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Gatherings of the Clan



Participants in the First Annual Benefit Dance for Haiti had a grand time at the Marriott Boston Quincy Hotel on Sun., May 2, where they raised funds for the Friends of Orphans group to share with young victims of the January earthquake. Gala participants, from left: Pat "Doc" Walsh, co-chairman; Sharon Saxelby, president/ CEO, Friends of Orphans; Rev. Philip Cleary, president, Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos International; State Senator Tom Kennedy; Dan McAuliffe, of the committee; state Rep. Linda Dorcena Forry; Della Costello, of the committee, and Winnie Henry, co-chair and event organizer. See Page 11.

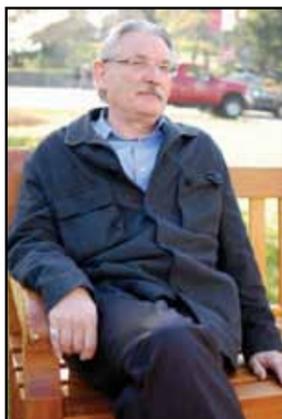
Photos by Harry Brett.



The 2010 Eire Society dinner, at which Boston Irish Reporter Publisher Ed Forry received the society's Gold Medal Award, was held on Fri., April 30, in the rooftop room at the Parker House. Forry, above right, shared a hearty laugh with dinner emcee Bill Bulger before receiving the award from Society President Philip O'Brien, at rear. The honoree's acceptance speech is on Page 10. More photos, Page 11.

ICCNE HAILS ITS 20TH

The Cultural Centre of New England will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a gala event on its Canton campus on Saturday evening, May 22. For more information, see Pages 12 and 13.



Scholar On the Go

University of Aberdeen Professor Thomas Bartlett has spent the last year as the Burns Scholar in Irish studies at Boston College. He talks about his busy and enjoyable time there on Page 4.



O'Leary Eyes Congress

State Sen. Robert O'Leary, who represents Cape Cod in the Legislature, is on the campaign trail these days hoping to fill the U.S. House seat being vacated by William Delahunt. Page 6

The Cardinal, The Politician Page 2

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Fiddler with Flair
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Mary Callanan:
A Red Hot Mama
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THE CARDINAL AND THE POLITICIAN

O'Connell Wiielded Power Widely; Curley was Curley



JAMES MICHAEL CURLEY: Viewed by the prelate as coarse and common.

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

First in a three-part series.

Both men had risen from poverty to the heights of power. Both had made it their life's work to wrest away entrenched Brahmin power and extend Irish Catholic influence in Boston and beyond. There the similarities between "Himself" — James Michael Curley — and His Eminence — Cardinal William O'Connell — evaporated.

In *The Boston Irish: A Political History*, Thomas H. O'Connor writes, "This [the rise of Boston Irish power] did not mean, however, that O'Connell and Curley liked each other or that they were consciously working toward the same goals. On the contrary, there was no love lost between the two men, although they never allowed their hostility to become public."

Public or not, it was no secret among Boston Irish politicians and clergy that the imperious cardinal looked with disdain at Curley, the cultured, well-traveled, highly educated prelate viewing the politician as coarse and common.

When O'Connell was named archbishop of Boston in 1907, the rise of John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald,

who had won the 1906 mayoral race, and Curley had already tilted the political landscape away from the Yankees in favor of the Irish. With ward bosses able to deliver the vote to populist, aggressive politicians, O'Connell was determined that the Church would have a pronounced say in *all* matters, whether religious, cultural, social, or religious. He, too, was militant in his view that the proverbial torch was passing — or being seized — by his flock. In a blunt, memorable sermon in 1908, he contended: "The Puritan has passed; the Catholic remains."

O'Connell exerted an almost monarchical hold on the region's Irish Catholics, steering them away from Protestant and Yankee influences, as social historian Paula Kane has noted. At the same time, O'Connell himself cultivated and maintained cordial and even friendly relations with Brahmin notables, attaining, for example, membership in the ultimate Brahmin refuge, The Country Club in Brookline.

If a Boston Irish politician was ever out of step with the cardinal on issues ranging from the importance of parochial schools and parochial civic organizations such as the Catholic Youth Organization, the Holy Name Society, and the Legion of Mary. O'Connell would wreak havoc on the man behind the scenes and through his own priests handing down his edicts at Sunday Masses.

One of O'Connell's behind-the-scenes forays into the political realm came in the Boston mayoral election of 1930. That Curley and the cardinal did not like each other was a well-known fact. Although O'Connell might not have come at Curley overtly in the past, the rumors ran rampant that the prelate favored Curley's chief opponent — Irish-Catholic Democratic attorney and politician Frederick W. Mansfield. Thomas O'Connor writes: "Not only did Mansfield receive the backing of the GGA [Good Government Association] which saw the distinguished lawyer as Boston's only hope to 'prevent the return of machine rule,' but he was also rumored to have the blessing of His Eminence, Cardinal Henry O'Connell."

Although Curley won, the rumor of O'Connell's opposition gave a glimpse of just how much a player on the political landscape the cardinal had become. "Gangplank Bill" (a moniker accorded him due to his many cruises to warmer climes) could hamstring proposed legislative bills by voicing opposition from his parishes' pulpits. Long before the Curley-Mansfield



CARDINAL WILLIAM H. O'CONNELL: A pivotal figure in the politics of his time.

dust-up, Boston-Irish legislators were reported to have sought O'Connell's "input" on countless issues, the pols acutely aware that to buck the cardinal was to court ballot-box woes.

As the 1930s unfolded, O'Connell, then more than two decades in power, was about to become an even more pivotal figure in Massachusetts politics. "Checking with Lake Street" (O'Connell's regal home) became increasingly important to election-day and legislative victories for Boston Irish leaders on the local, state, and even national stages. The imperial, intimidating presence of O'Connell extended far beyond Lake Street. As Jack Beatty writes in his brilliant biography of Curley, *The Rascal King*, "the new assertive mood in the church closely paralleled the new ethnic politics."

O'Connell embodied the church, Curley the ethnic politics. The lines between both entities grew increasingly blurred, with the church's impact on elections and political issues on the rise.

NEXT: An examination of the cardinal's ongoing political impact and the blueprint his successors would follow in the ever-more controversial clashes of church and state in Massachusetts.

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Around Town: The Irish Beat / Carol Beggy

To hear **Colin Donnell** tell it, his family hasn't ever actually researched its roots in Ireland and Scotland. He says his Irish credentials are more physical. "Look at me: Black hair. Blue eyes. It's only been a matter of just how Irish we are," Donnell said. "We are Irish, I just don't know the full story. I hope that one day we do find out our story better."

That day may have to come soon for Donnell, a singer/actor who has been tapped by the American Repertory Theater to play the lead in the world premiere of "Johnny Baseball," a musical about the Red Sox.

Donnell plays the fictional **Johnny O'Brien**, a hotshot young pitcher on the 1919 Red Sox, who deals with the issues of race in baseball and society as he falls in love with **Daisy Wyatt**, a "dazzling African American blues singer," played by Boston Conservatory alum **Stephanie Umoh**. Also in the mix is Johnny's idol, **Babe Ruth**, and the origins of "The Curse." As the American Repertory Theater writes in its promotional material, "The entanglements of love, friendship, and betrayal in these lives contain both the reason for the Curse and the secret to its end off the bat of **Big Papi** in 2004."

Directed by the ART's artistic director **Diane Paulus**, "Johnny Baseball" is written by long-suffering Red Sox fan and Worcester area native **Richard Dresser** with music by **Robert Reale** and lyrics by **Willie Reale** (brothers and lifelong Yankees fans).

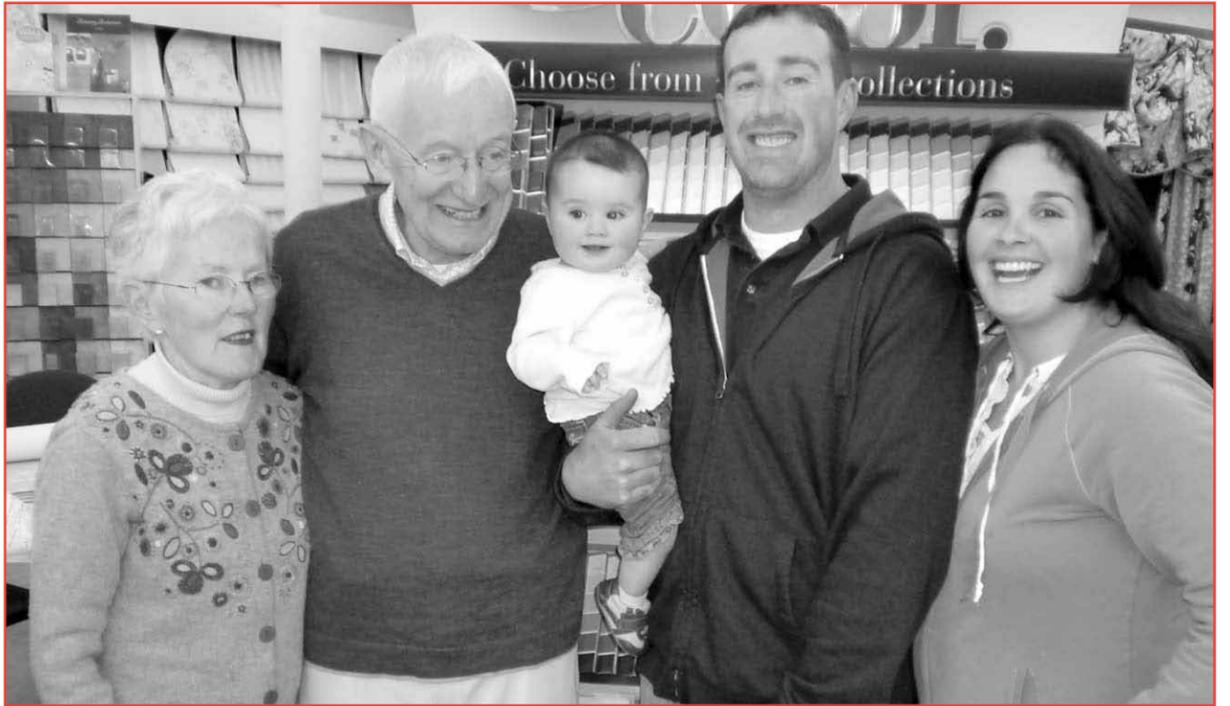
For baseball fans in the area, the story of an Irish-American player certainly rings true. The first Irish-Americans in baseball all seemed to pass through Boston, according to the Baseball Almanac. **Andy Leonard**, who hailed from County Cavan, was the only Irish-born member of the "First Boys of Summer," the 1869 World Champion Cincinnati Red Stockings. The team had been in Boston first and Leonard competed in six world championships. That his heart was in Boston, not the Midwest is clear. Leonard is buried in New Calvary Cemetery in Roslindale.

The **McCourt Foundation** is gearing up for the annual fundraiser to benefit neurologic diseases. The gala and auction will be held on May 7 at the Boston Harbor Hotel and is one of several events the family is hosting to raise money for the foundation, which was founded by the seven sons of **Robert and Mary McCourt**. This year, the McCourt Foundation also had a team running in the Boston Marathon, which raised funds for neurologic research and was partnered with the Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital, with a focus on Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis. The research is led by the Center's co-founders **Dr. Dennis Selkoe** and **Dr. Howard Weiner**, who have dedicated more than 30 years to the study of these disorders and are internationally recognized for their original contributions to research.

Boston resident **James McDevitt** isn't waiting for literary success to come to him, he's out pounding the pavement and working the social media for the release of his first novel "The Last of the Last Call," which is due out via Amazon.com on May 11. McDevitt has filled the coffee shops of South Boston and other neighborhoods with the cards announcing the books arrival and already started interacting with his fans on jamesmcdevittwrites.com with news about the book's release.

According to the author, "The Last of the Last Call," is about three male college students during their senior year at the fictional Harrison University, a small college just outside of Washington, D.C. "Going to class is their best way to kill time between late nights at the nearby bar and clubbing in the city," McDevitt writes in his promotional material.

The 20something author is a graduate of Catholic University, and keeps current with his social media at Twitter.com/stoolattheend.



A Roper family gathering: Barbara and Bill with their granddaughter Charlotte, son Brendan, and daughter-in-law Monica. Photo by Ed Forry.

Bill Roper, Granite Ave. Fixture, Is Calling it Quits After 46 Years

By ED FORRY
REPORTER PUBLISHER

When the new year dawned in January, Bill Roper made his way to his place of business on Granite Avenue, just as he had for the better part of the last five decades. Born and brought up in Dorchester Lower Mills, he represents the second generation to own and operate the family-owned Roper's Paint and Wallcovering store in the Cedar Grove neighborhood.

The business was established in 1951 by his father, William S. Roper, and young Bill joined the firm in 1964, after graduation from Canada's St. Mary's University. For many years, he worked alongside his father and his younger brother George, both now deceased. As this year began, after more than half a lifetime on Granite Avenue, he was beginning to consider making a change: Bill Roper's thoughts were on retirement.

"I was thinking once I hit 70, which is a couple of months away, I would start getting serious about selling the business," he said in an interview between helping customers at the store last Saturday. But suddenly, an unexpected health issue changed his world. "Push came to shout – three months ago today I was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome, an exotic kind of auto-immune disease. It affected me, semi-paralyzing me from the neck down."

Guillain-Barré is described as a disorder that attacks part of the peripheral nervous system. Early symptoms include weakness or tingling sensations in the legs, which sometimes spread to the arms and upper body. The intensity can increase to the point where certain muscles cannot be used and a degree of paralysis sets in. Online medical descriptions state the syndrome is relatively rare (about one in 100,000), and can strike at any age and both sexes. It is said to usually occur shortly after the patient has had symptoms of a respiratory or gastrointestinal viral infection. It is also reported to be triggered by surgery or vaccinations.

At first, customers found a small, hand-written "closed" sign posted on the front door. Some guessed he had been forced to close down the one-man operation for the day, perhaps to deal with a winter flu or a doctor's appointment. But that first afternoon turned to days, days to weeks, and soon Roper's had been closed for two weeks, and there was little indication of when

Illness – and time help with decision

regular hours would return.

Slowly, word emerged that the store owner had been stricken by some sudden, perhaps life-threatening illness, and friends and customers sought out his family to learn details of the illness. Few if any had ever heard of Guillain-Barré syndrome, and his friends worried over what might have caused him to be stricken.

"I wasn't sick before; I worked right through the holidays," he explains. "I ended up with nine days at Mass General and they treated me with an intravenous kind of treatment." After that, Roper was transferred to Sinai Hospital in Stoughton for physical therapy, and he began a long, slow recovery. More recently, he has returned to home, and was assisted by visiting nurses. "Currently I am graduated to Milton Hospital. They are wonderful, wonderful," Roper says. "I can't say enough about them – all the physical therapists I have had were great. They got me to the next level. They were terrific."

During his treatment, his wife and children pitched in to open the doors for business for four hours every weekend. "I had my sons Brendan and Liam and my daughter-in-law Monica here every Saturday," he said. Last Saturday, on one of his first days back at work, Roper beamed as he stopped for a picture with his wife Barbara and their granddaughter Charlotte.

But now, he says, the health scare has convinced him it's time to finish up and move on. He has contacted a real estate broker and placed the property and the business on the market. "Once I got sick, it pushed it ahead that much faster," he says. "I was all set to call in a realtor in January, then I came down with this exotic disease."

How about his health now? "I'm improving, but I'm not perfect yet," he says. But he has accepted the fact that he must sell the family business, and seems to have no regrets.

"I grew up in the business, came here in 1964," Bill Roper says. "It's 40-some years, and I enjoyed every minute of it."

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.

May 7 – Direct from a four-week sold-out run at London's Hammersmith Apollo, the uncensored, uncut and as unpredictable as ever, comedian Billy Connolly brings his hilarious, oxygen-depriving new show "Billy Connolly Live!" to Boston's Citi Performing Arts Center Shubert Theatre for one night only.

May 9 – ICC drama: Set in the Boston area, "For Here or To Go" portrays Kay, an Irish mother who turns to a traditional matchmaker to find her 39-year-old son a wife before his 40th birthday. The Irish Cultural Centre's Drama Group's newest production promises to be an evening full of laughter and entertainment. The play will be presented Thursday-Saturday May 6, 7, and 8 at 8 p.m. and Sun., May 9, at 2 p.m. Irish Cultural Centre of New England, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. 781-821-8291

May 12 – Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. 8 p.m. Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 East

Merrimack Street. Box Office: 978-454-2299.

May 15 – The Saw Doctors at House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston. 7 p.m. 1-888-693-2583, livenation.com.

May 18-22 – "The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers" – Boston Pops at Boston Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave. 8 p.m. 1-866-266-1200, bso.org. Hear the world premiere featuring Peter Boyer (Ellis Island) and Lynn Ahrens (Ragtime), honoring the legacy of Massachusetts native sons John, Robert, and Edward Kennedy. "America's Orchestra" and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus perform patriotic tunes and give an uplifting performance not to be missed!

May 22 – Irish Cultural Centre's 20th Anniversary Gala, 6 p.m. Money raised from the Gala will allow the Centre to continue its mission to promote and organize Irish cultural, educational, sporting and social events. Tickets are \$150 per person or \$275 per couple. ICCNE, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. 781-821-8291.

May 23 – Ancient Order of Hibernians in America will commemorate the events of 1845-1855, The Great Hunger, An Gorta Mor, at the Boston Famine Memorial on the corner of School Street and Washington Street, in downtown Boston, at 2 p.m.

There will be a prayer service followed by a laying of a wreath in the memory of those who suffered. Prayers by Father Peter Nolan, Pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish, Hyde Park. Hosted by the James Michael Curley Division #1, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. Contact Kevin Durant for more information at 617-872-6663 or bostonhibernian@gmail.com, or visit the order's website: bostonhibernian.com/home.

May 26 – Daniel O'Donnell, 7 p.m. at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. 978-454-2299.

June 11-13 – Worcester Irish Music Festival, Hibernian Cultural Centre & Fiddlers' Green 19 Temple Street, Worcester. worcesteririshmusicfestival.com.

June 19 – John Boyle O'Reilly Commemoration, Holyhood Cemetery, Brookline. 11 a.m. massaoh.org

The Annual John Boyle O'Reilly Commemoration is sponsored by the Mass State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Reception to follow at Division 14 Watertown, 151 Watertown Street. Robert Bateman, Past State & National Historian and Member of Division 8 in Lawrence will be the guest speaker.

August 2-6 – Children's Celtic Camp at Irish Cultural Centre of New England. A fun and educational program for children grades 1-8. Experience the fun of Irish tradition and culture through dance, music, literature and more! Please call 781-821-8291 for more information. Space is limited, register early! The camp is still seeking teachers and junior counselors for the 2010 Camp Season. For more information and job descriptions please send an e-mail to Louise O'Shea at louiseoshea@irishculture.org.

Publisher's Notebook

Boston Irish Team Up to Help Haiti Orphans

A large group of Bostonians of Irish heritage, chaired by Winnie Henry of Milton and Pat "Doc" Walsh of Dorchester, gathered with friends on Sun., May 2, to raise funds to support relief efforts for Haitian children orphaned by the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Organizing as "Irish Hearts for Haiti Committee," a group of more than 30 Irish-born and Irish Americans had been meeting for months to make plans for the event at the Quincy Marriott Hotel. Working with her family and the committee, Winnie, the widow of Irish music legend Noel Henry, organized a very successful day of continuous Irish music and entertainment at the hotel from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Ed Forry

The event featured the music of many of Boston's leading Irish musicians, including Erin's Melody with Margaret Dalton, the Andy Healy Band, Noel Henry's Irish Showband, Fintan Stanley, John Connors & the Irish Express, and Larry Reynolds and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. There was also a silent auction and raffle prizes.

The organizers promised and pulled off a festive day-long event with music, dance and "no speeches," with all proceeds going to provide some measure of relief to suffering children in Haiti.

In a statement, the organizers gave the reason for their activities: "With over half of Haiti's population under the age of 18, a disproportionate number of children are exposed to disease, death, and suffering. This was the grim reality before the earthquake. Now, there are estimates that over one million children will be orphaned and without urgent healthcare.

"Supporting agencies who provide care to the children of Haiti is the aim of the first Annual Benefit Dance for Haiti: From the hearts of the Irish to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. With your support, financial and volunteer services will be provided to orphaned and abandoned children through the organization of Friends of the Orphans: Nos Petit Frères et Soeurs (NFPS- French for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters")."

"The work of NFPS is critically important, as access to healthcare is basically non-existent. Through their pediatric hospital, St. Damien, free medical services, including surgery and physical therapy, will be provided in addition to other outreach programs providing food, water, education, and assistance for the disabled." Friends of the Orphans is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID# 65-1229309, that meets all 20 BBB Charity Standards. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Several Irish media outlets participated as sponsors of the event, including 950 AM WROL, *The Irish Emigrant*, the *Boston Herald*, the *Dorchester and Mattapan Reporter* newspapers and the *Boston Irish Reporter*. Other business sponsors include Marriott Boston Quincy and the Courier Corporation.

- Ed Forry

Library Death Squads?

Genealogy researchers are sounding the alert about draconian cutbacks in library services Boston Public Library. Last month, the trustees revealed plans to close four branch libraries. Now the board is said to be making plans to dismantle the print-based library services in favor of digital publications for computer users. The Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC) has sounded an alert about "planned cutbacks in the premiere resource in Massachusetts for modern newspapers and for papers outside of Massachusetts." In an e-mail, Barbara Mathews, President of MGC, wrote: "ALERT: The Microtext Department and Newspaper Room at the Boston Public Library are in danger of being closed and their resources distributed to alternate locations within AND outside of the Central Library in Copley Square... it appears that the Microtext Department and Newspaper Room at the Boston Public Library are slated to be closed."

She concluded, "The Boston Public Library Annual Meeting will be held Tues., May 11, at 8:30 a.m. at the Copley Square Library. Let's let our voices be heard and make an impact now before that important meeting."

- E.F.

Commentary

British Election a High Stakes Game for Three Party Leaders in the North

BY ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

BELFAST – While the party leaders who have the most at stake in this month's British election are named Brown, Cameron, and Clegg, the leaders of three of Northern Ireland's four main political parties also have a lot riding on the outcome of the Westminster vote.

On the surface, a British parliamentary election does not mean as much in Northern Ireland as it once did. With the Northern Ireland Assembly up and running and with most governmental power now in the hands of Assembly ministers, much of the action has moved from London to Belfast.



Robert P. Connolly

"Westminster matters less," notes Queen's University Belfast politics professor Paul Bew. "It matters, but just not as much as it used to."

But in a place where politics is closely watched and where political leaders take on the significance of tribal chieftains, three leaders – Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, Reg Empey of the Ulster Unionist Party, and Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party – will have their own performances and the performances of their parties parsed and measured.

As the Westminster election took shape, Adams, Empey, and Robinson were buffeted by controversy and were dealing with burgeoning crises.

Adams was still feeling the effects of Sinn Fein's poor electoral showing in the Republic of Ireland last year, the child-abuse charges lodged against his brother, Liam Adams, and, most recently, was on the defensive after a book charged that he was directly involved in Irish Republican Army acts of violence.

Robinson, Northern Ireland's first minister and the political successor to Ian Paisley, was dealing with stark marital issues and charges of cozy business dealings with a local developer.

Empey's issues were less personal, but his effort to bring the once-proud Ulster Unionist Party out of the political wilderness seemed to be foundering. Some members of his party objected to his decision to form a political alliance with Britain's Conservative Party. The UUP's only MP, Sylvia Hermon, left the party and was running as an independent because of her unwillingness to be tied to the Tories.

The party leader with the least on the line was the Social Democratic and Labor Party's new chief, Margaret Ritchie.

Northern Ireland sends 18 MPs to Britain's 650-seat House of Commons. Going into the election, the DUP

held half of the seats, Sinn Fein was the leading nationalist party with five seats, followed by the SDLP with three, and the UUP with one.

Among the key issues to watch: Will the current ten unionist/eight nationalist seat balance of power change? Unionists could pick up two additional seats, while nationalists could add a ninth seat but probably will be fortunate to hold serve.

Will Adams continue to be a political colossus in his West Belfast constituency, where he won 70 percent and 66 percent of the vote in the last two Westminster elections? And will Sinn Fein hold its five seats? One of those seats appears to be in jeopardy because of a unionist alliance in Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

Will the DUP be able to maintain its nine seats and will Peter Robinson's vote ebb in his East Belfast constituency?

Will the UUP be able to claim a single seat and did the party's alliance with the Conservatives turn into a complete disaster when Tory leader David Cameron said Britain must reduce spending in the North?

Bew, a longtime observer of Northern Ireland's politics, said there is no chance that Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, will lose his West Belfast seat. "The West Belfast investment in Sinn Fein and in the personality of Adams is so great, it's not possible to unhook now," he noted.

Still, Adams is feeling a heightened level of political pressure and is being importuned to be more candid about his connections to the IRA. Adams denies ever having served in the paramilitary organization but those denials are treated with skepticism by virtually everyone in the North. Many say that Adams was a top commander and helped to direct the IRA's campaign of violence.

Last month, speaking at the annual Easter Rising commemoration in Belfast's Milltown Cemetery, Adams equated attacks against him to an assault on the republican ideal of a united Ireland.

"And let no one think that I will bend to the demands of anti-republican elements or their allies in a hostile section of the media," Adams said, as he spoke near the graves of the IRA's hunger-strikers and military heroes. "This is bigger than me. This is about us as a republican community," he added.

As is always the case, elections are about many things, including what role, if any, the North's parties will play if the election writ large produces a "hung parliament," with none of the three major parties in Britain achieving a majority in the House of Commons and thus needing to cobble together that *rara avis* in British politics: a coalition government.

No matter where the location, politics is a rough and fascinating sport, and it is all that and more in the tiny but intense corner of the world that is Northern Ireland.

BC's Burns Scholar: a non-stop life

BY ANA LOPEZ
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

If you had told Thomas Bartlett in 1970 that 40 years later he would be the Burns Scholar at Boston College, teaching classes on Ireland in the early modern era and researching the holdings of the "best Irish collection in North America," he probably would not have believed you.

Then a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Bartlett had come to the United States from Ireland to engross himself in the study of American colonial history. It was in Ann Arbor that he stumbled upon a set of documents that changed the course of his academic life.

"I had no interest in doing Irish history at all, really," Bartlett said recently while sitting in a crowded coffee bar on the BC campus. "But when I was at Ann Arbor, I realized that there were Irish documents here that were generally unknown in Ireland. So I started working on them and they started to form the basis of my PhD."

Wearing the academician's uniform of an earth-toned sweater and muted slacks, Bartlett's approachable worldliness is perfectly suited to life in a classroom. He has wise, yet questioning eyes, the sort that speak to decades spent in locales of choice: libraries and lecture halls.

Bartlett published his doctoral research, centered on the Townshend viceroyalty and inspired by the documents uncovered in Michigan, in 1976 and was awarded his PhD from Queens University in Belfast. Since then, his life has been about the study of Ireland. "I've always taught American history," he said, "... but Irish history is three-fourths of what I teach."

As a scholar of Irish history, Bartlett has assumed numerous visiting professorships: "I had a Fulbright to Michigan in 1982 so I went there for a year and then, in 1997, I was at the University of Washington in Seattle and in 1999 at Notre Dame," he said. Travel, and particularly the conjunction of travel with research, has been a constant of enjoyment for Bartlett throughout his career. A voracious consumer of his new surroundings, he constantly is reordering his findings via lectures, papers, or integrating them into his teaching.

Even on his home turf, the University of Aberdeen, Bartlett is a bit of a visitor, as he commutes from Dublin twice a week. "There is a flight several times

a week through a budget airline, which is extremely cheap, like ten or fifteen dollars," he said, "so the taxi cab fare to the airport is always more expensive than the flight itself."

In Aberdeen, Bartlett is a staple in the history department, teaching American and Irish history while writing often. There have been countless essays and, in 1996, he published "A Military History of Ireland," of which he says, "I think it has stood the test of time pretty well."

The professor was long on the Burns Scholar track before coming to BC. "I was asked about eight years ago," he said. "That's actually very good because it gives you an opportunity to plan. ... It seemed like a long time, a massively long time, but it comes by pretty quickly."

Bartlett spends most of his time poring over the holdings in the Burns library, a prized collection of rare and unique documents and books housed in the Bapst Library on the edge of campus. In addition, he committed to teaching two courses and giving two public lectures during the year. He has taught a on Ireland in the 1790s to a group of graduate students and one on early modern Ireland to undergraduates.

Bartlett's curiosity keeps him on a busy schedule. "I wrote a paper while I was here about the first librarian of the Burns Library because her papers were [here]. I thought I'd take a look at these papers and I was quite intrigued by the documents and correspondence she left behind." He then went public with his findings about Helen Landreth, Burns librarian for nearly 30 years. "I gave it as one of my lectures," he said. "It might be published, we'll see."

Bartlett has not been a campus hermit. "I like Boston very much," he said. "I've been here before for a couple of days, but nothing serious. My wife is here with me and she's enjoyed the Boston experience, as well. We find the city very manageable—we take the T—and have met a lot of new friends. ... We drive around a bit; we go to New Hampshire or Cape Cod for the weekend if the weather is nice," he said. "I like Cape Cod very much, it's nice going there in the off-season," he conceded that he has occasionally stopped by a local tavern. "Purely in the interest of research, of course," he added.

His time as a Burns Scholar will end early next month, but Professor Bartlett hopes to return in September to publicize his newest book, a history of Ireland set to be published this month. This scholar never stops.



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Commentary

British Elections Loom Crucial to Peace in Northern Ireland

BY JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The results of the upcoming British Parliamentary elections will have a profound effect upon peace and understanding amongst the conflicted people of Northern Ireland. The people of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, will elect 650 members of the newly constituted Parliament, which will rule the country for the next five years unless the new government fails to maintain its majority.

Each member will be paid approximately \$100,000 plus additional expenses for travel, lodging, and constituent services. For most members and prospective members of Parliament, however, it is the power, the prestige, and the letters MP after their names that are the prime motivators.



Joe Leary

In the British system, the winning political party must achieve at least 51 percent of the delegates to take power and be asked by the Queen to elect a prime minister who will run the country. In this election, then, the successful party must win 326 delegates. That is unlikely this time and many are predicting a "hung parliament" necessitating agreements and

compromises among competing parties before a new government can be formed.

Northern Ireland will elect 18 members of the new government. None of these delegates is likely to have much impact on the Parliament. Sinn Fein, for instance, refuses to pledge allegiance to the Queen and therefore its five current delegates have not been seated. When John Hume and Ian Paisley were MPs, they were influential. But today, except for Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, no one from Northern Ireland has much recognition.

On the other hand, the Parliament and its leader, the prime minister, have nearly complete control over what happens in Northern Ireland.

With all the talk about devolved government and the Northern Ireland Assembly being responsible for its people, it should be remembered that the British Army is still in the North, that all its foreign affairs are controlled out of London, and that the police intelligence operation called MI5 is still active and in control with a brand-new building and its agents and informers reporting back to London.

Make no mistake: the Northern Ireland Assembly exists at the pleasure of the British Parliament.

Serious problems still exist in the North. Its economy is sustained by government spending. Some 40 percent of the working people are employed by the government. And new business is simply not attracted to civic unrest.

Two sizeable bombs exploded in Northern Ireland last month. One targeted a South Armagh police station, the other exploded outside the new intelligence-gathering building. Though only a few were injured, it is clear that not all is well.

A very small breakaway group of former IRA fighters, who call themselves "The Real IRA" and are labeled "disidents" by the media, have been blamed for the attacks.

The new head of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Chief Constable Matt Baggott, said recently that

the threat of increased violence is growing every day.

The 30-foot to 36-foot high concrete and steel walls separating Catholic and Protestant communities and neighborhoods seem to grow every year. Euphemistically referred to as "Peace Walls," these tragic reminders of simmering hatred actually divide people, creating more and more distrust on either side. There will not be true understanding and confidence in Northern Ireland until these walls are gone.

Unfortunately, the fear on both sides of the walls is so deep that people want them to stay. They want to sleep nights.

This is a troubled society that requires careful attention, understanding, and support.

But the leader of the Conservative Party in London, David Cameron, in a campaign interview as part of his appeal for votes, called for cuts in what the British government spends in Northern Ireland. Apparently he feels that such a position will gain him approval from the voters. What obviously counts is his election to prime minister, and not what might be helpful to the people of Northern Ireland.

This year, for the first time, the three leaders of the major parties held American-style television debates. According to newspaper polls and all the experts, there was a clear winner. Nick Clegg, leader of the smaller Liberal Democrats, trounced his two rivals, Cameron and Prime Minister Gordon Brown, leader of the Labor Party currently in power. There is no telling from this distance the effect on voting that Clegg's success will have, but this may be the most interesting British election in many years.

Television debates were also used for the first time in Northern Ireland, but there was no distinct winner. Political positions are too well known in Northern Ireland for there to be surprises. A debate is not going to change a Unionist vote to a Nationalist vote. The contest is between the Sinn Fein and SDLP for the National vote and between the DUP and the former UUP for the Unionist vote.

In a controversial development, Sir Reg Empey, the leader of the UUP, David Trimble's old party, has formed an alliance with Cameron's Conservatives and named the new party the Ulster Conservative Unionist Party (UCU). The UCU is running candidates in all but one of the 18 constituencies.

In the last British Parliamentary election five years ago, Ian Paisley's DUP elected 9 MPs, Sinn Fein 5, SDLP 3, and the UUP 1. This year three former MPs are not running, Edward McGrady of the SDLP, Paisley of the DUP, and Iris Robinson of the DUP.

Margaret Ritchie, the new leader of the SDLP, will probably replace McGrady, Ian Paisley's son should replace him, and Iris Robinson will probably be succeeded by James Shannon, another DUP politician. One of the Sinn Fein seats may be in jeopardy where Michelle Gildernow is facing a Unionist consensus candidate, Rodney Connor. Alasdair McDonnell of the SDLP is also facing a difficult re-election bid.

Both national parties, the SDLP and Sinn Fein, constantly remind voters that they are resolutely for a United Ireland and the Unionist parties are aggressively defending their allegiance to the United Kingdom.

Though this will be an interesting election in Northern Ireland itself, the real impact for its people will come from the results in England, Scotland, and Wales.

Cathedral High's Sister Mary Black is Celebrating a Half-Century of Service.

She is the daughter of a teacher and she grew up in the west suburban town of Medway. Now Sister Mary Black, she obviously inherited a passion and aptitude for teaching. Her compassion and patience with students in her classrooms at Cathedral High is the stuff of legend.

One of four Black sisters, Mary and her family summered in Scituate where she developed into an exceptionally strong swimmer. The eldest of the brood, she was exceptionally close to her siblings, Susanne and the twins Jayne and Joan. (Joan passed away last summer). She often filled in as a surrogate parent causing some consternation at dinner time due to her limited culinary repertoire of tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. She also tested her father's patience during a driving lesson when alone in an expansive parking lot she managed to wedge the family car between a rock and a pole.

Mary Black knew when she was 17 that she wanted to pursue a religious vocation and teach. She earned a B.A. in mathematics from Regis College in Weston and a master's in physics and engineering mathematics from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

As a teacher Sister Mary quickly set a standard of excellence for teachers, something to which many thousands of students will attest. She nurtured an environment where every student wanted to excel and she would expertly guide them as they worked toward their goals. And her story continues.

She taught physics, math, and religion; she chaired math and science departments; she designed curriculum for math, science, and peace studies; she moderated student council and a student athletic program; she founded a gospel choir and produced annual school musicals involving over 100 students each year.

As a counselor she offered one-to-one and small group

counseling for women religious, high school students, pregnant teens, and battered women. She facilitated intervention and conflict resolution and responded to crisis needs with referrals and support services.

Sister Mary has served on numerous boards from 1986 to the present day. As a fundraiser and development officer her success allows for few comparisons.

She has accomplished so much and touched the lives of so many. Energetic, enthusiastic, always positive, even relentless are adjectives used to describe this remarkable person. She has loved her life and has many wonderful stories to tell. As much as she has accomplished, the most remarkable thing about Sister Mary Black is the way in which she has accomplished so much -- with a grace and dignity that sets her apart and inspires admiration in all she meets. Many captains of industry take her call and respond consistently with full commitment.

Sister Mary Black will celebrate 50 years of service as a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph on Wed., May 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Seaport Hotel. For more information, contact Conventures, Inc. at 617-204-4230 or sistermary50@conventures.com.



Sister Mary Black

Commentary

How About a Real Act of Contrition?

BY JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

What will my church do to confront the continuing scandal associated with the sexual abuse of children? In an effort to avoid scandal, church leaders were complicit in efforts to cover up not only serious crimes but also grievous sins.

Concerned more about perpetrators than victims; more about scandal than truth; and more about image than justice; the church allowed the evil to continue. In doing so, it undermined its moral authority and caused many Catholics to look elsewhere for spiritual guidance.

How has "The Rock," the institution established by Christ to teach others to know, love, and serve Him, been split asunder? What can be done to salvage what is left of its reputation and regain the moral high ground that it once so proudly (perhaps too proudly) occupied.

I do not expect perfection in the church for it is, after all, an institution composed of flawed human beings. But, I do expect it to perform better than institutions who do not profess such a lofty purpose. This crisis can be either an opportunity for renewal or the last gasp of an institution that many now see as irrelevant.

Catholics are encouraged to confess and repent their sins. Is it too much to expect our church to do the same?

Rather than blame the media, the church must acknowledge its institutional responsibility for this evil. It can act like many secular institutions by blaming the perpetrators and not those who knew or should have known what was happening and failed to prevent it.

I was taught confession first requires an examination of conscience. This requires a degree of humility. One should not step into a confessional prepared to blame others for his sins. In asking forgiveness, one should accept responsibility. Confession is not a plea bargain but an act of contrition.

My church has failed in its responsibility to confess and acknowledge the guilt at all levels for facilitating the commission of grievous sins upon the innocent. The church should be publicly on its knees asking forgiveness of God and the victims. In a real sense, God is one of the victims.

Penance is an acknowledgement of guilt. Confession is not enough; it is particularly important that the church publicly manifest its guilt. Instead of seeking to protect themselves, the responsible "princes" of the church should resign their lofty positions and find ways to directly serve the sick and the poor as missionaries or devote themselves to lives of prayer in monasteries.

Cardinal Bernard Law may be sorrowful for his role in the Greater Boston sexual abuse scandal but his acceptance of a comfortable assignment in Rome was a mistake. It did not reflect the kind of public atonement the faithful should expect of the hierarchy.

Christ suffered and died for our sins, not His own. Something less drastic by those that failed to act responsibly in this crisis would be in keeping with that example. It would also help to restore the respect and confidence that has been lost.

A public display of penance and sorrow for the harm that has been done would underscore the difference between a church that claims divine guidance and a government agency. Up to now, church leaders have acted more like high ranking military officers running away from responsibility for a wartime atrocity.

The church expects a penitent not only to be remorseful but also to resolve to avoid sin and its "near occasion" -- a conscientious effort to reform. But what of the church? Will it use this crisis to address institutional flaws that likely contributed to the problem?

Married priests and women priests would provide a healthy new perspective in an institution that for too long has been the exclusive domain of men. I believe women would not have permitted the problem to continue. They would have been more sensitive to the harm that was being done to victims.

Greater emphasis on the Kingdom of God and less on the "kingdom of the church" would help to make the church more relevant. Would Christ have been comfortable in the splendid isolation of the Vatican? I think not.

Restructure, reorganization, and reform are not words one would normally associate with the church but this crisis provides an opportunity to do just that. If viewed as an opportunity, it could be the beginning of a "Restoration" movement that over time would better reflect its role as a spiritual beacon in a troubled world.

When an institution professes to be Christ's instrument on earth, it naturally elevates expectations. Disappointed and ashamed, the faithful have a right to demand more.

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

BIR Profile

Rob O'Leary, State Senator for Cape and Islands, Looks to Congress With an Eager, Practiced Eye

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Giving new definition to irony, Rob O'Leary's academic pedigree in the spirited arena of Boston politics reads like one from central casting: Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire; The School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University where he rubbed shoulders with a young Bill Clinton; a master's in public policy from Harvard; and a PhD in history from Tufts. The state senator serving Cape Cod and the Islands, with his trademark Kennedy good looks, was the first Democrat to represent the region in the state Legislature since the Civil War. He now seeks bigger fish to fry — by replacing retiring Congressman Bill Delahunt in the state's 10th Congressional District.

The 64-year-old Boston native, who now lives in Cummaquid, learned the rule of the streets at an early age, hanging out with his older brother, Jim, now a district court judge, and his brother's best friend, Paul Tsongas — the former congressman, U.S. senator, and presidential candidate, who died of cancer in 1997. O'Leary likes to tell the story of the day his brother and Tsongas took the board exams to enter law school. Tsongas, as the story goes, turned to his brother and said, "Jim, I screwed around for four years at Dartmouth, and I'm going to make it up now in four hours!"

O'Leary, by his own admission, followed suit in a sort of self-redemption, although his learning curve was more elliptical and his rebound longer than a few hours. Early on, O'Leary's academic record was about as impressive as "Big Papi's" batting average of late. A lot of whiffs. "I lost my way," O'Leary says candidly, noting he never took schoolwork seriously until his senior year at Georgetown. "I then had to repair my academic record." Short of expunging it, his only option was graduate school, he concluded.

Such lackluster performance might have forced a lesser man out of educational circles, but not Robert Aiden O'Leary, who went on to become a longtime history professor at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. With all due respect to his humble posture, his intellect and street smarts propelled him forward — sprung from a sturdy family tree with roots reaching back to West Cork and Sligo.

O'Leary's paternal grandfather, James, a first generation Irish American from West Cork and a man with a penetrating Irish accent, labored as a bellhop in Boston in providing for his six children. O'Leary's paternal grandmother, Bridget (McMann), a charismatic individual who commanded respect at first sight, raised the family in humble surroundings in the South End, not far from where the Boston Herald now sits on Harrison Avenue. Their children did well: O'Leary's father, Dan, was a college president with triple degrees from Boston College; Uncle Jim was a well-known surgeon; Uncle Tim was the No. 2 man in the Boston Department of Public Works; Aunt Helen was head of nursing at Boston City Hospital; Aunt Marguerite was a respected businesswoman; and Uncle Connie, an Air Force pilot who was shot down and killed over New Guinea in World War II, grew up as best friend to Maurice Tobin, the former mayor of Boston, governor of Massachusetts, and Secretary of Labor under Harry Truman.

Talk about overachievers. And their work ethic was passed down to the next generation. "It's a classic Irish family," says O'Leary, self-deprecating in his assessment of himself. "I was the trouble maker, a complete screw off at times, the guy you tried to save from landing in a homeless shelter," he recalls in jest.

Hardly the case; such hyperbole likely masks a family pecking order — common with the Irish. While O'Leary's attention span may have failed him at times, the family genes triumphed over hasty missteps.

O'Leary's father, now deceased, and his mother Marguerite (Moriarty), who grew up in South Boston and lives in South Yarmouth, also raised six children of impressive note. In birth order: Nancy is a retired school principal; Jim is the judge, a Dukakis appointee; Dan is a neuro-radiologist and president of Corby Hospital; Ellen is a retired schoolteacher; and Debbie, an "Irish twin" born the same year as O'Leary, is a successful real estate broker.

Large families often relegate modesty to the bottom rungs, but O'Leary over time learned to persevere and was blessed by a vision, brought on by a lesson his parents taught him: devotion to the cause of others.

O'Leary's father was a cerebral type, a history professor, who read a book a day. "He was totally committed to education," says O'Leary, who lived in Roxbury's Egleston Square until he was eight, then moved to Lowell. "He was also very political. I'm probably a lot like him. Dad could be strict, every once in a while coming down on us like a ton of bricks, but he also let out rope in our teenage years, allowing us to learn from our mistakes."

The elder O'Leary attended Boston College High School, Boston College, then Boston College graduate school where he earned a PhD in history. He taught history for many years, later becoming president of Lowell State College. He was influential in the school's transition to the University of Lowell, becoming its first chancellor. Today the school is part of the University of Massachusetts.



A Cape constituent gets a hand on the shoulder and a friendly word from his state senator. Photo courtesy Sen. O'Leary's office.

Dan O'Leary met his future wife, Miss Moriarty, in the classroom as a young high school teacher in Boston. Years later they re-connected on Carson Beach during the summer, developed a relationship, and got married. More pragmatic than her bookish spouse, she was the disciplinarian of the family. "She could be strict," says her son during an interview recently on the campaign trail. "With all those kids going in different directions, she ran that family at times like the Marine Corps. But she is very caring and there's a shyness to her."

O'Leary inherited his appreciation of history from his father and his sense of caring from both parents. But growing up in Lowell, he didn't distinguish himself in the classroom or on the playing fields — attending Oakland Elementary School, Moody Junior High School, and Keith Academy, a high school then run by the Xaverian Brothers.

"I wasn't much for sports," he says. "I played some tennis, and I tried out for varsity basketball as a guard. I was one of those kids they put on the junior varsity when you were a senior."

In school, O'Leary indeed was on cruise control, gazing out the window as the course work passed him by. And so his dad sent him to a year at the venerable Kimball Academy in Meridan, N.H., established in 1812 by the Council of New England Churches to assist in "the education of poor and pious young men for the gospel ministry." The father was just hoping the son would get religion in the classroom. Some of it took, enough at least to get him into Georgetown where he absorbed the culture.

In O'Leary's freshman year, he was helping a friend run for class president. "I was walking to class one day, and a guy comes up to my friend and starts talking to him," O'Leary recalls. "Who's that, I asked after the conversation. 'Oh, that's just my opponent,' his friend replied. 'I'm going to kill him in the election.'"

The opponent was Bill Clinton, and the election result was what you would expect, but for Rob O'Leary, it was a baptism in politics and life in general.

"Bill Clinton," he says, "was smooth as silk, and the women loved him. I sat in class with him, and he was very glib, and exceptionally bright. He was the kind of guy who was on a first name basis with the president of the school a week after he arrived, while the rest of us were trying to figure out class schedules. He had so much talent he could make it all work."

Making it all work finally sunk in with O'Leary, who began turning his attention in his senior year to a game plan for the future. Certainly no Robert Frost who took the road less traveled, O'Leary followed in his father's footsteps, where he discovered the light of success.

After Georgetown, O'Leary taught in the public schools and at the Massachusetts College of Art, served in the Army Reserve, and worked on his graduate degrees. He then taught history and politics at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay where he is a tenured professor today. He also is an adjunct professor at Cape Cod Community College.

O'Leary, now divorced, moved to the Cape in the early 1970s, after spending summers there as a youth. He has three daughters — Christine, a special education teacher; Katherine, an attorney; and Nicole, still in school on the Cape. He also has four grandchildren.

O'Leary's segue into politics was more out of a desire to serve than anything else. His passion was teaching. Always.

He joined the Barnstable Civic Association and became its president, then in 1987 won election as a Barnstable County Commissioner. He was instrumental in reorganizing county government on the Cape and in creating the Cape Cod Commission, the regulatory land use agency. In 2000, he won election to the State Senate, replacing Republican Henri Rauschenbach, who had been appointed to a post in the Jane Swift administration.

Asked how his late father would have felt about the election of his prodigal son to the state Senate after years of directing, almost herding, him toward more productive circles, O'Leary paused. "I've never been asked the question," he says in an emotional moment. "I think my dad would have been proud. I think he would have been quite pleased. I regret he was not there to see it."

Since his election, O'Leary's work ethic has been in overdrive and he is considered to be among the most productive members of the Senate. He is Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Education and Senate Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight. Earlier this year, he was intimately involved in passage of the Education Reform Bill, the state's first major piece of education legislation in 16 years. He also played a key role as a sponsor of the Ocean Management Act, the first in the nation to zone state waters for offshore renewable energy uses.

In many ways, Rob O'Leary is an example of the redemptive potential in all of us, an everyman who persevered and found the handle on his God-given gifts. A personal role model was Ted Kennedy; the two were friends, working closely together on Cape and Islands issues. "What was striking about Ted Kennedy is that the older he got, the better he was," says O'Leary. "He was more on track, more energized. I always loved that quality in him. He was full speed ahead, right up until the end. He made his share of mistakes, but he never quit. I have tremendous admiration for that."

A long distance runner, who still covers five miles a day when his schedule allows, O'Leary finds comfort in Kennedy's legacy later in life. The senator also taught O'Leary the need to reach across the political aisle for compromise where appropriate. "You never accomplish anything on your own," O'Leary says. "It's a collective effort at all levels. You always have to be willing to give credit to others."

Every day now, O'Leary sets his sights on a winning course for his congressional race. While he won't admit it, he appears driven to show his father that all the angst and instruction were worth it. "I wasn't waiting for this opportunity to happen, although I always had it in the back of my head" he concedes.

Now when the starting gun in life goes off, O'Leary sprints. He never looks back. So don't be surprised if he sets records.

Greg O'Brien is editor and president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based in Brewster. He is the author/editor of several books and contributes to several publications.

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Is Sinn Fein's Abstention Policy Dying -- Maybe it's because Gerry Adams has had some recent personal setbacks



Bill O'Donnell

Sinn Fein representatives in the House of Commons to start actively representing their constituents instead of playing hard to get.

In recent years, the Sinn Fein political party has spent roughly a million euros annually renting living quarters and related expenses in London. But they do not sit, their voices are not heard in parliamentary debate, and they offer little or no help to the **John Hume's** old party holding up the Irish nationalist cause in London. Why the expensive London digs?

Now it seems that uncomfortable facts are surfacing suggesting that in party leader Adams's case the good people of West Belfast, Adams's constituency, have likely been disadvantaged by his absence from the parliamentary political wars. In March the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA), a Unionist-bred government agency but usually fact-driven, cited studies the institute had done showing that in a listing of 100 of the most deprived communities in the North, the first four were areas represented (or not) by Adams in parliament. The gap between the better-off, better-served communities and the people represented by Adams in West Belfast (Whiterock 2, Whiterock 3, Falls 2 and Falls 3), along with number 6 Shankill, was enormous the study stated.

It's all good and fair enough that Adams and his parliamentary colleagues try to build their party politically and promote the cause of Irish unity, but surely Sinn Fein can continue those campaigns while joining the floor debates in Commons and the essential internal, back-office politicking to try to upgrade the lot of their working class constituents. Time for change, it says here.

Ireland's Two Economic Big Hitters – The top two exports of the island of Ireland – and among the world's most popular – are Baileys from the Republic and Bushmills in the North. Taken together the two premier Irish-branded products are cash cows, producing lush revenue streams for the island. And while many Irish exports have had their wings clipped during the present global recession, both Baileys and Bushmills are doing famously, thank you.

Another popular icon of branded Ireland known and enjoyed everywhere from its birthplace at Shannon Airport to Singapore, San Francisco, and Boston, is **Joe Sheridan's** creation, the ubiquitous Irish Coffee. Sheridan, who began his career in the hospitality business in Foynes, Co. Limerick, before settling into Shannon, is credited with first concocting the famed cocktail in 1942 to warm up a rain-chilled customer at the airport bar.

But all is not serene with Shannon's famed drink. The Clare County Council has tabled a motion criticizing the Shannon management for its sloppy Irish Coffees and requesting that staff become better trained in mixing the cocktail. The Shannon management confirmed that it had taken note of the Clare Council's complaints and the matter "had been addressed." The ultimate test, of course, will be the thirsty tourist sipping his hot Gaelic brew while waiting for his Aer Lingus flight home to depart.

Cowen Confident On Obama OK To Ireland – Taoiseach **Brian Cowen**, who is currently up to his neck in his country's recession era debt and slumping poll figures for his Fianna Fail party, had one piece of good news to report to the shaken faithful. **President Obama** is not going to punish Ireland or push for tax reforms there on US multinationals, Cowen said recently.

As noted in this space earlier, Ireland, with its minimal corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent, a third of the US corporate levy, has attracted a number of large companies (Microsoft, Google, and many Big Pharma firms) that have parked profits in low-tax Ireland and effectively shielded those substantial revenues from the Internal Revenue Service at home. The president has revved up a campaign to tighten tax rules that would shelter less of those overseas profits but apparently, or so says Cowen, Ireland is not on a list of target countries.

Ireland has been consistent in emphasizing to the US government and Congress that there is substantial cross-investment between Irish-owned companies in the US. There are a reported 227 Irish companies operating in the United States employing more than 80,000 employees in 2,600 locations here. For the immediate future, it seems, the status quo rules.

Did You Know ... that there are 65 islands off the Irish coastline that have been inhabited for the past 50 years? Of those there are 35 islands that have fairly sizable populations and they are mainly off the coasts of Galway, Mayo, Cork, Kerry, and Donegal. The three biggest populations are on Achill with 2,620 people, Gorumna, 1,015, and Aran, 543.

Brian McGrory Exercises His Chops – No more Mister Nice Guy for the Boston Globe's recently re-installed metro columnist, **Brian McGrory**. In an April 16 column McGrory took Boston College to the woodshed for a number of things, from its humble beginnings to boosterism, but chiefly for not ponying up some LIEU dollars (it's like taxes for non-profits) for **Tom Menino's** cash-strapped Boston.

I like and admire BC and believe – LIEU payments aside for now – that two of its many community-enriching activities are among the very best on offer from Beantown's university elite. We can all be proud that unlike many athletically successful schools, BC has a performance record of graduating (not using and discarding degree-less) its athletes of all shades and races. Sadly, not so common a practice for most big school sports programs, but continuing at BC long after Doug's miraculous pass to **Gerard Phalen**.

Secondly, the widely acclaimed Boston College Irish Studies program reflects the fact that the maroon and gold have not forgotten where their students came from or what the school's multi-mission agenda should be with regard to the community. BC is widely recognized as a national leader in Irish related studies and boasts one of the richest array of courses and instructors ranging from Irish music to history, art and culture, and a Burns Library that has quietly amassed under **Bob O'Neill** one of the world's finest Irish collections of rare books and manuscripts to backstop its innovative programs connecting the best of Ireland and Boston.

I think Brian was simply having a bad traffic day and that, like most true-believing Irish Catholics, he loves the school on the Heights and is simply trying to balance his personal books. Yes, objective reporting! Go on, Brian, tell 'em that you didn't mean it.

Hung Elections And Shining moments – The pundits in Britain are predicting that the May 6 British election could well be a hung event with neither of the two main traditional parties, Labour or Conservatives, headed respectively by **Prime Minister Gordon Brown** and **David Cameron**, winning a majority. The flies in the ointment are a relatively fresh face, **Nick Clegg**, and his "Big Mo" Liberal Democrats. Going into the final ten days after two widely watched debates, the three men and their parties are within a few polling percentage points of each other. The prospect of a hung election, of course, rouses the fantasy-filled daydreams of the Members of Parliament from Northern Ireland, eighteen in number out of a total House membership of 650. Aside from the slim possibility that **Reg Empey** and his Ulster Unionists might grab a seat, most MPs from the North are up for grabs ideologically and not strictly copper-fastened to any of the three British parties in contention.

So on May 6 or a few days after that, we could see one or more of the main

party leaders shuttling over to Belfast in search of a nod or a wink from one or more of the province's electoral elite. It's the stuff of dreams.

UFOs And Ancient History – The facts are bullet-proof. County Derry and the grand old walled city of Derry have reported seeing more unidentified flying objects (UFOs) than any other area in Ireland north or south. Why is that? Inquiring minds want to know. Well, **Betty Meyler**, president of the UFO Society of Ireland, a 32-county sky watchdog, claims that it's all a matter of energy levels derived from megalithic sites around Derry.

In the past two months, the Derry Journal newspaper has been flooded with tales of strange phenomena across the northwest and Ms. Meyler says that places like the ancient burial fort at Grianan or other recently discovered Derry sites may hold the answer as the main attraction reaching out to celestial objects in the skies. Who knows? UFO capital Roswell, New Mexico, may have to share its laurels with the city on the Foyle.

Bad Times, Bad Law – When times are tough, jobs are scarce, and problems surface with a different look and sometimes scant credentials, the outcome is often bad law. And that is exactly what we are seeing in Arizona with the new law intended to crack down hard on the immigrant-crowded southwestern state.

The main problem with the new law that was signed by a governor facing a tight reelection bid is that it places every Hispanic in Arizona, documented or otherwise, in a special, quasi-criminal profile category and makes a hash of their civil rights. A stiff price to pay for "walking while Brown" as HBO's **Bill Maher** describes the new state law.

That's the human rights aspect of the new legislation, but there are also practical elements that strongly mitigate against this discriminatory measure. The Inspector General of Homeland Security is highly critical of the law, painting it as "a portrait of a motley posse of deputies who don't know Spanish," and, "who don't care about the dangers of racial profiling." [as quoted in the NY Times]. A leading police association and Boston's own **Bill Bratton** have argued strenuously that the Arizona law "undermines public safety." Some Irish may think of the new Arizona law as from an alien world far beyond their realm, but next it could be accents, or unusual attire, or just a telltale brogue. In any event, we are all one and that's the simple truth.

Bertie The Needy – Former Taoiseach, and for a brief end game still a paid, sitting TD in the Irish parliament, **Bertie Ahern** has once again stupefied both his detractors and supporters. His accomplishment: He has become the first person in modern Irish history who has sought and been granted an "artists tax exemption" for a ghost-written autobiography. Seriously.

As many know, Ireland encourages the creative accomplishments of writers, artists, composers, playwrights, et al, by forgiving certain taxes (up to roughly \$300,000) for income derived from such artistic work. It not only rewards struggling Irish artists but also has, over the years, attracted many top flight creative people to live or settle in Ireland.

That unusual and richly undeserved gift that Bertie asked for and got from a pliant state arts assembly group, however, is, unsurprisingly not the only self-enrichment program that Bold Bertie has enrolled in. Former taoiseachs, much beloved by their former Leinster House allies, are each provided with a lifetime chauffeur-driven car. Bertie's Mercedes S350 and driver cost the struggling Irish exchequer \$235,000 last year. His was the biggest bill of all the former Irish leaders but it is understandable because Bertie, God love him, needed the car and driver for travel to promote his autobiography. And who amongst us would deny him?

Summertime Tourist Tips – After what all agree was a fierce winter in Ireland, a cousin in Kerry tells me that the temps were balmy and early summer looks to be making up for the grim months just finished there. Here are several things to look for while on the island of Ireland, which even the cautiously slow-footed, mellowing Orange

Order now consider – and rightfully so – an All-Ireland tourist spot:

Limerick has had its share of woes but it is a proud old city, full of history and a robust citizenry. On May 13 Limerick City will unveil a bronze bust in the city centre honoring one of its most celebrated sons, the Pulitzer Prize winning author **Frank McCourt**, who died last July.

McCourt's bust will join another world-famous Limerick native, the actor **Richard Harris**, who is remembered with a life-size statue there. The sculptor of the McCourt bust is **Seamus Connolly** of West Clare. Connolly also created a life-size statue of **John B. Keane**, the poet of the people, which salutes visitors in Keane's native Listowel in Kerry.

When in Dublin this summer be sure to avail of one of the capital city's more interesting bus tours. This one, which opened in early April, will run all summer; it shuttles back and forth between a Croke Park stadium tour (site of the All-Ireland finals) and then on to Glasnevin Museum, where all the late greats reside. The tours to and from these venerable landmarks leave daily from Dublin City Centre on Tuesdays through Saturdays. A rare opportunity to combine tour visits in a single jaunt to two truly memorable venues.

Belfast this summer will feature for the first time a mode of transportation familiar to most Bostonians – Duck Tours. People have been talking about getting the amphibious ducks that can operate on land and water into Belfast and other Irish cities, especially in areas where adjacent waterways can take full advantage of the Duck's unique capabilities. And Belfast will lead the way. Belfast is a historic and colorful city and its urban waterways, including the River Lagan, provide a fresh approach to view the North's sometimes underrated capital city.

News Media Role – Quote from the highly respected international religious periodical, "The Tablet," on the Media and the Catholic Church: "Two other things need to be acknowledged. The first is that while ecclesiastical and even civil authorities refused at first to listen to what the victims of sexual abuse had to say, the only people to give them a hearing were in the media. If the voice of the victims seems unduly amplified now – and it is by no means easy to say how much volume is too much -- this is some compensation for the silence that reigned before. The second point is that the Nolan inquiry would never have happened without investigative journalism, initially on the part of the BBC. It opposed the grave mistakes made by **Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor**... which he quickly admitted with deep regret. He did not blame the press, or claim a media conspiracy, and he eventually emerged with his reputation restored."

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Guinness is test marketing in 400 Northern Irish bars a new brew called Guinness Black Lager. Early returns suggest it tastes great but cost is a bit dear at US \$4.60 a bottle. ... Greece is in terrible shape financially but Ireland's debt dwarfs its Euro neighbor, yet Ireland, because of strong remedial measures, will not have to go to the European Union and the IMF to bail out. ... Mass. Treasurer **Tim Cahill** (ambition is his middle name) is finding some rugged going as he was 0 for 2 in saying that Mass. Health plan "was nearly bankrupting" the state (untrue) and his description of the two party system as "broken." (Equally untrue). ... **Kathryn Bigelow** won an Oscar for directing the hit movie, "The Hurt Locker," and a decade or more ago Galway Druid Theatre's **Garry Hynes** won a Tony Award for directing "Beauty Queen of Leenane." Both were the first women ever to win those prestigious directing honors. ... **Howie Carr** was suspended from his radio show for biting the hand that feeds him, namely bad mouthing his own WRKO. Howie the Destructive, in an April 7 broadcast, said, "No one of course expects Barack Obama to really know anything. We understand, all too well, exactly how he got through Columbia and Harvard Law. He had certain ... intangibles, shall we say." (Ugh!) ... Finally, a tip of the hat to the Eire Society of Boston's Gold Medal winner, our own **Ed Forry**. A dream of a publisher for a writer, I can attest, and a friend to cherish. Slante'

NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iicenter.org Email: immigration@iicenter.org

Wider Horizons Participants build skills and relationships – Members of The Wider Horizon's Clanrye group from Co. Armagh, Down, and Louth are learning new skills and enjoying their Boston experience. The group of Irish young adults is spending six weeks living with host

families throughout the city and working at various internships in local non-profit youth and community organizations.

The Wider Horizons program started in 2004 and targets disadvantaged and unemployed youth from the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The

program aims to improve participants' employability while fostering mutual understanding and reconciliation between Protestant and Catholic communities.

The young adults have settled into life with their host families, are working in their internships, and have attended a Baptist Mass. Along with their youth and community internship, the participants enjoy a variety of activities throughout the city, including watching the Boston Marathon.

IIC & CARE expand Health and Education Services – The IIC continues to expand its Health and Education Services. In partnership with CARE, we host Home Health Aide and CPR Classes. IIC has added Basic Computer Skills to its roster of skill building programs and is considering other exciting classes to help participants take the next step in their careers. Future possibilities include classes or workshops in resume/CV preparation, education information events for immigrants who want to attend colleges in Massachusetts, and social events to network with fellow child caretakers, nannies and home health aides.

Please contact Ciara today at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, if you are would like to learn more about our health and education services.

Congratulations to participants in our two March Home Health Aide Classes who successfully graduated on April 15 – And many Thanks to the Irish Cultural Centre, which graciously hosted our event, to Deirdre Ni Fhalluin from the Irish Consulate in Boston who presented our 35 graduates with their certificates, and, of course, to all our participants who brought great food, fun and laughter. We had a wonderful evening and a special thanks was made to our wonderful CARE HHA Teachers, who gave their time each week voluntarily both in Boston and in Canton! Thank You all!

Interested in Home Health Aide? Join our Facebook page for the latest news! – The IIC's "Home Health Aide Training Course" page is the best way to stay up to date on programs and events hosted by the IIC and CARE, learn about jobs, and reconnect with fellow Home Health Aide classmates. You do not need to be an alum or current member of the course; we welcome anyone interested in the Home Health Aide profession. Check us out and don't forget to say hi on our Wall!!

IIC and CARE partner for a successful CPR training class – We had a great turnout at our two CPR training classes in April, thanks to our partnership with CARE, our wonderful volunteers, and our eager to learn clients. We would like to thank Alice Mulcahy, who gives her time to instruct the CPR training classes. Alice has more than forty years of experience as a nurse and has been running CPR training classes for the past twenty years. Thank you, Alice, for sharing your knowledge with us!

IIC continues to work with Haitian immigrants – Four months after the earthquake in Haiti, the Irish Immigration Center continues to work hard to help the Haitian community with practical support and counseling, and legal assistance. By fostering partnerships



IIC clients among New Americans at Citizenship Day in Fenway Park in September

with Boston's Haitian organizations and hosting legal clinics to work with Haitian clients, the IIC's free legal clinics now assist more Haitian clients on a range of legal issues. Not only is the IIC's legal staff helping file Temporary Protected Status for refugees, but the department is also working with people who have long-standing immigration cases. The IIC continues its partnership with the Nazarene Church in Boston; last week we assisted with a legal clinic at the church. This month, the IIC will work with the Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB) to meet with their cliental base.

If you are interested in volunteering with IIC's work assisting Haitians with TPS, call Elizabeth at 617-542-7654, Ext. 46. Visit our website at iicenter.org/haitiresponse.htm for more information and to donate to the IIC's efforts assisting Haitians living in the Boston area.

Immigration and citizenship update – The IIC is proud to offer weekly free legal clinics. Our

friendly, dedicated, and experienced immigration attorneys will answer your questions about immigration and citizenship issues. We can also schedule an appointment to help you with legal paperwork for yourself or a family member. Clinics are held both in the community and at our office. Irish Immigration Center has been providing free immigration legal advice for 20 years.

Free Legal Clinic Schedule – Mon., May 10, 6:30 p.m.: Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton; **Tues., May 25, 6 p.m.:** The South Boston Labour Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston. Clinics also take place at our office the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please call 617-542-7654 in advance to confirm that clinic is being held. Our offices are located at 100 Franklin Street, Boston (Enter from the side entrances at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street.) The in-house clinics for May are on May 4 and May 18.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Validity Check on Driver's License

Q. Are people with drivers' licenses from countries outside the United States allowed to drive in Massachusetts?

A. A foreign visitor at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license from one of the 130 countries listed in Appendix A of the Massachusetts Drivers Manual (available at mass.gov/rmv) may drive for one year from the date of arrival. Thus, law enforcement authorities would ask to see both the license and the driver's I-94 card from US Customs and Border Protection showing the date of arrival.

Those who are staying longer than one year in the US (legal permanent residents, students, employment visa holders et al.) would need to convert their foreign license to a Massachusetts license. This entails passing a written test on the rules of the road, a driving test, and a vision test. The requirements for people from Canada and Mexico are somewhat less onerous and generally would not involve a driving test. The Massachusetts licensing authority, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, also can be expected to check an applicant's immigration status.

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles stresses that it recognizes only licenses issued by the relevant government agency in the holder's home country. There are scams on the Internet selling documents called "International Driving Permits" or "International Licenses," often purporting to be issued by the United Nations or some other authority. These are worthless pieces of paper, and anyone caught driving with one of them instead of a valid foreign license could be charged with operating a vehicle without a license.

The website for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, mass.gov/rmv, contains further information on this topic, as well as all the procedural requirements for obtaining drivers' licenses, registering vehicles, etc.

Keep in mind that the regulation of motor vehicles and drivers is primarily a state law issue in the US, not a federal one, so the law and regulations covering driver's licenses in other US states and territories may differ in various respects from that in Massachusetts. Those interested in jurisdictions other than Massachusetts would need to consult the website of the relevant licensing authority.

For a free, confidential consultation on any aspect of immigration law, visit one of IIC's legal clinics as promoted in the Boston Irish Reporter each month.

Matters Of Substance

Halt My Relapse – II

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Last month, we explored key triggers that can lead to relapse, including Hunger, Anger, Loneliness, and Tiredness (HALT). Physical withdrawal can also be an obstacle to remaining alcohol free. When people use alcohol daily or in high amounts, their bodies can become physically dependent on it. When they suddenly stop using it, they experience physical withdrawal symptoms.

These can include:
Nausea/Vomiting
Hand Tremors – particularly when arms are extended to the side, and fingers spread out straight
Abnormal Sweating – heavy and profuse
Anxiety – feelings of panic
Headaches – a tight band around the head
Agitation or Panic

I am frequently asked how a person can know if he or she needs medical intervention. If you are experiencing these symptoms along with rapid pulse or insomnia, you may need medical help. Severity of withdrawal symptoms varies greatly depending on the history of alcohol use. If not treated, relapse is more likely and you could be in danger of seizures.

Other serious symptoms include:

Tactile Disturbances – unusual sensations (pins and needles, itching, skin "crawling", burning, numbness) on or under skin

Auditory Disturbances – greater than normal awareness of sound, sounds that are harsh, frightening, or not present

Visual Disturbances – overly bright light that hurts your eyes, hallucinations

nations

Disorientation – confusion about where you are, what the date is, difficulty with addition

If you are experiencing any of these last 4 symptoms, I would strongly encourage you to go to your doctor, nearest Emergency Room, or call 911. Alcohol withdrawal is very serious and if untreated, can be fatal. (This symptom-list should not be used in any way as a substitute for medical advice or care.)

If you are wondering about access to health care or health insurance coverage, please call our health screening partner, Health Care For All. Their confidential Help Line is 800-272-4232.

If you need help and support now, or if you have recently relapsed and would like to know more about our Relapse



Danielle Owen

Prevention Group in Quincy, please contact Danielle, in confidence, at the Irish Immigration Center at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or send an e-mail to dowen@iicenter.org. For more detail about withdrawal symptoms see: hubpages.com/hub/Alcohol-Withdrawal-How-Serious-Are-Your-Symptoms or cmaj.ca/cgi/reprint/160/5/675.pdf.

Danielle Owen, LADC II, is the Substance Abuse Coordinator at the Irish Immigration Center.



Meeting the needs
of the immigrant
population.

Irish Immigration Center

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www.iicenter.org

IIC has moved. Our new offices are located at 100 Franklin Street, Boston in the Lower Level. Please note that entrances are located at 201 Devonshire Street and 60 Arch Street. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.

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Call 617-436-1222

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Some 100 persons turned out on Sunday, Apr. 25 the Ladies Auxiliary of the Irish Cultural Centre's Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show at the ICCNE's campus in Canton, MA. The event was a sell-out as guests enjoyed viewing the tweeds and wools of Ireland presented by Claddagh Connection of Bristol, RI. The show featured Irish Clothes, Irish Jewelry by Tara's Diary and Fado Fine Irish Jewelry and also children's clothing.

1.) Model Barbara Boyd, Waltham; 2.) Denise Miller, Claddagh Connection, Bristol, RI; 3.) Twins Joyce and Judy Collins, Walpole; 4.) Ellen Fay, Dorchester and Maureen Lyons, Dorchester; 5.) Michael and Kiera Norvish, Bridgewater; 6.) Peggy Cormican, Dorchester and Evelyn Flaherty, Arlington; 7.) Loraine Marie, Norwood; 8.) Gobnait Conneely, W. Roxbury and Mary Duffy, Halls of Tara Florist, W. Roxbury; 9.) Marguireta Mezzetti, Watertown; 10.) Mary McConnell, Jamaica Plain and Ellen Goodwin, Boston; 11.) Rita Fleming, Merrimac, MA; 12.) Michael Wals, Canton; Erin Kennedy, Mansfield; and Jocelyn Savin, Needham; 13.) Joyce Cannon, Braintree; Margo Doyle, Weymouth; Phyllis Bedder, Reading.





Team Forry and Friends at the Eire Society's Gold Medal Award dinner: Back row, from left: Kieran Jordan, Vincent Crotty, Jenn Scott Forry, Ryan Forry, Erin Forry, Kathy Tanner, Mike Tanner, Ed Forry, Mria Forry Dangerfield, Kathleen McManus, Lisa Romanovitch McManus, Padraic Forry, Della Costello, Mike Sheehan, Bill Forry, Jim Casey. Front, Anna Forry, John Forry, Renee Forry-Cheverie, Marie Forry, Julie McManus, Sr. Brenda Forry CSJ, Peggy Tanner Sheehan, Maureen Forry, Linda Dorcena Forry.

Photo by Harry Brett.

Meditation on an Irish Family Story

Following is the speech BIR Publisher Ed Forry gave after he received the Eire Society's Gold Medal Award last Friday night at the society's annual banquet in the rooftop room of the Parker House.

Thank you Bill. I think it was Army General Barry McCaffrey who said, "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 we Irish are very emotionally moved. My father was Irish and he would cry during beer commercials."

My friend Peter Meade, himself a Gold Medal honoree, told me that his own father was in the audience once, when he delivered what he thought was his finest, most compelling speech. Afterwards he asked his dad what he thought and his dad said, "Well it was a very complex, speech, my son, and I thought you missed several good opportunities to stop talking."

So tonight, I will take Mr. Meade's advice and keep it short. There's an old Jesuit maxim that there's no such thing as a bad short speech.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the Eire Society for this honor. When I look at some very accomplished Irish men and women who are previous recipients—last year's honorees John Cullinane and Michael Donlan, before them Seamus Heaney, Ambassadors Bill Shannon and Brian Donnelly, my great friend and mentor Bill Bulger, Speakers Tip O'Neill and John McCormack, President John F. Kennedy—they are all enumerated in tonight's program. And tonight, the name Forry is added to the list.

Believe me, it is not false modesty to tell you that I cannot understand how this kid from Vera Street, on Codman Hill, St. Gregory's parish in Dorchester can assert any claim to stand among them. What I do, in my life and for my living, is publish some newspapers, all of them called The Reporter, all about where I live and the people I know—two weeklies in Dorchester, in Mattapan, and ethnic papers about Haitian people and Irish people.

With my late wife Mary Casey Forry we began to publish The Boston Irish Reporter 20 years ago. Our mission was then and continues to be telling the stories of Boston's Irish.

One very special moment tonight is that my cousin Brenda Forry has agreed to sit here with me and give the benediction. Sister Brenda is a member of the leadership team of the CSJ—the St. Joseph nuns, and her work in parish ministry, full of faith and compassion and love, has been awesome. She recently celebrated 50 years in her vocation. Brenda, when people remember that the name Forry is on this 2010 Gold Medal award, I hope they will think of you as well as me.

Let me also pause and remember the inspirational life of the late Msgr. Tom McDonnell. Those of you who were here at last year's dinner will remember that Father Tom prayed the invocation. It was perhaps his last public appearance, as he passed several weeks later.

I am so very grateful to the board of trustees for believing that I belong with these others. I recall brief moments in my life when my path crossed with some previous honorees:

I was a BC High junior when Jack Kennedy visited the campus, and I remember my exhilaration when we learned he had won Chicago, and would be the new president. Many of you can probably recall that feeling—we told ourselves, one of our own, an Irish Catholic, was now the President of the United States. I was 16 years old, and oh, how bright those horizons seemed to me then.

I had the great honor of meeting Nobel laureate John Hume, in my view the hero of the Northern Ireland peace process. My pal Jim O'Brien brought him to my office one day in the early 1990s and he spoke of his commitment to peace and non-violence. He had a home in Donegal, and he told me there were two portraits on his walls: JFK and Martin Luther King.

There was a Forry on the staff of Speaker John McCormack—our aunt Kate, Kathleen Forry, was his secretary here in the Boston office in Room 1410 of what we now call the McCormack Building at Post Office Square. What a hero he was to me, a true political hero. He had a photo of himself from a party convention he had chaired, where he was known as

"The Great Compromisor." Wouldn't it be wonderful if political discourse today could boast of someone of John McCormack's timbre.

Of course I grew up with Richard Cardinal Cushing. Back in the day at St. Gregory's, the school began with the Cardinal on radio leading the rosary. He was a constant in Boston Irish life for many decades, and when Peter Stevens compiled a series about the great Boston Irish figures, we selected Cushing as the Boston Irish Person of the 20th century.

The Irish Reporter mission is this: We tell the stories of Boston's Irish. It has been a journey of discovery as we reported about so many people who share our lives and our have ancestry. It is said the 20th was the Irish Century in Boston, and looking back, I am in awe of so many marvelous people, all the compelling stories we have been privileged to tell. Tom Durant. Tom Flatley, the Corcoran brothers, John, Leo and Joe. The passionate Jack Driscoll. Dr. Mary Jane English from Regis College by way of Brighton and Mt St Joseph Academy. The great Jess Cain of WHDH, an Irish Catholic kid from Philly who made Boston his home for 50 years. Phil Haughey, Sr. Lena Deevey, Dr Larry Ronan. We had the opportunity to tell their stories, everyone of them an inspiration for now and for the ages.

On Monday night, I met for the first time Tom Shields, whose MRI business has improved so many lives. He told me that profile we did of him—written by my contributing editor Greg O'Brien—was the best thing ever published about him. I thanked him, but I told him the thanks belongs to Tommy himself and his lifetime of good works. All that we did was sit with him and tell his story, one more story of Boston's Irish.

It took me some time in my younger years to decide to go into the business of publishing newspapers. My late wife Mary Casey Forry—herself the daughter of Irish immigrants from Leitrim and Mayo—was the president of our little family business, and in every way a full partner. We were both in our late 40s when we made our first trip over to Ireland. And it was then I discovered the great Irish American pastime—looking for family roots.

Mary's were easy. She had family still in Leitrim and in Sligo town. When she first met her Uncle Michael, she said she felt like she was seeing her long dead dad once again! I have since been back six or seven times, and have yet to meet any of my own Irish cousins, but each time the feeling grows that I am returning home... to Ireland.

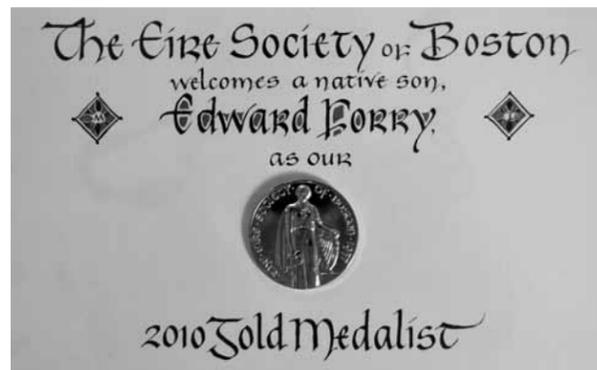
I want to conclude by briefly telling the story of my family, the Forry family of Dorchester. There were five of us—John, Mary, Eleanor, Joe and myself. John appeared in early 1931, a year and some months after the Wall Street collapse of '29. I was born in 1944, about a year before WWII ended.

Our father, John Forry Sr., was born in Lynn in 1901, the oldest son of Patrick J. Forry from Sligo and Hannah Forry from Waterford. When he was still a boy, the family moved to South Boston. Our mother, Eleanor J Toomey, was the last child of Tim and Nora Toomey. Both born in County Cork, they lived in Southie, at 510 Broadway. All of my grandparents emigrated to Boston from Ireland sometime around 1890. I only knew one of them—Grandma Forry, Hannah; the other three had passed away before I was born.

My Dad John Forry worked 49 years on the Boston Elevated, later the MTA and now called the MBTA and the T. When he retired they gave him a time at the Walsh Post, a pile of handshakes, and a watch. When he died in 1978, my mother was able to sell the two-family on Vera Street and move into a senior apartment building.

The boys in my family—John, Joe and myself—were expected to get an education, preferably at good Catholic schools. The girls, not so much. We boys all were sent to BC High, and we all took degrees at Boston College. Mary and Ellie went to work when they finished high school.

In my house, we knew we were Irish, but our Irish roots were defined less by the awful struggles of that island and more by the Americanized Irish tales of Broadway, Tin Pan Alley and Hollywood. Bing Crosby, Carmel Quinn and Dennis Day embodied our Irishness. If you're Irish, Come in from the Parlor and Mick



McGilligan's Ball were our anthems. John Ford's The Quiet Man gave us the quaint, bucolic images of the land of our ancestors, and Trooper Thornton's quest to win the hand of the red-haired Maureen O'Hara was our cherished fantasy.

We even had a vague sense that the English government was not our biggest fan, but the details were a little fuzzy. In a word, we were assimilated.

I knew little about my grandparents and their lives over there. I knew simply that they all were born in the 1860s, they came to Boston in the 1890s, and they met and married, worked and sacrificed, made their homes comfortable and Catholic, and brought 15 or so children into this world—two of whom would repeat the cycle, meet and marry, and eventually, thank the Lord, bring me into the world.

I was the last grandchild of these four Irish émigrés, but I know so little about their lives in Ireland.

The playwright Sean O'Casey once wrote, "Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity." For me the tug to find out what I could become more powerful with each visit.

And so it was, last August, on a 12-day visit with my dear friend Della Costello. I found my way to the province of Connaught, the county of Sligo, the town of Castlebaldwin. There, from a window of my room at the glorious Cromleach Lodge, looking across Lock Arrow and a range of mountains, I realized that over those hills somewhere close was where my grandfather Forry had once lived.

It was an area called Kesh, tucked among the hills off the main roads. I knew I had some time to wander, and I felt an urgency to explore. This time, I said, let me see if I can find the Forry ancestral home, the place where, 120 years ago, I came from. As is often the case when we Yanks go looking for our roots, I found an Irishman—Pat Ward—who knew a lot about the history of the land and its people, and was willing to help. He's the owner of the only local in Kesh, the historic Fox's Pub on the Boyle road. He was certain my granddad, or some of the Forry family, my cousins, would have frequented Fox's.

He called on a lady down the road who now lived in a house she bought 60 years ago from a man named Jim Forry. And I realized he was the uncle of my cousin Jackie Forry from Lynn!

At the house, I met the new owner, Mrs Cawley, who is just 86 now. I told her my name. "Now which Forry are you?" she asked me. "The home place of the Forrys," she told Pat Ward "was, you know, where Angela Healy lives. The old house is just down the lane from there. That's where they lived before they came down here."

Five minutes later, Pat Ward had taken me down the road. I stepped out to see this wondrous vista: The hills, the fields, the trees. A small, almost hidden valley surrounded by a gently rolling countryside. As I gazed I realized I was seeing with my eyes the same hills, the same countryside that my grandfather saw through his eyes 120 years ago.

There was no house still standing, but I walked the field, across the meadow, and through the mud in the certain knowledge that I was walking in the footsteps of my father's father, PJ Forry. I stayed there for just a few moments, but those few precious moments seemed like... forever.

And I knew then, what so many of us know and understand in our bones, in our soul at such times: On that day in August, in that field in Kesh, County Sligo, Ed Forry, the kid from Vera Street, on Codman Hill, St. Gregory's parish in Dorchester, had come home.

PJ, this is for you.

Eire Society Hails Its Gold Medal Recipient



Honoree Ed Forry and his cousin, Sister Brenda Forry, CSJ.



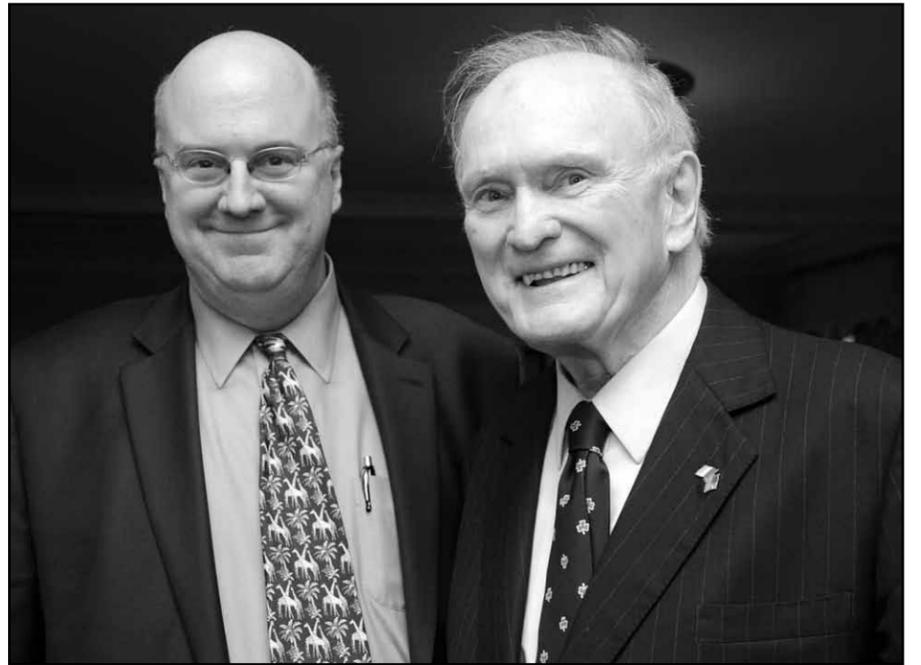
From left, John Foley, U.S. Rep Nikki Tsongas, Jim O'Brien, BIR columnist Joe Leary, and Josephine Shield.



Reporter staff members Gintautas Dumcius and Tu-Quyen Bui.



Kieran Jordan and her husband Vincent Crotty.



Former Massachusetts Attorney General and Speaker of the Mass. House Bob Quinn and his son Michael.

Photos by Harry Brett.

The First Annual Benefit Dance for Haiti

Hundreds gathered on Sun., May 2, at the Marriott Boston Quincy for the First Annual Benefit Dance for Haiti. The event featured live entertainment by the likes of Erin's Melody, the Andy Healy Band, Noel Henry's Irish Showband, Fintan Stanley, John Connors & the Irish Express, Larry Reynolds and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann'.

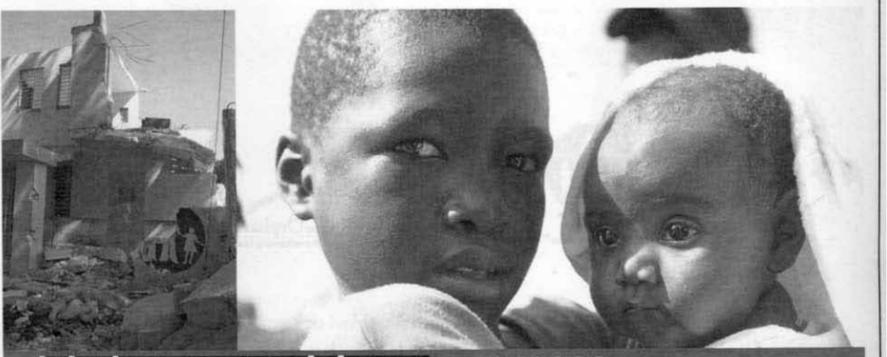
All proceeds will benefit Friends of the Orphans, which supports the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") network of homes in Latin America and the Caribbean. The goal is to transform the lives of orphaned, abandoned, and disadvantaged children by creating families for life through values of unconditional love, shared responsibility and education. This enables children to transcend poverty and grow into caring and productive members of their communities.



Since its founding in 1954, NPH has assisted nearly 16,000 children and currently cares for more than 3,300 in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. An additional 30,000 children and adults are assisted through outreach programs each year.

Event sponsors were The Irish Emigrant, 950AM WROL, Courier, The Boston Irish Reporter, Marriott, and the Boston Herald.

Helping in Haiti



Friends of the Orphans provides financial and volunteer support to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos/Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs (NPH/NPFS, Spanish and French for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters"), which has orphan homes and outreach programs in nine countries, including Haiti. As a result of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010, NPH/NPFS Haiti suffered the tragic loss of staff, volunteers and family members, as well as extensive damage to its facilities. Friends of the Orphans is deeply grateful to everyone who is willing to help those affected by this terrible tragedy. Relief funds are being used for medical supplies, food, water, mattresses, tents and other items critical to effectively treat and care for thousands of victims. Following are the primary areas of assistance.

Haiti Fast Facts

- Poorest country in the Western Hemisphere
- History of instability, violence and dictatorship
- Frequent natural disasters
- Most people live on less than \$2 a day
- Friends of the Orphans has helped orphaned and abandoned children in Haiti since 1987
- NPH/NPFS is home to 350+ children and assists more than 30,000 Haitians each year
- Fr. Rick Frechette, an American priest and doctor, oversees all the NPH/NPFS programs

- **St. Hélène Orphanage for Children**, a permanent home, is committed to helping as many children as possible and is identifying children with no families who can be integrated into the NPH/NPFS family.
- **St. Damien Hospital**, the only free pediatric hospital in Haiti, is currently caring for more than 200 children and adults, providing surgeries and neo-natal care.
- **Kay St. Germaine**, adjacent to the hospital, re-opened school and physical therapy programs on February 1 and is providing prosthetic limbs to those who require amputations. A rental property in Petionville will continue the day program for disabled children that was previously located in the Fr. Wasson Center, which collapsed in the earthquake.
- **The Fr. Wasson Angels of Light Program** was created in response to the growing needs of vulnerable and displaced children in Haiti. A day camp located on the hospital grounds and satellite day camps located in 13 tent cities serve an average of 1,200 children daily, providing educational and recreational activities as well as two meals a day. The program is run by a network of more than 100 NPFS graduates.
- **Four Mobile Clinics** attend to 70 - 140 patients daily.
- **The NPH/NPFS water truck** is making daily deliveries of 36,000 gallons of water, enough for 4,285 families.
- **The Francisville bakery** is baking and distributing 5,000 fortified bread rolls per day.
- **Burial services** have been performed for more than 3,000 people.

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Contributions to Friends of the Orphans, Federal Tax ID# 65-1229309, are tax deductible as provided by law.



On Saturday, May 22nd, we will celebrate two historic milestones here at the Irish Cultural Centre, the 20th year of the conception of the Centre and the 10th year of the physical building and grounds. Two great reasons to celebrate the accomplishments of the hundreds of volunteers who came together to make this Centre a reality and those who are continuing to work tirelessly, day after day to keep the Centre afloat and to preserve the vision and mission of the Centre for generations to come.

The Centre is a place that the Irish and Irish Americans alike should be proud of. Nestled in Canton, the Centre is a hidden gem sitting on 46 beautiful pristine acres of land, fields, walking trails, a great activity building and pub. It is the home of the Annual Irish Festival and the main pitch plays host to Gaelic Athletic Association Games through the spring and summer. That is what most people know of the Centre.

What isn't highly publicized is that the Centre under the leadership of four staff members and numerous volunteers (including a volunteer Board of Directors), are putting together a host of monthly Irish programs and events that are open to ICC Members and the public at large. In fact, over the last two years the amount of programming at the Centre has nearly doubled.

A listing of the Irish Cultural Centre ongoing programs include:

- The ICC Academy of Music, Dance, and Language. Weekly classes are offered in the Spring and Fall and include instruction in Step Dancing, Set Dancing, Tin Whistle and Bodhran.

- Historical Irish Series. Quarterly presentations including lecture, movie and dinner looking back at early Ireland from the Famine to the Easter Rising.



- The ICC Drama Group presents a new theater production every May and November.

- Our ongoing Concert Series features artists both local and well known.

- The Shamrock Club, ICCNE's newest program for Senior Citizens. A bi-monthly luncheon that will include music, dancing, socializing and education.

- And many additional programs including our Monthly Mass and Irish Breakfast, the Sit and Knit Club, Annual Fashion Show, the Rambling House, our Children's Celtic Camp, New Year's Eve Celebration, Author Readings at the ICC Library and much more.

We also have several fundraisers throughout the year, which provides the Centre with the funding to maintain the building and grounds. Some key events include:

- Annual Golf Tournament, now in its 20th year, will take place September 10, 2010.

- Annual \$30,000 Drawing takes place the 2nd Saturday in December. Over 1,600 tickets are sold at \$100 each and one lucky winner is guaranteed a hefty price right before the holidays.

- And for this year only, our 20th Anniversary Gala which will take place on Saturday, May 22nd. A historic celebration that will include music, dancing, dinner and silent auction items. The event's Master of Ceremonies will be Dan Rea, host of WBZ Radio's Nightside and the Guest Speaker will be Senator Scott Brown. We are anticipating a sold out crowd and a memorable evening for all.

We would also be remiss if we didn't mention ICC Membership and how important our members are to the sustainment and the viability of the Irish Cultural Centre. Without our members there would be no Irish Cultural Centre. It was our members who saw the vision of the Centre along with the founding volunteers; it was the members who contributed in the beginning and the members who are still contributing to this day that have become the lifeblood of the organization.

We here at the Irish Cultural Centre are so happy to be celebrating the accomplishment of twenty years and want to thank everyone who has helped us along the way. We will celebrate the past and look to the future, to another ten and twenty years down the road. There is a lot in store and a many more things to accomplish and we hope to have the support of our members (present, past, and future), volunteers and Irish Community at large. We hope you share in our vision to become the New England home for Irish Culture, for it is you, your children, your children's children and beyond that will carry forward the goal's of twenty years past. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on May 22nd.



ICC'S *For more information please call the Centre office at 781-821-8291.* MAY 22, 2010

20th Anniversary GALA
6:00PM

This large scale signature event will take place on Saturday, May 22nd at the Cultural Centre, where over 400 attendees are expected to dine on fabulous food, dance the night away to the best music of Ireland, and be dazzled with photography capturing the moments of the last twenty years of the Centre.

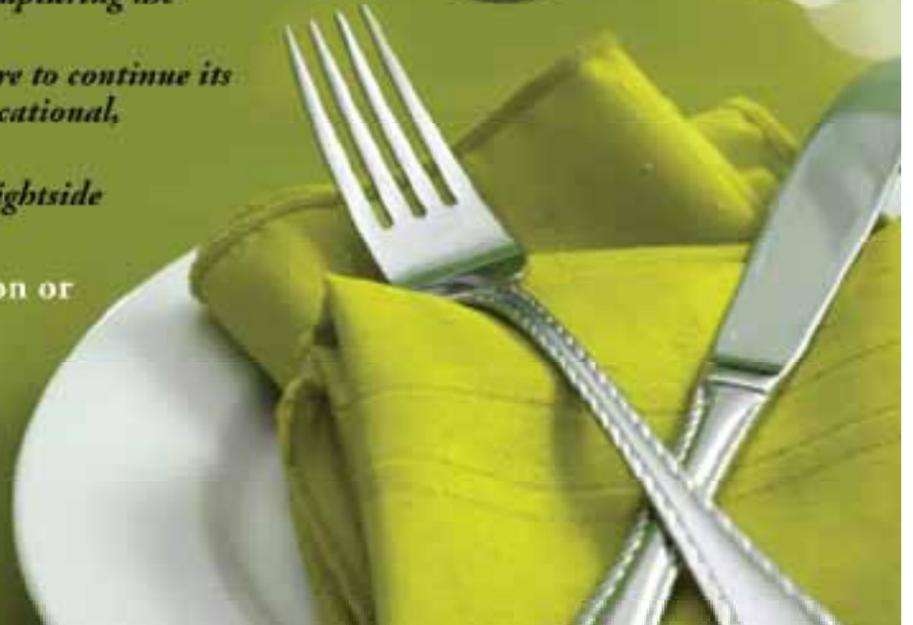
Monies raised from the Gala event will also allow the Centre to continue its mission which is to promote and organize Irish cultural, educational, sporting and social events.

- *Master of Ceremonies: Dan Rea, Host of WBZ Radio's Nightside*
- *Special Guest Speaker: Senator Scott Brown*

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OF NEW ENGLAND

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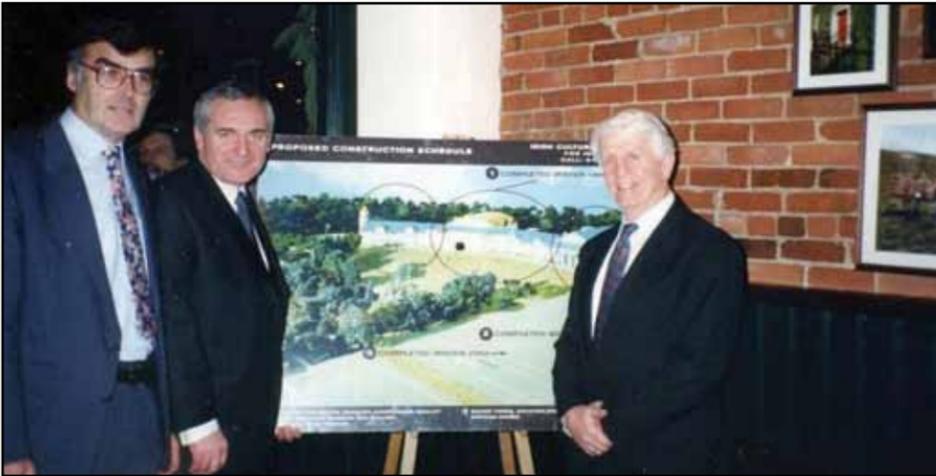
Tickets are \$150 per person or \$275 per couple. Sponsorships and advertisements in the program booklet are still available. Please email info@irishculture.org.





1989 was a great year for the Irish in Boston, that was the year the Irish Cultural Centre was born. After many lengthy discussions and meetings, money to build an actual Centre became the big question. To raise funds, Eddie Barron came up with the idea of the Festival. The first Festival was held in 1990 at Stonehill College in Easton and was a great success. Then the search began for a location for the Centre. There were many places visited, many meetings held and lots of great ideas shared. Then six years later in January, 1996 the Irish Cultural Centre purchased 46 acres of land in Canton, which is the place we call home today. Many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, men and women, families, young and old who helped make this dream a reality.

- Sean Lyons



The 46 acres of land were purchased in 1995 with funds raised by interested members, generous donors and successful fundraising, including the very popular festivals held at Stonehill College. In 1996, the road to the Centre was laid and in the Spring of 1997, the land was cleared and developed according to the master plan for the building, playing fields, and two parking lots for up to 450 cars. Later that year, an additional three acres were purchased for future expansion. In August 1997, the construction began in earnest and the Irish of Boston came together like never before to embark on a massive volunteer effort and labor of love. The Activity Building, its garden walls and patios, and the surrounding trails were constructed virtually by volunteers and with crews donated by Irish contractors. Some materials were donated and the balance was purchased at cost from local suppliers. A beautiful 230-foot bridge, erected by all-volunteer labor, connects the parking lot to the main grounds of the Centre. It serves as the primary entry to the Centre's building and campus. In December 1998, the first unofficial function at the Irish Cultural Centre was a banquet for our victorious GAA Minor Footballers who won the North American GAA Minor Football Championship.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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

The Scottish Fiddle Tradition Has a Champion in Hanneke Cassel

Passion, Emotion Mark Her Music – and Her Life

BY SEAN SMITH

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

First, just to dispel any rumors or urban folklore that may be percolating: No, Hanneke Cassel has never played with U2, in concert or anywhere else.

"I wish!" laughs Cassel, a native Oregonian who has been living in Boston for the past several years – that is, when she's not bringing her special brand of Scottish fiddle music to almost all corners of the earth.

But Cassel has included U2 in her repertoire, notably an instrumental version of their song "Mothers of the Disappeared" on her 2004 album "Some Melodious Sonnet" (she reprised the arrangement – this time with all lyrics – for her appearance with the fiddle ensemble Childsplay; you can hear it on their recent album, "Waiting for the Dawn"), and makes no secret of her admiration for the Irish rock band.

"I love Bono," says Cassel, who regards him as "one of the best performers," along with Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser, a major influence on Cassel. "He has a lot of charisma, and he brings sincerity to what he does. I like performers who believe in what they're doing.

"I just like the fact that the band's been together all this time, they've grown to be technically proficient, but they don't forget about the soul of music."

Neither does Cassel. The passion and emotion she brings to her playing, along with her uniquely American interpretation of Scottish fiddle tradition, have helped make her one of the most popular Celtic music performers in the US today – and her recently released CD, "For Reasons Unseen," will undoubtedly give her reputation a further boost.

"Hanneke Cassel is brilliantly talented young performer who deftly walks the line between trad and avant garde," says Earl Britt, who maintains the New Celtic Revival blog and podcast. "She's intelligent, gifted, and worthy of mention in a class with the likes of Liz Carroll or Eileen Ivers."

For all her accomplishments as a performer, Cassel has cultivated another important identity: as a teacher and mentor to young fiddlers in New England and elsewhere. And in recent years, Cassel has found another dimension for her music, and for her faith, in visits with disadvantaged children in China and,



Cassel's travels to China have given her a new perspective on "the commonality" of folk music: "No matter what part of the world, folk music all seems to come from the same place, a place of sadness and humor, and people express it in ways that are far more similar than we might think."

last month, in Kenya.

So it's a little surprising to find that, initially, Cassel wasn't sure she liked Celtic music -- and once she did, thought that Irish, not Scottish, music would be her stock in trade.

"When I was 17, I went to the Valley of the Moon fiddle camp in California," recalls Cassel. "I saw Athena Tergis there, and I just got totally into Irish music; I was in awe of her. She taught me my first Irish tunes.

Then I met Liz Carroll at Mark O'Connor's music camp, and she made a big impression on me, as you can imagine. So, Irish music was really the biggest part of my life at that time.

(Continued on page 17)

MARY CALLANAN ON STAGE From Pink Flamingos To Red Hot Mama

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The actress and singer Mary Callanan is currently appearing in the campy and colorful off-Broadway hit, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" at SpeakEasy Stage. When the curtain comes down at the end of the month, she'll move on to star in the one-woman show "Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas" at New Rep. As one of Boston's most popular talents, her stage credits range from local productions of "Nunsense" and "Menopause: The Musical" to international tours of "Damn Yankees," "BIG" and "The Sound of Music" (starring Marie Osmond). Also known as an exceptional cabaret artist with a powerful show tune belt, she has performed everywhere from Boston's Club Cafe to New York's famed Russian Tea Room. She also devotes a great deal of her time to singing at benefits. In discussing her family history, a question came up as to how Callanan acquired an N in the middle, versus an H or a GH. It may have happened as her ancestors passed through Ellis Island. But one thing is certain. Her father and his six siblings spent their lives constantly having to spell their name for people, such that "Harrigan" became their personal

family theme song, swapping out Harrigan for Callanan, of course. When her father died, the family even sang it at the church during his funeral. Anyone who has seen Mary onstage knows that she has a sharp sense of humor and an easy laugh. When we spoke, she was gearing up for the opening of "Trailer Park," had just finished a pre-production photo shoot for "Sophie Tucker," and was busy learning three songs for a benefit concert. Here's an edited version of our conversation.

BIR: With all that you've got going on at the moment, you probably rank as the hardest working woman in show business -- in Boston anyway.

MC: Well, thanks. That's what my husband calls me.

BIR: So you're in the middle of "Trailer Park" and then "Sophie Tucker" is next. These two very different shows are coming really close together for you. It has to be challenging.

MC: It's the most I've chewed off in a long time. I'm so excited . . . the shows are sublime to ridiculous. It certainly keeps me on my toes.

BIR: The show at SpeakEasy is set in the Armadillo Acres trailer park in Starke, Florida, where the rednecks pass their time in lawn chairs surrounded by tacky pink flamingos. Would



Mary Callanan as "Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas," opening June 24 at New Repertory Theatre.
Photo: Rob Lorino & Christopher McKenzie

we call this is a comical look at white trash?

MC: (Laughing) We'll call it 'trailer trash' -- a little more politically correct in this politically incorrect show.

BIR: Who do you play?

MC: (Adopting a dripping Southern accent) Well, my name is Linoleum, and my theatrical arc, if you will, is my husband has been in the Florida state prison system for eight years, on death row. But they have a funky (electric) chair, and it doesn't really work, so if I can get everyone in (town) to keep their lights on, then they can't fry my husband.

BIR: So from rednecks to red hot mamas, how did "Sophie Tucker" come about for you?

MC: Kate Warner (New Rep's Artistic Director) called, and I was stunned. I had pitched her something a week before, about a different project. And she called and said, 'How would you like to play Sophie Tucker this summer?' And I thought, 'Oh in a play about, blah blah blah,' and I said, 'Well sure.' And she said, 'Well, it's just you.' And I said 'What?' I have certainly done enough cabaret shows in my time, but I've never done a theatrical venture where it's just me. I'm very excited. Ex-

(Continued on page 15)



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

— Sean Smith

Traditional women

Traditional music has never been an exclusively male domain in Irish, Scottish, or English music. This month's BCMFest Celtic Music Monday concert, on May 10 at 8 p.m. in Harvard Square's Club Passim, will celebrate the presence of women in traditional music — as singers, musicians, arrangers, and tune composers, as well as characters portrayed in songs and ballads handed down through generations.

Three duos will be featured in the "Women In Trad" show:

• **Liz Simmons & Hannah Sanders** — Both New Hampshire native Simmons (who performs with the bands Annalivia and Long Time Courting) and the England-born Sanders were nurtured by full-time musician parents whose interests included traditional folk music; in fact, Simmons and Sanders often traveled, and sometimes performed, with their respective parents on their musical tours. Discovering their shared love for the folk music tradition linking America and the British Isles, Sanders and Simmons last year began performing as a duo — in-

cluding at last November's Celtic Music Monday concert — and have won plaudits for the harmonic blend of voices and guitars they use to accompany their repertoire of songs from America, Ireland and England as well as their own compositions.

• Catherine Joyce & Tess Ruderman

These two are among the emerging generation of acclaimed young musicians in the Boston area who have been heavily influenced by, and enthusiastically embrace, the Irish tradition. Joyce (fiddle, whistle, vocals) and Ruderman (accordion) can often be heard at local sessions, and have appeared as a duo and individually at various BCMFest events, including in the festival's finale concerts of 2008 and 2009.

• Katie McNally & Bethany Waickman

McNally, the 2009 New England Scottish Fiddle Champion and two-time runner-up Junior National Scottish Fiddle Champion, has become a regular performer in the Boston/New England area, and last year made her debut with the fiddle supergroup Childsplay. An accomplished and highly sought-after guitarist, Waickman has played with fiddler-vocalist Lissa Scheckenburger and as part of the contra dance trio Anadama.

"The idea was to get three female duos — in this instance one focused on traditional English and American material, another on traditional Irish, and the third on traditional Scottish — to



Liz Simmons, left, and Hannah Sanders will be one of three duos performing at the May 12 BCMFest Celtic Music Monday concert "Women In Trad."

highlight the role women play in traditional music and its different styles," says Simmons, who co-organized the event. "We really liked the idea of these young women being able to showcase their talents along with us, and not only from a musical standpoint. It's a great networking tool to perform in double and triple bills — you build some great connections that way, and that's certainly something important for women in traditional music."

Raised by folk singing mothers, and as mothers now themselves, Simmons and Sanders have a special perspective on the dynamics of traditional music and women in the 1960s and '70s as opposed to now.

"The women of our mothers' generation were part of the folk revival movement, which had a very specific approach to traditional music: It dovetailed with the other revolutionary movements of the time, so it was one of the facets of the larger 'hippie' culture," says Simmons. "Nowadays, traditional players and singers are often urban artistic types who are more career-oriented about

their music, and their approach, even though it is well-steeped in the tradition, is infused with elements of contemporary culture.

"The reason for this is not that we want to dilute the music in any way, but that the young musicians of our generation, instead of thinking of traditional music as going against the mainstream, see it as something that can be — and should be — as immediate and relevant as any other style of music. And therefore the tradition continues."

Admission for Celtic Music Monday is \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. See clubpassim.org or call 617-492-7679 for reservations or more information.

Open door — The BCMFest Board will hold another open meeting on Wed., May 19. This is a chance to learn about BCMFest, and to offer your suggestions and comments. Send an e-mail to bcmfest@gmail.com for the meeting time and location.

For more information on BCMFest, see bcmfest.com; you can also sign up for the BCMFest e-mail list via the Web site.

From Pink Flamingos To Red Hot Mama

(Continued from page 14)

cited and scared. ... I can't wait.

BIR: What's the vision for the show?

MC: Kate has decided, and I agree of course, that I'm not going to be old -- the Sophie that you can only see in (film) clips. We're not going to do 70-year-old Sophie. And we're not going to do 20-year-old Sophie. We're going to do Sophie closer to where I am (laughing). Where she was really at the height of her vaudeville theatrical stardom, before the movies and whatnot.

BIR: So do you see this show as an opportunity to spark memories, or do you think you'll have to educate contemporary audiences as to who she really was?

MC: I'm hoping it's more an 'ed-u-ma-catable' loving tribute (laughing).

BIR: I remember seeing her on the "Ed Sullivan Show" in the 60s. She really stood alone as a sassy actress, singer, and comedian, didn't she?

MC: She was the step between Mae West and say, Totie Fields. She was a bigger wink than Mae West but she never said anything off color ... The thing I find that's fascinating about her was she really was the first one, not to manipulate the press, but (to understand) the power of keeping your name in the papers. She also did more benefits than anyone in the '20s and '30s and '40s ... She really cared about all those causes, which was great, but she knew that if she was the first in the Milk Fund or first selling War Bonds, that her picture would be in the paper.

BIR: She knew how to promote herself.

MC: Right. She invented self promotion. We're all so lucky now, between the Internet and television and whatever. But she just thought, 'How do I get my name out there,' and she just figured it out. She was tireless. I had the good fortune of going to Brandeis to look through her papers. She kept every greeting card anyone ever sent her. Any card from any flowers, (whether it was) from a fan or Toots Shor, it didn't matter, she kept them all. And they're all in scrapbooks ... every press clipping she ever had. There are like 200 scrapbooks. She knew what she was doing, and she was amazing at it. On top of being incredibly talented.

"The Great American Trailer Park Musical," through May 30, from *SpeakEasy Stage* at the Boston Center for the Arts. Tickets: 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com. "Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas," June 24 - July 11 at New Repertory Theatre, Arsenal Center for the Arts in Watertown. Tickets: 617-923-8487 or newrep.org.



Mary Callanan (center) with Kerry Dowling (left) and Leigh Barrett (right) in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" at *SpeakEasy Stage* through May 30. Photo: Mark L. Saperstein

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The Lindsays, Congress School Fiddlers Play Memorial Hall, Plymouth on May 8

Traditional Irish music in a symphonic setting will fill Plymouth's Memorial Hall when Susan and Stephen Lindsay and fiddlers from the Congress School of Irish Music in Quincy join the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra for its season-ending extravaganza, "Celtic Pops: A Feast of Irish Music," on Sat., May 8 at 8 p.m.

The Lindsays combine vocals, guitar, Irish flute, whistle and saxophone, their music inspired by Irish tradition but flavored by rock, jazz, and contemporary folk. The husband-wife duo regularly performs around the Boston area and two years ago released a CD recorded live in the Church of the

Pilgrimage in Plymouth; they are currently finishing up a new CD.

The Congress School fiddlers, who range from 15-17 years of age, have appeared in concert halls in Dublin as well as greater Boston.

Among the pieces to be performed at the May 8 concert are Leroy Anderson's "Irish Suite," Percy Grainger's "Irish Tune from County Derry (Danny Boy)," music from "Finian's Rainbow," selections from Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance," and a selection of traditional Irish fiddle tunes as well as singalongs.

Individual ticket prices are \$50, \$45, \$35 and \$20. Limited cabaret-style

table seating is available for \$65 and \$55. Senior, youth and group discounts are offered, and \$5 student "rush" tickets are sold at the door one hour before the performance as available. Advance tickets can be purchased by phone at 508-746-8008 or online at plymouthphil.org.

Elsewhere on the concert front, Long Time Courting will debut its new lineup when the popular local all-female traditional music quartet performs next month in Somerville as part of the notLoB Folk Concerts series.

The concert, which will be held June 4 at Unity Church of God near Davis Square, will feature Sarah

Blair on fiddle, replacing Ellery Klein, who is moving overseas. Blair, a mainstay of the Providence and Boston session scenes before relocating to Vermont, is best known for her work on the contra dance circuit, especially with her band The Sevens. She has a solo CD, "Flower of the Red Mill," and has recorded two others with The Sevens; she also appears on a two-volume set of New England contra dance musicians that includes Mary Cay Brass, Frank Ferrel, Bob McQuillen, Keith Murphy & Becky Tracy, Mary Lea and Susan Conger and Peter Barnes, among others.

Formed in 2008, Long Time Courting [longtime-

courting.com] has won praise for its sterling musicianship and singing, as well as its arrangements of mainly traditional tunes and songs from Ireland and Scotland. The band also includes Shannon Heaton on flute, whistle, accordion and vocals, who plays in a duo with husband Matt; guitarist-vocalist Liz Simmons, a member of the "alt-trad" band Annalivia, and of a recently formed duo that will appear at the May 10 BCMFest Celtic Music Monday event in Club Passim [see this month's "BCMFest update" feature]; and cellist-vocalist Ariel Friedman, who performs in a duo with her sister Mia and with Scottish fiddler



Long Time Courting will introduce their new fiddler, Sarah Blair, at their June 4 concert in Somerville.

Hanneke Cassel.

The suggested minimum donation for the Long Time Courting concert, which begins at 8 p.m., is \$15 at the door (\$12 in advance) and \$5-10 for students, children and seniors. For more information, see sites.google.com/site/notlobmusic.

— SEAN SMITH

BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Teada, "Ceol & Cuimhne (Music and Memory)" – No mincing words here: This is an absolute joy of an album, full of energetic, robust musicianship that follows, but does not strictly adhere to, a largely traditional approach.

The Sligo-based band's fourth album is conceptual, in a sense, at least as regards the title: As the liner notes by Irish Times writer Frank McNally explain, observers as diverse as the poet Shelley and contemporary neuroscientists have spoken of the persistence of music in one's memory, no matter the loss of other faculties. So Teada's point might be that, despite Ireland's upheavals of the past decade or so, from Celtic Tiger to financial crisis, its music tradition survives, and thrives. Or this might be an album reviewer's attempt at mind-reading.

In any case, with "Ceol & Cuimhne," Teada appears to have established itself as an instrumental-only band, since their last album "InnÉ Amárach" had no vocal tracks, either. But there's plenty of lyricism here, in the



fiddle of Oisín Mac Diarmada and the flute of Damien Stenson, along with the agile accordion of Paul Finn; add some deft, subtle guitar and bouzouki by Sean McElwain and solid bodhrán by Tristan Rosenstock, and you have a clean, well-balanced sound

that allows one to savor practically every note of every jig, reel, polka, or march to which they lay their collective hands.

Teada's arrangements and choice of material also strike a pleasing balance between traditional and

contemporary. One set, for instance, starts with all five musicians playing together on the bold, graceful "Póitín March," before Mac Diarmada, Stenson and McElwain take up the polka "Devlin's" – McElwain's exquisite guitar helping give the tune a gentler feel than one might expect for a polka – before Finn ushers in the first of two reels, "Basket of Oysters," and then Mac Diarmada makes a surprise appearance on piano for "Crotty's Glory." McElwain's lovely bouzouki arpeggio opens the curtain on a set of reels that showcases Stenson and Rosenstock ("The Russians Are Coming," which comes from a manuscript of Sliabh Luachra fiddler John Buckley and presumably did not inspire the 1966 movie), ending with "The Boston-Sligo Reel" by Brendan Tonra – a favorite of both titular locales.

The band also brings in a few guests: Piper Tommy Martin and sean-nos dancer Brian Cunningham enliven a polka-slip jig-jig medley (including Ed Reavy's "Crossroads Dance"), and Grainne Hambly's harp is given plenty of room on "A Sligo Air/Sally Gally" – with Finn and Mac Diarmada providing some particularly musical cross-hatching on the air.

Certainly a memorable album, which would appear to be what Teada had in mind.

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Scottish Fiddle Tradition Has a Champion in Hanneke Cassel

(Continued from page 14)

"And, hey, I still love Irish music," says Cassel, who has performed with Cherish the Ladies and the Cathie Ryan Band.

But all those visits to Valley of the Moon and other fiddle camps, and her tutelage under Fraser, among others, wound up pointing Cassel more and more in the direction of Scottish music: In 1997, she won the US National Scottish Fiddle Championship (she won the junior championship in 1992 and 1994). Yet while she continued to explore the Scottish tradition, Cassel began to write her own compositions and developed a different sound. The Scottish style — which she defines as having an "up-and-down, vertical quality" with percussive, flamboyant grace notes — is apparent in her playing, but there are characteristics that hint at something else, whether it's an alteration in bowing rhythm, for instance, or an improvisational run in the midst of a medley.

"I call it the 'American style' of Scottish music," says Cassel. "It's not Appalachian, it's not Texan, but it's definitely American."

"For Reasons Unseen" is her first release since 2006 in this Scottish-American hybrid genre (she did a seven-track CD in 2007, "Calm the Raging Sea," featuring instru-

mental and vocal interpretations of hymns), and like most Cassel albums, it is a kind of musical travelogue for the past few years — many of the tunes commemorate a journey or adventure, an event in the life of a friend or family member, or simply an in-joke or turn of phrase that caught the ear of Cassel and appealed to her considerable sense of whimsy and fun.

Cassel's albums also tend to involve numerous guest musicians, whether it's her regular support band members Keith Murphy (guitar), Christopher Lewis (guitar) and Ariel Friedman (cello), or more far-flung friends she has accumulated over the years, including Fraser, Natalie Haas (cello), Brittany Haas (fiddle, violin), Rushad Eggleston (cello), Casey Driessen (five-string fiddle), and Ryan McKasson (viola), as well as Lissa Schneckenburger (fiddle) and Laura Cortese (vocals), who along with Cassel are part of the all-too-occasional fiddle band Halali.

The opening track, "Ides of March," written for her mother, showcases the refined yet expressive aspect of Cassel's work, her soulful fiddle riding atop Natalie Haas' gentle cello and Cassel's persistent but tender piano, Schneckenburger adding an equally plaintive second voice later on in the track. "Scandalous" — with a

veritable string section supplied by Friedman, Eggleston, Kimber Ludiker and Kellen Zakula — and "The Crane Estate" are similarly stately and elegant yet impassioned.

As anyone who's seen Cassel perform live or — better yet — call a ceilidh dance knows, she has equal affinity for the more rugged, hard-charging facet of Scottish music, and demonstrates this aptly on a medley of traditional strathspeys and reels; Driessen and Eggleston join her for this, sounding at times like a delightfully deranged string quartet ("Oh yes, we had a lot of fun with that one," she says).

But two tracks, "Jungle Java" — featuring a sort of Celtic scat vocal part for Cortese and Hannah Read — and "For Reasons Unseen/Rong Hua (Velvet Flower)," reflect one of Cassel's more compelling experiences of the past several years, her visits, and deepening connection, to China. In addition to giving concerts, meeting Chinese musicians and even running occasional ceilidhs ("I've actually taught 'The Virginia Reel' in Chinese. It's getting to be like 'The Shanghai Urban Ceilidh.'"), she has visited orphanages and spent time with the children there: "Jungle Java," she explains, is the name of a café that doubles as a home for street children.

"It was incredible to listen to the stories there: One of the girls had been kidnapped from her family at age 5, and had entered the home at age 13. I decided right then and there that I had to make this CD, and that I would write something about this place."

If "Jungle Java" represents the inspiration for the album, she adds, the "For Reasons Unseen" track is meant as its mission statement. "I've always liked that title — it was actually the name of a band some friends of mine were in many years ago — and when I had the experience in Jungle Java, it seemed to take on a whole new meaning: about not knowing why something happens, but that it turns into something wonderful."

In that context, the Chinese song "Rong Hua (Velvet Flower)" — a lament about a girl in wartime and the hardships she undergoes — which is paired with "For Reasons Unseen" functions as a coda of sorts. "This song just made me think about the commonality in folk music. No matter what part of the world, folk music all seems to come from the same place, a place of sadness and humor, and people express it in ways that are far more similar than we might think."

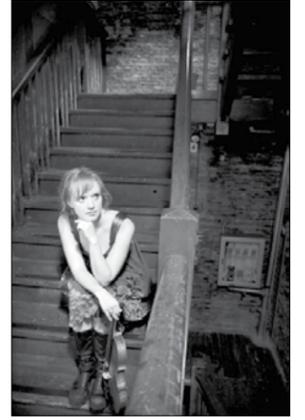
For Cassel, her travels

to China have helped to reaffirm her religious faith, which she has neither particularly downplayed nor promoted in her musical career. "I've never made a conscious effort to broadcast it, it's been there all along. There was a concern I had, I suppose, about not wanting to be grouped in with 'Christian music' at first. But I do think that, as you get older, you become more confident about who you are. I like Scottish music and I'm a Christian, but people know who I am, so there's no labels to worry about."

"The things I've seen in China, and elsewhere, make it so apparent to me where God is, and I have a lot of joy because of that."

Another source of introspection for Cassel is seeing some of her first Boston-area fiddle students come of age as musicians with their own identities, such as Katie McNally — who had her first headline show at Club Passim recently, which Cassel attended — Amanda Cavanaugh (who released her first CD last year and was in Childsplay along with McNally last fall), and Abbie MacQuarrie, who is completing her undergraduate degree in Scotland.

"When I moved here to attend Berklee, I started teaching some local kids, and over the course of time



Hanneke Cassel's new CD, "For Reasons Unseen," offers another fine sampling of her unique Scottish-American music.

there were several girls I saw regularly, and we just developed a very close bond," she says. "I was fortunate enough to have a wonderful fiddle teacher in Carol Ann Wheeler in my early teens. I think because I remembered how hard life can be at age 13, and how nice it was to have an older woman to look up to, I wanted to do something similar for these girls."

"I'm very proud of them: They work very hard at the music, and I know they'll do very well."

Cassel will be performing with Highland Dance Boston on May 23 at the Boston University Dance Theater. The concert will feature choreographed dances set to music from "For Reasons Unseen" and some of Cassel's previous recordings. For ticket information and other details, see highlanddance-boston.org/hdbconcert.html.

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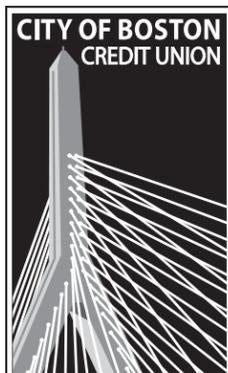
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Traveling People

Eruption Equals Disruption for Those Coming, Those Going

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

What a crazy month for travelers! If you had told someone prior to April that you couldn't visit due to a volcanic ash cloud, they'd think you were joking.

And that's exactly what I thought when a longtime friend called from England to cancel her April 15 trip to Mayo. Of course, as our readers know, she was not joking and the eruption of the Icelandic volcano and resulting shutdown of airports all over Ireland, the British Isles, and Europe has been anything but a joke.

Thousands of flights were cancelled and airlines say they've lost more than a billion euro. And, there were other losses, too, such as the fragile blooms flown from Kenya whose longevity depends on the speed of airfreight. Kenya's flower exporters, I was interested to learn, supply about a third of the flower imports into the European Union.

In the tourist industry, Fáilte Ireland (the Irish arm of our Tourism Ireland) cancelled Meitheal, the biggest tourism trade fair of the year, which had been set to start April 20. Some 300 Irish tourist firms had planned to pitch their product to more than 250 overseas operators from 23 countries who couldn't get to Ireland. Meitheal has been rescheduled for May.

For Irish rental car companies – like Dooley Car Rentals – it has been a nightmare, says Pat Dooley, CEO. “We are refunding in full clients who cannot make it here and amending those that can get new travel dates, all without fees. It is a nightmare with extra staff dealing with the administration. Those visiting here from the USA are having to extend their stay. So we have many trying to get into the country and as many trying to get out.”

And, The Irish Times reported that Eamonn McKeon, chief executive of the Irish Tourist Industry Confederation, said, “It's really, really unfathomable, but nature is nature. There's not a thing you can do about it,



Irish Transport Minister, Noel Dempsey, T.D., right front, leads a pack of bicyclists who inaugurated the Great Western Greenway from Newport to Mulranny, Co. Mayo, on April 16. The Greenway is a great boon to outdoor enthusiasts who are severely challenged by walking or riding bikes on Ireland's busy roads and it is expected to benefit the area economically. The completion of the Greenway and cooperation from all the landowners along the route shows, Dempsey said, “that the community is alive and well in the West of Ireland” and sets a precedent for other projects of this sort across the country. (Judy Enright photo)

to be honest, other than feeling desperately sorry for everyone. We've really had blow after blow in the tourism industry and this is making things go from bad to worse.”

Between April 15 and April 18, nearly 2,000 flights in and out of Dublin, Cork, and Shannon were cancelled, upsetting travel plans of some 230,000 passengers. That number increased with each passing day.

The Times reported that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) had given a “conservative” estimate that the volcanic eruption cost the airline industry more than \$200 million (150 million euro) per day in lost revenues.

Some were pretty inventive about getting where they needed to go, though, like actor John Cleese, who paid \$4,950 for a taxi to take him from Norway to Belgium so he could catch the Eurostar train home to London. And, Michael Parsons, who wrote in The Irish Times that he was one of 53 marooned in Rome who each paid 150 euro for a seat on a bus to Le Havre in France, where

they planned to catch a ferry to Portsmouth and ultimately to Dublin Port.

But the weather eventually changed, the skies reopened and air travel returned to normal. Now it just remains for all the Monday morning quarterbacks to debate the many aspects and wisdom of shutting down the skies. Frankly, I'd rather be safe than sorry and applaud the civil aviation authorities, volcanic information center and airlines for taking that cautious approach.

GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY

But, don't fret. Not all of Ireland is in dire straits and, in fact, there were a great many happy folks in the West who attended the April 16 official opening of the 18km traffic-free Great Western Greenway that runs from Newport to Mulranny in Co. Mayo.

Transport Minister Noel Dempsey, T.D., officiated and was surely delighted to don a helmet, hop on a bike, and enjoy a sunny, brilliant Mayo day rather than dealing with the airline crisis.

Crowds gathered at Nevin's Newfield Inn, then many joined the minister and rode the greenway from John and Hannah Moran's farm into Mulranny where the official ceremony took place behind the Park Hotel.

The Greenway primarily follows the bed of the old Newport/Mulranny Railway, once part of the famed Westport/Achill Railway that operated for 42 years but closed in 1937. The route offers gentle gradients, is part of the National Cycle Network, and is the longest off-road cycling path in the country.

We've written before that being on Ireland's roads is incredibly daunting and not just because we are accustomed to driving on the other side of the road. Many Irish drivers – especially the young – cling to your bumper (especially if you're not going 100 km), pass

on curves, and drive at speeds that are simply mind-boggling given the width and condition of the roads. So being able to enjoy the scenery on a walking/cycling path is a dream come true for the local residents and their guests and for tourists to the area.

Dempsey thanked more than 70 landowners who granted passage over their land for the Greenway and added that the project shows that community spirit is alive and well in the West of Ireland. He said he expected the Greenway to bring economic benefit to the area as well and serve as a model for future walking/cycling paths.

FOODIES WELCOME
If you've visited Ireland lately, you know that the food is amazing, locally sourced and fresh, and that chefs here are incredibly inventive.

Kinsale in Co. Cork is the acknowledged Gourmet Capital of Ireland but may be getting some competition from 38 food producers and restaurants on The Taste of Kilkenny Food Trail. A detailed guide and map are available and visitors are invited to sample everything from chocolates to cheese and sausage and to visit local restaurants.

BURREN IN BLOOM
If you're in Co. Clare in May, be sure to visit a tourist office and find out about all the programs offered under the banner of the Burren in Bloom. Winter was harsh this year and the flowers are about a month late, so May should be absolutely bursting with blooms.

This program enters around the town of Ballyvaughan, the “capital of the Burren,” and celebrates the arrival of summer. There are all kinds of activities planned for all ages, including festivals, a whale watch and there's even a Burren marathon on May 22 when hundreds of walkers take to the hills. For more information, see ballyvaughanireland.com.



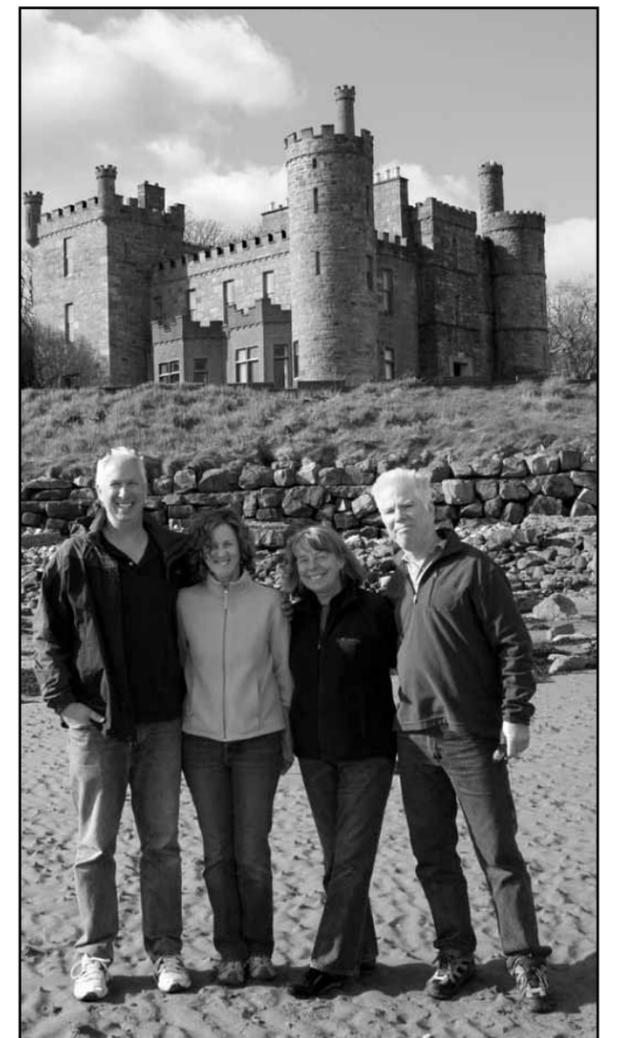
Undoubtedly the youngest “rider” to join the official opening of the Great Western Greenway in Co. Mayo on April 16 was Matthew McHale who hitched a ride in this buggy pulled along behind his Dad's bicycle. The day began with a breakfast spread at Nevin's Tiernaur Inn in Newfield, Mulranny, followed by remarks from local and national officials. Cyclists then rode the route to Mulranny where a plaque was unveiled at the end of the route behind the Mulranny Park Hotel. (Judy Enright photo)

ireland.com.

TRAVEL PLANS

Now that flights are in the air again, be sure to visit aerlingus.com or

the other transatlantic airlines and book your trip to the Emerald Isle. It's a great place to be at any time of year.



The biggest news in Ireland last month was the volcanic ash cloud that grounded hundreds of flights and stranded thousands of people including this foursome from Marshfield, MA, who were unable to return home when their flight was cancelled. Because it's a small world, a Norwell resident who rents a house on Clew Bay in Co. Mayo in the spring, rescued them and gave them shelter. Clew Bay is where the famous Pirate Queen, Grace O'Malley, once terrorized the coastline. From left, Chris and Kathy Holmquest and Mary and Jim Curran, standing in front of Rosturk Castle. (Judy Enright photo)

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: A monument is to be erected in the garden of remembrance in Carrickfergus in memory of a soldier from the town who was killed twenty years ago in a proxy bomb attack in Newry. Ranger Cyril Smith was a member of the Royal Irish Rangers and the monument will carry the badge of the regiment as well as the Carrickfergus coat of arms. The inscription on the two-foot tall gravestone will include Ranger Smith's name, a biblical verse and the motto of the Rangers, "faugh-a-balagh". The monument is to be dedicated next month when up to six hundred members of the Rangers will attend a parade from the Harbour car park to the memorial gardens.

Armagh: Armagh city has seen the installation of the first of six commissioned pieces of public artwork, at Scotch Street. The thirty-foot high stainless steel structure by Martin Heron, entitled "For the Love of Emer," depicts Cuchulainn balancing on a tilting twenty-foot pole. Other sculptures are to be placed at Upper English Street and the Market Place Theatre, while ceramic wall art, railings, and a miniature sculpture trail comprise the other projects. The next project to be completed is the miniature sculpture trail, while the final piece will be put in place in December.

Carlow: The members of the Tullow Active Retirement Association who recently took part in the Active Retirement Association National Bowls Competition held in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, came home with two very creditable silver medals. The first team comprised Jimmy Byrne, Eileen Kealy, Tom Kealy and Nellie Maher, while Jim Bolger, Brenda Callaghan, Molly Mulhall and Pat O'Callaghan were the members of the second team. The teams lost out in the finals to the teams from Dublin and Gorey, respectively, but were nonetheless very pleased with their silver medals. The trophies were presented to the winners at a gala ball in the Breaffy House Hotel on the final evening of the event.

Cavan: A campaign has begun to erect a memorial to the victims of the 1943 fire in St Clare's Convent in Cavan town that claimed the lives of thirty-five children and one adult. The authors of a book on the subject, Heather Laskey and Mavis Arnold, have lent their support to the project, initiated by Eamon Carthy and Sean Galignan. A preliminary meeting has already been held in the Farnham Arms and a further meeting will take place soon at which a committee will be elected. Support has also been promised from Father John Gilhooley, while Sister Margaret of the Poor Clare Order has said they will be making a donation towards the memorial plaque.

Clare: In order to launch the 2010 An Post Tour de Burren a number of cyclists from the Burren Cycling Club, including Olaf O'Neill and Noel Shannon, rode off the pier in Ballyvaughan and plunged into the less than temperate waters of the Atlantic. The organizers of this year's event, The Burren Cycling Club and Clare Sports Partnership, are hoping to double the number who took part last year, when eight hundred people mounted their bikes. Three routes will be on offer, a ten-kilometre run entitled the Aillwee Cave Family Loop, the Corkscrew Challenge of sixty kilometres, and the Burnin' Burren route, which encompasses one hundred and sixty kilometres.

Cork: Jack Sheehan, aged eleven, is the seventh genera-

tion of a Cork family that first opened a butcher's shop in Mallow in 1870. The Sheehan family have now opened a new store in Douglas, the first one to be opened on the south side of Cork city. Eugene Sheehan reopened the shop in Mallow in the 1960s and now his sons Eugene, Colm, David, and Edward have opened three further stores, in Mallow, Kanturk and St Luke's. Young Jack donned a butcher's apron to take part in the official opening of the new store in Douglas. After the nineteenth century opening of the butcher's shop in Mallow the Sheehan family also diversified into cattle dealing.

Derry: A restaurant and a pub in Magherafelt have both been named as regional winners for the Irish Restaurant Awards 2010. Sean Owens, who owns The Gardners in the town, was named as the Best Chef in the County at the awards ceremony in Belfast. Meanwhile the title of Best Gastro Pub in the County was awarded to local pub Mary's. The two establishments were nominated by newspaper readers, members of the Restaurant Association of Ireland, and by regional judging panels. Both Sean and Mary's will now go forward to vie for the All-Ireland title to be announced in June at the Burlington Hotel in Dublin.

Donegal: A cannon rescued from the wreck of the Laurentic in Lough Swilly is now on display at Downings Pier. The seven-ton cannon was recovered by a team of local divers led by Kevin McShane after three years of preparatory dives. The Laurentic, carrying more than three thousand gold bars, was sunk off Malin Head in 1917 by German mines and over the next seven years most of the gold ingots were recovered. However twenty still remain covered up by rubble and according to Ray Cossum, whose family owns the wreck, it would cost as much to recover them as they are now worth. Some of the funding for the retrieval of the cannon was donated by the county council.

Down: For only the fourth time in its history the Celtic Media Festival will this year take place in the North. Now in its thirty-first year and last held in the North seven years ago, the three-day festival will centre on The Canal Court Hotel in Newry with the keynote address being delivered by Bob Collins, inaugural Chair of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. During the festival Bronze Torcs of Excellence will be presented in twenty-one categories to celebrate the best in digital media, film, radio, and television among the Celtic diaspora. The awards will be presented by Karen Kirby from the BBC and Dónal Mac Ruairí from RTE.

Dublin: When the original Asgard was used to bring rifles and ammunition to Dublin in 1914, the British Army occupied Collins Barracks, and the vessel's history has now come full circle with the announcement that the restored vessel is to be on display in the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks. Three years' work, at a total cost of 600,000 euro, has seen the yacht restored to its original condition, certainly externally where ninety per cent of the oak and pine have been retained on its deck and hull. The interior of the vessel, given to Erskine and Molly Childers as a wedding present by her parents, was removed when the Asgard became part of the Irish Navy, but this has been finished with new timber.

Fermanagh: After months of reconstruction work by the



National Trust, a new lake walk has been created at Castle Coole Demesne outside Enniskillen. The walk follows part of the original lake walk, created in the late eighteenth century, which has been out of use for a hundred years. In addition to providing changing vistas around the lake, the walk will also provide visitors with the opportunity to observe the abundant wildlife on the lake including mallard and tufted duck, heron, water hen, coot and kingfisher. The 30,000-pound lake project is part of a 170,000-pound investment in the Castle.

Galway: While there has been general agreement among Galway councillors that Enda O'Coinneen, John Killeen, and Eamon Conneely should be granted the Freedom of the City for their part in bringing the Volvo Ocean Race to Galway, opinion is divided over the timing of the event. While Mayor Declan McDonnell would like to confer the honor at the annual Mayoral Ball this month, others feel this would politicize the gesture. Some of the councillors would like to see a separate ceremony held at St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, while others believe the conferring should take place when the Volvo Ocean Race returns to Galway in two years' time.

Kerry: In the middle of Mass during the run-up to Easter week in St Mary's Cathedral in Killarney a bolt of lightning hit the spire and caused a blackout. The lightning was preceded by a tremendous clap of thunder and in addition to the lights going out, the sound system also failed. However power was restored quite quickly when the generator kicked in. Some parts of the cathedral were permanently affected by the lightning including the telephone system, the electric organ, and the in-church plasma screens, which are all under repair at present.

Kildare: Louise Hickey and Trevor Callan have been named as the winners of the wedding giveaway run by the Kildare Nationalist and Carlton Abbey Hotel and C Spa. The young couple, who met at a Leaving Certificate disco in the town, will be holding their reception in the hotel with one hundred and twenty guests. They will also have a one-year membership of the hotel's leisure club, wedding

photography, a wedding cake, wedding outfits for the entire bridal party, rings, flowers and a wedding car. Louise, who works for Top Oil in Kildare town, and Trevor, a self-employed painter and decorator, hope to be married before the end of this year.

Kilkenny: A historic march took place through the gates of Kilkenny Castle last month when army veterans from both sides of the border joined forces in a parade hosted by the Kilkenny branch of The Veterans of the Island of Ireland Association. Among those taking part were vice-chairman of the local branch Paddy Horohan, and Harry Lawlor from St Kieran's Crescent. Other local veterans taking part included Paddy O'Meara, Martin Barrett, Mick Dawson, Mick Furlong, and Bernard O'Donovan. The aim of the march, which was accompanied by the Kilkenny City and District Pipe Band, was to foster principles of comradeship among veterans throughout the island of Ireland.

Laois: Eoghan Masterson from Ratheniska has become the first member of Portlaoise rugby club to play with Ireland's international youths team after going on during the recent FIRA championships in Italy on the Irish under-eighteen side. The fifteen-year-old, who attends Portlaoise CBS, is optimistic that he will now gain a place on the Leinster squad. While attaining the heights in international rugby, Eoghan has missed out on quite a few games with his club, and has also had to put off any hopes of gaining a place on the Laois minor football panel for the next couple of years.

Leitrim: A group of young people have been working with the county council Arts Office in the selection of a new public art work which was launched last month. eNfore Art involved artist Niall Walsh and a group of nine people from Bornacoola and Annaduff who worked alongside him as artists' technicians. The group, all former students of Marian College, included Sinead Rogers, Susan Mulligan, Clodagh Geelan, Sheena Faughnan, Victoria Duignan, Emma Cunningham, Sarah Cumiskey, Lorraine Cox, and Brendan Corcoran. The sculptural work, the culmination of the collaboration, is entitled "Togher" and is located at the

riverside in Rooskey.

Limerick: If an application lodged with the City Council last month is successful, Limerick might in the future have a new fast link with both Galway and the Aran Islands. Harbour Air Ireland hopes to provide facilities for the berthing of a sea plane on the Shannon in front of the Clarion Hotel, with floating pontoons, mooring anchors, and an access gangway. The departure lounge for the service would be located in the foyer of the hotel, with passengers travelling to Foynes, Galway, or the Aran Islands. The company would eventually like to see terminals established in Athlone, Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Galway, and Nenagh, with the main base at Mountshannon in Co. Clare.

Longford: In what could be seen as a return to the old ways of policing, a community garda has been appointed to Granard to foster ties with local residents. Garda Tracy Shanley, originally from Killeshandra, has been given the task of working with the community in order to get to know them, and for people to become familiar with her duties. Much of these concern crime prevention and she has already given talks to groups of elderly people about security in the home and the dangers of keeping large amounts of cash on the premises. On the other side of the coin, Garda Shanley is well used to handing out anti-social behavior orders from her days on the beat in Dublin and has already handed out some in Granard.

Louth: Dundalk last played host to the RAS cycle race more than twenty years ago but this year the town will see stage one of the race ending in the town centre on May 23. Up to one hundred and fifty cyclists, accompanied by a larger support crew, will certainly give a boost to the town's hotels and restaurants. The fact that the race is coming is the result of a campaign by Pat O'Shaughnessy and members of the Cuchulainn Cycling Club, who submitted a route to the organizers which was accepted. Before the racing finish in the town centre the competitors will have tackled the challenging Long Woman's Grave.

Mayo: In the early hours of April 15, the village of Lahardane in Addergoole was enlivened by the ringing of bells, the reciting of poetry, and the singing of songs of emigration. The event marked the village's association with the RMS Titanic, which sank at 2.20 a.m. on the morning of April 15, 1912. On board were fourteen people from Lahardane, three men and eleven women, and of these only three of the women survived. At the bell tower of St Patrick's Church three slow knells for each of the eleven lost, and fast peals for the three survivors were rung, with some of the bellringers being direct descendants of those who died that day.

Meath: Although cyclists are usually banned from motorways an exception will be made this month for an event to raise funds for the drug awareness charity Aisling Group International. The M3 Cycle was launched by the charity, with three distances to choose from. The fourteen-kilometre route is designated a fun cycle; the fifty-five-kilometre route has been dubbed the Boyne Cycle; and the longest route, of one hundred kilometres, is named after the late cycling champion Paul Healion, who was from Dunboyne. Once the almost completed motorway is opened to traffic, cyclists will be banned,

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Pope accepts resignation of Bishop Moriarty – Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Jim Moriarty on April 22. Before his current appointment, the highly popular prelate was an auxiliary bishop of Dublin and, although not criticised in the Murphy Report, he says that he must accept responsibility for not challenging the prevailing culture when he was “part of the governance of the Archdiocese prior to when correct child protection policies and procedures were implemented”.

Relics of Curé d’Ars on tour in Ireland – Starting April 25, the relics of St John Vianney, known as the Curé d’Ars and the patron saint of parish priests, were on display at St Francis’ Church in Cork. Over the next three days they will move to the Church of St John Vianney in Artane, Dublin; then St Patrick’s Cathedral in Armagh; and finally to Knock Shrine. The relics are in Ireland as one of a number of events to mark a “Year for Priests”.

Minister’s work continues despite treatment – Despite undergoing what he described as “a robust programme of treatment” for his cancer over the past three months, Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan says he has been able to carry out all his duties, including parliamentary debates, media discussions, and Question Time in the Dáil. He was speaking to Seán O’Rourke of RTE radio’s “News at One.” Lenihan also had the stamina to be interviewed at length recently by Marian Finucane.

Kevin Barry’s letter changes hands for 105,000 euro – One of three letters written by Kevin Barry the night before he was executed has been sold to a descendant of one of the recipients. The letter was the main interest in the annual Independ-

Ireland Today: Passport Backlog Reaches 66,000

The number of passport applications to be processed reached 66,000 in mid-April, an increase of 16,000 since the end of March. A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs has said the size of the backlog is due to last month’s industrial action at the Passport Office in Dublin and an increase in the number of applications received. Staff are at present processing 3,000 applications each day while applications have increased to 4,000 per day, 24.8 percent up over the same time in 2009. Much of this increase is caused by applications coming in early to avoid last minute panics. Following the bad publicity brought on by industrial action in late March, the Civil Public and Services Union ended its ban on overtime, as well as the restrictions on answering phone calls and the manning of public desks.

ence Auction run by Mealey’s auctioneers of Kilkenny and Dublin-based Adams. The seller of the letter was also a descendant of one of Kevin Barry’s friends to whom he wrote the letters. The 105,000 euro price achieved was almost six times the guide price of 18,000k. Also sold at the auction was the cap badge worn by Michael Collins on the day he was shot dead. It had a guide price of up to 3,000 euro but went for 28,000k.

Head shops and the “legal highs” remain in the news – Head shops and the “legal highs” that they sell remain in the news. Dr Chris Luke, a consultant in emergency medicine, told delegates at the Irish Medical Organisation annual conference last month that the typical A&E unit every day has to deal with two or three patients suffering from the effects of taking head shop products. He fears the products sold in head shops more than he feared swine flu and predicts that more people will die as a result of the use of these synthetic drugs than the 24 who died from swine flu.

Ennis-based Desmond Houli-

han, a retired solicitor, has succeeded at Ennis Circuit Court in closing the Laughing Buddha, a head shop operating from premises he owns on Chapel Lane. Houlihan was told by the shop’s operator, Conor Doyle, that the shop would be selling items to support a children’s charity in Nepal, and only became aware of the nature of some of the goods on sale from a newspaper article. At Limerick Circuit Court last month, Houlihan secured a temporary injunction to direct Mr Doyle to cease trading.

On Thursday a petrol bomb was thrown into a head shop in Dundalk, causing extensive damage. A person who was on the premises managed to escape uninjured.

Massive gorse fire in Kerry – Nine fire engines, water tankers and a number of other vehicles were needed to contain a massive gorse fire at the foot of Mangerton Mountain in Killarney on April 12. Firefighters were called in from five separate towns to contain the blaze, which at one point came within six feet of a major forest. The fire,

which led to the deaths of significant numbers of young deer and nesting birds, is believed to have been started deliberately and people have been asked to be watchful to prevent further outbreaks.

Permission granted for Cork docks project – An Bord Pleanála has approved plans for a major development at Cork docks which will include the construction of two swing bridges. Cork city manager Joe Gavin has said he is confident that the project will go ahead despite one of the companies involved being Howard Holdings. The company’s chief executive, Greg Coughlan, is expected to be arrested shortly for the non-payment of 28-million euro in property loans.

Snippets – Dublin City Council plans to close three of its swimming pools in August due to a funding crisis. Although the city is currently European Capital of Sport it expects to close the pools in Coolock, Seán McDermott Street and Crumlin. Councillors have tried to distance themselves from the county manager’s decision. ... Adele King, better known as the singer Twink, has reached an agreement with the Bank of Scotland and a repossession order for her home in Knocklyon, Dublin, has now been removed. ... The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs has found that, while alcohol use among Ireland’s young is lower than the European average, and falling, the country has one of the highest rates of drunkenness among school students.

Cardinal discharged from hospital – Cardinal Seán Brady, who was admitted to hospital after being taken ill during a Confirmation ceremony in Co. Tyrone on Tuesday afternoon, April 13, was discharged overnight. Cardinal Brady, 70, re-

turned to Armagh to rest after undergoing a thorough medical examination at Craigavon Area Hospital.

New top Jesuit – Fr Tom Layden, who is based in Belfast, has been named as the head of the Jesuit Order in Ireland. He is due to take up his new position on July 31 and will work in Belfast and Portadown as well as on a project involving an education centre in Ballymun, Dublin.

Sailor fined and discharged over leaked information – At a court martial on April 14, Able Seaman Eoin Gray, 24, was given a three-month jail sentence and was discharged from the Defence Forces after pleading guilty to disclosing information about the movement of his ship, the LE Orla. Gray had obtained information from a friend in the Fisheries Monitoring Centre in order to let his girlfriend know whether he would be home on a particular weekend in December 2008. Military judge Col. Anthony McCourt ruled that Gray could no longer be trusted in the eyes of his superiors and that the offence warranted a custodial sentence. Gray had faced five charges including at least one of aiding drug smugglers to evade naval patrols. When he agreed to plead guilty to one charge the others were dropped.

20-year driving ban for drunk driving – Niall Shannon, 21, of Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, was disqualified from driving for 20 years when he was found guilty of drink driving in an incident in which two men died. Shannon drove into the scene of an earlier road accident, hitting fireman Michael Liston and Garda Brian Kelleher, who both died at the scene. Shannon had originally been charged with dangerous driving causing death but this was withdrawn after two trials at which the juries failed to agree a verdict.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

From Roscommon to Wicklow

(Continued from page 19)

so this is an opportunity for all cyclists to experience motorway conditions.

Monaghan: A twelve-year-old boy representing Corduff Bowling Club has become the youngest ever person to win the All-Ireland National Junior Singles title. Shane Hand first became interested in bowling after listening to his father Michael and his older brothers, Jason and Niall, talking about the game, and he now practices his shots at every opportunity including making use of the corridor in their home. Shane took the title on a scoreline of twenty shots to twelve, competing against players up to three years older than himself, and no doubt his future ambitions now include a place on the national team.

Offaly: Tony Cahill, though originally from Nenagh in Co. Tipperary, moved to Tullamore more than twenty years ago to open up his jewelry shop on Patrick Street and this year he has been elected as President of the Retail Jewellers of Ireland; in 2008 he held the post of vice-president. He has been a member of the organization ever since moving to Tullamore, before which he worked in his parents’ jewelry business in his home town. To prepare himself for a career, he studied horology at the Irish Swiss Institute in Blanchardstown College in Dublin.

Roscommon: A folklorist and the man from whom he collected much of his material are both the subject of honors, with a talk from local historian Willie Gacquin to mark the first anniversary of the late Tom Kelly

from Grange Curraghboy, and the proposal to erect a plaque in Kiltoom in memory of folklorist Jim Delaney from Hodson Bay. The latter, a member of the Irish Folklore Commission, gathered much information from Tom Kelly and the plan to erect a plaque to his memory was made by Tom Harney of the Kiltoom Heritage Group. Meanwhile Willie Gacquin announced that a lecture will be delivered in memory of Tom Kelly by a member of the Folklore Commission.

Sligo: The members of the Markievicz Memorial Committee in Sligo are campaigning to have returned to the county the banner of Na Fianna scouts that was taken from the home of Countess Constance Markievicz while she was in Kilmainham Jail after the Rising. The Imperial War Museum in London, where the banner hangs at present, has offered to loan it for exhibitions in Ireland but the committee members want to see it returned permanently. It was Countess Markievicz who founded Na Fianna scouts in 1909 and it is felt appropriate that the banner should be in Sligo in time for the centenary of the Rising.

Tipperary: The first inland dive centre in the country has opened at one of the old quarries in Portroe, used for a number of years as an unofficial diving centre. The new centre has been set up by diver Barbara O’Driscoll from Nenagh, whose grandfather, Barney O’Driscoll, bought the quarry almost ninety years ago. Facilities include a concrete slipway, access and training platforms, a rescue boat, changing facilities, and a snack bar. Divers will be able

to descend to depths from ten to forty metres with visibility from three to fifteen metres, and Barbara hopes to open up a diving school at the centre at some time in the future.

Tyrone: When church organists Henrietta Byrne and Hilda Irwin formed the Dungannon Choral Society seventy-five years ago, they were in fact reviving a society that had originally been established at the beginning of the First World War. To mark the anniversary the society staged a special concert last month in Dungannon Leisure Centre under conductor Meta Bell MBE. In addition to choir members, children from Dungannon Primary School and St Patrick’s Primary School also took part. Composer and musician Ivan Black wrote a special anniversary song based on Siegfried Sassoon’s poem *Everyone Sang*.

Waterford: Ambrose Congreve CBE, of Mount Congreve in Kilmeaden, whose family have been based in the area since the eighteenth century, has just celebrated his 103d birthday. The last of his line, Ambrose has created world renowned gardens that are home to the largest collection of rhododendrons in Europe. He began his work on the gardens at the age of eleven and his dedication has been rewarded with the Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society, and the medal for the “greatest garden in the world” from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He has also been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Trinity College Dublin.

Westmeath: One of the

country’s oldest festivals was revived on May Day when a fire was lit on the Hill of Uisneach, between the villages of Ballymore and Loughanavally. Other fires were then lit on the summits of some twenty hills in seventeen counties, and the organizers were looking to complete the circle with a fire in each county. The festival was known as Bealtaine and this year’s event featured music from Kila, Sharon Shannon, Mundy, and Jerry Fish. In addition to music there were displays from artists and craftspeople, and a market village was set up on the shores of Lough Lugh for locally produced food and drink.

Wexford: Last month a celebration took place to mark the retirement of the parish priest of Marshallstown, Father Lennon. The celebrations also marked the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. A special Mass was celebrated, with Bishop Denis Brennan as chief celebrant, and the congregation comprised Father Lennon’s family members and his many

friends. In accordance with his wishes no collection was taken up during the Mass, instead a box was placed in the church containing envelopes for those who wished to give a gift to the retiring priest. These were then presented unopened to Father Lennon at a gathering after Mass in the community centre.

Wicklow: For the eleventh consecutive year the Bray Jazz Festival will take place in the town over the May Bank Holiday weekend. The festival was described last year by All About Jazz as “one of the very best small jazz festivals in Europe.” This year’s event will include a tribute to gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt to mark his centenary. Also featuring in the lineup are British guitarist John Etheridge, Austrian Wolfgang Muthspiel, and Wayne Krantz and his trio. Jazz musicians from Belgium, Britain, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg and Norway will descend on Bray for the event, while Solo Cissokho from Senegal and the Trio Correntes from Brazil will also be in town.



IRELAND’S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010

BY LIAM FERRIE

It was another bright sunny week but it was only towards the end that temperatures started to pick up a little. It was a cool 10C to 12C initially but had reached 16C before the week was out. Nights were particularly cold for the time of year and it came close to falling to -4C in the east on Tuesday night.

The dry spell came to an end on Saturday and more rain will fall in the coming week. It will also be a good deal warmer.

Latest Temperatures: Day 14C (57F).....Night 8C (46F)

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Now you can tell the time and ask when trains or other transport comes from or goes to some places in Ireland. Since Irish has no native words for newly invented things, it has "borrowed" many words from English. You already know the words for some modes of transport. Here they are plus some new ones, including places from which they arrive and leave.

Most of these are pronounced very closely to their English counterparts. You will have little trouble except to remember that **adjectives**, "descriptive" or "limiting" words, follow their **noun** in Irish. "Ticket Office" becomes "Office Ticket". Plus you have to remember that "gas" does not mean "gasoline". The word for "gasoline" is "petrol", **petril**.

But, remember the "**Genitive**" rule – when two nouns are together the second limits or describes the first – and it must be in the **Genitive Case**. Note the spelling and sound change of "ticket" when it follows "office" or "machine."

"train"	traein
"train station"	stáisiún
"ticket"	ticéad /TICK-eh/
"ticket office"	oifig ticéaid /OH-fik TIK-ehj/
"ticket machine"	meaisín ticéaid /MUH-sheen TIK-ehj/
"car"	carr
"garage"	garáiste /GAHR-ash-chuh/
"gasoline station"	stáisiún petril
"bus"	bus
"bus station"	busáras /BUS-ah-ruhs/
"airplane"	eitleán /ETCH-lahn/
"airport"	aerfort

Why does "airport" become **aerfort**? The Irish language has very few "native" words beginning or containing the sound /p/. Almost all are "borrowed" from other languages, especially English due to the long contact with that language.

Some of the loan words have fallen into disuse in English and a few Irish words are from English phrases. Examples are Irish **pluca** "courage" from "pluck" – now only remembered by we old people -- and **píosa** /PEE-suh/ "piece of".

You remember from the last lesson the **verbal phrases** "to arrive" or "come from" **ag teacht as** and "to leave for" **ag fágail as** or "depart for" **ag imigh as**. You also learned the sentence structure in which these phrases can be used.

Beidh an traein ag fágail as an stáisiún a trí a clog.

Literally: "Will the train be at leaving the station at three o'clock."

Is: "The train will be leaving the station at three o'clock."

Bhí traein ag teacht as Baile Átha Luain leathuair chun a cúig ar mardin.

"Was (a) train at arriving from Athlone half-hour past five in morning."

"A train arrived from Athlone at half past five in the morning."

The Republic of Ireland is part of the European Community so prices are given in Euros and cents (100 to the Euro). The "cents" can be either "cents" or the earlier Irish **pingin** /PIN-guhn/ "penny". Recall the words for "half hour" **leathuair** //LE-yoor/ and "quarter" **ceathrú** /KAY-roo/. **Leath** can be used to make many compound words such as "half pint" **leathphointa** where it is always prefixed. **Ceathrú** is not shown in written Irish as a compound word but always goes before the noun, **ceathrú Euro**, "a quarter Euro" or "twenty-five cents" Northern Ireland still uses the pound (**punt**) but went to the decimal system years ago so there are one hundred pennies to the pound.

Counting money is more of a problem. Many columns ago we studied how to count objects in Irish. There is no need to count "one Euro" or "one penny". The word by itself indicates "just one" **Euro, punt** or **pingin**.

Above "one" the numbers "two to six" **lenite** ("aspire") the following object and the numbers "seven to ten" **aspirate** the following noun. Thus one has to say **Trí phingin** /tree FIN-guhn/ but **ocht bpunt** /awkt BUNT/. The plural of "penny" is "pence" in Ireland

With numbers above "ten" the noun must go between the number and "teen"- **ocht bpunt deug**. The object being counted is always in the singular. It is as if you were saying, "three pound teen" for "thirteen pounds."

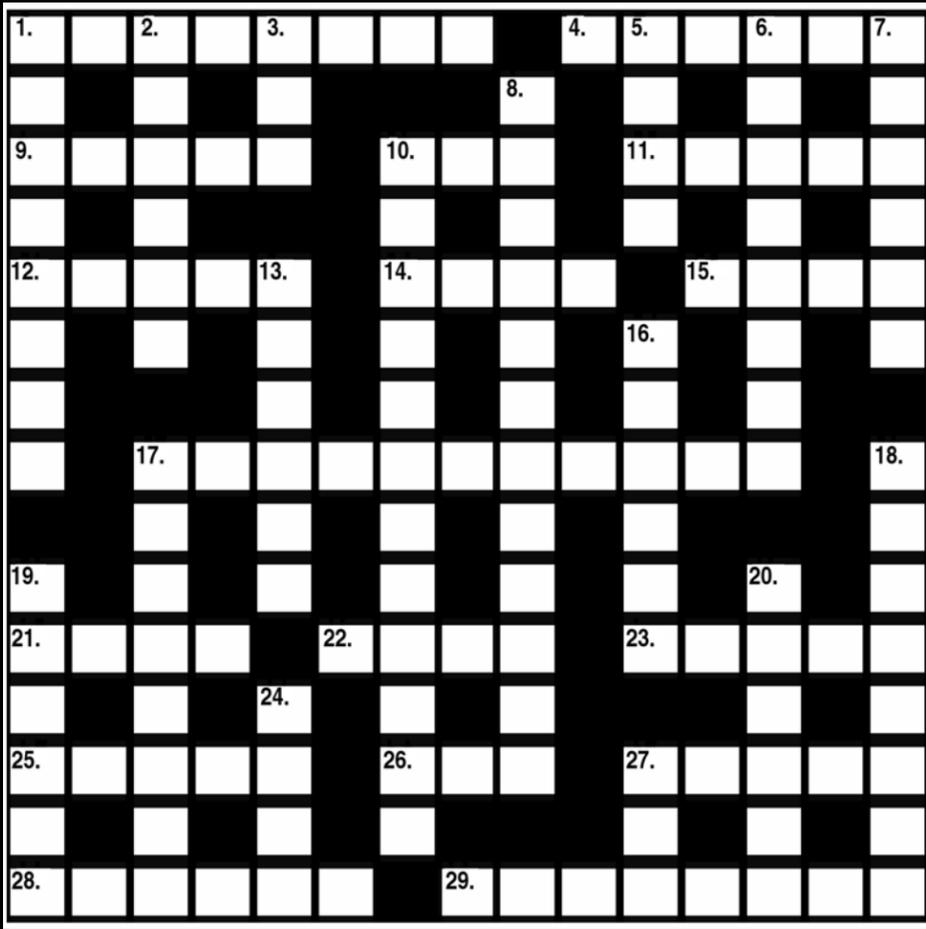
Pingin	"a penny"
Dhá phingin	"two pennies"
Trí phingin	"three pennies"
Ceithre phingin	"four pennies"
Cúig phingin	"five pennies"
Sé phingin	"six pennies"
Seacht bpingin	"seven pennies"
Ocht bpingin	"eight pennies"
Naoi bpingin	"nine pennies"
Deich bpingin	"ten pennies"

...
Cúig phingin déag "Fifteen cents"
Since "Euro" begins with a vowel, no such phonetic rules apply and one can say,
Cúig Euro déag "Fifteen Euros"

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited

to visit
www.
bigwood.com/
heraldry



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

- Cake to start with, but no ham following on the way back in Waterford fishing village where whales have been known to beach. (8)
- Elk Ike disposed of in attractive Clare resort sheltered from the Atlantic by the Duggerna Rocks. (6)
- Cut ham in pieces for she who wanted Oisín to stay in Tir na nOg. (5)
- Mr. Baba seen in Donegal incident. (3)
- Pins that sound like a scot back in Lusk categorically. (5)
- Get a rub of this old thing for luck in Tramore licensed premises. (5)
- The two of them are in Drumshanbo, then. (4)
- "The -- things a man is ashamed of, the -- respectable he is." Shaw. (4)
- A jig can't run around, but this will take you on a trip around the lakes of Killarney. (8,3)
- Garden tool, one of those from Mallow? (4)
- Young creature hidden in Ballinakill ambulance. (4)
- Fool will moor up facing north. (5)
- Dish of powdery boiled potatoes is insincere when mouthed. (5)
- Sunshine lad! (3)
- Arts graduate so Roman as to be fundamental. (5)
- Old men get confused as to the megalithic monument, with a fine example in Kiltiernan, Co. Dublin. (6)
- The do far out in small East Galway town near Ross Abbey beside the Black River. (8)

DOWN

- A burn can meander in sheltered Donegal resort on the shores of Lough Swilly under Slieve Snacht. (8)
- Len comes over with 26 across, almost. (6)
- Hurl off this tree? (3)
- I, to a confused Greek character, of little consequence. (4)
- Lose control and do this to the traces, that's one point! (4,4)
- Shifty eye, ask inside for small Sligo seaside resort near a number of dolmens and ring forts. (6)
- Brain bent, yet wanders to Co. Wexford Cistercian church near Clonmines, having a ruined twin on the

Wye in South Wales. (7,5)

- Bear they beat rears up in Dublin entertainment place burnt down in 1951 and reopened 1966. (5,7)
- In an informal way chartered accountant leads Saul astray. (6)
- Disorderly M.C. able to issue instruction not to panic. (2,4)
- This is made up of unsolicited circulars about milk, Juan. (4,4)
- Play a sneaky trick on a German night in one of the Ireland's four green fields. (8)
- Religious doctor outside the untidy room in Leitrim site of old ironworks on shores of Lough Bofin. (6)
- Fast musical makes rope tangle around the saint. (6)
- Piece of computer information inclusively concealed by Templemore establishment. (4)
- "There's no such thing as -- publicity, except your own obituary." Brendan Behan (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

Irish Sayings

Even a tin knocker will shine on a dirty door.
Every patient is a doctor - after his cure.
"The Windy day is not a day for scallops (thatching)."
"People live in each other's shelter."
"The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey."
"You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail," "and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner."
"There is no strength without unity."
"You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me."
"Praise the young and they will blossom"
"The raggy colt often made a powerful horse."
"Age is honorable and youth is noble."
"Youth does not mind where it sets its foot."
"Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die."

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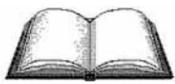
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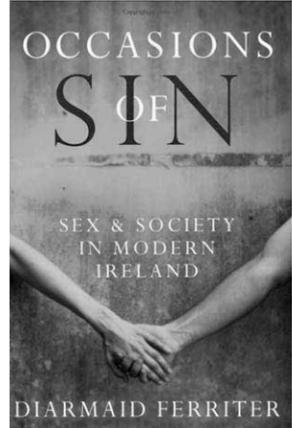


BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

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

Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland

By Diarmaid Ferriter



Using a huge variety of sources, *Occasions of Sin* charts the Irish sexual experience over the course of the 20th century. In tackling the public and private worlds of Irish sex, this book is groundbreaking in its scope and ambition. In this book, Ferriter covers such subjects as abortion, pregnancy, celibacy, contraception, censorship, infanticide, homosexuality, prostitution, marriage, popular culture, social life and the various hidden Irelands associated with sexual abuse -- all in the context of a conservative official morality backed by the Catholic Church and by legislation. The book energetically and originally engages with subjects omitted from the mainstream historical narrative. The breadth of this book and the richness of the source material uncovered make it definitive in its field and a most remarkable work of social history.

Weather Eye: The Final Years

By Brendan McWilliams

Following the great response to *The Book of Weather Eye* in 2008, Anne McWilliams, wife of the late Brendan McWilliams,

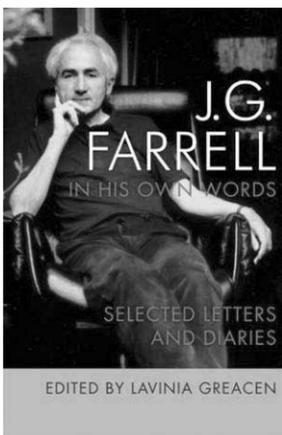


has compiled this further selection of his articles. Chosen from the columns written in the last year of his life, it is all the more touching for knowing that the unique voice of this gifted, gentle, and hugely intelligent man was about to fall silent. This new collection is a worthy successor to *The Book of Weather Eye*. It will delight all who welcomed that collection, which prompted the following short letter to the Irish Times from Senator Feargal Quinn: 'Madam, What a joy to see the late Brendan McWilliams in his once accustomed spot in Monday's edition, and a delight to read his article on Madame Bovary. I look forward to buying *The Book of Weather Eye* this week.' 'If few popular writers succeed in carving such a niche for themselves that they become irreplaceable, then Brendan McWilliams was surely the exception. His daily Weather Eye column, which ran in The Irish Times for almost twenty years, conveyed eloquently the popular aspects of meteorology, climate, astronomy and the environment. Easy to digest and sprinkled lightly with literature, history, folklore and mischievous humour, it was often the first article to which readers turned each morning.'

J.G. Farrell in His Own Words: Lavinia Graecen, Editor

The novelist J.G. Farrell – known to his friends as Jim – was drowned on Aug. 11, 1979, when he was swept off rocks by a sudden storm while fishing in the West of Ireland. He was in his early forties. "Had he not sadly died so young," remarked Salman Rushdie in 2008, "there is no question that he would today be one of the really major novelists of the English language. The three novels that he did leave are all in their different way extraordinary."

The Siege of Krishnapur, the second of Farrell's Empire Trilogy, won the Booker Prize in 1973, and it was selected as one of only six previous winners to compete in the 2008 international "Best of Booker" competition. The strength of American interest in Farrell's books is underlined by the inclusion of all three Trilogy



novels in the Classics imprint of the New York Review of Books.

Many of these selected letters are written to women whom Jim Farrell loved and whom he inadvertently hurt. His ambition to be a great writer in an age of minimal author's earnings ruled out the expense of marriage and fatherhood, so self-sufficiency was his answer. Books Ireland has astutely portrayed him as "a mystery wrapped in an enigma, a man who wanted solitude and yet did not want it, wanted love but feared commitment, reached out again and again but, possibly through fear of rejection, was always the first to cut the cord." But Farrell's kindness, deft humor, and gift for friendship reached across rejection, which must account for why so many such letters were kept.

Funny, teasing, anxious and ambitious, these previously unpublished letters to a wide range of friends give the reader a glimpse of this private man. Ranging from childhood to the day before his death, Farrell's distinctive letters have the impact of autobiography.

Nuala Fennell: Political Woman – A Memoir

Nuala Fennell was a leading Irish economist and Fine Gael politician. She campaigned vigorously for women's rights through the 1970s. She became an Irish Minister of State in 1982. *Political Woman* tells the story of young middle-class mother of three who from her home in suburban south Dublin became part of a movement that changed Ireland's social and legislative landscape forever. Fennell first became involved in the Women's Liberation Movement

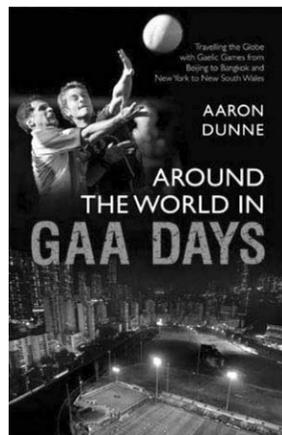
with women like June Levine and Mary Kenny, then helped to found AIM, the family support organization, in 1972. AIM campaigned for women's rights in family law, until then a very low priority for successive governments, and achieved radical changes. Fennell was later involved in Women's Aid and in setting up the family mediation service when she served as a junior minister in Garret Fitzgerald's coalition government 1982-1987. Her remarkable achievements, as a woman inside and outside politics, are a lasting legacy to Irish women and Irishmen of today. Fennell died on Aug. 11, 2009. She completed this memoir, a testament to her public-spirited life's work, a few weeks before her death. Her husband Brian reflects on Nuala's life and achievements in the epilogue of this book.



Around the World in GAA Days

By Aaron Dunne

From its humble beginnings in the lobby of a Thurles hotel in the late nineteenth century, the GAA has grown to become the biggest amateur sporting organization in the world, spreading its wings to all corners of the globe in the process. In *Around the World in GAA Days*, Aaron Dunne takes us on a journey around the world, documenting the spectacular rise of Ireland's national games. From the Gulf Games of the Dubai Celts in the Middle East to the development of underage hurling in Singapore, from the week-long Australian State Games to the rebirth of camogie Down Under, and from the annual Canadian Gaelic Games festival to the powerhouse GAA cities of Chicago, New



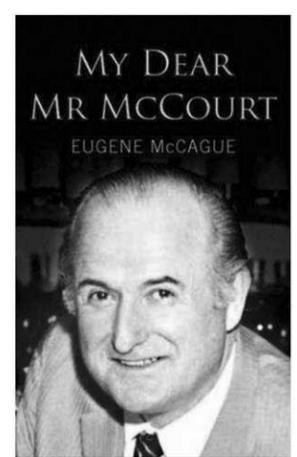
York, and Boston in North America, Dunne has travelled around the globe to meet the people who work tirelessly to promote and maintain Gaelic Games on the international scene. Containing all you ever wanted to know about the GAA and its popularity abroad, this book is a colorful and entertaining insight into the life of the modern, and not so modern, Irish emigrant.

My Dear (Kevin) McCourt

By Eugene McCague

Kevin McCourt can fairly be described as one of the first truly professional managers in Irish business and as one of its most distinguished leaders. No one else in Irish business could point to a career at the top, spanning over four decades, and incorporating such diverse industries as tobacco, (as marketing director of P.J.Carroll),

broadcasting (as Director General of RTE), distilling (as Managing Director of United Distillers) and steel (as Chairman of Irish Steel). He had also been closely involved with the Federation of Irish Manufacturers and in the early days of the Industrial Authority. Regardless of the industry involved, regardless of whether the business was state-owned or family dominated, whether centuries old or just starting out, he approached each role with the same all-consuming drive, pragmatism, and desire to be successful. He was international and global in his outlook, before most others in Irish business became so, and he was a pioneer in advocating the critical importance of marketing, advertising, and brand awareness as well as the imperative of seeking out export markets.



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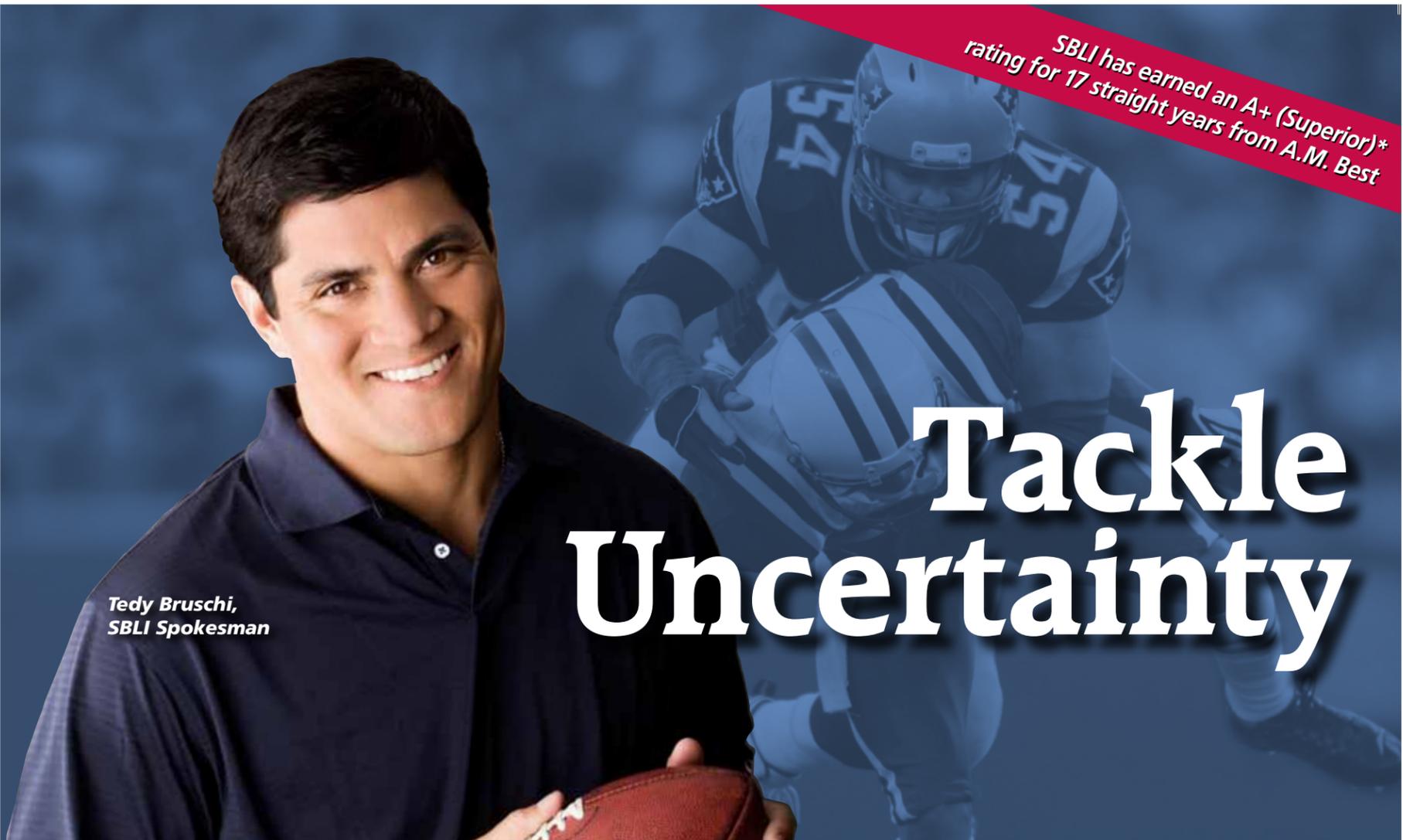
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