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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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For Childsplay, It's All in the Family



The Childsplay ensemble in concert. Bob Childs is at the extreme right in the photo. Story Page 14.

Photo by Arthur Ferguson

RIP, Two Stalwarts of Bay State Life



He never strayed from the working-class neighborhood roots that nurtured him in his growing up years in St. Angela's Parish in Mattapan.

From his ordination in Rome in 1960 to his last breath on June 14, Monsignor Thomas J. McDonnell had but one goal: He wanted to be remembered as a "parish priest." Father Tom attained that goal and along the way offered his talents in other venues – teacher, columnist, and tireless advocate for children with special needs, the poor, and the hungry.

See Page 11.



His credo was the notion that through daily effort one man could make a difference for good in this world. His life of giving was a testament to that belief.

Dave Burke was the leading voice in the Hibernian community in Lawrence, and he was more than that. When it came to lending a helping hand to those in need, he wished he had more than two. In the words of an admirer, "Dave just did it."

See Page 11.



Michele O'Connor, VP with a Vision

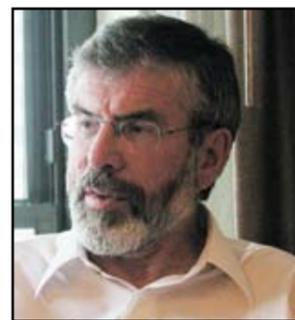
"Between Hollywood, Facebook, and everything else, the family core is decaying. BC High, like few other schools in New England, can cut through all that; it can offer students hope for the future, a far better sense of right and wrong, and a clear understanding of social justice." A profile of the vice president for advancement at BC High is on Page 6.

Photo by Greg O'Brien.

Adams on Irish Unification: It's a 'Realizable' Objective

Sinn Fein's first American conference took place last month in New York, and it opened with Gerry Adams, the party's president, saying: "I believe the political and economic dynamics in Ireland today make a united Ireland a realizable and realistic objective in a reasonable period of time." In an interview conducted after the conference concluded, Adams told the Boston Irish Reporter that with peace and political stability now a reality in Northern Ireland, the time was right to open an ambitious new chapter. "Having got it to the point it's at, we now move on to the next natural part of the journey."

Robert Connolly report, Page 4.



Chasing Votes, And Menino

Boston City Councillor Michael Flaherty is relentless in his pursuit of voters' favors as he challenges incumbent Mayor Thomas M. Menino. The BIR's Carol Beggy spent some time with the candidate and her report is on Page 10.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

Loyalists Finally Begin Dismantling – After months of delays and outright resistance to pleas from the British government, two of the more notorious loyalist paramilitary groups have finally begun decommissioning their weapons. The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the Ulster Defense Association (UDA) have been threatened with a variety of sanctions by London but many members



Bill O'Donnell

of the outlawed groups pointed to the resurgent threat and attacks by breakaway republicans as a rationale for holding on to their arms. That impasse has apparently been resolved, or at least eased.

The Provisional IRA completed decommissioning all its arms in 2005. The British have allowed the loyalist groups to defer the annual deadline for decommissioning each year since 2000. Early unconfirmed reports are claiming that Canadian General **John de Chastelain** and independent monitors were on hand to witness the decommissioning, but there has been, at press time, no official confirmation and General de Chastelain has issued no statement. Clouding the loyalist move to comply with the decommissioning order are rumors that a deal has been struck between them and the British government to allocate "development and job creation" funds (up to \$15 million) to deprived unionist areas.

The Irish Independent newspaper reported the stunning news on June 21 that **Martin McAleese**, husband of Irish President **Mary McAleese**, has used his considerable rapport with the leadership of at least one loyalist paramilitary group to help broker an unofficial deal that could produce financial incentives, as noted above, following tangible moves to place UVF and UDA weapons "beyond use."

Not everyone is convinced that the loyalists are acting in good faith but others, like Sinn Fein's Stormont junior minister **Gerry Kelly**, have supported the claims, saying "It's a great move forward. There have been a number of false starts; there is some indication that this is the real thing."

Boys Town Founder Warned Irish On Abuse – While reverberations from the recently released Ryan Report on child abuse in Catholic schools and institutions continues roiling the Irish people, a new revelation has surfaced detailing warnings to the Irish Church from Nebraska back in 1946: Boys Town founder **Father Edward Flanagan** called the situation of child abuse in Ireland "a disgrace to the nation."

Father Flanagan, the Roscommon-born Catholic priest who founded the famed Nebraska landmark Boys Town in 1921, became a world renowned authority on children and their rehabilitation and visited a number of countries as a guest lecturer. In 1946, near the end of his life, he visited his native Ireland where he toured Irish reform schools and other facilities for troubled young people. His horrified reaction was immediate and scathing. He called the schools "a scandal, un-Christ-like, and wrong." While he had the support of many in Ireland, including **Maude Gonne MacBride**, Father Flanagan had neither the support of the Irish Catholic Church nor of the government of the day. Justice Minister **Gerald Boland**, one of many critics of Father Flanagan within the Irish establishment, was dismissive, saying he was "not disposed to take any notice of what Monsignor Flanagan said while he was in this country, because his statements were so exaggerated I do not think people would attach any importance to them."

It may be a harsh assessment some six decades after Father Flanagan's initial criticism of Ireland's reform schools and similar institutions, but the lengthy history of punishment and abuse that endured into the 1990s was a direct result of the complacency and smugness and

entrenched old boy network that was backstopped by the twin forces of the Catholic Church and the de Valera government. The evil legacy, years too late, is finally being addressed, but the toll over the long years has been horrific.

Commencement Clip – John Patrick Shanley, the Bronx-born playwright and author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Doubt" as well as the director of the last year's film version with Meryl Streep, had the following to say as the recent commencement speaker at Mt. St. Vincent College in Riverdale, New York:

"Not to bring up something upsetting, but when you leave here today, you may go through a period of unemployment. My suggestion is this: Enjoy the unemployment. Have a second cup of coffee. Go to the park. Read Walt Whitman. Walt Whitman loved being unemployed. I don't believe he ever did a day's work in his life. As you may know, he was a poet. If a lot of time goes by and you continue to be unemployed, you may want to consider announcing to all appropriate parties that you have become a poet."

Sinn Fein Hosts US Unity Conferences – The first of two Sinn Fein scheduled U.S. conferences on Irish Unity took place in New York in mid-June with party president Gerry Adams and others speaking. A second conclave is set for late June in San Francisco. The New York meeting was described as "communicating a new phase of activism in the USA." Or as Gerry Adams labeled it, "the beginning of a new phase of our struggle."

In 2010 the Irish Unity conferences will travel across the Irish Sea to England, Scotland, and Wales in an effort to get the Irish there and likely pro-nationalist allies on board the drive for Irish unity.

While there was some talk following the Good Friday Agreement that the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in 2016 would make an ideal time to achieve a truly united 32-county Ireland, there has been some backtracking on that suggested timeline. In any event, the Sinn Fein outreach serves the party interests in several ways. It keeps the faithful energized, helps enrich Sinn Fein's treasury, and continues to elevate the party's public profile, especially following the lackluster performance in the Republic by Adams and Company in the recent election.

Did You Know ... that Guglielmo Marconi, the son of an Irish mother and an Italian father, established three wireless telegraph stations in Ireland in the early days of the 20th century? The experimental sites were in Clifden, Ballybunion, and Letterfrack. In March 1919, the first telephone transmission was made between Europe and America by Marconi. In 1909 Marconi was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics, sharing it with Karl Braun of Germany.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Ireland's Office of Tobacco Control is reporting that 97 percent of Ireland's workplaces are fully compliant with the tobacco ban introduced five years ago. ... Ailing U.S. Senate patriarch **Ted Kennedy** has recorded a 30-second television commercial for his old pal, Connecticut Sen. **Chris Dodd**, who is hurting in the polls at home over his financial dealings. Loyalty runs deep in the Kennedy clan. ... There will be a gay civil union bill in Ireland enacted before the end of this year, despite gay objections that it doesn't go far enough. ... A new national wax museum has opened in Dublin's Bank of Ireland Arts Centre on College Green, replacing an earlier version that closed in 2005. ... Irish banks having enough problems getting back on their feet after years of profligacy are now faced with trying to persuade their senior bank officials to repay hundreds of millions in overdue, semi-legal loans. ... Former Northern Ireland Secretary of State **Mo Mowlam**, who lived with a brain tumor during her courageous battle in the search for peace in Ireland, will be the subject of a so-called Bio-Pic television movie set to be aired early next year starring British actress **Julie Walters**. ... All the House Democrats in the Massachusetts Legislature either voted for **Sal DiMasi** or voted present in the January vote for speaker except Billerica representative and veteran town official **William Greene**, who stood alone. He voted for himself. ...

Local Irish elections unseated a number of city, town, and county councillors who will benefit from a generous lump sum "retirement gratuity" from a pot of \$8 million. Individual payments range from \$5,000 to \$60,000 each. ... The Irish are not traveling as much these days to North America and one reason could be that the best deals by Aer Lingus are offered for flights originating in the United States, with higher fares for the Irish flying outbound. ... An alleged spy for Cuba who was a 30-year veteran of State Department intelligence operations was reportedly upset that he didn't get to succeed **Mitchell Reiss** in 2003 as the White House envoy to Northern Ireland. How bizarre is that! ... Ireland's dueling national political parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, are at each other's throats in Dublin's Leinster House, but the two have joined in a pact to control local politics for the next few years in Galway City. ... The Fianna Fail coalition government survived a Dail vote of confidence by just six votes last month and it would surprise the Irish political world if the present ruling coalition lasts beyond the spring of 2010 following the party's embarrassment in the recent local elections.

Sports Quiz – The following three men in a major American sport distinguished themselves in a special way. What was the achievement that allowed **Mickey Welch**, **Tim Keefe**, and **Pud Galvin** to join a rarified list of only 21 other players who accomplished this feat in the history of their sport? (Answer near the end of the column)

Irish Mourn Air France Loss – They came from County Down in the North and Tipperary in the Irish midlands and cosmopolitan Dublin. The three met at Trinity, became friends, and graduated together from medical school in 2007. They were not yet 30 but each was trained and prepared for a life of service and a sharing of their healing skills. The loss of those three bright, vital, committed, and confident young women was for the people of Ireland and those who saw their pictures in the Irish papers the face of instant heartbreak. The mid-Atlantic crash of Air France Flight 447 that cost 228 lives in as yet unexplained freakish accident took away **Aisling Butler**, **Jane Deasy**, and **Eithne Walls**. We grieve for them. Forever young and together, and their fellow passengers. All equal in death's embrace.

I know it will probably be a while more before I stop seeing those faces.

Update on UM 'Cities' Conference – The good folks at Pdraig O'Malley's office at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at Umass-Boston report a huge success at their spring conference. The delegates to the Forum for Cities in Transition agreed to a number of collaborative projects and have initiated plans to meet yearly to pursue mutually agreed goals.

A stunning outcome of the forum in Boston is the agreement of the leaders of the divided city of Mitrovica, with Serbs in the north and Albanians in the south, to jointly host as a "united city" next year's Forum for Cities in Transition following up on this year's success at the McCormack School.

The university has indicated its support of the forums and its recognition of the success of the 2009 conference organized by Professor O'Malley by awarding its prestigious Chancellor's Medal to the leaders of the two delegations from Mitrovica, **Sadri Ferati** and **Dragan Spasojevic**. Previous recipients include **Queen Silvia** of Sweden, Senator **Kennedy**, and Bay State Governor **Deval Patrick**.

Teddy Bear Alert – The ever reliable Danbury Mint in Norwalk, Connecticut, has another Irish special and off past performance it won't disappoint what I call the Kinkadee Korps. The faithful who buy this ethnic pandering junk, mesmerized into paying top dollar for over-hyped schlock, have another opportunity to indulge themselves. This time around it's "Danny Boy, The Irish Bear," described by Danbury as the Mint's very first Irish bear, "a special ambassador who brings Irish luck year 'round." The good people at the Danbury have even gone to the expense of handsomely embroidering the "famed Danbury Mint logo to the bottom of his furry right paw." Be still my heart!

This 10-inch-high wee bear with his "cute-as-can-be button eyes and the adorable little black nose" is "favorably priced" (their words) at only \$69 plus \$7.80 shipping. There's more turgid advertising copy but what lingers for this mail recipient is the "green floppy hat with its shamrock shape that says it all: "Kiss me, I'm Irish." Originality is obviously not Job One at Danbury.

This is an ugly little bear made of "plush material" (again their words, whatever it means) that could be replicated (sans hat, sweater, and imitation Claddagh jewelry, etc.), it says here, for a fraction of the advertised price. If you are of a mind to celebrate your Irishness, have a pint or better donate to Concern or another Irish charity working to save some kids in the Third World. Give Danny Boy a pass.

Live & Let Live – I must admit that I heard the news with mixed emotions. Inch Beach in seaside Kerry; Inch Strand, where Ryan's Daughter cavorted with her British soldier in the 1970 **David Lean** movie; Inch Beach, where one can sit outside sipping a Guinness above and hear the children's laughter over the roar of the waves. Inch Strand, where my cousin Dan, God rest him, from a few miles up the road in Castlemaine took us to show off what he considered the best of County Kerry.

Now I learn that the Irish Naturist Association (INA) has repeated its call for a "clothing optional" beach facility at Inch Strand. According to the naturist, or nudist, group, Inch has been used informally for years by its members. Now the INA is seeking official permission. Association president **Pat Gallagher**, pushing the same buttons every housing development impresario uses in Ireland these days, talks about a naturist area at Inch that could be "worth a fortune" to the local economy. Gallagher also tells the unanointed like myself that several Kerry beaches are already being used for "natural sunbathing." Our Mr. Gallagher talks about not using central Inch beach but maybe a thousand yards away from where the general public swims. A sign or two would do the trick, he says.

Maybe he's right, maybe he's not. Is it what the locals want? I don't know. Tough call.

From Fenway to Merrion Square – You've seen their sign at Fenway Park, Covidien, an offshoot of the Tyco Corporation in its heyday. Covidien is a hugely successful healthcare company that employs 41,000 people in 59 countries. It has local offices in Mansfield, Mass. which only partly explains the strong links between this highly profitable (\$10 billion in revenue in 2008) corporation and our Red Sox. The good news is that Covidien has completed the transfer of its corporate home from Bermuda to Ireland, where it already has four factories and where it has operated for nearly 30 years. IDS and the Irish government have to consider Covidien incorporating in Ireland as a coup, a source of welcome good news in today's scary global economic climate.

The CEO, president, and chairman of Covidien, **Richard Meelia** likes the move: "Ireland has a stable business, legal, and regulatory environment, and enjoys strong relationships as a member of the European Union."

Quiz Answer: The three baseball pitchers all won 300 games or more in the major leagues with Welch posting 307, Keefe 342, and Galvin 365. Only 24 pitchers have 300 victories or more.

A Huge Loss – Dave Burke of Lawrence died on May 27, just as he lived: with courage, a ready helping hand for others, a smile and a quip and no whine or whys, always looking ahead to his next project. Dave was someone I looked up to. No false moves, no make believe, just Dave. He was a mensch, a doer, a persistent buzz-saw of volunteer spirit. There wasn't anything he couldn't do if the cause was right and he put his mind to it.

I was proud to count Dave as a friend, but it was more than that. I was a 25-year certified admirer of this wonderful, generous, charitable, and committed man. Dave was New England's finest. His concern for others, his enormous heart and his unflagging support for Ireland and the cause of justice there constitute a legacy that few, if any, of his contemporaries can hope to match.

Thanks, Dave!

Around Town: The Irish Beat / Carol Beggy

When it came time to celebrate her retirement after 29 years in the Cambridge Public Schools, **Barbara Boyle** decided she would eschew the white linen fetes commonly planned and opt for a night at an area Irish pub.

That led to a packed house at the Thirsty Scholar Pub on Beacon Street in Somerville on a June Saturday night for an old-fashioned Irish craic complete with music and stories and a few toasts. There's just one thing about the scene: the elementary school principal "became" Irish when she married **Gerard Boyle**.

"People have always just assumed I was Irish. It's all in the name, I guess," Boyle told us from her office at the Graham & Parks School. (Her last day is July 15.) "I'm Italian and have gotten a kick out of it when people think I'm Irish. My husband and kids are proud of their Irish heritage, which is great except, I can cook."

If you paid close attention to the events at owner/proprietor **Patrick Cross's** Thirsty Scholar it certainly looked like a large Irish family had gathered to celebrate a retirement, with a few telltale signs to the contrary. First, were the Italian cookies. And there was a lot of Frank Sinatra being played.

Boyle, a Winchester resident, said she has come to appreciate the Irish culture -- OK, other than the cuisine -- and laughs when she thinks about how many people in Cambridge just took for granted that she was Irish. "There's a lot to be proud of for my husband's family," she said of her in-laws who lived in Charlestown before moving to Belmont. "I'm proud of being Italian, of course. But it hasn't been a bad thing to be Irish all these years, too."

All four of Boston tie designer **Anthony Corey's** grandparents were Irish and much of his extended



Anthony Corey

family, which settled primarily in the Boston area, claim some connection to Ireland, but Corey finds he has a lot of explaining to do. "I don't know if it's my dark hair... my long straight nose or that I'm a Tony," Corey said, "but people think I'm Italian. And I'm 100 percent Irish-American."

Not that he hasn't turned the misunderstanding to his advantage -- **Mayor Menino** is a big fan of Corey's neckties. "The mayor knows I'm Irish, but if other people mistake it, what do I care?" What, indeed. In addition to having his ties sold in the best stores and worn around the neck of many notables, Corey is active in Boston's philanthropic social set and is an accomplished horseman who has competed nationally. Since moving to the Back Bay about five years ago, he rides and competes less, but he's still an equestrian and regularly joins in fox hunts at Myopia in South Hamilton.

In addition to designing ties, Corey also does interior design work and has been working on a Boston-based lifestyle TV show that is slated to air this fall. "I love when work can be creative. That's when I'm enjoying myself, when I have a project that challenges me," he said.

If there were an Academy Award for background actors -- that's a step up from a mere extra, thank you -- then **Chuck Slavin** would be a shoo-in for a nomination. Arrive at any set of a film being shot in the region and it's almost a certainty that you'll see Slavin somewhere waiting for his shot at getting some screen time, a line or two, perhaps, or just making another connection.

A Weymouth resident, Slavin has taken on being the Pied Piper of those who work behind the scenes in the region's burgeoning film community. He runs a Facebook page called "New England Talent & Crew" that sends out weekly updates on jobs open, acting, and crew opportunities, and what other projects local artists have going. "It just kind of took off," Slavin told us from the set of "Valediction," a movie starring **Eliza Dushku** and **Ben Barnes**. (Slavin was working as a stand-in -- that's a step up from mere background player, thank you -- for Barnes.)

Slavin's also working on an internet radio show with **Chris Palermo** called "Mass Movie Mavens" that's currently being shopped to stations in the region. Palermo called Slavin "the mayor of background actors," which seems an apt description.

The aspiring mogul, who says he's "more Irish than I'd



Chuck Slavin and David J. Garfield in costume at the Burlington Mall to film "Paul Blart: Mall Cop."

like to admit sometimes," hopes his background might help get him cast on "Black Mass," about Boston's Irish mob, or "The Fighter," about the life of Lowell boxing champ "Irish" **Micky Ward** that is slated to star **Mark Wahlberg** and **Christian Bale**.

Slavin grew up in Pembroke and like so many others from the region, went to Los Angeles to make his way in showbiz. While out in Tinseltown, he got work, exactly one paying real acting job -- pushing a gurney in a scene for "Six Feet Under." Slavin returned home dejected and decided to pursue acting in Boston. His timing couldn't have been better. Just as he returned, the state implemented and then sweetened a tax incentive program to lure film and television projects to the area and he landed work on "The Departed," "Mystic River," "The Game Plan," "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," "Pink Panther II," "The Lightkeepers," "The Lonely Maiden," and "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past." The irony of his personal story isn't lost on Slavin.

"I went to LA to make it and now I'm working more than I ever did just by coming home. The people in LA think that's the center of the universe, but we're doing all right here."

Regardless of whatever his commitments are on or off the field, Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** always manages to get to Hyannis Port for the Best Buddies Bike Challenge each June. Best Buddies was founded by



Actors Roy Greene and Chuck Slavin on the set of "The Lightkeepers" in May 2009 being shot on Cape Cod.



Chuck Slavin with fellow actors Laura Corda, JP Ouellette at a red carpet screening in Boston.

Anthony Kennedy Shriver in 1989 to help enhance the lives of people with intellectual difficulties. This year's Challenge also included a stop at Plymouth Rock Studios the night before the race at which Brady showed up in a limo with his Best Buddy, **Katie Meade**. Brady is shown in a nearby photo on race day and with him are **Jim Brett**, co-chair of the Celebrity Chef Challenge, and **Peg Brett McCobb** of Weymouth.



Two men from then Balkans were honored at the UMass-Boston Convocation ceremony in May with the presentation of the Chancellor's Medal for Peace and Reconciliation, given to those who enhance the notion of community, from local to global. From left above, Sadri Ferati, minister of local government administration for the Republic of Kosovo; UMass-Boston Professor Pdraig O'Malley, who welcomed the awardees to his Forum in Transition in April; J. Keith Motley, Chancellor of UMass-Boston; and Dragan Spasojevic, president of the Citizens Movement for Kosovska Mitrovica, Republic of Serbia.

Boston Irish Reporter's Calendar

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

July 8-12 – Sail Boston 2009. The Tall Ships come to Boston for a five-day harbor festival. The Irish Naval ship L. E. Eithne returns to Boston and will be berthed during the visit at Pier 4 in the former Charlestown Navy Yard, near the USS Constitution.

July 25 – Irish Cultural Centre of New England hosts a "Night of Irish Culture" at the Brockton Rox baseball game, Brockton. Event begins at 5 p.m., baseball game starts at 6:05 p.m. Features: Irish Step dancing, Gaelic

Football and Hurling Demonstrations, Traditional Irish Music, Face Painting, and good old fashioned baseball as the Rox take on the American Defenders of New Hampshire. Tickets \$8, call 781-821-8291.

July 25 – 7th annual Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival, Webster, MA, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 800-841-0919, blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com.

July 25 – The American Ireland Fund annual Nantucket Celebration, 6-8 p.m., at the home of Laura and

Bob Reynolds, 6 Hinckley Lane, Nantucket.

July 29 – The American Ireland Fund, Young Leaders Summer Social. McGreevy's Boston Irish Pub.

Aug. 4 – Van Morrison appears in concert, Wang Theatre Boston, 8 p.m., 617-482-9393.

Aug. 21 – Irish fiddler Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul perform in concert, Lowell Summer Music Series. 7:30 p.m. 978-970-5200, lowellsummermusic.org.

Publisher's Notebook



A Welcome Back To the LE Eithne

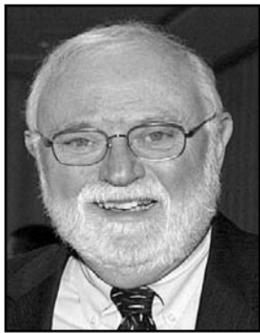
By ED FORRY

As the Tall Ships sail into Boston Harbor this month, the Irish have an extra reason to smile: among the visiting ships will be the Ireland Naval Service patrol ship LE Eithne, the flagship of Ireland's navy.

It will be the third visit to our town for the ship, which was here in 1986 and again in 2000. This year, during the Sail Boston festivities July 8-13, she will be berthed at Pier 4 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. While in town, the ship will be open to the public.

During the 2000 visit, the crew of LE Eithne found "a home away from home" in Boston. The Irish sailors found plenty of time for shore leave, and were widely welcomed at Irish pubs and other venues throughout the city.

"The reception on shore is fantastic. It's like being at home," Lt. Mick Kennelly told Boston.com that year.



"This is a trip of a lifetime. We don't get to come to America often," petty officer Michael Hickey told the website. During the visit, the ship hosted a reception for 250 members of the Boston Irish community. That visit had been expected to coincide with a maiden voyage of the Jeanie Johnston, a replica famine ship built to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Irish famine, but those plans were cancelled when the replica ship was found not seaworthy in time for the events.

Despite the good feelings of the LE Eithne's return visit, there are some sad memories as well. As the ship sailed home from Boston after its July 2000 visit, a crew member was lost overboard. A 20-year-old seaman, Able Mechanic Robert Dean, from Cork City, was missing and was presumed dead off the coast of Canada. After a lengthy air and sea scan of a 100-square mile area, the sailor was never found. On the ship's return voyage to its home port of Cork city, a service was held for the seaman lost during the Atlantic passage.

"LE Eithne was built in Ireland as a helicopter patrol vessel," according to military.ie, the website of the Defense Forces of Ireland. "The equipment fit was to a very high standard and included the Naval Services first Operations room which integrated control of armament and aircraft to a designated centre, remote from the bridge. Her main armament is a BOFORS 57mm anti-aircraft gun with a LIOD fire control system. Secondary armament is provided by two 20mm Rheinmetals. Eithne is also equipped with the DAO5 Air Surveillance Radar.

"In the summer of 1986 LE Eithne scored a notable first, by becoming the first Irish Naval Service ship to cross the Atlantic, when she sailed to the United States, visiting Hamilton, New York, and Boston. LE Eithne is closely associated with Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, and conducts fundraising efforts on the hospital's behalf around the coast. She also frequently brings the children down to visit the ship for a morale-boosting day out during their recuperation from illness. Although all the ships' home port is Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour, LE Eithne has a particularly close relationship with the town of Dún Laoghaire in Co Dublin."

Commentary

Adams Calls Irish Unification 'Realizable, Realistic Objective' Sees Growing Sense of Irishness in North

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

NEW YORK – With three decades of struggle behind them, it must be said that Gerry Adams and his republican supporters are patient and methodical.



Robert P. Connolly

And very tactical.

The fruits of their patience and tactics are now on display in Northern Ireland, where peace has replaced violence and where Adams's republican party, Sinn Fein, jointly leads Belfast's power-sharing government.

Having achieved many of their short-term objectives, and understanding that political parties can never sit still, Adams and his Sinn Fein cohort have now decided to put

their largest and holiest goal, Irish unification, on the front burner.

And they are doing so in a way that is patient, methodical, and tactical.

The opening of this new chapter has begun with a trans-Atlantic listening tour that will see Adams and Sinn Fein holding unification conferences in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, and Australia.

The party's first American conference took place last month in New York, and opened with Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, saying: "I believe the political and economic dynamics in Ireland today make a united Ireland a realizable and realistic objective in a reasonable period of time."

The conference, held at the New York Hilton hotel, attracted about 700 supporters, some Irish, some American, and all seemingly devoted to the cause of Irish unification.

In an interview conducted after the conference concluded, Adams told the Boston Irish Reporter that with peace and political stability now a reality in Northern Ireland, the time was right to open an ambitious new chapter.

"Having got it to the point it's at, we now move on to the next natural part of the journey," Adams said.

Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, the British and Irish governments are obliged to take the steps needed to bring about unification if voters on both sides of the border vote in favor of a united Ireland.

It is assumed, but by no means totally certain, that voters in the Republic of Ireland would opt for unification. Public opinion surveys indicate a general desire for unification in the South, but that could be different from voters casting actual ballots in favor, particularly if there was a price tag dangling in difficult economic times.

In the North, the nationalist vote seems to have

plateaued at about 42 percent, according to conference presenter Brendan O'Leary, which would mean that some number of unionists would have to change their stripes and vote for unification if Ireland were to come together anytime soon.

O'Leary, a professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania, said it would be much better if Irish unification were to occur by "consensus" in the North, as opposed to happening as a result of a "50 percent plus one" vote.

O'Leary, an expert on Ireland and on ethnic division, said he saw "nothing inevitable" about Irish unification, but, by the same token, he doesn't believe that there is an inevitability to the preservation of the United Kingdom, given the potential for the departure of Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Adams, in an interview, said a close vote in the North would still be a vote for unification, but acknowledged that, "Unionists have to have ownership. They have to have a sense that this is their Ireland, this is their society, that it reflects their concerns."

To that end, republicans and nationalists in the North need to reach out to unionists and make the case for unification. Adams said he believes that Northern Ireland is changing in a way that makes this conversation more plausible.

"Today, you see these thousands, tens of thousands of little acts of neighborliness and engagement between people, as part of a whole healing and getting to know each other process. I just think it's that which will build a movement back home. Just people being more comfortable with each other. A sense of all of that. It can't be left to the politicians; it's too serious an issue."

Adams also said that he sees a growing sense of Irishness among the unionists of the North, noting: "It was always the case up until the civil rights struggle in Ireland that unionists described themselves as Irish. They always saw themselves as Irish. And then, as part of the too-ing and fro-ing of the situation, this concept of Britishness came into it."

Now, in this new era of peace and stability, unionists are re-embracing their sense of Irishness, Adams said. "You can see it in so many ways, you can see it in obscure little ways, like (unionist) people being proud of Riverdance, you can see it in support for the Irish rugby team, you can see it in Ian Paisley's remarks that of course he's Irish."

Adams added: "I suppose what we have to do is to respect the fact that being Irish is to be diverse. That what all of this is reduced down to is a matter of political allegiances. That some of us have political allegiances to the union but the vast majority of people have a political allegiance ... to Ireland, and that's the one that we have to bridge."

"I do see that as the big historical challenge facing those of us who want an independent Ireland. That we go and engage, we go and talk, we try to make friends, we invite them in."

Adams Recalls '94 Controversy: 'Surreal' ... Historic Policy 'Reversal'

This time, attending a conference in New York was a relatively easy matter for Gerry Adams: book a flight, reserve a hotel room, write a speech. Fifteen years ago, it took the intervention of the president of the United States to get Adams the visa he needed to attend a Manhattan conference for Northern Ireland political leaders.

The visa Adams received in 1994 came with heavy restrictions: he could stay in the United States for only 48 hours, could not travel more than 25 miles from New York City, and couldn't raise money for his Irish republican cause.

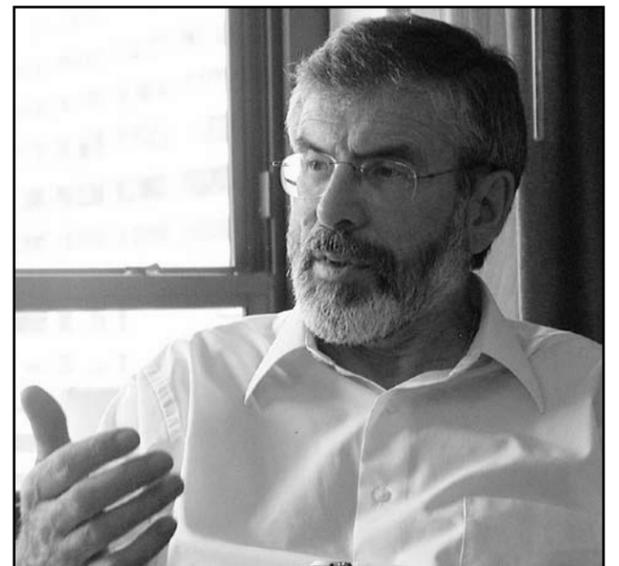
In deciding to grant the visa, then-President Bill Clinton ruffled feathers in the State Department, which had long backed Britain's view that the Troubles in Northern Ireland were a British "internal matter" that did not require international intervention. And, the decision was controversial because the Irish Republican Army, closely tied to Adams's Sinn Fein party, was still waging its campaign of violence.

But Clinton took the step to honor a commitment to Irish-American political supporters and to "encourage Mr. Adams to make peace and help bring an end to the tragic cycle of violence that has plagued the people of Northern Ireland for too long."

A decade and a half later, Adams says his recollection of that epic visit to New York – where he attended the conference, conducted wall-to-wall media interviews, and got very little sleep – is a bit blurry.

"The visit was always a bit surreal to me. You know, you nearly have one of those out-of-body experiences, in terms of being at the center of this huge frenzy of media and other attention. But, I suppose essentially what it marked was the beginning of a complete reversal of American-Anglo policy, so I would think of it more in those terms."

The historical record attests to the wisdom of Clinton's



Gerry Adams: One of those out-of-body experiences.

decision.

Seven months after Adams's whirlwind trip to New York, the IRA declared a cease-fire, a decision at least partially underpinned by the recognition that American policy had changed and that the old days of the U.S. reflexively supporting Britain, and by extension Northern Ireland unionism, were gone.

The guns went still and the Northern Ireland peace process kicked into a new gear.

-- ROBERT P. CONNOLLY



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Commentary

'Hope' is Scarce in Ireland, But New Lisbon Treaty May Help Some

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

As Ireland sinks deeper into the agonies of depression, Fianna Fail government leaders are working desperately to correct the problems caused by, "the most overheated of all advanced economies," according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report issued in late June.



Joe Leary

The IMF report, along with comments made on June 24 by the Paris-based think tank, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), show clearly how serious conditions in Ireland look to become over the next two to three years: The IMF forecasts that by next year unemployment in Ireland will be in excess of 15 percent; OECD sees the nation's

gross domestic product decreasing by 14 percent.

The lives of many Irish children, most Irish families, and all Irish college graduates, so hopeful just two years ago, will be tragically affected by these developments. Emigration to escape the disaster will be more difficult as countries all over the world, also suffering from economic difficulties, will be far less welcoming.

In May 2008, in the midst of the deteriorating economy, the Irish people, especially those in rural areas, overwhelmingly voted against participating in the European Union's "Lisbon Treaty" – the only European member country to do so – thereby preventing its enactment since all members must ratify new treaties before they become part of the law. In effect, the Irish people voted to turn their backs on the EU, which had supported their economic resurgence for more than twenty years.

European leaders were shocked, as were many complacent Irish leaders. Anger rose at the fact of this tiny country thwarting what European leaders thought was best for the Union as a whole.

Score It a Big Week for the Bully Pulpit

By JIM O'SULLIVAN
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

By Thursday afternoon, June 25, the capitol had grown weary of waiting for Gov. Deval Patrick to pass judgment on bills on his desk re-wiring the transportation bureaucracy, tightening ethics laws, and escalating the state sales tax by 25 percent.

Senate President Therese Murray, the governor's foil for months, professed to "have no idea" what Patrick would decree at his early-evening press conference. Months of wrangling and suspense, boiled down to an extra humid day in June.

And if the building's emotions hadn't been rubbed raw enough, Farrah Fawcett was off to join the Mass. Turnpike Authority in the great beyond, followed shortly by Michael Jackson. The press conference crept a few slots down the news ladder.

Still, it was tempting to think that the celebrity expirations could fit neatly into the administration's insistence on urgency. If the lissome blonde's and Gloved One's deaths weren't part of the governor's arsenal, they were about the only things missing.

Patrick, who for years has railed against "government by press release or sound bite," for months deployed press releases, sound bites, and the kitchen sink against lawmakers to get to yes, where he found himself that Thursday. Even if they were going to do some of it anyway. Even if, as frustrated legislators often point out, Patrick never filed a pension rules change, or didn't really get behind ethics reform until late last year, or waited two years and two transportation secretaries before disclosing his transportation package. Even if, they note while continuing to grind their teeth, he absconded with the nifty "reform before revenue" slogan after pummeling them into accepting his new business taxes and for resisting his local option and gas taxes.

Doesn't matter. It was, by any measure, a solid week for Patrick. He'll dodge a \$100 million toll hike without adding to the gas tax, yet, and gets to build a head of steam for November 2010 by claiming the reformer mantle that has thus far eluded him.

He'll have to put his name on the sales tax, but everyone can use an extra \$900 million now and again, and he gets to say he ransomed the ethics bill for it.

It's unclear how many points he'll earn with the recession-, scandal-, and waste-fatigued electorate. It is clear that he didn't post too many with those he referred to as "our partners in the Great and General Court." Looking to depict Patrick as a grandstanding manipulator, they observed that they funded most of his priorities in the budget and elsewhere, but did so using alternative means, and said they shouldn't be targeted by perhaps unneeded hostage YouTube's, the governor, ostensibly, standing with a rattled-looking sales tax receipt and today's newspaper.

"It's childish," said Rep. Michael Moran, Democrat of Brighton, earlier in the week. "I'm taking my ball and going home, because you didn't give me the ethics bill on time."

That's why they call it the bully pulpit, Rep. The

Many countries asked Ireland to try again, to ask the Irish people to re-think their vote. Taoiseach Brian Cowen, though beleaguered by the economic meltdown, recommended caution lest Irish voters reject the treaty again and set about to educate doubters of the benefits of staying in the EU.

Just a little over a year later, it appears the effort has been successful and a new vote will be held in October, probably on the 2d. This time the full force of all political parties except Sinn Fein will be working hard to obtain a positive vote. Cowen is strongly advocating a "yes" vote to give Ireland a better chance of coming out of the recession.

According to independent polls reported in the Irish Times, the atmosphere in 2009 is a far cry from what it was last year and it appears Irish voters will ratify the treaty. Sensing a successful vote, Fine Gael's opposition leader Enda Kenny, in a classic "me first" political move, declared he should be the one to lead the campaign.

But if the "yes" votes prevail, the credit will be Brian Cowen's and his Fianna Fail ministers, who prevailed upon European leadership to give Ireland ironclad legal guarantees that the country's sovereignty will not be weakened especially with regard to taxation, neutrality, and abortion. The guarantees will be filed in the UN as part of a paragraph in the basic EU agreement permitting such agreements.

Support for an approval vote on the Lisbon Treaty is well organized this time and the opposition is in some disarray after losing many leaders in recent elections. High profile figures such as Seamus Heaney, U2's the Edge, and the athlete Robbie Keane have been recruited and will make vigorous statements.

No one is claiming that the ratification will solve all economic problems, all of Europe will look more favorably upon Ireland if the vote is a "Yes." By the same token, if he voters say "no" again, Ireland will lose valuable support and could be reduced to secondary status within the EU membership.

The approval vote, should it come, will add to Cowen's and his party's prestige and perhaps restore to them the electoral support they have lost because of the economic crisis.

Legislature got schooled, they knew they were getting schooled, and in the end there wasn't a heck of a lot they could do about it. House Majority Leader James Vallee called it the "bumping and grinding" of the legislative process. The House and Senate got bumped and ground.

Under the ethics bill, which the Legislature mis-packaged by not touting the campaign finance elements, the Ethics Commission would grow stronger, the attorney general could open statewide grand jury investigations, the secretary of state could more thoroughly regulate lobbying, and ethics and corruption violations would carry heavier penalties. No more gifts for elected officials.

The heavily maligned Mass. Turnpike Authority is on its way out under the transportation omnibus, replaced by something called MassDOT. Employees will lose some benefits. Regional transit authorities will move to forward funding, which hasn't worked out well for the T.

Pegged at an annualized \$900 million, the 25-percent sales tax bump pours \$275 million a year into transportation, enough evidently to pacify Patrick but not necessarily to avert future toll, gas tax, or T fare hikes, or some combo of the three. Those decisions will be made down the line, along with the tougher ones on pension laws.

Transportation reform and revenue, and this wasn't in the press release, don't really come all that close to fixing a \$20 billion problem over the next 20 years. "I don't want to take away from this important first step," said Stephen Silveira, who chaired the Transportation Finance Commission that diagnosed the funding gap. Silveira added that costs need to come down in order to solve the deficit. "This isn't over; that's for sure," he said.

Budget mayhem continued to chip away at the state's health care expansion, with overseers deciding June 23 to halt automatic enrollment for subsidized health care next year, when it looks as if that portion of the plan will cope with more than \$100 million less than needed to keep pace.

Hospitals are dealing with postponed payments from the state and insurers are saying a \$52 million universal immunization tax will harm small business. The "shared responsibility" symphony is coming across a few rough measures, and at the very moment the federals are looking at the commonwealth for guidance and inspiration.

The guv was all about the shared responsibility and achievement June 25, when nervous lawmakers and legislative aides flocked to his briefing room, professing to have no certainty about whether he'd sign the transportation and sales tax pieces.

How Patrick and the Legislature move forward now in that atmosphere has heavy implications for the criminal sentencing, criminal record, and education laws Patrick said are his next order of business. They've already given him the quiver of reforms he can trot out on the trail as evidence he's changed the Hill. What they give him in the next 16 months could make as much difference.

Off the Bench



Jim Braude, left, and Margery Egan make talk radio tolerable from their Morrissey Blvd. studio.

Duo Bring Fun, Common Sense to Airwaves

By JAMES W. DOLAN

There is a lot to dislike about talk radio, but I admit to being a fan of Marjorie Egan and Jim Braude. Their blend of whimsy, self-deprecation, and just plain nonsense is a delight and a welcome relief from the two-fisted, in-your-face style of many of their compatriots.

On weekdays from 12 to 3 p.m. on WTKK-FM (96.9), they are an oasis of humor in a desert of antagonism. The key is they don't take themselves (or some of their topics) too seriously. You also get the impression they genuinely enjoy poking fun at one another.

Jim is a Cambridge liberal and anchorman hypochondriac and Marjorie, Fall River-born and slightly more conservative, is a former Durfee High School cheerleader. She writes a regular column in the Herald and he does news and interviews on NECN.

The combination works. Sandwiched between Michael Graham and Jay Severin, they are a sunny day between two storms; balloons between a bulldozer and a sledge hammer; the quiet interlude between a colonoscopy and a prostate exam.

Severin and Graham, to a lesser degree, subscribe to the shock and awe school of talk radio. With his self-serving "best and brightest" audience, Severin is polite, solicitous, and complimentary, but let someone disagree with him or, even worse, criticize him, and he can be downright nasty.

Although obviously smart and often informative, his inflated ego, lack of civility, and flamethrower remarks undercut his credibility and get him in trouble, prompting station management to try to tone him down.

Even though Graham, the self-styled "natural truth," almost always agrees with his late afternoon colleague, he has a softer touch.

Some talk show hosts apparently think the only way to attract and retain an audience is to continuously carpet-bomb the opposition. Disinclined to entertain or consider opposing viewpoints, they preside over echo chambers. Thoughtful listeners with different views soon get the message.

While others pride themselves on being on the cutting edge, Marjorie and Jim have captured the blunt middle – the area most of us occupy.

Even when discussing serious topics, they are funny. They just cannot remain serious for long. The chemistry between them is such that one or the other makes a remark and they're off to the races.

Alone they are not as funny, but put them together and something happens. They have an acute sense of the absurd and silly side of life so helpful in contending with harsh reality. They are to current events what "Click and Clack" are to matters automotive.

Although their humor is spontaneous, they often pick light topics that easily lend themselves to comic relief. When you consider that Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert have writers, you can better appreciate the almost effortless comic wit and whimsy of Egan and Braude.

He is particularly clever about exposing some of his neurotic tendencies to her good-natured skewering. They are not cruel or mean-spirited and much of their humor is directed against themselves.

What makes their show fun is they seem to be having fun doing it. Most of us enjoy watching (or, in this case, listening) to people having a good time.

So a salute to Jim and Marjorie! They are not about to solve any of the pressing problems we face but they do remind us that a sense of humor can brighten even the cloudiest day.

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

BIR Profile

Meet Michele O'Connor, a VP at all-boys BC High: A fund-raiser with panache in academia and politics

By GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The daughter of an ex-nun and an Iowa farm boy, a devout young Republican in a state dominated by Democrats, the vice president for institutional advancement at the iconic all-boys Boston College High School, and a woman with a knack for fundraising acquired in childhood through asking her frugal father for money, Michele M. O'Connor gives new definition to the word eclectic.

At 35, O'Connor, who has accomplished more in her field than most twice her age, offers a fresh, youthful perspective on life.

A graduate of the politically savvy Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., the Waltham native earned a masters degree in political science at Suffolk University, and was appointed deputy finance director for then State Treasurer Joe Malone's unsuccessful 1998 gubernatorial bid against acting Gov. Paul Cellucci in the Republican primary. She later became then Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey's campaign finance director, raising money for her candidate's campaign against Deval Patrick.

Bloodied in the process perhaps, but unbowed, as the poet William Ernest Henley reflects in *Invictus*, O'Connor then hit her stride in academia, marshalling her considerable fundraising, political, marketing, and media skills at Saint Anselm's as assistant director of the college's General Fund, at Stonehill College as director of its Annual Fund, and now at BC High where she has become as much a part of this respected institution as its historic red brick buildings. On the job here for nearly five years, there is plenty more on the horizon for O'Connor and her colleagues. The Jesuit school, founded in Boston's South End in 1863 and rooted in the 16th-century teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola, will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in just four years.

"I have plenty to do," she says from her office off Morrissey Boulevard. "There are good challenges every day. I don't see myself in politics in the future. I might dabble a bit, but my days of working in politics are probably over."

She might, however, anticipate a call or two from her party over the years. O'Connor still speaks regularly with Malone, who works in private practice, and with Healey, currently a Fellow at the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School. Anticipating the question of what attracted her



Michele O'Connor: from politics to academia.

Photo by Greg O'Brien

to the Republican Party, she says, "I'm a study in contradictions. I've always been a minority within a minority. My parents were conservative and influenced me in those ways. I've never had a problem standing up for what I believe in. I always will."

O'Connor is passionate about everything she does, a trait passed down from her parents. Her father, John, was raised on a family farm in Iowa, and as a young man found his way to the Boston area to work as a foreman at Raytheon, where his brother was employed. "People in Iowa

often head south to Dallas, then take a left or a right turn," O'Connor says. "My dad headed east."

She describes her 82-year-old father, who boasts Gaelic roots dating back to the mid-1800s, as a "hard working man, who was frugal but who would give you the shirt off his back. He was very generous to the church and those in need. Dad was a great storyteller. He loved to talk politics and freely talked with strangers. He was gregarious." All of these traits, it seems, have passed to her.

O'Connor, who is single, lives in Waltham with her two Brittany spaniels, and has a younger brother, John, a police officer. She cares for her father every day, noting that her mother, Jeannine, who died at 63 of cancer, was "a joyful person who always had a smile on her face and made everyone feel important." The young Jeannine earned a nursing degree and entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Anne where, after some initial consideration of further medical studies, she was assigned to study English at Anna Marie College, founded by the Sisters of St. Anne outside Worcester. She taught as a nun for 15 years.

Jeannine determined in time that her vocation was outside, not inside, the convent, and she left the order to pursue her medical and teaching career and a life as a mother. She met John O'Connor after leaving the convent.

"I am a mix of the two," O'Connor says proudly. "I have my mother's personality and zest for life, and I have my father's work ethic and, sometimes, his temper, although not much of it."

Growing up in Waltham was an idyllic childhood, she recalls. "My parents had children later in life and devoted all their energies to us, although one of them was always working—when dad came home, mom usually went to work. They had a strong marriage, an enduring faith, and were active in St. Luke's Parish in Belmont where Mom directed the choir and I sang in it," O'Connor says. At Waltham High School—where, she says, she was an average student—O'Connor played soccer and was on the ski team, hence the attraction to college in New Hampshire, along with her instinct for politics.

Ask O'Connor, political to the core, what's wrong with Massachusetts's politics today, and then step back. "Where do you want me to start?" she asks. "We can get along with far less and we don't need big government." Of the Deval Patrick Administration, she says, "I would grade them a C minus. We don't need a Turnpike tax, and we don't need to raise our income tax. I want no tax."

So what must young Republicans do to become more viable in the Commonwealth?

"We need to become more articulate," she says. "It is disheartening to see so many good Republican candidates run for office with great energy and commitment, and then we have to live with the results, the re-election of a string of Democrats. People in this state are apathetic. They want the same incumbent and the same party year after year. As Republicans, we are generally shouldering a state burden that we didn't create. We need to remain vigilant. It is hard to keep climbing up a mountain, but I am hopeful that youth and leadership will prevail."

Youth and leadership drew O'Connor to BC High. Tempering her urge to wax political, she quickly segues to the founding principles of the school—faith and service through active participation in the community and church and a focus on youth and leadership regardless of one's political persuasions. Part of a network of 46 Jesuit secondary schools across the country that educate more than 40,000 young men and women every year, BC High, with more than 99 percent of its graduates attending college, strives in its own words to "integrate faith with knowledge and encourage students to improve the world around them, known in Jesuit circles as 'a faith that does justice.'"

O'Connor says she never had that direction in the public schools she attended. "I was wholly unprepared for college," she admits. "College was a shock." In contrast, she notes, BC High prepares its students in every way to continue their education and reinforces the traditional family ethic. "The public schools," she adds, "just don't have the Jesuit ideals. There are too many distractions. Between Hollywood, Facebook, and everything else, the family core is decaying. BC High, like few other schools in New England, can cut through all that; it can offer students hope for the future, a far better sense of right and wrong, and a clear understanding of social justice. The school's alumni are an extended family."

By the numbers, O'Connor says, BC High is impressive by any measure: 1,500 students; 15,000 alumni, many of them active; a 40-acre campus on Dorchester Bay; a 13-to-1 student to faculty ratio; 85 elective courses, 24 advanced placement courses, some 85 faculty holding masters degrees; collectively more than 35,000 hours of community service performed by students each year; and more than \$3.7 million in financial aid distributed this year, with 40 percent of the students receiving some sort of financial help toward an annual tuition that will be \$14,950 for the upcoming academic year.

In a troubled economy, raising money to support financial aid and improve school programs—the core of O'Connor's responsibilities that also include marketing and media outreach—is a challenge that would test the most seasoned fundraiser.

"Supporters give generously to the mission of BC High," she says. "The successes here have stood the test of time. It's a tribute to the school, the Jesuits, and the faculty."

Such youthful enthusiasm and perseverance would please St. Ignatius. For a woman who has been a minority within a minority, a free thinker in every way, the daughter of a former nun and a farmhand, Michele O'Connor has found a home at an all-boys school on the bay where she soars like an eagle.

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communication company based in Brewster. The author/editor of several books, he has contributed to numerous regional and national publications.

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BIR History

FIRST MAN OF THE "FIGHTING NINTH"

Irish-Born Colonel Thomas Cass Proved That He and His Fellow Irish Would Fight, Die To Protect the Union

SECOND IN A TWO PART SERIES

BY PETER F. STEVENS
REPORTER STAFF

On the evening of June 26, 1862, Colonel Thomas Cass and the men of the Ninth Massachusetts Irish Regiment had little time to reflect upon the horrors of that morning and afternoon. The Irish companies of Boston, Milford, Marlborough, and Salem were battered from shrieking blasts of Confederate musket balls and artillery at the Battle of Mechanicsville, Virginia. Still, Cass and his men had helped drive the Rebels back and inflict over 2,000 casualties upon the Southern regiments. The Confederate capital, Richmond, lay less than ten miles away.



Colonel Thomas Cass

The Ninth was assigned a crucial task on the following morning, June 27, 1862. In stifling heat, they deployed around a bridge that forded a mill creek. Cass and his troops readied themselves to hold the span while awaiting two support regiments' arrival.

As Rebel fire erupted from the opposite bank, Cass and his men held steady, one collective eye on the gray- and butternut-hued companies massing on the opposite bank, the other peering for any sign of the support regiments. The blood-curdling "Rebel Yell" pealed through the sultry air, and the Confederates surged at the bridge. The Irishmen squinted down their musket barrels and waited.

Suddenly and in perfect unison the Ninth opened up. When the smoke of their volleys lifted, heaps of dead Rebels lay in front of the bridge or had toppled into the creek. Others writhed and screamed for help.

Several times the Rebels stormed the bridge. The Ninth drove them back each time. All of the drill and training that Cass had unleashed upon his men back in Massachusetts was paying off in a lethal way against the Rebels.

Cass kept searching through his field glasses for the blue Federal columns that were supposed to hold the bridge with the Ninth. With the reinforcements still absent, the Rebels kept coming. More and more of the Irishmen fell in the Confederate onslaught. Still, the Ninth's shredded companies held.

Finally, the reinforcements arrived; on the other side of the creek, however, the Confederates had massed for a last assault. Before the Union regiments could full prepare, the howling Rebel force surged forward and pushed the Ninth and the other Union troops from the

bridge. A full Union retreat commenced – with Cass and his men forced to fight a rearguard action allowing the rest of the Union force to escape catastrophe. The Confederate troops, led by Generals James Longstreet and Ambrose P. Hill, pummeled General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac until nightfall, and by the time the sun had set, some 6,000 Union troops had been killed or wounded. The Ninth had helped save the Army of the Potomac, but had suffered grave losses -- 252 casualties.

As horrific as the Battle of Gaines Mill had been, worse lay ahead for Cass and his men.

Less than a week later, the ravaged Massachusetts Irishmen took up positions on Malvern Hill, Virginia. The Union troops were dug in, and bristling Federal batteries whose black barrels were loaded with grape-shot – loads of metal pieces that literally tore apart massed troops – awaited the oncoming Rebels. Behind the heights, Union gunboats were also positioned to blast away at the Rebels.

The carnage at the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862, stunned even veterans thought they had seen everything in both the Mexican-American War (1846-48) and the battles along the James River over the past month. Many military historians would point to Malvern Hill as a blood-chilling glimpse of warfare's future: the waves of Confederate troops hurled in one horrific charge after another into the literal mouths of massed cannons and dug-in defenders heralded the carnage of World War I's Western Front.

Caught in the thick of it were Colonel Thomas Cass and his men, blazing away at each Confederate wave rushing up the corpse-strewn slope and wavering and falling back to the woods fronting Malvern Hill. As Cass exhorted his troops to pour yet another deadly fusillade into the buckling Rebel lines, he suddenly clutched his face and toppled to the slope. A shot had torn apart his mouth and features.

Cass was carried from the field and taken to the surgeons. A quick glimpse of his shattered face confirmed that the wounds were mortal. At best, he might linger a few weeks. Orderlies would soon load him onto a transport home to Boston.

On Malvern Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Hawley assumed command of the 9th as soon as he saw Cass's grievous wounds. Hawley was hit shortly after, and Captain O'Leary had to take charge. The Ninth had lost its two top officers and half its remaining strength – 166 men – by the time that the Confederates' last charge wilted.

Colonel Cass made it back to Boston, his wife and children with him as he took his final breaths on July 12, 1862. Fittingly, they came in the city where a young Irish immigrant had clawed his way out of the North End's "rookeries" (tenements) in the face of pro-

nounced anti-Irish opposition and found success not only as a businessman, but also esteem as a valiant soldier and patriot.

Colonel Thomas Cass, of Farnly, Ireland, was laid to rest at Mt. Auburn Cemetery with full military honors. He had proven that he and his fellow Boston Irish would fight and die to protect the Union.

A statue of Colonel Cass was erected in the Boston Public Garden, but surviving veterans of his regiment railed that the memorial was both stiff and a poor likeness of the fallen hero. The Society of the Ninth Regiment raised funds to tear down the statue and commissioned noted sculptor Richard E. Brooks to craft a bronze statue of Cass. On September 22, 1899, the striking bronze, which captured the visage and commanding presence of Colonel Thomas Cass and garnered high praise and a prestigious award for Brooks, was unveiled. It stands there today, testimony to a hero – a Boston Irish and American hero.

(For further reading, we strongly suggest *Commanding Boston's Irish Ninth: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Patrick R. Guiney Ninth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*, by Christian Samito.)



Dual citizenship services offered

"While obtaining dual Irish citizenship can be vexing, we help our clients obtain theirs without having to surrender their US or Canadian citizenship," says Deirdre Quinn, who operates a genealogical service for Irish Americans seeking to obtain an Irish passport.

"We do the research, organize the required documentation, complete the forms required by the Irish government, and submit all the material necessary for obtaining citizenship," she says. "We're really good at this, and have developed contacts in the Irish Embassy and consulate offices that help us do this promptly--in less time than is usually quoted on Irish government web sites."

"These days everyone wants to be Irish, and those who qualify for dual Irish citizenship are eager to become citizens of their parents' or grandparents' homeland. And once they obtain their Irish citizenship and have an Irish passport in hand, on their next visit to Ireland, they won't be going to visit, they'll be going home."

Quinn explains, "Our research team is made

up of professional historians, genealogists, and legal researchers who deliver a high standard of results. Staff members are organizational experts who work with precision and attention to details in order to provide a customized result for you, the new dual Irish citizen.

"Our research team has a diverse background, with prestigious memberships in historical and genealogical organizations. Our research team in Ireland is experienced in finding Irish records and they have access to a wide variety of parish and civic archives."

The service is available online at dualirishcitizenship.net. Research for documents is charged at a rate of \$40 per hour, and a dual Irish citizenship package is offered at prices starting at \$279. Embassy fees are extra and not included in the pricing. "We do all the running around for you and notify you when the packet is sent to the Embassy for processing," she says.

The California-based business is also available by phone at 760-772-8318.



Bruins legends help pitch in for vets

Boston Bruins' greats Bobby Orr and Ken Hodge took some shots on the practice green at Quincy's Granite Links Golf Course on Monday, June 29. The pair were participating in a celebrity golf tournament to benefit the Disabled American Veterans in Massachusetts. The purpose of the tournament was to help fund transportation programs that assist state veterans in getting to and from medical appointments. At right, Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch with one of the event organizers, Lou Pasquale of Braintree. Pasquale is a veteran of World War II.

Photos by Bill Forry



NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER



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59 Temple Place, Suite 1010, Boston, MA 02111

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

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

Tribute to Monsignor Thomas J. McDonnell

-- All of us at IIC express our sadness at the passing of Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell. Monsignor McDonnell was a hugely respected presence for good throughout the city and will remain always a particularly beloved figure in South Boston. During his 21 years there, his care, compassion and devotion stretched far beyond just his parishioners but swept right through the community and our city. Msgr. McDonnell was the co-founder of The Simon of Cyrene Society, which works to support the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and their families and he will be deeply missed for the work that he did, and for the man that he was. The monsignor was a past Solas Award recipient and we all mourn his loss as we celebrate his life. Our thoughts are with his friends and loved ones at this difficult time.

Still Haven't Received IIC's E-Newsletter?

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

Employ an Irish student for the summer!

-- Irish students on J-1 visa are arriving in Boston looking for summer employment and housing. We invite you to use our free Cyber Café to list your jobs and houses for the students to apply for. "Our Cyber Cafe provides computers with Internet access where they can search for housing and jobs; we

also have our own listings of accommodation and jobs that we have built up over the years. We provide advice and local knowledge for them and also printing and photocopying which is usually needed with the large amount of résumés they hand into employers," said Robert Sadlier, the intern in the International Programs office who volunteers his time to help J-1 students.

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

If you have summer positions to fill, e-mail us at j1summer@iicenter.org or call 617-542-1900, Ext 41.

Free Legal Clinics in July

-- Do you have questions about your immigration case or that of a family member? Do you want to learn more about becoming a citizen? Drop in to have your queries answered by experienced immigration attorneys at

a clinic near you:

Downtown – Thurs., July 9 and 16 and 30 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in our office at 59 Temple Place, Suite 1010. Get off at Park St. or Downtown Crossing Subway. Note: No clinics on July 23.

Allston-Brighton – Tues., July 14, from 6:30pm in the Kells Bar and Restaurant, 161 Brighton Ave, Allston.

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

Dorchester – Tues., July 28 at 6 p.m. at Saint Mark's Parish (School Hall), 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.

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

Matters Of Substance

'If it's not bleedin'..., Please... ask for help!

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Reading about yet another preventable death of an undocumented immigrant here on the East Coast has prompted me to shelve my planned topic this month and focus on another matter of substance. I am told by many of the folks I chat to each week, that because they live in the U.S. without immigration status, they feel that they are not entitled to ask for any help with their health. Some believe that if they get injured, have a sore tooth, or get sick, no one here in Massachusetts will help them. "Tough it out, there's no point in asking!" We, as Irish people, have a proud history of fighting for ourselves and others in need (Irish, American, and Spanish Revolutions, even the Battle of the Alamo!) but these days we really don't advocate for ourselves as we could! I have asked many health service providers over the last five years, from state level health agencies, hospitals and community health centers to nurse practitioners, dentists, and doctors. Their main message is clear: When it comes to the health of the community and all

individuals living in this community (no matter what their immigration status), the priority is getting them well and healthy again. If you are asked for your Social Security number or your immigration status, it is only to match you with the best treatment options available in your community. However, people continue to die from preventable illnesses, from injuries that became fatal with untreated infections, or by suicide because they were scared to get help for their depression or mental health issues.

Of course some are afraid of stepping forward for help and tell themselves that they have no choice because of their status. The truth is they do have a choice.

The immigration system here in the U.S. is old, outdated, and very unfair, but you and your family have a right to live, to be safe, and to get timely and appropriate health care. If you are an Irish citizen, the Irish Government has made sure that you can get help here in Massachusetts. Just read this paper to get the number for the Irish Immigration Center, Irish Pastoral Centre or the Irish Consulate. We all work together to make

sure you have what you need while you are here.

Massachusetts has some great services to further help us to help you with your health access issues. If you have any questions at all about getting healthcare, call Health-Care for All's helpline: 1800-272-4232. They just want to help you get what you need.

Full Stop! If you are in doubt, call us! Don't wait

until it is too late. Help is available, no matter what. Keep your eye out for details about our next two free health screenings, including dental, here in the IIC in the autumn. 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.



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IIC Launches New Home Health Aide Class

Free class provides Health Care Career Training for Local Irish

BY KATIE FORBERG
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

On June 16, nineteen men and women and four nurses met at the Irish Immigration Center for tea, soda bread, and two hours of home health care training. The IIC, in association with C.A.R.E., the Association of Irish Caregivers and Confidants, has launched a new program that provides entry-level training into the home health care profession.

The weekly class is free and aims at providing a comprehensive instruction on how to care for patients within their own

home. Class participants do not need any background in the nursing field; the sessions can be the jumping point for people who are interested in the health care field.

Gobnait Conneely, IIC Community Outreach manager and founding member of C.A.R.E., said that the class was started to meet the needs of people in the community. "With the economy the way it is, people are losing jobs and looking for other work. 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."

Class participant Callie O'Driscoll has 20 years of experience in the elder care profession, but she never received her certification. While her professional background is in the financial industry, she realized her true passion was in patient care and moved into health work. O'Driscoll said she jumped at the opportunity to take the class because it will help transform her interest into a new career.

"I think that the class gives individuals the confidence to get RN degree. Many of the people have the background, the skills, and the knowledge, but now they just need it

on paper," she said.

O'Driscoll has already started her pre-requirements at the Quincy College nursing program. She is taking the IIC class to receive the certification that many agencies require for work.

Maureen McNally, a nurse practitioner at the Dorchester House in Dorchester, volunteers to teach each week. She said that while C.A.R.E. was initially started for networking and support within the care-giving community, members are now looking to share their expertise with others. "We are a group of caregivers in the community who wanted, in addition to supporting each other, to do something tangible for community," McNally said. "This class fits very nicely with the IIC mission. Like the other services at the IIC, this gives people basic qualifications to get ahead."

The class also allows participants to determine if they even want to pursue a career in patient care, without paying the

\$800-\$900 standard rate for a class. The course includes training in basic skills such as monitoring blood pressure, pulse, and respiration, providing hygiene care, and nutrition information, and assisting with the mobility of patients. Also, the nurses teach participants how to recognize symptoms that need professional medical attention.

Along with the medical education the class offers, Conneely said the sessions foster new friendships between the participants and nurses. In between learning about universal safety precautions and

patient confidentiality, the men and women share personal stories, baking recipes, and a laugh or two.

"What is almost the most important aspect of the class is that it builds up a network of friends," Conneely said. "It's a fun group. We bring in baked goods, drink tea, and have a nice time socializing."

IIC will offer a second class series starting in late July, but places are limited. For information please call Gobnait Conneely at 617-542-7654, Ext. 34 or send an e-mail to her at gconneely@iicenter.org.

ICCNE's Night of Irish Culture at the Brockton Rox on July 25

On Sat., July 25, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England will be hosting a Night of Irish Culture at the Brockton Rox Baseball Game taking place at Campanelli Field. The evening will include Irish Step dancing, Gaelic Football and Hurling Demonstrations, Traditional Irish Music,

Face Painting, and good old fashioned baseball as the Rox take on the American Defenders of New Hampshire.

The Irish cultural activities will begin at 5 p.m. and will take place throughout the evening. The baseball game will start at 6:05 p.m. The Centre is also planning giveaways and

raffles and will have a table set up with information on the "Journey into Ireland," a family trip lead by the ICCNE that will take place next April 17-25.

Tickets for the game are \$8 per person with a portion of the proceeds going back to the Irish Cultural Centre. For more information or to purchase tickets please call 781-821-8291 or visit our website at irishculture.org by Fri. July 24.

Founded in 1989, the mission of the Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE) is to promote and organize Irish cultural, educational, sporting and social events. We aim to establish and sustain a facility where current and future generations of the New England community can participate in activities that promote Irish culture and heritage.

Artane Band Arrives in Bay State in August

The famous Artane Band will be touring Massachusetts in late August/September with momentum building through the efforts of the Boston GAA, the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, the Mayor's office in Boston, the Irish Consulate, Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray's office, the AOH in Worcester, and the towns of Melrose, Milton and Canton.

The Artane Band is seen as synonymous with Irish Sport and Culture and is widely regarded as Ireland's premier marching band. Among the

highlights of the tour will be a gala concert performance at the Hanover theater in Worcester, a lunch-time performance at historic Faneuil Hall, and a family concert at Milton High School. In addition, the Artane ensemble will lead the teams for the Regionals GAA finals on the main pitch in Canton. The tour will later be shown as a documentary on Irish television.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Artane Band's visit should call Mary Swanton at 617-291-0525. She is helping to coordinate the tour.



Summer at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England

Join us every Thursday, Friday or Saturday at the ICCNE Pub for Live Irish Music and Great Food. Best Prices around! Pub Opens at 5PM on Thursday and 6PM on Friday and Saturday. Open to the Public!

July 24th: Featured Friday Instrument Workshop with Renowned Irish Flutist, Skip Healy. Program begins at 6:30 PM.

July 25th: Night of Irish Culture at the Brockton Rox Baseball Game. Come along for a fun family evening of Irish Step Dance, Music, Food, Fun and More. Tickets are \$8 per person with a portion of the proceeds going to the Irish Cultural Centre. Evenings starts at 5PM.

For more information please contact the Irish Cultural Centre at 781-821-8291 or visit our website at www.irishculture.org.

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On the Trail with Michael Flaherty, Who Wants Thomas Menino's Job

By CAROL BEGGY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

On a cloudy and rainy weekday morning that makes this particular corner of the city look more like Seattle than Boston, City Councillor Michael F. Flaherty arrives at the Forest Hills T Station and starts saying hello to campaign workers and greeting passersby before his feet actually hit the sidewalk on Washington Street.

"Hi, I'm Mike Flaherty and I'm running for mayor," he says to a group of women waiting on a bench. "We know who you are," one of the women told Flaherty, causing the candidate to laugh out loud. "Well, I still need your support," Flaherty replied to woman who said they were waiting for a bus to take the group on a day-trip to a Connecticut casino. "We need a change," another woman told Flaherty as the bus pulled up. "And some luck."

Flaherty, an at-large councillor since 2000, wishes them well, gets the names and contact information for at least one member of the group, which was very focused on its own travels, and jots down a few notes on cards with his campaign information printed on the edges for a follow-up by his campaign staff.

Scenes like this will play out again and again at various spots at the Orange Line station this morning and at other locations across the city. The next morning, Flaherty is scheduled to spend a few hours at Roxbury Crossing. A few nights before he threw out the ceremonial first pitch at English High School's field to kick off the American Legion team's season.

It is the candidate's personal touch that won over Kim Hargaden, Ward 19 coordinator for the Flaherty campaign who was at the station greeting people before her candidate arrived. "For the [American Legion] team and the players and their families, this is a huge undertaking. Mike Flaherty understands what it means to live and work in the city," Hargaden said. "I'm working for him because he's out here now, as a City Councillor and a candidate for mayor, listening to what people want for the future."

Flaherty's Irish roots are as deep as those his family planted in Boston a few generations ago. His parents were born in Boston, but look back a bit fur-

ther and you'll see three of Flaherty's great-grandparents on his father's side were born in County Galway. Flaherty's mom's family (the McGlones) hails from Galway, Monahan, and Cork.

Spend some time listening over mayoral candidate Flaherty's shoulder and you'll hear a lot about his easy-going personal style and the need for a change. People are listening to this lifelong resident of South Boston, because, they say, they want to hear some new ideas.

Flaherty, who was president of the City Council from 2002 to 2006, is in the biggest race of his political life as he challenges 16-year incumbent Thomas M. Menino, the mayor who was on center stage for some of the city's biggest showcase events: the 2004 Democratic Convention, the Patriots winning three NFL titles, the Red Sox winning two World Series championships, Major League Baseball's All-Star Game, and a huge increase in TV and film production in the city. Menino has also had to deal with a large share of the tough stuff: the deaths of firefighters in the line of duty, acrimonious contract negotiations with various unions, economic downturns, and federal mandates, particularly after 9/11.

Flaherty's strategy for taking on a popular and long-serving mayor who is still engaged in his duties is a simple one: Menino might be "good" but Flaherty would be "better." The Flaherty cards handed out by campaign volunteers echo the ads that have been sprouting up on the tops of taxis, showing up in local newspapers, and popping up on the various online forums and social networking sites. Today, the cards show a computer circa 1988 with the word "good" below it. On the flip side of the card is a spanking new Apple "Air" laptop with the word "better" and www.michaelflaherty.com running along the bottom of the card.

Some politicians in the city thought Flaherty might be taking a risk using this strategy, but it seems to be catching on. So much so that anyone can submit an idea. An old light bulb is "good," but a new mercury vapor light bulb is "better." A few ideas trickle into the campaign's website every day.

"Look, I'll take responsibility for what I've done while in office and what I haven't been able to do. I'm just saying that our



Councillor Flaherty looks for voters to persuade at the Forest Hills T Station.
Carol Beggy photo

city is good and it can be, and should be, better," Flaherty said in between talking with potential supporters as they made their way through the turnstiles to catch an Orange Line train.

Menino, Flaherty, Councillor at-Large Sam Yoon, and businessman Kevin McCrea are all on the ballot, making for one of the largest preliminary races in recent history. The four face off on Sept. 22, with the final election set for Nov. 3. Flaherty thinks he has "just" enough time to change a few minds about whom they will support. "It's about getting out there and getting in front of people, letting them realize they have an option when they go to cast their ballot. And getting my points across and my issues heard."

Flaherty appears to be winning some small victories, on the issues front. On the day he is scheduled to meet a reporter in Forest Hills, his team apologizes for him being 15 minutes late. He's on the radio with WBZ because Menino has just come out in support of charter schools, a position Flaherty and rival Sam Yoon had both endorsed just days before.

"I can say that I like Mayor Menino's position on charter schools because it's my position on charter schools, that the city needs to get out front of our underperforming schools and find new ways to deal with that. Glad I could point the way for him," Flaherty said in between chatting with people moving through the T station.

A former Suffolk County assistant district attorney, Flaherty has been vocal about the city's crime rate. His campaign points to the more than 1,000 homicides in Menino's 16 years as mayor. In turn, the mayor's people are quick to note that in the 16 years before he took office there were almost 1,600 homicides in the city. Another issue Flaherty has been pushing is the modernization of city services, pointing to New York City's extensive 311 system that allows residents to report problems to live dispatchers 24 hours a day, and the real-time "e-policing" data systems used by Los Angeles to recognize problem areas more quickly.

Mention to Flaherty that it seems odd that someone with his curriculum vitae (Irish heritage, lifelong city neighborhood resident, a graduate of Boston College High School, Boston College, and Boston University Law School) would be considered an outsider, and he flashes his quick smile. "It's about modernizing the city. It's about recognizing where we've been and where this city needs to go. Our mayor has been in office for 16 years. That's a lot of ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking, and cookies and coffee meetings. I know we aren't going to

solve today's problems with 16-year-old solutions."

Flaherty said these mornings out visiting city communities help move him beyond his daily schedule. He and his wife Laurene live in the same South Boston neighborhood where he grew up with their four children, Patrick, Michael, and twins Elizabeth and Jack. The candidate is a partner with the law firm Adler Pollock & Sheehan, and keeps a full City Council schedule dominated these days by special meetings on the 2010 budget, a process that probably will continue beyond July 1, the start of the fiscal year.

"I like this part of the campaign. I like it when people open up or invite me into their home. That's very special," says Flaherty. "And you never know what you're going to hear or what their concerns are."

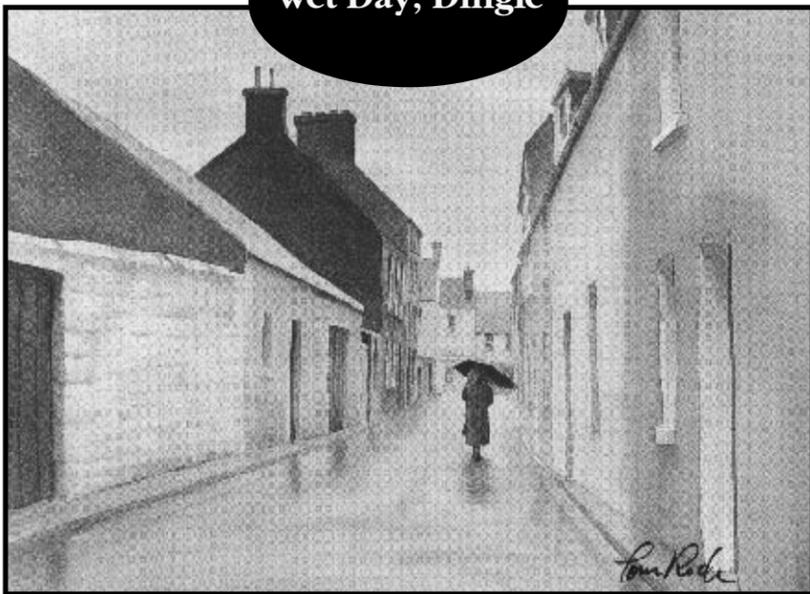
Flaherty looks around and returns to his pitch: "I'm Mike Flaherty and I'm running for mayor." As if on cue, people begin to approach. One man pulls the candidate aside, digs a copy of his resume out of his bag, and asks Flaherty to keep him in mind if he hears of any jobs while also imploring him to see what kinds of people are finding themselves unemployed.

Another man, Michael Hampton of Mattapan, spots Flaherty from behind and yells, "Go Mike! We need a change." Flaherty asks Hampton if he'd put a sign on his house or some other show of support and Hampton replies that he would, but "I'm only one vote. Only one." Flaherty doesn't miss a beat: "One at a time. Thanks."

A kindergarten teacher at St. Anne School in Readville hands Flaherty a thank you note from her young charges, whom Flaherty had visited a couple of days before. The teacher's reaction to finding Flaherty at the Forest Hills T Station was a mix of happiness at again seeing the politician who had generously given her students his time and a tinge of regret for having "just" put a stamp on the envelope to drop in the mailbox. "I'm sorry about that," said Flaherty, referring to the wasted stamp.

"Yes, this is the part I really like," Flaherty said as he was leaving the station. The candidate stops to listen to a young man talk about more jobs programs for those students who are trying to finish high school or get their GED, but probably won't go to college. Flaherty asks the man about what kinds of jobs he thinks would help solve the problem and wonders how they could get young people to apply for them. Yes, indeed, he seems to enjoy this part of public life.

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Remembering Father Tom, a 'Parish Priest'

By ED FORRY
PUBLISHER



Reflections

Monsignor Tom McDonnell passed away on Sunday, June 14. The longtime pastor of St. Augustine church in South Boston, he had been living in St. Mary's rectory, Dedham since the closing of the Southie church, which has been joined with the nearby St. Monica's on Old Colony Ave. He had successfully battled lung cancer several years ago; the disease had returned, and he continued his work while in treatment. Last October, he went under the care of Good Samaritan Hospice.

Fr. Tom did not allow his illness to define his life. Instead, he continued to practice the priestly vocation he believed God had given him, and his was an extraordinary ministry. Among his works were the founding of the Simon of Cyrene Society, a program to help the families of children with special needs, and the St. Augustine Food Pantry, which helped feed persons who were hungry, and delivered hot holiday meals to shut-ins at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Born and raised in Mattapan, he was ordained in Rome in 1960, and held advanced degrees in liturgy and dogmatic theology from the Vatican's Pontifical Gregorian University. He was a voracious reader and a reflective thinker, yet he never strayed from the working class neighborhood roots that nurtured him as a boy growing up in St. Angela's parish. He did spend five years as a professor at St. John's Seminary, but left the academy to work in parish life. He had told friends he wanted to be remembered with these two words: "Parish priest."

In recent years, I was fortunate to become his friend, and we published dozens of his spiritual reflections on the pages of the BIR and the Dorchester Reporter. On Monday, June 8, he phoned me and left this message: "Ed, This is Father Tom. My article is in to the Dorchester Reporter; and second, I was awarded third place in this year's Catholic Press Association's awards. I just wanted to let you know the good news."

The award-winning column appeared during Lent in the Reporter as well as in The Pilot, and the judges commented: "McDonnell extracts just two words from the Scriptures -- 'I thirst' -- and uses them as a springboard for a surprising number of theological reflections." His final piece appears below.



He was a voracious reader and a reflective thinker, yet he never strayed from the working class neighborhood roots that nurtured him as a boy growing up in St. Angela's parish. He did spend five years as a professor at St. John's Seminary, but left the academy to work in parish life. He had told friends he wanted to be remembered with these two words: "Parish priest."

Father Tom's life was celebrated with a funeral mass June 13, the principal celebrant his longtime friend and confessor Bishop John D'Arcy. The church was filled with old friends and his priestly brothers, and a reflection was delivered by Bill Bulger. He was laid to rest in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Roxbury.

For now, his friends can perhaps find comfort in the simple prayer of John Henry Cardinal Newman: "May He support us all the day long, 'til the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy, may He grant us a safe lodging, and holy rest, and peace at last."

For Fr. Tom, his work indeed is done- and he did it so very, very well!

One Last Column: The Infinity of Littleness

The mention of the Infinite usually leads us to ponder how the universe – vast as it is – cannot encompass the greatness of our God. The discoveries of the Hubble Telescope reinforces our amazement at the handiwork of our God.

But I believe there is another type of infinity which is also a characteristic of our God – an infinity of littleness – best understood by meditating upon the Heart of Jesus. And since we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June, it seems appropriate to reflect upon some of the qualities of the infinity of littleness.

We know that the heart is a small muscle. Yet it radiates an infinite Love. Into it is squeezed every person who ever lived. It is a Heart which carried each one of us to the Cross. And one of His greatest pains was the thought of losing one of us.

Because His Love radiates from the Heart, He is looking for our love in exchange for the love which He lavishes upon us. His desire from the beginning was and is for a mutuality of love: our acceptance of His love and our willingness to turn our love toward Him. It is this thought which we should be reminded of when we hear the words of Consecration: "my blood shed for you."

We know from the Gospel, how Christ's heart was pierced on the cross and how blood and water flooded from His side. In an analogous way, we might say that Christ's Heart is continually being broken by those who are ungrateful for his sacrifice or who casually reject the overtures of His love.

But His heart shows infinite patience in the sense that Christ continually invites us to respond to His love. He is truly forgetful of the past. And the words of the prophet Isaiah remain true – "though your sins are scarlet, they shall become white as snow." In a redemptive paradox we are washed clean by His blood.

I believe that Christ's heart is also broken by the indifference of so many who do not pay attention to His words and accept His values. It is perhaps this indifference and lack of appreciation which pains Him the most. All of us, at times must spend some quiet time, praying before a picture of the Sacred Heart or before a crucifix. It in such silent moments that our appreciation of the Lord's love for us grows. The verse of an old Irish poem was correct – after noting how we often pray as if giving a sermon to God – that "only in silence does the Infinite speak to us."

On another level, we are reminded of the verse from the ancient prayer "Anima Christi,"

"Soul of Christ, be my sanctification,
Body of Christ, be my salvation
Blood of Christ, run through my veins
Water of Christ, wash away my stains"

The prayer is sacramental in context. The water reminds us of the cleansing water of Baptism. It is a reference to the water which poured out of Christ's side on the cross. And it reminds us of how the sacrament reminds us of how we should accept dying as a way of life: dying to self and self-will to live the redemptive life as children of God.

Finally, "there is the Blood of Christ." Such energizes our being. And His blood is inexhaustible, infinite as it were, to become the life-force for so many.

We might conclude this reflection with two thoughts. First of all, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that the Lord loves to intercede. He is constantly praying for us – with the marks of His Passion still in His resurrected and ascended Body. And it would be difficult for the Father to ignore His prayers, seeing the sign of His love which led Him to accept the cross.

The second point is overlooked. In the prayer on the Agony in the Garden, Christ actually sweat blood. Such was His intensity – an intensity which He brings to His prayers.



RIP, Dave Burke, A Legendary Hibernian

David R. Burke, the leading voice in the Lawrence Hibernian community for more than a half century, died on Wed., May 27, at Caritas Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, of cancer.

A highly decorated and respected member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Burke was widely known for his efforts to promote peace in the Motherland.

He leaves his wife of 41 years Patricia C. (Jurewicz) Burke and a son, Kevin P., of Lawrence.

By JOHN PHILIP FOLEY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

To his best friends, Dave Burke was an absolute pain in the ass. He was always asking for something.

Can you pick up an Irish visitor at Logan Airport?

Can you draft a press release on an Irish speaker?

And Dave's all time favorite "can you send a check?"

What made Dave so special is that the favors were never, ever for him. Dave was always working for others and he was never looking for any type of recognition for himself. And his friends know that over the past forty years there has been no job, too large or too small, that Dave did not do himself. He would go from being the Master of Ceremonies at a lunch where he introduced the Governor to being the guy who folded the chairs and hauled away the trash. Dave just did it.

I first met Dave when I was

a radio reporter in Lawrence. On my way to work every morning I would stop into the police department and review the log book for newsworthy arrests. One winter morning I did a story about an older woman I had found sleeping in a chair in the lobby of the police department. Her name was Helen, she was in her 70's and she had been burned out of her apartment. She had no family, nothing but the clothes on her back and she was living on the street.

Minutes after I read the story on the air there was a voice on the telephone telling me "she will have a roof over her head tonight." Who are you? I asked. "Dave Burke, Lawrence Housing Authority."

That same day I received a call to go to a housing complex to see how Helen was doing. When I arrived, the Red Cross was delivering a second hand bedroom set; the Salvation Army had already provided a small kitchen table and chairs

and the Ladies from the Ancient Order of Hibernians were hanging drapes and helping Helen into new clothes.

I called Dave the next day and said I wanted to do a story about how he and the community had responded to help a woman down on her luck.

"What are you [expletive] stupid?" Dave yelled at me over the phone. Trying to hide my shock at his response, I asked him why no follow up story. He said "do you know how many federal and state housing laws I broke to take care of that woman. I'd go to prison."

Then why'd you do it? I asked. The reply was simple and typical Dave: "Because she needed the help." He didn't worry about the forms and the paperwork; Dave just did it.

I don't know how many people Dave helped over the years but there were many. He spent thirty-five years at the Lawrence Housing Authority, and for the past four decades he

has been a leading organizer in all things Irish. Dave's fingerprints would be on many of the brochures for the different Irish heritage and history events that have taken place in Massachusetts over the past forty years.

Dave stood up for human rights and challenged a flawed judicial system that produced numerous miscarriages of justice in the North of Ireland when it was dangerous to do so. He educated many Irish-Americans as to what was happening in the North and he was one of the leading organizing forces that united the Irish in American into Irish-America. No one asked him to give up his nights and weekend to do it; Dave just did it.

Dave truly believed that through his daily efforts one man can make a difference for good in this world. Like everything else, Dave didn't talk about it; Dave just did it.

An Appreciation: Just Dave



Thirteen students of Dorchester's Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy performed at a breakfast held in honor of the President of Ireland on Tuesday, May 28. The breakfast was sponsored by the Irish American Partnership (IAP). The students, who attend the Dorchester Central Campus of the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy, were anxious to show their violin talents to the foreign dignitary.

"Our young violinists have been practicing and preparing for this event for quite some time," said Mary Swanton, Fine Arts Director at the Academy. "We are thankful to the Irish American Partnership and to President McAleese for providing us with such a special opportunity."

The students surprised president McAleese by playing "Green Glens of Antrim," a song from the President's hometown in Belfast County. The president responded by explaining the origin of the song and reciting the lyrics to the students.

Photo courtesy PJP II Academy



President McAleese at the State House (above with Sen. Marian Walsh and Gov. Deval Patrick); receiving a 2009 Solas Award from the Irish Immigration Ctr (at right with Solas committee members.)



ADVERTISEMENT

Co-operation Ireland Plans Irish-American Cycling Event To Foster Peace, Reconciliation

In September 2009, (September 22-29) 50 cyclists from all parts of Ireland, North and South are undertaking the challenge of cycling approx 350 miles over 5 days through some of the most beautiful scenery in New England in support of Ireland's leading peace-building charity, Co-operation Ireland. The charity is celebrating its 30th anniversary of fostering peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland. They're hoping that local riders in the US will take time out to join those coming from Ireland in the bike ride and help raise funds for the charity.

Co-operation Ireland will offer two one-day options and a weekend option.

The minimum contribution/cost for each single-day cycling option is \$500. Cyclists are encouraged to have friends and family support their efforts, to raise even more. Registration includes breakfast, evening meal, and Co-operation Ireland jacket and t-shirt. Availability of discounted group-rate hotel double occupancy rooms in Gloucester and Newbury Port/Amesbury for single-day options, and in Boston for the weekend option.

**One-Day Coastal Option 1 –
Arrive Tuesday evening, September 22
Wed, Sept 23: Cape Ann – Salem loop
from Gloucester, MA**



For today's ride, Co-operation Ireland cyclists start out cycling from the Atlantis Motor Inn in Gloucester MA, to Rockport on the tip of Cape Ann for a visit to Bearskin Neck or a walk at Halibut Point State Park. Circling back to Gloucester, the full 67 mile route takes participants along the Cape Ann coastline to Magnolia, Manchester By the Sea, Beverly, and Salem, with a range of distance options. After a short ride out to the Eastern Point Lighthouse, we return to the Atlantis Motor Inn in Gloucester. Discount group hotel rate available.

**One-Day Coastal Option 2-
Arrive Thursday evening, September 24
Fri, Sept 25: Coastal New Hampshire
from Amesbury, MA**

Today cyclists ride from the Fairfield Inn in Amesbury, MA for 30 miles along the New Hampshire coast to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Distance options are 43 and 66 miles. Cyclists return to Amesbury through rural New Hampshire for 43 miles, and an extra loop through charming Andover, NH for the full 66 miles.



**Weekend Option 3--Golden
Shamrock/Hub on Wheels-Friday-
September 25-Sunday, September 27**

Weekend package available, including cycling entry into Boston's 'Hub on Wheels' Bike Ride on Sunday, September, and access to discounted-rate Boston hotel double-occupancy accommodations



SEPTEMBER 27, 2009
HUB ON WHEELS
CITYWIDE BIKE RIDE & FESTIVAL

for nights of Friday, September 25 and Saturday September 26.

The minimum charity contribution/cost for CI cycling participation is \$595, and includes Hub on Wheel registration (\$45) free hotel parking and secure bike storage for registered guest, and Co-operation Ireland jacket and t-shirt

For further details, please contact Co-operation Ireland's Office in New York on +1 (212) 572 4832 or email coop-ire@rcn.com or register online at www.cooperationireland.org

Co-operation Ireland was founded in 1979 (as Co-operation North) in the midst of the 'troubles', by Dr. Brendan O'Regan a businessman and entrepreneur.

Today, Co-operation Ireland is the largest, continuously-operating non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting better cross-border and cross-community relation in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

A non-political, non-religious voluntary organization with offices in Belfast, Dublin, London, and New York, Co-operation Ireland works to make lasting peace a reality and relies on support from corporations, foundations, government, and peoples of all backgrounds in Ireland, Britain and the United States.

Since its founding almost 30 years ago, Co-operation Ireland has grown to be the largest peace charity in Ireland.

Once A Novitiate, Bethany Hill School Now 'A Place to Call Home'

Bethany Hill School in Framingham was designed and developed by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston in partnership with the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) and other program sponsors in the Boston/MetroWest area. The property had served for many years as a novitiate building. In 1994, the 1920's-era building located on a 100-acre pastoral setting was converted to community housing for the underserved and Bethany Hill School opened its doors.

The footprint of the building has changed very little from the original novitiate residence. Inside, the marble staircases, high ceilings, tall windows and spacious corridors stand as reminders of a rich past and a place where one can find comfort, acceptance and peace. The mission of Framingham's Bethany Hill School, a living and learning community of neighbors, is to provide affordable, independent housing with educational opportunities within a climate of respect,

inclusion and acceptance. Residents are empowered to progress toward their goals and to be their best selves in a safe, supportive environment.

On April 2, a 15th anniversary celebration, "A Place to Call Home," was held at Regis College, Weston. Over 200 guests attended, and special recognition was extended to Boston philanthropist Jack Connors.

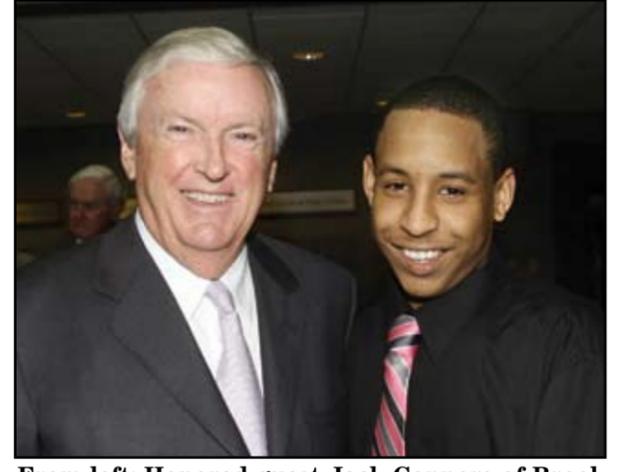
Photos by Bill Brett, courtesy Bethany Hill School.



Patti Brett of Dorchester and Sr. Zita Fleming of Brighton



Tom Grassia and Barbara Carney, both of Wayland



From left: Honored guest Jack Connors of Brookline and guest speaker Nicholas Fillman of Framingham.



John E. Drew of Hingham and his son, John P. Drew of Scituate.



From left: Sister Lee Hogan of Brighton, Sister Mary L. Murphy of Brighton, Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy of Newton, and Sister Marilyn McGoldrick of Brighton.

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For Childsplay, It's Very Much All in the Family

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Every year for the past two decades and more, Cambridge resident and violin maker Bob Childs has organized a family reunion that is unique in a few ways – including the fact that none of the participants are technically related to him.

Childs is the guiding force and namesake for Childsplay, an ensemble of two dozen or so musicians performing fiddle music mainly from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, Scandinavian, French Canadian, and American folk traditions. His most distinctive contribution? He made all the fiddles and violas used in the group. Those who have taken up the bow at one time or another for Childsplay, along with Childs himself, include Laurel Martin, Hanneke Cassel, Steve Hickman, Sheila Falls Keohane, Mary Lea, Mark Simos, Lissa Schneckenburger, Sam Amidon, Joe and Graham DeZarn, and Dave Langford. Among the non-fiddling contributors have been flute, whistle and accordion player Shannon Heaton, guitarist Keith Murphy, vocalist Aoife O'Donovan, cellist Ariel Friedman, string bassist Ralph Gordon, and dancers Pierre Chartrand and Kieran Jordan.

The 2009 edition of Childsplay performed at the Cambridge River Festival and in New York City last month to mark the release of its fifth CD, "Waiting for the Dawn," and is preparing for a series of concerts this December, including at Somerville Theater (Dec. 5) and The National Heritage Museum in Lexington (Dec. 6).

As Childs sees it, his bond with this group of people is special and meaningful, and has grown deeper and richer over the years. If that's not a family, he asks, what is?

"There's a connection you feel in Childsplay that's very different from other bands," says Childs. "A lot of it, of course, has to do with the fact that the featured instruments are made by one person, and there is a consistency to their tone and timbre – a sound that is familial, although no two are absolutely, exactly alike."

"But there's more to it than that. Each instrument that I've made becomes a story in and of itself through the musician who plays it, and through Childsplay those stories are given voice together. It's such a powerful thing, and even the members of Childsplay who play other kinds of instruments are able to share in the experience."

This concept of Childsplay as a family unfolds in other ways. Within the group, over the years, have been marriages and births, as well as illnesses and losses, and voices representing a new generation are joining the ranks: When Joe DeZarn took part in the first Childsplay concert, in 1987, his son Graham – now 24, and a regular participant – was a toddler, almost the age that Childs's son Liam is now; Friedman and O'Donovan weren't in elementary school yet, and Schneckenburger and Amidon hadn't reached junior high.

Furthermore, as Childs explains, the group as a whole has grown and changed in terms of its scope and



Childsplay regulars include (l-r) Keith Murphy, Hanneke Casell, Shannon Heaton and Aoife O'Donovan.

Photo by Arthur Ferguson

Bob Childs Has Personal Connection to the Music His Ensemble Plays

material. "It started with basically all fiddles, but we wanted to go for a more complex sound, so we began incorporating bass, guitar, banjo, piano for rhythm, and later on harp and flute, especially for slower tunes. That enabled us to put together more sophisticated and elaborate arrangements, and eventually to expand our repertoire to include songs."

"Waiting for the Dawn" is Childsplay's most extensive use of vocals to date, with seven of its 13 tracks featuring or incorporating songs led by O'Donovan, with occasional harmony supplied by Murphy, Schneckenburger and Molly Gawler. As with most other aspects of Childsplay, this development reflects an integration of musical and personal insights for Childs that reach back to a less-than-ideal childhood: Childs spent the first few years of his life in foster homes until he was adopted, and the mystery of his birth parents' identities nagged at him until well past adulthood. He often tells of a dream he had some years ago, of trying to enter a country and being led by a border guard to a room in which there was a violin, inlaid with the image of a small boy crying.

"I came to realize, eventually, that crafting violins had been a way to give voice to a part of myself for which I had no form of expression," he says. "So integrating voice with violin is part of my own maturation, as well as that of Childsplay – the revelation that there is a

power in words, that one's capacity for expression can keep developing, especially when you are around people who constantly encourage and inspire you to explore the means of expression."

This emphasis on expression is certainly evident on "Waiting for the Dawn"; whatever the numbers of musicians playing at any given time – whether the full ensemble or a duo or trio – and whatever the origin or character of the tune or song in question, emotion is in more than adequate supply. Right from the get-go, in fact, as the group essays "Rattlin' Roarin' Willie," the classic tale of the musician who just can't let go of his beloved instrument (yes, it's a fiddle). Childsplay straightens out the song's familiar frenetic 9/8 rhythm into a grooving 4/4, Murphy's guitar pointing the way, and Cassel and Heaton churning out the Cape Breton "Old Time Wedding Reel" in between the verses, which O'Donovan delivers with gusto; then the group launches into "The High Drive," a joyous four-part reel by the late Scottish piper Gordon Duncan.

Two other tracks, both with Irish connections, highlight O'Donovan's presence on the CD. The first is "I'm a Youth That's Inclined to Ramble," a traditional song in the form of a dialogue between soon-to-part lovers. It's long been associated with Paul Brady, and with good reason – his memorable solo rendition gave a stark and edgy feel to the lyrical conversation, as if to accentuate the imminent sense of loss. But Childsplay takes the song to a different atmosphere, where lush, gentle strings build underneath O'Donovan's wispy, quiet voice; it's a full-bodied declaration of regret and resolve.

And then there's the medley comprising U2's "Mothers of the Disappeared" – a tribute to victims in Argentina's "dirty war" – and Cassel's original tune "The Evenstar." Cassel, in fact, did a smaller-scale, instrumental version of this set (with O'Donovan on back-

(Continued on page 16)

Berklee College Forges a Program to Lure More Irish Students to Campus

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Founded in 1945, Berklee College of Music was the first school in the United States to offer formal training in jazz. Today its reputation spans all musical genres and its student body is an international melting pot of individuals from more than 70 countries.

Berklee has long maintained a variety of connections with Ireland. To start, Damien Bracken, the school's Dean of Admissions, is from Dublin as well as a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. Beyond that, renowned Irish flautist Brian Dunning attended Berklee; U2 guitarist The Edge received an honorary doctor of music degree in 2007; and "Riverdance" composer Bill Whelan, a member of Berklee's Board of Directors since 2007, has brought "Riverdance" musicians to the school to conduct master classes.

This past April, the school cranked things up a notch when it launched Berklee In Dublin, a

series of workshops that allowed 50 students from Ireland and beyond the opportunity to study and interact with members of Berklee's renowned faculty. Additionally, representatives from the school's admissions office were on hand to audition students for summer scholarships. The workshop sessions were held at The Dublin Institute of Technology while the auditions took place at Dublin's Newpark Music Centre.

The seven-day event included master classes, performances, style labs, lectures, and a special address by Bill Whelan. On the final night, students and faculty took over the downtown club Shebeen Chic for a dual jam session of jazz and traditional music.

At the closing event, two deserving Irish students -- vocalist Karen Cowley from Bray, Wicklow, and bassist Isaac Hayes from Feakle, Clare -- were among the four students awarded full-tuition scholarships to come to Boston



Imogen Gunner, an English violinist who has been living in Ireland for many years, was one of 50 students who participated in the Berklee in Dublin workshop in April at the Dublin Institute of Technology.

this month and participate with roughly 900 other students in Berklee's five-week Summer Performance Program, now in its 21st year and touted as the largest and most comprehensive summer music program in the world.

The idea for Berklee In Dublin was inspired by Bill Whelan, who felt that Irish students were underrepresented at the school. The challenge became, how to draw more young Irish musicians to Boston by providing a diverse experience that was both artistic and educational.

Said Bracken, "[Bill] felt our approach should be to go meet with the educators, not just in Dublin but all over Ireland and get a sense of what they felt would bring value . . . in terms of the kind of expertise that Berklee has, and what students might be looking for in their programs. So we did a trip a year ago in March. We traveled all over the country. We visited schools in Belfast and Limerick

(Continued on page 15)



A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCMFest), 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.

All Together Now, Again

During its two years of existence, BCMFest's Celtic Music Monday series at Club Passim in Harvard Square has featured fiddles, flutes, accordions, pipes, even the bones and bodhran. But the instrument in focus this month will be the human voice – and it won't just be sounding from the stage.

On July 13, at 8 p.m., Celtic Music Monday presents "All Chorus Songs, All the Time (Reprise)," a repeat performance of a concert held last December that proved such a crowd-pleaser that BCMFest organizers decided to bring it back for another round.

The featured performers for the July 13 event are all well-versed in leading sing-alongs, whether on stage, in pubs and parlors, and in less conventional settings -- even on the deck of a boat cruising around a harbor.

Lynn Noel is a familiar figure in the Greater Boston folk song scene, as a member of the Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society (which performed at BCMFest 2009) and a leader of regularly occurring sea chantey and pub sings in the area, such as The Skellig in Waltham. She is a fine instrumentalist, accompanying herself on guitar and mountain dulcimer, but her unaccompanied singing is equally, if not more, powerful. Noel also has appeared on several recordings, including Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society's 2008 release "Liberty!"

Michael O'Leary didn't think of himself as a singer

until well along in life, but he's more than made up for lost time, appearing at BCMFest, Irish Connections Festival, New England Folk Festival and other festivals and concert venues in New England. He also organizes BCMFest's annual music cruise in Gloucester Harbor. In 2003, O'Leary was co-recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant that enabled him to study the traditional Irish sean nos singing style from Bridget Fitzgerald.

Scottish native **Jerry Bell** is known as an all-around entertainer, raconteur, and life of the party, keeping audiences in stitches when he's not leading them in songs. But Bell's interest in folk and traditional music runs deep and assumes many forms: He is an avid fiddle player in the Scottish style (although he can more than hold his own in an Irish session), a superb bagpiper, and more than proficient on such instruments as flute, guitar, bodhran and banjo. Bell and his wife Nancy also have earned the Parent's Choice Gold Award for their family-oriented folk music, stories and dance programs.

Sean Smith took up traditional music back in high school and has played in the Boston area for some 25 years, appearing as a soloist, in bands, or in collaboration with other musicians at venues such as Club Passim, ICONS, the Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival, the Elysium Arts Folk Club, as well as the Concerts at the Captain's House and Notlob Kitchen Concerts series. A member of the BCMFest board of directors, he is a co-organizer and frequent emcee for the Celtic Music Monday series and instigator of the "traditional Celtic Music Monday sing-along" that often begins each show.

(O'Leary, Bell and Smith also are notorious for their random appearances and offerings of whimsical, humorous – if not downright sophomoric – songs during BCMFest's Saturday schedule.)

This quartet promises a selection of chorus songs that runs the gamut from comic to serious, from Celtic traditions to more contemporary sources, and on all manner of subjects: love, work, drink, war and fellowship, to name a few.

Berklee College Looks to Lure More Irish Students to Campus

(Continued from page 14) and Dublin and Cork, just meeting with the principals of the schools and some of the educators and kind of assessing what would really work for us. And we came up with this concept of teaching improvisation across styles. Improvisation is traditionally thought of as a jazz-centric skill . . . but it applies, of course, to every songwriter. By virtue of the fact that they're composing music, they're improvising; they're just taking a different approach to improvising."

Clearly, from the masters of the classical world to the emerging artists of the new millennium,

improvisation has been a constant.

One of the things Bracken was particularly pleased with in Dublin was the diversity of individuals who participated. He said, "Out of the 50 people, 22 were from Ireland." They also had students from Italy, Portugal, Spain, Germany. "And then we had one student come from Mexico." Overall, it was an interesting group, ranging from pop to classical, jazz and rock. He said, "It was a really great cross section geographically. And very Berklee-esque. That's more of what the Berklee experience is like. When you come, you're exposed

to a very broad range of people from all over the world. And a very broad range of musical styles."

The Summer Performance Program is a sort of pre-college immersion program that Bracken describes as "a compressed version of what the full time Berklee experience is like. Students come and they have ensemble experiences; they have private lessons with a faculty member; they have courses in music improvisation and theory, ear training. We also have visiting artists come on campus." Additionally, "it tends to be a younger age group, 16 and 17 year olds . . . they're kind of testing

the waters to see if Berklee is a good fit for them."

With its alumni ranging from Quincy Jones and Aimee Mann to John Mayer, Gary Burton, Juliana Hatfield, Branford Marsalis, Kevin Eubanks, and Alf Clausen ("The Simpsons"), Berklee offers a mission statement with a simple philosophy: "Berklee was founded on two revolutionary ideas: that musicianship could be taught through the music of the time; and that our students need practical, professional skills for successful, sustainable music careers."

As Dean of Admissions, Bracken said one of his challenges in executing

Berklee In Dublin was not only strengthening Berklee's identity in Ireland, but correcting the common misperception that Berklee is solely for jazz musicians. "That's primarily what Berklee is known for abroad," he said. "And so it was an opportunity for me to talk about how we teach the music business, music production engineering, and many other non-performance-centric courses." A quick glance through the college's admissions catalog verifies that diversity with courses that include Music and Sound Production for Games, Computer/Synthesis Applications for Film Scor-

ing, Marketing Issues in the Music Industry, Sound Design for Animation, Financial Management for Musicians, and Music in Psychotherapy, among others.

From rock to pop, Latin, R&B, hip-hop, electronica and bluegrass, music is constantly evolving. And Berklee is intent on evolving with it by constantly adapting and updating its curriculum and learning lab technology to reflect what's current and vital to the business. Exploring new talent through programs like Berklee In Dublin is an integral part of the process.

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For Childsplay, It's Very Much All in the Family

(Continued from page 14)

ing vocals for "Evenstar") on her 2004 album "Some Melodious Sonnet." In this setting, Gordon's bass and Murphy's guitar provide a literal and metaphorical pulse ["Hear their heartbeat/hear their heartbeat"], and Heaton's accordion a church harmonium-like quality, while the massed fiddles collectively serve as a backing choir to a soulful O'Donovan.

"Aoife was the perfect person for this new direction," says Childs. "She is comfortable with so many kinds of music, whether it's Irish/Celtic, bluegrass, old-timey, pop and contemporary, and there's something about her voice that meshes with the violins just in the right way. So we tried to come up with arrangements that made a space for her voice, and in the mixing and mastering process the intent was to get Aoife into the center of the sound."

O'Donovan also comes to the forefront on the traditional "Sweet Sunny South," Steve Earle's "Christmas in Washington," Boston songwriter Mark Simos's "non-denominational" gospel song "Tears of Healing Rain" (aided and abetted by harmonies from Murphy and Gawler) and even "Love Me Tender," which Childs explains is a lullaby he and his wife sing to his son – here it's de-Elvised with the help of Kathleen Guilday's harp.

The instrumental-only tracks do not lack for the aforementioned expressiveness, either. They range from a pairing of Murphy's relentless 7/8 tune "SamSam Amidon" (with an equally relentless piano) and the Michael Coleman classic "Good Morning to Your Night Cap," on which Amidon and Heaton take the lead, to a medley of "Compliments to Cameron Chisholm" and the title track, written by Cassel, to the Pete Sutherland waltz "Soir Et Matin," which Childsplay dedicates to New England fiddler Kerry Elkin, who was diagnosed two years ago with multiple sclerosis (Childs says putting this track together was one of the more emotional experiences for the group).



Boston area Irish flutist Shannon Heaton is among the more recent additions to the ranks of Childsplay.

Photo by Arthur Ferguson.

The mix of traditions evidenced in the aforementioned sets is a big part of what makes Childsplay appealing to its participants, notes Childs. "Everybody comes from different traditions and backgrounds, so that means we all have to stretch, and people love it. The group is kind of like its own music camp: We've had Swedish players teach Scandinavian style fiddling, a classical player learn Irish bowing. Everyone wants to achieve a high level of performance, and it's great to see the commitment and desire

to make it happen."

For Childs, one of the most enjoyable of the CD's instrumental sets was the trio written by Irish fiddle legend Liz Carroll: "Liam Childs/Balkin' Balkan/The E-B-E Reel." "The arrangement came together in about five minutes, just totally spontaneous and on the spot. I especially like how the 'Balkin' Balkan' came out, where it sounds like fiddles climbing up a vine."

In fact, Childs says, putting together a Childsplay production usually requires a good dollop of time, patience, and coordination, since most of its members are full-time touring musicians. "We try to think about a year ahead. We'll find a common week or two where people can do a few concerts, and then it's a matter of generating ideas and working them out."

That's when Childsplay becomes "like a greenhouse," says Childs: "There's a very organic quality to the way the music comes together. I can say, 'Hey, Hanneke, will you put together a set?' and they'll arrange it. But it's not just a matter of people leading arrangements; there's always an outpouring and an exchange

of ideas, because after all these are very creative people. John McGann has described Childsplay as 'large, but very democratic.' I think that's why people have stayed so invested in it."

Perhaps it's this facet of Childsplay, more than any other, which for Childs evokes what might be called the pre-industrial dynamic of his vocation. In an era where even musical instruments are mass-produced – or else their makers are essentially anonymous – it is an increasingly rare, and wonderful, thing for a craftsman to have a relationship with those who buy his wares, especially when that rapport extends well beyond the shop.

"When I realized what it meant to me to make instruments, it drove me to create community – and a family, really," he says. "Making an instrument for someone feels like a life-time connection. The fact that I have an opportunity to broaden that connection by playing music with that person – and many others – is incredibly satisfying. I would hope that, with Childsplay, people can understand that it's possible to have that kind of special relationship."

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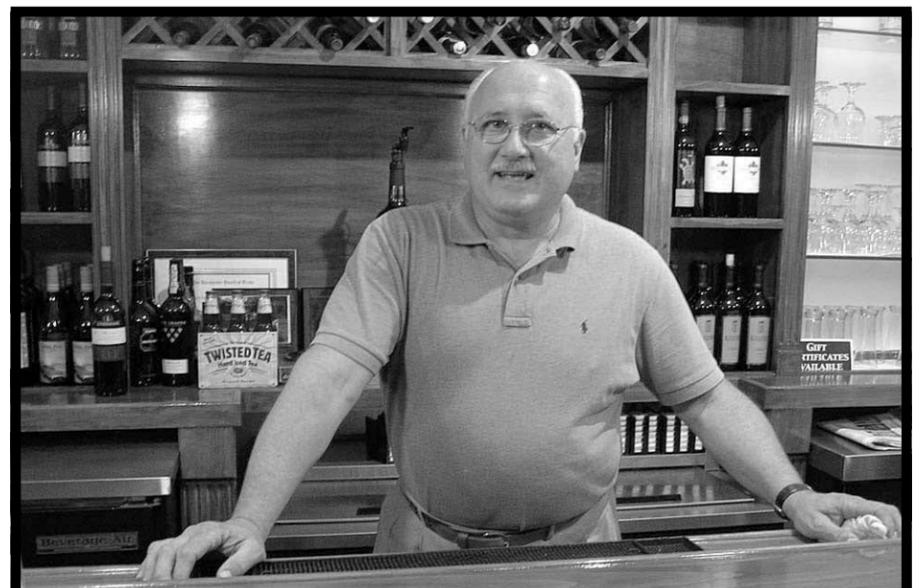
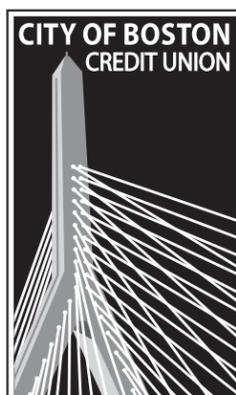


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BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Maura O'Connell: "Naked with Friends" -- Who knew Maura O'Connell carried such a chip on her shoulder? OK, that's overstating things a bit. But still, in her notes for this CD -- her first in five years since "Don't I Know" -- O'Connell does appear to evince some resentment at being regarded as "just" a singer: "In interviews over the years, I'm always asked why I don't play an instrument to accompany myself, or why don't I write songs." There are people who think "every singer is someone's puppet, that they are not full invested in the song -- that they are at the whim of a producer or a songwriter or a band. Singing has been denigrated like that for too long."



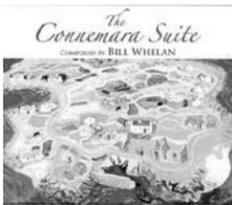
Fortunately, O'Connell has chosen precisely the right way to deal with whatever insecurities she might have suppressed during her storied career as one of this generation's best Irish female vocalists: Namely, making an album that puts singing unequivocally in the spotlight, and in its most exquisite form. The 13 tracks of "Naked with Friends" are all a cappella performances by O'Connell and -- with the exception of three solo tracks -- guests from across the spectrum of her musical interests, including Dolly Parton, Kate Rusby, Tim O'Brien, Mary Black, Jerry Douglas, Alison Kraus, Paul Brady, and Greater Boston native Aoife O'Donovan, among others.

This makes for some intriguing selections, such as the duets in Gaelic with Brady ("Anach Cuain") and Douglas ("Mo Sheamuseen") -- he learned the song phonetically -- and the haunting rendition of Holly Near's "Hay Una Mujer Desapercida (There Is a Desperate Woman)" with O'Connell's sister Aine Derrane and Sarah Dugas, of the Canadian Celtic-bluegrass band The Duhks. She and O'Brien infuse the much-interpreted traditional song of false true love "The Blacksmith" with a perfectly pitched dialogue of tension, and she joins with Black, Moya Brennan, and Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh for a good-spirited take on "I Know My Love" that could teach The Corrs a thing or two.

O'Donovan and Dugas team up with O'Connell for Cheryl Wheeler's wistful "Arrow," which, unaccompanied, sounds all the more vulnerable and confessional. And one of the CD's highlights has to be the opening track, Jimmy McCarthy's ethereal "The Bright Blue Rose," which gets an almost gospel-like treatment from O'Connell, Parton, Rusby, and The Settles Connection choir.

Beyond a doubt, if anyone still refers to O'Connell as "just a singer" after hearing this, they haven't been listening.

Bill Whelan: "The Connemara Suite" -- You can make the case that Bill Whelan, as the composer of "Riverdance," helped usher in the modern era of the Irish/Celtic Extravaganza, represented by the likes of "Lord of the Dance," "Celtic Woman," "Celtic Thunder" and other sumptuous productions of the past 10-15 years. So in these austere times, it's a little tempting to view this new release -- quite removed from the epic and grandiose -- as some socioeconomic indicator, a trend toward the smaller scale. (In fact, Whelan himself last fall



described the so-called Celtic Tiger as "a mangy alley-cat scavenging the bins around the crumbling mansions of the Western economy.")

That said, however, "The Connemara Suite" is the culmination of a project that began some years ago (back when Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers still roamed the earth), when Whelan was asked to write pieces for the Irish Chamber Orchestra. As Whelan -- who, let us not forget, has also worked in film and television and played with Planxty, for crying out loud -- explains, it was an opportunity "to write for traditional musicians within the framework of a chamber orchestra." The result is a selection of soundscapes -- "Inishlacken," "Errisbeg" and "Carna" -- that evoke the scenery and personality of Connemara, with its beloved peninsulas, heaths and grasslands, and its long seafaring history. Joining the Irish Chamber Orchestra are six soloists: classical-crossover fiddler Zoe Conway; dance percussionist Colin Dunne ("Riverdance," "Dancing on Dangerous Ground"); harpist Michelle Mulcahy; violinist Fionnuala Hunt; and Morgan Crowley, who provides vocals and lilt, as does Whelan himself.

Whatever one thinks of Whelan's oeuvre, the man can certainly conjure up musical imagery: rowboats plowing through water, birds in flight (a particularly striking duet by Conway and Hunt in the second movement of "Inishlacken"), or the annual pilgrimage to Macdara's Island -- named for the 6th-century saint who built a church on the island -- and the festivities following it. Whelan notes that, since musicians were not always available to play for dances, lilters often supplied the music; this bit of cultural history is commemorated by an interchange between Dunne, Whelan, Crowley, and the orchestra.

Periodically you'll hear some classic "Whelanisms" that harken back to "Riverdance" -- the interweaving rhythms in the midst of the "Errisbeg" section, the full-spectrum harmonies in the "Macdara's" movement of "Carna," or Crowley's solo early on in the "An Chistin" movement that concludes the album. But this is definitely not stage-spectacle stuff; it's stately, atmospheric, and not a little cerebral. It's Bill Whelan serving notice that he's not to be pigeon-holed.

The Celtic Tenors: "Hard Times" -- Not to be confused with the Irish Tenors, the Celtic Tenors (Matthew Gilsean, James Nelson, and Daryl Simpson) describe themselves as "the most successful classical crossover artists ever to emerge from Ireland." These two trios have covered a lot of similar territory, unleashing their classically honed talents on various contemporary, pop and folk/traditional favorites; the Celtic Tenors' recorded works range from "Wild Rover," "Star of the County Down" and "Danny Boy" to "Here, There and Everywhere," "You Raise Me Up" and even "All Out of Love" (Air Supply included).

With "Hard Times," the Celtic Tenors have produced what amounts to an American counterpart to their 2003 "Irish Album": a roots-oriented assortment of Americana through the ages, covering songs by Stephen Foster



("Hard Times"), Hank Williams ("Ramblin' Man"), Bob Dylan ("You Ain't Goin' Nowhere" and "Wanted Man"), Randy Newman ("Marie") and Kris Kristofferson ("The Pilgrim: Chapter 33"), among others (although, to be pedantic about it, "Lay Down Sally" was co-written by

England's own Eric Clapton). The album is not without its charms, and it helps that the backing musicians -- including Simpson on piano and fiddler Aubrey Richmond -- are more than competent and the arrangements are generally spot on. The title track, for example, which is often sung as an anthem-like lament, here is nudged along in a honky-tonk-like groove. Conversely, their slowed-down version of "Lay Down Sally" has a dreamy, after-hours quality, as if it were being played at closing time at an Oklahoma roadhouse.

All well and good, but to be honest I'm not sure what the appeal of the CD is unless one is a fan of this trio, or indeed of the whole classical-crossover genre (is a tribute to Shane McGowan next?). People like Sean Keane, Mary Black and Maura O'Connell (see above) have been exploring the Irish-American-roots connections for years now, in ways that sound far more authentic and convincing.

Barleyjuice: "The Barleyjuice Irish Collection" -- This Philadelphia-based Celtic folk-rock band has been around for more than a decade and released four albums, samples from which make up this double CD.



Rather than arrange the tracks chronologically, however, the band has segregated them between the two discs. Disc one, "A Night at the Pub," contains well-worn pub favorites like "All for Me Grog," "Whiskey in the Jar," "Nancy Whiskey," "Mush Mush" and "Real Old Mountain Dew," and original Barleyjuice compositions, among them "Nancy Drinks Tequila," "Potatoes" and (their "ode to the kilt") "What's Up Yours?" -- none of which would seem to require much in the way of explanation. It's fairly wall-to-wall up-tempo, boozy, scurrilous and boorish, with lots of yelps and yee-haws.

Disc two, "The Morning After," is supposed to represent a contrast, and in fact to a degree it does. The songs tend to the more reflective, quiescent or sentimental, such as "Sally Garden," "Fiddler's Green," "I'll Tell Me Ma" and "Rosin the Bow," as well as originals "The Hard Life of Ivan MacCrae" (which has echoes of Ron Hynes' "Sonny's Dream") and "Whiskey to the Sea," a paean to fellowship-among-the-hellraisers. There is an actual ebb and flow to this disc, as opposed to a continual wave of bacchanalia.

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Traveling People

Note to Travelers to Ireland: Look No Farther, The Cliff House Hotel in Ardmore Has It All

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

You can probably imagine that, over my years as a travel writer, I have had the opportunity to stay at countless lovely Irish inns, hotels, and manor houses.

Many of these properties have every amenity you could ever want from a place where you really only hang your hat for a night or two. Despite my acquaintance with so many wonderful accommodations, I stayed this spring at a hotel in Ardmore, Co. Waterford, that beats them all by a country mile.

The Cliff House Hotel in Ardmore is positively one of the loveliest and friendliest hotels I've ever encountered in Ireland -- or anyplace else for that matter -- with spotlessly clean rooms, a magnificent, waterfront setting, friendly and helpful staff, and divine food. Management at Cliff House has raised accommodation to an art form and has done everything exactly right, from the glass-fronted, airy, modern building and its elegant decorations -- in bedrooms and public areas -- to staffing. A stay at Cliff House is highly recommended.

I have to admit that I Googled the hotel before visiting and was a bit concerned about its description as a "boutique hotel." I anticipated finding "major attitude" from the staff -- the kind you too often find in high-end properties where the employees act as though they are a cut above the clientele and can't stoop to interact with you. But that could not have been farther from the truth at Cliff House. Every single staff member we encountered was gracious, accommodating, chatty, totally down to earth. They made you feel like you were at home.

There were many wonderful people working at Cliff House Hotel when we visited, but space limitations permit me to only list a few. If you visit, be sure to look them up. There was Serena on the front desk; Tom, who heads up the maintenance crew, was born in New York, visited his grandmother in Ireland

when he was 14, saw his future wife during that visit and refused to return to the States (yes, they are still married); Richard, who works in the dining room and lounge; Helen, from housekeeping, and Monica from the dining room staff. Every one of them was delightful.

And here's something that really struck me. One of my favorite bracelets -- sterling, circular links interspersed with amethysts -- somehow fell off after I put it on that morning. I was heartbroken and called back to the hotel. No one had found it and, honestly, I couldn't say for sure whether I lost it there or somewhere else; we were in Kinsale when I called and had stopped at other places along the route. It's a very nice bracelet and I was dead sure that I would never see it again and that whoever found it would keep it and enjoy it as much as I had.

But, to my complete surprise, I got a call later from Mairead of the hotel staff who said they found the bracelet and would send it along. It recently arrived by mail, very carefully wrapped and in perfect condition with a note from Mairead. I am absolutely thrilled to have it back, am mightily impressed by the honesty of the staff and add this vignette to all the other positives about Cliff House Hotel.

Aside from the wonderful people, the hotel itself is small enough (39 bedrooms) to be comfortable and homey and the waterfront location in Ardmore -- near Dungarvan and Youghal -- is sublime. There's a spa on site and you can easily walk down into the town, which we did one night to enjoy a delicious dinner at White Horses Restaurant (recommended by Georgina Campbell.)

Ardmore is a lovely little seaside town as well as being the oldest Christian settlement in Ireland. It's a perfect summer destination to enjoy the weather and water, visit the nearby 12th Century Round Tower and cathedral, St. Declan's Oratory, and more. There's a lovely cliff walk and the hotel has maps to help you

find your way.

Is the Cliff House Hotel pricey? Well, it would not fit into everyone's budget, but there are special packages and let's just say that, for a heavenly splurge, you couldn't find a nicer, warmer, friendlier, better place. For more information, go to: thecliffhousehotel.com

CONNEMARA RESIDENTS

There was an interesting story recently in the *Connacht Tribune* saying that new evidence unearthed by archaeologist Michael Gibbons, from Clifden, suggests there was a large human presence in the River Corrib catchment area 9,000 years ago. Gibbons says the discovery of two stone axes in Galway City and county suggests there was a Mesolithic pre-farming "hunter-gatherer" settlement in Connemara and in what is now the city of Galway between 6,000 and 9,000 years ago.

He added that these finds are "very important" and show that the popular perception that Connemara, Galway, and the West was populated only after Oliver Cromwell's "To hell or to Connacht" campaign is wrong.

MORE FROM GALWAY

It was great to read, in the *Galway City Tribune*, that the Volvo Ocean Race, that was such a hit in Boston, was also a huge success when it stopped in Galway and that the city is now positioned "as a world-class marine destination with the potential to attract several other major maritime events, races, and festivals which could generate millions of euro for the local economy in the coming years, according to Galway Harbour Company."

The story goes on to say that organizers of the European Powerboat Championships visited the city during the two weeks of the Volvo Race to check out the city as a potential destination for their next annual event, according to Galway's harbormaster, Captain Brian Sheridan. Sheridan also told the *Tribune* that informal discussions have also taken place with organizers of other major European and World maritime races and festivals -- including Admiral's Cup, Velux Five Oceans, Louis Vuitton Challenge Series, Figaro Series, Clipper Round the World Race and Tall Ships



The 39-room Cliff House Hotel is a wonderful small hotel on the waterfront in Ardmore, Co. Waterford, that is well worth a visit if you're in the area. (Judy Enright photo)

Race -- with a view to them stopping in Galway.

AER LINGUS AND MORE

I was sorry to read in *The Irish Times* that Aer Lingus has announced plans to cut seat capacity on its winter long-haul services by about 25 percent compared with 2008. I flew Aer Lingus to Ireland this spring, had great service and the smoothest of flights as always, and I really want Aer Lingus to survive the economic downturn currently gripping the world.

The Times said service from Dublin to Washington and San Francisco will be suspended from Oct. 25, while flights from Shannon to Chicago will be suspended from Sept. 1.

Apparently, average long haul fares are down by 19 percent for the first quarter due to weak economic conditions and weak consumer confidence on both sides of the Atlantic. The story said that four weekly direct flights between Shannon and New York remain "under review."

The changes, according to *The Times*, "are likely to prove controversial, particularly in the tourism sector in the Shannon region, which relies on visitors from North America." Cuts will take effect in late October and run until March and any recommencement will be subject to review, the newspaper added.

Delta Airlines was also said to be pulling its scheduled transatlantic services from Shannon starting in October. However, the Continental Airlines route to Newark will reportedly continue. Ryanair has also reduced its short-haul services at Shannon, respond-

ing to a decline in consumer demand.

The Times said the Aer Lingus cuts are part of a wide-ranging effort by the airline to trim costs in a year when it is expected to have losses of more than 100-million euro. As part of the plan, staff will be offered unpaid leaves. In May, Aer Lingus carried 90,000 passengers on its transatlantic flights (one of whom was me) compared with 114,000 in the same month of 2008 -- a decline of 21 percent.

WRONG DESTINATION

I had to laugh when reading a story by Kate Holmquist in *The Irish Times* urging travelers to consult a map when booking a vacation and that research by travelsupermarket.com had found that 95,000 British residents booked flights and hotels for the wrong destination.

Among the more common mistakes were confusing Palma Majorca with La Palma in the Canaries; mixing up San José, California, with San José, Costa Rica; mistaking Amman in Jordan for Oman, the country; thinking that Bucharest and Budapest are the same place and booking a holiday in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, instead of Lisbon, Portugal. The story also said that, "Men are twice as likely as women to book the wrong flights or hotels."

The story said, "Travel agents make mistakes too, confusing Bordeaux (BOD) with Bodrum (BJV), Los Angeles (LAX) with Lagos (LOS) and San Juan (SJU) with San José (SJO)."

GOLFERS AND MORE

Dublin Tourism has a great deal for golfers who visit the area. It's called the Dublin Golf Pass and is designed to make courses in Co. Dublin more accessible. Special rates are offered at various courses and the pass can be ordered online

at visitdublin.com/golfpass or you can stop into any of Dublin Tourism's four information offices: Suffolk Street, O'Connell Street, Dublin Airport, and at the Dun Laoghaire Ferry Terminal.

If you're in the West, be sure to stop by the Museum of Country Life at Turlough Park in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, to view their many interesting ongoing exhibits and special programs. It's a lovely museum and a fun plan to visit. The museum has extended the closing date for the Moylough Belt Shrine exhibition to next spring. This unique Medieval treasure dates from the 8th Century and was found in Moylough, Co. Sligo, in the 1940s by a local man cutting turf. The Moylough Belt Shrine is the only known surviving example of a belt shrine in Ireland. Admission to the exhibit is free and opening times are Tues-Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sun., 2 to 5 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays. For more information about this and other Irish museums, visit museum.ie.

TRAVEL

There is so much going on in all parts of Ireland during the summer and every age and interest is sure to enjoy a trip there. So, when you make plans to visit Ireland this summer, be sure to stop by your favorite travel agent or go to the Aer Lingus website (aerlingus.com) for the latest direct flights and best ground deals. Aer Lingus has offered lots of sale prices this year and airfare has been very reasonable.

US Airways (usairways.com) and other airlines also offer flights and ground deals but their flights often involve layovers.

Check out all the summer happenings at Tourism Ireland's website (discoverireland.com) and enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever you go.

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: The Cave Hill diamond, discovered in the late 19th century and displayed for a while in a Belfast shop, is now the center of an exhibition at the Linen Hall Library. The history of the diamond is unknown but following its discovery it was on show for some twenty years in the window of hatter John Erskine's shop. After his death in 1907 it went missing, and was rediscovered by Eva Kirkwood after the death of her husband, John Erskine's grandson. She found it in a suitcase and now the exhibition will enable the public to enjoy the diamond for the first time in more than 100 years.

Armagh: A newly refurbished Orange Hall in Armagh city was officially opened last month following a grant of 50,000 pounds from the Big Lottery Fund having made possible the completion of the work. Among those attending the launch were members of one of the groups using the hall, the Hartford Community Development and Cultural Association. The hall, which dates from the 19th century, now has a new foyer and a lift, improved lighting, and a fire alarm. In addition to the Hartford group, the hall is used by the Orange Order, an over-55s Friendship Club, church groups, and a walking group.

Carlow: Martin Galligan, the PRO of Killeslin GAA club, hosted a "giveaway" day for the local people who have given so generously to the club since it was given its first playing pitch thirty years ago. The grounds were opened to the public for a nominal entry fee and people were entertained by singer George Murphy, a Riverdance-type show from the Dargan School of Dancing, and a range of other events. Club members organized a variety of races and competitions for the day, co-ordinated by Edward Brennan, including tossing the sheaf and a penalty shoot-out, as well as pony rides, a bouncing castle, and novelty races.

Cavan: For the month of April the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sportswoman of the Month was presented to Leona Maguire, and in May it was the turn of her twin sister Lisa, so now both will go forward for the title of Sportswoman of the Year, to be announced at the end of the year. The fourteen-year-old champion golfers from Ballyconnell have been nominated for the title on three former occasions, but as joint winners, and this is the first time they have been chosen as individuals. The nominations follow the twins' winning this year of the French, Scottish, and Irish amateur titles, as well as being members of the Ulster team that had a fifth successive win at the interprovincials.

Clare: Jack Dunleavy from Kilrush, who has just celebrated his 99th birthday, has been presented with a Fainne Oir by local county councillor Tom Prendeville, who discovered Jack's love of Irish when he was canvassing before the recent election. Jack has been fluent in Irish since being encouraged by a teacher from Connemara in the local Christian Brothers School, and received his first gold Fainne some 60 years ago. However in the intervening years this was lost and Jack was delighted to receive a replacement. Heavily involved over the years with the Kilrush GAA club, he carried out all the correspondence through Irish.

Cork: The Cork Summer Show, which has been held at the showgrounds of the Munster Agricultural Society in Ballintemple for the past 108

years, moved this year to a new location in Ballincollig. The new venue is a 60-acre showgrounds just off the bypass and, in view of the increasing popularity of allotments, gardener and television presenter Peter Dowdall demonstrated vegetable and herb gardening. The show, which took place last month, included pony club races, a Connemara Pony competition to be judged by trainer Henrietta Knight, and a farmers' market.

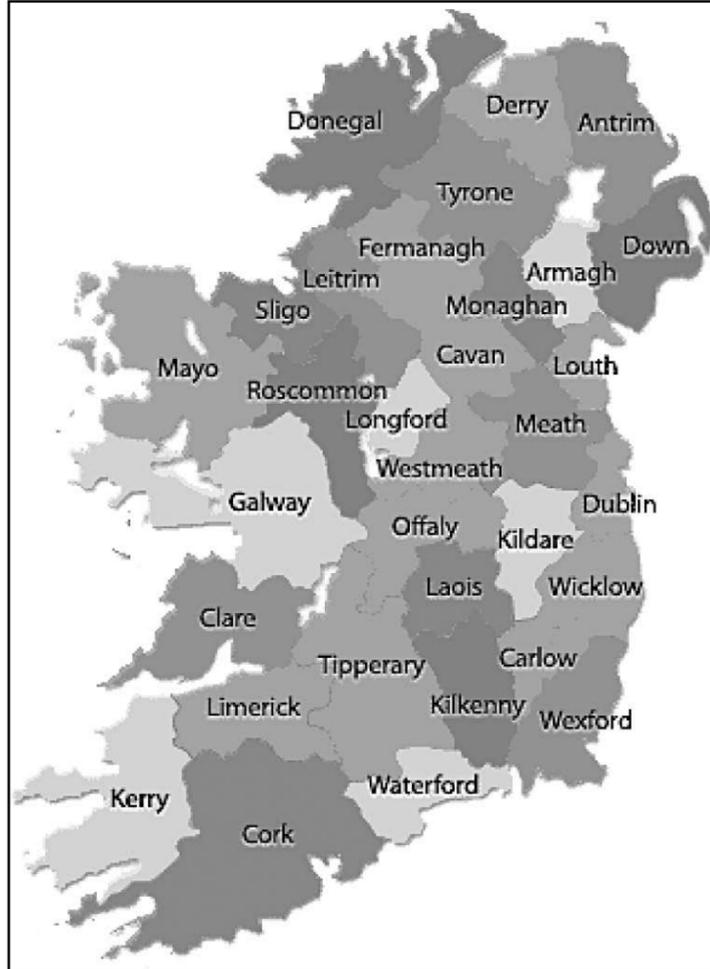
Derry: Noel and Anna Gallagher and Frankie and Rosie Houston, all from Derry, have taken out a three-year lease on the Step-down Bar in Sliema, the capital of Malta. They will be renaming the bar the Derry Bar and it is to be decorated with pictures of the city. Located on the main street of the town, it is built of brick and features a heavy oak door and a new kitchen, where Anna and Rosie plan to cook Irish stew for their patrons. Noel is a former Seagate worker and Anna has worked in Sainsbury's for some time; the pair will fly out to Malta to begin preparations and Frankie and Rosie plan to follow them later this month.

Donegal: Oakfield Park near Raphoe, which has been developed by Sir Gerry and Lady Heather Robinson, last month celebrated the opening of a new feature. The nymphaem is a Greek or Roman style monument through which water flows, and it is the latest development in the seven-year project that has seen the park opened to the public. The house dates back to the early years of the 18th century and the 100-acre estate was purchased by the Robinsons thirteen years ago. One of the main attractions, apart from the extensive gardens, is the miniature railway. Based on the County Donegal Railways, it operates each weekend.

Down: The sisters of St. John of God in Newry will be bringing to an end almost 140 years of caring for the sick in Newry when three of their number retire this month. Sisters Maria Byrne, Anne Harpur, and Anne Murphy have been working at St. John's Hospice House, formerly known as St John of God Hospital. The nuns also worked at St. Coleman's College, the Bishop's House, Courtenay Hill House and Daisy Hill Hospital, with Sister Clare Feely being the last member to work in the latter hospital; she retired nine years ago. According to former matron Sister Teresa Byrne, their work will be continued by a committed hospice board.

Dublin: As part of a horticultural project in Dublin's inner city an attempt is to be made to restore bluebells to the area named for them. It is part of a promotion of Irish flora undertaken by Fiann O Nuallain with communities, and especially children, in the Liberties and inner city. He is using the vacant space available after the demolition of the Bridgefoot Street flats and has turned it into a community garden with the help of the local Community Development Project. In one garden a "calendar garden" has been planted, comprising a tree to symbolize each month. And in the garden on St. Agnes Road in Crumlin children from the Bru Youth Group have included plants that would have been familiar to the Fianna.

Fermanagh: Carl Fivey, originally from Boa Island but now based with the RAF in Lincolnshire, is taking part in this year's British Heart Foundation London to Brighton Bike Ride. He is undertaking the cycle in memory of his father Leo, who



died earlier this year from a heart attack at the Manor House Hotel in Killadeas. Nearly 40 years ago Leo Fivey, a fitness trainer, was Fermanagh County Champion over 440 and 880 yards, and he also ran three marathons in England in the early 1980s, each in under three hours. The money Carl hopes to raise from the cycle will be used to buy defibrillators for the British Heart Foundation.

Galway: A replica of the Vimy Vickers aircraft used by John Alcock and Arthur Brown when they made the first transatlantic flight 90 years ago was one of the highlights of an air show held at Clifden last month. Also on display at the event, organized by Connemara Chamber of Commerce, was the world's only formation wing walking team, and a jet display. The replica plane was flown from the Brooklands Museum in England by pilots John Dodd and Clive Edwards, and landed at Galway airport before heading on to Clifden. The show also featured an exhibition on Alcock and Brown compiled by local historian Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill.

Kerry: The Toby World Family Entertainment Centre in Tralee was the location for the selection last month of fifty Rose Buds, each of whom will accompany one of the Rose of Tralee entrants during the festival in August. More than 1,500 girls between the ages of five and eleven from all over the county had applied for the positions, and the applications were placed in piles of 100 and the winners selected at random. The names of the chosen 50 were revealed at a ceremony in the Fels Point Hotel and they can now look forward to taking part in the Official Parade.

Kildare: There are fewer than 50 people in the world who can claim to have completed a marathon or ultra marathon on the seven continents and at the North Pole, and a Leixlip man is one of them. John O'Regan, who works for Irish Rail, completed the seven races after taking part in the Ultra Marathon in Australia, and he has completed the marathons over a seven-year period. In addition, he has accompanied blind adventure sportsman Mark Pollock on the North Pole Marathon and has taken part in a race up the Empire State Building in New

York. He was also part of the team in 2006 that broke the record for the fastest ascent of the highest mountains in every county in Ireland.

Kilkenny: The name of an emigrant from Kilkenny who became the first policeman to be killed in the line of duty in Chicago has been added to the national police roll of honor. James Quinn was injured when he was attacked by the owner of a bar as he attempted to arrest a suspect. The following day he returned to the bar and was again attacked, this time having a lung punctured. On his third attempt he was successful in arresting both the suspect and the bar owner, but died the following day. Constable John Quinn's name is now included on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, thanks to research by local politician Ed Burke and the author Tom O'Gorman.

Laois: Anyone who is willing to lend a hand to the Tidy Towns Committee and the Durrow Development Forum in cleaning up the town will have an added incentive. Each volunteer will have his or her name entered in a draw for a 500-euro prize for every hour and a half of time donated. Last month, sixteen people turned up with spades and shovels, including John Kelly with his truck and Seán O'Brien with a road sweeper. The need for more volunteers has been confirmed by the results of the first report from a county-wide litter survey, which found that Durrow received the lowest points of all 21 towns taking part.

Leitrim: On June 21, there was no excuse for boredom in Drumsna when the Annual Vintage and Family Day took place in Teasie and Tommy McLoughlin's Paddock in Quay Street. The proceedings were scheduled to be officially launched by parish priest Father John Wall and the announced special guest was 'Petra', the winner of the Drumsna Alternative Rose Competition who successfully contested the final of the competition in Drumshanbo. Of course there was to be a display of vintage machinery and cars, and a draw for a scale model of a vintage thresher in Duignan's Bar that evening.

Limerick: Limerick man Seán McGowan has decided

2009 is the year when he will undertake the challenge of becoming the first Irishman to row the Atlantic solo, and plans to set off in December from the Canary Islands. In undertaking this venture, as part of the 2009 Woodvale Atlantic Row Race, Seán will also be raising money for the charity Soweto connection that was founded in Limerick. He hopes to raise 100,000 euro for the charity, with all funds going towards the provision of a nutrition centre and school in Cape Town. During his voyage it is hoped he will receive messages of support by satellite from local schoolchildren under the "Shout out to Seán" program.

Longford: Some fifty-two members of the Longford Historical Society set off last month for a five-day trip to the north west. Co-ordinated by Maureen Mulryan, the expedition was to take in both Derry city and Co. Donegal, as well as a stopover at Castle Coote House in Enniskillen. While they are in Muff, on the Derry-Donegal border, they were to meet up with local man, former broadcaster and Longford resident Aidan O'Hara. Also on the itinerary for the group were Derry landmarks such as the Guildhall and the Tower Museum, as well as Tyrone Crystal in Dungannon on the way home.

Louth: A photograph of a man in his thirties was published in a national newspaper last month in an effort to identify the man who paid for a lotto ticket and then left it behind him. The ticket was sold by Tom Heavey in McDonnell's in Drogheda's Hardiman Gardens and when it was left behind, he made a note that it had been paid for, and left it beside the till. It then transpired that the ticket was the winner of the Lotto 1 prize of 350,000 euro and, following the publicity, local man Dermot Finglas came forward to claim his winnings. Until the mystery was cleared up the valuable piece of paper was held by the Gardaí in Drogheda.

Mayo: The Cathaoirleach of the county council, Joe Mellett, performed the official opening of the new council estate in Tonragee on Achill last month. Bóthar na Céibhe comprises six houses situated close to the pier in Tonragee with views of Ballycroy and Inishbiggle. The one-million euro development was constructed by Geesalabased Vincent Naughton Construction and it was blessed at the official launch by the parish priest of Achill, Father Michael Gormally. The land on which the houses have been built, and where Councillor Michael Holmes remembered spraying rushes thirty years ago, was acquired by the council from the Tonragee Development Company.

Meath: Peggie Flynn, originally from Moynalty but living in England for more than fifty years, was last month presented with a papal medal during Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Matlock, Derbyshire. Parish priest Canon Bernard Needham presented a surprised Peggy with the Bene Merenti medal for her services to the Church. Originally Peggie Farrell, her brother Gerry still lives in Moynalty while her sisters Gertie and Angela live in Navan and Kells, respectively. She is also a sister of Father Val Farrell, who wrote a book about Moynalty entitled "Not So Much To One Side".

Monaghan: Charlene McKenna has won an award at the 49th Monte Carlo Television Awards Festival for her performance in the drama

(Continued on page 21)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Romanian families flee Belfast homes --

Following a number of incidents of intimidation of immigrants in south Belfast, some 20 families took refuge in a church hall and have since been rehoused at a secret location. Over the June 13-14 weekend two youths, aged 15 and 16, appeared in court in relation to the intimidation. Stone throwing, graffiti and racial chants aimed at Romanian nationals in south Belfast prompted about 100 demonstrators to stage a protest on the Lisburn Road on Monday night. Their presence attracted six masked youths who shouted Nazi slogans and threw bottles at the protestors. On Tuesday night more than 100 Romanians, including a five-day-old baby, congregated in one house in fear of further racist attacks. At this stage the authorities intervened and arranged that they spend the night in a nearby church hall. On Wednesday they were transferred to a leisure centre and later that day provided with temporary accommodation in which they can remain for at least a week. It is reported that all the families, members of the Roma community, now wish to be repatriated.

The PSNI had been accused of failing to respond promptly to reports of intimidation but these allegations were firmly rejected. CCTV footage from the area has been examined by police officers in an attempt to identify those responsible for the attacks and it was after this that two teenagers were arrested.

Politicians reluctant to give up perks -- The Government announced on June 16 that it will bring in legislation which will end the practice of former Government ministers

Ireland Today:

Honesty Reigns in Louth

This from the Emigrant's Counties file: A photograph of a Louth man in his 30s was published in a national newspaper last month in an effort to identify the man who paid for a lotto ticket and then left it behind him at the store. The ticket was sold by Tom Heavey in McDonnell's in Drogheda's Hardiman Gardens and when it was left behind, he made a note that it had been paid for, and left it beside the till.

It then transpired that the ticket was the winner of the Lotto 1 prize of 350,000 euro and, following the publicity, local man Dermot Finglas came forward to claim his winnings. Until the mystery was cleared up the valuable piece of paper was held by the Gardaí in Drogheda.

receiving 50 percent of their pensions while they are still members of the Oireachtas. A new bill, which will become law before the Dáil summer recess, will take full effect after the next general election. In the meantime those receiving the pensions will receive 25 percent less for the remaining life of the current Dáil.

Priest apologizes for remarks on Daingean inmates -- Monsignor Tom Coonan has issued an apology after parishioners complained of remarks he made last month during a sermon at St. Joseph's Church in Ballingar, Co. Offaly. It is alleged that during a sermon on forgiveness Msgr. Coonan described some of the children sent to nearby Daingean reformatory as "ruffians", although he denies using this word; he believes he said some were "less than angels." The monsignor has, however, apologized for causing offense and has reiterated his total condemnation of the abuse that took place.

More women, and more Dubliners, make personal injury claims -- In the first

report from InjuriesBoard.ie, which replaced the Personal Injuries Assessment Board, it has been revealed that 70 percent of all claims for public liability injuries are made by women. Conversely, 70 percent of claims for workplace injuries are lodged by men. It also emerged that Dublin residents are 32 percent more likely to sue for damages than those from any other province. The report further stated that retail outlets account for a quarter of all claims, while cinemas, sports clubs and gyms feature in 13 percent. One reason given for the preponderance of women making claims is that many injuries are the result of falls in shopping centers.

Fisheries association calls for inquiry into sinking -- The Erris Inshore Fisherman's Association has called for an immediate inquiry into the sinking of the Iona Isle fishing boat off Erris Head last month. Deep concern was expressed in the statement, signed by chairman Eamon Ó Duibhir, secretary Eamon Dixon and treasurer Melvin Tighe, and gardaí were urged to "vigorously" investi-

gate the incident. The call for an inquiry could not be seen as supportive of Pat O'Donnell, the skipper of the vessel, who was the only member of the Association to reject a 30,000 euro payment from Shell to compensate for the temporary disruption to their fishing while the gas pipeline was being laid.

Archbishop reveals reaction to sex abuse files -- Speaking during a TV3 program entitled "Abuse of Trust: Sins of the Fathers," Archbishop of Dublin Dr. Diarmuid Martin described how he found himself unable to continue reading the diocesan archive reports on sexual abuse and at one stage "simply threw them onto the ground." During the program it was also revealed that publication of the archdiocese's Commission of Investigation may have to be delayed since court proceedings are still ongoing against some men investigated by the Commission.

M&S 'permanent price cuts' will not apply to food -- From Thursday, June 18, Marks & Spencer cut an average of 12 percent off the prices of clothing, homeware, and furniture in all its outlets in the Republic, but did not include its food halls in the cost-cutting exercise. The company says it was responding both to the economic downturn and to the number of complaints about discrepancies in price between Ireland and the sterling area.

More census information now online -- The Central Statistics Office has made available the results of all censuses carried out in Ireland from 1926 to 1991, information that was previously available only on request and to certain designated persons. Rather

than giving details of individual census forms, http://www.cso.ie/census/historical_reports.htm gives statistical tables under a number of headings including population, occupation, religious, and birthplaces. Details on named individuals are only available up until 1911.

CSO report shows Ireland with highest proportion of children -- A report from the Central Statistics Office has shown that Ireland has the highest proportion of children under the age of nine in the EU. Broken down, the figures reveal that in the 0-4 category Ireland's percentage of 7.4 is well above the EU average of 5.2 percent, while in the 5-9 category the nation has the highest proportion at 6.9 percent and the second highest, at 6 percent, in the 10-14 category. In the 0-4 age group some 15 percent of the total are the children of immigrants. The report also covers educational, health and lifestyle profiles of children and young people in Ireland. See <http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/cdyg-pole2008.htm>

Northern journalist not required to reveal sources -- Suzanne Breen, the Sunday Tribune's Northern editor, won her legal battle not to reveal her sources in relation to a story she wrote about the murder of two soldiers outside Massareene Barracks near Antrim town in March. The court ruled that her right to life outweighed public interest in the prevention of crime. The PSNI had taken the case against Ms. Breen but she argued that her life would be in serious danger if she were to comply with the order to reveal the names of the dissident republicans who claimed responsibility for the murders.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 20)

"Whistleblower". Originally from Glaslough, the twenty-four-year-old was named Outstanding Actress in a Mini-Series. Charlene, who also holds the Irish Film and Television Awards title of Best Actress for her role in "Raw," received her award in the ceremony held in the Salle des Princes Grimaldi. Now London-based, she had intended to train as a teacher after leaving school and began studying music and theology in Dublin, but a part in "Breakfast on Pluto" led her into acting instead.

Offaly: While one business is closing for Jack Smith another door has opened in a different discipline. Jack was the proprietor of Falconry Flights at Kinnitty Castle and had a very successful year five years ago, but since then the number of visitors has declined sharply and he has been forced to sell several of his birds. At present he has his harris hawk, goshawk and owl, but he will keep only the harris hawk. However Jack has now opened up a new business in Tullamore, the Tullamore Kenpo Self Defence & Fitness Studio in Patrick's Court. It had its official opening last month and will be the first full-time studio in the midlands for this particular branch of the martial arts.

Roscommon: Two young sisters from Boyle will be heading to San Francisco in October to represent Roscommon in the American Irish Dancing Championships. Emma and Rebecca Scally, who are students of the Shannon Academy of Irish Dance on Racecourse Road in Roscommon town, recently took

part in the CRN All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championships that took place over two weekends in Gormanstown, Co. Meath and Citywest in Dublin. The two girls came home with a total of eight All-Ireland medals comprising two firsts, a second, fourths, fifths and sevenths.

Sligo: An Australian travel programme, Gurus Explore, has been on location in the county recently filming some of the most popular tourist sites for an hour-long program to be broadcast in the autumn. Among the places the film crew visited were Voya Seaweed Baths in Strandhill, where Neil Walton was interviewed. At Drumcliffe Churchyard Ita Leyden recited the poetry of WB Yeats, while Stella Mews of the Yeats Society featured in the filming of parts of the Yeats Trail. Glencar Waterfall and the Carrowmore Megalithic Tombs were also on the itinerary.

Tipperary: John Dwyer Plant Hire, with the help of John Hartnett, Joen Coen and Donal Cleary, has now completed the new duck pond in Borrisokane Town Park and the ducks are expected to take up residence soon. A number of other new features have been introduced into the park recently, including two new poetry signs, the poems being the work of Vera Molloy of Marian Avenue. Before they broke up for the summer, the students of St. Finbarr's Class in Borrisokane Community College planted an area of shrubs, while a second picnic bench has been sponsored by a UK-based reader of the Nenagh Guardian.

Tyrone: The pupils past and present of Blessed Patrick

O'Loughran primary school in Castlecaulfield held a joint birthday celebration last month with Tyrone GAA stars. Each is celebrating a 125th birthday this year and the parents' association supplied all 89 pupils and GAA officials at the school with a special commemorative jersey. In addition to Mickey Harte, new GAA president Christy Cooney was also in the school, which played host to both the Sam Maguire and the Tom Markham cups for the day. At the end of the day, following a football tournament, a time capsule containing photographs and names of all the pupils was buried in the school grounds.

Waterford: With funding provided by ten local businesses the Dunmore East Tourism Group has produced a brochure giving details of the best walks in the area. Written by local heritage expert Ray McGrath, the guide includes walks of varying lengths, the shorter ones including the Coxton Loop, the Flat Rocks, Shanoon and the Follakipeen Walk. Among the longer walks recommended is the six-kilometre Fairy Bush Loop which takes in a megalithic site, Bóthar na Mná Gorm and Fornaught Strand. According to Mark Daly, chairman of the tourism group, there are plans to introduce a walking festival in Dunmore.

Westmeath: Two Athlone parishes were set to be celebrating the silver jubilees of their priests late last month. Bishop Christopher Jones was to be the main celebrant at a Mass to mark the jubilee of Father John McManus in SS Peter & Paul church on June 25, with a reception and presentation

afterwards in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel. The following day it was to be the turn of St. Mary's Parish, where the Parish Pastoral Council had organized a special Mass to mark the jubilee of Administrator Father Liam Murray. The parishioners were to be served refreshments in St. Ciaran's House.

Wexford: An important part of the ceremony recently to mark the 150th anniversary of St. Carthage's Church in Courtnacuddy was the unveiling of two plaques. These commemorate two former curates, both of whom served over a century ago and the only two to be interred within the walls of the church. The plaques are dedicated to Father Aidan Corish of Ballingly House, Ballymitty, and Father John D. Hore, a native of Courtnacuddy. Taking part in the unveiling ceremony were

family members of the two curates. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Denis Brennan and a reception was held in the local school.

Wicklow: A rare occurrence took place on the Cullen family farm in Newtownmountkennedy last month when a pedigree Limousin heifer was delivered of three calves. Triplet calves are an extremely rare event and, according to Shay Cullen, it is the first time he has seen it in twenty years of cattle-breeding, and the first time also for the vet who delivered them. Shay's children, nine-year-old Laoise and seven-year-old Oisín, had the task of naming the new arrivals and since this year it is the turn of the letter 'E' for pedigree cattle, the children chose the names Elisa, Emily, and Eve.

From Offaly to Wicklow



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2009

BY LIAM FERRIE

Whatever happens for the remainder of the year we will be saying we had a good summer. The sun shone for most of the week and daytime temperatures remained in the 20s, rising to 25 at times. Conditions deteriorated a little from Friday. Heavy thundery showers were reported from different parts at different times of the week but they didn't last long and were very localised.

It should remain warm and fairly sunny for the coming week with rain showers a possibility at any time although more likely later in the week.

Latest Temps: Day 19C (70F)

Night 12C (54F)

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

It is time to talk about “time”. Not “telling time” – which we will get to in due course – but how to say such sentences as, “He will come next Tuesday” or “Mary was here last year.” You have already learned the days of the week. They are always preceded by **an**, “the” when simply listed. The names for “Tuesday, Wednesday” and Friday are **feminine** and the first two of these show this by being lenited or “aspirated” when following the article.

However, people don’t normally simply list the days of the week, they more often say, “On Monday”, next Tuesday, last Friday.” In this usage the name of the day is always preceded by **Dé** /jey/, “day of”. Notice the difference:

Listing:	“On ...”
An Domhnach	Dé Domhnaigh
An Luan	Dé Luain
An Mháirt	Dé Máirt
An Chéadaoin	Dé Céadaoin
An Déardaoin	Déardaoin
An Aoine	Dé hAoine
An Satharn	Dé Sathairn

Nouns in Irish have several forms, depending on their use. Recall the way that you have to change the form when speaking “to” a person versus speaking “about” them.

Tá Gaelge ag Séamas.
“Seamas speaks (has) Irish.”
A Shéamais! Abair Gaelge!
“Seamas! Speak Irish!”

When you talk about **Séamas** his name is pronounced /SHAY-muhs/; when you, speak directly to him his name becomes **Shéamais**, pronounced /HEY-mish/.

This is called the **Vocative Case**.

The Vocative is formed by **leniting** (“aspirating”) the initial consonant except l, n, or r for both genders and “slenderizing”, inserting an i before the final consonant for male names.

Nóra A Nó! Cáit A Cháit!
Liam A Liam! Séamus A Shéamais!

When used as the subject of a sentence, “Seamas speaks...” the form is called the **Nominative Case**. In the “days of the week” above, we have our first examples of the **Genitive Case**.

English has only a few relics of “Case”, primarily in the personal pronoun system – “I”, “Me”, “Mine” and “My” for example. The **Genitive Case** in languages which retain “Case” is usually translated using “of” in English. **An Domhnach** /uhn DOH-nahk/, “the Sunday” but **Dé Domhnaigh** /jey DOH-nee/ “Day of Sunday.”

As above, **Genitive forms of nouns** are usually the *second of two nouns in a row*, the second describing or limiting the first. Some examples in English and Irish are “(a) piece of bread”, **píosa aráin**, or “(a) cup of coffee”, **cupán caife**. Many nouns do not have a **Genitive form** different from other forms and often it is the same as the **plural form**.

There are other uses of the **Genitive**, some relic phrases and **nouns** when they follow **verbal nouns**. Some **prepositions** require their objects be in the **Genitive**. The **Genitive** is falling into disuse in spoken Irish but required in writing. More on the uses and forms of the **Genitive** in future columns.

Meantime, there are also words that you will want to learn concerning time. Many of these are already familiar:

inniu	“today”	inné	“yesterday”
amárach	“tomorrow”	seachtain	“week”
lá	“day”	tráthnóna	“afternoon”
mí	“month”	bliain	“year”
maidin	“morning”		
oíche	“night”		
aréir	“last night”		

The plurals of some of these include **lá, laethanta** “days”; **oíche, oícheanta**, “nights”; **seachtain, seachtainí**, “weeks”; **maidineacha** “mornings”; **mí, míonna** “months”; **blain, blianta**, “years”.

Here are some useful phrases that always follow the nouns they describe:

“last”	seo caite	/shoh KAH-chuh/
	mí seo caite	“last month”
“next”	seo chugainn	/shoh HOOK-eeen/
	mí seo chugainn	“next month”
“ago”	ó shin	/oh heen/
	mí ó shin	“a month ago”

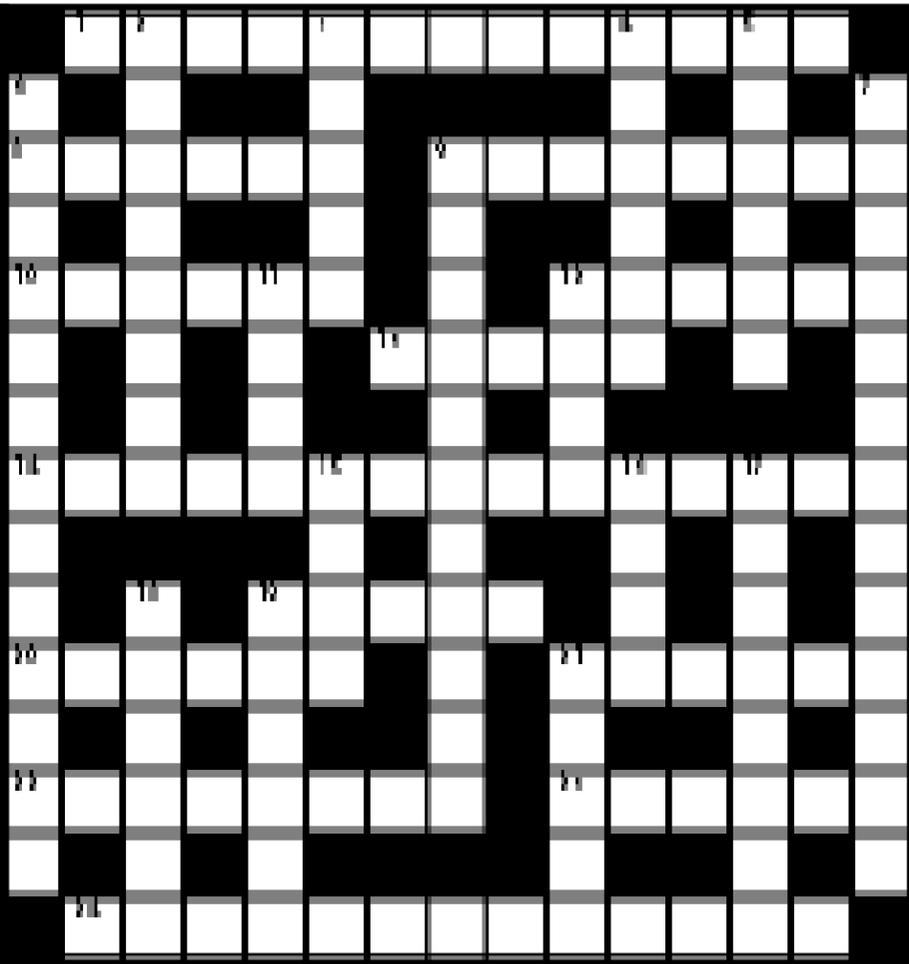
You don’t have to say “last” with “night” or day” since there are separate words for “last night” and “yesterday”. Nor do you normally use “next” with “day” since there is a word for “tomorrow”. However, you may want to say something like, “He came the next day” using the **past tense** or “He will come the next day” using the **future tense**.

See if you can put these sentences or phrases in to Irish: 1.) “Sean came from Dublin last week.” 2.) “Mary! Come inside!” 3. “He said that he will not be here next year.” 4.) “She gave that cup last Christmas.” 5.) “I saw him a week ago.” 6.) “Did you see her last night?” 7.) “Patrick was sick yesterday.” 8.) “How is he today?” 9.) Fine. I saw him this morning.” 10.) “Did you go to the shop last month?” 11.) “No. I didn’t (go).” 12.) “Colm, where will you be next week?”

Answers: 1.) **Tháinig Seán as Baile Átha Cliath seachtain seo caite.** 2.) **A Mháiri! Tar istigh!** 3.) **Deir sé nach mbeidh sé féin anseo blain seo chugainn.** 4.) **Thug sí an cupán sin Nollaig seo caite.** 5.) **Chonaic mé esan ó seachtain.** 6.) **An fhaca tú isan aréir?** 7.) **Bhí Pádraig tinn inné.** 8.) **Conas atá sé inniu?** 9.) **Go maith. Feicim é an maidin.** 10.) **An dheachaigh tú go an siopa mí seo caite?** 11.) **Ní. Ní dheachaigh mé.** 12.) **A Choilm, cá mbeidh tusa seachtain seo chugainn?**

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

DOWN

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

15. Squirrel’s home back in the American garden in pretty Ardmore. (4)
16. Last word in mean fashion. (4)
17. Greasy sun out over U.C. (8)
18. E.g. rang up Sligo village underneath Ben Bulbin on the Bundoran road opposite Inishmurray Island. (6)
19. “This goat-footed bard, this half-human visitor to our age from the hag-ridden magic and enchanted woods of — — — antiquity.” Baron Keynes - (describing Lloyd George) (6)
21. Soothe in the meandering vales. (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

Irish Sayings

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

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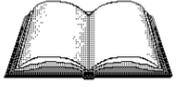
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Boston Irish Reporter Book Review

Of Crime and Cultural Commentary

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Boston has Dennis Lehane, and Dublin has Declan Hughes. Both are not only gifted storytellers, but also men who intimately know the past and present of their respective turfs. Even better for readers, both novelists are masters at twists and turns where that past and present intersect – violently. In *All the Dead Voices*, Hughes's fourth novel featuring the Dublin detective, Ed Loy, Hughes once again draws readers into the city's grittiest neighborhoods and toniest digs alike. As always for Ed Loy, they don't just intersect; they crash with murder, intrigue, emotion, and all that's vile and noble in people.

Hughes – and Ed Loy – garnered attention and plaudits from the outset when the first Loy novel, *The Wrong Kind of Blood*, won the prestigious Shamus Award for Best First P.I. Novel. Next, *The Color of Blood*, was also nominated for a Shamus. *The Price of Blood* was nominated for an Edgar Award for Best Novel, and all three of the Ed Loy novels hit bestseller lists in Ireland and the U.S. An award-winning playwright and screenwriter and the cofounder and former artistic director of Rough Magic Theatre Company in Dublin, Hughes has also been Writer in Association with the Abbey Theatre.

Hughes, who lives in Dublin with his wife and two daughters, has brought his deft playwright's ear for dialogue and blended it with a prose style that is alternately gritty and elegant and always pushes his narrative forward with sure-footed pacing and action.

Hughes opens *All the Dead Voices* as Loy is approached by Anne Fogarty, whose father was killed fifteen years ago. Certain that the police pinched the wrong man for her father's murder, she hires the detective to uncover what happened. He soon finds that her father, who had been a revenue inspector, was about to file claims against a trio of men he suspected of amassing huge amounts of money through crime. The three are Bobby Doyle, an ex-IRA man who is now a major property developer; Jack Cullen, now the head of a splinter gang of disgruntled IRA men; and George Halligan, Loy's underworld nemesis in

Hughes's *All the Dead Voices* Continues to Craft *Irish Noir* to the Crime Noir Genre

Hughes's previous novels.

As Loy investigates that death, he is also asked to look into another mysterious death, that of Paul Delaney, a rising soccer star with a well-known nose for trouble and with a possible connection to the dangerous Cullen. Hughes sends Loy and the reader on a riveting and inevitable collision of the two cases along the streets of Dublin, the modern city and the dark past slamming into each other as they always do for Loy.

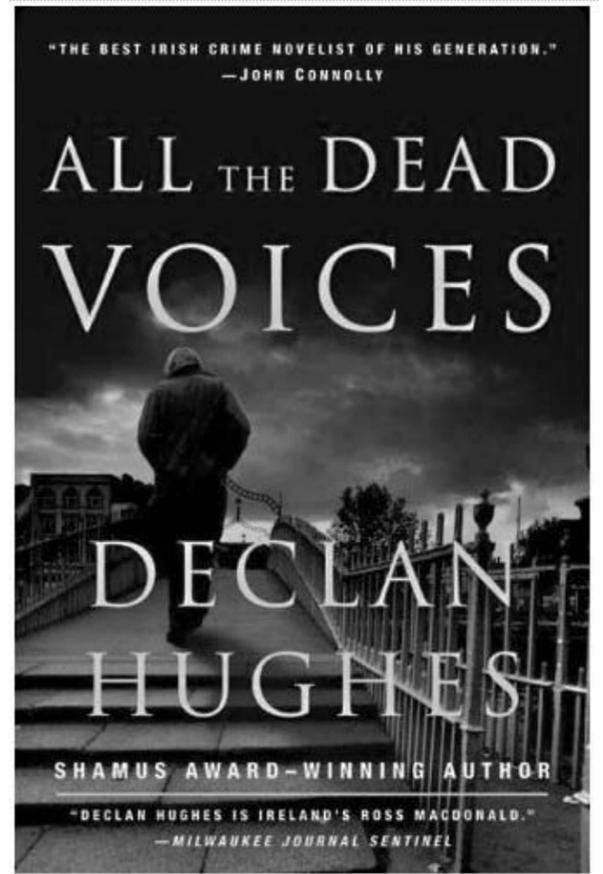
Through him, Hughes writes of that intersection of past and present in Dublin today: "There's a reckoning you can make with history, a reasonable settlement that makes demands but leaves you with your dignity. And then there's a kind of morbid fascination that borders on obsession, a grave-robbing disorder that fills your every waking moment with memories and echoes and dust."

Hughes's acute eye for detail and description resonate throughout his prose, as in his scene in which Loy meets Anne Fogarty for the first time: "Anne Fogarty was about forty but looked thirty-five, or maybe she was thirty-five and looked her age. It was hard to tell these days, when twenty-one year olds were so primed and groomed and orange-faced they often looked like startled fifty-five-year-old millionaires' wives with too much work done. She looked well to my eyes, whatever age she was, in indigo jeans and a tight purple wraparound top..."

"She laid a pale green file on my desk, took the cup of black coffee I offered her, sat back and told me why she was here.

"My father was murdered in 1991..."

With that, the action begins to simmer, bubble, and eventually explode into the latest, impossible-to-put-down saga of Ed Loy plunging into Dublin's darkest secrets and alternately unraveling and stumbling across far more than he ever anticipated. Once again,



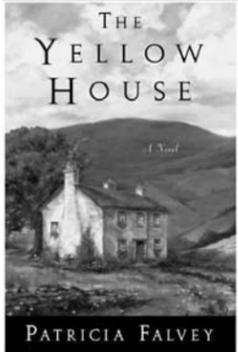
Declan Hughes has proven himself one of the finest practitioners of crime novels on either side of the Atlantic.

All the Dead Voices, by Declan Hughes, William Morrow, hardcover, ISBN 978-0-06-168988-8, 311 pages, \$24.99.

New U.S. Book Releases

THE YELLOW HOUSE BY PATRICIA FALVEY

Patricia Falvey's first novel, *The Yellow House*, delves into the passion and politics of Northern Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century. Eileen O'Neill's family is torn apart by religious intolerance and secrets from the past. Determined to reclaim her ancestral home and reunite her family, Eileen begins working at the local mill, saving her money and holding fast to her dreams. As war is declared on a local and global scale, Eileen cannot separate the politics from the very personal impact the conflict has on her own life.



She is soon torn between two men, each drawing her to one extreme. One is a charismatic and passionate police activist determined to win Irish independence from Great Britain at any cost, who appeals to her warrior's soul. The other is the wealthy and handsome black sheep of the pacifist family who owns the mill where she works, and whose persistent attention becomes impossible for her to ignore.

What Eileen decides will change the course of all their lives and give her a true understanding of herself. Set in Ulster, this novel brings to life the conflicts leading up to the birth of the border that divided the island of Ireland.

Patricia Falvey was born in Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. She was raised in Northern Ireland and England before immigrating alone to the United States at the age of twenty. Until recently, she served as a Managing Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers, L.L.C., where she led a national tax consulting practice. She earned national recognition as a tax expert for the insurance industry and was a *Center Street*, hardcover, 352 pp, \$21.99.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE MAYO LIBRARIAN BY PAT WALSH

"The Mayo library row" was how it became commonly known news far outside the confines of the county. Not only had it made headlines in Ireland, it had caught the attention of newspapers in places as far away as Boston and London. Why would such a seemingly unassuming appointment drive a government to the brink and clash church and state against each other so heavily? The new appointee was a Protestant.

The office of Mayo County Librarian was hardly a crucial post. It was little more than a routine appointment, yet escalated into a conflict that had national



consequences. It set Church against State, County Council against Government Department and even members of the same political party against each other. In July 1930, Miss Letitia Dunbar Harrison, a graduate of Trinity College, was appointed to the post of Mayo County Librarian. Her appointment set in motion a chain of events that resulted in a full-scale political crisis. Mayo priests and politicians attempted to have her removed

and organized an effective boycott of the Library Service.

Looking at the background of the dispute uncovers many of the fault-lines of the newly formed Free State. Examining the anatomy of the crisis lays bare the tensions of society in 1930s Ireland as it moved away from colonial rule.

Mercier Press/Dufour Editions, paperback, 223 pp, \$19.95.

LAKESHORE LOOPS EXPLORING IRELAND'S LAKES BY JOHN DUNNE

This is the first guide to focus exclusively on Ireland's lakes, with touring routes suitable for bikes, rambles, and cars. Full of anecdotes and local lore, the author includes the many nearby points of interest, the origins of some of the more unusual place-names, and the legends of lake monsters and banshees.

There are maps of each lake with the points of interest. Nearby attractions are clearly marked.

Liberties Press/Dufour Editions, paperback, 335 pp, \$26.95.

LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN BY COLUM MCCANN

When an already-highly-praised writer delivers a novel that outshines even his own stunning previous work, one must stop and pay attention. With *Let the Great World Spin*, McCann's grand and generous vision comes to fruition in an ambitious, kaleidoscopic, and vibrant novel.

McCann weaves together a panoramic array of

disparate stories and voices through an Irish monk, a hooker in the Bronx, a group of grieving mothers who lost their sons at war, a city judge, an alcoholic, and the tightrope walker who obliquely binds them all together. Inspired by Philippe Petit's infamous real-life tightrope walk between the Twin Towers in 1974, McCann's novel opens with this moment of unfathomable risk and beauty, and from there spins together the lives of the searching and lonely people scattered below, 110 stories back down on the ground.

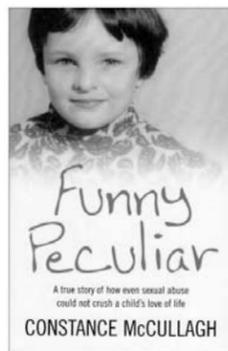
With his commanding storytelling skills and poet's ear for language, McCann captures the search for some greater, mystical truth or beauty that pulls each character forward, no matter how hard or lonely their path, no matter how much grief and loss and ugliness they encounter.

Colum McCann is the bestselling author of the novels, *Zoli*, *Dancer*, *This Side of Brightness*, and *Songdogs*, as well as two critically acclaimed short story collections. A contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ* and *The Paris Review*, he lives in New York City.

Random House, hardcover, 368 pp, \$25.

FUNNY PECULIAR BY CONSTANCE MCCULLAGH

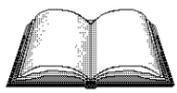
Set against the backdrop of The Troubles in 1970s



Northern Ireland, *Funny Peculiar* is the humorous and moving story of a girl resisting the pain and shame of sexual abuse and staying in love with life. Told with bitter humor as it weaves together dog shows and the Orange Order, Bloody Friday and the Wombles, sexual abuse and the Silver Jubilee, *Funny Peculiar* vibrates with the secret triumphs of a child fighting back. As her family starts to disintegrate and The Troubles continue into a second decade, Constance tries

to make sense of the meaning of loyalty and betrayal within her family and community. A sensitive and observant girl, Constance survives her abuse and emerges strong and determined, with a passion for life, love and laughter.

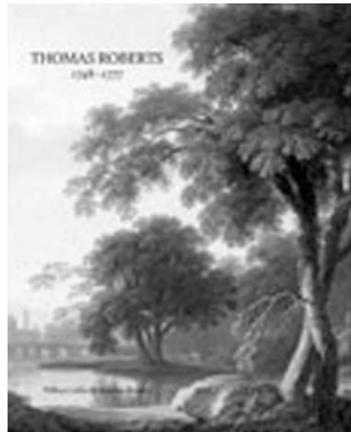
Brandon Books/Dufour Editions, paperback, 239 pp, \$22.95.



BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

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

Thomas Roberts, 1748-1777
By William Laffan and Brendan Rooney



Although Thomas Roberts (1748-1777) is justly regarded as the finest Irish landscape painter of the eighteenth century, he is still little appreciated outside specialist circles. This important new publication aims to make his work more widely known and to explore the richness of his landscape art. Roberts died at the age of just 28, having fled Ireland for Portugal to seek respite from the consumption that haunted his last days. This detailed study publishes many previously unknown works by Roberts, greatly increasing his recognized oeuvre, but it also examines the world of his patrons, who included many of the leading figures of eighteenth-century Ireland. Roberts produced paintings that were distinctive, at times idiosyncratic, but consistently accomplished. This book explores a variety of themes: Roberts's connections with his Dublin Group contemporaries; the specifically Irish elements of his art; and the way in which his work reflects the interests and mentality of his patrons. The influences of Irish Grand Tourists and the classical tradition are balanced by that of Irish antiquities. Patriotism, 'improvement', emulation, exhibiting practices and the aesthetics of landscape gardening are all themes invoked to illuminate the artistic and social context that Roberts reflects and, on occasion, shapes. The book coincides with a retrospective exhibition Thomas Roberts 1748-1777 at the National Gallery of Ireland that runs from 28 March to 28 June, 2009.

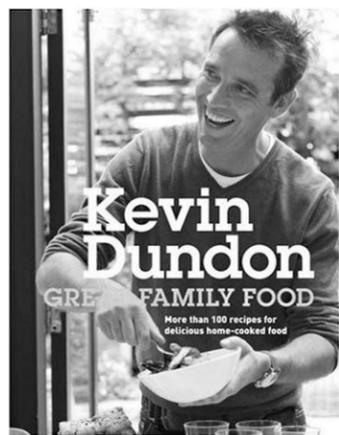
Large Format Hardback; 416 pages, 329 illustrations.

Great Family Food
By Kevin Dundon

Irish celebrity chef Kevin Dundon shares the recipes he cooks at home and shows how easy it is to eat good food every day. Do you have a kitchen full of hungry kids? Expectant guests sat round the dining

table? Perhaps you need a hearty pick-me-up or a quick and comforting supper at the end of a long day. Kevin knows that the best home cooked food is straightforward and satisfying but certainly never boring. He gathers together classic dishes and creative twists to give a delicious collection of recipes for all types of occasion. Full of bold flavors and fresh, seasonal ingredients, these confident recipes are guaranteed to become firm family favorites. Kevin also shows how to get a second outing from your efforts, with clever ways to turn leftovers into a whole new meal. Whether you're a beginner in the kitchen or an experienced cook, these are reliable recipes you'll return to again and again. Recipes Include: Roasted Root Vegetable, Chilli and Pumpkin Soup Traditional Beef Casserole with Herb Dumplings Pan fried Trout with Toasted Almonds Savoury Bread and Butter Pudding Pot Roasted Pork with Apples Chicken and Broccoli Tagliatelle Summer Berry Pudding Treacle Tart Chapter breakdown: One Pot Wonders, Quick Suppers, Food For Many, Clever Leftovers, Accompaniments, Desserts.

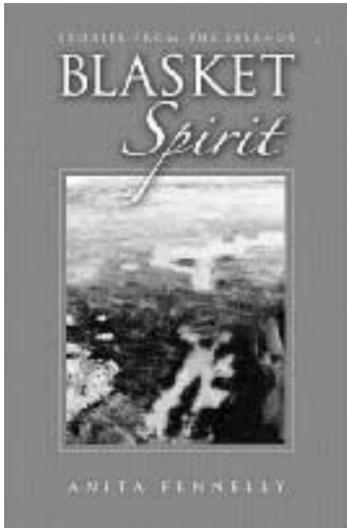
Hardback; 188 pages.



Basket Spirit: Stories from the Islands

By Anita Fennelly

Seeking solitude after personal crisis, Anita Fennelly spent a summer alone on the Great Blasket Island. This is her account, written by candlelight, of the gradual thawing of her personal isolation through the friendship of the characters of Blasket Island life today: fishermen, ferryman, backpackers, islanders descendants, a dolphin, a weaver, a trio of seals, even a former taoiseach. Anita weaves a tapestry of tales: ghost stories told by the fireside, stories of love and hatred, stories celebrating womanhood. Ultimately, Anita's own story is one of healing, survival and hope. Basket Spirit reveals a timeless place where the souls of the past and present are inextricably linked with the emotional and physical struggles of island



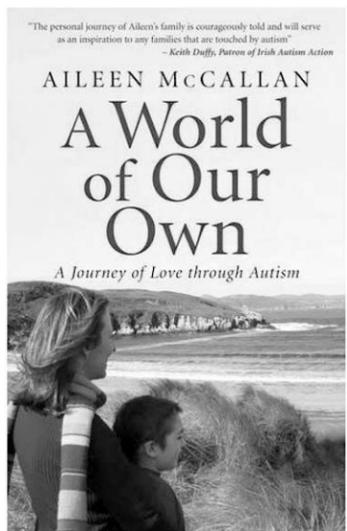
life. Into this story of personal healing and recovery, the island stories, its people and places and wildlife are interwoven to form an original and multi-layered memoir.

Paperback; 210 pages

A World of Our Own: A Journey of Love Through Autism

by Aileen McCallan

Young mother Aileen McCallan is filled with love and joy at the birth of her second son, Cian. Now she feels she can settle into motherhood and a comfortable life. But it is not to be. From the age of about eighteen months, Cian's behavior grows increasingly strange: his language fails to develop; he shows little emotional or social connection; and he screams and writhes at night, wearing down his parents. They face an endless series of assessments and tests as the truth gradually dawns: Cian has autism. Aileen determines to hold onto Cian, to stop her son from slipping away from her. She spends her waking hours working with him and searching for therapists who can connect with him using Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA). It is an uphill battle that strains Aileen's sanity, her marriage, her world. She feels caught in a world where there is only Cian and her. A World of Our Own is a mother's account of how



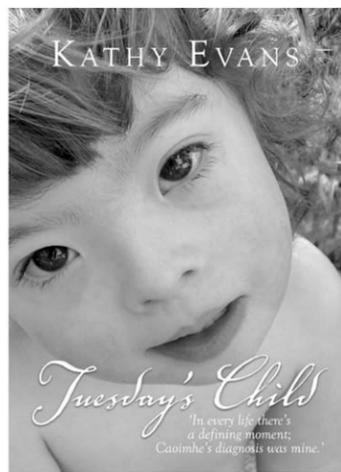
autism challenged her family and changed her life.
Paperback; 338 pages.

Tuesday's Child

By Kathy Evans

Tuesday's Child tells of a mother's journey from the diagnosis of her baby's Down Syndrome through shock, anger, grief and ultimately, a kind of acceptance. This beautifully written memoir is a compelling mix of heartfelt personal story and insightful journalism. "Tuesday's Child" highlights society's attitudes to difference, but more importantly the defining moment that was to reshape a family's life. It is heart-warming and thought-provoking.

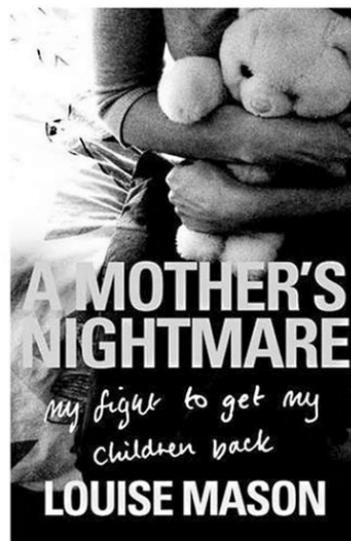
Paperback; 212 pages.



A Mother's Nightmare: My Fight to Get My Children Back

By Louise Mason

Louise Mason lived through every mother's nightmare. Both her children were taken into care following the false accusation that Louise had harmed the younger child, who was just four weeks old at the time. Social services kept the children - and tried to put them up for adoption - even after Louise had been cleared in a criminal court of all charges against her. When she gave birth to a third child three years later, social services were at the hospital within hours to take her baby away. Failed by the system and unjustly labelled an unfit mother, Louise never stopped fighting to get her children back. With the unwavering support of her solicitor, Carmel McGiloway, Louise fought a four-year battle through the courts. In June 2006 a judge ruled that her children should be returned to her. Told here for the first time, this is Louise's own story: her feelings when her children were taken away, her fears as she took on the system and her hopes for the future as she tries to rebuild her family life. "A Mother's Nightmare" is the story of a woman



who found the strength to keep fighting when it seemed as though the whole world was against her.

Paperback; 152 pages.

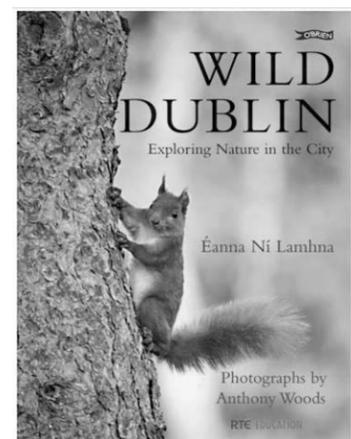
Wild Dublin:

Exploring Nature in the City

By Eanna Ni Lamhna

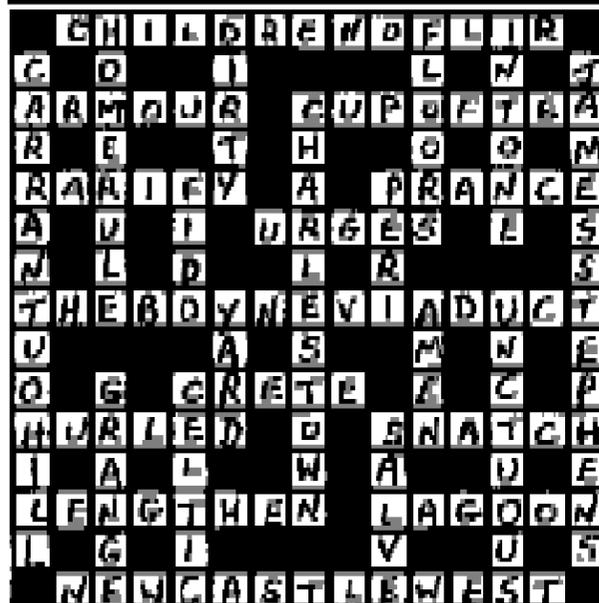
Dublin is not only home to a million inhabitants but is also residence for an exquisite array of creatures, flora, and fauna. Minks in the Dodder, Whales on the coastline, Newts in Dundrum, Badgers in Rathfarnham, Otters in Ringsend -- these are just some of the fantastic wild life you'll spot in the capital. Half of the bird species on the Irish list have been recorded here, as have more than a third of our wild plants. All of our terrestrial wild mammals, with just five or six exceptions, have been recorded inside the M50. This book shows you Dublin city's rich biodiversity of wildlife, with wonderful photographs by Anthony Woods, while the text, written by Eanna Ni Lamhna, provides a running commentary in her distinctive voice. "Wild Dublin" will inspire any reader -- old or young -- to go out there and see for themselves.

Large Format Paperback; 188 pages with color photographs throughout.



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