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FAREWELL TO A MAN, AND TO AN ERA



Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, walked around the casket with incense before it left the church after the funeral Mass for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Basilica in Boston on Sat., Aug. 29. (AP Photo/Brian Snyder, Pool)

BY CAROL BEGGY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

From the moment the first news bulletins started crackling on radios and popping up on BlackBerries late on the night of Tuesday, Aug. 25, the death of Senator Edward M. Kennedy brought an outpouring of remembrances for this "Lion of

the United States Senate" that stretched from his corner of Hyannis Port to Boston, Washington, Ireland, the home of his ancestors, the British Isles, and beyond.

This youngest brother of the Kennedy family was hailed for his work as one of the country's greatest legislators and his

family was celebrated for its deep Irish roots. As the Boston Globe's Kevin Cullen wrote, the senator himself was slow in embracing his Irish heritage, but once he did, he made it his mission to help broker peace in Northern Ireland.

Those coming to pay respects ranged from Kennedy's neigh-

bors on Caped Cod to world leaders including Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen.

"We're very grateful for the great dedication of Senator Kennedy to Ireland and its people," Cowen said at an impromptu press conference held after the August 29 funeral. "And it was out of respect, I felt the need

to come to Boston," Cowen told the Boston Irish Reporter's Joe Leary at the Back Bay Hotel, formerly the Jurys Hotel.

Michael Lonergan had barely sat in his seat as the new Consul General of Ireland in Boston before he found himself busily arranging for the arrival of the
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ICCNE All Set for Its Festival: Sept. 12, 13 on Canton Campus

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Widely acclaimed Irish-American singer Andy Cooney, whose repertoire ranges from classic Irish ballads to more contemporary sounds, and Girsá, an all-female ensemble from the New York City area that has rapidly become a force in traditional Irish music circles, headline the Irish Cultural Centre of New England's 19th annual festival, set to take place Sept. 12 and 13 at the ICCNE campus in Canton.

The festival also will feature

a number of acts with local and national followings, including the Noel Henry Irish Showband, Curragh's Fancy, the Fenian Sons, Tradition, the Gobshites, and Andy Healy. In addition, the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Hanafin-Cooley branch of Boston will provide its ever-popular marathon of music and set-dancing over the course of the weekend.

Talks by authors such as Mary Pat Kelly — whose works include "Home Away from Home: The Yanks in Ireland," "Martin Scorsese: A Journey"

and her new historical novel, "Galway Bay" — performances by storytellers and showcases of area Irish dance schools will add to the entertainment, along with a carnival area for families with young children. Further samplings of Irish culture are represented by the ICC's authentic Irish cottage — modeled after the one featured in the movie "The Quiet Man" — and other exhibits.

The 2009 edition of the festival represents a significant departure from the last sev-
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Fishing Advice, Christian-style

Says Bridget Shaheen, at left, Director of Lazarus House in Lawrence: "Our goal is to teach people to fish," in reference to the ministry's mission of teaching self-sufficiency and yet total spiritual dependence on Christ. "But when people are hungry, they cannot hear anyone's teaching. So first we must feed them."

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Senator to Pope ... Pope to Senator

Following are excerpts from a letter exchange between Edward M. Kennedy and Pope Benedict XVI in the weeks before Kennedy's death:

SENATOR KENNEDY

"Most Holy Father, I asked President Obama to personally hand deliver this letter to you. As a man of deep faith himself, he understands how important my Roman Catholic faith is to me, and I am deeply grateful to him. I hope this letter finds you in good health. I pray that you have all of God's blessings as you lead our Church and inspire our world during these challenging times.

"I am writing with deep humility to ask that you pray for me as my own health declines. I was diagnosed with brain cancer more than a year ago, and, although I continue treatment, the disease is taking its toll on me. I am 77 years old and preparing for the next passage of life.

"I have been blessed to be a part of a wonderful family, and both of my parents, particularly my mother, kept our Catholic faith at the center of our lives. That gift of faith has sustained, nurtured and provided solace to me in the darkest hours. I know that I have been an imperfect human being, but with the help of my faith, I have tried to right my path.

"I want you to know, Your Holiness, that in my nearly 50 years of elective office, I have done my best to champion the rights of the poor and open doors of economic opportunity. I've worked to welcome the immigrant, fight discrimination and expand access to health care and education. I have opposed the death penalty and fought to end war. Those are the issues that have motivated me and been the focus of my work as a United States Senator.

"I also want you to know that even though I am ill, I am committed to do everything I can to achieve access to health care for everyone in my country. This has been the political cause of my life.

"I believe in a conscience protection for Catholics in the health care field and will continue to advocate for it as my colleagues in the Senate and I work to develop an overall national health policy that guarantees health care for everyone.

"I have always tried to be a faithful Catholic, Your Holiness, and though I have fallen short through human failings, I have never failed to believe and respect the fundamental teachings.

"I continue to pray for God's blessings on you and our Church and would be most thankful for your prayers for me."

VATICAN RESPONSE

"The Holy Father has read the letter which you entrusted to President Barack Obama, who kindly presented it to him during their recent meeting. He was saddened to know of your illness, and has asked me to assure you of his concern and his spiritual closeness. He is particularly grateful for your promise of prayers for him and for the needs of the universal Church.

"His Holiness prays that in the days ahead you may be sustained in faith and hope, and granted the precious grace of joyful surrender to the will of God our merciful Father. He invokes upon you the consolation and peace promised by the Risen Savior to all who share in His sufferings and trust in His promise of eternal life.

"Commending you and the members of your family to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of wisdom, comfort, and strength in the Lord."



Edward Kennedy Jr., Vicki Kennedy, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, from left, praying at the funeral of Sen. Edward Kennedy at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Basilica in Boston on Sat., Aug., 29. Kennedy died on Aug. 25 after a battle with cancer. He was 77.
(AP Photo/Brian Snyder, Pool)



Edward Kennedy III mourned at the coffin of his grandfather Sen. Edward Kennedy, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Saturday Aug. 29.
(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Farewell To A Man, An Era

(Continued from page 1)

prime minister. Cowen's decision to attend the funeral had sparked a political debate in Ireland about whether the Taoiseach should attend the senator's funeral. In setting up a remembrance book for Irish citizens to offer condolences to the Kennedy family, he shrugged off questions by the Irish media, saying that Kennedy was an "important friend to Ireland."

Another Irishman, John Hume, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, was in Boston for the final services for Kennedy. "I was very saddened by Ted Kennedy's death. He was a great friend to me and to the people of Northern Ireland," Hume said at the Back Bay Hotel shortly after the funeral Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Mission Hill. "Northern Ireland had two great friends in its efforts for peace, Tip O'Neill and Ted Kennedy. I came here also as a friend. I will miss him."

Thousands of Massachusetts residents lined the highways as the cortege of limousines brought the senator's body to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Dorchester, where his body lay in repose for two days, drawing tens of thousands of visitors to walk by the closed casket.

Before the hearse left the Mission Hill church to take the senator's body Arlington National Cemetery, scores of people - VIPs and common folk - came to Boston to pay tribute, including President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle; Vice President Joe Biden and his wife Jill; former president Bill Clinton and his wife, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; former president George W. Bush and his wife, Laura; former president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn; former vice presidents Al Gore, Walter Mondale, and Dan Quayle; US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who had served on Kennedy's staff; most of the state Congressional delegation including

representatives Stephen Lynch, William Delahunt, and Edward Markey; former governor Michael Dukakis; Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino; New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley; and more than 40 U.S. Senators, including Senators John Kerry, Chris Dodd, and Patrick Leahy, who were among the honorary pallbearers lined up outside the church to meet the hearse.

Prime Minister Cowen was seated with Sarah Brown, the wife of Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who made a surprise visit to British troops on Saturday. Also attending the funeral were Shaun Woodward, Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland; Martin McGuinness, deputy first minister for the Northern Ireland Assembly; Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein; and Mark Durkan, a member of Northern Ireland's House of Commons.

"I have very personal memories of Senator Kennedy," Durkan told the Boston Irish Reporter after the funeral Mass. "I worked in his office for several months and what he taught me and how he supported me sustains me today. ... Ted Kennedy did more for the Irish than most people know. He wasn't just of Irish heritage."

The local friends and colleagues of Senator Kennedy were represented as well - several were among those chosen by the Kennedy family to help keep vigil with the Senator's body at the JFK Library. Those included longtime Kennedy family adviser Gerry Doherty; Peter Meade, president and CEO of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate; former lieutenant governor Thomas P. O'Neill III; Dr. Michael Collins, chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Medical School; state Democratic Party Chairman John Walsh; state Attorney General Martha Coakley; University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley; University of

Massachusetts president Jack Wilson, former US Representative Martin Meehan, now chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell; Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley; and state Senate President Therese Murray.

Standing by the Senator's widow Victoria throughout was the last of the nine Kennedy siblings, former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith.

Four years his senior, Smith, the 25th US Ambassador to Ireland, always looked out for her baby brother. She had rented a house on Cape Cod to be near her brother in his last days, staying by his side rather than attending the funeral of their sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, on Aug. 11.

A 2007 recipient of the Gold Medal Award from the Eire Society of Boston for her peace efforts in Northern Ireland and for her humanitarian work with disabled children, Smith was the one Kennedy scion to follow their father's path of foreign service.

President Barack Obama praised the longest-serving member of the family dynasty as a "happy warrior" during a stirring funeral Mass Saturday. "The greatest expectations were placed on Ted Kennedy's shoulders because of who he was, but he surpassed them all because of who he became," Obama said during his eulogy.

Said the principal celebrant of the funeral Mass, the **Rev. J. Donald Monan**, former president of Boston College where he now serves as chancellor: "A few scant miles from here, the city on a hill stands less tall against the morning sky. And the sea out toward Nantucket is a bit more forlorn at the loss of one of its most ardent lovers."

The senator was recalled as a prayerful Catholic, restless outdoorsman, history buff, champion of Democratic causes, force behind a nearly unmatched legis-

lative record, and doting surrogate father to the Kennedy clan on road trips, sailing expeditions, and at family dinners.

Several of Kennedy's grandchildren and youngest nieces and nephews offered the intercessions, invoking some of his most famous lines or favored causes, including quality health care and a stop to war. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma played a Bach cello suite and accompanied tenor Placido Domingo, who sang "Panis Angelicus." Mezzo-soprano Susan Graham sang "Ave Maria" after Communion. All three artists brought on tears in the standing-room-only church.

Ted Kennedy Jr., whose voice and face resemble those of his father, recalled the late senator as a rodeo rider, dinner table debater, conductor of vacations that left younger family members "injured and exhausted," Civil War history enthusiast, Green Bay Packers recruit, "protector of the people," an apostle of the doctrine that hard work and determination paid dividends, and "a lover of everything French -- cheese, wine, and women."

"He was not perfect - far from it," said the younger Kennedy in an emotional remembrance. "But my father believed in redemption. And he never surrendered, never stopped trying to right wrongs, be they the results of his own failings, or of ours."

As the organ boomed the recessional "God Bless America," Kennedy's casket made its way toward the back of the church, accompanied by 11 pallbearers, all family. Kennedy's serene-looking widow, Vicki, walked at the head of a long line of family members as the entourage left the church in the pouring rain to make ready for a flight to Washington, a visit to the Capitol, and a trip to Maryland and the cemetery where the senator's body was laid to rest alongside those of his brothers Jack and Bobby.

State House News Service reporter Jim O'Sullivan contributed to this article.

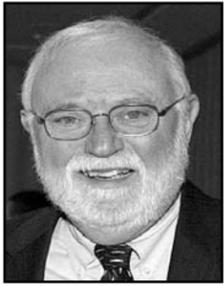
End of Summer Doesn't Mean Nothing's Going On

By Ed Forry

As this prolonged summer comes near its end, there remain several events to attract folks outdoors before the snows of winter arrive. With Labor Day late this year, the traditional Waterfront Irish Festival in Newport will take place on the holiday weekend, September 5, 6 and 7. There will be five stages of entertainment, with performances from the likes of Eileen Ivers, Black 47, The Makem Brothers & Spain Brothers, Calley McGrane and The Exiles and many more.

As noted in this month's BIR arts and entertainment pages, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England will produce its own Irish Festival on the weekend of Sept. 12 and 13 at the ICCNE campus in Canton. Performers include singer Andy Cooney, trad all-women ensemble Girsra, the Noel Henry Irish Showband, Curragh's Fancy, the Fenian Sons, Tradition, the Gobshites and Andy Healy.

Next month, a fledgling one-day Irish festival is set for the Adams Corner section of Dorchester on Sun., Oct. 11, during the Columbus Day holiday weekend. The outdoor venue will be along Adams Street at Gullivan Blvd., the location of the Eire Pub and Gerard's Restaurant. Out west on Columbus Day weekend, the Irish center at Elms College in Chicopee celebrates its



10th anniversary with a weekend of events, including an art exhibit of the work of County Cork's Vincent Crotty, Saturday workshops, concert and films, and a Sunday brunch with author Peter Quinn. Information at irish-cairde.org.

A Sept. 11 Concert at Boston's Historic Wilbur Theater is being planned to mark the anniversary of terror attacks. "A Celtic Crossing" will present a musical 9/11

concert, with proceeds going to benefit Cops for Kids with Cancer. Headlining and hosting this event will be Pauline Wells of Milton. A Sergeant Detective in the Cambridge Police Department, she began singing in Ireland in 2000 while on a trip with the Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums, and has performed numerous benefit concerts over the years. She will be joined by 40 members of the legendary NYPD Emerald Society Pipes and Drums. More information at thewilburtheater.com, paulinewells.com or by phone at 617-696-7172.

Boston's Consul General of Ireland, David Barry left for a new assignment last month. "After four years at the Consulate General of Ireland in Boston the time has come for me to leave," Barry said in an e-mail to friends. "After a short break, I will be taking up my new assignment in the Anglo-Irish Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. I want to thank you all for your friendship and support during my stay in Boston." He has been succeeded in the Boston post by Michael Lonergan. "I have no doubt that you will welcome him to Boston with the same openness and kindness that I experienced over the last four years," he said.

Big changes being announced this month with the reorganization of ICCUSA/New England. "Effective immediately, The Ireland Chamber of Commerce USA New England is now the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA)," Paul Dwyer, president, and Jim O'Brien, chairman, said in a joint announcement.

"Tip O'Neill once said that 'All politics is local.' His point was simple: Focus on your own backyard first and everything else will fall into place. It is in this spirit that we have decided to change the focus of our organization, concentrating our efforts at home in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," they wrote.

"As BIBA, we will work hard to maintain and expand the fantastic network we have built, especially within the environs of the Massachusetts business, political and academic communities. We will use these contacts and affiliations to further build our strong ties with Ireland and with other national organizations with a similar affinity.

"The launch of BIBA will incorporate our re-branding and the establishment of an improved meeting calendar, which will include more events, tailored to specific industry verticals. We will revamp our morning and evening speaker series and establish a new young professional's organization. We will also be reaching out to other like-minded business organizations in the state and we will work to cement the fine relationships we have built at both the Massachusetts State House and Boston City Hall."

TIARA, The Irish Ancestral Research Association, begins the fall season with its first monthly meeting on Fri., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. at Boston College, Room 511, Fulton Hall. Featured speaker will be Melinde Sanborn on "The Irish of Ward One, Boston; Clues & Misdirection from the Census." ... On Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. comedian Jimmy Tingle will perform in concert at Dorchester's Florian Hall to benefit the Brady Academy of Irish Dance. This event runs from 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call 617-481-0642.

A First: Some Are Starting to Mull Sinn Fein Without Gerry Adams

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For more than a quarter of a century, the Irish republican party, Sinn Fein, has had a clear and undisputed leader, Gerry Adams.

To be sure, Adams has had a leadership partner, Martin McGuinness, but fundamentally, it has been understood that Adams received top billing – he was the party president, the thinker, the charismatic speaker, the international media star.

To think Sinn Fein was to think Gerry Adams.

But now, for the first time since Sinn Fein emerged on the world stage, there is a question as to whether Adams, 60, will continue to lead the party he has guided since he was elected president in 1983 and the movement he has molded for four decades.

In retrospect, it probably shouldn't come as such a surprise to hear the "unthinkable" whispered in republican circles.

Twenty-five years is a long time for any political leader to remain in power, and Adams's time at the helm has not been easy, as he first served as the political face of a paramilitary organization while at the same time working behind the scenes to steer his movement away from a reliance on political violence.

That change would be in the wind becomes all the more understandable when one looks at Sinn Fein's inability to expand out of Northern Ireland, where it wields real power, and become a major political force in the Republic of Ireland.

A decade of political frustration in the South came to a head earlier this summer when Sinn Fein lost the single seat it held in the delegation that Ireland sends to the European Parliament. For party vice president Mary Lou McDonald to lose her Dublin seat was nothing less than a political disaster for Sinn Fein and Adams' leadership.

Once the ink was dry on the story of McDonald's defeat, sniping became inevitable and the first major assault came from a surprising quarter, with Toireasa Ferris, one of the party's rising stars in the South and the daughter of longtime republican leader Martin Fer-

ris, suggesting that Sinn Fein "is suffering an identity crisis," and asking: "What are we trying to achieve in the 26 (the Republic of Ireland) and what do we stand for besides a united Ireland?"

Voters in the Republic of Ireland, Ferris said, "unfortunately see us as a Northern-based party, irrelevant to the everyday concerns of people in the 26 counties. Voters are unclear about what we stand for, which is not surprising as I'm sure many of us are starting to wonder about this also. We have been trying to appeal to too broad a spectrum of people and as a result have lost touch with our base."

Ferris, 29, a Kerry county councilor and the former mayor of Kerry, made her comments after waging an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the European Parliament.

While never mentioning Adams by name, Ferris, in a column written for the republican newspaper An Phoblacht, did not mince words, asserting: "our national spokespeople show the party to be out of touch with its base."

Adams, if he was stung by the criticism leveled by Ferris and by others and increasingly applauded in the South, failed to show it.

In fact, in an interview published in the Irish Times, Adams said he was "energized" by the post-EU election upheaval, noting: "There is work to be done and I intend to do it ... I have no intention of standing down."

How long Adams continues to serve as the leader of Sinn Fein is hard to predict. Adams has become an international figure capable of generating attention and raising money around the world, and more particularly, the party has no obvious successor waiting in the wings.

In recent months, Adams has launched an Irish unification campaign, which on one level appeals to the hardliners in his party and also represents the natural instinct of a wounded politician turning to the issues that he knows best. A high-comfort-level refuge.

But seen another way, Adams's decision to focus on unification may be making Ferris's point: spotlighting an issue that has emotional appeal in Northern Ireland but less resonance in the South, where voters are concerned about the crumbling economy and about real-life issues like education, health care, and crime.

Whether Gerry Adams can ever be the face of a political party that makes major inroads in the South is very much an open question, but for now, he is the president and leader of Sinn Fein and it will take someone very smart and very tough to wrest that title away.

Print vs. Online: Different Strokes for Different Folks

By TOM MULVOY
BIR STAFF

These are parlous times in the news profession, print division. No one is sure where things are headed as newspaper proprietors work at fashioning a 21st century business model that will link news gathering and advocacy, advertising, circulation/readership, and the marvels of the World Wide Web to remake the profitable entrepreneurial approach that sustained the golden era of ink-on-paper journalism for most publishers over the last 100 years.

That is big-picture, large-bore stuff, and good luck to us all as we take things a step at a time.

The coming of electronic delivery of information generated by human beings who are on scene covering news events has made a muddle of many long-held assumptions about what a newspaper is all about.

Let's take the category of letters to the editor. Newspapers still print them, and most publishers insist that letters offering rebuttal opinion or controversial positions come with names that are printed with the letter.

Curiously, these same publishers have no problem with online readers – who get the newspaper's journalism at no charge – making snarly, snarky, anonymous ad hominem attacks on their newsroom employees.

I have known Globe sports columnist Dan Shaughnessy and his work for more than 30 years. He is a wealth of sports information, a veteran observer of things on and off the playing fields, and he is opinionated, as a columnist should be. He can also be flip with his words and approach to a story in the news.

But no readers are confused about authorship when they click to his column on boston.com. His name and a cartoonish caricature (a curious rendering, in my opinion) run right with his articles.

Not so those who offer opinions in the "Comments" section that his paper makes room for underneath his columns.

Here is a reader who signs his name as "ilikebaseball" writing about a Shaughnessy column:

"How come you had the comments deleted after your last bashing of Ortiz, Dan? Because the truth hurts? REALLY HOPE YOU DO NOT CONSIDER YOURSELF A JOURNALIST. TIRED OF THE SUBJECTIVE, EMOTION DRIVEN GARBAGE AND HATE YOU SPEW. Nice swipe at Sox fans in this piece too.

You really think you are oh sooooo much smarter than all of us fans. You prove time and time again that you need to find a new career."

Then comes "tennesseemoonshiner":

"Shaughnessy: 'You will believe what you want to believe.' I can't write what I believe Shaughnessy is because the webmaster keeps censoring it. But it has to do with the bodily orifice from which excrement flows."

Finally, this from "codyrules"

"Shaughnessy: 'You will believe what you want to believe.' You make it sound as if anyone who is interested in getting facts before passing judgment is a low IQ fan with an irrational need to believe. You are in fact a hack "journalist," who doesn't see the need, the responsibility, to check such incidentals as facts or lack of them before launching into a self-serving tirade. Talk about mailing it in. You are a disgrace to an already disgraced profession. You have zero credibility."

It's a shame that the Globe lets misanthropes like "ilikebaseball" and "tennesseemoonshiner" and "codyrules" savage the name of a bylined employee while hiding behind anonymity.

The print Globe publishes 4-6 letters to the editor on average in each edition, and writers are asked for verification of their names (and their positions in life if that is seen to be relevant); online, there have been days when a Shaughnessy column has evoked 100 or more comments by 7 o'clock the morning of publication. To be fair, not every letter is a rant against the writer, and a few are deleted for crossing some sort of imaginary line. And, mirabile dictu, some readers take on the topic, not the man. Still, it would be impractical to insist that every file of comments under every story in every edition come to the computer screen with true names attached for verification and that Globe editors working the wee hours of the day do the checking before publication.

Bottom line is that there are two Globes: One honors civility by holding its critics accountable by name; the other is digital and free, holding its venom-spewing, saloon-level critics to no account. Until it can find a way to balance the ledger between the two on reader access to its properties, the Globe should do the honorable thing by its own family of journalists and close down the online comments sections under all opinion pieces.

Commentary

Off the Bench

Make No Mistake: U.S. Investors Are Bulwarks of Irish Economy

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It is a tricky balancing act. With approximately 40 percent of all Irish corporate taxes and 300,000 Irish jobs depending upon American businesses, and a new modern road system largely paid for by European Union members (most notably France and Germany), Ireland needs the good will of many different countries to stay economically viable.



Joe Leary

It should also be recognized that the divided island of Ireland would be far stronger economically if it were a single country, with the same currency, tax laws, and the same business representation throughout the world. Ireland's IDA and Northern Ireland's Development agency now compete aggressively against each other

for new investment (sometimes with a third country the final winner). Dr. Alan Gillespie, chairman of the Ulster Bank Group, has already called for the merger of these two important agencies.

Regardless how beneficial a United Ireland would be, such an eventuality is far into the future.

Today, the reality is there are two rival jurisdictions operating in a very small geographic area, naturally joined as a single island, that would be far better served, economically at least, by a unified government.

Without American business investment, Ireland would be far less successful. According to the American Chamber of Commerce in Dublin, United States companies have invested \$73 billion in Irish-based operations—over double the investment in the People's Republic of China, for instance. There are more than 600 American companies active in Ireland, with most

of them shipping products all over the world—even back to the United States. Years ago, the clever Irish designed their tax policies specifically to attract Americans. Even with a low current tax rate of 12 percent, the revenue for Ireland in American-generated euros is 40 percent of the entire corporate tax base. And Irish suppliers to these American companies provide even more tax revenue.

The United States has accounted for 60-70 percent of Ireland's inward investment over the past few years, the chamber reports. Over the course of the past twenty years, Intel, for instance, has invested more than six billion euros in its Leixlip, Co. Kildare, campus. The company employs some 4,500 people at the site.

With daily headlines screaming economic disaster, Ireland must be well-toughened to bad news:

Dublin Office Costs Among Most Expensive in the world -- *Irish Times*.

Irish Prices Second Highest in EU -- this in addition to an 18 percent increase in population, and a corresponding exploding school census. -- *Irish Times*

Tourist Numbers Fall Sharply -- hotels, restaurants, golf courses all dropping their prices. -- *Irish Times*

Irish Hotels Industry in Crisis -- Claiming 20 percent unused capacity. -- *RTE News*

Two years ago the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that if the United States were to fall into recession, Ireland would be hurt severely. This unfortunately has come to pass. At approximately the same time, in December 2007, Ireland's Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) was forecasting that Ireland's growth rate in 2008 would be the worst since 1992. Unfortunately, this was also correct.

Were it not for American investment, Ireland would be in a different state today, and as the American economy picks up, let us hope that Ireland will be the place for us to invest once again.

When It Comes to Casinos on the Hill, the Dealer Stays

By JIM O'SULLIVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Of all the superficial and insight-lite parallels drawn between the president and the governor, here is the only one that matters on Beacon Hill this fall: Deval Patrick already has learned and will continue to do so from Barack Obama's lessons on health care.

Witness the governor's marked stride back from the gambling debate this year. Patrick has publicly shrugged off questions about casinos and slot machines, having been smacked down by the Sal DiMasi-led Legislature last year with a degree of humiliation imposed.

Obama, for different tactical reasons, rang the opening bell on health care. Informed in turn by the setback Clinton suffered with his setback a decade and a half ago, he started the fight, laid out some basic rules—no gouging!—and then, like a seasoned ring official, stepped back and let the sides go at it.

Some in Washington, far above BIR columnist pay grade, deemed the mildly ambivalent approach to the universalization of health care a mistake, accusing the president of not capitalizing on the bully pulpit and the momentum with which he swept into the Oval Office. Others, perhaps for symmetry's sake, knocked him for trying to strong-arm down the public maw a contentious and undeniably expensive shift in public policy.

Some, it should be noted, did both.

Here's what Patrick has going for him here in the Bay State with gambling that Obama, whose hopes for

a signature health care win by press time had flickered, although insiders from both parties in Washington say some form of a meek blessing-on-both-their-houses bill could pass by late fall:

He lost last time.

Patrick has the luxury of appearing, at least to the public, aloof from the circus that is guaranteed this fall when casinos—and slot machines and sanctioned sports gambling—crash the Beacon Hill agenda. "I took my shot," the governor can say, "and I did it when this economy had some life in it." If bold enough, he can even look down his nose at proposals he doesn't like by saying that if lawmakers had picked up on his ideas in time, the state's registers would have swelled much more healthfully.

The governor has already done just this, appearing above the donnybrook just starting to unfold, while doing very little to dissuade those who believe that institutionalized casino or gambling-hall betting here is one way to ameliorate the state's recession, the unemployment rate recently creeping up to 8.8 percent.

Of course, the administration can't afford to, and won't, check out of the debate. Instead, it will offer parameters and likely offer preemptive political cover when needed. Barring some early-autumn unknowable, the votes are probably there for gaming in the Legislature, which gives the governor some room to mold the shape of the gambling package as it moves forward.

"I've never been a fan," Assistant House Majority Whip Patricia Haddad said last month of sanctioning gambling beyond the Lottery. "But I don't think we have the luxury anymore."

At the same time, the governor has a rather crowded wish list for the final few months of 2009, his most unpleasant year in office to date, given the nuclear nature of the fiscal crisis. While the Legislature weighs a long-postponed measure dealing with possible pandemic flu outbreaks, rendered timely by the onset of swine flu as a legitimate public health concern, Patrick has teed up charter school expansion and loosened access to the state's criminal offender registry, the latter aimed at promoting rehabilitation and invigorated employment opportunities for former offenders.

These two controversial reforms will go into the mix with lawmakers hoping for state tax collections that bounce back enough to allow restoration of some of the line items that felt the sharpness of Patrick's veto knife amid plunging revenues that began their decline a year ago and prompted both spending cuts and higher taxes.

There's also pandemic flu preparedness that is a hair-trigger headline waiting to happen if the swine flu should pop as a major public health scare.

All of which is to say that after a busy, financially anxious first half of the year that slowed in the middle as it often does on the Hill, the fall docket is crowded and mottled.

A Meditation on the Lonely

By JAMES W. DOLAN

I am at an age where a few of my friends have lost their wives. The period of adjustment appears deeper and longer than for wives who lose their husbands. But then I've always believed that women alone are more independent and self-sufficient than men.

Women play a much larger and important role in extended relationships than men are inclined to publicly acknowledge. Most men also believe it is in the natural order of things that they will be the first to die, so they don't prepare for the loss of a spouse.

Coming home to an empty house in the weeks following a loss is depressing. Even worse is not having something to do and someplace to go; the important distraction that work can provide for a few hours.

Work provides a comforting routine and the opportunity to focus on things other than that all-pervasive sense of loss. Without the defenses that work, family, and activity provide, one can sink from loneliness through depression to despair.

Women are more resilient. They are more comfortable talking about their feelings and sharing their experiences. Male blustering notwithstanding, we need them more than they need us.

Daughters sense this more than sons and normally take the initiative in circling the family wagons around their father after the loss of their mother. That coming together, rallying to support one another in time of loss, is one of the more compelling expressions of love.

For older men, the loss of companionship is subtle. Just knowing that the one you have shared so much with in life is there can be an enormous comfort. That familiarity does not require much conversation or attention. Call it history or routine; it is an important component of mature love.

I feel better when my wife is home. Given that we have shared so much of our lives for so long, just knowing she is there is enough. It would be more of a struggle for me to fill that void. She is more resourceful.

I have observed a close friend who lost his wife a year-and-a-half ago go through this process. He is now at the difficult stage of trying to partly fill the void by identifying a companion with whom he could enjoy some of life's simple pleasures: going out to dinner, taking a trip.

It isn't easy. His wife set the bar very high and he is not inclined to lower his standards. Having made those inevitable adjustments over decades that make for a successful and happy relationship, the idea of beginning again must be daunting.

My father lost my mother 14 years before he died. I wish he had found someone to fill the many lonely hours he experienced in the years following her death.

The blending of two histories can be awkward; a lot of baggage is accumulated over the years. It is not the same as starting early and sharing the same experiences.

Marriage is a habit developed over a long period and deeply ingrained. A happy marriage may be the hardest habit to break. The death of a spouse does not end the dependence. There is no patch to ease the pain or the craving.

The lonely are out there trying to cope with the loss. The fortunate will find respite in the comfort of a new relationship. Some will persevere through withdrawal and eventually be able to control the yearning.

Others will eventually die of a broken heart.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law. His e-mail is jdolan@dolanconnly.com.

Derry-Boston champions To Gather in October

Political, business and community leaders from Massachusetts and northwest Ireland will join forces in a new drive to promote mutually beneficial transatlantic links at a conference scheduled for the Boston World Trade Center on October 7 and 8.

The unique conference, being billed as the most important initiative to forge partnerships between the two regions since the Boston-Derry Ventures alliance of the '80s, will spotlight the investment potential of Ireland's northwest and hear an upbeat message from transport ministers from both sides of the Irish border.

Heading the Massachusetts contingent will be Massachusetts State Treasurer Tim Cahill, Rep. Gene O'Flaherty and State Senate President Therese Murray while the local business community will be represented by legendary entrepreneur John Cullinane of MainMessage.org, Joe Leary, President of the Irish American Partnership, and Paul Dwyer, President of the newly-branded Boston Irish Business Association.

Hosted by the Irish Echo newspaper, the conference is being strongly backed by the main agencies and organizations in Derry City and northwest Ireland.

On the second day of the parley, there will be a luncheon break for the annual Golden Bridges awards being jointly hosted by the Boston Irish Reporter and the Echo.

"Without the experience, network and generosity of the Reporter, this conference could never have been considered," adds Ó Muilleoir. "However, I'm confident that with our stellar line-up and strong support of Boston's Irish, this groundbreaking event will kickstart a new era of enhanced co-operation between Boston and northwest Ireland."



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BIR Profile

Says Bridget Shaheen, of Lazarus House in Lawrence; 'I Am Fully Satisfied in Doing What the Lord Wants Me to Do'

By GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

An old Irish proverb graces Bridget Shaheen's modest office in Lawrence: "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." In the shelter of Lazarus House Ministries on humble Holly Street, executive director Shaheen, who walks the Christian talk on how to love, oversees the provision of immediate support, food, training, shelter, and medical and dental care to those who have none in this working class city of immigrants that ranks the poorest in New England. Some 84 percent of its public schoolchildren live below the poverty line, 53 percent of its high school students are classified as dropouts, and half the adults in the community have no secondary school diploma, perpetuating the distressing cycle.

Today, Shaheen, her devoted staff of 58 and scores of Lazarus House volunteers and contributors carry out the call of St. John Chrysostom, a third-century Archbishop of Constantinople, who once counseled, "It is more noble to feed the hungry than raise the dead." And feed they do. Lazarus House Ministries, a Catholic, gospel-based outreach, was established in 1983 as a five-bed emergency shelter for the homeless. It has since expanded to 41 beds and six cribs in the emergency shelter, a soup kitchen that feeds up to 200 a day, an emergency food pantry that supplies food to about 400 families weekly, thrift stores, housing for those affected with HIV/AIDS, a free medical and dental clinic, a job training center, child care, and educational programs. Reliant mostly on private contributions, the Lazarus House Ministries, with less than one percent government funding, touches the lives of 8,000 individuals each month.

"The goal of the Lazarus House is to teach people to fish," says Shaheen, 62, in reference to the ministry's mission of teaching self-sufficiency and yet total spiritual dependence on Christ. "But when people are hungry, they cannot hear anyone's teaching. So first we must feed them."

Involved with the ministry from its inception, Shaheen, a second-generation Irish American with ties to County Cork and County Monaghan, has closely followed the example of founder Tom Petite, a Marist brother and teacher at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence. Petite, after three summers in the early '80s working under Mother Teresa

in Calcutta, brought home a defining message. "Thank you for being here," Mother Teresa told departing volunteers from around the world, "but you really need to go home to your countries and take care of the poor." She then looked squarely at Petite and said, "Especially in America, where the poor are not only physically but spiritually poor." Petite, the only American in the group, returned to Lawrence with a resolve to put Mother Teresa's words into selfless action. He immediately engaged a willing Shaheen in the cause.

The daughter of a former state representative who had served on Beacon Hill with Tip O'Neill, Shaheen had just the right political instincts and self-sacrificing perseverance for implementing Brother Petite's vision. Her sparsely furnished office is testimony to this fact. On the wall are citations from the Boston Celtics *Heroes Among Us Award*, the Lawrence Bar Association, and the Paul Tsongas Public Service Award. She minimizes the significance.

"There is no importance to what I do," insists Shaheen, a mother of three, who lives in Windham, N.H., about 12 miles from Lawrence where she grew up. "Absolutely none! It's not about me, or anyone else. I love what I do; it's no effort for me. I'm one of many. All I do is try to pass along people's goodness, and follow the call of Jesus."

Shaheen has been following that call since childhood. Evidence that Jesus is real can be found each day in the heart of Bridget Shaheen and those like her. "I wanted to work with people who were poor since I was in the fourth grade," she says. "It was the reinforcement and influence of my parents."

Deeply religious and dedicated to public and community service, Shaheen's parents were "incredibly caring people," she says. Her late father, Louis James Scanlon, born in Lawrence, was a restaurant owner and a longtime Director of Public Safety for the City of Lawrence in addition to his service in the Legislature. His father, John Scanlan (later changed to Scanlon when a Lawrence City Hall clerk misspelled it) emigrated from Cloyne in County Cork where he had been a laborer; his wife Bridget O'Brien (Shaheen's namesake) came from County Monaghan.

Shaheen's mother, Helen Sullivan, an orphan, was born in South Boston. Not much is known of her family history. "She was a ward of the state," says Shaheen. "In those days, orphaned children



Bridget Shaheen, at left with two youngsters being helped by Lazarus House in Lawrence, will be the first recipient of the David Burke Award for Community Service, to be presented at the Golden Bridge Award ceremonies October 8 at the Seaport Hotel. The award is named in honor of the late Dave Burke, Lawrence Hibernian and community leader who passed away in May.

were lined up in the back of the church and given to families who would take them."

"My mom," she adds, "was wholly committed; she was quiet, gentle, and compassionate, and always supported my dad. My father was a hard-working, fun loving, and helpful man." As head of public safety, he oversaw the Lawrence police and fire departments. "When the fire alarm rang in the middle of the night, my mother would get up and brew a pot of coffee for the firemen and those displaced by the fire. She sometimes woke us up to get mittens and hats for people who couldn't grab clothing as they fled their homes. My parents early on wanted us to know how fortunate we were and that we had a responsibility to help others."

"My dad also was always looking to help the underdog," she says. "He was the first in Lawrence to hire a physically challenged person in the public safety department, and when a local school burned and students had no way of getting to reassigned classrooms, my dad personally drove them to and from school in his car every day."

Shaheen was raised in a prayerful family. "My parents always encouraged sacrifice and responsibility. We were taught to be accountable for our actions and to keep our word. If you do it, or if you say it, then you must own it. My brother and I always took this to heart." Shaheen's brother Louis ultimately followed in her father's footsteps, becoming a police officer; he is now police chief on the island of Coronado off San Diego.

Shaheen was educated in the Lawrence Catholic School system, attending her parish elementary school, St. Laurence O'Toole, and St. Mary's High School where she was taught by the Notre Dame nuns. Her school years were mostly uneventful for interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities, with the exception of a short stint on her high school newspaper staff and the Glee Club. She says she was timid, although she played sports in the neighborhood. At 15, she started working part-time in a local hardware store. After high school, Shaheen attended Merrimack College in North Andover, majoring in the social sciences.

Upon graduation, she taught English to immigrants in Lawrence schools, married, and had a family. She and her husband Paul, who has served on the Lazarus House Board of Directors and is general manager at a family-owned food wholesaler and distributor in Amesbury, Shaheen Brothers, have three children: Karen, 36, senior project manager at a Boston marketing company; Michael, 34, warehouse manager at Shaheen Brothers; and Christen, 33, a teacher in a Lawrence elementary school. The family has had a multitude of blessings: Michael was born on Thanksgiving, and Christen

was born the following Christmas; hence the spelling of her name. Shaheen and her husband have three grandchildren, and one on the way in January.

By the world's standards, the Shaheens had settled into a routine middle class life. By God's standards, there would be a higher calling.

In 1975, they became involved in what is known in Catholic circles as the Cursillo Movement—a worldwide renewal ministry, founded in Majorca, Spain, that deepens the faith and commitment to Christ. "The Cursillo Movement brings faith to life and creates a stronger desire to follow Jesus and minister to the needy," Shaheen says. "It's not about dogma or rules; it's about Christ's abiding love for us."

Shaheen heard of the movement through friends at her church, St. Joseph Melkite Church in Lawrence, and attended a Cursillo retreat at nearby St. Basil's Melkite Seminary and at Salvatorian Center in Methuen.

"I was fortunate to have been born into family of faith," she says. "We grow in faith at God's pace if we are fixed on His word. I believe that for a fuller life, more is required of us, and as long as we are true to what God has called us, His love is big enough to carry the rest. There is not a person whom Jesus did not accept where they were, and then invited them to become more. I am surrounded by reminders of how good God is."

The "becoming more" part in Shaheen's life led to her involvement at the Lazarus House Ministries. Some might say this is a more difficult life; Shaheen would argue that it is a far richer life, one that often leads to 60-hour weeks that require the high-wire juggling skills of an acrobat.

She says she often reflects on Christ's challenge in John 13: 12-15: "I, your Lord and teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you so that you will do just what I have done for you."

So what's next as she approaches her mid sixties and rounds another corner on life?

"I've never looked at accomplishing anything," she says with characteristic humility. "I am fully satisfied in doing what the Lord wants me to do. And when my work is done at Lazarus House, I'm open to what's next. I have no agenda."

No agenda, that is, other than living her faith. As others ponder the mysteries of life, Shaheen is faithfully content in what she knows.

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



Simon of Cyrene Breakfast

"Every time I think of you I thank God... God is the one who began this good work in you..."
- St. Paul. Letter to the Phillipians

The annual Simon of Cyrene Breakfast will be dedicated in memory of Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, co-founder with Sister Peggy Youngclaus. Father Tom passed away on June 14, 2009.

**The Breakfast will be served
Sunday Sept 13, 2009
Anthony's Pier 4
9 a.m.- 12 noon**



The committee will continue the mission that Fr. Tom initiated, "Making the Goodness of God alive by sharing, instructing, advising, consoling, feeling and praying with the community of people who are disabled and their families."

The Society continues the monthly Days of Prayer in Somerville at the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Family Masses in South Boston. This summer, some 125 persons from 25 families were

able to enjoy the Cape Cod vacation houses in Brewster.

We do realize that there are many demands on your goodness and generosity in this difficult year, and we appreciate the faithful support in the past and hope that it can continue. Please join us at Pier 4 on September 13.

Breakfast tickets are \$35, Donations may be made to the Simon of Cyrene Society, P.O. Box 54, South Boston, MA 02127.

SIMON OF CYRENE SOCIETY



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

The Boys Of St. Columb's – The college was founded 130 years ago and over the years has nurtured young male students, many of whom have made their mark in Ireland and beyond. In 1947 a new and revolutionary education law was introduced that allowed for the first time students from working class families to attend grammar schools in Northern Ireland.



Bill O'Donnell

A new documentary that will be aired on September 21 tells the story of eight of those former St. Columb's college boys who took advantage of the 1947 law and went on to distinguished careers. The eight profiled in the film are: **Nobel Prize winners Seamus Heaney (Literature), John Hume (Peace), singer & songwriter Phil Coulter, writer Seamus Deane, singer & songwriter Paul Brady, civil rights campaigner and writer Eamonn McCann, Irish ambassador James Sharkey, and retired Bishop of Derry, Dr. Edward Daly.**

Not included in the documentary is **Sir Declan Morgan**, recently named the North's new Lord Chief Justice. This is, by any measurement, an extraordinary roster of accomplished graduates of a single school and a testimonial to the belated but amply justified legislation that opened up the educational track to worthy students regardless of wealth or social position.

Trouble In Paradise – It wasn't intended to be this way when the tony Ritz Carlton Hotel in Powerscourt, Co. Wicklow, opened two years ago, but along came the global economic crunch. As it stands today the Wicklow County Council is looking for payment of its \$840,000 annual tax bill, while the Ritz owners have cited losses of \$14 million since the beginning of 2008. The elegant hotel, which more than matches its lush surroundings, gets \$330 for its cheapest rooms and the presidential suite rents for \$7,000 a night. Built at a cost of \$280 million, the hotel (which was completed after I last visited Powerscourt in 2001) is the latest in a series of upscale Irish hotels to report significant losses over the past two years. Dublin's Merrion Hotel lost nearly \$4 million in a 22-month period in 2007-8, and the queen of historic Irish hotels, The Shelbourne, (my personal favorite) took a hit of \$425,000 in the year following its \$160 million renovation.

Controversy Fails To Dampen Presidential Medal – On August 12 at the White House a distinguished gathering of 16 internationally known super achievers gathered to receive from **President Obama** the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian honor. Among the honorees was **Mary Robinson**, former Irish President and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Pro-Israeli lobbying groups in the US have attacked Mrs. Robinson for her harsh criticism of Israeli force against the Palestinians. Of course, that was her job. She also has come under attack for her stewardship of the controversial 2001 Durban conference in which she served as Secretary General.

In a nutshell, and in terms that we can all understand, the problem is that elements in the US and Israel governments and the major pro-Israel lobbying group here, AIPAC, are increasingly uncomfortable when Mrs. Robinson, who had the UN Human rights brief, speaks her mind. She has criticized human rights abuses wherever she has seen them, with little thought to the political fallout or the reaction to what she has characterized as offending and unacceptable government policies.

I first met then Senator Robinson and husband **Nick** for a brief Boston interview in the 1980s and later helped host a luncheon for her when she was president at the World Trade Center during an Irish trade festival, and have, without apology or preamble, admired this gutsy, dedicated international lawyer and activ-

ist for a quarter-century.

The caliber of former President Robinson's critics is typified by New York Congressman **Peter King**, who charges her with views "well out of the American foreign policy mainstream," accusing her of "coming down on the side against vibrant democracies such as Israel and the United States." More poppycock from the House member whom the Spectator Magazine calls "America's worst Congressman." And that's more than enough of Mr. King in this space.

Rickshaws, cattle rustling and bike riders – County Limerick isn't even in the far West of Ireland, let alone the old west, but that hasn't kept one enterprising Irishman from getting up before dawn and spiring off with some of his neighbor's cattle. The rustled Holsteins are worth around \$750 a head and that can be tempting. The early morning cattle raids, ranging back to 2006, were finally brought to a halt by a Gardai posse.

I recall seeing rickshaws decades ago in Taiwan but never in Galway city. In any event the Galway City Council is concerned with the growing numbers of rickshaws there and have called for an action plan. Whether the outcome is licensing (of course, with a fee) or restricting the use of the non-mechanized "Asian taxicab", the three-seat carriages on wheels pulled by people, that fate is in the hands of the council.

The Irish government is trying to get its civil servants out of their cars and onto bikes. To that end they are offering each of the 29,000 government employees a \$1,400 tax break if they will commute to work by bike. To date a mere 191 have eschewed their cars and opted for a bike commute. This is not unlike the unrealized bureaucratic delusion of relocating thousands of civil servants voluntarily from the comfy confines of Dublin, Cork, and other urban centers to rural outposts in Connemara, the midlands, and similar out-of-the-way enclaves.

A Look Back – Thirty years ago this month, Sept. 29, 1979, **Pope John Paul II** arrived via Aer Lingus in Dublin for his eagerly anticipated three-day visit to overwhelmingly Catholic Ireland. He began his pilgrimage with an open-air Mass in Dublin's Phoenix Park before a crowd of more than a million. He later visited Maynooth and the hallowed remains of Clonmacnois, and celebrated Mass in Galway, Knock, and Limerick.

Not All Tourists Love US – A disgruntled woman named **Sarah Mulvihill** has a letter in the recent Irish World, the Irish paper of record in Britain, that excoriates the US customs and passport control people here. She has been to the US twice and finds the officials at United States gateways to be "gruff and rude ... acting like they are God almighty." Ms. Mulvihill, in her letter to the newspapers, goes on to say she is "appalled at the treatment of arriving visitors by custom officials."

She also complains that one is "treated as nothing more than a common criminal" and adds that she has traveled around the world and "the Americans are the only nation who treat holidaymakers like fugitives on arrival."

Has she got a point? When I come into Logan from Ireland or other countries (especially now with pre-clearance at Shannon, etc, on our Irish trips) it's a madhouse at the customs area but I have never felt abused or been treated like a criminal. Have I missed something? Do they know I am a home-towner? Whatever, I hope it goes better for her if there's a next time. We need the money.

Niall And His Voice's Narrow Perspective – I used to see **Niall O'Dowd**, the publisher of the Irish Voice newspaper and Irish America magazine, in airports or at various Irish events and he always looked like the type of guy who was trying to convince himself -- and you -- that if he only had more time he would chat you up at much greater length. Thanks anyway.

Publisher O'Dowd, who fancies himself a green guru, an amalgam of Hearst and Murdoch, got it terribly wrong recently when he poked through his tea leaves and divined that **Hillary Clinton** had said she would assume the special Irish envoy post. In the first place she never said it. What she did say was a "fulltime" envoy isn't needed because "This is not the 1990s. **George Mitchell** did his

job and did it very well." And, of course, Hillary has a job already.

Then O'Dowd, under cover of unsigned editorials in the name of his Irish Voice, blasts an Irish writer, **Niall Stanaige** (who wrote an excellent book on Obama's campaign), for what O'Dowd calls a "major attack" on Irish America -- is that us or his magazine? Stanaige, in an Irish Times article last month, downplayed the importance today of Irish America's so-called "leaders." That, of course, would, rest assured, be O'Dowd and the New York clique who assumed ownership without papers of the peace process and have been patting themselves on the back ever since for having invented peace in Ireland.

Back to the unsigned O'Dowd editorial: In it he does not even try to rebut Stanaige's dismissal of many of the self-styled Irish American hack leaders, but no, rather he goes after Stanaige for being from the "Unionist tradition and [horrors] educated at Oxford." An ever-so-subtle appeal to quasi-racism, it seems to me.

O'Dowd also suggests that this writer from a unionist tradition might be in cahoots with the British government, alluding to a "script that the British government might be happy to write." When in doubt or under attack, accuse the opposition of being a "West Brit." But folks are wise to that by now.

Then, in another unsigned editorial, O'Dowd attacks **Trina Vargo**, a former **Ted Kennedy** aide who runs the US-Ireland Alliance. However, O'Dowd doesn't attack her policies but instead refers to her in a throw-away description as a "Portuguese American who compares Irish to pigs." (taken grossly out of context & totally distorted.) Vargo's mistake is that she also wrote an op-ed piece for the Irish Times that didn't genuflect in O'Dowd's direction and charged O'Dowd and some of his puffed-up Empire State crowd as radically unhinged when it came to strategy regarding the undocumented Irish.

So there you have it. Publisher O'Dowd is fighting for Truth, Justice, and the (Irish) American way, while he fends off Portuguese Americans and writers fatally tainted by the unionist tradition. Can't have them types elbowing the likes of O'Dowd and company off their hard-won precious center stage. Hey, they're the Irish American peacemakers. Pay attention out there.

Foynes, Flying Boats Mark Travel Milestone – Seventy years ago, July 9, 1939, Pan Am's luxury flying boat, the "Yankee Clipper," landed at Foynes, County Limerick -- the first commercial passenger flight on a direct route from the USA to Europe. The Foynes site was first surveyed as a suitable European terminal for transatlantic air services in 1933 by **Colonel Charles Lindbergh**, who, with his wife Ann, flew into Ireland's Galway Bay.

The era of the flying boats (pontoons) and Foynes's seminal role in flight over the Atlantic lasted a brief six years. In 1945 **Captain Charlie Blair**, later to become the husband of **Maureen O'Hara**, piloted the last American Export flying boat out of Foynes to New York. Upon arrival, Blair turned around and piloted the first landplane, a DC 4, back to open the new airport Rineanna, later to become Shannon International Airport.

I visited the Foynes Museum several years ago but new displays and historical artifacts and an aircraft from that intriguing chapter in flight have now made the museum even more of a "must see" tourist attraction.

Apostolic Visitations By Any Other Name – I spent most of my critical formative years, or at least most of the days during the school year, surrounded by teachers from the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was a somewhat bruising relationship but even as memories of many of my early days have disappeared from the screen, I recall, like a Mt. Everest summit visitor, many of the names and faces of the teachers and heave a sigh of relief that while it was exhilarating and good for me, I'm glad to have gotten through it -- and grateful for the good nuns' patience with this errant lad.

Likewise my wife, **Jean**. From grammar school through college in New York she had the good nuns: Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of Charity, and Sisters of the Presentation. A full regimen, if you will. And she, too, looks back with a sense of

grace and nostalgia at those servants of God

Which brings me, painfully, to the fact that the Vatican is investigating the nuns in America. They are decimated in number, down from 180,000 to a third of that and too liberal in some congregations, I'm sure, and not as easy to control as they work out in the neighborhoods in mufti. Oh, I know someone in the Curia behind those ornate doors patrolled by the Swiss Guard call the investigation process "Apostolic Visitations," but I still recognize a euphemism when I see it.

I know that most if not all of those bishops who were top aides to Cardinal **Bernard Law** and enabled or helped the Boston archdiocese to earn a reputation as a major offender in the Black Book of clerical abuse were never investigated, nor have they ever received an Apostolic Visitation, I would guess.

Bishops **Murphy, McCormack, and Daly**, among others, all close aides to the cardinal went up and out to places like Brooklyn, New Hampshire, and other prized dioceses. If there was any vetting of their actions, recommendations and letters of transfer written for abusive priests during their tenure with Cardinal Law, I am not aware of it.

A quick note to the Vatican if anyone cares or is listening: Be gentle with the sisters. They did all the heavy lifting. All of it!

RANDOM JOTTINGS

The North's First Minister **Peter Robinson's** government department handed out grants of \$125,000 to gay groups in Northern Ireland this year. His wife **Iris**, also an elected government official, has been a savage opponent of the gay culture, insisting they can be "turned" with psychiatric help. ... Parents in the US spend anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000 annually on childcare. Many Irish parents are spending \$20,000 a year on the same type of care. ... Lloyd's of London has written off \$1.7 billion in Irish debt due to bad loans. Ireland will trail the rest of the EU in a recovery. ... US sports network ESPN has finalized a deal to launch a new United Kingdom sports channel, mainly to air non-US football. ... Aftermath of the Celtic Tiger: More than 1,000 unwanted horses will likely starve to death this year because of slacking demand and over-population during the prosperous Tiger days. ... Can someone tell me why our Veterans Administration is doling out \$24 million in bonuses with the mess at Walter Reed Hospital and vet housing and a large budget deficit. ... **Paddy Power** bookmakers have installed **Kerry Rose Karen McGillicuddy** as a 3-1 favorite to win this year's Rose of Tralee contest. ... Senator **John Ensign**, Republican of Nevada who cheated on his family with his top aide's wife and won't resign, says his and **Bill Clinton's** affairs are different. When he was a congressman Ensign's voice was loud in urging Clinton to resign. ... The **Haughey** family hangs in there. **Maureen** and the family showed up to formally open the Dingle Regatta, a favorite duty of **Charlie** for many years. ... Sinn Fein is still out there working against passage of the Lisbon Treaty, due for a Irish vote in early October. It should pass this second time around, stress on "should." ... It is now being said in newly released documents that **Lord Louis Mountbatten**, who was blown up by the IRA thirty years ago, was a staunch supporter of a united Ireland. Mountbatten wrote to the Irish ambassador to Britain that "reunification is the only eventual solution."

Local control of policing and justice in the North, delayed by Peter Robinson for months, is now scheduled to be transferred to Stormont in Belfast by the end of the year. ... **Adam Reilly**, a Boston Phoenix reporter who also appears on WGBH's "Beat the Press," is gaining a reputation as one of the sharpest and most-wired reporters in Boston. He gets the story and gets it right. ... At this time next year, both Ireland and Britain could have new governments with **Gordon Brown** and Irish **Taoiseach Brian Cowen** in deep political do-do. ... A major conference on Intolerance organized by the Belfast City Council is set for Sept. 9 at Waterfront Hall. ... Delighted by the news that potential buyers of the Globe are looking over the shop. May their tribe increase.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Marriage Fraud: It's a Big Mistake

Q. I have heard that some people who are undocumented receive legal permanent residence by entering into a marriage with a U.S. citizen that isn't really genuine, and that there is a good chance that the immigration authorities will not catch on. Is this true?

A. If you are thinking of trying to get a green card by the marriage fraud route, think again. This is a serious federal offense, and it is vigorously prosecuted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Attorney's office.

Just last week, for example, ICE announced, as part of its "Operation Honeymoon's Over," indictments of 50 people for committing marriage fraud and related offenses in Cincinnati. This allegedly was a scheme whereby the chief conspirators collected a fee to arrange sham marriages between U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants. These offenses carry stiff penalties: up to five years imprisonment for each charge, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. In addition, the undocumented immigrants involve face deportation.

When an immigrant applies to adjust status to that of permanent resident based on marriage to a U.S. citizen, the couple is interviewed by an experienced U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer before a decision is made. At these interviews, the officer asks questions designed to elicit information about whether the marriage is genuine. The couple also must present documentation of the marriage relationship – joint financial information, photos, and the like. The average applicant does not stand a good chance of surviving this level of scrutiny if the marriage is a sham.

Applicants with a genuine marriage, on the other hand, have nothing to fear from USCIS in the interview. In fact, we at IIC meet with couples prior to the interview to prepare them and ensure that their documentation is adequate.

For a free, confidential consultation about marriage-based adjustment of status or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics as presented in the Boston Irish Reporter.

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



Congratulations to the Home Health Aid Class graduates! -- Last month, 19 men and women successfully completed the Irish Immigration Center's Home Health Aid education class and will soon take the test to be certified in services for home care. Experienced nurses dedicated their time and knowledge once a week to teach these folks the necessary information needed to pursue a career in the health care field. "There are people in the program who took the course for insight into whether or not they want to go into nursing as well as people who want to strengthen their already established health care career," Gobnait Conneely, IIC Community Outreach coordinator said.

This new seven-week course will now be offered regularly. The next round of classes started last week; however, due to strong demand, it is already full. But don't worry, another session will start in October. Please contact Gobnait Conneely if you are interested in the next round of classes. Call 617-542-7654, Ext. 34, or send an e-mail to gconneely@iicenter.org.

Farewell to Robert Sadlier -- All of us here are sad to see Robert go back home to Co. Limerick after working at the IIC for the past six months. Robert was heavily involved in the organizing of and marketing for the 2009 Solas Awards Dinner and he is a vital part of the international programs

team. We want to thank him for all his hard work. We will miss "Robert the Mitt" especially for his softball skills.

Need to Talk to Someone from Home? -- Are you or a loved one feeling depressed, anxious, worried, alone, or isolated? Our Irish Community Services are here to help you. Call Danielle at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, to book an appointment to chat at our downtown office or our off-site clinic in Quincy.

Be Our Electronic Friend -- Join the Irish Immigration Center on Facebook. Yes that's right. IIC is now officially hip. If you are on Facebook (and who isn't these days?) join the new IIC group by logging on and searching for 'IrishImmigrationCenter.' We will keep you up to date with Irish events and with Irish and immigration related news. Furthermore our page will provide a way for friends of IIC to meet and network with each other as well as catch up with old friends. And we promise to be witty and have interesting pictures, as always.

Share President McAleese's Solas speech -- Loved the president's speech as much as us? Or did you miss the Solas Awards this year and want to know what all the talk was about? With a \$25 donation to the IIC, we'll send you a limited edition DVD of President McAleese's speech at the Solas Awards. You'll have the chance to share the president's wonderful words with your friends

and family. Also, for a free photo gallery of the 20th Anniversary event, send us an e-mail to happybirthday@iicenter.org with 'I went to Solas 2009' in the subject line.

Clock is Winding Down for Summer J-1 Students -- With only a few weeks left in the states, now is the time to stop by the Cyber Café and use our free internet access and meet our friendly staff. Our Cyber Café has computers and resources to help you connect with potential employers and housing opportunities if you are still looking for jobs or new apartments. And if you're heading back to Boston next summer, be sure to make the IIC your first stop!

If you would like to use our Cyber Café, the hours are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday: Noon to 5 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday (open late!): Noon to 7 p.m.

Friday: Noon to 4 p.m.

The Cyber Café is located on the 5th floor of our building at 59 Temple Place.

IIC Thanks J-1 Employers and Landlords -- Many thanks to all of you who helped and are still helping our Irish J-1 students. With the support of the employers and landlords who graciously housed and hired J-1 students over the course of the last few months, we were able to connect dozens of Irish students with jobs and contacts throughout Boston. Even though some students

are now in the process of returning home and others are traveling, there are many local Irish still in the process of seeking employment. We are always eager to hear from employers with positions available.

If you still need job or employment vacancies filled this summer, or would like to have seasonal or long-term housing and employment ads placed free of charge, please e-mail us at j1summer@iicenter.org or call 617-542-1900, Ext. 41.

Free Legal Clinics in September -- Are you turning to friends or family for legal advice? Are you looking up immigration laws and policies online? Stop right there because all the answers are just around the corner! Drop by one of our free legal clinics and have all your immigration and citizenship questions answered by an experienced immigration attorney.

Allston/Brighton -- Tues., Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at The Kells Bar and Restaurant, 161 Brighton Ave., Allston.

Dorchester -- Tues., Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at St. Mark's Parish (School Hall), 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.

Downtown -- Stay tuned, the fall schedule will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

Immigration attorneys will be present at all clinics. For more information, call 617-542-7654.

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Matters Of Substance

'Happy Ever After' in Recovery? Everything in Good Time

By Danielle Owen
Special to the BIR

"I have been sober from alcohol & drugs for over 4 months now. I feel, physically, much better & go to meetings every day. I never believed I would have friends without beer or going to the pub but am delighted to discover, in these meetings, that I am able to talk & enjoy other people's company, without drugs. However, I feel very disheartened by my relationships with my wife and my family. When I was in treatment, they were all very honest

and how I had hurt them and I have apologized to them all. I am beginning to feel that they want me to apologize forever! My 3 kids still don't come and tell me about their days in school/camp etc and I feel like, when I come home from a meeting, no one is happy to see me. I thought things would get better once I was sober but I feel like my family is still trying to punish me. What can I do?"

It's a huge achievement to be able to stay away from alcohol and drugs day after day and

your physical recovery is a testament to your efforts. Congratulations! It sounds like you have really embraced the support available to you.

Addiction problems have a huge impact on us individually and also on those we are closest to. Being in recovery does not mean saying sorry to your family forever; however, the hurt, pain and upset that addiction can cause does not disappear once the person becomes sober. Think about how long you have had a problem with alcohol/drugs. 3 years? 5 years? 10 years? Longer?

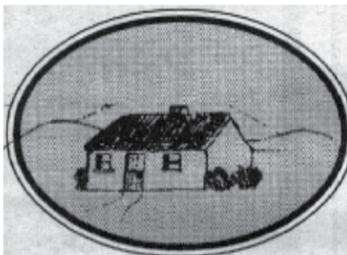
That length of time is also how long your family has been living with the addiction. They didn't go into a treatment center and have not had a chance yet to let go of the hurt and anger they may still feel even though the alcohol/drugs are out of your life. For your children, it can feel like having a stranger in the house and they may need time to get to know you again. Everyone has to re-learn how to live together! It may sound dramatic, but

just as you have learned to get through a day without drugs, to find friends and acceptance without beer, your family needs to learn how to live without constantly worrying about their husband and dad!

They have their own recovery path, just as you do, and there is plenty of support in Al-Anon/Nar-Anon and Al-Ateen Groups as well as individual, couple, family and group counseling. Ask your friends in meetings how they cope with building new relationships at home. Recovery for all your family is possible! It takes time and patience, but trust will grow again for you all!

Call us for suggestions, referrals or to make an appointment. Call Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the Irish Immigration Center. Phone: 617-542-7654 Ext. 14 or send an e-mail to dowen@iicenter.org. Check out: <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/> or <http://nar-anon.org/> <http://nar-anon.com/> [Home.html](http://nar-anon.com/Home.html)

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- **LOCATION:** City Hall Plaza
- **DISTANCE:** 10, 30, or 50 Miles
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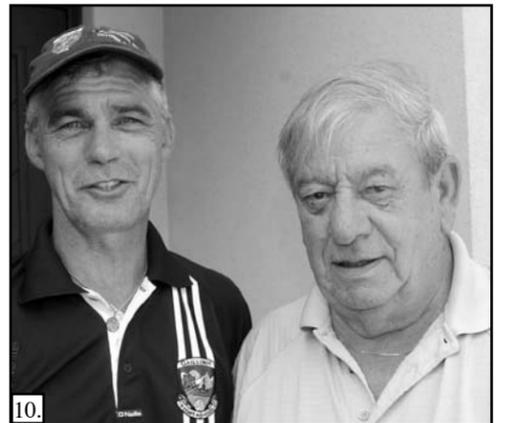
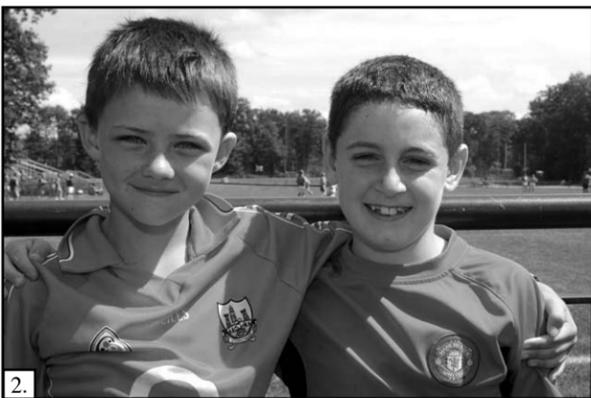
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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Prepping for GAA Football Finals at ICCNE Campus Sept. 5-7

1.) Footballers; 2.) Under 8 team members Kieran O'Driscoll, Squantum and John O'Doherty, Westwood; 3.) David O'Grady, Hyde Park; Barry O'Malley, Hyde Park; 4.) James Foley, Dorchester; 5.) Playing for the Wolfetones, Shane O'Brien, Kerry; 6.) Ellen Fleming, Exeter, N.H.; 7.) Sheila Moran, Brighton; Claire Hehir, Brighton, Meadhbh Maloney, Brighton; 8.) William Lombard with daughter Isabella, W. Roxbury; 9.) Referee Eamonn Morris; John Joe Feeney, Braintree; Larry Kevin, Quincy; 10.) Bernie Connaughton, Quincy; Eddie Costello, Lakeville; 11.) Standing: Siobahn and Fiona Moylan, W. Roxbury; (l-r) Mary Heneghan, Needham; Gavin and Milissa Heneghan, Norwood; 12.) Coley Lydon, Walpole; Bernie O'Reilly, Newton; Pat Kenneally, Brighton (standing); 13.) BGAA board secretary Sharon O'Brien; 14.) Teresa Hobbs, Dorchester; Ryan O'Dwyer, Brighton; 15.) Elma Teahan, Brookline, Claire Conroy, Braintree; Nikki Kenneally, Braintree; Josephine McCormack, Quincy.



Carty on Sports

Title Time: GAA Champions to be Crowned

September a busy period on both sides of Atlantic

By **KEN CARTY**
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Similar to baseball in the United States, Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) sports heat up in September as champions are crowned.

In Ireland, Cork has advanced to the All-Ireland Gaelic football finals following the Rebels hard-fought 1-13 to 0-11 victory over a game Tyrone side on Aug. 23. Cork will play either Kerry or Meath in the finals at Croke Park on Sun., Sept. 20 (10:30 a.m. Boston time).

In hurling, Kilkenny and Tipperary will meet in the final at Croke Park on Sun., Sept. 6 (10:30 a.m. Boston time). Kilkenny will be looking for its fourth straight All-Ireland title. In the semi-finals, Kilkenny handled Waterford 2-23 to 3-15 and Tipp roughed up Limerick 6-19 to 2-07.

Both championship matches will be shown live in the Boston area so check your favorite pubs for more information or visit setantasports.com/us.

Here in the States, GAA events are also heating up. The Boston Northeast Board recently concluded another successful season, culminating in the league's title matches, which were scheduled to be held the weekend of August 29-30. In the men's senior football final, the Shannon Blues were scheduled to take on Christopher's, while in the senior hurling final, it was Wexford and Tipperary. The ladies' football final was Roscommon vs. Tir na nóg. The winners of these and other finals qualified for the national GAA finals, which will be held at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton on Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 5-7). For more information on this great event, visit boston-gaa.com. A weekend pass is \$35 or you can purchase passes by the day (\$10 on Friday, \$15 on Saturday and \$20 on Sunday).

Ireland Still Hoping to Spring a Trap -- The Republic of Ireland's World Cup qualifying campaign is down to three games - at Cyprus (Sept. 5) before they host Italy (Oct. 10) and Montenegro (Oct. 14) at Croke Park. Wins over Cyprus and Montenegro would likely land the Irish second place in the group, which would advance them to the next playoff round. Anything less would open the door for the Bulgarians. If they want to win the group, Ireland would need to be beat the Italians, a tall task but not impossible.

Ireland, which sits in second place with 13 points on three wins and four draws in seven qualifying games, tuned up badly for this critical stretch with a disappointing 3-0 setback to Australia at Thomond Park in Limerick on Aug. 12. Tim Cahill's two goals paced Australia, and David Carney chimed in with a long-

range goal just before the final whistle to consolidate the Socceroos' win.

Off and Running - The European soccer season has finally kicked off. Last year, 26 Irish players participated in the English Premier League and the numbers will again be strong again this year. The usual suspects will be fighting for the top spot - defending champions Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Arsenal. This quarter could be challenged by Manchester City, which spent freely during the transfer window to upgrade its squad. New arrivals for City include Irish keeper Shay Given, previously of Newcastle, and striker Emmanuel Adebayor from Arsenal as well as former Aston Villa midfielder Gareth Barry.

Up north in the Scottish Premier League, Celtic are looking to reclaim their title, which they surrendered to Rangers down the stretch last year. While the Rangers squad has pretty much stayed the same, Celtic has spent about \$14 million to upgrade its roster - landing, among others,

left back Danny Fox from Coventry City.

Rovers Go Home - Congratulations to the Shamrock Rovers, who recently moved into their new Tallaght Stadium. The Rovers were tenants at many Dublin-area grounds over the past 20 years but they now have a superior 6,000-seat venue in South Dublin to call home. The Rovers, who hosted Newcastle and Real Madrid in a pair of pre-season friendlies to help promote the launch of the venue, are averaging more than 5,000 over their last few home games. If they can continue with that type of support, perhaps the League of Ireland (LOI) has something to look forward to.

The Rovers find themselves in second place in the LOI, sitting seven points behind crosstown rivals Bohemians. While the Rovers have enjoyed a revival with a 13-3-9 record, the Bohs have raced from the gate with a stellar 17-4-4 mark. Down the bottom of the table, Sligo and Bray, along with Drogheda, find themselves in a relegation battle with 10 weeks to go in the season. The first-

vision battle for promotion has edged Shelbourne's way, the Reds now leading a trio of contenders by six points. Shels have posted a 17-3-2 mark, only allowing 13 goals.

The Notebook: WBA super bantamweight champion Bernard Dunne will make the first defense of his World title at The O2 Arena in Dublin on Sept. 26 when he faces No. 1 rated contender Pongsawat Kratingdaengym (38 wins in 39 flights including 27 knockouts). Dunne will return to the scene of his sensational world title win in March when he took the title from Ricardo Cordoba after a six-knockdown victory. The 29-year-old Dunne will be challenged by Kratingdaengym, who is referred to as Thailand's Manny Pacquiao.



The Shamrock Rovers recently moved into their new 6,000-seat home, Tallaght Stadium in South Dublin.

Despite poor weather conditions, Englishman Russell Downing of Candi TV captured the 2009 Tour of Ireland cycling event. The three-stage event was held Aug. 21-23, running from first from Powerscourt to Waterford, then Clonmel to Killarney before closing with a Bantry-to-Cork route. Downing won the first stage and placed second

on the final day, which was good enough to capture the overall title. More than 50 riders took part in the 35th annual event, which is rated event on the UCI Europe Tour. Australian Matt Wilson retained his title in the Mountains competition and Dane Matti Breschel of Team Saxo Bank won the Young Rider award.

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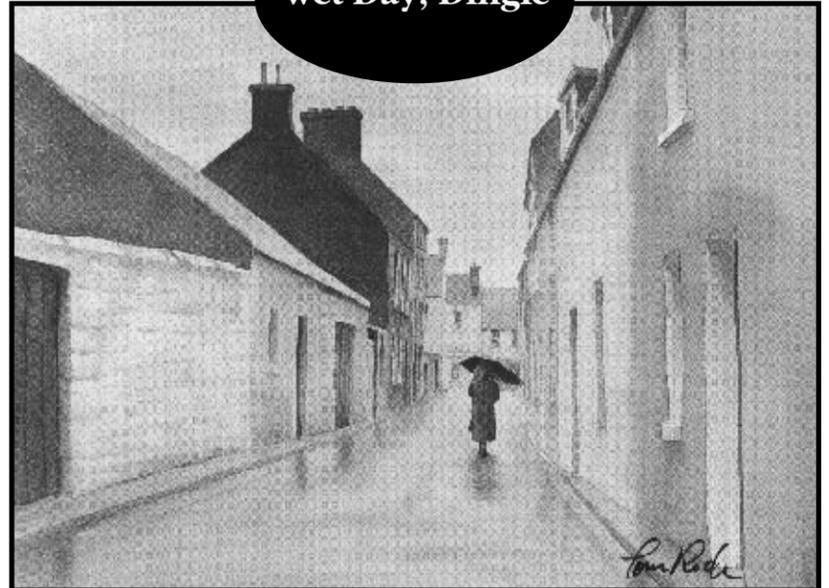
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Wonderful Things Can Happen if You Play Irish music

Yesterday, I traveled 200 years in a half hour. Driving home from Plato's Harvest, my local organic farm in Middleborough, MA, I experimented with backroads and cruised through the most delightful and bucolic hot summer New England country scene I could ever have imagined. Just 20 minutes from home, yet worlds away.

August in Middleborough: Expansive fields and semi-tended hay meadows, crumbling stone walls, clapboard farmhouses in varying states of order and disorder, stable upon stable, trucks upon blocks, and old cracked asphalt roads bearing long, burnt rubber S-skids, telling stories of a town with nothing to do at night.

That drive, coupled with the hour I spent on the farm with Mini Me, chatting with Mr. and Mrs. Farmer Dave and Sasha, selecting veggies, picking tomatoes, and filling a white plastic bucket with dahlia, zinnia, sunflowers, gladiolas, and some tall fluffy pink thing I can't identify, brought me into a euphoria that I haven't quite shaken, even the morning after.

And that's why it's worth it to play Irish music. Because it can be a door to worlds of people and experiences that you might never otherwise consider. Play Irish music, and you could meet the most extraordinary people and have the most extraordinary experiences.

Backtrack: About two months ago, my husband Steve (a Dublin native) and I played at the Plymouth Farmer's Market. It wasn't supposed to be us. It was supposed to be my "other" group: the Henhouse Ceili Band, which is an informal flock of women who like to play Irish music together. Not a real band, per se. We just play, take our veggies home, make a feast, and celebrate life together.

Well, that morning it had rained. Horribly. Our pianist, the fabulous Helen Kisiel, called me from Watertown, 50 miles north, and said her car was up the creek and she'd misplaced the paddle. Nor did she wish to drive to Plymouth in blinding thunderstorms. Denya Levine, our fiddler 70 miles away the other direction, in Orleans, felt the same way.

So, mid-day, I walked to the Farmer's Market to tell Barbara, its manager, we couldn't make it. Before I even opened my mouth, she said, "You'll be back to play at 4:00, right?" I gulped, did my best Meryl Streep smile, and said, "But of course." Turned and ran to the car. Got on the phone. Dialed Steve, working in Boston, and asked him if it were possible to get his Irish heiney back to Plymouth in time. He was game. He did make it home on time, and despite the flurry that led up to the downbeat, we had a wonderful gig together. (Made me glad to be married to him, too.) The weather by now was just clammy. The Farmer's Market parking lot was muddy. Our stuff got really dirty. But Kim and Steph from Soule Farm were nearby, egging us on. Consider us egged. We had a blast.

That's when we met Dave and Sasha, just one more stand away. They enjoyed the music and invited us to play for their annual farm potluck at Plato's Harvest, a party they have for farm shareholders at the end of the summer. Through this request, we discovered the whole concept of farm shares: Pay in advance, and you can show up at the farm for your 55 cucumbers, 90 bunches of kale, 87 zucchini, or ten billion non-squishy squash, every week, all summer.

We joined. Now Mini Me and I spend one amazing afternoon a week with the vegetables, goats, turkeys, chickens, rooster, and cows. We go home with three bags of fresh picked veggies, a dozen farm fresh eggs, a loaf of fresh baked bread, and all the flowers you can fit in the coffee cup you salvaged from the trash in the back seat of your car. (Other farm visitors plan ahead and

(Continued on page 17)



Shannon and Matt Heaton

Shannon Heaton's Passion: 'To Get to Put My Sass On'

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Are you one someone who sings at the drop of a downbeat? Aside from the social aspects of sharing a tune, would you like to explore the skills involved in traditional Irish singing? Then the Irish Song Circle Workshop at Springstep in Medford may be for you.

Jointly taught by Shannon Heaton and Liz Simmons, the Song Circle is a six-week course touching on the techniques and emotional connections involved in the art of Irish singing.

Specializing in the Irish wooden flute, Heaton is a renowned musician, singer, and composer who also performs regularly with her husband, musician Matt Heaton. Their next local date is at Club Passim on Sept. 23.

I had the chance to chat recently with Shannon, who also co-founded Boston's Celtic Music Fest. An edited portion of our conversation follows.

BIR: Fill me in a little about the upcoming workshop. What will people experience?

SH: It's really about introducing people to traditional Irish songs, working out a few additional techniques and, above all, empowering people -- giving them license to come to this music and make it their own . . . (Liz and I are) going to team teach a few classes . . . and then we're going to each teach some separately, with the hopes that by having two different approaches, two different people expanding this education, we might be able to empower singers.

BIR: I understand you had a very interesting childhood traveling the world with your parents.

SH: We lived all over the place. My folks were, I guess you'd call it now, ethno-journalists. So we were in Nigeria and all around American Indian reservations while they were working on a book on American Indian journalism. (Let My People Know by James E. & Sharon Murphy.)

BIR: How did you develop your love of Irish music?

SH: My mom started me out on the piano when I was three. But the first instrument that I really connected with was

the tin whistle when we were, strangely enough, living in Nigeria. We had a neighbor who played recorder and tin whistle, and my Grandpa played tin whistle, and so I just kind of took to it. Then when we came back to the states, my folks had a bunch of people living with us here, one of whom, John Tunney, is the son of the great Irish singer, Paddy Tunney. John had a bunch of friends in the Irish music world who'd come and visit us. And he'd take us to concerts. I happened to have Irish in my family, but it was really being exposed to the tin whistle in Nigeria, and being exposed to the Irish singers and players who happened to come through our house. . . . The music is great, but what I loved most about it at the beginning was the social aspect.

BIR: You also studied in Chicago.

SH: When I was 16, I was in Thailand for a year, and (then) I ended up in Chicago at Northwestern University. They have a great music program and I was able to do a sort of ad hoc ethnomusicology program because Chicago has such a great Irish music scene. There were Irish music sessions on the north side of Chicago, and Thai traditional music sessions on the south side of Chicago. And I was able to stitch together my own ethno-degree specializing in Irish traditional music and Thai traditional music.

BIR: When did you meet Matt?

SH: He was a senior, I was a sophomore, and I met him because I needed a guitar player for a (wedding) gig.

BIR: How did the two of you wind up here in Boston?

SH: In 1998, Matt and I said, 'Let's get out of Chicago.' It's a big city, and we were doing a lot of teaching, and playing all around. . . . We just really wanted to get away. We actually went to Boulder, Colorado, for two and a half years. We had a great time mountain biking around.

And then we said to each other, 'Okay, it's time to be back in a city. Time to be back in a huge Irish music center.' It was either Chicago, or maybe we'd try Boston, because Boston is also a very vibrant Irish music town. And boy, it's been a great

fit for us.

BIR: What prompted you to get into teaching?

SH: Kind of the shtick with Irish music is that you pass it on from one person to the next. . . . It starts informally. Someone says, 'Hey, can you show me that tune,' and then somebody else says 'Hey, can you show me that tune,' and then pretty soon, 'Hey, my daughter might want to take lessons,' and then you're doing teaching camps and workshops. Especially with traditional Irish music, it sort of naturally happens, kind of informally, until you really get your teaching chops together. Then it's a more formal thing.

BIR: The show you and Matt are doing at Club Passim on Sept. 23 is called Back to School. What's that all about?

SH: Lots of a traditional Irish music, songs and instrumentals. But we're also going to have quizzes, simple writing exercises, getting people in the flow of 'back to school.' It's definitely tongue in cheek. We're going to have music games. I'm going to share some of my composition exercises from the second grade. (Laughs) It's all in good fun. . . . There's still this weird promise when Fall comes around. You want to sharpen your pencils and get organized and get your [act] together. . . . We're going to give people a tangible outlet for celebrating that 'back to school,' 'crisp new resolve' feeling.

BIR: So how do teaching and performing compare.

SH: When I teach, I'm interested in carefully presenting traditional Irish music and giving people tools for that. . . . I completely love traditional music and spend a lot of time carefully crafting arrangements with my husband. But man, the performance is where it's all about being silly and really having fun. Not that we don't have fun at the workshops, but performing is my real outlet to get to put my sass on.

Springstep's six-week Irish Song Circle Workshop begins Sept. 8 and October 27; all levels of experience are welcome. See springstep.org.

Matt & Shannon Heaton perform Sept. 23 at Club Passim in Cambridge; 617-492-7679. mat-and-shannonheaton.com.



Photo by Sasha Willoughby, Veggie Man (or Is It Woman?) by Stephanie Kelliher, both of Plato's Harvest.



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

Bonny "Babes" -- There'll be a distinctive Caledonian feel to this month's BCM Fest Celtic Music Monday concert, which features some of Greater Boston's most

outstanding female musicians in the Scottish tradition. "Babes in Scotland," which takes place Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. in Harvard Square's Club Passim, will explore the new and the old in Scottish music and song, and how centuries-old traditions have joined with contemporary influences to create exciting sounds.

Presiding over the evening's festivities will be Hanneke Cassel, whose innovative fiddling exemplifies the ancient-modern dynamic in Scot-

tish music. A former US National Scottish Fiddle Champion, Cassel has performed and taught across the US, Scotland, Sweden, China, New Zealand, France, England, and Austria, working as a soloist and also playing with the Cathie Ryan Band, Childsplay, and Halali. She has made guest appearances with such luminaries as Cherish the Ladies, Alasdair Fraser, Aine Minogue, and Joey McIntyre (from New Kids on the Block).

Among others joining Cassel on stage will be fiddler-vocalist Hannah Read, an Edinburgh native and Berklee College of Music student who is a member of the inventive Folk Arts Quartet—which plays "chambergrass," a mix of folk and classical

styles; Anne Hooper, a two-time National Scottish Fiddle Champion and a mainstay of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Boston branch, the first RSCDS branch to be established outside Scotland; and Katie McNally, an emerging talent among the Boston area's next-generation fiddlers who has studied and played with Cassel.

The concert will be an "in-the-round" affair, Cassel says, with the performers playing as an ensemble, and in smaller combinations or solos. "We think this format will give a really good idea of different aspects of Scottish music," she says. "With Anne, you hear the 'classic' country-dance side of Scotland. Hannah has a very contemporary

sound to her singing, with some jazz and pop influences, as well as folk and traditional. Katie and I play what might be called the 'American' style of Scottish music—it's not Appalachian or Texas, but definitely American."

One question Cassel often hears is, "What's the difference between Scottish and Irish music?" There's ample explanation to be found in music theory, according to Cassel, but she also likes to express the answer in metaphorical, even geographical terms.

"I think of Scottish music as related to the landscape; the rugged, severe, square features of the Highlands, for instance. The grace notes in Scots music are more percussive and flamboyant, so it has

this up-and-down, vertical quality, where Irish music is more lilting, swirling.

"With Irish music, I picture the musicians kind of huddling in a corner of the room; with Scottish music, they're up on the tables," she quips, adding, "Not that we're planning to stand on tables when we play at Celtic Music Monday, of course. But there's sure to be some excitement."

Tickets for Celtic Music Monday are \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For reservations, go to clubpassim.org or call 617-492-7679. For more information on BCM Fest, see bcmfest.com; you can also sign up for the BCM Fest e-mail list via the website.

Coming: Concerts On Tap Locally

Irish vocalists Len Graham and Brian Ó hAirt, local favorites Matt and Shannon Heaton, and Scottish supergroup Malinky are among the notable Celtic music performers who will be appearing in the Greater Boston area over the next month.

Graham, an Antrim native with numerous recordings to his credit, has drawn plaudits for his interpretations of songs and stories, as well as his knowledge of the Irish folk music tradition. A member of the popular band Bua from the Midwest, Ó hAirt has impressed audiences with his sean-nos ("old style") singing and in 2002 became the youngest, and first-ever American, to win the coveted Sgiath Uí Dhálaigh shield at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann—previous winners include Joe Heaney and Frank Harte. The two will perform at a house concert in Lexington on Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the Music-For-Robin

series; tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, and reservations are required. Call 781-862-7837 or e-mail bhockett@music-for-robin.org.

Husband-and-wife duo Matt and Shannon Heaton, Boston-area residents noted for their instrumental mastery (on flute, accordion, guitar and bouzouki), warm, intimate singing, and personable stage presence, will present a "Back to School Show" at Club Passim in Harvard Square on Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. The concert, according to the Heaton, is intended to offer "a silly, uplifting night of embracing the crisp 'sharpen your pencils' feeling of autumn," with fun writing, math and trivia quizzes, as well as new songs. Opening for the Heaton will be Mayfly, a Vermont-based duo whose repertoire draws on southern Appalachian old-time, and New England blues, ballads and soul music. Tickets are \$15. For infor-



The Scottish folk group Malinky will perform in Somerville on Oct. 3

mation and reservations, see clubpassim.org or call 617-492-7679.

Just completing its first decade, Malinky has cultivated a reputation as one of the most popular and accomplished bands in the

Celtic music scene, known for the passion, drive, and inventiveness they bring to their arrangements of songs and tunes, mostly in the Scottish tradition. The quintet, which earlier this year released its fourth

album, "Flower and Iron," will perform as part of the Notlob Folk Concerts series on Oct. 3 at the Unity Church of God, 6 William Street, in Somerville. There is a suggested donation \$17 at the door, \$15

with reservation at least 24 hours in advance to notlobreservations@comcast.net. For information, see <http://notlobmusic.googlepages.com>.

-- SEAN SMITH

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BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

BY SEAN SMITH

Joanie Madden, Brian Conway, Billy McComiskey and Brendan Dolan, "Pride of New York"

Bostonians ordinarily might not feel much like praising New York, given the results of Super Bowl 42 and the perennial Sox-Yankees contretemps, but all



is forgiven in the musical arena – or it certainly should be, given this superb new CD that is a tribute to New York City's traditional Irish music legacy.

The four individuals on the album, among the finest Irish-American musicians around today, here emphasize their identity, and their heritage, as New York Irish-American musicians – the descendants and protégés of Martin Mulvihill, "Lad" O'Beirne, Joe Madden, Joe Burke, Andy McGann, Paddy Reynolds, Felix Dolan, and others who emigrated to New York or were born of Irish parents. Most all the tunes on "Pride of New York" are in some way associated with their mentors or the New York Irish-American music community.

Madden, McComiskey, Conway, and Dolan describe the "New York sound" in Irish music as an unusual blend of Galway's relaxed style and Sligo's more pulsating fashion, mixed with influences from the likes of Clare, Donegal, and Mayo "in the steel and concrete of New York City," as McComiskey puts it. Whether or not one is attuned to such subtleties, this recording finds the quartet at the top of their form: McComiskey's accordion providing the melodic punch, abetted by Madden's airy but solid flute and whistle and Conway's lilting fiddle, and Dolan's piano supplying graceful and sensitive rhythm.

There are several exuberant full ensemble pieces, including the first four tracks, which are, respectively, sets of reels, hornpipes, jigs – beginning with the irrepressible Larry Redican composition "Happy Days" – and a "French" waltz named for Sean McGlynn, a Galway native who emigrated to Long Island and later became a mentor and major influence for McComiskey (who displays some delightful flourishes).

The three melody players also each get a solo track:

Madden demonstrates her flair for airs, with "Slan Le Maigh (Farewell to the Maigue)," the melody for an 18th-century poem written as a lament of departure (albeit under somewhat scandalous circumstances, according to the liner notes); Conway contributes a sprightly set of hornpipes associated with Michael Coleman, James Kelly, Jack and Charlie Coen, and Lad O'Beirne; and McComiskey offers up three slip jigs, including a version of "The Humours of Whiskey" that came from Donegal native, and later Brooklyn resident, Tom Doherty (the first inductee into the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann North American Hall of Fame), whose daughter Maureen Doherty Macken played with Madden in the band Cherish the Ladies.

Dolan doesn't get a solo per se, but his talents are much in evidence: He takes a turn at leading "Slan Le Maigh," and his introduction to McComiskey's slip jig medley is a thing of beauty.

All four get the chance to bid a musical farewell on the final track, which includes enduring session favorites "Trip to Durrow" and "Bere Island," by which time you're sure to be in a New York state of mind.

String Sisters, "Live"

Talk about delayed gratification. At the 2001 Celtic Connections festival, six premier female fiddlers representing the Irish (Liz Carroll, Liz Knowles, and Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh), Scandinavian (Annbjorg Lien and Emma Hardelin) and Shetland (Catriona Macdonald)



music traditions first joined forces to great acclaim. It was four more years before they were able to reunite for another performance – and now, four years later, the recording of that concert is finally available in the US (it was released two years ago in the UK, Norway, France,

and Germany).

The Sisters play in full formation as well as in smaller combinations and solos, supported by a first-class rhythm section of pianist David Milligan, bassist Conrad Ivitsky, guitarist Tore Bruvold, and drummer/percussionist James Mackintosh. It makes for a pretty good sampler of traditional and contemporary influences in fiddling, although Scottish music fans are bound to feel slighted.

Highlights include the jig/reel set at the outset, beginning with "Shetland Fiddle Diva" (written for Macdonald by Scots accordion player Ian Lowthian) and segueing into 6/8 and 4/4 versions of a composition by Knowles, climaxing with a tune in the New York Irish tradition [see above] by the legendary "Lad" O'Beirne. Macdonald's appropriately titled "The Joy of It!" sounds even more ebullient in the String Sisters setting, and the high-energy reel set at the end of the CD

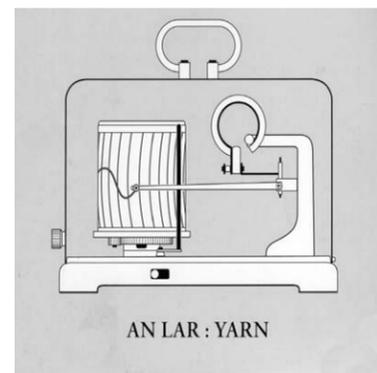
– comprising compositions by Carroll and Shetland's Tom Anderson, and that A-major barn-burner "Dinky's" – shows equal parts power and grace.

Among the featured performances, Knowles' "Rumble Thy Bellyful" – a "violent tune," as she calls it, inspired by "King Lear" – is perhaps the most adventurous, with its excursion into something approximating Balkan gypsy jazz. The exotic, sometimes otherworldly beauty in Scandinavian music also is on display, notably in Hardelin's powerful rendition of a Swedish traditional song, "The Hussar," and Lien's compositions – the primal-sounding "Luseblus" and her sassy tribute to the group, "G-strings." Liz Carroll aficionados need not worry, either: She's spotlighted via a medley of her tunes "The Champaign Jig Goes Columbia/Pat & Al's Jig," and the stately, easy-going "The Fly and the Dodger" (an ode to her husband, an avid fisher).

An Lar, "Yarn"

Are the Celts reconquering Europe? A fair question, perhaps, given the incidence of Irish/Scots/other Celtic-related music popping up on the Continent in recent years: Spain's Milladoiro, drawing on the Galician tradition; techno-driven Fiamma Fumana of Italy; Germany's Cara, a highlight of the 2007 ICONS Festival; and, from Switzerland, An Lar (Irish for "the center").

"Yarn" is An Lar's fourth album, showcasing a repertoire of music of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, and Asturia, as well as their own material. The band has a local-regional connection of sorts via fiddle player Stefanie Aeschlimann, who some years back stayed briefly in the area during a visit to North America and made the acquaintance of Maine native and former Bostonian Lissa Schneckenburger (here the band covers her tune "Melissa Without the 'Me'").



There's a lot to like here: An Lar clearly has some familiar influences from the Irish and Scots folk revival but at the same time don't try to be a "Swiss version" of, say, Planxty or Silly Wizard. Lead vocalist and bodhran player David Brühlmann has a voice redolent of a good Glasgow pub singer: a little

rough around the edges but more than capable of carrying a tune. Multi-instrumentalists Jurg Frey and Matteo Hofer muster guitar, mandola, mandolin, flute, whistle and concertina, and along with Aeschlimann display fine musicianship.

The songs range from originals by Brühlmann and Frey, "Launching the Boat" and "The Three Mermaids" (unlikely nautical songs for a band from a landlocked alpine country), to Bobby Nicholson's "The Silent March," the traditional "John Barleycorn," Ewan MacColl's nearly forgotten "Tunnel Tigers" and that epic Irish tragedy "The Night Before Larry Was Stretched," the latter three particularly well-suited for Brühlmann. Most of the tunes on "Yarn" are band compositions, with Frey's "Handtrucking" set and "Funny Weather" as well as Hofer's "Tea Tom's Kajak" among the stand-outs.



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ICCNE Festival All Set

(Continued from page 1)

eral years, during which the event took on a more international and musically diverse character, as the Irish Connections Festival and, in 2007 and 2008, the ICONS Festival. With a run of less-than-ideal weather conditions in recent years, and faced with decreasing corporate support—all in the context of the global financial crisis—the management team that had produced the festival elected not to continue this year. The ICCNE, however, decided in July to put on the festival, on a smaller scale and with a local and regional focus.

“We probably could have just folded up the tent and said ‘Forget it, it’s just not a good year,’” says Festival Director Seamus Mulligan. “But the festival has been such a major part of the center, and we felt we could do something that people would enjoy, and that would be affordable. When we put out the call for performers and musicians, we got a terrific response; there’s a lot of enthusiasm out there in the Irish music commu-

nity for this festival.”

Mulligan and his fellow organizers believe the enthusiasm will be contagious when festival-goers turn out to see this year’s line-up, especially the two headlining acts—both of which draw upon family roots in the Irish American music tradition.

Andy Cooney

Cooney has been singing professionally for a quarter-century, beginning with a stint in Paddy Noonan’s renowned band that took him around the United States. Since launching his solo career in 1994, the Long Island native has performed at venues large and small across the country, as well as internationally, offering renditions of familiar Irish favorites like “Danny Boy” and “Galway Boy,” and his hit records “The Irish Wedding Song,” “Boston Rose,” and “Daughter of Mine.” He has worked with prominent entertainers from the Irish and country music scenes, including Ronan Tynan, Crystal Gayle, Seamus Egan, George Casey, Charlie Daniels, Noel V. Ginnity, the Oak Ridge Boys,

Cahal Dunne, Joannie Madden, The Irish Sopranos, Annette Griffin, Kate Purcell, and Deirdre Reilly.

His recording credits include the 2009 album “It’ll Be Me,” featuring duets with Crystal Gayle, Larry Gatlin, and Ronan Tynan, and “Home Away from Home,” with legendary composer-arranger Phil Coulter. In 2004, Cooney recorded a TV special for PBS, “An Evening of Irish Classics,” that was later released on DVD.

In 1995, Cooney organized the first annual “Cruise of Irish Stars,” a week-long Caribbean jaunt featuring Cooney and other major Irish performers that has grown in popularity. Cooney’s musical guests this year included the Irish Sopranos, the Paddy Noonan Band, Ronan Tynan, and Noel V. Ginnity.

Girsa

The eight young women who constitute Girsa (Gaelic for “young girls”) grew up together in Pearl River, NY, a community known for its strong family and teaching traditions in Irish music. Some of Girsa’s members, in fact, have blood ties to the pioneering all-female Irish band Cherish the Ladies, and all have been nurtured and mentored by ma-

ior figures in the New York Irish music scene, such as Rose (Conway) Flanagan, Patty (Conway) Furlong, Margie Mulvihill, Annmarie Acosta, Eileen Goodman, Mary Coogan, and Frankie McCormick, among others. Girsa musicians have also developed their individual talents in the competitive realm, regularly taking part in the New York Fleadh as well as the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann.

Earlier this year, the band released its debut CD, containing a mix of tune sets and traditional and contemporary songs, including “Mary and the Soldier,” “I Live Not Where I Love,” “The Home I Left Behind Me” as well as “Immigrant Eyes,” for which they also produced a video.

The Girsa roster includes Maeve Flanagan (fiddle, whistle), currently a student at Stonehill College, along with Emily McShane (lead vocals, piano, bodhran, guitar), Kristen McShane (fiddle), Deirdre Brennan (fiddle, vocals, mandolin), Margaret Dudasik (fiddle, low whistle, vocals, dancing), Bernadette Flanagan (piano, bodhran, dancing), Pamela Geraghty (accordion, guitar, vocals) and Blaithin Loughran (accordion).

A look some of the local musical acts at this year’s festival:

The Noel Henry Irish Showband was founded in 1974 as “Noel Henry and the Celtic Blues,” headed by brothers Noel, Mattie, and Tommie. Since then, the group—with its mix of Irish, folk, country and big band sounds—has built a loyal fan following and toured through the US and Ireland, as well as more exotic climes such as

Bermuda, the Caribbean, the Mexican Riviera, Australia, and the Greek Isles. Over the years, its ranks have included such prominent musicians as fiddler Brendan Bulger and accordionist Larry Reynolds Jr. Although Noel died in 1995, his legacy lives on in the person of his older daughter Caroline Henry Brennan, who in 2004 joined the band, now led by her uncle Tommie.

Since they began playing together in a Roslindale kitchen 15 years ago, the five-member **Fenian Sons** have been delivering traditional Irish music with a modern edge to the New England area, bringing a rock-n-roll energy to a repertoire that includes songs made famous by such well-loved performers as The Wolfe Tones, Clancy Brothers, and Paddy Reilly.

The Andy Healy Band has been a Boston institution for three decades, providing music for all occasions, from concert halls to dance halls to benefits to St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

The Gobshites draw on the blend of hard rock/punk and Irish music

popularized by the Pogues, Black 47, and Flogging Molly, but with a twist—often taking songs from Black Flag, the Ramones, and other punk rockers and giving them an Irish flavor.

Nearly 35 years old, Boston’s Hanafin-Cooley branch is one of the largest and most active of the some 400 world-wide branches of **Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann**. Through its traditional music and dance classes, monthly session and other events and activities, as well as the efforts of its many members and supporters, CCE Hanafin-Cooley is widely recognized for its dedication to preserving traditional Irish music and culture. Their tent is one of the most popular destinations for festival-goers, who can enjoy literally hours of set and social dancing, as well as performances by Comhaltas musicians.

Admission is \$15, \$10 for ICCNE members, and free for children under 12 accompanied by a parent. Information on the festival is available via the ICC Web site, irishculture.org.

Why Play Irish Music?

(Continued from page 15) bring a bucket. But I’m a musician, remember?)

About that coffee cup: Dave the Farmer was kind. He gave me a five-gallon bucket, and Mini Me and I returned to the “Flower Aisles” to fill’er up. We got home and made an absolutely cockamamie arrangement of zinnias, then a stunning display of glads in an Asian china vase (Christmas Tree Shop, thank you), and I said to Mini Me, “We are so lucky to have a life like this.” File that under IRISH MUSIC. It is not all about money. More times it’s about love. Just like organic farming: more love than money, more dirt than dough. I think Sasha at Plato’s Harvest agrees. Though it feels like a

step back in time, there’s nothing old fashioned about organic farming. In fact, to prove just how progressive we are, Sasha and I have already begun planning discussions for the apocalypse.

When it all goes down and you people lose your office jobs, we’ll be working on our ark to sail into the future. We’ve got the food and music covered. All we need is the beer. Now accepting applications for a brewer and vintner.

Looking forward to the first on-deck Ceili at the Ark. Specifically for that gig, I shall keep practicing.

(Thank you to Steph from Soule Farm for the Veggie Man, and thank you to Sasha for the pic!!!)

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<p>DORCHESTER Saint Mark’s Parish (School Hall) 1725 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester, MA 02124 6:00 pm January 27th, March 31st</p>	<p>THURSDAY CLINICS:</p> <p>DOWNTOWN BOSTON Irish Immigration Center 59 Temple Place 10th Floor Boston, MA 02111 4:00pm</p>

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Traveling People

A Change of Scene: Exploring the Irish Hinterlands

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Aren't most of us creatures of habit? We get into a rut so easily because it's familiar and it's where we're most comfortable.

That's certainly true about traveling – at least it always has been for me. I find places I like and seldom wander too far afield. There is no question that the West of Ireland is my favorite spot and it's difficult to break away from the magic of that rugged coastline to venture south, east, or inland.

Someone said Ireland is like a doughnut because many tourists only travel the edges so the interior becomes the hole that's never seen. And, that's probably pretty true for most travelers who stick to better-known beauty spots like the Ring of Kerry and other well-worn routes.

This spring, we bravely left the West to travel down to the Waterford area and then up toward Dublin. And, we also explored some uncharted hinterlands, taking back roads and generally seeing parts of Ireland not often visited.

One small road took us deep into the Burren just north of Doolin. We turned off onto a side road that climbed up over hills that looked out over the ocean. It was great fun to photograph new and different vistas and to see the coastline north of Doolin from high on a Burren hillside.

You do occasionally get an odd look from residents as your unfamiliar vehicle passes their door. But, I've found that the minute we stop and they hear my American accent, they know I'm a visitor. More often than not, the problem then becomes that they want to chat, find out where we're from, and ask if we know relatives there. We find it difficult to focus on the scenery because we're too busy chatting. But it's a small problem really and it's always fun to talk about home and traveling and our cameras.

After leaving the West, we visited the Dungarvan and Ardmore area down in Co. Waterford and, in a never-ending quest for adventure, headed north

and turned off onto "The Old Bog Road" in Co. Kildare. I had heard much about Kildare over the years (mostly in connection with horses) but had no particular knowledge of that county. And, of course, I had heard about "The Old Bog Road" but never knew the poem was about a road there.

"The Old Bog Road" was written by Teresa Brayton, a native of the area. A large sign has been erected to mark the road and her contributions.

Born Teresa Boylan in 1868 in Kilbrook, Kilcock, Co. Kildare, she, like many of her countrymen and women, left Ireland in the late 1800s. She initially came to Boston but only stayed for a short time before moving to New York. It was there that she met and married Richard Brayton, a French Canadian, and spent 30 years there before moving back to Ireland when she was 64. She lived in the Dublin area for several years and then moved back to Kilbrook, where she died in 1943 in the same room where she had been born 75 years earlier. She had been prominent in Irish American circles in New York, was familiar with most of the leaders of the 1916 Rebellion, and many of her patriotic poems reflect her support of "the cause."

While here, she published extensively in newspapers and magazines and published her first book of poetry. Her primary themes focused on the nostalgic loss of homeland, nationalism, and religion.

We drove down "The Old Bog Road" just to see what it looks like today. The area is apparently close enough to Dublin so that it's a residential suburb. Homes are large with manicured lawns – totally unlike what we expected: a more rustic, rural, and primitive area. True, there were corrals of horses, a field with sheep, and wildflowers growing along the edges of the road, but this is a high-end area of big homes and probably not much like Teresa Brayton would have known in her day.

Ulster American
Folk Park



Horses corralled along the old bog road road in Co. Kildare. (Judy Enright photos)

There was an interesting story in The Irish Times recently saying that the "Wild West" is coming to The Ulster American Folk Park in Northern Ireland. The writer did not mean the wild west of Mayo or Donegal but the story said, "Landscapes from America's wild west" which will be recreated in Northern Ireland as part of a 2.4-million pound museum expansion. (Note that the pound sterling monetary system is used in Northern Ireland and not the euro.)

The story went on to say, "The frontier scenes will be built on 30 acres of unused land at the Ulster American Folk Park near Omagh. Homes, barns, and other settler buildings erected by early Irish immigrants will be built on the site in an effort to reproduce what life would have been like for those who went in search of a new life in the new world."

The expansion has been primarily funded by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has matched a private donation to invest 75,000 pounds to restore and rebuild an original frontier log house, first built by Ulster immigrant Richard McCallister in Cabell County, West Virginia, in 1827.

The project, which is the first phase of a 10-year development program, is due to be open to the public in 2011. The museum, which attracts 160,000 visitors annually, will not be affected while construction takes place, officials said.

Tourism and B&Bs

A story by Eoin Burke-Kennedy in The Irish Times said, "The continuing slump in the tourism

sector shows no sign of easing with data for June showing further sharp declines in visitor numbers. "The latest travel figures, published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) today, showed overseas visits to Ireland fell by 113,300 (15.1 percent) in June compared with the same month last year.

"Trips to Ireland from Britain and mainland Europe, Ireland's two main visitor markets, saw sharp declines. The figures show the total number of overseas visits to Ireland has now dropped 10.7 percent to 3,304,100 in the first six months of the year."

But, oddly, in another story, reporter Charlie Taylor wrote, "The deteriorating economic situation may be poison for most local industries but it is helping B&Bs stage a remarkable comeback, according to new figures released today. B&B bookings are up by 20 percent during the first three months of the year despite a fall in the number of people visiting Ireland."

"New data from the Town and Country Homes Association (TCHA), which represents over 1,100 B&Bs across the country, shows that consumer bookings were up 13 percent in March compared to the same month a year earlier.

"According to the TCHA, the rise in bookings can be attributed in part to a greater number of people from both Ireland and overseas seeking better value for money when looking for accommodation."

We've stayed in many B&Bs across Ireland and they do, without a doubt, offer great value and some of the friendliest people anywhere. We have many favorite B&Bs, among which is Cahergal Farm



Tim Durham from Killucan, Co. Westmeath, reads the sign erected at the old bog road in Co. Kildare to honor poet Teresa Brayton.

in Newmarket-on-Fergus. We often stay there when we land (and sleep after the all-night flight) and also stay the night before flying back. Cahergal is very close to the airport and Michael and Noreen McInerney could not be a better host and hostess. Take a look at cahergal.com if you want a great place to stay.

Travel

Summer may be over but there's still a lot to do in Ireland.

- The National Ploughing Championships will be held Sept. 22-24 in Athy, Co. Kildare (see npa.ie for details.)

- The Dublin Theatre Festival is Sept. 24-Oct. 11. See dublintheatrefestival.com for information.

- The Electric Picnic Music Festival will rock Stradbally, Co. Laois, Sept. 4-6. See electricpicnic.ie. And, in Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal, there's the annual Jazz and Blues Festival (arnoldshotel.com)

- Oyster Festivals are the order of the day in Carlingford, Co. Louth, Sept. 4-6 (see carlingford.ie) and Clarinbridge, Co. Galway, Sept. 10-13 (clarinbridge.com); and the world-famous Galway International Oyster Festival

(galwayoysterfest.com) Sept. 24-27;

- If you're single, don't miss the fun at the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival in the Co. Clare spa town on Sept. 4 and 5 (see matchmakerireland.com for more)

- There are multiple food festivals too such as: Waterford Harvest Food Festival (slowfoodireland.com), Sept. 11 and 12; Middleton, Co. Cork, Food and Drink Festival (middletonfoodfestival.ie), Sept. 12; Taste of West Cork Food Festival (atasteofwestcork.com) in Skibbereen, Sept. 14-20.

For more information on happenings in September, see Tourism Ireland's excellent website: discoverireland.com

Getting There

For more information about Ireland, visit your favorite travel agent or the Aer Lingus website (aerlingus.com) for direct flights and ground deals. Flights and deals are also offered by US Airways (usairways.com) and other airlines, but usually involve layovers in various cities that can add several hours to your trip but also reduce the cost.

Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever you go.

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: Belfast Buildings Preservation Trust has warned that one of the city's landmark buildings is in urgent need of restoration work. Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church, located at the junction of the Antrim and Crumlin Roads, has been unused for the past twenty years and would require funding of 700,000 pounds simply to maintain it while a feasibility study is carried out. The building was last used as a church in 1982 and the BBPT has said that a further 300,000 pounds would allow it to be used in another capacity until a decision is made on whether full restoration can be carried out, at a projected cost of more than 11-million pounds.

Armagh: Jay Beatty who, with his older sister Olivia became the face of the Down Syndrome Society in New York's Times Square two years ago, is about to start school at Tanaghmore primary school just down the road from his Lurgan home. In addition to the Times Square photograph, Jay, Olivia, and their parents Martin and Aine also appeared on a flyer promoting a charity walk in Central Park. The five-year-old has had to overcome a six-hour heart operation and MRSA, which saw him in hospital for five months, but now he's ready to join his friends in the mainstream school.

Carlow: Having already taken part in one event which gained an entry into the Guinness Book of Records, the Fenelly family from Burton Hall in Carlow last month were part of a second such achievement. Two years ago, Tommy drove one of the tractors that broke the record for the greatest number of tractors gathered together. This year he and his wife Madeline and their twin sons Nikita and Kirill travelled to Cooley in Co. Louth to become part of a group of combine harvesters that broke the record by harvesting four hundred tons of grain in a one-hundred acre field over a fifteen-minute period.

Cavan: There were just 143 students in Ireland who gained the maximum 600 points in their Leaving Certificate this year and one of them is a student at The Royal School in Cavan. Lorraine Spotten from Ballyconnell achieved six A1s which, she said, assured her of her preferred place on the pharmacy course at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. Lorraine, who also scored ten A1s in her Junior Certificate and received a third place in the Young Scientists' competition, was congratulated by the new headmaster of The Royal School, Edward Lindsay.

Clare: A protest was held in Shannon last month by people accustomed to exercising their dogs on the river walks. Three notices were put up in the Cluain Airne area by local resident John Hamilton asking people to join him in protesting at plans to construct an affordable housing scheme. He was prompted into action by handwritten notices stating that access to the river walks would be closed from this week. Some fifty people turned up for the protest including Margaret Mulqueen, who questioned why the council could not use the 100-acre site by the new southern ring road for the affordable housing scheme.

Cork: An Irish bar aiming to raise money for a local project opened for three days in the Mozambique town of Nampula last month. The bar is the brainchild of Corkman Martin O'Donoghue, who worked in the city as a volunteer last year. Each year a festival is held in

the public park to celebrate the founding of the city, and one feature is a collection of bars. Martin came up with the idea of an Irish bar at which the better-off citizens will be charged slightly inflated prices and will unwittingly be helping to finance a women's project, the Women's Co-operative of Nampula.

Derry: Father Roland Colhoun of St. Columba's Church, Long Tower in Derry city, has issued a plea to new parents to choose the name Columba for their babies in order to commemorate the city's patron saint. Father Colhoun, who says many boys choose the name at Confirmation or are given Columba as a second name, is happy for variations of the name, such as Colmcille or Colm to be used. He is also planning to hold a novena of Masses in Latin towards the end of the year for all babies baptized Columba during the year, since 2009 marks the centenary of the Long Tower church.

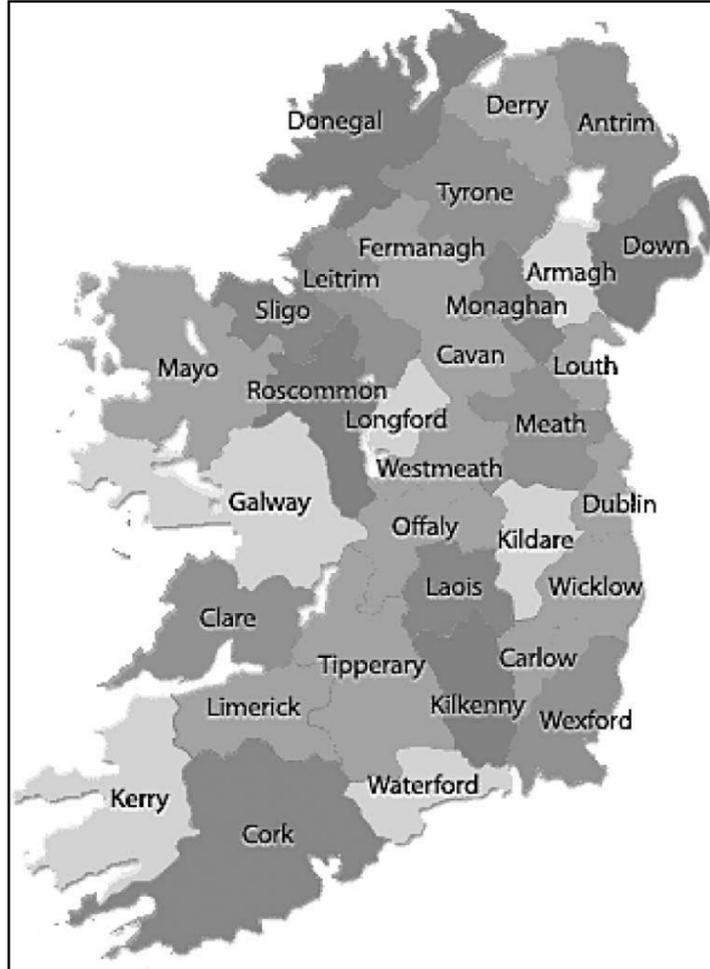
Donegal: Arranmore Island has taken possession of its very first ambulance, which will be staffed by volunteers from among the community. And in order to make the service viable, the roll-on roll-off island ferry will be available on a twenty-four-hour basis to take the ambulance to the mainland when required. The ambulance has been provided by the Health Service Executive but without personnel so two islanders, Jane Murphy and Nora Flanagan, attended a course at the National Ambulance Training College in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. A further twenty-two islanders have trained as first responders.

Down: Mickey Linden from Mayobridge, who was on the Down team which won the Ulster and All-Ireland finals in 1991 and 1994, has claimed another medal, but this time for athletics. A member of Dunleer Athletics Club, he took part in the Over-45 Championships in Co. Offaly last month and at the age of 46 took two gold medals, one in the 100m and the other in the long jump. Mickey, who retired from inter-county football six years ago, was also runner-up in the 200m. He still plays for Mayobridge but hadn't undertaken any type of athletics since he was fourteen years of age.

Dublin: Dave Grennan from Raheny, an amateur astronomer, discovered a new asteroid last October which was provisionally given the designation 2008US3 by the Harvard-based Minor Planet Centre. Now he has been cleared to name the asteroid after his mother, Catherine Grennan, who died five years ago, though he had to use her maiden name since protocol does not allow him to use any part of his own name. And so the asteroid, which is the first to be discovered in Ireland and named after an Irish person for 160 years, is officially known as (215016) Catherinegriffin.

Fermanagh: Dr. Rosie Brennan, an eye surgeon at the Erne Hospital, will be joined by ward manager Patrick McGirr from Drumquin and Chris Devlin from site management at Altnagelvin Hospital on a cycle from Mizen Head to Malin Head to raise funds for an African hospital. The three aim to cover eighty miles a day and for the final twenty miles to Malin Head they will be accompanied by a number of other cyclists. According to Dr. Brennan the funds raised will enable the Western Trust pediatric eye department to develop a teaching link with the ECWA Eye Hospital in Kano, Nigeria.

Galway: When Galway busi-



nessman Niall McNelis was sweeping up outside his jewelry shop on Quay Street in Galway he found tucked behind a rubbish bin a diamond bracelet which he himself had sold three years ago. He recognized it as it had had a special clasp fitted at the request of the purchaser. Later that day a couple came to the shop looking for a valuation certificate to claim the insurance on the "lost" bracelet, and Niall was able to surprise them by producing it. Although it was a bit scratched, the 7,500-euro bracelet had been a present to the woman from her husband and they were delighted to have it returned.

Kerry: A life-sized sculpture depicting the origins of the story of the Rose of Tralee is to be unveiled to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Rose of Tralee festival. The figures of William Mulchinocks and Mary O'Connor have been cast in bronze by Cork sculptor Jeanne Rynhart and are shown strolling towards the "pure crystal fountain" of the song penned by William Mulchinocks. The sculpture is located in the town's rose garden. The festival commemorates the love between the son of the Big House and the shoemaker's daughter who died of tuberculosis.

Kildare: An oak barrel found in Gilltown bog, between Timahoe and Staplestown, by John Fitzharris and Martin Lane was found to contain butter which has been estimated to be some 3,000 years old. The two Bord na Móna workers were harrowing the bog when they came across the barrel, which weighs almost 35 kilos. They put it in a black plastic sack and brought it out of the bog in the cabin of their tractor. It was collected by Pádraig Clancy from Monasterevin, one of the keepers at the National Museum in Dublin, and is now undergoing a preservation process.

Kilkenny: With the seventieth anniversary of the building of the Connolly Street and Pearse Street Corporation housing scheme in Kilkenny city, it has been decided to revive the Butts Family Festival. Meetings have been held at the Father McGrath Centre to organize the event. Some of the activities, including a Miss Congeniality contest for children under twelve, will take place in the

new public park at the back of Connolly Street, while art, film and photo exhibitions will be held at the Centre.

Laois: Nicole Turner took part in the recent World Dwarf Games in Belfast and arrived home to Garryhinch with a total of eight medals. The seven-year-old won five gold, one silver, and two bronze medals for swimming, athletics, football and hockey. Nicole is the daughter of Jason and Bernie Turner who moved from Lancashire to Garryhinch nine years ago with her two brothers Daniel and Ciarán. She is a member of Portarlington Piranha Swimming Club, where she was coached by Emer Martin, and the swimming pool committee has arranged sponsorship to enable Nicole to compete in the Paralympic Games in 2016.

Leitrim: In a recent survey carried out for the Irish Independent Weekend magazine a camping site in Leitrim village has been awarded a place in the "10 best Irish camping sites." Battlebridge Caravan & Camping Park, less than a mile from the village, comprises thirty pitches and has a playground, a games room, a giant chess set, and a slipway for boating. It is, of course, on the bank of the River Shannon. The site is run by Joe and Eilish Beirne and Joe reports that the recession, which has caused such problems for many tourist-related businesses, has actually led to an increase in visitor numbers for them.

Limerick: Of the five Limerick men who were in contention for the title of Mr. Ireland, the finals of which were held in the city early last month, the winner was Kamal Ibrahim. From Thomondgate, Kamal will now go forward to the Mr. World finals in South Korea this month, with the winner being announced during the televised final at the beginning of October. The twenty-three-year-old, the son of Roma and Abdul Ibrahim, is a second cousin of actor Danny de Vito whom he has met a couple of times. Kamal, who works in Trinity Rooms night club in the city centre, has been signed to Compton Modelling Agency.

Longford: The Foigha Harbour boat rally took place last month at the newly re-opened harbor which hasn't been used

for commercial traffic for more than sixty years. The reopening was due to the efforts of the Royal Canal Amenity Group, according to Paddy Egan, who said they had spent thirty years campaigning. More than thirty boats were expected in the harbor from Dublin, owned by canal enthusiasts from all along the route, and they were to be joined by boat owners from Ballymahon to Kenagh. Work is to be carried out on a further ten-mile stretch of the canal between Kenagh and Clondra over the next six months.

Louth: Ian Mulroy will be joining a group of people taking part in a sky dive in Co. Offaly this month, but he will be taking his courage one step further than his fellow skydivers. For Ian will be undertaking the venture naked, all in order to raise funds for Drogheda Homeless Aid. There are almost fifty people taking part in the event, which has been organized by Darren Monks, Anthony and PJ of Unit 5, Shop Street in Drogheda. With each participant having to raise money, Aoife McCullough and Amanda Marron have also organized a charity waxing in The Morning Star in Tullyallen.

Mayo: Minister for Transport Noel Dempsey has announced funding of 1.6-million euro for a seventeen and a half kilometre off-road cycling and walking route between Newport and Mulrany. Agreement has been procured from local landowners along the route, which largely follows the old Midland Great Western Railway line and will be part of a forty-two kilometre route between Westport and Achill. The route, which will be managed and maintained by the county council, is expected to be completed by the end of this year. In addition to being a tourist attraction, the new cycling route is expected to encourage more local people to use bicycles rather than cars.

Meath: Eighty-nine-year-old Clarence Corrigan from Trim is almost certainly the oldest person ever to have reached the summit of Croagh Patrick, and he made the climb under his own steam accompanied by a group of friends and family members. The retired mechanical engineer and farmer had a special reason for undertaking the climb -- he wanted to raise money for St Joseph's Hospital in Trim where his wife Kathleen, who suffers from Alzheimer's, has been living for the past two years. It is not the first time Clarence has climbed the Mayo mountain, more familiarly known as the Reek, and he said this made the climb easier.

Monaghan: B&C Contracts of Carrickmacross have applied to the county council for planning permission for an entertainment centre and a filling station at Cloughvalley Lower on the Castleblayney road. The entertainment centre will include a cinema and bowling alley and the company is in talks with cinema operators in relation to the former. There will also be a number of retail outlets and a primary health care unit which, it is hoped, will be suitable for the unit which is currently being considered by the Health Service Executive. Phase One of the project comprises the filling station, a shop and cafe.

Offaly: The country's first climate camp was held last month, culminating in a parade through the town. Between two and three hundred eco-activists were expected to attend the event, where electricity was to be generated by wind turbines and solar panels, and

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Argos accused of overcharging Irish customers

-- Some people had already been aware of the huge difference in the prices being charged by the Argos catalogue stores in Ireland and in Britain but now a figure has been put on it. UCD academic Professor Barry Smyth has used computer technology to compare all the prices being charged by the British-owned retail chain. He found that goods being sold in the group's Irish stores were on average 24 percent dearer than in Britain. Of more than 12,000 items listed on the group's website, only 138 were cheaper in Ireland. While some items were up to 200 percent more expensive in Ireland, the biggest savings could be made by paying 2,203 euro for a 52" Sony flat screen television in Derry, rather than for 3,340 euro some 20 miles away in Letterkenny. Argos issued a statement in which it ineffectually attempted to defend its pricing policy.

Significant drop in residential rents

-- A report from a property website indicates that national average rents for residential property have dropped by a sixth in the past 12 months, standing at just over 800 euro per month. Over the past three months there has been a national drop of 5 percent with the decrease in Dublin being 7 percent. The greatest annual fall was in south County Dublin, at 23 percent, with just a 10 percent decrease in Kerry and Donegal.

Looking back at the start of the troubles

-- For the past two weeks most sections of the media have been looking back 40 years, to events in the North that many view as the start of the Troubles. One of the most reused film clips showed, in black and white footage, Catholic families fleeing their homes in Belfast's Bombay Street as loyalist mobs set fire to the terraced houses. Film also showed the arrival of British troops and the welcome given to them by besieged na-

Ireland Today: Ireland in 2008

The Central Statistics Office published its annual assessment of the country under the title "Measuring Ireland's Progress 2008". Among the items reported was that 42.3% of the population aged 25-34 had completed third level education. This was the second highest rate across the EU and well above the EU 27 average of 30.3%.

Other interesting statistics show that:

- In 2007, Ireland had the second highest price levels in the EU.
- The number of dwelling units built reached a peak of almost 90,000 in 2006 before dropping to just under 52,000 in 2008.
- The number of murders recorded in Ireland increased from 37 in 2003 to 77 in 2007.
- Life expectancy at birth was estimated at 81.6 years for Irish women and 76.8 years for Irish men in the period 2005-2007. In comparison with 2001-2003, men's life expectancy increased by 1.7 years and women's by 1.3 years.
- The population in Ireland increased by 18.2% to 4.42 million persons in the period 1999-2008, the highest rate of increase in the EU 27.
- Productivity in Ireland, measured as GDP per person employed, was the second highest in the EU 27 in 2008.
- Ireland had the eighth lowest unemployment rate in the EU in 2008 at less than three-quarters of the EU 27 average of 7.0%.

The full report is online at <http://tinyurl.com/qdxtj6>

tionalist families. In the same vein the Irish News led with a story of the shooting death of 30-year-old John Gallagher in Armagh on Aug. 14, 1969. The then recently ordained Father Damien McKenna has now recalled publicly that he witnessed members of the B Specials, from the village of Tynan, opening fire into a crowd of nationalists and hitting Mr. Gallagher in the back, after he had got caught up in a riot while walking home. Rev. McKenna left a signed statement with a solicitor before leaving to spend the next 40 years in the Philippines. A parade to commemorate the events of 40 years ago took place on Aug. 16 starting in the Falls Road and ending in Bombay Street.

Sectarian attacks continue -- Sectarian attacks on property

were again a feature of the week. Early on Sun., Aug 16, windows were smashed in at least three Catholic-owned businesses in the Co. Derry village of Garvagh, while on the same day graffiti was daubed on the walls of the Orange hall in Bellaghy, also in Co. Derry, and on AOH hall in Ballymoney. Earlier in the weekend an attempt was made to set fire to the Orange hall in Rasharkin, Co. Antrim. The hall in the mainly Catholic village of Rasharkin was probably targeted as a result of the decision of the Parades Commission to allow a parade comprising 40 loyalist bands through the village. On Fri., Aug. 14, the bands marched through the village on both their outward and homeward journeys. A few hundred protesters made their presence known and missiles were thrown

at some of the marchers. A huge police contingent kept the sides apart and had to remain in the town for some time after the bands had passed through.

Sectarian graffiti and the letters IRA, CIRA, and Real IRA were painted on the road and on cars parked on Glebe Road in Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim in the early hours of the 14th. Residents of the mixed community say this is just part of ongoing fighting between Catholic and Protestant youths who regularly clash near their homes.

House price fall halted

-- A survey conducted by the University of Ulster appears to suggest that the collapse in the price of housing in the North has ended. Average prices, which fell by around 35 percent since the third quarter of 2007, increased by 0.5 percent in the second quarter of this year. Prices peaked at an average of 250,000 pounds and now stand at 159,000. The 120 estate agents who took part in the survey reported a total of 950 houses sold during the quarter, an increase of 258 on the first quarter. In normal times 950 would be considered very low.

Dublin City Council facing major budgetary challenge

-- Although it is seen as the action of last resort, Dublin City Council is considering putting around 500 of its staff on a three-day week in order to achieve some of the savings necessary to bridge a 20-million euro funding shortfall. Already all temporary staff have been let go, overtime has virtually been eliminated, and under-utilized staff have been redeployed. The council is looking to reduce payroll costs next year by 6 percent by not replacing those who retire.

400 guests attend Desmond-Corr wedding

-- Newspapers carried many photographs taken at the recent wedding of singer Andrea Corr to Brett Desmond, son of financier Dermot Desmond. While much attention was paid to what the bride and bridesmaids were

wearing, the guest list was also of interest to many. The marriage ceremony took place in St Joseph's Church in Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare, and that is where the photographers had gathered as the reception was being held at the Doonbeg golf club which was closed for the day, even to members. Among the guests were golfer Pádraig Harrington and his wife Caroline, U2's Bono and his wife Ali Hewson, and two former Celtic managers, Martin O'Neill and Gordon Strachan. Reports suggest that Bono didn't sing at the reception as he was looking after his voice for a concert the following night.

UPS to close Tallaght call centre

-- UPS, considered the world's largest package and document delivery company, announced on Aug. 16 that it was closing its call centre in Tallaght in west Dublin with the loss of 200 jobs. A company spokesman explained that it had become increasingly difficult to recruit local staff with the necessary language skills. Staff had been brought in from Europe but they tended to return home after a short stay and this increased the costs of the Tallaght facility. The call centre opened in 1996.

Lawyers accused of milking refugee appeals system

-- The refugee appeals system has, according to Fine Gael TD Denis Naughten, become a "cash cow" for the legal profession. The party's spokesman for immigration and integration criticized the Government for failing to reform the system so as to reduce the number of court challenges. Last year, he said, solicitors and barristers representing failed asylum seekers collected a total of 2.6-million euro while lawyers working for the appeals tribunal were paid 1.2 million. Naughten claimed that the State is still paying a total of 300 million euro a year on the asylum process. In addition to legal costs, this covers accommodation, support payments to immigrants, deportation, and other costs.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

From Roscommon to Wicklow

(Continued from page 19)

sanitation services provided by dry composting. The site for the climate camp was deliberately chosen beside the power station, the world's largest peat-burning power station, as a protest against the carbon intensity of the fuel. A communal kitchen was stocked with locally produced fruit and vegetables, and dogs, drugs and alcohol were banned for the duration of the nine-day camp.

Roscommon: Last month, a ceremony of rededication was carried out at St. Patrick's Holy Well, situated adjacent to the old cemetery at Kiltoom. The ceremony was led by Very Rev. John Cullen, the parish priest of Kiltoom and Cam, who celebrated Mass at the site. St. Patrick's Well has been restored by the Kiltoom Heritage Group and follows the re-opening of the Church of The Risen Christ in Kiltoom two years ago. This celebration was marked by the publication of a booklet by Father Cullen which gave a short history of the church and detailed the events that took place to mark its blessing and re-opening.

Sligo: Paul Buchanan, who runs the Surf School in Strandhill, had to turn his mind away from water and concentrate on fire when he found that a car had burst into flames outside his premises beside the Strand Bar. Paul, who was leading a group of 30 children to the school, managed to get them and other

people in the area away from the danger before beginning to hose down the car, which belonged to another surfer. As he hosed it the tires began exploding and the windows were shattering, but before long the fire brigade arrived and managed to quench the flames.

Tipperary: The Rose of Tralee selected last August, Aoife Kelly, carried out one of her final engagements last month when she performed the official opening of the 11th Annual Terryglass Arts Festival. She was accompanied by Denis Ryan, Mayor of North Tipperary, for the launch of the five-day festival of which the theme, "piggy bank," reflects the current economic climate. Festival chairwoman Valerie Carter emphasized the low cost of entry to many of the events, which include comedian PJ Gallagher and singer Brian Kennedy. Prices at the more than seventy workshops were as low as just 2 euro for children.

Tyrone: Last month, the Killen Pipe Band was in Glasgow for the World Championships and came away with the Neil Maclachlan Memorial Challenge Trophy in their category. Some twenty members of the band took part in the competition, led by pipe major Kenny Ferguson and drum sergeant Trevor McGavigan, and their award means that they will now move from Grade Three up to Grade Two. The last time the band won a world championship

was seven years ago, when they were rated at Grade Four. Their next outing was to the North West Champpionships to be held in Portrush.

Waterford: This month's Waterford Harvest Festival will see the launch of a nationwide group to encourage people to grow their own food. Many people are already involved in Grow It Yourself groups and the Waterford City branch has more than one hundred members who meet every month to exchange ideas. They also visit garden centers and swap seeds and plants as well as giving each other tips on the best way to grow their own food. As part of the festival a Harvest Feast will take place on the Saturday evening while the following day will feature a farmers' market in the city centre.

Westmeath: In August 1959 CIE decided to end the use of the canals for transporting goods and, to mark the occasion, two specially selected casks of Locke's whiskey will be transported along the Grand Canal from Kilbeggan to Dublin. Bottles of the whiskey, labelled Locke's Grand Crew, are to be presented to the forty former canal workers still living in Ireland. The shipment will be taken along the bank of the dry canal from Kilbeggan to Ballycommon in Co. Offaly, where it will be loaded on to the 1930s canal boat 107B for the remainder of the journey.

Wexford: A new light instal-

lation entitled Liquid Mountain is to be installed on the fly tower of the new Wexford Opera House and it will be launched to mark the closing of the first Wexford Culture Night, to be held on September 25. The work, by Limerick artist Andrew Kearney, will be controlled through a web browser that can produce different sequences of light for different occasions. It will be powered by sixteen low energy consumption LED lights and will be used on such occasions as the opening of the annual opera festival. Work will begin on the installation of the 65,000-euro system the first of this month.

Wicklow: Two very young babies, one from Bray and the other

from Greystones, have had an early introduction to the world of film after being chosen for a role in the popular television series "The Tudors." Leon Smith, aged four weeks, from O'Byrne Road in Bray and five-week-old Mia Fitzpatrick from Blacklion in Greystones were accompanied by their mothers, Jessica and Annie respectively, to the Ardmore studios for the filming. The infants will share the role of the baby of Anne Stanhope, a part played by actress Emma Hamilton. Jessica and Annie were delighted with their time on the set but disappointed that Jonathan Rhys Meyers wasn't there on the day.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

BY LIAM FERRIE

While we saw the sun from time to time, rain was again a more common feature of the past week. Some of the sunny spells lasted for a reasonable period but it was much more an autumn sun than that of summer.

The coming week looks even less promising. It might be dry long enough to mow the lawn this afternoon but I suspect if I miss out the grass will continue to grow for another week. The outlook for Thursday is particularly depressing as northerly gales will bring showers and make it feel very cold.

Latest Temps: Day 18C (65F)

Night 16C (61F)

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Have we had enough of **Seán, Nóra, Liam, Pádraig** and **Máiri**? Let's find a few more names that we can use in our examples. You have already had **Eamann** /EY-mon/ and **Brid** /breej/, "Bridget", from time to time. St. Bridget or Bride comes second in the list the most revered Irish saints – Patrick, Bridget, and Colm Cille, Calum, "Dove", of the church who is credited with bringing Christianity to northern Scotland. The story goes that when Colm Cille, born a prince, was exiled, he had to go far enough away so that he could not see Ireland. He had to travel all the way to Iona, a small island off the tip of Mull in the Inner Hebrides where he founded a religious community. He and his successors are credited with converting the native Picts. The name "Calum" and "Malcolm" are common in Scotland.

Here are a few more common Irish first names – Christian or fore names in Ireland.

Female

Aine /AH-nuh/ "Anne, Ann"
Aisling /AHSH-leenk/ "Ashley"
Cáit /keyt/ "Kate"
Eibhlín /EH-vleen/ "Eileen"
Eilís /EH-luhs/ "Elizabeth"
Laoiseach /LEE-shuhk/ "Lucy/Lisa"
Róis /rohsh/ "Rose"
Siobhán /SHEE-vahn/ "Susan"
Sorcha /SOHR-uh-kuh/ "Sarah"
Sinéad /SHEEN-ehd/ "Janet"

Male

Barra /BAR-uh/ "Barry"
Brian /BRY-uhn/ "Brian"
Caoimhín /KEE-vin/ "Kevin"
Colm /KOHL-um/ "Calum"
Déaglan /DEK-kluhn/ "Declan"
Diarmaid /JEHR-muhj/ "Dermot"
Séamas /SHEY-muhs/ "James"
Tomás /TOH-muhs/ "Thomas"

Genitive Form

iníon Aine
obair Aisling
peann Cháit
teach Eibhlín
baile Eilís
cat Laoisí
mac Róis
athair Siobhán
máthair Sorcha
madra Shinéad
Genitive Form
iníon Barra
obair Bhriain
peann Caoimhín
teach Choilm
baile Dhéaglain
cat Dhiarmada
mac Shéamais
athair Thomáis

The sounds /zuh/ and /joh/ are not in the Irish language. Therefore, Irish speakers are forced to substitute an /sh/ sound on words imported from French and English such as "Jean" **Sine**, "James" **Séamas**, and "Johnny" **Sionnaigh**.

Do you see that **Colm** is pronounced as two syllables; and **Sorcha** as three?

This reminds us that there needs to be an extra vowel sound /uh/ between the consonant combinations **-lb, -lf, -lm, -nb, -nm, -rb, -rc, -rf, -rg,** and **-rm**.

Don't forget that **b, f, m, c,** and **g** can be **lenited** ("aspirated") so watch for the combinations **-lbh, -lfh, -lmh, -nbh, -rbh, -rch, -rfh, -rgh, -rmh** and so on.

For grammarians, this vowel insertion is called an **epenthetic vowel**; for laymen, just remember that it is always there even though not spelled. It is always pronounced /uh/ and accounts for the Irish and rural American pronunciation of words like "film" and "elm" as /FIL-uhm/ and /EL-uhm/. Irish speakers will tell you that they are just repeating the vowel sound in the first syllable. The fact that it is always a "schwa" sound as in English "the" /thuh/ seems not to matter.

Try to pronounce these Irish words: **Albain** "Scotland", **tarbh** "bull", **leanbh** "child", **dorcha** "dark", **airgead** "money/silver", **dorn** "fist", **seinn** "playing music", **gorm** "blue", **dearg** "red", **dearc** "to look".

How did you do? Here are the approximate pronunciations. Note that all phonetic pronunciations are "approximate". Since you are not familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet, all pronunciations in this column must reflect English sounds.

Albain /AHL-uh-buhn/ **tarbh** /TAR-uhv/
leanbh /LEN-uhv/ **dorcha** /DOR-uh-kuh/
airgead /AHR-uh-gut/ **dorn** /DOR-uhn/
seinn /SHY-num/ **gorm** /GOR-uhm/
dearg /JEER-uhg/ **dearc** /JEER-uhk/

Tarbh, "a bull" reminds us of "Taurus" and **airgead** of "argent" the Latin word for "silver." These show that Irish is indeed an Indo-European language.

Since we have had **gorm** "blue" and **dearg** "red", here are the names of some of the colors, **dathan**. When anthropologists want to study a culture, they often begin with the color spectrum since it represents the "world view" of a people. The word **gorm** is usually translated "blue" but in some speakers it is also the color of "grass close up". But a "grassy place" is described as colored **faiche**.

The Irish color spectrum differs from English in that it reflects an agrarian culture, mostly based on the colors of cows and associated features. Note that Irish also usually requires only one word for a color whereas English speakers qualify the color with an adjective. **Dearg** is the color of blood so we have to say "Blood Red" where the Irish speaker use only the one word.

Bearla
 Red, bright or blood
 Red, the color of hair
 Pink, light red
 Green, vivid, plants
 Green, softer
 White
 White person
 Black
 Black person

Gaelge
dearg /JER-uhg/
rua /ROO-uh/
bándearg /bahn-JEER-uhg/
uaine /WEN-yuh/
glas /glahs/
bán /bahn/
Duine geal /DOON-yuh gyahl/
dubh, gorm /doo, GOR-uhm/
Gormach duine
 /GOR-uh-mahk DOON-yuh/
gorm /GOR-uhm/
buí /BOO-ee/
donn /down/
crón /kroon/
liath /LEE-uh/
glas /glahs/
oraiste /oh-RAHSH-tuh/
corcra /KORK-uh-ruh/

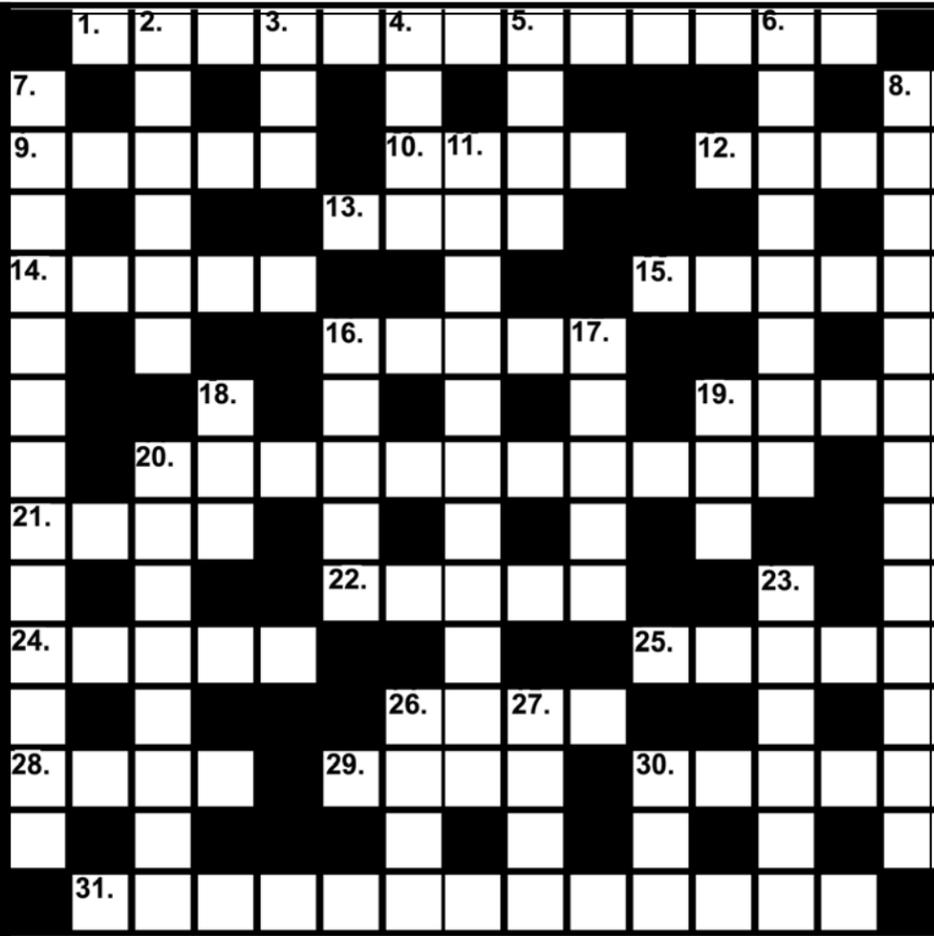
As you can see, words like **gorm**, and **glas** can have several meanings depending on what object(s) the color describes. You are best advised to use the basic word – others will correct you if you choose the wrong one.

"black coffee" **caifé dubh** "white coffee" (coffee with cream) **caifé bán**

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

1. Circa Ruskin or thereabouts in busy Waterford/Tipperary town, once the seat of the Ormondes. (7-2-4)
9. See Da about things having got less difficult. (5)
10. Vote received with zero latitude apparently. (4)
12. "Yes, of course, we all know — Livia. Tell me all. Tell me now. "Joyce (4)
13. Port Laoise xylophone with hidden erotic meaning. (4)
14. Cap in bits so lose one's cool in the manner of a Greek god. (5)
15. A Caledonian racecourse? No, it's English, and Royal in June! (5)
16. A soil erosion in Irish county whose chief town was once called Maryborough. (5)
19. It happened on a single occasion in the past in Dungannon certainly. (4)
20. Nutmeg to nun sent astray in Cavan village near Lough Sheelin and the O'Reilly's Ross Castle. (5,6)
21. They work together and mince meat (in the Aer Lingus company?) (4)
22. Southern cattle fair is well turned out. (5)
24. Get together and have cake before church, shortly. (5)
25. Hold on tightly to a hundred fish. (5)
26. Pins up the tailor's cut. (4)
28. Cardinal seen in Castlereagh street. (4)
29. Different pose taken over the counter in Mexico. (4)
30. Rag us about getting a sweetener. (5)
31. Tall members in wrangle to see Pretender who was crowned Edward VI in Dublin in 1487. (7,6)

DOWN

2. Give permission to appear in Tyrrellspass entertainment. (6)
3. Made free of right before 499 in Cahir, ideally. (3)
4. Headland to pace around. (4)
5. "There is — one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." Oscar Wilde (4)
6. "The — — — and the beautiful have no enemy but time." Yeats (of Eva Gore Booth and Con Markiewicz.)

(8)

7. Piety no jabber. (anag.) famous Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, monastic ruin founded in 1158 by Donagh MacGillpatrick, King of Ossory. (8,5)
8. E.g. sorry cat leg is broken in Kerry village near to Magharee isles between Brandon and Tralee Bays. (13)
11. No man out, six put up in rolling heights between Mayo and Sligo, south of Enniscrone. (2,9)
16. Comes to earth, in Shannon, maybe? (5)
17. This came up about note, what a vision. (5)
18. Given a start, this cat would be very tiny and elemental. (3)
19. Ring north east for the number. (3)
20. Antacid confused as in game. (8)
23. Unmarried, like 19 down. (6)
26. Prophet is in Fairyhouse erroneously. (4)
27. Is including small back number; they are charged in Delphi on Sunday. (4)
30. I am in ancient Rome as a result of addition. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

Irish Sayings

There's no need to fear the wind if your haystacks are tied down.
 A trout in the pot is better than a salmon in the sea. It's better to bend than to break.
 A ship often sank beside the harbour
 Food is the "horse" of work.
 Character is better than wealth.
 If you have a ship and a cargo, you'll get the right wind.
 "There is no luck except where there is discipline."
 There are no strangers: Only friends we have yet to meet.
 When you are right no one remembers; when you are wrong no one forgets.
 A good start is half the work.
 God's help is nearer than the door.
 A closed hand only gets a clenched fist.

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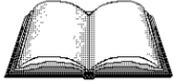
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Boston Irish Reporter Author Interview

Irish Novelist Colum McCann's Boundless Talent Blazes in *Let the Great World Spin*

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Colum McCann's talent has opened readers' and reviewers' collective eyes wide with such luminous, layered novels as *This Side of Brightness*, *Dancer*, and *Zoli*. His virtuoso mastery of the short story has similarly stunned readers. Now, with his fifth novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, McCann has crafted a

work of surpassing skill, plot, character, emotion, and depth.

Born in Dublin in 1965, McCann started out as a reporter in *The Irish Press*. Fiction, however, has proven his true calling – if, in fact, his resonant knowledge of people and emotions can truly be classified as fictional rather than true. Selected in 2003 as *Esquire Magazine's* "Writer of the Year,"

his work has run in such prominent publications as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, *Paris Review*, *The Irish Times*, *Paris Match*, *The New York Times*, the *Guardian*, and the *Independent*. He is the winner of numerous literary awards, and three of his novels have been international bestsellers.

Let the Great World Spin, which is well on its

way to the same status, begins on a late-summer morning in August 1974. A throng of onlookers have gathered in lower Manhattan and stare silently up at the Twin Towers with equal measures of disbelief and anxiety. A quarter of a mile above the crowd, a mysterious tightrope walker runs, dances, and leaps along a wire stretched between the towers. What follows, in McCann's inimitable narrative style, leads the readers into the lives of several memorable men and women in the crowd. Although the real-life daredevil who has drawn them to watch is McCann's conduit into his characters' worlds, the novelist never once mentions the acrobat's actual name – Philippe Petit – except in the "Author's Notes" at the book's end. Petit's tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers earned worldwide acclaim or notoriety as "the artistic crime of the 20th century." Instead of Petit, those "faces in the crowd" draw McCann's scrutiny. In his hands, they engage the reader in compelling and extraordinary ways.

He writes of a radical young Irish monk named Corrigan, who battles his own carnal wants as he lives among the prostitutes of the Bronx. And there's a band of mothers who gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam; they learn that despite their shared loss, much else divides them.

Readers meet a talented young artist whose life changes drastically in the wake of a hit-and-run. There's a 38-year-old Tillie, already a grandmother, who turns tricks alongside

her teenage daughter to take care of her family. Despite her profession, she believes in her own worth and aims to prove it.

With the daredevil's feat serving as allegory for all of the novel's riveting characters, McCann weaves a riveting, unforgettable look at an America and a New York in the last throes of Vietnam and the painful transition to the postwar era.

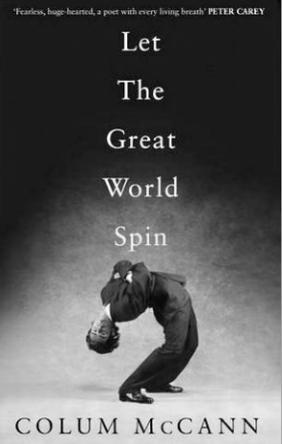
In this reader's view, *Let the Great World Spin* is a masterpiece of scene, setting, and story, a love letter to anyone who values finely wrought prose and memorable characters.

McCann, who lives in New York City, recently discussed his latest novel with the *BIR*.

BIR: Set against such a memorable and turbulent place and time and with so many characters, how would you describe the major themes of the novel?

McCann: "While one can look at it as a relatively simple tale of lives entwined in the early 1970s, most of the narrative takes place on one August 1974 day in New York. They accidentally dovetail in and out of each other's lives on this one day – an Irish monk living in the housing projects, a Park Avenue mother of a Vietnam vet/computer expert, a 38-year-old hooker in the Bronx, an errant artist who has lost her way, a subway tagger, and so on. The lives braid in and out of each other. It's a collision, really, a web in this big sprawling complex web that we call New York."

BIR: The novel is even drawing comparisons from reviewers to James Joyce's *Ulysses* as a "New York *Ulysses*." How do you feel about such lofty praise?



McCann: It's both strange and a bit unnerving. I'm quite uneasy with comparisons to Joyce himself. Maybe it fits in the sense that the book mostly takes place on one day and that it embraces the intricacy of the ordinary, but...there's only one *Ulysses*.

BIR: How would you describe the mesh of character and setting in *Let the Great World Spin*?

McCann: Because the novel takes one from August of 1974 to 2006 – briefly – there's a point where the present meets the past. I suppose it's a novel that tries to uncover joy and hope and a small glimmer of grace. I'd argue that sort of sentiment is necessary these days. I also set out to write a rollicking good story that would break hearts. I want readers to finish the book and immediately want to begin it again.

BIR: What is it about New York itself that you want to convey in the novel, that you want the reader to take away from it?

McCann: I'd say that maybe it's just a novel about the polyphonic city. It's my love letter to old New York in all her clothes, shabby and dignified both.

Let the Great World Spin, by Colum McCann, Random House, hardcover, 349 pages, \$25.

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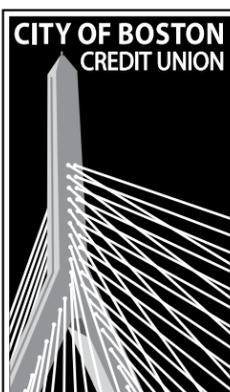
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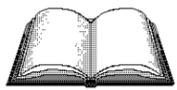
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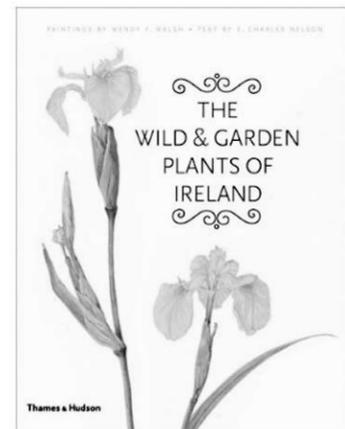
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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

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

The Wild & Garden Plants of Ireland By Charles Nelson with Paintings by Wendy F. Walsh

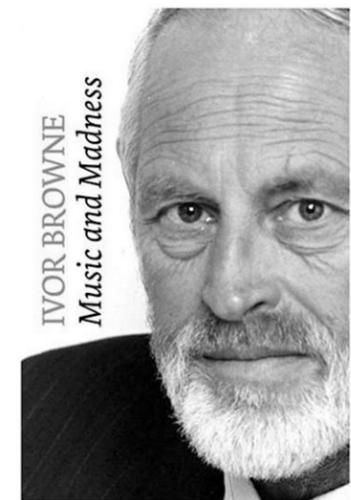


The jewel-like watercolors of renowned Irish botanical artist Wendy Walsh portray a personal selection of about 100 plants that grow wild in Ireland or are cultivated in Irish gardens. Presented in 33 thematic sections, Walsh's subjects range from well-loved and distinctive native plants to exotic species introduced from the New World and Asia, unusual plants that grow in some of the most extreme environments in Ireland, and striking hybrids created by plant breeders. Lively and accessible horticultural descriptions by distinguished botanist E. Charles Nelson accompany the paintings, celebrating the story of each plant along with its natural beauty. The great gardens, famous plantsmen, fascinating journeys, and natural phenomena that have shaped the flora of Ireland spring to life in Dr. Nelson's engaging text. This elegant and unconventional guide will kindle the imagination of any plant lover or admirer of the Irish landscape.

Hardback; 32 Euro / 40 USD / 25 UK; 280 pages

Music and Madness By Ivor Browne

Ivor Browne is Professor Emeritus, University College,



Dublin and retired as Chief Psychiatrist of the then Eastern Health Board in 1994. This book charts the growth of one man's journey in relation to psychiatry and human development. Ivor Browne has been a central and controversial figure in Irish life up until the mid-'90s when he retired.

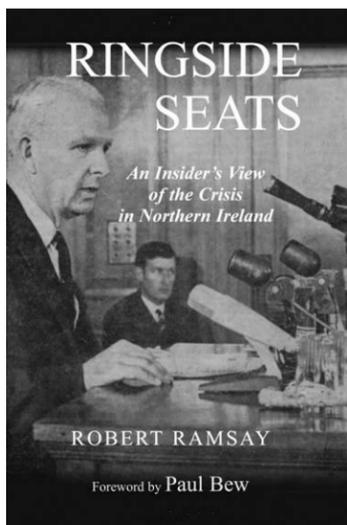
This book charts the career of a man who has always been respected for his compassion, quirky way of thinking, and fearless opposition to orthodox psychiatry. More importantly, he tells of how he came to each one of his conclusions. Ivor Browne has had a positive input into Irish life on both sides of the border. As a young man he was given a fellowship to Harvard University where he studied Public and Community Mental Health. He returned to Ireland determined to put what he had learned into practice and it was his initiative that took the care of mental patients away from large institutions into the community. He conceived and was director of the Irish Foundation for Human Development. This set up the first Community Association in Ireland in Ballyfermot, one of the early large housing estates in Dublin.

Ballyfermot was merely a housing estate without any facilities, and he went in with a professional team and helped the residents to turn it into a thriving working class community. This project was so successful that an offshoot was established in Derry, called the Inner City Trust which not only rebuilt, but transformed the city of Derry during the years it was being torn down by both sides in the conflict. The work of rebuilding was done by young people of Derry, who were trained by the Trust and inspired away from taking part in the destruction of their home town. Derry was made a model for The Prince of Wales' urban village development project and other urban renewal developments around the world.

Large Paperback; 15 Euro / 18 USD / 11 UK; 360 pages.

Ringside Seats: An Insider's View of the Crisis in Northern Ireland By Robert Ramsay

This title provides an insider's first-hand account of many of the most turbulent moments in Northern Ireland's recent history. The author rose to the rank of Deputy Secretary in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, having been Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister and experienced and recorded such events as the Civil Rights campaign; the rise of the provisional IRA; the fall of O'Neill; the Faulkner institu-



tional initiatives; internment; Bloody Sunday; the introduction of Direct Rule; the last days of the old Stormont; and Edward Heath's decision to prorogue the Northern Ireland Parliament.

In giving an often personal account of events as they unfolded, the author also paints pen portraits of the principal personalities involved, their actions and motivations. The personalities described are not only those in the political limelight, but also senior officials, whose behind-the-scenes influence has frequently made a significant impact on government policies and decisions. The author also gives an informed commentary on the development of the overall situation, drawing on sources within the administrative machine and the security forces.

The second half of Ramsay's career took him to the top of the administrative tree in Brussels and his account of that period traces the tortuous path from Common Market towards integration, via the stages of the constitutional treaties. Uniquely, the author's role brings together the macro political world of the EU and the micro situation in Northern Ireland, in the preparation of the European Peace and Reconciliation Programmes of the 1990s.

Large Paperback; 25 Euro / 32 USD / 19 UK; 332 pages, with an 8-page black-and-white photo insert.

Irish Nationalism and European Integration: The Official

Redefinition of the Island of Ireland By Katy Hayward

How has it been possible for Irish political leaders to not just accept but actively promote two of the largest challenges to Irish nation-statehood - the concession of sovereignty to the European Union and the retraction of the constitutional claim

over Northern Ireland?

This book argues that, rather than indicating a pragmatic retreat, such decisions (and their justification on the public stage) reveal the unique power and enduring relevance of nationalism to Irish and European politics today. As the most detailed study to date of official discourse in 20th-century Ireland -- indeed of any EU member-state -- this book traces the ways in which nationalism can be simultaneously redefined and revitalized through European integration. The text moves from an overview of the origins and development of Irish official nationalism to analyze the connections between its response to profound internal and external challenges to Irish nation-statehood. The genius of the Irish approach to such challenges has been to employ innovative EU-inspired concepts in finding agreement with and within Northern Ireland, whilst simultaneously legitimizing further European integration on the grounds that it fulfils traditional nationalist ideals.

Thus, Irish political leaders have been successful in not only accommodating potent nationalist and pro-European discourses but in making them appear complementary. The book concludes with an assessment of likely changes in this symbiotic relationship in the post-EU enlargement, post-Celtic Tiger era. This book will appeal to anyone with an interest in 20th-century history, modern nationalism, and contemporary political dynamics in Ireland and the European Union.

Large Paperback; 20 Euro / 28 USD / 16 UK; 280 pages.



I Used to Be Irish: Leaving Ireland Becoming American By Angeline Kearns Blain

Like so many Irish girls, 18-year-old Angeline Kearns saw her



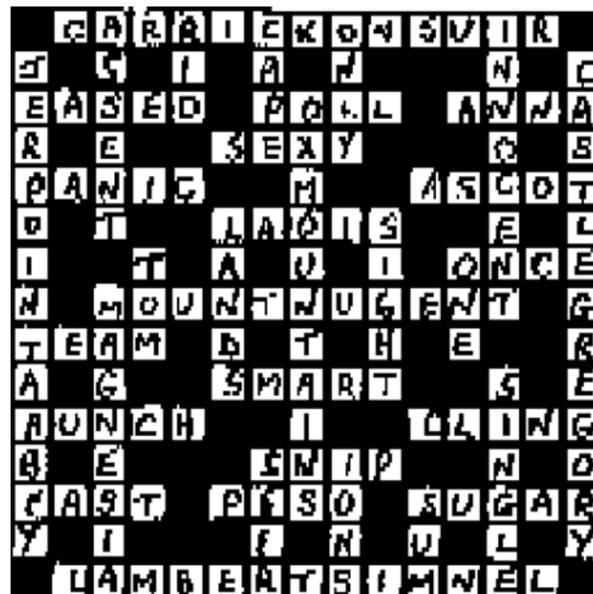
handsome GI as a rescuer from the gray skies of Ireland to the Hollywood-tinted USA. She flew happily away to the States in 1957—a bit scared, but blessing her luck. But she quickly learned that America was not Ireland. The cheerful family life she had known in Dublin's Irishtown was a world away from her husband's sober Maine Protestant upbringing. Adapting to Cold War America, appearing to be the perfect wife, the happy shopper, the all-giving mom, became an endurance test. Then a childhood trauma came back to haunt her. Working her way out of her depression she went back to school and then to university (an opportunity, as she bitterly notes, not offered in de Valera's Ireland) and began exploring a whole new life, personal and political. She, who used to be Irish, had become American. Over two million Irish women have gone to the US in search of liberty and happiness. In this sharply observed memoir Angeline Kearns Blain movingly evokes the culture shock, trauma, and re-invention experienced by every immigrant.

"With earthy candour, Angeline Kearns Blain fearlessly explores the challenges of a new land. Her journey in search of the mythical American dream is told with humor and honesty, as she discovers both America and herself," writes Dr Lisa McClain, Associate Professor of History and Director of Gender Studies, Boise State University.

Angeline Kearns Blain was born in Dublin in 1938. She emigrated to the United States in the late 1950s, married and had three sons. After raising her family she enrolled in basic education classes, continuing to university where she earned an MA degree. She has been Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies for twenty years at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho.

Large Paperback; 15 Euro / 20 USD / 11 UK; 270 pages.

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