. Burke performed by Terri and George Kelley at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA at 2:00 PM Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library, Free Handicap Accessible.

Cultural Programming for Irish Heritage Month was given a major award for the best diversified Cultural Programming by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**Irish Heritage Month is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Co-sponsored by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Comcast.*



NEWS ROUNDUP/LIAM FERRIE

Vatican Meeting Fails to Live Up to Expectations

A meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and 24 members of the Irish hierarchy last month failed to produce the results expected by those supporting the victims of clerical child abuse in the Archdiocese of Dublin. Since their return the bishops have been at pains to explain that the meeting was just part of a process and not the final act.

The Irish bishops travelled to Rome for a two-day meeting with the pope and senior Vatican officials. The only item on the agenda was the fall-out from the Ryan and Murphy reports, both of which focused on the sexual abuse of children by priests and brothers.

The release of a statement from the Vatican led to broad criticism from the media and from victims' support groups. Critics wanted an acknowledgment that "the cover-up" by the hierarchy resulted in more people being abused by priests who should have been dealt with by the legal system rather than moved to another parish. There was also an expectation that Bishop of Galway Dr. Martin Drennan's refusal to resign would have been dealt with. Others said that an open letter to the pope from a number of groups should have received a formal answer. It was argued that the pope should have

offered to meet a delegation of victims and that he should have issued a public apology on behalf of the Church.

The Vatican described what took place at the meeting. The Irish bishops explained the depth of feeling in Ireland at what was revealed in the Ryan and Murphy reports. They also explained what was being done to support the victims and to ensure that we could have no repeat of what happened in the past. It was acknowledged that "errors of judgment and omissions stand at the heart of the crisis".

Pope Benedict observed, "The sexual abuse of children and

young people is not only a heinous crime, but also a grave sin which offends God and wounds the dignity of the human person created in his image". He also pointed to "the more general crisis of faith affecting the Church" and called for more intense and thorough preparation of those entering religious life and those already ordained and professed.

On their return to Ireland a number of bishops said they fully understood the reaction of the victims and their supporters, and they tried to assure them that the meeting was only a step in the healing process. It is expected that the pope will meet with some of the victims on his forthcoming visit to Britain but such meetings are never announced in advance. It is also being suggested that a realignment of dioceses in Ireland will result

in fewer dioceses and early retirement for a number of bishops. The next step, however, will be a pastoral letter from the pope to the Catholics of Ireland. This is now expected within six weeks and it may give some indication of future changes.

A representative of the campaign group "One in Four" joined survivors of clerical child sex abuse in a meeting with Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin. They had seen Dr. Martin as an ally but accused him of capitulating to pressure while in Rome. He emphatically denies this but the meeting did not appear to change their views.

-- THE IRISH EMIGRANT

Willie O'Dea Moves to the Backbenches
Willie O'Dea had a turbulent week in mid-

February which, in the end, saw him resign from his post as Minister for Defence. His shoot-from-the-hip style of political debate finally caught up with him and it is widely believed that he had little option but to fall on his sword. This particular saga, relating to a libelous assertion made to a journalist, started last spring and should have reached its conclusion around Christmas, but the Opposition parties didn't show any real interest in capitalizing on O'Dea's difficulties until early last month.

It was only on Thurs., Feb. 18, that we finally learned exactly what O'Dea said to Limerick Chronicle journalist Michael Dwane at the launch of Fianna Fáil's local election campaign in Limerick on March 9, 2009. When Dwane asked him about criticism from Sinn Féin candidate Maurice Quinlivan on the use of Department of Defence notepaper for party political purposes, O'Dea replied "...we have never been involved with anybody who shot anybody, or robbed banks, or kidnapped people. I suppose I'm going a bit too far when I say this but I'd like to ask Mr Quinlivan is the brothel still closed?"

In the remainder of the exchange it was made clear that O'Dea believed that an apartment in the city, that was being used as a brothel, was registered in the name of Quinlivan and his brother Nessian. In fact it was later established that Maurice Quinlivan had no interest in the apartment and there is no suggestion that the owner of the property had any idea of the tenants' profession.

Last April, Quinlivan sought an injunction to restrain O'Dea from repeating the brothel allegation but this failed when the then Minister swore an affidavit denying that he had made such a claim. Quinlivan, who was elected to Limerick City Council in June, later initiated defamation proceedings against O'Dea but before this reached the courts the editor of the Limerick Leader, which publishes the Chronicle, contacted O'Dea and gave him a transcript of the taped conversation with Dwane. The result was that O'Dea contacted his solicitor and an apology to Quinlivan was read out at a sitting of the High Court on December 21. The Sinn Féin councillor also received substantial but unspecified damages.

In the Dáil on Feb. 16, Fine Gael, Labour, and Sinn Féin were gunning for O'Dea and were unhappy when they were told that they would have to settle for a statement read out by the man himself and would not be allowed to ask questions. In the statement he said that he had made a mistake, a memory lapse, and as soon as he realized this he had moved to put the record straight.

Go raibh maith agat

Thanks

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