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A HANDSHAKE FOR THE AGES Sinn Fein's McGuinness meets, greets Queen Elizabeth in Belfast

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BELFAST — Queen Elizabeth II and a former Irish Republican Army commander offered each other the hand of peace on Wed., June 27, in a long-awaited encounter symbolizing Northern Ireland's progress in achieving reconciliation after decades of violence.

The monarch and Martin McGuinness, now the senior Catholic in the North's power-sharing government, met privately inside Belfast's riverside Lyric Theatre during a cross-community arts event featuring many of Northern Ireland's top musicians, poets and artists. Media were barred from seeing their first handshake, but the two shook hands again a half-hour later for a TV camera and two photographers.

Underlying the sensitivity of the occasion, no live footage or sound was permitted to be broadcast. Outside, flak-jacketed police shut down all roads surrounding the theatre and told residents to stay inside their homes.

The first soundless TV footage showed a serious-faced McGuinness walking, hands behind his back, behind the queen as she met poet Michael Longley and pianist Barry Douglas in front of newly painted portraits of them and other Belfast artists. Also in the group was



History in the Making: Queen Elizabeth II greeted Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister and former IRA commander Martin McGuinness at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast on Wed., June 27, as First Minister Peter Robinson looked on.
AP pool photo by Paul Faith

McGuinness's Protestant colleague atop Northern Ireland's unity government, Peter Robinson; the head of state of the Republic of Ireland, President Michael D. Higgins; and the queen's husband, Prince Philip.

Then, more delayed footage showed McGuin-

ness and Robinson standing first in line to shake the queen's hand, then Philip's. McGuinness and Elizabeth exchanged smiles and brief pleasantries.

McGuinness said he told the queen, in Gaelic, "Goodbye and godspeed," and translated the phrase

for her. She didn't appear to say anything, just smiled and listened.

The event marked the latest, perhaps ultimate, moment in two decades of Northern Ireland peace-making that have delivered a series of once-unthinkable moments of compromise.

Experts say McGuinness, 62, was the IRA's chief of staff when the outlawed group assassinated the queen's cousin, Lord Louis Mountbatten, in 1979, making him one of the most high-profile victims of a four-decade conflict that has claimed 3,700 lives.

The IRA formally abandoned its campaign to force Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom and disarmed in 2005. Two years later, McGuinness became the senior Catholic politician in a new unity government, the central objective of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. His coalition with Robinson has governed Northern Ireland in cooperation with Britain in surprising harmony since.

McGuinness's Irish nationalist party, Sinn Fein, had refused all contact with British royals until this meeting with the queen.

The queen came to Belfast as part of U.K.-wide celebrations of her 60th year on the throne. Later in the day, she visited the city's new Titanic exhibition and attended an open-air party involving more than 20,000 locals at Stormont, the hilltop base for Northern Ireland's power-sharing government.

IRA die-hards opposed to the group's 2005 decision to renounce violence and disarm sought to express their disapproval of the queen's visit before she arrived. Police said nine officers were injured, none seriously, during overnight rioting on the edge of Catholic west Belfast.

Fleadh Notebook

Josie Coyne, shown at right with her father John, received some good advice from her mother Lisa before competing in the recent Mid Atlantic Fleadh competition:

"Play from the heart and just love the tune."

As to the overall event, "The Boston/Eastern Massachusetts Irish community had every reason to take satisfaction," writes Sean Smith for the BIR.

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Sean Smith photo

'Peg' Geraghty is dead at 85

The Irish-American community is mourning the death of Margaret "Peg" Geraghty (at right), known as the "grande dame" of the Boston Irish, who passed away on Tues., June 26, at the age of 85. Born in Jamaica Plain and educated as a teacher at Boston Teachers College, she was the widow of Thomas J. Geraghty, the Boston area property manager who founded Geraghty Associates.

"She was an amazing woman who has impacted the lives of so many over the years with her kindness and generosity," said Mary Mulvey Jacobson of West Roxbury, a longtime friend of the Geraghty family. "Peg was the backbone of so many important projects and initiatives and her loss will be deeply felt by many. Our condolences are sent to her three children, Tom, John, Anne, and their families."

A profile of Mrs. Geraghty is on Page 6.



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Social Club gets help in push for license

The Boston City Council has asked the Legislature to relax its limits on liquor licenses in Boston so that the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury can regularly serve alcohol to guests again.

The move, which comes even as the council readies for a hearing on ways to convince the legislature to give Boston a lot more liquor licenses, is needed to help preserve “the legacy of Irish and Irish-American culture in Boston” that the club promotes, city councilors Matt O’Malley (West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain) and Steve Murphy (at large) say.

The club shut down last year - and returned its liquor license - but has since has held several fundraisers and organizational drives to stay open. Currently, the club has to apply to the city for a special liquor license every time it holds an event at which it wants to sell liquor.

O’Malley said the request will seek a special license that would apply only to the Irish Social Club - it could not be transferred or sold elsewhere. O’Malley, who grew up going to dances at the club, said it is “a safe place, a centrally located place,” for community events. He said the response from the community to restoring the club has been overwhelming - a drive to raise \$50,000 for a new sprinkler system raised \$100,000.

Murphy called the club “a jewel in the neighborhood of West Roxbury.” Councilor John Connolly, who lives in West Roxbury, said the club and the effort to bring it back “speak to what makes West Roxbury a great place to live.” The council voted unanimously in favor and, with support from Mayor Menino, the petition will next need approval from state lawmakers. Senator Mike Rush and Representative Ed Coppinger will take the lead at the State House, supporters say.

(universalhub.com)

BIBA plans networking event on July 18

The Boston Irish Business Association will host a networking event on July 18 at Mistral Bistro from 6-8 p.m. The organization, which kicked off the summer season with a sold-out harbor cruise aboard Boston’s luxury private yacht, the Elite II recently, now boasts an active membership of more than 500 members. BIBA president AJ Gerritson notes, “We are now one of the largest business-focused member organizations in the Boston area, and the only one focusing on creating opportunities both here and abroad, upholding our mission to foster economic and professional growth among our members here while fortifying our ties to Ireland.”



Galway City Councillor Terry O’Flaherty was installed for a second term as mayor of Galway in ceremonies June 25 at Galway City Hall. She is pictured with eight of her siblings: Della Costello, of Dorchester, and Betty O’Flaherty, seated. Standing, from left: Tony O’Flaherty, Angela Crowe, Claire, John O’Flaherty, Trudy Concannon, and Joe O’Flaherty. A tenth sibling, Mary Hardeman, resides in California and was not present.

Photo by Joe Shaughnessy, courtesy Connacht Tribune

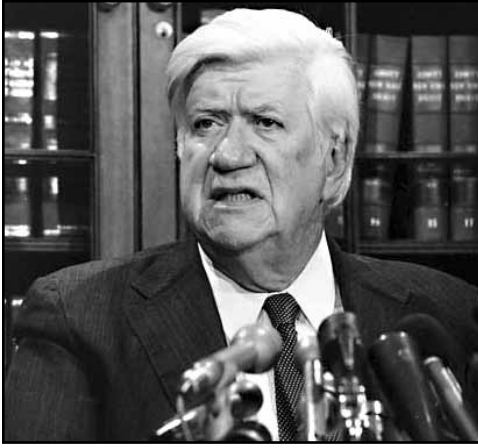
Donegal to celebrate Tip’s ancestral roots

Former Speaker of the House Thomas ‘Tip’ O’Neil, at right, was a son of Cambridge, but Co. Donegal can make a claim as his ancestral home. In September, the county will host the first annual Tip O’Neill Diaspora Award to mark the centennial of O’Neil’s birth.

The organization behind the event notes that O’Neil “was a real friend and a person who contributed greatly to the cause of peace and to the economic and social betterment of Ireland. Donegal is proud of this member of its Diaspora and a number

of events are being arranged to commemorate the centenary of his birth.”

The events will take place in Buncrana, Co. Donegal on the September 7-8 and include the award presentation at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel on the 7th; a presentation of Irish American Partnership Bursaries to schools from Buncrana; and the first annual Tip O’Neill Diaspora Lecture by Prof. Paul Arthur. On September 8, a new memorial dedicated to O’Neil will be unveiled on the waterfront of Buncrana at 1:30 p.m.



Kelly to veterans: Take pride in all that you have done

The following are excerpts taken from the Memorial Day keynote address as prepared for delivery by Greg Kelly, a lieutenant in the Boston Fire Department and combat veteran who served in both the Army and Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lt. Kelly, 36, lives in Neponset with his wife and two children:

This year, our theme is to welcome home all of our Iraq veterans. This theme is appropriate because as of this past Dec. 31, after eight years, the United States completed the military withdrawal from Iraq.

There are a lot of mixed emotions on Iraq. Should we have invaded or should we not have. Should we have withdrawn at this point, or will we live to regret having withdrawn after enduring the worst of it. Just the word “Iraq” means something different and brings out different emotions in each veteran who served there, ...as we each had our own experiences, some good, some bad.

I think collectively, one emotion we should feel, is pride. The sacrifices you Iraq vets have made, the risks you took, and the character you showed, inspired one nation, and liberated another. That is a fact. Try not to burden your mind with reflections on difficult moments. Focus on the fact that you contributed to something so much bigger than your own personal interests.

You maintained an unbroken lineage of valor, that began with the Minutemen, just a couple of miles from here during the Revolution and has since endured civil war, world wars, wars in frozen mountains, murderous jungles, and sand-swept deserts.

Most importantly, you volunteered when your nation needed you. Some of us were cooks, and some were commandos, and everything in between. Each one, crucial in your own right to



the overall effort, and together the most capable military ever fielded.

What becomes of Iraq going forward, remains to be seen. But you freed them from a dictator and without question, painstakingly gave them the building blocks they need to live free. It is up to the Iraqi people to earn and preserve their fragile democracy. You have planted the seeds of freedom in Iraq.

Now they must nurture those seeds into a strong tree of Liberty. This next phase of their pursuit of liberty is theirs to win, and theirs to lose. Years down the road, we will be old and gray, and we will hold our heads high knowing, we stepped up when our nation went to war. We answered the call to arms like so many before us.

With each mission, we did the best we could with what we had to work with. Most people will grow old and pass, never having contributed so much, never having risked so much, never having made such a positive impact in lives of so many. You made a dif-

ference! You did it with honor, and in many cases, for you combat vets, you did it with exceptional valor!

It is my honor and with great pride that I can say to you, ‘Welcome home.’

...

With that said, and as you veterans know, our mission in Iraq is behind us, but our mission is not over. We are still at war. We have Americans that are in harm’s way as we speak, many of them, our friends and neighbors..... and even family members. We still have an enemy that is plotting and planning and adapting. We must not lose sight of this fact. This is a dynamic enemy we face. This is more complex than simply bring our soldiers home.

If we don’t muster the national character to figure a way to make being a terrorist—a most futile undertaking to the enemies of our nation—then there will be plenty of fight left for our next generation to deal with.

... Memorial Day is an important day in our culture. How we conduct ourselves on this day, reflects on our culture. I read in the *Dorchester Reporter* that this observance has been held here at Cedar Grove since 1868. What a great reflection that is on generation after generation of this community.

So, why are we here? Why is this an important day for us? Two words, two timeless words that have likely been repeated every year at Cedar Grove since 1868. They are enunciated so often that you must protect yourself from becoming desensitized to them: “Ultimate Sacrifice.”

I want you to think about that for a minute. Think about what that means.

It means, for the warrior who gave his all that ‘I will not pursue any of my dreams. I will not ever accomplish my life’s goals. I will not be there to walk with my mother to church. It means I will never read my child another

bedtime story, or teach them a lesson of life. It means I will not ever again embrace my wife, share a laugh, or help her negotiate life’s obstacles.’

For so many young fallen warriors, it means that ‘I will never marry the girl I love. Or I will pass before ever having the chance to look into the eyes of my own child.’

For the fallen it means that ‘I gave you survivors and you the protected a gift that I could only give but once. I gave you all of my dreams so you can pursue yours. I forfeited all of my hopes. I gave you all of my tomorrows.’

To whom much is given, much is expected. We have a tremendous debt of gratitude owed to our fallen heroes. However, simply being gracious is not enough. We must memorialize them. We must remember them. We must honor their sacrifice by living by the example they have set.

Today, fewer than one percent of American families are military families.

... Finally, one last message, to the young people present: This whole world is yours for the taking.

The only thing that can stop you from accomplishing anything in life is you! You may have to work harder than others to accomplish your goals. I know I did, but you have not failed until you quit. Never quit! Never benefit at someone else’s expense. If someone is knocked down in life, help them up. Never lose sight of your moral compass. It’s always right on.

If something seems wrong, it is. Take another course.

Don’t be too cool to pray. A friend once said to me, ‘I don’t believe in luck and I don’t believe in coincidence, because the closer I get to God, the more coincidences I have.’

Remember, all the excuses and tales of woe in the world cannot diminish this truth, Only you can stop you.”

Publisher's Notebook

Commentary

An urgent plea for Mitchell Scholars

By Ed Forry

Trina Vargo, president and founder of the US-Ireland Alliance, is on a mission in her role as founder and chief advocate for the Mitchell Scholars program, named for the US Senate leader who was instrumental in forging the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland.

Late last month, it was revealed that the program would be de-funded by the State Department, so Vargo hurriedly put together a campaign to encourage supporters to speak out and encourage the administration to reverse the plans.



"The US Department of State wants to eliminate funding for the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program. If that happens, we will not hold a selection process in October/November to send a class of 2013-2014 Mitchell Scholars to Ireland and Northern Ireland," she said. "We have received an outpouring of support and requests on how people can help."

In an urgent letter to Congressional leaders, she wrote:

"We are writing to ask you to quickly contact Secretary Clinton to urge her not to end the US Government's longstanding commitment to the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program. This program connects future American leaders to Ireland and Northern Ireland with a year of post-graduate study there. "The Department of State intends to provide no further funds for what is one of the most prestigious scholarship programs in the country. If that occurs, we will cancel the fall 2012 competition to select a class of Mitchell Scholars for the 2013-2014 academic year. (The application deadline is early October 2012, so prior to that date we would have to tell hundreds of universities and thousands of students across the country that the program has been temporarily suspended.) We hope that you will ensure that this does not occur by impressing the following upon the Secretary:

1. The Mitchell Scholarship program is about much more than the island of Ireland – it prepares America's future leaders in areas that are State Department priorities while at the same time creating for those leaders a tie to the island of Ireland.

2. The less than \$500,000 a year the Department provides to the Mitchell Scholarship is a relatively small amount (.0008 percent of the Educational and Cultural Affairs budget), yet necessary for the uninterrupted functioning of the program. (The Department has provided roughly the same amount, with no increases in ten years.)

3. Europe matters. For the last few years, our staff has been told by Department of State officials that it has other priorities and that Europe is not a priority. We completely understand and agree that the USG has myriad pressing crises around the world, including Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, 'Arab Spring' countries, and China. However, Europe is facing economic instability that threatens the future of the euro and the prospects for the global economy, so it hardly qualifies as a place the US can ignore. Just recently, President Obama noted that Europe's economy is 'starting to cast a shadow on our own as well.' And European countries are crucial partners in confronting the very real and urgent crises the US faces around the world.

The Celtic Tiger years, when Ireland's economy was booming, meant that not only fewer Irish were moving to the US but many in the US returned to Ireland. Currently, employment prospects in the US are sufficiently unappealing that the Irish who are emigrating are more often opting for places like Australia and Canada." At month's end, Vargo said, "We have created an online petition so you may easily sign on and share it with your friends, family and colleagues. Please sign our petition by clicking <http://bit.ly/Lhjrvx>"

Ireland targets 'love, devotion' of Boston's Irish diaspora

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When Brian Cowan, then prime minister of Ireland, came to Boston in August 2009 to attend Ted Kennedy's funeral, he met with reporters after Mass. Soaking wet in a rumpled suit from the rain that day and very tired from his late night flight from Ireland, he was asked rather rudely, "Why do you spend so much time caring about the Irish in the United States?"

Seated at the end of a small table, holding his head in his hands, and a bit slumped over, he brightened up and with a sly grin said, "Ireland is the envy of the world with our dedicated following in the United States. I want to preserve and capitalize on that love and devotion."



Joe Leary

And today's Irish government is pursuing that objective aggressively, sending mission after mission to the United States to contact, organize, and influence Irish Americans young and old.

In a speech this past February, Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny launched an "Action Plan for Jobs in 2012," the aim of which is to make Ireland, "the best small country in the world in which to do business." Kenny's main target is the United States where Irish innovation and business leadership has proven itself many times over the past 50 years especially in some of our major cities: Boston, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

In Boston, we have witnessed the creation of the new Irish organization "Irish Network Boston," which is dedicated to "connecting Irish and Irish Americans in Boston and beyond." Modeled after a similar group started in New York, and with others now spreading over the entire country, Irish Network Boston currently has 600 members who are asked to pay annual dues of \$50 each. You don't have to be Irish to join – simply have an interest in Ireland. Their website says, "The Irish Government through the consulate in Boston, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA" all support the organization. Its purpose is "to harness the energy and talents of the Irish Diaspora in The United States."

The Irish Network Boston, under the presidency of the Limerick-born Boston businessman David Greaney, has been a great success with its regularly scheduled parties and networking events. For more information on the group, visit irishnetworkboston.org.

Just last month three more government-encouraged organizations came to Boston to gain recognition and support. In early June, "Start in Ireland" Business Development Administrator Brendan Fay visited selected Irish groups to advance his organization's government brief to bring young companies to Ireland

with a promise of "significant start up funding." The Start in Ireland" group is part of the much larger Enterprise Ireland organization that already has permanent employees in Boston.

"Start in Ireland" literature stresses the more than one billion dollars in venture and seed capital that is available to companies locating in Ireland. This is a similar effort to that of the Investment Development Agency (IDA), which also has permanent employees in Boston, with the difference being "Start's" emphasis on startup companies rather than the much larger established American companies the IDA has been so successful in attracting to Ireland. For more information, see startinireland.com

On June 19, yet another new Irish organization held its opening party on a beautiful early summer's evening overlooking the Charles River at Boston's Museum of Science. "The Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists (WGIS) had its start in Washington DC in February 2011, and quickly posted its purpose on the internet: "The WGNIS harnesses the knowledge, experience and success of the Irish scientific Diaspora from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive global human database."

Though supported by government approvals, WGIS is a private non-profit organization. Professor Mark WJ Ferguson, director general of the prestigious Science Foundation Ireland, spoke at the party, declaring his support for the organization.

Then on June 26, another party, this one at the Irish Consulate on Boylston Street, introduced a fourth organization supported by the Irish government: "ConnectIreland." This group, also in the job creation business, offers Irish Americans cash rewards if they are responsible for attracting new jobs to Ireland. Michael McLoughlin, the CEO of ConnectIreland, was at the Consulate reception ready to discuss all the opportunities available for successful referrals.

ConnectIreland will pay from 1,500 Euro to 3,000 Euro (\$1,950 to \$3,900) for each job brought to Ireland by the referral. There are rules of course that are explained on the ConnectIreland website, connectireland.com. The fact remains that financial rewards are a very powerful incentive to excite not only Irish Americans but also people all over the world. The first ConnectIreland incentive bonuses have been paid to three individuals.

For Bostonians, here is an opportunity to help Ireland and themselves by simply checking in with ConnectIreland to follow the correct procedure and begin to search for companies thinking about doing business in Europe through Ireland.

The Irish government is making a very intelligent move by enlisting support for job creation programs from American citizens of Irish heritage. Irish Americans want to be involved and this is a rewarding way to help the economic recovery on their ancestral island.

Off the Bench

Connubial Tales: A 50-year chapter

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

As of this month we have been married 50 years. I don't view it as a great achievement; all you have to do is stay married and live long enough. It was June 16, 1962, just before the sexual revolution. Probably just as well, otherwise I may have been caught up in that movement.



James W. Dolan

I declined to renew my marital vows, figuring that if they worked till now, I wouldn't need a booster. Besides, back then I was too nervous to know what I was saying. Now, I might want to renegotiate. We dated five years before we married at 23, so we grew up together. By the time we were 30, we had four daughters. Our son was born eight years later.

Looking back, I have no regrets. Perhaps it could have been better; certainly it could have been worse. Trying to substitute the perfect for the good accounts for many of today's broken marriages.

Learning to appreciate what you have, which involves emphasizing strengths and overlooking weaknesses, is necessary for a successful marriage. Tolerance and patience are as much a part of love as respect and devotion.

If distance lends enchantment, togetherness buys reality. The glow of early love soon evolves into the adjustments and accommodations of a more mature relationship. At 50 years, one is at the comfort stage, which is marked with appreciation, understanding, and few surprises. I long ago learned that if you're

going to lose anyway, why bother to argue in the first place. Save yourself the aggravation and just give in.

My wife has qualities that I respect and admire and a few I find annoying. I expect in a generous moment, she would say the same about me. I admire her strength and courage -- she is great in a crisis. Rarely down, she is energetic, efficient, and fully engaged in several hobbies.

She has been a great mother and grandmother and as far as I'm concerned, that's most important. Nothing binds us closer than our love of family. They are the center of our lives and she is the heart of our family. We have a shared history, a lifetime of joyful experiences and a few that were sad.

She rented a large waterfront home in Woods Hole in July for a week-long celebration. It will accommodate all 22 of us. Since we don't expect to be around for our 75th, we'll make the most of this one.

Our parents were of a generation that believed marriage was for life. Divorces were rare. Things have changed. We have gone from one extreme to the other. Too often, it seems, couples split for reasons that have more to do with the routine and tedious side of marriage than any fundamental problem. Those looking for reasons to stay in a marriage will find them. Those looking for ways out will also find them.

If you want passion and excitement, you won't find it at the center of a long-term relationship. What you hopefully will find, if you get beyond the honeymoon stage, is a deeper love that involves loyalty, understanding, shared sacrifice, mutual respect, forgiveness, and self control. It matures into a comfortable balance between two people who have adapted to each other's humanity – the strengths and weaknesses.

I just feel better knowing she's around and I believe she feels the same. That's as good as it gets.

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



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Point of View

Voters deserve better than debates over debates

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

There's no question that US Sen. Scott Brown and his Democratic challenger, Elizabeth Warren, are "debating." The televised debate proposed by Vickie Kennedy, widow of the late senator Edward M. Kennedy, to be moderated by heavyweight Tom Brokaw fell apart after Brown's conditions – that she not endorse either candidate and that MSNBC not be a sponsor – were not met.

Brown showed political savvy in ducking what he and his team viewed as a "Kennedy/NBC/Liberal Media" set-up, but one can't help but ask if his real concern was having to field questions from Brokaw, not Vickie Kennedy's certain endorsement of Warren. But while Brokaw would surely have made Brown own up to and defend his record of so-called bipartisanship, the veteran newsmen would also have pressed Warren about the "Cherokee heritage" issue.

After stepping away from what he saw as a Democratic ambush, Brown turned around and blasted Warren for backing out of a WBZ-AM radio debate hosted by conservative/libertarian Dan Rea. Rea's show is often entertaining and almost always provocative; he is also an unabashed supporter and self-avowed friend of Scott Brown. So...it's fine for Senator Brown to slip out of a debate sponsored by Vickie Kennedy, but shocking for Warren to nix a sit-down with Dan Rea as an "impartial" moderator?

To the media, Brown expressed his "disappointment" at Warren's decision to "duck the first debate." He contended that Warren "is saying one thing but doing another." Actually, both candidates are debating about avoiding debates that each feels is biased. Warren has agreed to venues hosted by the *Boston Herald*, which is deep in Brown's camp, and by a WBZ television debate moderated by Jon Keller, who can hardly be deemed partial to Warren, given his commentary on the "Cherokee identity" as a "big issue."

Warren has certainly blundered in her han-



Elizabeth Warren



Scott Brown

dling of her ancestry, providing both Brown and the media the chance to zero in on this sole topic and to give secondary coverage of the candidates' sharp differences on taxes, banking and Wall Street reform, the national debt, and all aspects of the economy. Unless actual proof that Elizabeth Warren used her claim of Native American ancestry to advance her career surfaces, it's high time that a Senate race about genuine issues begin. My suggestion: Let Scott Brown's "misstatements" about his secret meetings with royalty and Elizabeth Warren's mentioning of her Native American heritage cancel each other out, and the real debate, the one we all deserve, commence.

Don't Hold Your Breath Until Clerics Leave the Political Fray

Another ongoing debate boils on between America's cardinals and bishops and the Obama health-care bill. By the time this article goes to press, the argument might well be a moot point if, as expected, the US Supreme Courts rules 5-4 that the health-care mandate is unconstitutional. If so, the prelates will have their

chance to prove that their objections truly were based on religious beliefs and not at all in politics – specifically, support for the Republican Party over the Democrats.

On June 13, in preparation for Fortnight for Freedom, the Catholic Church's initiative on religious liberty that ends on July 4, Archbishop William E. Lori delivered a speech in which he asserted that the "Fortnight is strictly about the issue of religious freedom, at all levels of government here in the US, as well as abroad—it is not about parties, candidates, or elections, as some others have suggested."

So it's not about parties when the prelates and arch-conservatives have tightly lined hands on the issue of "Obamacare." It might not be about politics, but the archbishop himself raised the specter of the IRS taking a hard look at the church's role in the debate. While skeptical of the prelates' claims that none of this is political, this writer does not think that the church should have its tax status challenged by the government. Still, Archbishop Lori contended that the Obama health-care bill showed no concern for "the consciences not only of employers, but also of the various other stakeholders in the health insurance process, such as insurers and employees."

These are highly charged political words, whether he admits it or realizes it. By not specifying "religious employers," such as the church or Catholic universities, Lori seems to be asserting the right of *any* employer to deny coverage for *any* medical treatment on religious grounds. It's even more troubling to listen to the archbishop trumpet insurers' rights to deny coverage on moral grounds. Not political? Sounds like the very ideas embraced by Congressman Paul Ryan and other conservative Republican/Tea Party politicians.

Again, all of this becomes a passing storm if the Supreme Court tosses out the health-care bill and the Catholic church steps out of the political fray. I hope it does, but something tells me that the cardinals and bishops will keep on finding ways to let their political preferences show.

Huge crowd turns out for John Joe Quinn memorial time



Noreen and the late John Joe Quinn

Dorchester and the greater Boston Irish community turned out in huge numbers for a June 8th benefit time for the family of John Joe Quinn, who died suddenly on April 20 after suffering a heart attack. Quinn was just 42 years old and left behind his wife Noreen and two children: John, 15, and Abby, 8.

Quinn had served as president of union Local 100 (Boston Water & Sewer Commission) and was an active member at the Leahy-Holloran Community Center and a coach in Cedar Grove Baseball. The fundraiser at Florian Hall drew in excess of 1,000 people. It included a performance by the Smith-Houlihan Irish Step dancing school and a large silent auction heavy with sports memorabilia.

Photos by Harry Brett



Bob Wolusky and Gary Ryan, Dorchester



Mary Ann and John Quinn



Sheila Morris and Marcia O'Brien, Dorchester



Melissa Graham and Adrienne Kaszanek, Dorchester



Gerri Munroe, Dorchester; Eileen Walsh, Galway; George Munroe, Dorchester



Carrie Doherty, Emily Shamsak, Kaitlyn Gutierrez and Brianna O'Brien, all of Dorchester

Peg Geraghty, 80, Has Staked Out Her Mission: ‘We Have to Raise People Up, Educate Them’

By GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In many circles, they call her the “grande dame” of the Boston Irish, but ask unassuming Margaret “Peg” Geraghty, and she tells you that he hopes to be remembered as “just a good lady.”

At 80, the soft spoken and accomplished Geraghty, widow of the late Boston area property management principal Tom Geraghty of Geraghty Associates, is focused in earnest on her continuing work on the board of directors of Suffolk University, her on-going association with the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, which she helped to establish, and her generous philanthropy “to raise people up.”

“I think we have to help the next generation; we have to educate them,” the Dedham resident, a former teacher, says during an interview at her Falmouth summer home overlooking a cove that her grandson calls Grandmother’s Pond. “We have to raise people up! Welfare money is not doing the trick; we must educate them.”

Asked how much she has contributed over the years, Geraghty politely demurs. “I really can’t tell you that,” she says, then adds, “I had a good husband, who left me well taken care of.”

For Peg, a first generation Irish American with old country traits, a “narrow-back,” as she calls it, and a strong woman who is not reticent to speak her mind, her life is still all about Galway-born Tom Geraghty, whom she met many years ago at Moseley’s Dance Hall on the Charles. It was love at first twirl. “I’m from that other generation,” she says, a comment more to do with her sustaining devotion to her late husband (“a kind-hearted man”), and a blissful marriage that raised three successful children, all in the family business today -- Anne, Thomas, and John, reared with a consuming devotion to family, work, and to those in need of a helping hand. To know Peg today is to know Tom. They morphed over time into a single existence. After Tom’s death, Peg, who had been trained at schooling third graders, ran the family business, with offices in Hyde Park and Readville and more than 1200 apartment units to manage. The children now manage Geraghty Associates.

Each month, the Boston Irish Reporter has profiled some of Boston’s elite -- its leading Irish-American politicians, clerics, businessmen and businesswomen and its talented scribes -- variously celebrated in their respective endeavors. But Geraghty, to the point, is distinguished not for what is generally known about her, but for what is *not* known about her, and for what she keeps to herself. She is a silent inspiration to many around her, and for that, her deeds are as significant as any done on Beacon Hill, in the business world, in the pulpit and in the media. Indeed, her soul exceeds the spirit of most.

Color Peg (Cassidy) Geraghty green. Her late mother, Anne Carr, was raised in Moycullen, Galway, and her late father, Michael, a career Navy man, was born in Boston, then raised back in Galway City as a child. The two met as young adults on the boat to Boston and they eventually married and settled in Jamaica Plain. Geraghty’s father, who had no formal education, spent 33 years in the U.S. Navy, working his way up to chief petty officer. “That’s why he was always pushing schooling,” she says. “You *have* to go to school, he always insisted. You have to get a formal



Peg Geraghty: Woman on a mission

education for a better life.”

What her father lacked in formal education, he made up in the conduct of his life — an attribute he passed along to his daughter. “My dad had all these impressive gold stripes on his uniform,” Geraghty, an only child, recalls. “He never talked about it. Then one day, I picked up his uniform at the dry cleaners and a man inquired, ‘Whose suit is that? Those are conduct stripes. This man is a perfect guy!’”

By job description, the elder Geraghty was a ship’s engineer, who later was assigned to work at the Hingham ammunition dump. In reality, his daughter says, he shoveled coal into a furnace. While he was away from home a great deal, his impact on her was lasting. “He was a disciplined man, but a man of great compassion.”

Beyond all measure, Geraghty was strongly influenced by her mother, a

homemaker. “She was very kind and caring, but she was a candid woman,” Geraghty says. “All of her many sisters and cousins who lived near us would come to her for advice. She was like a mother confessor, and never hesitated to speak her mind.”

Like mother, like daughter. Geraghty has never hesitated to speak hers whether it was over the threatened closing of her parish church in Dedham or the wrenching priest abuse scandal, or women’s rights. To stem the closing of St. Susanna’s, she helped organize a successful parish support group to keep the church open. This stay of execution expires next year when the archdiocese will revisit the closing. “Church membership has increased, and we’ve held fundraisers,” she says of the group’s efforts. “But we’re still on the list. We’re told the church will be judged on the number of weddings and funerals held. Can you believe that!

I thought Christianity was about reaching out and helping people. Apparently, that’s gone out the window.”

On the priest abuse scandal, she adds, cautiously, “I was upset as anyone else, but my faith in God is deeper than the imperfections of men. The abuse scandal went against everything I was taught, but I wasn’t going to stop going to church over it, like others have. God cannot be held responsible for the sins of others.”

On the role of women, she preaches: “I think women have a lot of talents that men could use, or take some advice sometimes!”

For someone who insists she has lived a sheltered life, Geraghty, entering her ninth decade, offers a cosmopolitan presence. She was educated in public grammar school, then attended Mission High in Roxbury, a private Catholic tuition school. “My mother,” she says, “wanted me to be a nurse because I was a pretty big girl, and she thought I’d be good at turning patients over and being nice.” The independent Geraghty thought otherwise. “I wanted to teach, and so I did.”

After graduating from the four-year Boston City Teachers College, she taught elementary school in Medfield, Hyde Park, and Norwood. “Then I met Mr. Geraghty, a big Irish man with a lot of charm,” she says, noting that she couldn’t discern his brogue the first night at the dance hall because all of her cousins spoke the same way. “I didn’t know he was Irish until later.”

But it didn’t take long for the two to become one, and for Geraghty to quit her teaching job. The couple moved to Roslindale, West Roxbury, and Milton. “I had to raise all the cherubs,” she says, “and I had to assist with the family business.”

She learned well from her husband, and successfully managed Geraghty Associates after his death from colon cancer in 1985 after a painful year and a half of battling the disease. She also then became active in the community, she says, by riding her husband’s coattails. In 1989, she was recruited for a steering committee to establish the Irish Cultural Centre, which ultimately moved to headquarters off Route 138 in Canton. Until recently, she served on its board. The organization was created to promote and organize Irish cultural, educational, sporting, and social events. “It’s something Tom would have liked,” she says of her commitment to the center. “But in recent years, I’ve had to cut back.”

As summer sets on another Cape season and she prepares to return to Dedham, Peg Geraghty is agog with life. Most of it is about the life of others. Settling back in her living room overlooking “Grandmother’s Pond” in East Falmouth, she notes, “I hope I keep my health. I can still see and hear and get around pretty good. I pray a lot these days. I have a long prayer list of people with cancer, and I pray that all young mothers will have healthy babies.”

At 80, she still kneels every day in prayer. “My knees,” she complains, “aren’t as good as they used to be.” But she concedes the Lord will sustain her, and take her some day on from here. What a ride it has been for this grande dame of the Boston Irish, who wants only to be thought of as “just a good lady.”

Greg O’Brien is editor and president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political / strategy company based in Brewster. The author / editor of several books, he is a regular contributor to regional newspapers and magazines, a political columnist for Boston Metro newspaper and a television scriptwriter.

“Peg” Geraghty funeral July 2, at St. Theresa’s

The funeral Mass for Margaret “Peg” Geraghty will be said on Mon., July 2, at 10 a.m. in St. Theresa’s Church in West Roxbury.

The wake of the Jamaica Plain native, daughter of the late Anne (Carr) and Michael Cassidy and mother of Thomas and his wife Susan of Westwood, John and his wife Mildred of Milton, and Anne of Dedham, will be held at the William J. Gormley Funeral home, 2055 Centre St., West Roxbury on Sat., June 30, from 2 to 4 & 7 to 9 p.m., and on Sun., July 1. from 4 to 8 p.m.

Interment will be in Milton Cemetery.

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WWW.BOSTONIRISH.COM



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

Immigration Reform Not On Front Burner—

Despite the stunning rescue by President Obama of the core of the Dream Act and all that it means now to those who were bought to the US as children, the harsh reality is that there is no comprehensive immigration reform on the horizon nor is there likely to be anything doing for months. The Obama initiative, end-running the GOP, is a policy that deserves to be the law of the land and the president, who speaks often about fairness, was on solid ground, albeit he is being criticized for the politics of doing it in an election year bid to the growing Hispanic community.



Bill O'Donnell

Let it be clearly enunciated now that the Republican Party of 2012 is clueless and without anything to offer in the quest for realistic immigration reform save the maniacal mantra of sending some 12 million illegals home (somehow). “Intellectually” bankrupt is the phrase that readily springs to mind.

On June 10, the Boston Globe published the photographs and brief biographies of 39 Boston high school valedictorians. Of the 39, 18 were born outside the United States. These kids are our riches from foreign lands; they will be doctors, teachers, scientists, and join many other professions when they graduate from Harvard, Holy Cross, Wellesley, UMass, and Regis, to name a few destinations for them. Some will go home to help create change there; others will stay and become part of a challenged new generation here; and some will be future CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. (More than 200 Fortune 500 companies in the US were started by immigrants or their children)

We are blessed not burdened. However, we must end the congressional deadlock and bring both parties and the next president together to hammer out a practical and humane immigration plan that opens our front door and tightens the unaccountable, unmanageable back door. Reform of our borders and decisions about who and how we allow people to enter America is a fundamental tenet of a civilized nation.

You Can Rent A Slice Of Irish History—Visitors to Ireland have a broad selection of places to stay, from castles and country houses to modern hotels and comfy bed and breakfasts, but my favorite escape would be a 200-year-old circular, three-story, historic stone building overlooking Dublin Bay.

A recent stroll across the internet unearthed my idea of a reasonably priced getaway that will allow you to dine out for months with tales of “How I spent my vacation.” I’m talking about a unique experience rich in history with every modern convenience and no backup lines at your friendly hotel reception.

Are you ready for a week at a Martello Tower just seven miles from Dublin’s City Centre that hugs Dublin Bay and looks out toward super scenic Howth. Just such a redoubt can be found — and rented — in Sutton, County Dublin, a short ride from Ireland’s capital city.

Back story: In the early days of the 19th century, England and Ireland were concerned about an invasion by **Napoleon Bonaparte** and first Ireland and then England began building a series of round stone towers to repel any armed aggression. The refurbished Sutton-based Martello Tower, built in 1804, and 150 other towers never fired a cannon in anger but their presence apparently persuaded Napoleon to look elsewhere for conquest. Today there are 21 of the towers still standing.

The Sutton Martello tower on the north coast is three floors, and can accommodate four people or two couples in splendor. The best thing about these storybook towers is that they can be rented for a two-day minimum, or a week or two or more, for roughly what each couple would pay (around \$150 per night) at a five-star hotel but with a first rate modern kitchen, designer bed rooms, a fantastic living room, a spectacular view and all the privacy and location you could ask for. To contact the owners for full details, send an e-mail to martellotowersutton.com, or call 01-642671.

QUOTING: “If a group of people living in Brussels decide to go to Berlin or Barcelona for a weekend instead of Belfast, it is not because German and Spanish ministers have put their faces in more photographs; it is more likely because there are air connections, a decent public transport system, late-night clubs, and the probability they will not be assaulted by drunken yobs while trying to find their way back to the hotel. These are the issues Stormont needs to get to grips with.”

-- The Belfast-based newspaper, Newsletter, on tourism issues.

New York City's Next Mayor—After three terms as Mayor of New York, **Michael Bloomberg** will be term-limited next year and a new mayor will be elected in November. The odds-on favorite to succeed Bloomberg sixteen months from now is New York City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn**, a gay, Irish Catholic elected by her council peers as speaker in 2006.

Quinn, a populist liberal-leaning Democrat, leads in all the early polls and her work in the neighborhoods and her advocacy for the homeless and others in need and her image as a smiling, approachable, sensible hard worker should help make her New York City's first female, and first openly gay, mayor.

‘Not So Fast’ On A Unified Ireland—You and I, resident on this side of the Atlantic, might be strongly

supportive of the united Ireland that Gerry Adams suggested a few years ago might bloom when Ireland marks the centennial of the 1916 Easter Rising in four years, but for the average punter it’s nay, nay, not quite that fast—if ever.

A recent poll representing all voters in Northern Ireland showed strong support for the status quo, affirming that today, and likely even 20 years down the line, only one-third of the electorate would support unity. Only 7 per cent of NI voters would vote for a united Ireland this year.

The Catholic population was divided, and shy of 50 percent support for unity, with just 7 per cent voting for unity now, and a further 41 percent who would support it in 20 years from now or in the foreseeable future.

A surprising aspect of another recent poll published by the Community Relations Council found that Catholics already constitute a majority among those under age 30. Despite this, the new survey shows that support for Irish unity, at 36 percent, is slightly lower in the 18-24 age group, compared to 37 percent in the population as a whole.

The Neighborhood Mayor Stays Active—You can’t keep a good man down as the ageless bromide says, and that certainly is the case with **Raymond L. Flynn**, former Boston Mayor and **Bill Clinton’s** Ambassador to the Vatican. Just recently, Flynn was out and about lending his support to East Boston residents opposed to the casino proposed for Suffolk Downs. Flynn’s advocacy is likely not embraced by his successor, **Tom Menino**, who has worked the precincts and the Legislature diligently to try to ensure that the East Boston racetrack will get the nod for a casino.

The former mayor, a good boss (it says here) and compassionate city leader, is also the de facto, non-clerical voice hereabouts for the Vatican on matters Catholic. On the political front, Flynn, a nominal Democrat in recent years, is now supporting **Scott Brown** for the US Senate and **Willard M. Romney** for president. Both choices are likely predicated on their position recurrent moral/sexual issues supported by the Catholic Church.

Dublin’s Croke Park For A Sight To Behold—The GAA signature stadium for Irish football and hurling (although I watched **Muhammad Ali** and **Al “Blue” Lewis** in a boxing match there in 1972) has been refurbished in recent years. Today its capacity ranks behind only Wembley in London and the stadiums in Barcelona & Madrid. As part of the Croke Park redevelopment, there is now a series of viewing platforms atop the stadium roof that offers tourists a panoramic view of Dublin and many of its most celebrated landmarks. The roof walkway viewing platforms offer a rarely seen perspective of such sights as Glasnevin Cemetery, Guinness Brewery, the Dublin Mountains, Dun Laoghaire Harbor, Trinity College, St. Patrick’s and Christchurch Cathedrals, Phoenix Park, and the Docklands.

The roof viewing area has only been opened since June 1 of this year. Two-hour tours are regularly operating and should be frequent during high season. If Dublin is on your Irish itinerary, the Croke Park Aerie sounds like an ideal spot to have a look over the fair city.

Parity Of Esteem Atop Belfast City Hall—The question is: When to fly the Union flag, which has flown over city hall every day since 1906. There’ll be no decision by the Belfast City Council until a public consultation is complete and a vote taken on November 1. Change is coming and even Unionists believe that the fall vote, with the Alliance Party holding the balance of power on the council, will result in flying the Unionist flag only on special occasions and not daily.

The four options being considered before the November council vote are: (1) Flying the Union flag on some designated days, not daily; (2) Flying the Union flag on designated days plus extra days when appropriate; (3) No flag or a neutral flag flown; (4) two flags, with the Irish Tricolor flying alongside the Union flag.

Early indications suggest that Option 4 is a longshot.

A Communicant Looks At Today’s Catholic Church—Not to put too fine an edge on it, but what follows can be criticized as a diatribe or simply your garden variety rant. I’m not sure how to characterize it. The only thing I know amidst a sea of uncertainties is that today’s Catholic Church, under this pope and the hierarchy that surrounds Benedict XVI and follows his marching orders, is clearly dysfunctional, corrupt, and unheeding at too many crucial levels. The church is slowly but vengefully pushing tens of thousands or more of the historically faithful toward the exit. That’s one man’s opinion.

As a matter of personal conviction, I say that if I believed for a nanosecond that the Catholic Church was defined by the pope, the Curia, and its pampered prelates—and not by the millions of pay-and-obey faithful in the pews who are looking for Jesus—I doubt, in good faith, that I could continue.

I have complaints and concerns that I believe are at the core of a rotting, frequently myopic, disengaged institution led by a leader who is, alas, singularly unqualified by background, temperament, and administrative history to lead a universal church devoted to good works and the search for Christ.

(1) There are a number of cardinals (whom we know about) who should have been indicted and prosecuted. These include the priest-abuse enabler and backroom papal fixer in America, Cardinal **Bernard Law**, also Cardinal **Anthony Bevilacqua** of Philadelphia, **Cardinal Edward Egan** of Connecticut and later New York, **Cardinal Timothy Dolan** of New York, who led the flying column raid on the Irish College in Rome last year and is now the pope’s enforcer trying desperately to give flight to the canard that **Barack Obama** and US gov-

ernment are “strangling” the Catholic Church. Which, of course, is the most bogus claim to date by a church that knows better.

Just up the road in the Providence Diocese is Bishop **Thomas Tobin**, who has called President Obama “devious and divisive” and “creepy”—yes, “creepy”—for citing his daughters’ questions when he announced his support for same sex marriage. And Tobin offered a forum on “children” in his diocesan newspaper to America’s premier enabler of priest/child abuse, Bishop **John McCormack** of New Hampshire, who easily deserved indictment after being Law’s chief priest-shifter and apologist.

(2) Since the early 1980s, the Vatican has had at least three major scandals—two involving money laundering charges and massive Vatican bank irregularities, and a suicide under the bridge. The Vatican is now involved in damage control over leaks involving blood feuds among opposing factions in the Ratzinger Vatican. That has yet to play out.

(3) There is a comprehensive action plan from the pope and his allies throughout the Vatican Curia to denigrate and dismiss Vatican II, and elevate its opponents, like Opus Dei leader **Josemaria Escriva**, who was fast tracked into sainthood despite widespread belief that he was a fascist and mentally sick; that he was anti-Vatican II; that he misspent fund; and that his Opus Dei was, and is, a cult.

Pope John XXIII, creator of Vatican II, has been consigned to the very bottom of the sainthood list while Escriva of Opus Dei was rushed into undeserved sainthood. It’s not what you do ...

The same pope and his Curia are working to give new life to the ultra-conservative Society of Pius X and to the followers of Bishop Lefebvre. They are for making a comfortable home for the Ministry of Christ, and for giving new authority to Law’s Communion & Liberation group. All Benedict’s people share a desire to erase Vatican II reforms as they reconstruct the Church.

What we are seeing is the seeding throughout the hierarchy of ultra-conservatives who oppose Vatican II. Law is on the three-man panel that makes recommendations on US bishop appointments while also leading the charge against America’s nuns. His soft landing in Rome confirms that he was a favored consigliere for the past two popes and their key man in the US.

(4) The assault on the women religious in the US in recent months is a blundering disgrace. While the nuns live Catholic social justice every single day, the spoiled, male-only hierarchy from the Vatican on down is determined to silence them. Do your work, but be silent! That’s what the good sisters are being told by preening, over-indulged cardinals who want to keep the nuns in indentured servitude as long as they don’t speak out. This is a high price that America’s nuns have not bent the knee to.

The Church’s problems transcend the clergy abuse horror show, but what is happening secretly and internally with papal approval and direction this very minute ultimately threatens the very existence of the Catholic Church, I am afraid.

But, hell, no, I’m not leaving.

(To learn more about what one author, *Matthew Fox*, calls “The Pope’s War,” pick up a copy of his book at a public library or bookstore or *Sterling Ethos Publishers*.)

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The best bet for a summer walk that you won’t forget is the guided walking tour of the Boston Irish Heritage Trail organized by Irish Massachusetts’s **Mike Quinlin** (617-696-9880). ... The BC oral history donnybrook has found fresh interest from a bevy of Irish orgs including the AOH, Brehon Law Society, and the I-A Unity Conference. ... Starbuck’s Coffee with a big gaffe asking the Irish what makes them proud to be British. ... And the Irish attorney general who called Derry Londonderry, tsk, tsk. ... **Jim Sheridan** of “My Left Foot” fame looking to get **Brendan Gleeson** (“The Guard”) to play his father in an upcoming bio-pic. ... Druid Theatre Company doing an impressive series of plays by **Tom Murphy** this summer into September.

Curt Schilling’s cock-up as a video game wannabe came as no surprise to Sox players and others who know the former pitcher as a big BS-er. ... Irish birth numbers are way up with more than 75,000 births, the highest since 1891. ... Once again **Taoiseach Enda Kenny** assures US investors that Ireland’s 12.5 percent corporate tax rate is here to stay. ... Canada and Australia are accepting Irish emigrants in record numbers with the economy in the US & the UK suffering. ... Some 30,000 residents of the Irish Republic have applied for British citizenship in the past 3 years.

The economist **Kevin Gardiner**, who coined the term “Celtic Tiger,” says the worst is over for Ireland. ... It was not a bomb, but the recent Eucharist Congress had a lot of empty seats and was a far cry from the last one in 1932. ... United Airlines has inaugurated a Dublin-Washington flight, the first between the two capitals. ... **Sean Brady**, Primate of all Ireland, has apologized to the children there for the clerical abuse. ... A good idea: Taoiseach Kenny and NI Deputy First Minister **Martin McGuinness** agree that they would like to see one football team represent the island of Ireland.

The Master, **Leonardo Da Vinci**, will have some of his work showcased at the Ulster Museum (free admission) through August 27. ... **Alex Maskey**, former Sinn Féin Belfast councillor and mayor, was honored by Le Moyne College in Syracuse. A good choice. ... **Michelle Obama’s** ancestors have been traced to Ulster, as the six counties are sometimes called. ... A golf course in Northern Ireland was named as the top course outside the US. The honors went to Royal County Down in Newcastle.

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Irish Cultural Centre hosted its annual Boston Irish Festival on its 46-acre site in Canton on the weekend of June 8-10, with three days of Irish music, sports, and cultural attractions. On June 9, the ICCNE also hosted a 5K road race. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Place Male, Neil Finnegan, Somerville; 1st Place Female, Margaret Duval Cape Elizabeth, ME; 2nd Place Male, Alex Sullivan, Allston; 2nd Place Female, Jennifer Hughes, Boston; 3rd Place Male, Darrin Young Columbia, MO; 3rd Place Female, Ann Hession, Canton; 1st Place Wheelchair, Chris McGarry; Best Costume, Mark Gagnon Ottawa, Ontario.

1.) Dancers at the Irish Festival; 2.) Tiffany Beaulieu and Irish Wolfhound "Titan," No. Dighton; 3.) Patty Kahler, Rockland; Margaret Mullen Walsh, Quincy; 4.) Declan and his mom Fiona Bailey, Quincy; 5.) Chris and Sarah Colman, Watertown; 6.) Kathleen Shannon, Norwood; 7.) Peter and Sinead (6 1/2) Walsh, Foxboro; 8.) Timothy (2 1/2), Cullen, Brian, Mary, Kerri with dad and his mom, Northboro; 9.) Kara O'Donnell, Quincy; Sen. Tom Kennedy, Brockton; Michael King, Raynham; 10.) Brendan, Siobahn, and Sebastian (3) Cunningham, Norwood.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



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Happy Fourth of July to all Readers of the *Boston Irish Reporter*!

Jeannie Kain tapped to Lead IIC's Legal Services as Managing Attorney:

Jeannie Kain is IIC's new Managing Attorney. She is a graduate of the American University and Northeastern University School of Law. Prior to her work at the IIC, she worked as an associate at the immigration law firm of Kaplan, O'Sullivan and Friedman, and as an Immigration Law Specialist at the Committee for Public Counsel Services (the Massachusetts public defender's office). She is currently the Vice-Chair of the New England chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Jeannie lives in Quincy with her husband and two children.



IIC's New Managing Attorney, Jeannie Kain

Upcoming Free Immigration Legal Clinics: July 9, 6:30 p.m., at The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton; July 17 at IIC, 100 Franklin St. LL-1, Boston; July 25, St. Mark's Parish (Church Basement) 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester. All clinics are first-come, first-served. For complete details, please call 617-542-7654.

President Obama's "Deferred Action" Announcement Offers Hope for Immigrant Children: President Obama recently announced that immigrants who came to the US as children would be eligible for deferred action for two years. Deferred action is a temporary immigration status that prevents undocumented immigrants from being deported during the period of time that it is in effect. During that period of time, immigrants are eligible for work authorization. The policy will go into effect in approximately 60 days, and is based on very strict criteria. Please contact the IIC at 617-542-7654 with any questions.

Host Families Needed for Wider Horizons Program: The Wider Horizons program brings young Irish men and women to Boston for six-week



John Curran with IIC Executive Director, Sister Lena Deevy.

internships in community-based organizations. The experience provides a great opportunity for personal and professional growth for these young adults. They provide a tremendous contribution to the local Boston community with over 1,000 hours of service to local organizations in 2011 and return to Ireland with new skills and confidence which allows many to become future community leaders, youth workers, care providers, and more.

Please consider supporting this program by opening your home to one or two of these young adults for their six week stay!

Save the Date: Oct 4th Dance Party in Malden: This is one for your dia-

ries... the Irish American Club in Malden and the Irish International Immigrant Center will be hosting a great night of music, dance, and partying as a fundraiser for the IIC. Put on your dancing shoes and join the IIC and Rod Stewart impersonator Rick Larrimore for an evening of fun! If you love Rod Stewart, please plan to come along. Please see our website for more information.

Our Condolences - John Curran: It was with much sadness that we received the news of the passing of John Curran. It was a great friend of the Irish in Massachusetts and will be missed by all his family and his many listeners to "The Sound of Erin."

Matters Of Substance

Building Trust "One day at a time"

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Q. "Bobby, my partner of nine years and I recently split up over his use of pot. I couldn't take living with a stranger and our kids' lives were being really affected. His mood swings were horrible; he was so depressed and mean to me and the kids when he had no pot and he drank more. I hated to see the concern on our daughter's face when he would come in the door, waiting to see what mood he was in. Even though we struggled financially, I asked him to move out. I was heartbroken, as we moved here from Ireland together eight years ago and had already been through so much. I was surprised when he left without a fight.

I was even more surprised when a close friend of ours told me that Bobby had stopped drinking and using pot. He had been going to AA meetings with our friend who has been in AA for 10 years. Apparently Bobby has been sober for nearly two months, and even though I've seen him when he came to visit the kids, he has asked me to meet him for coffee next week. I know he will ask to move back home but I am so scared that this is just a phase and that the old Bobby will come back. I want to be supportive, and the kids and I miss him so

much, but we just can't go back to what it was like before. What can I do?"

A. I can't imagine how hard it was to ask Bobby to leave, knowing how tough it would be emotionally and financially. It is perfectly normal and natural to have these fears about him returning home. It's great that your friend is familiar with the AA program and can guide Bobby with his new sober life. It takes a long time for a drug and alcohol problem to develop but learning to live without drugs takes just as much time. We don't have a crystal ball to see into the future; Bobby could indeed use again, but he may not! Two months is a huge achievement but it does not guarantee a "problem-free" life together. Bobby will have to learn how to manage financial and family stresses without alcohol and drugs. This is why AA is so helpful as it guides those wanting to live a sober life, "one day at a time."

Family members can find this slogan helpful, too. Go for coffee, hear what he has to say but don't feel pressured into doing something you do not feel ready for. Maybe you need to see where things are after he is sober for 6 or 12 months. Perhaps you need to agree that if he does relapse, he will have to leave again.

It might be helpful to chat with your AA friend for suggestions, based on his own experience in the program. Family members also find Al-Anon meetings a great source of support when making these difficult decisions. Sometimes exploring these and other options with a counselor can also be helpful. Recovery is not just about stopping the use of drugs and alcohol; it's about building trust with each other one day at a time.

Recovery is possible. Let us help you live the life you dreamed of when you moved to the United States. Call Danielle at the Irish International



Danielle Owen

Immigrant Center to explore your options. Phone: 617-542-7654 ext: 14 or send an e-mail to downen@iiicenter.org. Also check out al-anon.alateen.org.

Danielle Owen is the IIC's Director of Wellness and Education Services.

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IMMIGRATION Q & A

Employment visas: area of complexity

Q. "My nephew recently graduated from a university in Ireland. He has found a company in the US that is interested in hiring him. What does he have to do to get an employment visa from the US government?"

A. The US laws and procedures that apply to the employment of foreign nationals are complex and require the assistance of an experienced immigration lawyer to handle the application process. Here is a very brief overview for general orientation: The H-1B employment visa category is the one most commonly used by foreign graduates, whether they studied abroad or in the US. Foreign nationals who are admitted in H-1B status are allowed to work for a sponsoring US employer in the US for up to three years, with possible extensions up to six years. There are provisions that allow an applicant to change employers in the US if certain conditions are met. The basic requirement is that a US employer must use the services of the foreign national in the US in a professional capacity in a specialty occupation. A professional is defined generally as someone with a bachelor's or higher degree from a US university or a foreign equivalent. A specialty occupation is defined as one that requires the theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge. The number of H-1B visas available annually is set by Congress. Currently the total is 65,000. The visas become available at the start of each fiscal year, that is, on October 1. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) opens up the application process six months before that date, however, so applications for the next available new batch of visas will be due starting on April 1, 2013.

Meanwhile the current batch has not been exhausted as of now. The latest tally published by USCIS indicates that 48,400 applications have been received, so there is still time to file for a visa that will become available on October 1 of this year.

The application process is complex and involves several stages, beginning with a submission by the US employer to the US Department of Labor, followed by a petition by the employer to USCIS, and ending with a visa application by the foreign national. Normally the sponsoring employer retains an immigration lawyer to take care of the entire process. IIC can provide referrals to experienced business immigration lawyers for this purpose.

THE J-1 IRISH WORK & TRAVEL PROGRAM (J-1 IWT)

If your nephew graduated from university within the past twelve months, he might consider applying for the J-1 IWT program that allows recent graduates (or current students enrolled in a degree course) to undertake a paid internship related to their academic field of study with a US employer for up to 12 months. The start date for this program must be within 12 months of the date of graduation. The Irish International Immigrant Center is a sponsoring organization for this type of visa and can assist with the application process. For more information on this J-1 visa, visit the IIC website using the following link iiicenter.org/services/J1-iwt.html or contact our Learning Exchange Programs Department at 617-542-7654, Ext. 38 or send an e-mail to J1IWT@iiicenter.org. Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform, not to advise. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For a free, confidential consultation on employment visas or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics as noted in the BIR or on our website (iiicenter.org).

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**Thomas Mannion:
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A funeral Mass was said on Tuesday morning, June 26, for Thomas J. Mannion, owner for 30 years of the T.J. Mannion Construction Co. and a devoted member of St. Ann’s Parish in Dorchester.
Mr. Mannion, formerly of Kilbricken, Rosmuc, County Galway, leaves his wife, Julia E. (Lakes) and sons Patrick and his wife Monica, Thomas Jr. and his wife Linda, Michael and his wife Maire, Gerald and his wife Laurie, and John and his wife Colleen.
Son of the late Patrick and Teresa (McGrath) Mannion, Mr. Mannion also leaves his siblings Barbara Sullivan, Josie Mellett, Ann Cloherty, Eileen Grealish, Noreen Lee, Paddy, Bricken and John Mannion. He was pre-deceased by his sister Mary and brothers Michael and Colm.
Remembrances may be made in memory of Thomas to the Kenney-Quinn-Ford Brain Tumor Research Fund, 55 Hallet St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

**John M. Curran,
1938-2012**

John Curran, the longtime host of the “Sound of Erin” radio program and travel agent, passed away on June 21. The Belmont resident, a native of Co. Kerry, was married for 52 years to his beloved wife Kitty (Ryan) Curran.
John was the loving father of Sean Curran of New York, Patricia Loomis and her husband Fred of Winthrop, Deirdre Tobin and her husband Sean of Sudbury and Maura Lally and her husband Sean of Belmont.
The former owner of Round Tower Travel, Curran was also a founding member of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Erin and former account executive of Morris Alper and Sons. Donations in John’s memory may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society 101A First Ave Waltham MA 02454 or the American Heart Association, 20 Speen Street Framingham, MA 01701. John was also the Papa of Brendan and Catherine Loomis, Ryan, Fiona and Catrina Tobin and Ciara and Keelin Lally. Brother of Donal Curran, Eileen Murphy and Marion O’Riordan all of Crosshaven, County Cork, Ireland and the late Mary Curran and Christopher O’Brien.




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BECOMING A LEGEND

Kathy St. George as Judy Garland

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Actress-singer Kathy St. George knows a little something about legends. As readers of the *Reporter* will recall, she is a descendant of the folks who owned historic Tyrone House in Galway. She can also trace her roots back to the owners of the St. George Hotel (originally the Conarchy Hotel) in Dublin's Parnell Square.

This month, fresh from winning a Norton Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actress, she takes on a legend of another sort in presenting a very personal tribute to Judy Garland in her one-woman show, "Dear Miss Garland," playing at Stoneham Theatre through July 22.

Award-winning Scott Edmiston, who helped her write the show, directs the production, which contains all of Garland's hits from "The Man That Got Away" and "You Made Me Love You" to "Get Happy" and "Over the Rainbow."

Like so many others, Kathy fell in love with Garland while watching "The Wizard of Oz." As a performer, she has become indelibly linked with Garland in doing a spot-on impression of the iconic singer in her cabaret act. In 2007, she starred in the somewhat dark "And Now Ladies & Gentlemen, Miss Judy Garland" in Boston. And in "Ruthless" at SpeakEasy Stage, she channeled a very funny



Kathy St. George lights up the stage with "Get Happy" in "Dear Miss Garland," her one-woman tribute to Judy Garland, at Stoneham Theatre through July 22.

parody of Garland that became one of the highlights of the show.

"Dear Miss Garland" is what Kathy describes as a love letter in song. "I never got to write Judy a fan letter, so this show is my letter to her," she says. Part theater and part concert, the evening brings Garland to life through some of her biggest hits

as well as some intimate confessions.

We spoke about "Dear Miss Garland" last month during a break in rehearsals. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

Q. I know you've been a Garland fan for a long time, but when did you first do her music on stage?

A. We were doing a show – "1940s Radio

Jive" – at Club Cafe that had moved to Martha's Vineyard. And one night on the Vineyard, one of the actresses lost her voice. And the director said, "Filler! Filler! We need filler!" And I said, "I can do the whole movie of 'The Wizard of Oz.'" And he said, "Okay, go ahead!" And that was how I started
(Continued on page 17)

Fleadh means satisfaction, friendships, connections

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Boston/Eastern Massachusetts Irish community had every reason to take satisfaction from this year's Mid Atlantic Fleadh competition, which was held May 18-20 in New Jersey.

It wasn't just the fact that so many did so well – area entrants qualified in nine categories for the All-Ireland Fleadh in Cavan next month – but that the achievements represented a good cross-section of age and experience.

Satisfaction is not simply measured in competition results or other numbers, however, as fleadh participants relate: Satisfaction also is a young musician following a parent's simple piece of advice to success; or a mother and her teenage daughter sharing the challenge, and joy, of competing together in the fleadh; or lending your friend one of your instruments – and, in so doing, enabling her to win the event in which you were competing.

"If anything, I think the most important things I've taken away from participating in the fleadh are the friendships and connections I've formed," says Armand Aromin, who took first place in the Miscellaneous Instrument and Duos (with Uilleann piper Patrick Hutchinson) categories, and second in Newly Composed Tune. "The moment it starts to feel like work, then something needs to change. Just go out there and do your best, meet new people, learn new tunes, and enjoy yourself."

Flute and whistle player Lisa Coyne had several vantage points of the fleadh: as a competitor herself in Over-18 Duos and Trios (taking second place in both), and as the parent of a competitor – her 12-year-old daughter Josie took second in the 12 to 15-year-old Duos, and also competed in Solo Fiddle and Trios.

But Coyne has a wider perspective, as director of Boston's Hanafin-Cooley Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann School of Traditional Irish Music and, in general, as someone out to inculcate a love of Irish music among young people. She is gratified at the increase in numbers of Boston Comhaltas School students who opt to participate in the fleadh, and sees this trend as validating efforts to broaden their engagement with the music.

"Hanafin-Cooley has spent a lot of time and energy to show kids different facets of the music," she says. "We've tried to create more contexts in which they can play, other than in their classes or practicing at home – playing for dancers, for example, or having sessions – so they see there is a social element to it."

"Rather than keeping to themselves, we're seeing
(Continued on page 15)

Trad music from all over on tap at Worcester Centre on July 7

Traditional music from Ireland, as well as France, Canada, and a few other places, will be the order of the evening on July 7 when Donegal accordionist Dermot Byrne and French harpist Floriane Blancke perform at Worcester's Hibernian Cultural Centre.

Opening the concert, which begins at 8 p.m., will be Skylark, a quartet of teen-aged fiddlers from the Greater Boston area.

Byrne, familiar to many Irish music fans through his work with the band Altan, and Parisian native Blancke are known for their spare, "bare-bones" arrangements and a repertoire that includes not only hornpipes, jigs, and reels but musettes, waltzes, and slow airs.

Blancke also contributes pristine vocals to her renditions of songs from traditional and contemporary sources.

Reviewing the duo's first CD, Irish Times writer Siobhan Long said, "Byrne and Blancke manage to cleanse palates long jaded by the overdrive of ensembles on full throttle."

Skylark is comprised of Fiona Henry, Gabriella Barham, Ciara McGilivray, and Natalya Kay Trudeau, all of whom have studied under noted Boston-area fiddler and teacher Laurel Martin. Two in the quartet are coming off successful outings in the 2012 Mid Atlantic Fleadh competition: Trudeau, second in Solo Fiddle (15-18 year-

olds), and Henry, second in Concertina (12-15 year-olds).

A traditional Irish music session will follow the concert, and all musicians, singers, dancers, and listeners are invited.

The Worcester Hibernian Cultural Centre is located at 19 Temple Street. Tickets for the event are \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance; for reservations, send e-mail to aisling-music@gmail.com. More information is available at mymusicvisions.com.

Byrne and Blancke also will be featured as part of the continuing "Burren Backroom Series" held at The Burren pub in Somerville's Davis Square. They will perform on July 25 along

with Donegal fiddler Brid Harper, a former senior All-Ireland champion and Fiddler of Dooney winner. Opening for them will be the duo of Padraig Rynne, a concertina player in the classic County Clare tradition, and guitarist Ryan McGiver, who also is a noted singer of Irish and American traditional songs.

And on August 1, the "Backroom" series will welcome Lúnasa, one of the most celebrated bands to emerge from Ireland in the past two decades. The group has toured extensively around the world and released eight acclaimed albums.

For information, see burren.com.

– SEAN SMITH



Dermot Byrne and Floriane Blancke perform July 7 at the Hibernian Cultural Centre in Worcester, and July 25 as part of the "Burren Backroom Series" in Davis Square, Somerville.

He zeroes in on economic crisis woes by doing what he loves – making music

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's late in the afternoon of a mid-June day, and downtown Boston is positively basking in gorgeous, sun-dazzled weather – except for a metaphorical dark cloud over the Four Green Fields pub.

Only a little while ago, Spain completed its demolition of Ireland in the European Championship soccer tournament, and disappointed fans sporting Irish athletic jerseys are slowly trickling out of the Four Green Fields, whose TV sets were all tuned to the game. Needless to say, there'll be no grand victory toasts tonight.

Into the midst of this somewhat somber setting strolls Dublin native Colm O'Brien, guitar case strapped on his back, ready for his weekly early-evening gig. O'Brien greets a member of the pub staff, and the two commiserate about the Irish team's debacle for a few minutes.

"Ah well, in an hour we'll have forgotten all about it," says the staffer, "and Colm, you'll be the man to help us."

Win, lose or draw, good times or bad, sun or rain, O'Brien is always keen to do his job, which is to play guitar and sing songs, whether from Irish tradition or contemporary songwriters – especially including himself – in a voice often raspy and gritty, yet passionate and powerful. It doesn't much matter how big, or how noisy, the audience may be, he's out to show them a good time, even if they may not always be aware of it.

"When you're playing in a pub, you have to remember the audience is there, primarily, to drink and talk. You go in with the understanding that you're an accompaniment to their evening, and so you have to work a little harder to win them over than if you were in a concert hall. I'm absolutely fine with that. You just have to see how the evening's going, and take it from there.

"In the end, I'm doing what I love, which is making music."

Music wasn't always his job, at least not a full-time one; in fact, once upon a time a little more than 15 years ago he was working at a computer company, until a revelation-and-departure scene worthy of a songwriter's touch: "I'd been outside having a smoke, and when I came back in I saw the rows upon rows of desks – not even any cubicles – and it all just reminded me of battery chickens. I sat down, typed out a letter of resignation, handed it to my boss, and said, 'I'm going to put my guitar on my back and see where it takes me.'"

Since then, O'Brien has performed far and wide, in pubs, coffeehouses and festivals, with bands – including a stint as a member of the Irish rock group The Prodigals – and, for most of the last several years, as a solo act. He has just released his second solo CD, "Back to Work?" O'Brien was assisted on the album by Mark Freedman, who, in addition to serving as producer and engineer, played lead guitar on one track and contributed backing vocals on five others; other contributions came from Martin Butler (bodhran, backing vocals), Sean Connor (fiddle, backing vocals), Leeanne Randall (vocals), and Eliot Jekowosky (flute).

"It had been so long since the last CD ['It Is What It Is,' released in 2005], I felt it was time for another," says O'Brien, who also appeared on a 2008 recording as a member of the now-defunct band Rud Eile, whose members included Connor and Butler. "I'd had a lot of songs in me for a while, but there also was a motivating force in terms of what had been happening around us – the whole economic crisis and what that's been doing to people, hence the name of the album."

"The biggest criteria for me was that it had to have a 'live' sound. I don't really like recording, and I'm the kind of guy who, if I haven't got it in three takes, I probably won't get it. But I was very fortunate to have Mark, who knows his stuff inside-out and how to make you sound like you want to sound. He 'got it,' and all the accompanists on the album 'got it' as well, so I really tip my hat to all of them."

"Back to Work?" is essentially a Colm O'Brien show from a studio rather than a stage: classic pub favorites, traditional songs, original/contemporary compositions. The songs are sometimes humorous ("Quare Bungle Rye"), often boisterous ("The Hot Asphalt," "Paddy Lie Back"), while others relate to Irish history ("Deep In Canadian Woods," "Dublin 1913," "The Wind That Shakes the Barley") – but many, especially his own compositions, are concerned with social and economic justice on both a collective and individual scale.

O'Brien came from a family that had strong roots in the music tradition – his father a piper, his mother a singer – but found numerous influences across the spectrum, from "Motorhead to Mozart," as he puts it. Still, his song "What Would You Do, Dear?" – the fourth track on "Back to Work?" – was inspired by a recording of legendary traditional singer Joe Heaney, and the connection to old songs like, for example, "Cunla," is apparent. The verses all follow a similar repetitive structure even as they push the narrative along.

"It was all about simplicity – I think I wrote it in 15 minutes. The melody came into my head, and then the words followed," says O'Brien. He envisioned the song as "a young working-class fella trying to attract a high-class girl, and telling her what lengths he would go to to be her lover" – a timeless story, simultaneously modern and ancient.

By contrast, "Illegal in America," with its jaunty 6/8 rhythm and made-for-singalong chorus, has the



Colm O'Brien says of his new CD, "Back to Work?": "I'd had a lot of songs in me for a while, but there also was a motivating force in terms of what had been happening around us -- the whole economic crisis and what that's been doing to people, hence the name of the album." *Sean Smith photo*

sound and feel of something from the ballad-group era, but its focus is quite immediate and topical, explains O'Brien: the need for a fairer immigration policy toward the Irish. "If you hear the phrase 'illegal immigrant,' chances are that you won't think of somebody from Ireland. A lot of Americans don't understand that this is a big issue affecting the Irish community; the assumption is, 'Oh, the Irish, surely they're all legal.' But it's not that simple."

Two other O'Brien songs are companion pieces to one another, he says: "The Ballad of Little John" is about the pain a family man suffers over losing his job because of the financial crisis, while "Big Banker Man" touches on the all-too-common after-effect of the downturn, foreclosure of a family home.

"These songs were a way of registering my anger at the whole economic mess," says O'Brien. "Little John" is specifically about being made redundant, and the shock to the system that causes. Where that song ends, basically, is where 'Big Banker Man' comes in, and the awful situation in which the house you've worked so hard for now isn't yours anymore, even though you've done all the right things. It's just incredible the way so many families and hard-working people have been treated – unfortunately, the mindset we seem to have is 'profits before people.'"

The sedate but haunting "A Tale of Indifference" – with O'Brien and Leeanne Randall sharing vocals



Colm O'Brien singing at the Four Green Fields: "In the end, I'm doing what I love, which is making music." *Seam Smith photo*

– has a universal, if somewhat complicated, message to it. O'Brien originally wrote the song 25 years ago with his friend Stephen McGrogan out of sympathy to the plight of women facing very limited choices in the wake of dire circumstances.

"You saw stories of young girls giving birth in fields because of the stigma attached to being single, pregnant, and poor. And then, of course, there was the 'X Case' [in 1992, concerning a 14-year-old Irish girl's attempt to have an abortion after being raped and impregnated by a neighbor], which brought worldwide attention. The song really has to do with how we treat each other, and reaching out to those who are in need instead of sitting in judgment; this time, it's a girl who's in trouble, tomorrow it might be you or someone you know who's in trouble. Sadly, things haven't changed that much in 25 years, so the song is as valid now as then."

But when it came to finally recording "A Tale of Indifference," O'Brien felt something special was needed. "It's easy for men to talk about issues facing women, but to validate the song I really needed to have a female voice, one that could capture the despairing and atmospheric tone of the song. When I described what I was looking for, Mark thought of Leeanne, and she absolutely fit the bill."

O'Brien is glad to have "Deep In Canadian Woods" on the album, since it carries a personal/familial significance: The song, which describes the attempt in 1866 by Irish Fenians to seize Canada, was his grandfather's favorite.

"During the recording, I read that a memorial to the events described in the song had been unveiled in Niagara," he adds. "Canadians apparently look on that incident as a kind of precursor to their eventual independence, so there's definitely a bit of serendipity at work there."

While music has a big place in O'Brien's heart, these days something else shares the space: his wife, Mary, and eight-year-old son, Cormac. As in most any career or occupation, balancing family and work demands a lot of attention, communication, and patience, and O'Brien is fulsome in his praise of Mary: "We understand what we both have to do, and she is rock-solid behind me. I wouldn't be at the point where I am without the support she and Cormac give me."

With Cormac getting older, O'Brien is feeling encouraged to consider touring a bit more, and a bit farther, than in the past several years, when he tailored his commitments so as to spend as much time as possible with the boy. It's exciting to contemplate, but O'Brien knows he can't dream too far ahead, certainly not with a pub audience in front of him waiting to be entertained.

When O'Brien tunes up his guitar, adjusts his microphone and prepares to start his set, Four Green Fields is sparsely populated and relatively quiet, awaiting the dinner hour crowd and the post-dinner arrivals after them. A cluster of customers in business suits on the other side of the room provides an ambient buzz of conversation, but O'Brien is unperturbed as he welcomes the handful of people looking on – "There'll be no mention of soccer here tonight," he quips – and then launches into "The Good Ship Kangaroo." The evening is just under way, and he has plenty of songs to sing.

CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH

Dylan Foley, “Hup!” – Twenty-year-old fiddler Dylan Foley comes from the wellspring of Irish traditional music that lies just north of New York City, home to the likes of Brian Conway, Rose Conway Flanagan, and the members of the young all-female band Girsra, to name a few. A three-time All-Ireland champion, Foley has been a student with the aforementioned Conway and Flanagan, and been influenced as well by other New York area denizens such as Joanie Madden and Mon-



signor Charles Coen. His debut album, “Hup!” (which, for those less experienced in Irish sessions, is a code word frequently employed

to alert your fellow musicians that you’re about to go into a different tune) is a sterling introduction to a young musician who clearly has a lot of respect for the tradition in which he’s been schooled – and even better, enjoys it immensely. What particularly recommends “Hup!” is that Foley doesn’t hurry you along to the end, although there’s no reason to doubt that he could. His playing comes across as relaxed and loose, especially on jigs, better enabling you to savor a tune’s characteristics and intricacies (as opposed to prompting you to think, “Wow, listen to how fast he plays that!”).

The 14 tracks presented by Foley, with the able assistance of pianist Brendan Dolan and guitarist/bouzouki player Joshua Dukes, also display his knack for crafting sets – marrying tunes that follow one another well, and taken together, provide contrasts in mood and tone or build to a satisfying climax. The third track, for instance, is a reel set that is a fascinating feast of modes and key signatures: Beginning with Daruch de Brun’s E-dorian “Maple Leaf,” it winds through the G-mixolydian tension of “Tommy Coen’s” and then finishes up with the exultant D-major “Crosses of An-nagh” (sometimes known as “Bobby Casey’s”) – Dolan’s piano chords the last time through are exquisite.

Other standouts include a mellow rendering of the O’Carolan tune “Charles O’Connor,” plus a couple of hornpipes, “The Kilrush Polka” (that’s what it says, but no, it’s not a polka), which sounds French-Canadian in spots, and the more familiar “Cronin’s,” Dukes lending some gentle touches on guitar. Foley goes into E-flat for two reels, “The Watchmaker/Primrose Lass,” and, in a slip jig set, pairs the sinuous “Cathal McConnell’s” and an elegant “Come Under My Dimity.”

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A frequent concern in Irish music communities is nourishing and cultivating the 20-something “bridge generation” and thereby ensuring a healthy mix of generations in passing along the tradition. Wouldn’t seem to be a problem here in the northeastern US, what with Boston’s The Ivy Leaf as well as Foley and another New Yorker, accordionist Dan Gurney. “Hup!” sounds like someone who’s intent on playing this stuff for a long, long time.

The Fretless, “Waterbound” –

Berklee College of Music grad and occasional Boston resident Ivonne Hernandez has been one of the more active practitioners of “chambergrass,” which combines Celtic, old-timey and other folk/traditional styles with



chamber music instrumentation and dynamics. After having co-founded the Folk Arts Quartet (now sadly defunct) with other Berklee-

ites several years ago, fiddler/violinist/violist Hernandez – who also plays occasionally with another impressive, more straightforward Celtic band, The Outside Track – is back with a new ensemble, which has refined chambergrass to what they call “rad trad.”

But whatever name their music goes by, The Fretless, which also includes Karnel Sawitsky (violin, viola) and two more of Hernandez’s Berklee acquaintances, Trent Freeman (violin, viola, foot percussion) and cellist Eric Wright, is masterful at playing it. More to the point, they adeptly toe that fine line between musical genres, capturing the precision, tone, and virtuosity of chamber while bringing forth the simple emotive qualities and spontaneity associated with folk and trad. “Waterbound” is full of swooping, darting melody lines, ambitious harmonies and counterpoint, and chugging, even funky rhythms, usually courtesy of Wright.

The source material covers a commendably wide, diverse territory: On the first track, for instance, The Fretless have a go at the Liz Carroll jig “Box Man,” peppering it with both sweetness and slyness, before letting fly with the late Cape Breton master fiddler Jerry Holland’s “Iggy and Squiggy”; another imaginative pairing has the band careening through the barely contained frenzy of “Pressed for Time” (one of many great compositions by the late Scottish piper Gordon Duncan), then abruptly shifting down and gradually rebuilding tempo for the traditional Irish reel “Bunch of Keys”; the final track, distinctively French-Canadian, begins with a pairing of fiddles and Freeman’s Quebecois foot percussion – buttressed by an appropriately ominous cello drone – on the traditional tune, “Growling Old Man and Woman,” segues into the Sawitsky original “Growling Cousin,” and ends with Calvin Vollrath’s “Teepee Creeping,” which is punctuated by a riff encompassing a rapid-fire succession of harmonic notes from each player.

Guest vocalists Ruth Moody of The Wailing Jennys and Ruth Rendell from The Outside Track further enliven the proceedings on the CD’s two songs. Moody lends a suitably high, lonesome sound to the bleak landscape of Dirk Powell’s “Waterbound,” while Rendell and the band turn “Harder to Walk These Days Than Run” – Scottish songwriter Karine Polwart at her characteristic dark cloud/silver lining best – into a jig-by-the-graveyard romp.

Listening to the CD answers categorically any question as to whether The Fretless is a chamber music group trespassing in the folk/trad world – they are, in fact, a collection of talented, creative musicians whose exposure to classical/chamber has enhanced rather than diluted their folk and trad essence. Actually, listening to “Waterbound,” you’re liable to be enjoying yourself so much the question won’t occur to you at all.

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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.

– Sean Smith

Applications deadline almost here: Just a few days left before performer applications for BCMFest 2013 are due. If you have an idea for an act for the festival, which takes place January 11-12, 2013, please go to bcmfest.com/performers.html, download an application, fill it out and send it in as soon as possible.

Celtic Music Monday/BCMfest Session schedule: Thanks to all who turned out at Club Passim for the June 11 Celtic Music Monday concert featuring faculty and friends of Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann Hanafin-Cooley School of Traditional Irish Music. The performers, who included Tommy Sheridan, Tina Lech and Ted Davis, Bridget Fitzgerald, Flynn Cohen and Matt Heaton, Josie and John Coyne, Matt and Shannon Heaton, Joey Abarta and Danny Noveck,

Cara Frankowicz and Patrick Hutchinson, and the Hanafin-Cooley Ceili Band, all were in top form, and the audience was supportive and engaged, to say the least. What's more, the event raised \$650 in support of the school.

This month's event at Club Passim, on July 9 at 7 p.m., will be the BCMfest Session. It's free of charge, and open to all. Bring an instrument, share a song or story, even get up and give us a dance. For directions or other information, go to passim.org.

The August 13 BCMfest Celtic Music Monday will be a "Singers Showcase," with songs from across the Celtic spectrum. More details to come in next month's update.

Fleadh means satisfaction, friendships, connections

(Continued from page 12)

students form 'posses' that gather and play tunes, and showing more and more curiosity and interest about the music. And now, more of them are taking the opportunity to deepen their involvement and challenge themselves by competing in the fleadh. There's more work to do, but it's very promising to see this happen."

Coyne doesn't need to look very far to see a motivated young Irish musician. Josie, who turns 13 next month, began playing at age 8 and has become almost as much a session regular as Lisa and her husband John, who plays bouzouki; she's even had a reel named for her, by Aromin (his entry in the Newly Composed Tune competition). In conversation, she'll extol the virtues of fiddler Willie Kelly, concertina player Mary MacNamara, and the Clare traditional music style.

This year was Josie's third fleadh, and for the Duos event she chose to play with her aunt, Mariel Wamsley. Going into the competition, Josie says she and Mariel "were pretty confident" and felt their performances – of a set dance and a reel – went well, except for a couple of little miscues here and there. When they found out they had placed second, thereby punching their ticket to the All-Ireland Fleadh, "We were so happy, we were screaming and crying."

Josie (whose earnings from gigs and baby-sitting jobs will fund her trip to Cavan) believes that participating in fleadhs has aided her musical development: It has helped her not to be nervous about playing in public, and to get focused on "practicing really hard." She's also grateful for all the support she's gotten from friends – like fellow fiddler Sean Clohessy, who coached her – and family, especially her mother. Lisa, she notes, made "a big sacrifice" by driving her down and back several times to where Mariel lives in the New York City area so they could get in some live practice.

Her mother also gave her some good advice about playing at the fleadh, Josie adds. It wasn't anything technical, only basic words of wisdom: "She said, 'Play from the heart and just love the tune.'"

A mother-daughter dynamic also figured in the success story of the Boston Comhaltas School's Hanafin-Cooley Ceili Band and their second-place finish in the Mid Atlantic Fleadh. Donegal native Sophie Kirby had been playing fiddle for several years, and took part in the school's non-competitive ceili class for a few semesters before switching to the competition class directed by Danny Noveck.

Joining Sophie in the class was her daughter Roisin, now 16, who had started off playing fiddle at age 12 but two years later decided to take up drums and then bodhran. "At the beginning I just wanted to pick up an instrument and learn some music," she says. "After playing the fiddle for a while, I thought it wasn't for me and I was never really that good at it. I felt like I would be better with the beat than the melody. With the drums, I thought I would learn more by working and playing with other musicians. I hoped that while playing with others I could create more sounds and make a noise that was my own."

Sophie, for her part, was pleasantly surprised by Roisin's willingness to be in the same class with her, even though Roisin was by far the youngest member. "I was willing to leave if it made her uncomfortable. I played it by ear for a few weeks and tried not to 'mammy' her. She was so involved in her own progression, she hardly noticed me. The others all took a shine to her and I left it at that."

In any event, Sophie and Roisin were caught up in the ceili band's efforts to become fleadh-capable. Competing by yourself is one thing; being part of a ceili band – where tight playing, starts, stops, and transitions are a priority – is another. They both credit Noveck for recognizing and integrating the different learning styles among the band members, and nudging them along at just the right pace to the goal of competing at the Mid Atlantic. "We talked about it more as a joke so it didn't look so scary to us mediocre musicians," quips Roisin. "We are a pretty modest group."

Sophie enjoyed this special bond with Roisin, where car rides to and from class became an opportunity to talk about the band's progress as well as their own individual development. Roisin, for her part, saw the ceili band experience as more of an extension of the music they shared in their family life. Although a lot of their conversation, according to Roisin, centered around "me complaining about my ornamentation," they also would talk about how fun it would be "to have more gigs and cool places to play."

If Sophie had hopes her daughter would grow to love playing music as much as she did, then mission accomplished: Roisin talks of "the joy I get from playing or the feeling of me playing with someone else and we get into a groove." She also clearly relishes the rarity



The Boston Comhaltas School's Hanafin-Cooley Ceili Band, under the direction of Danny Noveck (first row, second from left), at a recent concert. The band placed second in the Mid Atlantic Fleadh.

Sean Smith photo

in being a 16-year-old "city girl" ceili band drummer.

"I love doing what I am doing," she says, "and I will always carry on the tradition."

Two other young musicians from the Greater Boston/Eastern Massachusetts area had satisfying experiences at their first fleadh: Natalya Kay Trudeau won second place in Fiddle (15 to 18-year-old) as did Fiona Henry in Concertina (12 to 15).

"It was lovely hearing other musicians at the fleadh. There is so much young talent out there," says Trudeau, who after having savored the achievement ("I didn't think this would happen until I was 25") is now concentrating on the All-Ireland Fleadh. "And preparing musically for this level of competition is so beneficial in becoming a stronger musician."

Henry, who has chosen not to go to the All-Ireland this time, agrees with Trudeau: "Practicing those two tunes over and over again made me focus on some of the finer aspects I normally wouldn't think about, and now I can apply what I have learned to other tunes."

Also qualifying for, but electing not to compete in, the All-Ireland Fleadh was Boston's Lindsay Straw, who took second in Over-18 Ladies Singing. Adam Cole-Mullen, a Greater Boston native now attending college in New York, won the Over-18 Whistling competition and came in second in Over-18 Slow Airs (Fiddle).

As the participants are quick to point out, the fleadh also is a time to renew and reaffirm friendships, sometimes in unexpected ways. Lisa Coyne, for example, was set to compete in the Seniors Trio; a trophy named after the late Mike Rafferty – a major influence for Coyne and many other Irish musicians – had been established for the winners in that category.

Then she got a last-minute call from a member of the other trio, asking Coyne if she would lend her C-flute to their flute player, Siobhan Kelly, for the tune they wanted to play. She didn't hesitate to lend the instrument to Kelly.

"I wanted her to do it," says Coyne. "Siobhan was a little hesitant about the whole thing, but I just said, 'Siobhan, do it for Mike.'"

In the end, Kelly and her trio came out ahead of Coyne's. The fleadh secretary, Terry Rafferty – Mike Rafferty's widow – was so moved by the event, she had tears in her eyes when she recounted it later that weekend.

"It was the right thing to do," says Coyne. "I wasn't trying to be heroic or anything. I just wanted Siobhan to be able to do her best – and if borrowing my flute

would help her, then there was no question of lending it to her.

"Really, what are we all there for? It's to play music and enjoy ourselves."

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Kathy St. George as Judy Garland

(Continued from page 12)

doing “The Wizard of Oz” and Judy songs. And since then I’ve always done Judy songs in my cabaret show.

Q. And then came “Ruthless.”

A. That was such a joy. [Director] Larry Cohen said that at the end of Act One my character goes from a meek and mild hausfrau into a diva. So one night, in rehearsal, just to make him laugh, I started doing my Judy impersonation. And he loved it. He loved it so much he said, “Let’s keep it, let’s keep it!” But I was doing her way over the top, and slightly drunk and slightly slurring her words.

Q. And then there was “Ladies & Gentlemen...” which used Garland’s own words for the off-stage section and then moved into a concert.

A. [Producer] Deb Poppel said to me, “You always talk about doing a Judy show. Why don’t we write one together. I’ll help you and I’ll produce it. And I said great. And then she said that Tony McLean was a huge Judy fan and was interested in coming on board.

Q. But your own creation, “Dear Miss Garland,” has a very different tone.

A. [In 2009], Weylin Symes [Producing Artistic Director at Stoneham Theater] said he’d love me to bring a Judy show to Stoneham, but I didn’t want to do the same one. I wanted to make it a little more audience-friendly and a little more musical and a little more upbeat for the first act . . . And we added a seven-piece band. It did so well that Weylin asked me to bring it back this summer.

Q. What kind of research did you do?

A. It was exhausting. Watching all the movies. Reading everything I could get my hands on. Ofcourse, I watched Judy clips over and over on YouTube to get the right feel.

Q. People tend to remember the hardships in her life, but she had a very sharp sense of humor.

A. In the show, I have a quote from when she performed on Boston Common. [*In Judy’s voice*] -- There were an awful lot of bugs involved with that outdoor concert, and a bug flew into my mouth. If you’re singing “Get Happy,” you can go [*spit*] but not during “Over The Rainbow.” So I tucked him in my cheek with my tongue. He fluttered about for a chorus and a half. I had the finest vibrato ever that night!

Q. What can audiences expect when they come to see “Dear Miss Garland” in Stoneham?

A. The first act is just me and Jim Rice on piano. It’s more about me being a fan. How it started for me. We open with “Born in a Trunk” . . . I personalize it. I didn’t grow up in show business but I talk about



Kathy St. George lights up the stage with “Get Happy” in “Dear Miss Garland,” her one-woman tribute to Judy Garland, at Stoneham Theatre through July 22.

my first audition [at Salem State College], and then Judy’s first audition [at MGM]. We’ve added a song, “How About You,” so I do a duet with Jim encapsulating a Mickey & Judy Moment. The first act I’d say is more about her movies . . . “The Trolley Song,” “The

Boy Next Door,” “Be A Clown” . . . How she fell in love with Vincent Minnelli. She did have five husbands altogether. How she was always searching for the right man – but he always got away.

Q. And the second act?

A. I come out with my seven-piece band (for a concert) . . . the great thing is we have the entire band back. Every musician came back from three years ago. They all wanted to do it again.

Q. Is there one moment that you really connect with personally?

A. “It Never Was You” from her movie “I Could Go On Singing.” It’s the longing. I can identify with that so deeply. The longing that she had for someone – for the right person. And to be always searching and never finding. The other day, I started crying as I started singing the song because I found that person. In my husband.

Q. Judy Garland was one of those rare artists, who, like Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley, remain true icons. She was really one-of-a-kind, wasn’t she?

A. She came alive on stage. The way she just provoked this frenzy! When you watch the clips it’s extraordinary . . . She poured her heart out on stage. She let it out and you just embraced her more for that. The more pain, the more love, the more joy. She was phenomenal.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of OnStageBoston.com.

“Dear Miss Garland,” through July 22 at Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main Street, Stoneham. Tickets: 781-279-2200; stonehamtheatre.org.



BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND

On Canaan’s Side

By Sebastian Barry

Narrated by Lilly Bere, *On Canaan’s Side* opens as she mourns the loss of her grandson, Bill. The story then goes back to the moment she was forced to flee Dublin, at the end of the First World War, and follows her life through into the new world of America, a world filled with both hope and danger. At once epic and intimate, Lilly’s narrative unfurls as she tries to make sense of the sorrows and troubles of her life and of the people whose lives she has touched. Spanning nearly seven decades, it is a novel of memory, war, family-ties and love, which once again displays Sebastian Barry’s exquisite prose and gift for storytelling.

Selected Stories

of Benedict Kiely

Benedict Kiely’s *Selected Stories* gather together some of the best examples of the work of this true and gifted man of letters. Edited by Ben Forkner, *Selected Stories* has a cover quote from IMPAC winner Colum McCann. From ‘*Soldier, Red Soldier*’ and ‘*A Ball of Malt and Madame Butterfly*’ to ‘*A Letter to Peachtree*,’ these

stories sing in the unforgettable voice of an Irish master who inspired, and will continue to inspire, generations of readers and writers alike. These stories have a great deal taken from Ben’s own experiences both abroad and at home in Ireland. Kiely captures various moments in Irish and American culture, many heavily influenced by his time as a lecturer in Georgia, writer-in-residence in Virginia, and as a reporter for the Irish Press.

The Eighty-Five Billion Euro Man

By Donal Conaty

The Eighty-five Billion Euro Man is here to save Ireland from the Irish! Can he sort out our finances before it’s too late, or is his mission doomed before it even begins? When Ajai Chopra and his gang of grey suits from the IMF roll into town, questions are asked at the Department of Finance. Why does everyone do their sums in their heads? Why is Mystic Meg listed on the payroll as a consultant? And why does the country appear to be down to its last fiver? One unfortunate bean counter is left behind to clean up the mess. As the country edges ever closer to bankruptcy, he is forced

to deal with a cast of senior civil servants and politicians whose bubble has yet to burst. Chief among them is Dermot Mulhearn, head honcho at the Department of Finance. He presided over the boom and he’s in no humor to give up his perks now that the Celtic Tiger is dead and buried. Whether it’s dining out in Michelin-star restaurants or taking the government jet to Rome for Bunga Bunga parties, Dermot still feels he deserves a treat or ten. And he just got another 85 billion euro to play with. Everyone seems to know that we are where we are, but nobody has any idea how we got here. Will Taoiseach Enda stand up to Europe and demand a better bailout? Can Paddy, Enda’s imaginary friend, save the day before Enda realizes he doesn’t exist?

The Better Half

By Sarah Harte

Anita is a wife on the edge. Thanks to her husband Frank’s success in business she has lived a lavish lifestyle at the heart of the city’s elite. However, now that the economy is in freefall, it seems the days of boozy lunches with ‘the girls,’ glittering charity balls, and competitive designer shopping are over. Still, though the banks

are breathing down their necks, and their marriage is far from perfect, Anita had believed she and Frank would pull through. After all, they came from nothing. That was until she heard news that shook both her marriage, and the family she thought happy and secure, to its foundations. As she faces meltdown, Anita is haunted. Why did she walk away from her one chance to prove herself on her own terms? What happened to the love that was once so overwhelming? And how did she let herself get lost in an empty, high-rolling lifestyle? Anita has to find herself again ... but how do you do that when you’re just someone else’s better half.

The Empty Family: Stories

by Colm Toibin

In the captivating stories that make up *The Empty Family*, Colm Toibin delineates with a tender and unique sensibility lives of unspoken or unconscious longing, of individuals, often willingly, cast adrift from their history. From the young Pakistani immigrant who seeks some kind of permanence in a strange town to the Irish woman reluctantly returning to Dublin and discovering a city that refuses to acknowledge her long absence, each of Toibin’s stories manages to contain whole worlds: stories of fleeing the past and returning home, of family threads lost and ultimately regained. *The Dream of a Beast* By Neil Jordan This Neil Jordan novella won him acclaim from readers and reviewers alike. It is now reissued in paperback, ensuring that Jordan’s fiction is available in print. Fans of Jordan’s latest novel, *Shade*, will be inspired to seek out his early novels as a result. Full of extraordinary images, this reissued novella lingers in the mind long after its end.

PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 19

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John Costello: quiet, resolute Irishman

By STEPHEN M. PINGEL

Following is the fifth in a series of retrospective articles on individuals who made notable contributions to civic life in Ireland during the 20th century.

Because of an editing error, Mr. Pingel's byline was missing from his article in June on Eamon de Valera.

**John A. Costello
1891-1976**

In Ireland, the middle years of the 20th century—from the late 1940s to the early 1960s—comprised a sort of “down time” for the newly constituted Irish Republic after decades of stormy political strife, depression, and wars. There was a singular event in 1949: the formal establishment of the Republic of Ireland, a final transition that removed the last traces of the island's volatile, long-term relationship with the British Commonwealth; but otherwise things had quieted down.

Still, there was work to be done, and a country to be run, and one of the men (it was always “men” during this time) who stepped into the limelight and shared it from time to time with the legendary Eamon de Valera was John A. Costello.

Born on June 20, 1891, Costello received his entire early education in Dublin, first from the St. Joseph's Christian Brothers School, then at the O'Connell School. After completing his primary years, he enrolled at University College Dublin from which he graduated with degrees in law and languages. With law classes behind him, he was admitted to the bar in 1914.

For the rest of his life, Costello made good use of his early education in the law—in public affairs, in politics, and in private practice as a successful attorney.

The year 1922 was an important one for John Costello: He joined the staff of the Irish Free State's attorney general, and took but three years to become attorney general himself, a remarkable accomplishment for a 34-year-old barrister at a time of great internal turmoil.

However, his success in the attorney general's office was short lived; with the elections of 1932 he was out of office, and the Fianna Fail party was in. But Costello was hardly out of the picture; a year later he was elected to Dáil Éireann (the Free State's parliamentary body) as a member of Cumann na nGaedheal, later the Fine Gael party.

Not one to keep quiet about issues, Costello soon found himself in the middle of a controversy over uniforms, in particular a bill that would outlaw the wearing of them in public that was aimed at a rightist paramilitary group said to be associated with Fine Gael. On

Feb. 28, 1934 he took to the floor during a Dail debate and opposed the bill in answering a minister who had asserted that he so-called Irish “Blueshirts” were of a piece with the fascists “Brownshirts” in Germany and the “Blackshirts of Mussolini in Italy while noting that other European nations had taken action against their posturings in uniform.

Said Costello: “The Minister gave extracts from various laws on the Continent, but he carefully refrained from drawing attention to the fact that the Blackshirts were victorious in Italy and that the Hitler Shirts were victorious in Germany, as, assuredly, in spite of this bill...the Blueshirts will be victorious in the Irish Free State.”

Costello apparently was making a point about the constitutionality of the bill in question, but these remarks, seen by many as a defense of fascism rights, have remained associated with his name, given what happened in Europe in the decade following.

Other issues came to the fore for Costello and Fine Gael. He complained about the Emergency Powers Act of 1939, particularly about the government's overreaching of power, an echo of his earlier stance regarding the far right's place in Ireland.

But it was in the 1948 election that Costello rose to true national prominence as Fine Gael swept to victory and he was named taoiseach, or prime minister, a nomination he wasn't all that happy about; at one point, he said he would refuse to take the position.

Seen by most Irish citizens as almost an innocent and moderate figure, despite his long life in public affairs from the time of the civil war, Costello looked to be a model taoiseach.

It didn't take long for him to make a bit of history with the formal institution of the republic the next year and to find himself enmeshed in another controversy.

In 1951, the health minister was pushing for the Mother and Child Scheme, a socialization of medicine that would offer pregnant mothers and new mothers free medical care and help. However, given that part of the proposal involved birth control, the Catholic Church and associations of doctors weighed in against the idea. Facing this outcry, Costello made it clear that he would not support the proposal, either, which ended the debate for the time being.

Ousted as taoiseach in late 1951, and succeeded by de Valera, Costello, following a frequent trend in Irish politics, returned to the office in 1954, succeeding de Valera. During this turn as taoiseach, Costello found himself leading a nation that was dealing with a poor economy and a stagnant society that many saw as “the sick man” of Europe.



John Costello two times a prime minister.

Presiding over difficult votes, a failing economy, and the start of new cross-border issues with IRA activity in Northern Ireland, by 1957, Costello was on the way out as Fianna Fail was in the midst of a comeback.

In retirement, Costello returned to the bar as a barrister, arguably his true joy in life and career, and served as TD for Dublin-South until 1969 after which he continued to practice law until 1975. Shortly after his retirement from the bar in 1975, he passed away in January 1976 at the age of 84.

As to John Costello's legacy, he was honored with a stamp, and his name remains in Ireland's institutional memory bank as a man who served his country well and in his own way by doing what he truly loved.

Stephen M. Pingel is a student at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, specializing in the socioeconomic history of modern conflict areas as well as 20th-century Irish history. He can be reached via e-mail at stephen_pingel@student.uml.edu.



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By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A trip to Donegal this spring reminds me about how lovely and lively that county really is. Sadly, not many Americans travel so far north and that’s a great pity. Donegal is visually stunning and offers so much to satisfy the interests of any traveler, young or old.



Beautiful blue poppies are just one of many species in the extensive and beautifully maintained gardens at Bruckless House in Co. Donegal, which is included on the Donegal Garden Trail. *Judy Enright photo*

Whatever your interest, Donegal surely has it. There are adventure sports, water sports, many golf courses, horseback trekking tours, magnificent gardens, hiking and biking opportunities, archaeological walks, national parks, wonderful crafts and dining venues – in short, just about anything you could ever want. Donegal also boasts Europe’s highest sea cliffs, Slieve League, which you can see from offshore aboard a charter boat.

BRUCKLESS HOUSE

I am a great fan of B&Bs and have stayed at many all over Ireland. This

spring, a friend and I enjoyed several nights of bed and breakfast at beautiful Bruckless House, a classic 18th century Georgian house surrounded by gardens that are included in the 26 stops on the 2012 Donegal Garden Tour (donegalgardentrail.com.)

Bruckless owner Joan Evans is welcoming and so knowledgeable about local sights and great places to eat – and her Corgis are funny little guys who welcomed us, too.

We were heading out to visit lively Killybegs Harbor, so Joan recommended Kitty Kelly’s, a traditional farmhouse restaurant on the Kilcar Road, and she also recommended making a dinner reservation. If you are in that area and want to experience the splendid fare at Kitty Kelly’s, be sure you also make a reservation as the restaurant was packed when we arrived.

I had a delicious poached fillet of the freshest salmon and my friend enjoyed black sole, served on the bone. The restaurant is open daily from noon to 5 p.m. for bistro lunch and 5 to 9 p.m. for a la carte dinner. There is a free shuttle service, too, because Ireland has a no-nonsense attitude toward driving after drinking. Visit kittykellys.com for more information.

Another night, we enjoyed dinner, and the view, at Castle Murray House (castlemurray.com) in Dunkineely, which is near Bruckless. An American diner told us she spent one night at Castle Murray and cancelled future reservations elsewhere to extend her stay she loved it so much. That was quite a recommendation!

For information on Bruckless, visit bruckless.com or send an e-mail to

Joan at bruc@bruckless.com.

SEAFOOD AND CRAFTS

As an island, Ireland excels in having the freshest of seafood offerings. We particularly watch for recommendations from the Irish Sea Fisheries Board, which has created the BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara) Seafood Circle (seafoodcircle.ie.) The BIM Circle recommends restaurants, supermarkets, bars, specialists (like the Burren Smokehouse in Clare and Clarke’s Seafood stores in Ballina and Westport, both in Mayo.)

While in Donegal, we always checked to make sure a restaurant was a BIM member and found Nancy’s on Front Street in Ardara where we enjoyed an excellent seafood lunch.

After eating, you probably need to do some shopping. If so, be sure to visit the Donegal Craft Village in Lurganboy (on the Ballyshannon Road) just outside Donegal Town for unique and well-made crafts. I was delighted to find the McGonigle Glass studio there because I have long been a great fan of the McGonigle sisters’ wonderful glass jewelry, which I have bought over the years at O’Reilly & Turpin gift shop in Westport. For more information about the glass makers, send an e-mail to Lyndsey at lyndseymcgonigle@yahoo.co.uk.

Niall Bruton also has a shop there where he sells beautiful jewelry designs. See niallbruton.com for details. And, if you’re hungry, the Aroma coffee shop and mini-bakery in the Village offers great made-to-order fare. Visit donegalcraftvillage.com for more information.

PERCY FRENCH

Looking for a unique



Killybegs Harbour in Co. Donegal is Ireland’s leading fishing port and a fun place to walk around.

Irish experience? How about signing up for the 4th International Percy French Summer School from July 10-13 at Castlecoote House in Co. Roscommon. French was one of Ireland’s foremost songwriters and entertainers in his day (1854-1920) and, in more recent times, has been recognized for his watercolors.

The school features a program of lectures, recitals, poems, monologues, music, drama and paintings celebrating the life and times of French. Speakers will discuss the historical, cultural, social, and political context of his life and works.

Visit percypfrench.ie for more information on this year’s summer school or send an e-mail to info@percypfrench.ie.

ADVERSITY

Don’t ever think that adversity is completely bad. When Dave Pritchett’s furniture design business dropped off in the faltering Irish economy, he and his wife Sue created a dining experience in their home, Durhamstown Castle in Bohermeen, Co. Meath. Dave had workshops in the yard and a showroom in the house, so windows, doors, chairs, and tables were all made to fit into the spaces. When Irish property values collapsed, the Pritchetts were in London and talked about starting a so-called “Pop Up Restaurant.” They returned to Meath and created the Posh Nosh Supper Club, a “closed door restaurant” that serves dinners for 10-12 diners or caters private parties and functions in their vaulted castle kitchen or elegant dining room.

Delicious and different dinners are served every Friday night for 29-euro each. Overnight accommodation in funky, fun bedrooms is also available for 55-euro per person.

Has the concept caught on? Indeed it has. The Club has recently been averaging 16 to 25 diners on Friday nights and has rarely ever had to cancel because there weren’t enough attending.

A vast assortment of wines is available and every menu is different and interesting. We had dinner and spent the night at Durhamstown Castle and I can positively recommend the experience.

Sue and Dave are outstanding cooks who incorporate Mediterranean,

French Provincial, Indian, and Middle Eastern influences into their meals. Buffets are also available on some nights as are demonstration/dinner combinations.

For more information, visit their website at theposhnoshclub.com or send an e-mail to theposhnoshclub@gmail.com

VOLVO OCEAN RACE

Lucky you if you’ll be in Galway at the beginning of July for the finale of the Volvo Ocean Race and if you like music and, of course, massive crowds!

Irish rockers Thin Lizzy and the American legend The Family Stone are among the acts confirmed to headline eight nights of free live music at the docklands. The outdoor shows, from June 30 to July 7, also feature The Saw Doctors, The Stunning, and Sharon Shannon. A large stage was erected at the site formerly occupied by oil tanks near the docks, which were removed for the ocean race stopover three years ago.

The Family Stone (without Sly) headline the main stage on Sun., July 1, with a string of hits going back over four decades. Thin Lizzy, still touring extensively 26 years after the death of star frontman Phil Lynott, will bring hard rock to the main stage on July 2. The Saw Doctors rock the main stage on Tues., July 3.

On July 4, a fireworks show will light up the docks to celebrate American Independence Day, and there will be performances including the West Coast Big Band, Vaudeville Vamps, Galway Swing Dance. Performing traditional music on Thurs., July 5, will be Altan and De Danann. The Stunning performs on Fri., July 6.

Doesn’t it sound as though Galway is the place to be in early July?

EVENTS

Ireland is bursting with events and activities in the summer months, including:

- The 24th annual Earagail Arts Festival, a bilingual (Irish and English) multidisciplinary arts festival takes place every July throughout Co. Donegal and this year runs from July 7-22. For details, check the internet, visit a Tourism Ireland office in Donegal or email: info@eaf.ie
- The 7th annual Achill Half Marathon will be July

7 on Achill Island in Co. Mayo. The race is the centerpiece of a full weekend of events and entertainment on the island. See achillmarathon.com

- West Cork Festival Literary Festival, July 8-14, is an extensive program of five-day workshops, led by writers, playwrights and journalists. Workshops include novel writing, writing for the stage, freelance journalism, crime writing, song writing and more. There will be seminars, panel discussions, talks and readings. Visit westcorkliteraryfestival.ie for more.
- Do you like opera, jazz, folk music, theatre, dance, drums? If so, the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Music Festival, July 3-8, in Carrick town center, Co. Leitrim, has all those and more. All events are in the town center with venues including The Dock Arts Center, the Market Yard Center, the Festival Marquee and St. George’s Church. Visit carrickonshannonwatermusic.com for details.
- Clonmel Junction Festival, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, is from July 6-15. The festival includes international theatre, emerging theatre, children’s theatre, family entertainment, circus, dance, rock, comedy and lots of free entertainment. Visit www.junctionfestival.com for more.
- The Ballina Salmon Festival is scheduled for Ballina, Co. Mayo, July 8-15. Visit ballinasalmonfestival.ie for more.
- The Bray Air Spectacular will be in Bray, Co. Wicklow, on July 22. See brayairdisplay.com
- The National Livestock Show in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, is set for August 12. See tullamoreshow.com for details.
- Kinsale Arts Week is scheduled from July 7-15 in Kinsale, Co. Cork. See more at kinsaleartsweek.com
- The Galway Art Festival is July 16-29, with theatre, dance, visual arts. See galwayartsfestival.com
- Galway summer races are July 30 to Aug. 5. See galwayraces.com

Ireland is fun and interesting at every time of year. So enjoy your visit. For more information on Ireland, visit Tourism Ireland’s constantly updated website: discoverireland.com.



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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Last month we learned that there is no **Future Tense** of the verb **Is** as it can have a **Future** meaning.
Is: Present & Future : The Interogative **As** is common in spoken speech.

Is Ní An?/As? Nach?
The use of **Is** as a **Future** depends on the context. If you haven't seen a friend in ten years and she asks about your daughter, you can say, **Is sí dochtúr í.** "She's a doctor."
If there is some doubt about her status you might add "now" for clarity – **Is sí dochtúr anois í.** "She is a doctor now."
However, if you just sent your daughter off to university to study medicine, you might say to a friend who knows that she has several years study ahead of her:
Is sí dochtúr í. "She will be a doctor."
There are differences in the Past of **Is** depending on various dialects. The "official Irish" is on the top row. You will hear variants in dialects as the language is simplified in every day speech to match other "regular" verb forms.. These are listed below "Official Irish" in italics:

Past: "Official" Irish
Ba Níor Ar? Nair?
"Most spoken"
Ní ba An mba? Nach mba?
All form of **Is** in the **Past Habitual lenite** ("aspirate") the following **Subject Nouns** if they begin with a **consonant** other than **l, n, or r.**
Ba Shorcha banaltra í.
"Sarah was (a) nurse."
but **Ba Liam dochtúr é.**
"Liam was (a) doctor."
Ba becomes **B'** when followed by a vowel sound:
B' Arannach é. "He was (an) man from Arann."
All other forms add **-bh** when followed by a **vowel:**
NíorbhArannach é.
"He is not an Arann man."
Arbh Arannach é?
"Is he an Arann man?"
Nárbh Arannach é?
"Isn't he an Arann man?"

Note that **Nair** is shortened to **Nár** when adding the **-bh** – and don't forget when you speak or read aloud to add the "unwritten" sound. It is impossible to go from an /r/ sound to /v/ sound without making that small /uh/ sound in between them.
Níorbh is pronounced /NEER-uhv/;
Arbh is /AR-uhv/, and **Nárbh** /NAR-uhv/.
Now, let's go back to **Tá.** You have studied the **Present** and **Past Habitual** tenses of regular verbs. **Tá** also has both of these tenses.
Tá takes the following forms in the **Habituals.** The **Subject Pronouns** in parentheses are redundant and not used except for emphasis as they are incorporated directly into the **verb** form. This is true of **said**, "they", only in the **Habitual Past** where **Bhídís** is pronounced /VEE-jeesh/.

Bhídís ramhar ach bhídís siad tanaí anois.
/VEE-jeesh rohr ahk VEE-jeesh SHEE-uht tahn-ee uh-neesh/
"They used to be fat but they are thin now"

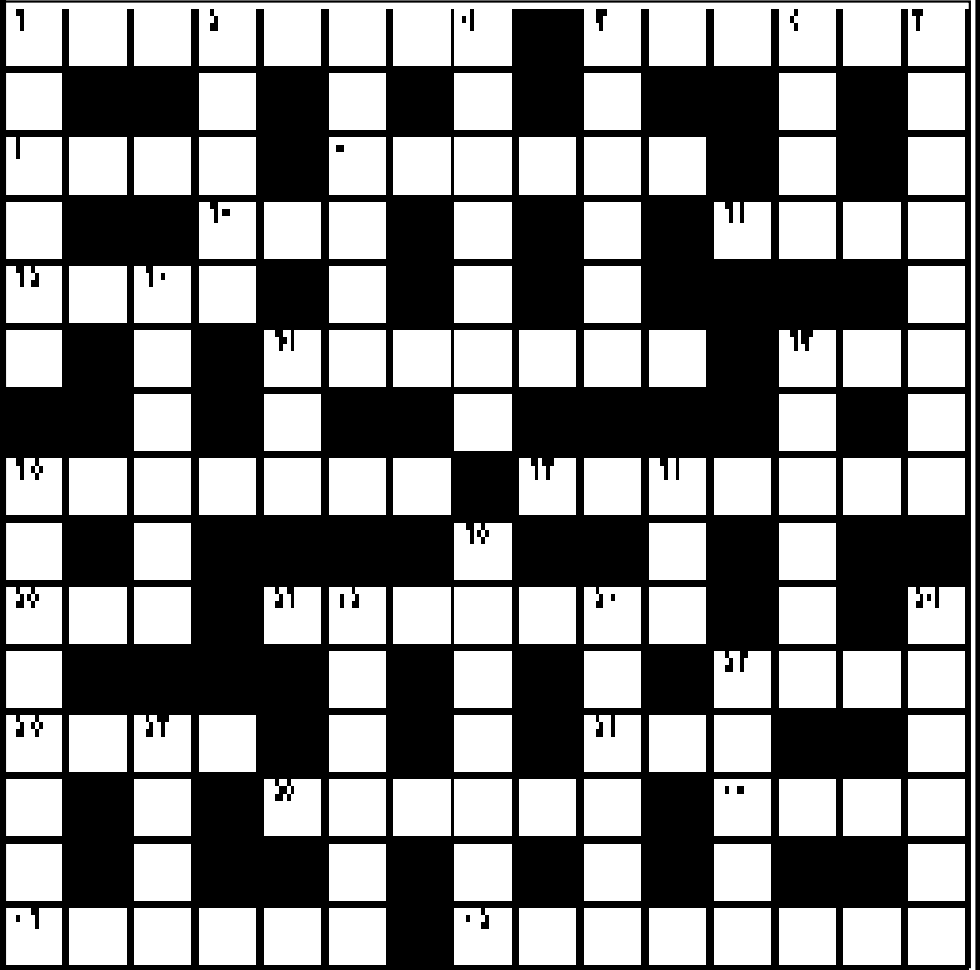
	Habitual Present (usually, normally)	Habitual Past: (used to)
(Mé)	Bím	Bhínn
(Tú)	Bíonn tú	Bhiteá
Sé	Bíonn sé	Bhíodh sé
Sí	Bíonn sí	Bhíodh sí
Muid	Bíonn muid	Bhíodh muid
Sibh	Bíonn sibh	Bhíodh sibh
Siad	Bíonn siad	Bhídís (siad)

Recall from your study of the **Habitual Past** of "Regular" verbs that the ending **-iodh** is pronounced /eek/.
Now let's practice. See if you can translate the following phrases and sentences from English to Irish.

They used to clean the kitchen" 2.) "She tied his shoes" 3.) "July is usually hot and dry." 4.) "Nora usually cleans her room on Saturdays." 5.) "What time is it?" 6.) "Sarah was a nurse in Derry." 7.) "In the autumn I will go to Belfast." 8.) "Do you speak Irish?" 9.) "I used to speak a little Irish." 10.) "They used to pick up the books at school." 11.) "Who is there?" 12.) "It's me." 13.) "Wonderful! Come in!" 14.) "It's a quarter to three." 15.) "It is usually cold in February." 16.) "Wasn't she a teacher?" 17.) "I used to be fat." 18.) "We were in Derry every day." 19.) "Eilís used to be thin." 20.) "It is hot in summer."
Answers: 1.) **Ghlanadh siad an cistin.** 2.) **Cheanglaíodh í a bhroga.** 3.) **Bíonn Iúil te agus tirim.** 4.) **Ghlanadh Nora a seomra Dè Satarna.** 5.) **Cén t-am é?** 6.) **Bhíodh Sorcha banaltra sa Doire.** 7.) **Tiocfaidh mé go Béal Fírsté san Fhómhar.** 8.) **A bhfuil Gaelge agat?** 9.) **Bhínn beagan Gaelge agam.** 10.) **Bhailidís na leabhairtha ag scoil.** 11.) **Cén atá ann?** 12.) **'S mise.** 13.) **Go hiontach! Tar istigh.** 14.) **Tá sé ceathrú chun a trí.** 15.) **Bíonn sé fuar san Feabhra.** 16.) **Nárbh í múinteair?** 17.) **Bhínn ramhar.** 18.) **Bhíodh muid sa Doire gach lá.** 19.) **Bhíodh Eilís tanaí.** 20.) **Bíonn sé te san Samhradh.**

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Government open to new Ryanair bid for Aer Lingus

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBLIN — The Irish government is keeping an open mind on Ryanair's surprise new takeover bid for the national airline Aer Lingus but won't be "shoved into a fire sale" because of the country's

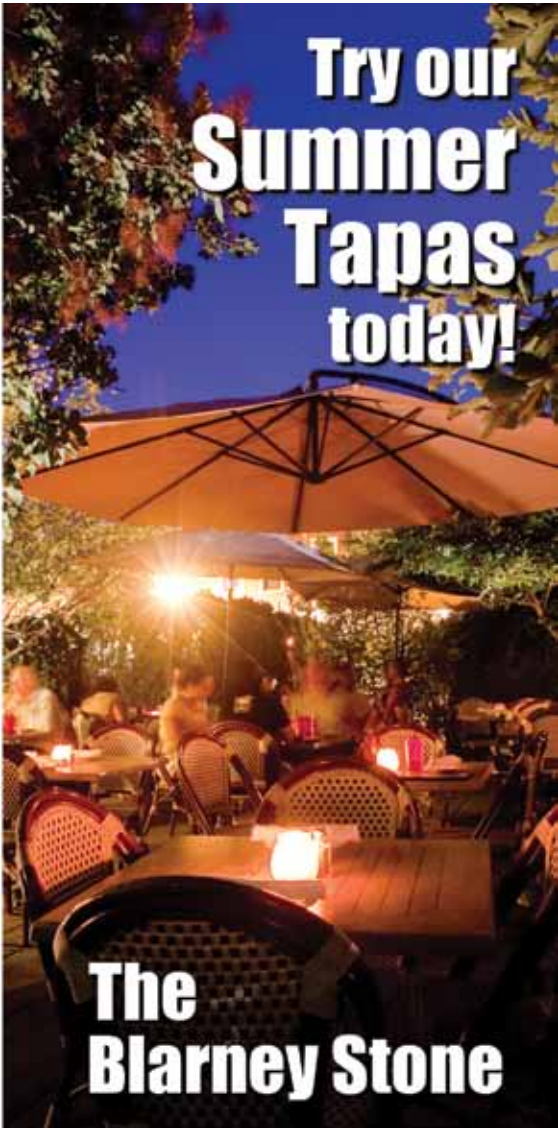
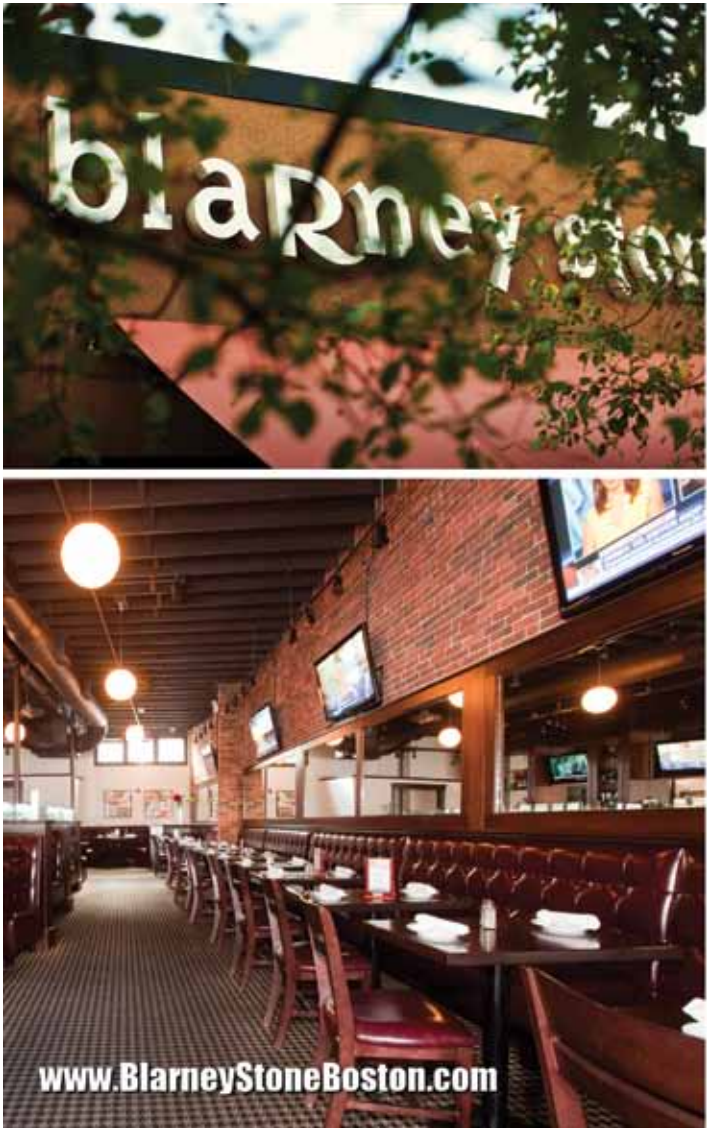
debt difficulties, Prime Minister Enda Kenny said on June 20.
Ryanair offered (euro) 1.30 (\$1.65) per share for its main Irish rival Tuesday night, its third bid since Aer Lingus' 2006 flotation. Aer Lingus shares jumped 15 percent

Wednesday to close at (euro) 1.09 on the Irish Stock Exchange. Ryanair is Aer Lingus' biggest shareholder with a nearly 30 percent stake, the government second with 25 percent.
European Union competition authorities in 2007

ruled that a Ryanair-Aer Lingus merger would create an airline monopoly in Dublin, and Aer Lingus is continuing legal action in Britain against Ryanair in hopes of forcing it to dump its stake.
But Kenny, who became Ireland's leader last year

after the country was forced to negotiate a (euro) 67.5 billion (\$86 billion) international bailout, notably did not rule out a sale to Ryanair, Ireland's most dynamic and successful business with surging cash reserves of (euro) 2.7 billion (\$3.4 billion). And he noted that the government's 25 percent stake no longer represents a blocking interest on any sale. During previous bids, an Aer Lingus employee trust also opposed Ryanair, but that trust was broken up in 2010.
"The government will give consideration to this bid. ... We don't have any veto over this," Kenny told opposition lawmakers, who appealed to him to rule out any deal with Ryanair.
Ireland is committed under terms of its European Union-International Monetary Fund loan deal to sell potentially (euro) 2 billion in state assets, including power plants, to drive its deficits back below EU limits by 2016. Ryanair's offer values Aer Lingus at nearly (euro) 694 million, meaning the government would gain (euro) 173.5 million.
Kenny said his government would sell its Aer Lingus holding only if sufficient competition on routes, fares and customer service could be safeguarded. "We're not going to get shoved into a fire sale here," he said.
Aer Lingus advised its non-Ryanair shareholders Wednesday to take

no action if they received an offer in the mail. In a statement the airline said Ryanair's offer was too low. It noted that EU regulators rejected Ryanair's first bid in 2007, while Ryanair abandoned its second bid in 2008 after too few shareholders took up the offer. "Consequently there is significant uncertainty that any offer from Ryanair, if made, would be capable of completion," it said.
Aer Lingus has struggled in recent years to slash costs sufficiently to compete with Ryanair, which is Europe's fastest-growing airline. It has suffered regular battles with labor unions, whereas Ryanair doesn't recognize them. But it did post a modest profit last year and has been expanding its own European short-haul network.
Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary argues that the government must sell Aer Lingus because it needs the cash, and would be far better off selling to another Irish company. The other potential suitor, Etihad Airways of the United Arab Emirates, this year bought a 3 percent stake in Aer Lingus and has expressed interest in the government holding.
Ryanair already has stressed that, should another airline buy the government's shares, Ryanair would happily negotiate a sale of its own holding to the winning airline.



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