

A person in a dark jacket is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that winds through a lush green valley. The sun is setting or rising, creating a dramatic sky with soft, golden light and long shadows. The landscape is filled with rolling hills and a winding river or stream in the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

irish american news  
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February • 2009

Almost 60 Years Later . . .

It's Time for Another Great Chapter in the Quiet Man Tales  
...see story page 36

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## Tom Geoghegan's Straight Talking Congressional Bid

Interview by Cliff Carlson

Tom is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School. He has represented the United Mine Workers, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, and currently works at Despres, Schwartz and Geoghegan. He has been a staff writer and contributing writer to The New Republic and his work has also appeared in the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Dissent, The American Prospect, and The Nation. His commentary has been featured on National Public Radio, Nightline, The Today Show, CBS Sunday Morning, CNN, CNBC, and PBS's WTTW-11.



Geoghegan has announced he is running for Rahm Emanuel's seat in Illinois's 5th congressional district special election, 2009.[1] The primary for the special election will take place on March 3, 2009 and the general election on April 7, 2009. His name rhymes with Reagan

Why are you running?

"I'm running for Congress because of the economic meltdown. I'm a long-time, 30 year union side labor lawyer who has been helping people get their pensions and health insurance,

and plant closings and layoffs. We have never had more of those. So I am going to Congress to bring my law practice into the public realm.

I want to argue for a higher social security payout. You know the U.S. pays about 39% of working income, the OECD developed country average is 65%. I think we can move higher towards that goal.

Second, I want to put in place single payer national health because it's not only the right and ethical thing to do, but it is vastly more efficient. We can cut the medical bills by 30% because of the overhead we have with insurance companies, and use that money to raise peoples pensions instead.

The third reason I'm running is because I am a labor lawyer. It's time America had a pay raise. The hourly median wage in this country adjusted for inflation is exactly the same as it was in 1972. While output per hour productivity has gone up 75%. Its time the country had a wage increase.

I'm running on a platform of economic security, taking non-wage labor costs away from private employers having the federal government assume those as many other European countries do, so we can have more employment in the globally

intensive part of our economy, and because that way, through economic security, through government taking these non-wage labor costs, paying out decent pensions and health care from the government, that way our industry can be more competitive globally, that's why I'm running.

You would have the banks charge manufacturing less interest?

You've got to change the way investment is allocated in this country, until we put caps on the financial firms, not just the banks but the investment firms, until we bring back the usury laws in effect that used to exist from the time of the code of Hammurabi in Mesopotamia up to the Reagan era, until we do that we are going to have these huge inflated returns to banks and the financial sector, 35% interest on some credit cards now, 2000% interest on payday loans while our manufacturing returns 4 or 5% in terms of profit, well, the investment is going to end up going into the financial sector, bloating the financial sector, sucking the capitol out of the real economy. We have to change the pattern of investment in this country by making banks behave ethically, by putting interest caps on the banks and by insuring that the returns to the manufacturing sector are such that we have investment going into GM and Chrysler and machine tool industries rather than into banks and financial firms.

When were banks allowed to raise rates on credit cards?

Have clients that come in here that have taken out a \$1,700 dollar loan they paid back \$3,000 and they still haven't paid back the principal. How

did that happen. It began in the 1960's there were exemptions in some state laws that said banks that had especially good moral character could have exemptions from the interest rate caps, but they were rare occasions—household finance and so forth. Then in the 1970's there was a decision by the Supreme Court called Bank of Omaha vs Marquette Bank, and that decision which was handed down, even by the liberal, wonderful, Irish American Justice William Brennan, said that the national banking act preempted all state laws regulating usury. So that the National Banking Act which had no interest rate cap and which applied only to a handful of banks, but banks that were issuing visa's and mastercards could charge anything they like, and because of that decision the damn burst. If banks are coming in from out of state and issuing credit cards to people in Nebraska or Illinois or anywhere else and there are no caps on them, soon everybody is going to be doing the same thing. And that was the last finger in the dike against this huge avalanche of credit cards at usurious rates in this country. It was a symbolic, almost like a brown vs the board of education Supreme Court decision that opened up the floodgates of the financial sector.

How do we get the Unions back into a good light in America?

I think most unions are really quite honest and decent institutions. No doubt there are bad actors. In my own career as a lawyer I have represented groups like Teamsters for a Democratic Union, and other groups that have fought union corruption, and I have testified to Congress about it. I am

...Continued to page 4

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Nuggets  
from the  
Navigator

Cliff Carlson



Ireland in January

Winter travel to Ireland is a good idea for Chicagoans as airline tickets, rooms and rental cars are all cheaper, and we don't think it is very cold when it is 35 degrees!

I know one thing. We Americans are needed again in Ireland. The short-lived heady days of rapid growth, greed, and prosperity have given way to caution and belt tightening in Ireland. Americans are not dumb. When our dollar hit bottom and many in Ireland started overcharging, about 40% of us stopped going. It's safe to say good values can be found again

in every area you might spend your tourist dollar. You will have to search for dining bargains, as some meals are ridiculously high priced.

We found breakfast in Dublin to sadly lacking in some places, and way overpriced! And, I still don't like paying over \$10 for a drink. That used to only happen in New York City, but times have changed! Have a lot of Irish coins with you as well, and they better be one euro and up as each euro seemed to be good for only twenty minutes.

I don't believe Ireland is officially in recession until they pick up the brass on the street! I found coins

...Continued from page 3

certainly as part of my commitment as a union side labor lawyer is a commitment to fight union corruption because I want to present the best possible institutional framework for working people to have a stake as to what happens in this economy. We can't do that without honest and Democratic Unions. One of the things that I argued for in a book I wrote called "Which Side Are You On, Trying to be for Labor When it's Flat on its Back? It was named by the national Book Critics Circle as one of the best nonfiction books in 1991 was very strongly for rank and file elections, and union Democracy, and I detailed some of the run ins I had with corrupt Union officers. But, I want to emphasize, I've spent my life fighting union corruption, but it's overblown compared to the reality of it is most union officers are practically apostle-ites. This is there way of serving other people. Most of these people, very talented, could be in a different line of work and making a lot more money.

How would you help us keep jobs here?

It's not so much keeping jobs here, as making sure that we keep investing in good manufacturing jobs. I'm not against globalization or trade, what I'm against is the way in which investment is rigged up in this country so that we disinvest from manufacturing, we disinvest from the real economy, and we over invest in the financial sector, and we over invest in gambling and speculation whether it's from casinos down in Indiana Harbor up to the Chicago Merc. There is too much gambling going on in the U.S., and it's gambling by the banks! That's why they

got into trouble. Peoples private pensions have collapsed because there all tied up in the stock. Remember when Bush wanted to have the whole Social Security system in the stock market. That was one of the things I fought against. I wrote articles about this, I appeared in Slate Magazine, and in USA Today, and the Chicago Tribune arguing against the Bush plan. What a disaster that would have been! I now believe that the most important priority for federal spending is to put money into Social Security, not just to preserve it, but actually to raise it, so that people have some alternative to the private pension system which has collapsed, and some alternative to pulling equity out of their houses, the value of which has collapsed.

Who are you running against, and how do you propose to stand out?

I think there are eleven people running. I'm the only candidate arguing for economic justice. I'm the only labor lawyer candidate, I'm the only candidate who has a message of economic security for working people.

How many books have you written?

I've written four books. I think there should be a limit on the number of books a person can write in a lifetime, but I've exceeded that. I really am arguing in different ways for the same thing in all the books which is providing economic security to working people. To provide a fair decent society in which everyone has a stake in what happens. I'm from the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party to use the famous expression about Paul Wellstone.

every day I was there. Maybe I should just look up!

Showcase Ireland

I attended Showcase Ireland with Shay Clarke last week. Irish products are offered to the trade who come from all over the world. American were in short supply. Irish shops in the U.S. are almost all suffering in this economy. Between high gas prices, low value for the dollar, and our recession, our Irish shops can use your support. Let's not lose any more shops than we already have. Make this year a year to take care of our own, and shop Irish if you can!

The Irish Book Club

Our new website www.theirish-bookclub.com is up and running. We've a long way to go, but we are now offering books about all things Irish and books exclusively by Irish authors. Give us some time to fill our shelves as we try to fill the void left when Irish

There is a lot of perceived and probably real corruption in government here in Chicago. What do you think you can do to change that image?

I think that my trying to run in this election on a platform as a Democrat I'm saying things Democrats don't normally say, very bluntly, about changing the economic model of this country in a way that helps working people is a way of changing the image of Illinois. It's important that I win this election, not because of any merits on my part or any reason why I, in particular, ought to be in Congress or even for any specific thing I could do once I'm down in Congress, but to show other Democrats that by articulating this message of economic security, increasing social security payout, bringing in single payer, putting interest rate caps on the banks in a way that no other Democrat in this race is talking about. That people will respond to that message and the party can run on that message, and that Barack Obama and his administration can carry out the reframing of the debate in this country with that message. That's why it's important that I get support for this candidacy. Every politician says 'It's not me, it's something bigger than me, and in the case of Barack Obama it is certainly true. He brought about a certain emphatic statement about the openness of our society. But, now it's important to get across a different message which is that the country has to be fair to the people that work here. It's not fair and I want to change that. I want to make a job worth something to people.

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We welcome your input.

What are the names of your four books?

I like them all. They are like my children. The first is Which Side Are You On?: Trying to Be For Labor When It's Flat On Its Back Published in 1991. Republished in 2005 with a long afterword, bringing up to date what's happened in the labor movement. The second is The Secret Lives of Citizens: Pursuing the Promise of American Life which argues what I think is wrong with the constitution of the United States, but told I hope in a charming, anecdotal street level way which got very good reviews. The third is In America's Court: How a Civil Lawyer Who Likes to Settle Stumbled into a Criminal Trial. It is a narrative description of what it was like for me to go down and try a criminal case at 26th and California. The last one is called See You in Court: How the Right Made America a Lawsuit Nation. "It's a more polemical argument as to why the Philo Powers and the Neocons are wrong. It's not the liberals who created all the litigation it's the conservatives who created it by deregulating everything. Increasing interest rates. There are probably, I would guess, 200,000 creditor/debtor cases pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County - that's one county in the United States - all because of the change in the interest rate caps and in deregulation of the country. It's led to more, not less litigation, and I've tried to get that point across to people. I think it's a pretty interesting argument. Buy the book. More importantly, I hope I get peoples votes in this election. (Tom's book can be found soon at www.theirishbookclub.com).



## Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams Praises U.S. During Recent Visit

By Maureen Callahan

Despite the aid and assistance this great nation has offered others for so long, it seems of late that the utterance of our country's name does not always trigger a tsunami of warm sentiments abroad. It was nice to hear a change of pace in this respect. The gratitude and compliments flowed as freely and steadily as draught Guinness on a warm evening last autumn in San Francisco. The historic Sir Francis Drake Hotel set a festive backdrop for a Sinn Fein fundraiser complete with President Gerry Adams as the keynote speaker.

Sinn Fein is the left-winged Irish Republican Army political party. The current party was founded in 1970, although it is decedent of a party of the same name which dates back originally to 1905. The actual party name translates into English as "ourselves," or "we ourselves." The fundraiser was a meet-and-greet of sorts, held to stoke American interest in the party's political cause. It was the second event of the day presided over by Gerry Adams. Earlier that afternoon, he had dedicated the first-ever Gaelic football and hurling field in the San Francisco Bay Area, located in Treasure Island. While there, he took some decided whacks with a hurling stick at a few unsuspecting balls. "You know, hurling is the world's fastest field game," Adams commented to the gathered crowd, working the stick with obvious skill. Primarily in town to inform the local Irish American community of the latest political news and current list of snarls the northern Irish community faces, he clearly enjoyed the hurling much more than the handshaking that followed that evening.

Windows open on that warm autumn evening, a packed ballroom waited in anticipation against the faint sound of the Union Square cable car bell ringing on the street below. It was easy to see that night how Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president of 25 years, has earned a reputation of being a good communicator and negotiator. While his presence as the leader of Ireland's oldest political movement commands a certain level of respect in itself, his humor and humble manner does much to sell his message as well. Wading through a sold-out crowd in a generally spacious hall, he politely excused himself to those he bumped into on the way to the stage, shaking hands with a fortunate few on his forged path.

"Strength. Sovereignty. Equality. These are the pillars necessary to pave the way to peace in Northern Ireland, Adams professed. Sinn Fein is the only party who vote toward



these ideals continually. We need to be a united, well-informed front and be able to keep the channels of communications open in order to make good decisions. These decisions will affect us as a party, as a presence on the world political landscape and as the voice of hope for one free, united Ireland. Such decisions will be far reaching and difficult. The most important element required will be courage. But you have never lacked courage in the past. Your courage is now needed for the future. Our struggle depends on international support. The Irish are indebted to the United States. We thankfully recognize the contributions of this great American nation, beginning with the Clinton administration and carried on throughout the Bush administration. Before these leaders, each move was much more a matter of terrorism. Progress has been slow but steady. I am proud of the recent reign of peace. This nation is a true beacon of hope to our world. Northern Ireland appreciates the efforts of the American people, and fosters much gratitude toward them."

Among other themes, Adams went on to stress the importance of the evolution of the peacekeeping process—the establishment of a new Ireland as a sovereign state; true democracy, equality and justice at all levels of economics and society, as well as a lasting and meaningful peace. He spent a few minutes on question and answer before thanking the crowd profusely for coming out that evening. With the graciousness of a true gentleman, he bowed before the hundreds gathered before exiting the stage. Turning to a line of people patiently waiting to take pictures with him, he took a few moments

with each person, seeming genuinely interested in each one's comments.

I was fortunate enough to get a few moments of his time after the address, which I greatly appreciated, since it was evident how exhausted he was. The first question I asked was one I had always wondered.

MC: "It must be difficult for you if other members (of the IRA) do not agree with you and continue to set off bombs somewhere across town

while you are signing your name to a cease-fire agreement, not knowing whether or not you will be able to honor it."

GA: "Yes, that was very difficult, but in order to keep our efforts moving forward, I must think and hope that this is an occurrence of the past. We have been fortunate with being able to keep peace in the North for almost a decade now, and I am happy with this trend. It was never easy for me to be the person signing on the bottom line, but it has been better of late."

MC: "What do you think is the most difficult part of your position as President of Sinn Fein?"

GA: "Truly one of the most difficult aspects of my job as Sinn Fein President is to be sure that I have the right people keeping a watchful eye over the party and helping to keep the party united. Above all, we must be united before we can be anything else."

MC: "How terrible was it to be locked away on The Maidstone (a British prison ship) in the 1970s after being arrested and imprisoned without trial for peacefully protesting the Bloody Sunday massacres?"

GA: "Well, what do you think? Yes, it was terrible. Four years spent serving unjustly on a prison ship infamous for overcrowding and brutality were not the best time of years of my life. But it's in the past now. We go forward, not backward."

Words to live by.

Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer living on Chicago's Gold Coast. She is a frequent contributor to The Irish American News. missmaurencallahan@yahoo.com.

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## Barack Obama's Presidential Inauguration Dublin Style

By Shay Clarke

Cliff Carlson and I left for Dublin on January 17th and I was a little disappointed that I would be out of the country during the Inauguration of Barack Obama. I did realize of course that I would be able to watch his speech on television, but I would miss out on the excitement and atmosphere here at home. I was there in Grant Park on November 4th and I wanted more of the same exuberance.

During our first few days in Ireland, many people congratulated us on our new President and it was made quite clear that the hope engendered in Barack Obama was felt way beyond the USA. It felt good to be an American again and when the invite to an Inauguration party at the Dublin home of Chicago's Rosie O'Neill came, I

was thrilled that I could celebrate this momentous occasion in some great company.

Cliff and I drove past the American Embassy on our way to Rosie O'Neill's Dublin home and there were crowds arriving at the Embassy for the official bash but as we arrived to our party, Rosie had bedecked her gates with American flags and bunting and we knew we were at the right place.

We were welcomed by Rosie herself and joined and mingled with about 40 other revelers. Tom O'Gorman, who we knew from Chicago, introduced us around as we waited for the speeches. The catering was excellent and the company more so.

It was really great to meet

again our previous Irish Consul Generals to Chicago, Sean Farrell and Charles Sheehan. They both have fond memories of their postings to Chicago and asked us to send you all their best wishes.

There was absolute silence during Barack Obama's speech and mighty applause when it was over. Our IAN editor Cliff Carlson got the big laugh of the day when during Joe Biden's swearing in, Cliff shouted out, "No more Cheney!"

I saw tears and cheers and felt very positive in the reaction of the Irish who were there with us.

Thank you again Rosie and Tom for including us at your event, we did feel very much at home.

## Ennis Book Club Festival 2009

The Ennis Book Club Festival 2009, in association with Clare County Library, will take place in the County Clare capital March 6-8. The festival programme will feature visits, readings, lectures and workshops by internationally acclaimed authors, along with drama, musical entertainment and chocolate tasting.

The three-day programme of events is expected to attract hundreds of book club members and book lovers from all over Europe and North America.

Among the many featured programmes, students from Trinity College Dublin will stage an exclusive

performance of The Trial of Oscar Wilde at Ennis Courthouse. The only other enactment of the trial, which led to Wilde's public disgrace and two year imprisonment for acts of "gross indecency," was held at Trinity College in April.

According to Ciana Cambell, of the Ennis Book Club Festival organizing committee, "The event will not only serve and reflect the reading passions of many in the country, but once again provide a significant and timely boost to the local tourism sector."

She added, "The festival presents a unique opportunity for book club members from Ireland and beyond to get together to share their joy of reading, to meet authors, to discuss books, and to have a weekend break with friends. The involvement of so many high profile authors, academics and literary figures will no doubt contribute greatly to what will be a diverse programme of events."

Tickets for all events are on sale at Glór Box Office 00353656843103 or boxoffice@glor.ie. For full details on the Ennis Book Club Festival 2009 visit [www.ennisbookclubfestival.com](http://www.ennisbookclubfestival.com); email [info@ennisbookclubfestival.com](mailto:info@ennisbookclubfestival.com) or contact 00353879723647 / 00353857758523.

## Forever Green Comes Early

The 34th Annual Forever Green, Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day bash and charitable event, kicks off a week early this year on March 6, from 5-10pm at Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand Ave. in Chicago.

Anyone 21 and older can attend, and you don't have to be Irish. The Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago's annual Forever Green party will raise money and awareness for the Maeve McNicholas Memorial Foundation, which fights pediatric brain tumors, and AAction Autism, which supports international humanitarian efforts confronting autism.

Besides contributing to two Chicago area charities, Forever Green will also feature live performances from local talents, including the Larkin and Moran Brothers, Weber Band, The Chancey Brothers, Shannon Rovers and Irish dancers. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$40 or at the door for \$45. VIP tickets will also be available for \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. [www.youngirish.com](http://www.youngirish.com).

## Win a \$10,000

### Celebration in "Celebrate Life" Contest

White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant will be giving away a free celebration worth up to \$10,000 to one lucky winner in its recently announced "Celebrate Life" contest. The contest will run through the end of February, and the winning entry will be announced at the end of March. Contestants may enter at [www.whiteeaglebanquets.com](http://www.whiteeaglebanquets.com) or by sending their name, address and phone number to "Celebrate Life", White Eagle Banquets, 6839 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Niles IL 60714.

"We wanted to remind people that there are so many reasons to celebrate life—especially in trying times, it's important to focus on the special moments and events. One lucky person will win a free celebration," says Andrew Przybylo, co-owner of the

## The Glenlivet Invites You to Wear A Kilt to Work for Charity

Last year, men around the country displayed some serious plaid—on their commute, at the office and during power lunches—to raise money for a great cause. Kilt Day was celebrated during Tartan Week, the annual celebration of Scottish heritage and its important cultural contributions—from kilts to golf to The Glenlivet.

Following last year's success, Wear A Kilt To Work Day will again support Direct Relief International, a nonprofit organization that provides critical healthcare support to the world's neediest people. Participating employers will donate funds, at their discretion, for each employee who wears a kilt on April 2, 2009. The Glenlivet will also make a special donation for every on-air journalist and public personality who rises to the challenge.

Interested companies can sign up to participate at <http://wearakilt.com>. The website features a detailed Q&A as well as information about the program and the charity.

White Eagle, "but the White Eagle can create cost-effective custom party packages for almost any budget and any celebration," he added.

Founded in 1946 by the Przybylo family, White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant has been a favorite gathering place for more than 60 years. Its spacious facility can accommodate events for groups from ten to 2000. The White Eagle also features a restaurant open to the public for lunch, dinner and carry-out six days a week, as well as a gift shop that offers unique gifts and collectibles, including a wide variety of delicate Polish crystal.

For more information on the contest, or to plan your next celebration at the White Eagle, call 847-647-0660 or visit [www.whiteeaglebanquets.com](http://www.whiteeaglebanquets.com).

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## Chicago Irish Project

In the fall of 2007, the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving Irish immigrants in Chicago, joined forces with Wellspring Personal Care, a Chicago based private duty home care agency to create The Chicago Irish Project. In the first phase of the project, the organizations developed "An Café Liteartha" (Literary Café), a Drop-In Gathering for Older Adults that provides a forum to gather and express an affinity for all things Irish. The twice monthly meetings feature guest speakers, educational programs, lively group discussion, Irish films, traditional Irish music and food. While the most visible in the Café's participant group still have strong social ties, the concern began to grow for the frail elderly who may have limited mobility, or who may have simply lost their social connections.

The second phase of the project, now underway, focuses on reaching out to this group of Irish elderly. As a field placement training site for Irish social work students for the past eight

years, Wellspring Personal Care trains students from the University College Cork and National University of Ireland, Galway. By incorporating the learning experiences available through the "Chicago Irish Project" into the total field placement opportunity, the Project hopes to attract students who may have a long term interest in the working with older adults in Ireland. In 2008, The Chicago Irish Project was recognized by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Irish government and funding was awarded to Chicago Irish Immigrant Support to underwrite the continuation of student involvement. Additionally, the Irish government is encouraging Irish Immigrant Support organizations around the country to replicate the Project's design.

What has been most impressive and an unanticipated benefit of this program has been the story sharing between our Irish students, whose generation matured during a period of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity, and the Chicago Irish Project's older adults whose memories are of a very different Ireland. The environment at "An Café Liteartha" encourages informal conversations

where there is an opportunity for older adults to openly share stories about the challenges they faced as new immigrants in the mid 20th century. Although the students have some awareness of the economic hardships that many of their grandparents experienced, interaction with these unrelated older adults serves to bridge the communication gap about the past that often exists within families.

In 2009, the Chicago Irish Project, through its incoming social work students, will focus on developing outreach and innovative programming for Irish born older adults who may be isolated or alone, and whenever possible, bringing them back into mainstream Irish life.

Submitted by: Sheila McMackin MSW LCSW, Executive Director, Wellspring Personal Care and Breandán G. Magee, President, Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

### 2009 Café Liteartha Schedule

February 5th - Sharon Shea Bossard, Author of Finding Your Chicago Irish: A guide to all things Irish in Chicago and the suburbs

February 19th - Trip to Civil

War Museum, Kenosha, WI

March 5th - Darby Morehardt, Northwestern Memorial Alzheimer's Disease Centre, Discovering the Dementia Beyond Alzheimer's

March 19th - Irish Mass

April 2nd - Trip to Notre Dame Basilica, South Bend, Indiana

April 16th - Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy, an organization dedicated to the utilization

of animals to facilitate healing and rehabilitation

May 7th - Steven Oh, CVS Pharmacist, "Pack Your Bag - Free Medication Consultation"

May 21st - Trip to Amish Village, Nappanee, Indiana

June 4th - Irish Mass

Holy Thursday falls on April 9th. If there is enough interest, arrangements will be made with St. Giles to participate with them in the evening vigil.



(From L-R) Eileen Hanley, Val Hanley (former Mayor of Galway and current President of the Vintners Federation of Ireland), Mayor Richard J. Daley, Anne Lawless, and Billy Lawless (a former President of the Vintners Federation.) The Vintners Federation of Ireland recently spent nine days visiting Chicago.

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Chicago Gaelic News

Pat Hennessy



Irish Cash for Chicago Gaelic Park

Mr. Michael Martin, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, announced recently that three U.S. cities, Chicago Gaelic Park, New York GAA, and San Francisco GAA will split \$950,000 to be used for GAA projects. Other grants are being provided for "Irish Emigrant Welfare." More than \$5 million were allocated for the U.S. through the respective North American GAA boards during 2008.

The minister also explained that earlier last year (2008) funding was directed towards a major Irish project in Boston. "Each of those projects" he said, "marks a new and exciting phase of the communities in the three cities. The involvement of the GAA is pivotal, given that the organization is a key focal point for the Irish communities in the U.S. and it must be praised for its great work within those communities."

"These investments," he continued, "are a strong indication of the

enormous value the government places on supporting our people in the U.S. and of our firm commitment in building even closer ties with the Irish-American communities." The minister went on to say that he was very mindful of how our people must have a focal point where they can meet. "These are the very people," he said, "who over the years would have sent back amounts in financial remittance to their people in Ireland and it's very important that their contributions are not forgotten."

"A green sod of our own" was the battle cry of the gallant pioneers who reactivated the Chicago GAA from scratch in 1949 and who laid a solid foundation through their efforts to establish a sound organization from the start. This was no easy task and demanded true dedication from the officers and players. They knew that the establishment of the GAA on a strong footing was es-

sential if the dream was to become a reality. In the late 70's, a more affluent time, fundraisers were organized. Liam O'Brien and his gallant committee took on the major task, and finally, with the phenomenal help of many dedicated men and women, the "dream became a reality" in the early 80's.

Today, Chicago Gaelic Park is the envy of other cities. Governed by a fine group of Gaels and a dynamic President, John Griffin, it is a beehive of activity, seven day and nights weekly. It is in good hands and the day to day activities managed by the charming Mayo lass, Marion Ryan, is second to none. In the words of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who visited a few years ago, "Chicago Gaelic Park is the finest Gaelic Center that I have seen outside of Croke Park in Dublin." High praise indeed. Beannact De ar an oibre, a cairde Gael.

Chicago GAA Mourns Loss of Pat Hackett

The Chicago GAA community is mourning the loss of one of its stalwarts, Pat Hackett, who passed away at his home recently after a short illness. Pat is survived by his wife, Delia, a native of Mayo, daughters Mary and Helen, and sons Jimmy, Tommy and Brian. Pat, who was a native of Errigal Ciaran, County Tyrone was a strong Gael and a frequent face seen at Gaelic Park where his daughter Mary is a director and frequent voice on the Chicago Gaelic Park Radio Show on Sundays. Pat celebrated 50 years of marriage two years ago with friends and family from across the U.S., Canada and Ireland and celebrated his sister's 90th birthday in Ireland

last year. He was also present in Coke Park to watch Tyrone claim their second All Ireland title. A true Gael, one who will be sadly missed by friends and family alike.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his entire family. Ar Dheis De go raibhn ainm.

Donegal Imports Celebrates its 30th

The always busy Donegal Irish Imports store at 5358 West Devon Ave. on the northwest side of Chicago, and owned by the popular Irish pair Alex and Sheila McGrath and their fine family, is celebrating its 30th year at this location and we wish them continued success and good health. The success of this Irish import store can be attributed to the friendly way in which each and every customer is treated and the attractive stock of Irish material available.

Sheila and Alex are both from Ireland and can briefly give the customer a history of each item and even a short history of Ireland if required. The customer is a friend from the start and even though he or she may be a stranger, they will be friends when they leave. Whatever gift or keepsake you require is available or can be ordered and made available in a short time. Irish books and newspapers are also available including, of course, our Irish American News and others.

So when you are in the neighborhood, or need an Irish present or keepsake, call the McGraths at 773-792-2377.

Alex is a former hurling star with his native County Kilkenny and together with his late friend, John O'Brien, played in three All-Ireland's against old rivals Tipper-

ary, winning two, 1960 and '61, and losing 1959. The 1959 final is still being talked about. Kilkenny was in front by one goal, but two "bad decisions," a line ball and "free," gave Tipp the game. The '61 final was described as "the best minor final ever" and both Alex and his friend John starred. Both Alex and John came to Chicago shortly after the '61 final and played great caman craft with Harry Bolands and other clubs.

Mayor Daley Likes Suggestion of Hurling in 2016 Olympics

In a nice letter received from Mayor Richard M. Daley recently, he likes the suggestion of hurling being an Olympic sport, particularly if it's on the schedule for 2016 in Chicago. He has forwarded the suggestion to his 2016 Olympic staff. He says, "Thank you for your kind note and for sharing your letter to the Irish Echo in support of Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympic Games. I appreciate your enthusiasm and have forwarded your suggestion regarding hurling to the Chicago 2016 staff."

After receiving his reply I was reminded that it was his father, the legendary Richard J. Daley, who arranged and finalized a hurling exhibition between two Chicago teams at the Pan-American Games held at Soldier Field in 1959. Could it be that his son, Richard M., could and would help the inclusion of hurling at the Olympic Games in 2016, hopefully in Chicago? It's a nice dream, not only for Chicago, but also for the game of hurling.

Of course, many big things would have to happen before being even considered by the Olympic Games Committee. The GAA in Dublin would have to give its approval after it being discussed and voted upon by delegates from all over the Gaelic world. And even if it was approved by the Central Council of the GAA, the governing body, it would then have to be voted upon by the Olympic International Committee. So as of now, it's just a suggestion. But it's a nice dream worth working on.

The start should begin at home base. The Chicago GAA would have to pass a resolution and forward it to the North American Board for consideration at the annual convention, if approved there, it would have to go to Dublin for the annual convention at Easter. Hopefully, Chicago will be the host city. We will know this year. Let's make a start. The game of hurling has everything to gain.


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**A Message to the Madigans**

My name is St. Dan (Dante) Madigan. I was born and raised in Stonegliden, relocated to Lanesick, relocated to Kilkenny, relocated for two years to St. Michael's Parish, Lanesick City and then onto Sacramento, California where I have been for over 40 years. However, I have never forgotten my roots as I have always returned to Ireland on a yearly basis. Thomas Moran, the poet, sums up my ongoing feelings for the spot where I was born and raised when he wrote "Of in the still night, the slumber's close has found me, Paul McCartney brings the light, Of after days around me." It's because of those strong feelings for my native spot that I have decided to set out one Madigan club of Stonegliden - a slumber talk to my the best.

Stonegliden was and is the home of the Madigans. Between the years of 1824 and 1894 (a stretch of 72 years) 332 Madigan families had 387 children baptised in Stonegliden Parish Church. During those years there was much migration and so we now find Madigans in a number of countries.

Today, Ireland has 386 Madigan families, Canada 328, Australia 627 and the USA 2882. New York City itself almost compares with the whole of Ireland in sporting 326 Madigan families.

Should you like to tap into the network I have done so for you can do so by visiting my website [www.stdanmadigan.net](http://www.stdanmadigan.net). If you don't have access to the internet, you can also contact me by writing or phoning to:

**32890 So. River Road, Clarkburg, CA 95612**  
Ph: 1-001-(916)-869-1132 Fax: 1-001-(916)-668-9284  
Email: [sjosephs@frontiernet.net](mailto:sjosephs@frontiernet.net)

I would love to hear from you and will appreciate input, information, advice, queries, etc. I will also respond to appropriate contributions. Good friend, will you please bring this to the attention of a friend of Madigan ancestry?



## Chicago Mourns Loss of Mel Loftus

Irish Americans lost a great man recently: Mel Loftus, of Chicago. Mel went to high school at Kelvyn Park where he played football and was part of the 1943 championship team. He met his future wife, Rita, at Kelvyn Park from some friends, not knowing they would be sharing over 50 joyous years together. At the break out of WW II, Mel, like many others enlisted in what was then the Army Air Corps, where he hoped to eventually become a pilot. The waiting list was too long, so he was assigned as a tail gunner with a B-17 unit in the 398th bomber group out of Northhampsted, England. The average casualty rate for a B-17 crew was 30% on a mission over Germany. Mel and his crew who still meet annually survived 28 missions. Mel earned a purple heart and was also awarded the Air Medal with five Oak clusters for his service over Europe.

Shortly after the war, Mel re-connected and married his wife of 53 years, Rita. After several different careers including a surveyor, Mel heard the pipes calling and decided his future would be in plumbing. His career began as an apprentice and he later became a Recording Secretary of the Chicago Plumbers Union, Local 130.

Mel was the guy who never said no when you needed help. Neighbors often called him when they had plumbing issues and regardless of the time, he gladly took care of those who needed help. At one time when a neighbor had a heart attack, he organized a group of local men to finish the man's home which was in the middle of construction.

Mel's wife Rita suffered a stroke during her second pregnancy, continued to have a child while she was in a coma and amazingly, they had four more children after. Mel did his best and raised six children with Rita in their North Side home in Edgebrook.

His passions were parades and Las Vegas and golf. Mel began participating in the St. Patrick's parades in 1962 and continued for the next 40 years—being honored as the St. Patrick's Parade Marshall in 1995, and also honored as "Man of the Year" by the Emerald Society. Mel also served as President of the

Shannon Rovers who he enjoyed immensely and brought them to many city and political events. Mel also was part of the team who organized the torch light parade for JFK the year he was elected president.

He had a great work ethic and was always trying to improve

his life. He sold real estate, played the accordion and, of course, worked hard to represent organized labor. He loved to entertain. Mel was known for his monologue and comedy sessions which always had you at the edge of your seat and wondering if he would say one of his politically incorrect jokes. He roasted many of friends with his witty humor.

He was a hard working, loyal, feisty and passionate man who believed in helping others and did his best to make this a better place for others—whether helping someone find work, telling jokes, organizing a parade, helping a neighbor or taking care of his family as best he could.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

### Roisin O'Shea Fine Artist

Superb Fine art prints by internationally published Irish artist Roisin O'Shea featuring the 32 counties in Ireland now available through Maggie Shea at [www.celticshamrock.com](http://www.celticshamrock.com), the sole authorised distributor of Roisin O'Shea prints in the United States and on-line. See Roisin O'Shea original paintings for sale through her gallery 'Manifesto' in Waterford City Ireland. [www.manifesto.ie](http://www.manifesto.ie)

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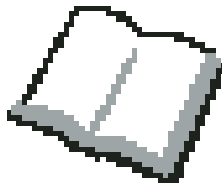
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Irish Books and Plays  
in Review



Frank West

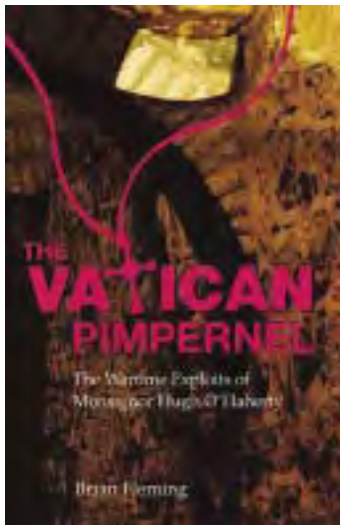


Irish Literature for 2009

The Gestapo quickly surrounded the large house in Rome. They had a watch on the house, and the Irish priest that they badly wanted to capture had been seen entering. His name was Father Hugh O'Flaherty, and they knew he helped Allied soldiers, airmen, POW's, Jews and anti-Fascists. This was during World War II and the Gestapo believed they were finally going to capture him.

When he heard the Gestapo trucks pulling up, he knew what had happened. There was no building close enough to escape to. He fled to the basement—and there saw a streak of sunlight! He realized the coal chute was open, and that coal was being delivered.

The Gestapo police let the two men delivering the coal continue. When one came inside, O'Flaherty asked him to stay in the basement. He smeared coal dust on himself and, stooped over and looking shabby with an empty coal sack on his shoulder, went out. He walked slowly, so as not to alert the police, and had the presence of mind to nod to the Gestapo police, and walked away.



I want the review to show the reader the suspense and excitement lived by this person. Father O'Flaherty was a real life hero—not a fictional character.

Pimpernel, in the book's title, comes from a 1905 novel about fictional British aristocrats during the French Revolution, and their would-be exploits of espionage.

O'Flaherty was an Irish priest working in the Vatican. He worked at his official job, but also made time

to help thousands of people hunted, first by the Italian Fascists, and then by the German Gestapo.

One of those he helped evade torture and death was a British officer who said: "Rarely has a man owed his life to such strange factors as a scholarly monsignor, with the (excessive?) brain of a business tycoon; a giant priest, with the strength of a lion and the gentleness of a lamb..."

O'Flaherty was planning to go to a rural location to bring back a sick soldier. Talk about the luck of the Irish! O'Flaherty was in his room with a couple of his helpers. They were celebrating St. Patrick's Day when the phone rang, and after listening for a few moments... he was heard to say "alright I understand... God forgive him." The call was a tip-off that a helper had informed on him and he was to be captured.

A woman who had worked with him during those years of fear and terror in Rome said of him: "He was a gentle, gentle man, he really was... a very clever and a very lovable man... a great, great man."

Hugh O'Flaherty was a man with a big heart filled with compassion for people.

These are some things I think will interest the reader.

- A diary entry of a person in Rome for May 8, 1944: "A real event took place today: we each had our monthly ration of 3 1/2 oz. of meat for dinner."

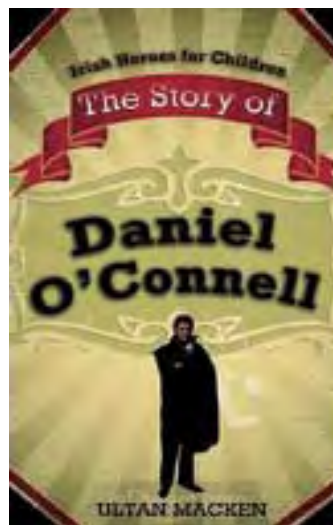
- Also in that diary for May, 1944 is the mention that the official ration of bread was about two slices a day.

- O'Flaherty formed room in his heart for sympathy for the former SS chief of Rome, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Kappler. He'd received a life sentence for the reprisal killings he had ordered.

The Italian prison allowed him visitors only once a month. The only person who visited this odious person was Fr. O'Flaherty. He visited him once a month, and wrote to him for all the years he remained in Rome. What compassion and kindness!

The Vatican Pimpernel: The Wartime Exploits of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty by Brian Fleming. The Collins Press/DuFour Editions, Cork, Ireland and Chester Springs, PA, 2009. 224 pages; \$35.95. www.dufoureditions.com.

Irish Heroes for Children



DuFour Editions is an American company that brings books from Ireland and distributes them here. The book topics are varied and the books are a low cost source of reading pleasure.

Ireland's Mercier Press and DuFour Editions are issuing a series of books about Irish heroes, meant to inspire children.

The first book in this series is: The Story Of Daniel O'Connell.

O'Connell rose to great prominence in Ireland in the early part of the 1800's. Why was he so important?

The Irish people were debased, downtrodden and demoralized after almost two hundred years of the Penal Laws. These laws were enacted by England after the Cromwellian period of the 1600's. Their purpose was to control the Irish Catholic population.

O'Connell was able to get the Irish people to see a future where they would have political rights, dignity and equality. They would

have full voting rights, could hold positions in Ireland's government, and could join professions. All of these were denied to Catholics by the British government.

O'Connell's great triumph was to show the Irish people that if they would act as one, they could end the Penal Laws. Catholic Emancipation resulted in 1829.

- Why isn't a picture included of this great man? He was a handsome, well-built, blue-eyed Irish man. Why is there only a black silhouette of him?

- The Irish masses adored him, and the British rulers realized this was a great threat to their power. They tried to buy him off with a job. "... they asked me what I wished to have alone for myself. Like a true Irishman, I answered their question... by asking them another. 'Tell me, said I, what are you going to do for Ireland?'"

This must have driven them crazy! Irish Heroes for Children: The Story of Daniel O'Connell by Ultan Macken. Mercier Press/DuFour Editions, Cork, Ireland and Chester Springs, PA, 2008. 128 pages; \$17.95. www.dufoureditions.com.

Other new books from DuFour Editions are:



Favorite Irish Proverbs and You Can Quote Me on That.

What is a proverb? This is answered in the first book. "A proverb is a short... sentence... which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views... and is handed down from generation to generation."

Some examples of proverbs contained here that I heard often when growing up are:

- "A light heart lives for a long time."
- "Good hedges (or fences) make good neighbors."
- "No use crying over spilled milk."
- "Mind your own business."
- "God never closed one door but He opened another."

Favorite Irish Proverbs Edited By Jo O'Donoghue. Currach Press/DuFour Editions, Dublin, Ireland and

**BEFORE SUNDAY**  
The Life Stories of the Bloody Sunday Victims

"They were all you know. Before he was mentioned, my brother said. Do you think you could write about their lives?" This was the request from a family member that author Jenniffer Faus fulfills brilliantly in this poignant book of character sketches.

—Verbal Magazine

"Extraordinary. Reaching into the heart of this violent and controversial event, Jenniffer Faus allows us to hear, as if for the first time, the innocent voices of those who died and those who were left behind."

—Paul Greengrass, Director, *Bloody Sunday*, United Kingdom

"This book conveys a very touching insight into the personalities who were taken from us on Bloody Sunday. Jenniffer Faus, in this book, has personalized our loss. Her commitment to the relatives of those who died has been unflinching."

—Ian Cooper, former MP and Civil Rights Activist

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**Almost Kings**

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A novel based on true events, *Almost Kings* follows the exceptional lives of three young Irish men. Join Anne Hassell on a journey of love and the ultimate betrayal.

Available at Amazon.com, Target.com, Barnesandnoble.com





Chester Springs, PA, 2008. 96 pages; \$25.95. [www.dufoureditions.com](http://www.dufoureditions.com).

Aubrey Malone compiled *You Can Quote Me on That*. It is a wide-ranging look at modern Ireland that quotes TV stars, musicians, politicians, actors, waiters, etc. The quotes are charming and often humorous.

Aubrey Malone is also the author of *Talk Nation*, which I often use. In a review of that book, I said: "This is a remarkable tool of lively and insightful quotes." That could also be said about this new book, *You Can Quote Me on That*.

These are some quotes I think you will like.

• "I once went into a bookstore and

asked if they stocked *Confessions of St. Augustine*. The assistant said to me 'Who is it by?'"

• Sign spotted in a Mayo café: "Gone to lunch. Back in five minutes. Signed: Godot!"

• "The boss of Pfizer in Ringaskiddy told me that apparently there was a roaring trade in Viagra at Puck Fair last year—which gives a whole new meaning to the expression 'horny old goat.'"

*You Can Quote Me on That* compiled by Aubrey Malone. Currach Press and DuFour Editions, Dublin, Ireland and Chester Springs, PA, 2008. 208 pages; \$28.95. [www.dufoureditions.com](http://www.dufoureditions.com).

## Schandelmeier Awarded Jane Addams Scholarship

Cathleen Schandelmeier of Chicago, a graduate student at Northeastern Illinois University studying to be a high school English teacher, recently accepted The Jane Addams Scholarship which will cover this semester's tuition.

Ms. Schandelmeier said, "I am so grateful for the recognition... I am humbled to be in any way associated with Jane Addams who is an icon of altruism and brilliant ideas... I'm so thrilled because we didn't know how we were going to pay my tuition this semester, and now it's covered!"

Ms. Schandelmeier is also an artist, poet, author, and has been



extremely active in the theatre arts from puppet-making to movie production. She also taught for the "Irish Arts Club" at the Irish American Heritage Center.

## Liam Neeson Records The Way of the Cross

Prayers & Music  
by St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori

Liam Neeson, one of the leading international motion picture actors of our day, is the featured narrator on a very special CD production for Lent, *Praying the Way of the Cross* (Available for Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009).

Neeson reads the Introduction, written by St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori, and the 14 Stations of the Cross. The 14 Stations and prayers are taken from the classic text, *The Way of the Cross* according to the Method of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the great 18th century Italian saint, doctor



of the Church and founder of the

Redemptorists. This text is used by Catholics around the world to retrace the footsteps of Jesus Christ on Good Friday.

These are the first CDs produced in the United States to feature the music of St. Alphonsus. *Praying the Way of the Cross* retails for \$16.95 (shipping & handling not included). Proceeds from the sale of the CDs support the work of the Redemptorist missions in Brazil and Nigeria. To order CDs; [www.littlelambmusic.com](http://www.littlelambmusic.com) or call 1-800-231-1207.

To find out more about St. Alphonsus and the Redemptorists, go to [www.redemptorists-denver.org](http://www.redemptorists-denver.org).

## Fourth in Series Catholic Minds, Catholic Matters Lecture at Loyola

Loyola University Chicago's Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage sponsors four 'Catholic Minds, Catholic Matters' lectures each academic year. The fourth lecture this year is entitled "God, if you are up there, prove it: Eugene O'Neill and the Absence of God," and will be delivered by Dr. Jonathan C. Wilson of Loyola's Department of Fine and Performing Arts on Monday, February 16, 2009

at 7pm in the Mullady Memorial Theatre, Loyola University Chicago/Lake Shore Campus. The lecture explores the relationship between humanity and God in the thought of Eugene O'Neill, and will include illustrative scenes performed by Dr. Wilson's students from Loyola's Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

[catheritage@luc.edu](mailto:catheritage@luc.edu) or (773) 508-3820.

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 -Maureen O'Hara

# The Quiet Man Tales

By Frank Mahon and Milissa Pacelli  
 Based on *Green Rushes* by Maurice Walsh

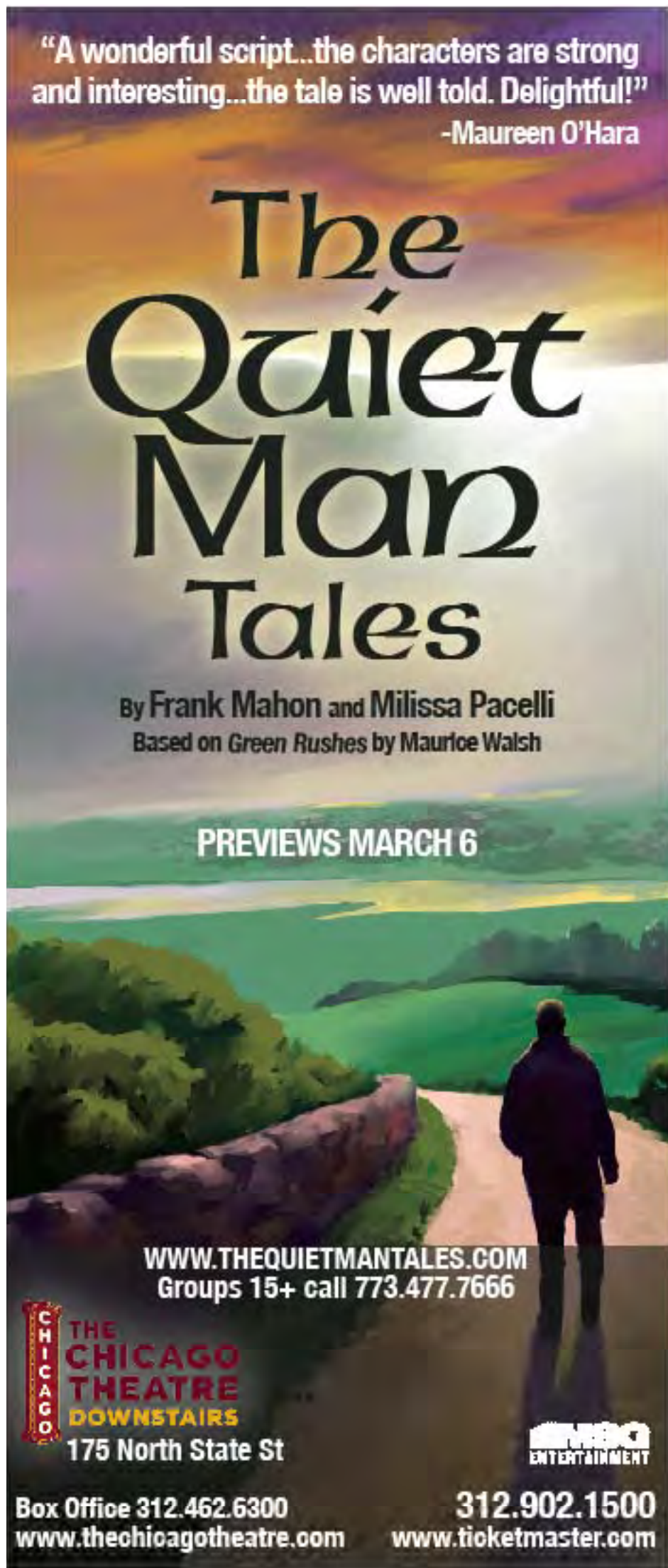
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**Calling All Kellys**

By Mike Houlihan

Honora Kelly would be proud. She's the great, great grandmother of novelist Mary Pat Kelly, who hits Chicago next month with her new book, *Galway Bay*.

Most Irish Americans of a certain age owe their very existence to their ancestors and their escape from the Great Starvation. A million people starved to death in Ireland between 1846 and 1851. Almost two million emigrated from Ireland to America.

Mary Pat Kelly says, "It's one of the greatest rescues in human history. And the victims saved themselves. They reached back, one reaching back for the next."

Many of them came to Chicago, like Mary Pat's ancestor Honora Kelly. Her story and the story of her descendents is the root of Kelly's magnificent Irish novel *Galway Bay*.

She wrote the book because "I kept being haunted by The Famine. I don't think contemporary Irish American people understand just how horrific this thing was. How the deck was stacked against them on every level."

"Nassau Senior, an economics professor at Oxford at the time, wrote that the Famine 'would not kill more than one million people, and that OD would scarcely be enough to do any good.'"

"So that was the attitude. In some ways they drove the English crazy."

In *Galway Bay*, Honora Kelly says, "We wouldn't die, and that annoyed them."

Mary Pat tells me, "I wanted to write about the survivors and who they were. I wanted to write about the courage it took to get out. I wanted to tell this Irish story about these strong women. And as you do your genealogy you start to see history in a different way because you realize that someone you descended from, lived through that. You also become very grateful to them for surviving."

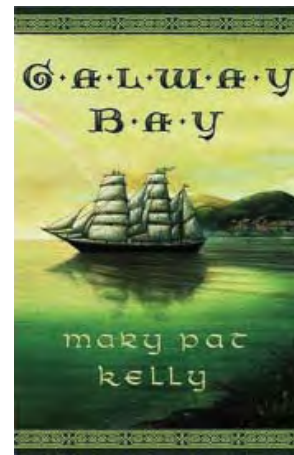
*Galway Bay* may be the story of the Kelly Clan but it's also all of our stories.

It's a story that Mary Pat Kelly has been working on for over 40 years. When she was in sixth grade her family settled in Sauganash, Queen of All Saints parish. When she graduated from high school this gorgeous Irish colleen entered the Sisters of Providence Convent.

Five years studying at St. Mary of the Woods and Sister Maura Michael took her temporary vows and was assigned to teaching at Providence High School on the west side of Chicago. It was the late sixties in the ghetto and Sister witnessed the birth of the civil rights movement. She joined right in.

"It was turbulent times but it was a fabulous experience for me. The kids were incredible. It was a huge eye opener for me. The nuns and the people at Our Lady of Sorrows, there was a lot of really good work going on in the community. It was fantastic."

It was the beginning of a life long commit-



ment to social justice.

Mary Pat left the convent. She says with a laugh, "It was kind of a mutual decision, shall we say?"

She continued working on the west side for the Poverty Program in Lawndale. "And then Nixon was elected and it just wasn't the same."

In 1969, she and her pal, Mary Beth McDonough, went to Europe. They tried to rent an apartment in

Chelsea and had the landlady slam the door in their faces when they told her their Irish names.

One night they hopped a cheap flight to Dublin to see Peter O'Toole onstage in *Waiting For Godot*. She got flustered giving change to a conductor and he finally said, "Would you ever relax? You're home!"

Mary Pat says, "And that was it. We drove into Dublin and I started to see the names and the next morning the faces, and I said, 'This is the ten o'clock mass at Queen of All Saints!'"

All the faces and the names were familiar. Mary Pat was home and fell in love with the country of her ancestors. Her insatiable appetite for Irish knowledge led her to investigate the history of the Kelly family and how they came to America, to Chicago, to Bridgeport!

She's traveled back and forth to the old country over the years and along the way established a career as screenwriter, novelist, and producer. She's written two books on her friend, film director Martin Scorsese. They met when she wrote him a letter from the convent while studying young filmmakers. They're still pals.

But always there was the spirit of Honora Kelly. Mary Pat may no longer be a member of the Sisters of Providence but providence found a way back into her life with the story of her

great, great grandmother in *Galway Bay*. It's a love story of romance, courage, and humor.

"I have such admiration for all of our ancestors and I think it's a good time to remember that we come from very strong people."

*Galway Bay* will be available everywhere February 9th. Mary Pat Kelly will be all over Chicago in March. She's calling all Kelly's to join the rest of the clan on March 7th at Calvary cemetery to honor Honora Kelly.

"Afterwards we're going to have a reception at the Polo Café in Bridgeport."

On the wall of the Mayor's Suite in the Polo Café hangs a picture of the late mayor of Chicago, Edward Joseph Kelly, the first of five mayors from Bridgeport. Mayor Kelly was another of the descendants of Honora Kelly from *Galway Bay*.

If you think you might be related as well, Mary Pat wants to hear from you. You can email her at [marypat@marypatkelly.com](mailto:marypat@marypatkelly.com).

Get in touch; providence is calling you.



Mary Pat Kelly



## Poets of Salmon Poetry at IAHC

The Irish American Heritage Center will host a group of 12 Irish and American poets and scholars for a reading and signing, called the Poets of Salmon Poetry, on Friday, February 13 at 6pm and it's free. All of the poets will read from and sell volumes of their work.

Some of the group's work focus on Irish themes and has been published by Salmon Poetry in County Clare, Ireland. They are in Chicago for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference.



Alan Jude Moore



Lex Runciman,

Salmon Poetry was established in 1981 as an alternative voice in Irish literature. Since then, more than 200 volumes of poetry have been produced, and Salmon has become one of the most important publishers in the Irish literary world.

The poets who reside in the US are: Lex Runciman, Philip Fried, Patrick Hicks, Tyler

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Forest Park

One of largest St. Patrick's Parades in the western suburbs, the 14th Annual St. Patrick's Parade will kick off on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 1pm, all along Madison Street from Van Buren to Harlem in downtown Forest Park.

Organized by the Forest Park Chamber of Commerce & Development, the parade features the award-winning Proviso East Marching Band, Medinah Shriner entries, bagpipers, area police and fire vehicles, antique cars, floats, Irish dancers, Derby Lite and more. Parade-goers are invited to visit local restaurants and pubs following the parade to enjoy bagpipers, great food and plenty of fun... and shopping Madison Street's unique boutiques, galleries, specialty shops and antique stores.

Farrell, David Gardiner, Marck Beggs, Andrea Cohen, and Eamonn Wall.

The poets who reside in Ireland are: Kevin Higgins, Alan Jude Moore, Susan Millar Dumas, and Patrick Chapman.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) or 773-282-7035.

## Cool Irish Names for Babies

Whether expectant parents are Irish, of Irish heritage, or simply love Celtic-inspired names, this book is packed full of the most popular, unusual, and creative names around. Taking readers beyond the



straightforward listings of other books, the authors give their always witty opinions on which names work, and which do not. The information given to help parents to make the right choices includes not only pronunciation guides but authoritative insights on which names are going up or down in popularity, which monikers are unisex, which names are good as middle but not first names, and which should really be avoided at all costs. This is every new parent's one-stop guide to selecting the coolest Irish name for their baby.

Cool Irish Names for Babies by Pamela Redmond. Collins UK, an imprint of HarperCollins (UK), 2009. Paperback, 192 pages, \$9.95.

# THIS WINTER, GET OUT OF THE COLD AND INTO THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Stop by for a pint at the Fifth Province, attend an upcoming concert or get into the St. Patrick's Day spirit a bit early.

**Thursday, February 5th, 8pm**

### Brian Conway Salon Concert

with special guest Brendan Dolan  
\$15

New York born fiddle player Brian Conway is a leading exponent of the highly ornamented Sligo fiddle style. The distinctness of his tone, the lift of his playing and the deft ornamentation he brings to the tunes.



**Sunday, February 8th, 5pm**

### Third Annual Matchmaking Hooley

\$12

Stop by the Fifth Province for dancing, live Irish music and matchmaking for singles. With music by Joe Cullen, Kathleen Keane and Paddy Joe Joyce, direct from Ireland.

**Friday, February 13th, The Fifth Province, 6pm**

### The Poets of Salmon Poetry

With special emcee, Salmon founder, Jessie Lendennie  
FREE

Readings and book signings by 11 Irish and American poets whose work is published by Salmon Poetry, one of the premier publishers in the Irish literary world.



**Sunday, March 1st, 5pm**

### 3rd Annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

\$40

Festivities include dancing and music by Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, a sit-down dinner, catered by Harrington's Catering, a raffle and spot prizes. There will be a cash bar available. Reservations are necessary and must be made by February 23, as the last two years have been SOLD OUT!



**March 13th-17th**

### St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Save the Date!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the IAHC with 3 days of live music, dance and family fun.

**March 13th, 7pm**

Kick off the celebration with Irish Dance Chicago, an Irish step dance concert

**March 14th, 1pm**

Come back for more fun with the annual St. Patrick's Festival, featuring a full day of festivities, following the downtown parade



**March 17th, Noon**

Not partied out yet? Wrap up the holiday with the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Fifth Province.





## Piping It In

Jack Baker



### Captain Mackey's Goatskin and Stringband

Picture this, a miserable snowy night, and I'm hunched in front of the keyboard, totally at a loss for what to write, when the phone rings. I snatch it up, happy for the diversion, and hear the voice of our good friend, Máirtín de Cógáin, "I'm stuck in terminal 5 at O'Hare for a couple hours, come out and I'll buy you a coffee," and then the line that sent

me hurtling out the door, "I've got the new CD."

If there's a CD I've been waiting anxiously for, it's the one Máirtín was referring to. It's the first CD of the collaboration of two of the best singers to ever come from Cork, Máirtín de Cógáin and Jimmy Crowley. Two great talents, two master musicians, two serious students of

Irish music and two of the nicest guys you'd ever drink a pint with. I had heard them first together last spring in Carbondale and it was magic. You'd think that two such distinctive voices wouldn't blend well but you'd be wrong. When they told me that they were working on an album, I knew that I'd have to be patient. These aren't the kind of guys who'd just slap something together to sell at concerts. I knew that they'd take their time, put in the research and come up with a classic, they've done nothing else all throughout their careers. Happily, I was right! Calling themselves "Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band", their first CD together is called Soldiers Songs: The Irish Abroad and Soldiering. Featuring 12 songs strung

### Flint Scottish Pipe Band Annual Ceilidh

Our friends in Flint, MI will be cranking it up on Saturday, February 21st from 7pm to midnight at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8428 Davison Road, Davison, MI (home of Michael Moore!) The Flint Band has been performing for 93 years and they're still going strong. This promises to be a great band dance in the fine old tradition with music, food, dancing and, oh yes, adult beverages. For advance tickets, call Juanita at 248-942-3442 or Julia at 989-892-5520 or visit the band's website at <http://www.flintscottishpipeband.org>. Here's a great band and your chance to show your support for them. Get out there and party!

(Ailie in Scotland) and where it was headed (me in Illinois). Shreds of cardboard but no CDs and, of course, no explanation. Ailie, as a struggling artist, was out a whole box of CDs and I, as a struggling retailer, had no product to sell after Bill had done a superb job of getting people interested in this new and very exciting performer.

Well, I finally got the CDs, not the first lot, of course, but a second box, shipped by Ailie while she was on tour in the US. I only mention this to share some of the frustration involved in this Celtic music industry and to explain why I have less hair every time you see me. Thank God for hats!

### Sad News

I am sad to report the death of Agnes Swinton, wife of Pipe Major Ian Swinton of Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band, on Friday, Jan. 2, 2009.

### Soap Box Time

Times are tough and I believe that no one realizes that more than the small retailer. Personally, our sales in the store were down 40% from last December. It's no comfort that all of the Irish import stores are hurting. Pubs are experiencing decreased sales, dance

schools are seeing fewer students, and festivals are tightening their belts in fear of fewer people through the gates with fewer bucks to spend. We have always rallied to each others' support in the Irish community in Chicago, and now's the time to do it again. Go buy a pint in your local pub, buy a CD or a book or something from the nearby import store, go to the Irish American Heritage Center or Gaelic Park and support their programs, renew your membership or take one out if you never have. For gosh sakes, don't buy your Irish products from the big box retailers. Keep the money in our community, they've got enough in Bentonville, AR. Remember who you are and who we are, reach out a hand to your brothers and sisters and be proud of what we've done in the past, and what we'll do in the future. Slainté!

I value your input. Thanks to all of you who have contributed, criticized and praised. You can email me at [pipingitin@comcast.net](mailto:pipingitin@comcast.net) or stop by our store at 47 S. Villa Ave in Villa Park, IL.



### Ailie Robertson, Scottish Harper

I know my good friend and mentor, Bill Margeson, has written about Ailie Robertson, the Scottish Harper, and her fantastic CD First Things First, and I want to tell you that Bill was right on the money when he said how good this CD is (just for the record, Bill's the Robin Hood of the spinning disc when it comes to finding good CDs). The story I want to relate tells a bit more of the difficulties faced by the artists who produce their own CDs, like Ailie, and the retailers who specialize in selling individually produced CDs, like me.

After a timely introduction by Bill Margeson, Ailie sent me a box of CDs so that I could start introducing American audiences to this very talented harper and her unique arrangements. I waited and waited, but no box appeared. Months went by and, finally, a wee package from the post office shows up containing a few pieces of the box, just enough to show where it came from

interludes of their theme signature Garryowen, this CD contains full lyrics and stories about the songs that will increase your knowledge about Ireland's participation in wars ranging from the Mexican War to the Congo. I was particularly moved by a lovely ballad, written by Ron Kavana, about the Irish fighting the fascists in the Spanish Civil War. "Maria de la Rosa" tells of the sacrifice of Irish soldiers and the heritage they left behind. The entire album consists of one beautifully rendered song after another, not a clinker in the bunch. A CD that's wonderful to listen to and you learn something to boot. It was certainly worth a trip through the snow to get these CDs, Thanks Máirtín!

### City of Chicago Pipe Band Open House

Ever think about joining a pipe band, but you weren't too sure what it would be like? City of Chicago Pipe Band (grade 5) has come up with a way to introduce themselves to prospective members. On the first Sunday of each month they are holding open house for their band practice. You can sit in on the practice or just observe the group and hear their music. Practice takes place at Grace Episcopal Church at 924 Lake Street in Oak Park and starts at 1:15pm. You can get more info from Steve Moore at [piobmoore@gmail.com](mailto:piobmoore@gmail.com) or call him at 708-925-1100.

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## Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle

.../lethekettle@irishamericannews.com



### Harry Brown

In the November column, I mentioned VJ Day and St. Mary's School in Des Plaines, IL. Several days later, I received a letter from Harry Brown who graduated St. Mary's in 1944 with my sister Margaret, along with Rosemary, and Peggy Mulroy. Harry was kind enough to send me the graduating picture of St. Mary's class of 1944 which I shared with my family, and our extended family, the Mulroys. Many thanks!

### Chicago City Sticker

Brittany Byrne, the senior from Resurrection High School won second place and a \$500 prize in the art competition for the Chicago city sticker, "Dog Friendly Chicago." Congratulations Brittany. Her auntie is Theresa Choske who arranges poetry programs at the IAHC.

### Kennedy Center Honors

Among the honorees this year was Morgan Freeman who is one of the greatest actors I have ever seen, and whose philosophy on equality is an example for all to follow. He never believed in affirmative action. He viewed it as a form of self-degradation.

### Conor Cruise O'Brien:

1917-2008

This Irish iconoclast left a few scars in Chicago when he spoke at the IAHC on October, 13, 1991. The same day that Mary Robinson visited the center and dedicated the museum. There were pickets across the street objecting to his presence on the program. He departed before the president arrived.

Conor Cruise O'Brien was opposed to Catholics in the Republic supporting the IRA in the North.

### Charity

I'm growing weary of being inundated with greeting cards, note cards, memo pads, and most of all, address labels. The psychology is to make you feel guilty if you do not donate. Enough! Please stop!

### Chicago's Turkeys

Bobby Rush introduced racism into the appointment of a replacement for Barack Obama by saying, "Don't lynch the appointee." Using the term lynch

in reference to the Roland Burris appointment. At this writing Roland Burris is being sworn into the U.S. Senate this very day. Roland had this to say at a rally that took place in Chicago telling his audience, "The Lord put his hands on the governor, and told him, I was the one!" Holy Cow! Divine providence! Holy Crap! In the Daily Herald it was reported that the better government association said in his 1998 bid for governor Burris was caught on video tape telling black supporters his opponents were, "non-qualified white boys." Burris apologized for the statement. Burris has recently insisted he never played the race card in his public career. Laura Washington, columnist for the Sun-Times had this to say, "Racial politics can be an effective tool in the African-American arsenal for advancement, but securing a fatter pension for another Democratic Party hack is a frail substitute for Black progress. Chicago Tribune columnist, Eric Zorn, had this to say, "Yes, it's a poultry fest—one of the biggest turkeys in Illinois political history will have placed one of the silliest roosters in Illinois political history in a luxury coop on Capitol Hill. Both birds should be ashamed of themselves. Neither are. This was Blago's revenge. He foisted Burris on us.

To what end is Bobby Rush

supporting the governor's appointment of Burris? Rush is also a reverend who founded two not-for-profit organizations in Englewood. One of which is the Beloved Community Family Wellness Center which is a federally qualified community health center. The Wellness Center has received more than 2 million in state funding over the last three years, and his family service agency has received \$250,000 in state funds. I think it's time for us to form the Green Panthers. We have the Pink Panthers, the Black Panthers... why not the Green Panthers?

### Poland?

No Irish Need Apply? My first cousin tells me a couple of the lads from Kerry went to Poland looking for work now that the Celtic Tiger is limping. Unfortunately, they were told they were not welcome, and invited to leave at gun point.

### Minergy Corp.

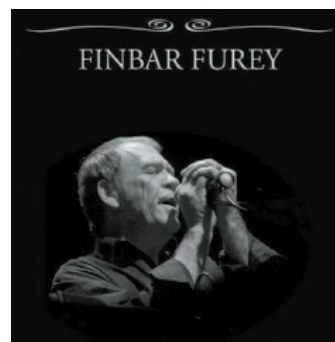
My good friend Louis O'Regan from Carrigtwohill, County Cork, has purchased Minergy Corp., from Wisconsin Energy Corp. The company developed vitrification technologies for recycling high volume wastes such as municipal biosolids, industrial sludges, and contaminated sediment in soils. The purchase and sale agreement includes all intellectual property, patents, and physical assets of Minergy Vitrification LLC. Congratulations Louis! The O'Regan family donated a bust of Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork City, who died on hunger strike in Brixton Prison, to the Irish American Heritage Center several years ago.

### Barack Obama

Since this column is being written before the inauguration, this is truly a great day in the history of the United States when our first black president will be sworn in. The black community is justifiably proud of this momentous occasion. Hopefully, this will be a starting point for improved economic opportunities for all people, and we can leave the divisions of the past in the past.

### Finbar Furey Releases New CD

Legendary singer and songwriter, Finbar Furey, will be releasing a new CD this month. Called simply, Finbar Furey, the CD is a collection of songs written by Finbar, old and



I remember how the Irish community felt when John F. Kennedy was elected President.

### Mel Loftus

We have lost another great Irishman. Mel Loftus, coordinator of the downtown St. Patrick's Day parade, has gone on ahead. Mel had a great life—a full life—surrounded by family and friends, and the absolute joy of being Irish.

new, and features the track "Railway Train" written by his son, Martin Furey, who is currently performing with the High Kings.

Finbar will be touring in March 2009 on the east coast.

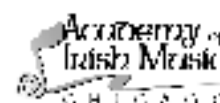
Aine Furey, Finbar's daughter, is releasing her first CD in the US called, Cross My Palm. Aine's voice has been called "the voice of ages" by the Irish press and her talent shows in the singing of the traditional, "Sligo Fair" and John Prine's "Hello in There." Aine will be touring the summer festivals.

Both CDs are on Cosmic Trigger Records, www.cosmictriggerrecords.com and will be available in stores and online everywhere.

## WANNA PLAY?

Young musicians come together to play Irish Music... and have a great time too!

The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music and making new friends.



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Mick

Mike Morley



may recall that Dennehy also played a priest, Father Spagnoli, in the 2005 Hollywood dramatization of the priestly abuse scandal in Boston.)

Thankfully, Malachy's role as "Father Connell" is brief. He appears in a confessional booth, so his face is in shadows. And he gets out only a few words in his unmistakable brogue before the killer cop blasts him out of the box into the aisle, dead. This leads to the piece de resistance, the movie scene to cap an actor's career.

The killer rolls the fallen priest over and yanks down his trousers, exposing to the world his rosy-cheeked, smiling white bottom; and quickly places something midst that pale moon.

I wonder if Malachy as malefactor was replaced by a "body double" for this swan song scene. 'T would be a pity, for the performance was a long leg up on Platoon with Charlie Sheen, whose helmet carried the sentiment: "When I die, bury me upside-down, so the world can kiss my..." Malachy, on the other hand, not only gottopresenttheactualglutealglobe to uncounted multitudes worldwide; but in a signal achievement for an Irishman, proved capable of produc-

ing poetry from his posterior.

In his final appearance onscreen as the slain perverted priest, he, of course, has no lines. But then a detective reaches down and plucks a note from the bugger's bum. Lo! It's a bit of doggerel, a pithy poem... Extraordinary! Scene stealing! A performance more eloquent by a mile than famous French vaudeville (f) artist "Le Pétomane" who regularly out-grossed (box office-wise) Sarah Bernhardt. He wowed audiences at the Moulin Rouge producing from his talented tuchis musical interludes such as "Au Claire de la Lune" (By the Light of the Moon) and virtuoso sound effects, including his curtain-call finale, a rendition of the San Francisco earthquake.

Was it malicious of Malachy to take the role? Absolutely not; it was surely "great craic." And it's nothing new that movie and TV moguls now routinely portray priests as social outcasts lower than Nazis.

World War II ended in 1945 following the torture and butchering of fully 56 million men women and children worldwide. Yet, by 1958 Hollywood was pushing "good Nazi" or "victim Nazi" characters, like Lt. Christian Diestl played by Marlon Brando in Edward Dmytryk's\* The Young Lions. But could you imagine California's factories of American culture releasing a TV series with a bumbling, humorous gay priest character (Felix Culpa?) akin to Sgt. Schultz in Hogan's Heroes? I doubt it. But then again...

I have mentioned before in this space the near total ban by American media on informing the public of the results of a lengthy investigation by Associated Press into widespread sexual predation by teachers and administrators in American public

schools. That three-part AP series was to have run nationwide in October 2007, but was carried by few outlets, and mostly in heavily edited versions.

Unheralded in May of 2008, the Education Writers Association met in Chicago and duly awarded Martha Irvine and Robert Tanner of the Associated Press its Fred M. Hechinger Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting for their Teacher Sex Abuse series. Accepting the award, Irvine proudly noted that day one of the series made the front page of 90 US papers. But with 1,422 daily newspapers and 6,253 weeklies in the US, that adds up to only 1.2% of all papers in the country.

It's curious that on Jan. 8 this year, MSNBC.com on its home page carried a news link: "Sex misconduct plaguing schools," which led to the original part one of the 2007 series, including the old dateline. Whether this was way-late hindsight CYA by MSNBC or the act of a mischievous webmaster, I can't say. The URL: [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21393280/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21393280/)

\*Incidentally, Dmytryk, a lifelong leftist, was one of the "Hollywood Ten" who "sang" to the House Un-American Activities Committee, fingering others in the movie industry as communist.

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Angela's Arses

I recently picked up a new video, Righteous Kill, thinking, with both Pacino and De Niro starring, and Brian Dennehy supporting, it must be at least worth a watch. And with its theme of renegade cops liquidating bad guys, I figured it to be perhaps a remake of The Seven-Ups, a 1973 Fox film produced and directed

by Philip (Bullitt, The French Connection) D'Antoni, starring Roy Scheider as a renegade policeman. That great actioner also starred an old school chum of mine, Richie Lynch, as "Moon," playing an ultimate bad guy. Incidentally, Lynch had made his film debut with Pacino in Scarecrow earlier that same year, before the latter landed the title role in Serpico.

But Righteous Kill producer/director Jon Avnet is no D'Antoni. Quick cuts and tight close-up action are supposed to make you believe that partners Al and Bob are really kicking arse as they lumber about with bad knees, wrestling the bad guys. The only "moon" in this production was provided by another guy we know: Frank McCourt's brother, Malachy, who makes a brief appearance as a character that has lately become a stock low-life Hollywood villain—the Catholic priest. (You

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I'm afraid my family tree could be full of nuts.

I've been doing a genealogical study on the roots of my tribe of Hooligans and our connections to the Emerald Isle. Brian Donovan is the genealogist at the Irish American Heritage Center and he's been advising me.

Turns out the ancestral home was in Kilrush in Clare County. I know a man from Kilrush. They call him "The Man From Clare." There is only one man that can justifiably call himself that, and his name is P.J. O'Dea.

But, The Weirdo From Clare is a title I could inherit from my ancestors very easily. That's what worries me.

I lay on the couch one night last week in front of the fire, and contemplated what skeletons I might find in the family closet.

The genealogist entered the dusty old library and swept the cobwebs from a large book with the family crest on it. He dropped it with a thud on the big oak table in front of me.

The coat of arms was an illustration of a man up to his neck in water playing a kazoo. That didn't bode well.

Mr. Donovan said, "Apparently your ancestors were quite an eccentric clan. I don't think I've ever uncovered so many crimes of bestiality in a family tree."

I cringed as he opened the book and pointed to a painting of a one-toothed man smiling next to a horse.

"This is Cornelius Aloysius Hooligan, your great, great grandfather. This is his wedding portrait."

I shrugged, "Why isn't his wife in the picture?"

Donovan turned and peered over his glasses, "That is his wife!"

The horse???

"Yep," grunted Mr. Donovan. He turned the page to show a picture of a woman, half-dressed in a military jacket and an officer's cap sat saucily atop her red curly locks.

"This is your great, great aunt Finoola Hooligan. She slept with the enemy."

Who was the enemy?

"A squadron of the British Navy that was in port in Limerick."

Was she married?

"Yes, she told your uncle Seamus she cavorted with the sailors in order to infect them with lice. She was doing her part for the cause."

Did Uncle Seamus believe her?

Mr. Donovan frowned, "According to press reports from that era, Finoola Hooligan had the whole town scratching their... heads over it."

She is pretty sexy lookin', except for that big wart on her neck.

"That is a goiter. Her lovers would play with it while she serviced them."

Oh my Lord!

Mr. Donovan winked, "She had a double-jointed daughter named Naomi who took on the entire IRA in Killrush one night after a wake for one of their patriots."

God bless her lovely soul.

He turned the page and a bat flew out from in between the next two pages.

Mr. Donovan grimly pointed his finger to the top of the page and a sepia-toned photograph of a man dressed in Elizabethan garb wearing a plumed hat and brandishing a sword.

"And this is your grandfather. Rory Rex Hooligan, the actor."

He looked like me, only fatter!

When did he die, Mr. Donovan?

"He was killed in a Dublin riot at the Abbey Theatre one night in 1857. He showed up drunk for the performance, and passed out in the middle of his one-man show after soiling himself on stage. The incensed crowd tore him to pieces."

It was beginning to look like my roots were rotten. I cried out, "This is nuts, every one of my Irish ancestors on the Hooligan side were either scoundrels, scalawags, or tossers!"

Donovan chuckled knowingly, "Yes, well, it would seem that most of the Hooligans in Ireland in those days left their mark on the world. However, there is some hope."

He peeled back the last page of the old book and wiped the spider's web from the photo of an old nun. "This is your third cousin, Agatha Ann Hooligan, who took the name Sister Mary Chastisement when she entered the Carmelites."

Oh, well that's more like it. She looks very holy.

"Holy doesn't begin to describe her. According to the parish history she held the record for saying the most rosaries in a single day, twelve hundred sixteen, on May 1st, 1892. She had a diverse wardrobe of hair shirts and crawled on her knees to Knock from Killarney over fifty times."

Wow!

"She makes Mother Theresa look like chopped liver. But she was never canonized because of a rift with Pope Leo XIII."

Whaddya mean?

"According to the history books, Sister Mary Chastisement, demanded that the Pope put in a petition for additional purgatory time for all Hooligans. Evidently the average stay in Purgatory for a Hooligan is forty years, but your cousin Agatha wanted it doubled."

Hey, what the hell? By now I was screaming ...and that's what woke me up.

Oh... thank God, it was only a nightmare. I haven't even met Brian Donovan in person yet. Sure hope he's got better news than in my dream, because I'm heading to Ireland March 2nd with my book, Hooliganism, and hoping to find some long lost cousins in Clare.

We're making one last book tour stop at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, March 1st, before we go. Hope to see you all there for the send-off.

Chicago Irish email me at Houlihan@aol.com for February updates on our book tour. Or buy the book and DVD of GOIN' EAST ON ASHLAND online at www.mikehoulihan.com.

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## Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Well, here it is. The last column before next month's Top TIR Awards, (Tradition in Review). We think this will be the 20th Top TIR Awards listing. Doesn't matter. What does matter is that these Awards are from The Chicago Irish-American News. Anyone who knows anything about Irish music knows that Chicago is the second biggest Irish market in America, trailing only Philadelphia—and a long, long way ahead of Boston or New York in terms of Irish and Irish-American population. Did you know that? Check the 2000 census figures, Bridgid. It is all there. Anyway, these Awards are eagerly sought, therefore, as they have that bit of flash being from such a mega-market and all. It has been a stellar year for the music, and we will wrap it all up for you in next month's issue! Speaking of which, we must now discuss Derry singer, Maranna McCloskey.

Maranna is from Dungiven in Co. Derry, and is herself a two-time

winner of a Top TIR Award for Newcomer of the Year, and Composer of the Year for a brilliant song she wrote and recorded a few years back on a fab little mini-album she put out. The song was Fraser Island. All about this magical little island in Australia. But, we are not here to rehash old victories, but to discuss new ones. Let's finally get to the point!!

Maranna is just out with her first, full length solo album, At Last. Aficionados may remember her vocal work with the Northern Irish band, Oige. Maranna replaced Cara Dillon in the group when Cara went off to start a solo career that has been very successful, indeed. Unlike Dillon, Maranna has a gorgeous alto of a voice, redolent of a young and vibrant Dolores Keane. Four of the songs are from Maranna's pen as well as voice. The album is very trad, and very modern at the same time. A couple of the tunes even feature a sax! But, we feel—and there is room for disagreement here—

that her voice is best on the purely traditional tracks. Anyway, we feel that way today. We have a new fav on this album every day because we listen to it every day. Her grasp of the tradition and her song writing skills are superb. But, that voice! Oh, that voice! Let's talk about That Voice.

It is completely unlike so many of the female Irish singers' voices which are thin, reedy, weak, nasal and emotionless. We could name names. We won't, as usual. But, then—here comes Maranna. Not just an alto, and not just a gifted alto. The key word here has to be "warmth." Her voice is immediately and completely accessible. Indeed, it takes no effort to love her voice—it would take real effort not to love this voice. A treasure, we tell ya, a treasure. As of this moment in time, our fav song has to be the traditional favorite of so many, the evocative "The Home I Left Behind." But, we are also nuts about her version of "The Verdant Braes of Screen," "Ca Raibh Tu Ar" (Where Were You Throughout the Day?) or her very own title track, "At Last." Good heavens, this gal can write a song. She has also written an exquisite instrumental air, called simply, "The Cashel Air" for her native town land in Derry. Stunning.

The entire project came together when she met Brian Baynes at a concert in San Diego, of all places. Fast forward. The album ends up being recorded at his Avoca Studios in San Diego, requiring some flights by Maranna back and forth to California.

"The flights were lovely," recalls Maranna, "as I got to really work on the songs' arrangements and lyrics, fine tuning everything. Besides that, it gave me the opportunity to work with Brian, who is a genius!" Unquestionably, the album and its production offer a really well-balanced and well-engineered listen to That Voice. We also get to hear from Eric Rigler—he of uilleann piping fame for his work in the movie, Titanic. In the midst of this was also a wonderfully received performance by Maranna with the San Diego Symphony. Dungiven. California. The San Diego Symphony. Australia. Fraser Island. This girl is on the move!!

So, here it is. At Last. Get it from The Rampant Lion in Villa Park. Call 630-834-8108. cdBaby has it, also. iTunes has it. This is an explosion of a huge new talent in the music. The album, true to its title, has taken a while to get here. Nothing, mind you, in the range of the nine years it took Dennis Cahill and Martin Hayes to release their album last year!! But, long enough. It was worth the wait. Truly. This is a voice and a talent and a woman who will be with us a long time. Magic. Now, get on the phone or online and get it.

This is a woman at the peak of her powers. A truly, deeply unique and wonderful voice. And, there you sit. Go on! Get up! Call! Post! Get it, if you love the music and want to stay ahead of a major new sound from the horizon. Maranna McCloskey is here. Now. An extraordinary woman with

an extraordinary album for you. Rating: Four Harps—what were you expecting?

Notes:  
• Are you listening to Blarney on the Air on Monday evenings from 7-9? Hmm? Shay Clarke and I offer you the best in Irish music, great fun and a weekly visit from The Celtic Love Doctor. WDCB 90.9fm. Or, you can listen "live" online at [www.wdcb.org](http://www.wdcb.org). OR, you can listen to the archived weekly program at our website, [www.blarneyontheair.com](http://www.blarneyontheair.com). We can do nothing about Shay's abysmal ignorance of the music, but we ARE making progress with his ADD therapy and medications.

• We hope you can make the following concerts, where I will be introducing the following major music acts! February 13, the bohola Anniversary Concert at The Old Town School of Folk Music—February 27 at Old Town with Dervish and Hayes and Cahill— The David Munnely Band, March 6, 7 and 8 at McAninch Performance Center at College of Dupage—the Friday and Saturday shows are sold out—and Lunasa March 22 at Old Town again! Come on, Bridgid, get up and be there!

• Big news, late addition! Matt and Shannon Heaton with John Williams!! Thursday, February 12 at the wonderful, Space, in Evanston. Bargain of the century, only \$12 in advance! Go to [www.evanston.space.com](http://www.evanston.space.com) See you there at 8:00!

\*Ta!

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## Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



### In Dublin and Dubliners

Here I am writing my column ten days late and at 32,000 feet. Sure, I'm always late. I nearly missed the flight this morning in Dublin Airport. American Airlines were calling my name over the P.A. System. "Would passenger Clarke, traveling to Chicago on American Airways please board the flight," but I was in Heaven already, having spent the last half hour in the presence of John Sheahan, Eamonn Campbell and Patsy Watchorn of The Dubliners. The lads were on their way to play a gig in Glasgow, Scotland and were having a quiet coffee as they awaited their flight. But "yours truly" was at the next table.

I was torn between being an ultra cool European and leaving these men alone, or being myself, a lifelong Dubliners fan, and I won. John and Patsy and Eamonn shook hands, chatted, and posed for photographs as I told them about our Irish American News and our radio show on WDCB, Blarney on the Air.

John gave me a copy of an album that he has recorded with the Young European Strings Chamber Orchestra, called the Marino Suite, and he also gave me a copy of a poem he had written for Ronnie Drew, leader of the Dubliners for many years, who had died from cancer last year. It's a beautiful poem and I will share it with you here.

#### Ronnie's Heaven

What's it like Ronnie – your new life?  
Is it the way the old masters painted it –  
Floating on a damp cloud  
In the company of winged creatures  
Listening to non-stop harp music?

I could paint you in,  
But not your expectations:  
"Would somebody for Christ's sake  
Get me down from here and show me  
The fountain of champagne—I thought this  
Was meant to be a celebration!"

I'll paint you a different picture instead:  
I see your spirit, freed at last  
From earthly shackles.  
Soaring to a new consciousness—  
Communicating with Kavanagh  
Without the encumbrance of words;  
Without the embarrassment of being barred  
From four Baggot Street pubs...

All is clear now...  
Ulysses simpler than the Lord's Prayer;  
Beckett no longer waiting for Godot,  
And Joe O'Broin sidling over  
With an impish grin:  
"How'rya Ronnie, you brought me fame at  
last.



(l to r): Eamonn Campbell, Shay Clarke, John Sheahan, and Eamonn Campbell Patsy Watchorn.

I heard Cliodhna and Phelim picked me  
poem  
For the end of your mass,  
But you needn't have hurried...  
There's no closing time up here—  
Just one continuous holy hour."

Now Deirdre comes into focus,  
Bridging a painful gap of fourteen months.

Unhindered by bodies,  
Your spirits embrace and entwine  
In a never-ending spiral of joy,

Leaving behind the three  
Great imponderables that tortured you:  
"What is life?"; "What is art?";  
And "Where the fuck is Barney?!"  
© John Sheahan, Aug '08

It really was a lovely visit we had with the Dubliners and as American Airlines called my name once more to board their flight, I dragged myself away from these musical icons and scampered after our IAN editor, Cliff Carlson, towards the boarding gate. I felt way higher than our cruising altitude even before we boarded the plane.

Cliff and I had arrived in Dublin one week before that, and were there visiting some of our clients at the Showcase Trade Show, held annually at the Royal Dublin Society grounds in Ballsbridge, Dublin. We were glad to leave the bone chilling, snow-shrouded, frozen tundra of Chicagoland for the almost spring like weather of my fair city. And before I go on about how had we worked at the trade show, OK... Yes there were pints involved, lots of them, but only after work. We had pints in Kileys in Mt. Merrion, Roly's in Dundrum, O'Dwyers in Kilmacud, Johnny Fox's in Glencullen, The Mill House in Stillorgan, Grogan's at 15 S. William Street, The Shelbourne Hotel on St. Stephens Green, The Old Schoolhouse on Northumberland Road and in

O'Donoghue's on Merrion Row and that's that—no more questions.

We stayed with my mother, God Bless her, who looked after us royally. We used her car for the week as we tripped in and out of the city. We celebrated the inauguration of Barack Obama in the good company of fellow Chicagoans Tom O'Gorman and Rosie O'Neill along with two of our previous Consul Generals, Sean Farrell and Charles Sheehan. It was good to be there. Thanks again Rosie.

Charles Sheehan explained the European Forum to us and he showed us around the State Apartments in Dublin Castle. It was a trip down memory lane for me as I had once worked there many years ago. Thank you Charles, it was wonderful.

As usual, family and friends flew by during our hectic week but of course it was great to see my grandchildren and how quickly they have grown. Arrangements were made for family visits to Chicago and I am delighted to tell you that more of them are coming over for vacations this year than last year. We saw no visible signs of recession at all and I explained to Cliff that Ireland seems to thrive and reinvent itself during times like these... they always have before.

Hearty Irish breakfasts in my mum's,

creamy pints of Guinness in Grogan's, prawn cocktails and mussels in Johnny Fox's, and the good company of family and good friends, made this a memorable trip. Oh yes, we did get the business taken care of too, but that's another story.

The weather was damp but not wet, cool but not freezing with a certain feeling of Spring in the air. I suppose the trip home in January breaks the winter a bit and of course February 1st, St. Brigid's Day, is the first day of spring in Ireland. Another sign of spring, of course, is American Idol back on the telly. I know, I know!

Enough guff, these are serious times we live in, and all the number crunching and belt tightening don't seem to make a lot of difference, as business after business go to the wall and more jobs are lost, and it's not only the nationally known companies that are in trouble—we are all in the same boat and there are many small Irish businesses needing our support now more than ever. What we have together, our Irishness, does not just depend on St. Patrick's Day. Irish pubs, restaurants, Irish stores, tradesmen, clubs, organizations, musicians, and dance schools are all threatened by this economy. So, again, I urge you to support these businesses and organizations, many of which are advertisers or are mentioned in this paper.

#### Next month

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Leave People to Grieve  
—And by the way, Stop Killing.

Let's get this out of the way first. In the wake of his son Jett's terrible and untimely death, John Travolta and his wife, Kelly should never—never—have had to put up with the barrage of speculation, innuendo and sheer downright maliciousness that was aimed at them after the passing of their beloved sixteen-year-old son.

time when they are grieving. And to my fellow journalists that found it appropriate to attack this bereaved couple I would ask if you have no shame. No shame at all. As for this photo of Travolta kissing his male friend, what the hell? I kiss male friends routinely when I'm in France or Italy. It's acceptable and doesn't mean that we'll be swinging from

the chandeliers together half an hour later.

I don't do it here mind you—it might just get you a severe beating in some of the places that I hang out in.

Scrub that—a VERY severe beating. But again, what the hey? I'm bigger than most of them. Well, heavier anyway. And they think I'm looney tunes in any case.

I'm not a Scientologist either. Their beliefs sound totally crazy to me, but certainly no crazier than believing that a man can rise from the dead after three days in a tomb. If it comes to that, it's no barmier than believing in reincarnation or the complete insanity of the Muslims or even believing that the world was created in six days by the Tooth Fairy or whatever he was.

I'm just saying: "leave these poor people to grieve."

We have enough problems with our own bunch here are at the moment. Well, look at John Magee of Cloyne. He's supposed to be a Bishop of that area but in the same way that I don't refer to the many fine priests that I know as "Father" because that would do a disservice to my own late and REAL father, I don't recognise the self-serving ring-kissing nonsense of calling anybody by the ludicrous term of "Bishop."

Magee is the liar responsible for not complying with the investigation into child sex abuse—hell, let's call it what it was. Let's call it rape.

When I say that he is a liar, let me also add that this is my view and not that of this newspaper. But a liar is what you are, Magee, and so if you have a problem with that, then sue me and not the paper.

But a liar you most certainly are. You told the Health Service Executive that you were fully compliant into their investigations and that you were fully compliant in answering their questions.

You didn't though, did you? Instead you did what any cowardly, whining liar does and—incredibly—you refused to give the names of the sex offenders—the rapists—to the group that was investigating you and your despicable fellows. Of course, complicit in this is the idea that the people that SOME of us voted in can, because of the loophole in the law, let you creepy bunch of dress-wearing, posturing, cross-kissing hypocrites get away with it.

So you will understand, Magee, that when I see you fingering your little cross, that I find it difficult to keep my lunch down.

You're a disgrace and always have been; you've been asked repeatedly to resign but of course you will have to dragged out from that four million euro mansion that you live in before that ever happens. Still, I suppose that you could always live in the town house that you also have. Bit on the small side for a dude like you who likes to swan around patronising people, is it not?

You allowed children to be at risk and I can't forgive you for that. You knew what was going on and yet preferred to float around in your frock and your gaudy beads because you loved the adulation from the gullible clowns who still hold tentatively onto yours and their medieval superstitions.

Oh, something just occurred to me. Please don't tell me that the rapist priests that you could not name told of their criminal acts in confession? That would be just too typical, would it not? But with you lot you just never know.

To hell with you and your likes and everything you stand for, because most thinking people like the ordinary decent folk that I know, are just plain weary of your bull.

Here's a challenge for you: explain your despicable, cowardly and swinish actions in a debate with me, either on radio or television.

We'll see who comes out.

Because I am a man with many, many flaws that I'll never get over. But one thing I have, I hope, is a sense of decency and integrity that you and your likes will never achieve.

Not if you wave a hundred thousand crosses in my face.

Oh, and talking about waving little flags and symbols around, may I congratulate the very enlightened and artificially created country of Israel.

I admired you so much for your escapades over Christmas and which are continuing as I write. As most of the rest of us opened our little crackers and tried to enjoy our turkey, there you were giving—shall we call it, a disproportionate response?—by bombing flat and continuing to do this, a little piece of benighted land called the Gaza Strip.

I have no time for Hamas but congratulations on making more of them, you shower of bloody idiots.

The jackboot is certainly on the other foot now.

What did Obama have to say about this? Well, kind of nothing at all although he has promised that he will have "a lot to say" as soon as he is in power. No offence meant but I'm not holding my breath.

And then he goes and asks Bono to sing for him at his inauguration.

I'm beginning to join the rest of the world in thinking that Bono can do absolutely anything. Walk on water; cure the ills of all Africa in between singing a few tunes—just about anything. Oh, I forgot. He can't pay taxes in his own country.

Doesn't quite seem to have worked that particular miracle just yet, does he?

Still, his equally ludicrously named buddy The Edge says it was "smart." And there I was thinking it was tax dodging. Who am I to complain? I'm only living here while having to watch a bunch of tax evading multi-millionaires plod off to Holland because they were asked to contribute a few bucks to the infrastructure of Ireland.

Still, keep waving your poor-mouth hand around; there are despots in Africa that are more than happy to take the money that you collect (not your own, obviously) while laughing behind your very tiny back.

Hey, I still hold out hopes for Obama—to tell you the truth, I kind of like him but I'm very prepared to be disappointed—once you're in the system, you are in the bloody system. No matter the intentions. Full stop and Amen.

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# Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

## The Great Sea Bounty of West Coast Ireland

While many look to Dublin prawns or Irish Sea salmon to start their culinary adventure in Irish seafood, one look to (or random suggestion for) the west coast will have the traveler changing their plans. Classic fishing ports dotted along the coasts beginning around Co. Cork and winding up to Galway Bay will lend themselves to charm, stories, and some of the best seafood ever. Add a bit of history to the pot and stir, and the experience of the Irish seafood plate is complete.

While I was at school, Darina Allen encouraged the students to visit Ballycotton Harbour near Ballymaloe. It was at the docks that we watched the fishermen bring in their loads of

seasonal fish. Certain times of the year lent itself to better fishing. Winter was meant for sole, turbot, and John Dory fish, while the spring held bounties of shrimp, crab and even lobster. Preparing these wonderful products was, for me, a privilege. Seafood all over the world is expensive. Ballymaloe allowed us to see the fish fresh, skin it, bone it, and prepare it in such a way that complemented the flavor and texture, without turning it into an unrecognizable ingredient. So now walking among the seafood counters at the store, I am not afraid.

Anyway, during the autumn 'bank holiday' weekend, a couple of us students toured the coast and found our

way to Kinsale, Co. Cork. This was a wonderful stop along the southern route heading towards the Dingle Peninsula. Kinsale is noted for boating, sea angling, and food festivals. (In 1601, Spanish/Irish forces were defeated here by British troops. The Spanish influence will be important later.) For us travelling students the town was so full of character, not to mention great restaurants; we were impressed just walking through town and tried to get a table at the Blue Haven overlooking the harbor. After about an hour at the bars sipping wine, we were seated in the restaurant. I was constantly looking for the best smoked salmon (which I found from Hederman's in Cork), so I had poached salmon, while Lucy had a plate of the largest prawns I'd ever seen. She only lightly dipped them in melted Irish butter and had to declare them the best. Simply prepared, she sketched her guess of the recipe and vowed to try them back at school.

We wound around the Irish coastal corner and headed to Dingle. I'd been there a couple times and back then we went out to Skellig Michael on the way. It is quite a sight, but not a place or boat ride for landlubbers. Avoiding the boat rides and enjoying these sea air this time, we stopped along

the shores for only tea and a snack. Our goal was for Galway.

Galway is the epicenter of vibrant culture in Ireland. They have festivals throughout the year, numerous parades, and music events. When it comes to food, the main event is the Galway Oyster Festival. This event began in 1954 by a local hotel owner and is now one of the longest festivals running. It happens every September (so we had missed it by that time), and lasts only one weekend. Pair a creamy Guinness and a platter of fresh oysters, and there is nothing better!

Historically speaking, Galway has a bit of Spanish blood. There was a complicated history with Spain beginning in the early 1600's. Basically, Spain and Ireland were working together after signing treaties to fight off Cromwell. Unfortunately, they were not successful. However, even after the loss, some of the Spanish soldiers found the Irish lasses in Galway worth leaving Spain behind. They settled on the coast, influencing architecture as seen in the Spanish Arch and Spanish Parade. Also Spanish influenced was the local cuisine, with their use of more spices and seasonings. My cod stew with chorizo, leeks and potatoes reflects

the great heritage of Irish seafood and produce while combing it with a 'recent' influence of Spanish chorizo, a Spanish smoked sausage.

The wealth of Irish seafood is spread country wide. The west coast has such a plethora of choices, flavors and influences, one cannot say that they've had a taste and think they know the dish while another version waits over in the next town. What an adventure!

Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional food and wine courses at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. She occasionally serves as a personal chef while also continuing her studies toward a dietetics/nutrition degree at The University of Akron. During "The Green Season" at the Brown St. Hibernian Club, she prepares her favorite Irish dishes, to the delight of many. Julianna can be contacted at julileber@hotmail.com.



### Cod Stew with Chorizo, Leeks, and Potatoes Serves 4

- 1 large leek, sliced into 1/2 in. rounds and soaked in water to remove grit
- 6 oz. chorizo, sliced into 1/2 in. rounds
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 lb. red potatoes, cut into 1/2 in. cubes
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 t. dried thyme
- 1 28 oz. can whole peeled tomatoes, with juice
- 1/2 c. dry white wine
- 2 c. water
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/4 c. chopped parsley
- 1 lb. cod, cut in four pieces
- French bread


Put potatoes in pot with salted, boiling water. Let cook until just tender, 7-10 minutes. Drain and put aside. In large soup pot, heat oil. Add sausage and cook for several minutes. Drain and add leeks. Cook until leeks are soft. Add garlic, stir 1 minute. Add wine, water, thyme, 1/2 t. salt, 1/4 t. pepper. Hand crush tomatoes over pot and add juice. Slowly boil for 15 minutes. Add 1/2 parsley and potatoes and stir. Taste and adjust seasoning. Carefully lay cod on top of stew, partially cover with lid and cook until fish is opaque, 6-8 minutes. Using spatula, pick up piece of fish and set aside. Ladle stew into bowls and lay fish on top. Sprinkle with remaining parsley. Serve with slices of French bread, brushed with olive oil and toasted under broiler. Brilliant!



**Michael Collins, "The Big Fella,"**  
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### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

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### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**  
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Fitz and the Celts**  
(Celtic Rock)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 5:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**  
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Elevation**  
(U2 Tribute) \$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**  
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Wild Colonial Bhoys**  
(Celtic Rock Band from Minnesota)  
\$5 cover

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**  
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Matt Stedman Band**  
(Celtic Violin)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 5:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**  
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **The McCabes**  
(Celtic Rock Band from New York)  
\$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 7:30pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 8:30pm **Dave Johnston**  
(Irish Bagpiper)
- 9:00pm **Sandcarvers**  
(Celtic Rock Band from Milwaukee, WI)  
\$5 cover

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Family Celebration of St Patrick's Day

- 4:00pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 5:00pm **Irish Music Sessions**

### MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 7:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**

### TUESDAY, MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

- 8:00am **Eggs & Kegs** Irish Buffet
- 10:00am **Dave Johnston** (Irish Bagpiper)
- 11:00am **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 12:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 3:00pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 3:30pm **Anish** (Celtic Rock)
- 7:30pm **Dave Johnston** (Irish Bagpiper)
- 7:45pm **The Ballydoyle Knights,**  
**a Toast to Ireland and**  
**Presentation of the Queen**  
**of St. Patrick's Day**
- 8:00pm **The Wolfe Tones'**  
**Derek Warfield**  
(Celtic Band from Ireland)
- 10:00pm **Trinity Irish Dancers**
- 2:00am **Close**

\$10 cover per person after 2:00pm. No one under 21 admitted after 2:00pm

### THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- 5:00pm **Girls Night Out**
- 9:00pm **Red Pop Fury** (Rock)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- 5:00pm **Aidan O'Toole**
- 9:00pm **Mother Grove**  
(Celtic Rock Band from Indiana)  
\$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 9:00pm **Prodigals**  
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- 8:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm The Wolfe Tones'  
Derek Warfield  
(Celtic Band from Ireland) \$5 cover

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 7:30pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm Wild Colonial Bhoys  
(Celtic Rock band from Minnesota)  
\$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 7:30pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm Elevation  
(U2 Tribute) \$5 cover

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:30pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm Fitz and Celts (Celtic Rock)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 7:30pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm Anish (Celtic) \$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 7:30pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 8:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 9:00pm The McCabes  
(Celtic Band from New York) \$5 cover

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Family Celebration of St. Patrick's Day

- 4:00pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 5:00pm Irish Music Sessions

### TUESDAY, MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

- 8:00am Eggs & Kegs Irish Buffet
- 10:00am Irish Bagpiper
- 11:00am McNulty Irish Dancers
- 12:00pm Kevin Flynn and the  
Avondale Ramblers (Celtic Rock)
- 3:00pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 3:30pm Sandcarvers (Celtic Rock  
Band from Milwaukee, WI)
- 7:30pm Irish Bagpiper
- 7:45pm The Ballydoyle Knights, a  
Toast to Ireland and Presentation  
of the Queen of St. Patrick's Day
- 8:00pm Kevin Flynn and the  
Avondale Ramblers (Celtic Rock)
- 10:00pm McNulty Irish Dancers
- 2:00am Close

\$10 cover per person after 2:00pm. No one under 21 admitted after 2:00pm

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- 9:00pm Prodigals  
(Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 9:00pm Mother Grove  
(Celtic Rock) \$5 cover

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### Misamerica at Raven Theatre



(L-R) Misamerica's Steve Ratcliff, Kimberly Logan, Nate Storm, Greg Caldwell, Lindley Wisnewski. Photo by Dean La Prairie.

Raven Theatre will present the missteps and mistakes of a corporate American marketing team's invasion of the Middle East in the world premiere of *Misamerica* by Tom Patrick, directed by Greg Kolack. *Misamerica* deftly censures cultural insensitivity, ignorance and blatant disrespect of foreign cultures. Placed in the center of a Middle Eastern conflict, one brave American footwear company sets out to liberate the oppressed feet of the

### Art at Steppenwolf

Steppenwolf Theatre, will present *Art* by Yasmina Reza from February 5-June 7, 2009 in Steppenwolf's Upstairs Theatre. 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago.

*Art* will feature multiple casts over the run of the production.

*Art* explores the intricacies of a long-term friendship between three men. When one of them drops a fortune on a piece of modern art, his friends' surprising reactions touch off a series of personal confrontations. This witty, intelligent and often funny play explores the power of art to engage the imagination and the enduring bonds of friendship.

312-335-1650 or [www.rippenwolf.org](http://www.rippenwolf.org).

### Great Falls at Profiles Theatre

Profiles Theatre will perform the acclaimed new comedy-drama *Great Falls* by Lee Blessing through March 1, 2009, at Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway in Chicago.

*Great Falls* follows a stepfather and teenage stepdaughter on a road trip across the American West. Mr. Blessing reveals the strained nature of their relationship as they attempt to make sense of who they are to one another now. The realities of their shattered connection unfold in this acclaimed new play.

[www.profiles theatre.org](http://www.profiles theatre.org) or call (773) 549-1815.



### Betrayal at New World Repertory Theater

*Betrayal*, by Nobel Prize-winner Harold Pinter, who died in December 2008, tells the story of an intriguing love triangle between Robert, his wife Emma, and his best friend Jerry, examining the hopes and dreams that lie beneath our intrigues and disguises. *Betrayal* will open February 21, 2009 and run through March 21, 2009 at New World Repertory Theater, 923 Curtiss St. in Downers Grove, IL.

630-663-1489 or [www.newworldrep.org](http://www.newworldrep.org).

### Dancing at Lughnasa at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre

Set in a small Irish town in County Donegal in 1936, this Tony Award-winning play follows the revelry of the five Mundy sisters during the ancient festival of Lughnasa. With dancing, bonfires, and a wild celebration of life, love and change, the sisters continue to shine on in the memory of their relatives.

This Irish tale of family and resilience by Brian Friel will run from February 6-15, 2009 at DePaul's historic Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E. Balbo Drive (at Michigan) in Chicago.

(312) 922-1999 or [theatreboxoffice@depaul.edu](mailto:theatreboxoffice@depaul.edu) or <http://theatreboxoffice.depaul.edu>

people. Designer coffee in hand, these self-defined heroes ignore the dangers around them to conduct market research and spread their capitalistic wisdom to the masses. After all, doesn't everyone want to be just like us?

The play opens Monday, February 2, 2008 at 7:30pm at the Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark in Chicago, and runs through March 28, 2009. Tickets and information are available at [www.raventheatre.com](http://www.raventheatre.com) or 773-338-2177.

### Stop/Kiss at The Gift

The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee in Chicago, is presenting *Stop/Kiss* by Diana Son and runs through March 15, 2008.

Are we really living our lives or just sleepwalking? What do we want? And how willing are we to go after it, even if we must, in the pursuit, lose ourselves to find ourselves? Son's play about a friendship between two girls which blossoms into a romance with devastating consequences receives a bold storefront staging at Chicago's award-winning Gift Theatre.

773-283-7071 [www.thegifttheatre.org](http://www.thegifttheatre.org)

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### Flanagan's Wake at Pheasant Run Resort

*Flanagan's Wake*, the interactive Irish comedy now running in its 14th year throughout the U.S., will run through Sunday, March 29, 2009, in the Preservation Hall Studio Theater at Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 E. Main St., in St. Charles.

*Flanagan's Wake* takes place in the village of Grapplin, County Sligo, Ireland, where the towns people tell tales, sing songs and mourn the pass-

ing of one of their own, Flanagan. Audience members are transported to the Emerald Isle to grieve as only the Irish can. They can share tales of their own experiences and misadventures about dear old Flanagan, or simply enjoy the stories and songs of the locals as they recall life with "Himself."

630-584-6342; [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); [www.noblefool.org](http://www.noblefool.org).

### Dirty Rotten Scoundrels at Genesee Theatre

The National Tour of the scamming, scheming, double-crossing hit Broadway musical, *DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS*, which was scheduled to play the Genesee Theatre, 203 North Genesee Street in Waukegan, on Saturday, Febr. 7, has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 5 at 8pm. All tickets for the February 7 performance date will be honored at the March 5 performance.

Based on the popular 1988 MGM film, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* centers on two con men living on the French Riviera—the suave and sophisticated Lawrence Jameson, who makes his lavish living by talking rich ladies out of their money; and a small-time

crook named Freddy Benson, who, more humbly, swindles women by waking their compassion with fabricated stories about his grandmother's failing health. After meeting on a train, they unsuccessfully attempt to work together only to find that this small French town isn't big enough for the two of them. So they make a bet: the first one to swindle \$50,000 from a young heiress, triumphs and the other must leave town. What follows are a series of schemes, masquerades and double-crosses in which nothing may ever be exactly what it seems.

Genesee Theatre Box Office - 847-263-6300 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

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## Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



The political theater surrounding the admission of Roland Burris into the United States Senate was not the first time that august body denied a seat to a prospective senator from Illinois. In a series of dramatics, it did the same exactly 150 years ago. That happened to Irishman, General James Shields. Shields, a man with an impressive political, military and personal resume, had been elected—not appointed—to the Senate in the general election of 1848. His credentials were so good that he had even defeated the incumbent senator, Sydney Breeze, in a spirited campaign. Yet, when he showed up in Washington on a chilly March morning in 1849, his reception was like the weather: cool and blustery. Congress sent him packing and like Burris, Shields had to return to the Prairie State to mend political

fences and get things sorted out. Unlike Burris, the problems for Shields were not questions of “tainted” electoral or appointment processes. The simple fact was that he had been born in Ireland and had not been a US citizen for the requisite length of time. The US Constitution stipulates three conditions as qualifications for the US Senate. They are: candidates must be aged at least 30 years, must be residents of the state they represent, and must be US citizens for at least 9 years. To the dismay of his supporters, Shields was found wanting on the last count. He had been a US citizen for only eight and a half years when elected.

### Lincoln’s Rival

Until his US Senate setback, democrat Shields had enjoyed many successes. After being

born in Altmore, Co. Tyrone in 1806, Shields immigrated to the US in the mid-1820s. He settled in Illinois in 1829 and became first a teacher and then an attorney. He was an able lawyer but was mostly attracted to politics. He ran for political office and was elected to the Illinois House in 1836. He took his seat along with such other notable first timers as Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in the Legislature, Shields collaborated with and was a rival of Lincoln both in love and the law. Their rivalry was so intense that Shields and Lincoln met with military swords in hand to fight a duel to the death on the banks of the Mississippi in 1842. Fortunately for both men, the challenge was averted at the last moment and neither got hurt.

Shields, a fighter who did not suffer setbacks gladly, was not a shoo-in like Burris, who was seated subsequently without

much fuss. When Illinois Governor Augustus C. French called a special election to fill Shields’ now-vacated position later in 1849, Shields again tossed his hat into the political ring. This time he satisfied the citizenship requirement but was a lot less popular—in part because of his political theatrics in trying to hold onto his seat the first time round. Nevertheless, following a tough electoral fight Shields again emerged victorious and was sworn in as junior senator from Illinois. That was not the end of the US Senate-Shields story. Shields subsequently became a US Senator representing two additional states. He was elected to the Senate from Minnesota in 1858 and appointed from Missouri in 1879, the year of his death. To this day, the Irishman is the only person to have represented three states in all. That was certainly political drama.

### Irish Theater Lacking

Theater in Ireland is currently in bad shape according to a pessimistic 2008 year end review in the Irish Independent. There were no memorable productions and no seminal work appeared last year. The criticism was applied across the boards to theatrical institutions, actors and writers. “This was not a good year to be mining Irish theatre,” said the newspaper, and concluded

that the theater stands “on shaky ground.”

“I spent much of the year at the theatre craving something new. Something to break through a fourth wall that had remained stubbornly standing. Something to suggest that there were people out there looking for different ways to do things, aware that the way things have been done... looks increasingly threadbare,” lamented the reporter.

The reporter suggested that Ireland’s economic boom over the past decade (that has now become a bust) was largely to blame. The boom enabled the construction of “over ambitious arts centres” but did little for creativity since paradoxically better wages were “squeezing the lifeblood” out of creativity. The reporter noted that Irish writers are “coasting on (Ireland’s) reputation for storytelling, and offering little of genuine innovation to the world.” It is “time for our writers to pull on the fingerless gloves again and return to their draughty garrets to wrestle with the new stories emerging from an Ireland that has lost its confidence—and that may be a more conducive environment to making great theatre,” the report exhorted. The writer speculated that a return to poorer times and a “dole culture” could have a silver lining—that it could lead to richer theatrical output. One can only hope.



### Goldbrick, a Theatrical Exploration of the Music of Jon Langford

Walkabout Theater Company and Collaboraction will present the Chicago premiere of Goldbrick, from February 5-March 1 at The Building Stage, 412 N. Carpenter Street in Chicago. The live music of Goldbrick draws from Jon Langford’s solo releases as well as from his work with the Mekons to illuminate the ongoing American story of immigration. Goldbrick follows the journey of Everyman (Larry Yando) from Wales making a life for himself in America. Through video projections, his experiences are inter-woven with the voices and dreams of others who come to America for a better life. On-stage, Everyman interacts with memories of the past, icons of a better future and obstacles of the present (all played by Tawny Newsome). Everyman does what he must do to survive, ultimately reaching crisis as he faces questions that haunt, not only him, but all of us, and that as a nation we can no longer afford to ignore. [www.collaboraction.org](http://www.collaboraction.org) or 312-226-9633.

### Polarity Brings The White Airplane to the Stage

Darren Callahan’s The White Airplane will premiere at Polarity Ensemble Theatre’s new space in the Josephinum Academy, 1500 N. Bell in Chicago from February 16-March 22. The full-length surrealist mystery tells the story of a Japanese typist, suspected in the disappearance of his wife. To a friend, he confesses he is actually a Pittsburgh, PA car salesman living inside this man’s body. Murders on the English countryside, phantom plane crashes, a body swapping tourist trade, and a hooker with a pilot’s license all contribute to this mash up of drama, horror, and high comedy.

[www.petheatre.com](http://www.petheatre.com) or 1-800-838-3006.

### John Bull’s Other Island at ShawChicago

Shawchicago will continue its 15th anniversary season with Bernard Shaw’s comedy John Bull’s Other Island opening Saturday, February 7th through March 2, 2009 at The Ruth Page Theater, 1016 N. Dearborn St. in Chicago.

The world’s most powerful nation, England, thinks it knows what is best for the “other” island, Ireland. That “other” has been robbed of its sovereignty, resources, language and children, but still wields the ultimate weapon to defeat its masters—not in the corridors of power—but on the battlefield of the human heart.

312-587-7390 or [www.shawchicago.org](http://www.shawchicago.org).

### Miss Saigon at Drury Lane Oakbrook

The classic love-story, Miss Saigon, will run through March 8 at Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace

Set in 1975 in the days before Saigon’s fall to Communist forces at the end of the Vietnam War, Miss Saigon is the epic love-story of an American GI, Chris, and a young Vietnamese woman, Kim. Kim and Chris have a brief but passionate affair and he vows to take her out of Saigon.

On the evening of the largest helicopter evacuation in history, the two are separated and Chris is forced leave Vietnam without his love. Three years after the war’s end the two struggle to deal with the emotional aftermath of their affair while moving on with new lives. Chris, now married, discovers that he has a young son with Kim, while Kim clings to the hope that she and Chris will be reunited and raise their son



Melinda Chua Smith stars as “Kim” in Miss Saigon. Photo by Johnny Knight.

together as an American boy.

For Tickets: (630) 530-0111; TicketMaster at 312-559-1212 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); or [www.drurylaneoakbrook.com](http://www.drurylaneoakbrook.com).

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# The Irish Rover

By James McClure



## The Year of Dating Dangerously

I've long contended that I was spared a lot of anguish by attending an all-boys high school—the expense, the heartache, the disappointments and pitfalls of dating.

When I went to college at the University of Notre Dame I soon found myself in heterosexual heaven. It didn't have anything to do with a real live girl at first, but a wondrous collection of Irish Catholic coeds found and bound in a little black and white leaflet known affectionately as, "The Dog Book."

For in its few scant pages inside its green and white cover one could find all the joys and wonders of female Irish Americana as found in the incoming Freshman Class at St. Mary's College across the road and

sequestered among stus young men at Notre Dame in the female dorms. Of course in the interest of actually having the appearance of not being a tawdry scope sheet *The Dog Book* (excuse me, Freshman Registry of the Class of 1982) actually had all us guys in it too.

By today's multimedia standards it was pretty tame—a simple head and shoulders shot submitted with the assistance of Mom and Dad, a listing of your hometown, what your extracurriculars were in high school and what you hoped to study in college.

But, oh, what a buffet of pre-baccalaureate beauty; especially to the uninitiated.

Catherine Anne, the lifeguard from Atlanta who wanted to teach

grade school (SMC or "Smick Chick" Extraordinaire); Kathleen Marie, the future Notre Dame mechanical engineer; along with a dizzying collection of Mary Catherines, Mary Elizabeths, Mary Margarets, Mary Kathleens, and the occasional Susan Mary.

Decades removed, it occurs to me as I write this column that little has changed, even as I finish a year of having sampled the online dating scene. Indeed, what you end up with is pretty much the same thing, a vast collection of gorgeous women all about your age and if you're a real stick in the mud, all remarkably similar in religious, political and social characteristics.

The biggest difference I can see, is that the Marys are a lot harder to find. They must all be happily married. Those of us trudging the lonesome road of newly single or never married must be a little different. I can say I've never seen so many Brendas in my life. At last count in the past year I'm up to three Brendas.

It's a cruel life online, it seems to me, more so to women. Some services like eHarmony cajole the guys by telling them there are 3 girls for every guy on there. Before I went running for cover, I was getting 8 to 10 "matches" a night, many practically in my backyard. It's a tougher go for the womenfolk.

Brenda, the Corporate Trainer, told me I was the first guy she dated after nearly six months online. Brenda, the Flight Attendant, confided that she'd been out a few times but invariably "the guy is 60, bald and weighs 300 pounds." Unfortunately, some gents seem to still be using the same picture Mom took with a Polaroid for *The Dog Book*. Brenda, the Accountant, tells me she's still trying to figure out the guy whose profile said he was a genuine Christian man yet "creative between the sheets." Needless

to say, she felt she could fare a little better morally and mentally.

Brendas notwithstanding, I think there is hope and promise in an online world for substantive and sustaining internet interconnections. Like anything else, it's a matter of patience, forbearance and a little bit of prayer.

I especially like the approach of a relatively new service called Cache Connections, which started in Peoria and Chicago and is fanning out across the country, so much so that the same night I tried a nationwide setting for grins and giggles I got two women on two different services from Cedar Park, Texas. Cache not only matches you based on common traits, they also set up special events, church get-togethers, holiday parties and even pray for you and individually answer your questions. For church-going faithful types not given to bars or bed-hopping, that's pretty cool stuff.

I'd like to say the Year of Dating Dangerously has been all fun. In

reality it's been hard work, a growing experience, and a hard lesson in realizing that not all that glitters is guaranteed. One heady week I think I had 5 dates in a row with 5 different women. It's been dangerous to wallets and expectations, but, through it all, I've learned to look beyond *The Dog Book* for what really counts here and above, and not to give up, because there's always another Brenda around the corner. Or even in Texas.

In February, a yellow rose is sometimes the best way to start.

Contact Jim McClure at IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

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Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago extended congratulations recently to newly installed Commissioner and Vice President, Kathleen Therese Meany, Commissioners Frank Avila and Cynthia Santos.

This is the fourth installation for Commissioner Meany, third for Commissioner Santos and Second for Commissioner Avila. Each term runs for 6 years.

On hand for the festivities were Matthew J. O'Shea, 19th Ward Committeeman; Ginger Rugia, 19th Ward Alderman; Tom Hynes, former president of the IL State Senate and Assessor of Cook County; and Kevin Joyce, a member of the IL House of Representatives.

Pictured from the left is Matthew J. O'Shea; Kathleen Meany; Tom Hynes; Ginger Rugia and Kevin Joyce.

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## A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

**Reverend Michael M. Boland**

Administrator, President and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



### Family Stories: Basic Human Needs

"What can I do to help people suffering from poverty? So many people are in need today. I'm just one person of ordinary means... but I can do something. Where do I start?" Perhaps you have asked yourself these questions.

In the weeks before Christmas, one person found a unique answer to these questions and answered the prayers of four families in great need.

Knowing Catholic Charities' reputation for assisting people in need, a parishioner from a Northwest suburban parish turned to us with a specific goal. He wished to make a substantial donation to help families in the Northwest suburbs who were suffering extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Normally, the donations of all our generous donors, no matter how large or small, are combined to enable us to assist the families and individuals who come to us in need on a daily basis throughout Cook and Lake Coun-

ties. But this large and unexpected gift to a particular region, and its unique timing just before Christmas, enabled us to immediately meet the needs of four families who urgently needed our help.

Catholic Charities' dedicated Northwest regional staff immediately linked the extraordinary gift of this generous benefactor with four families most in need, changing their lives for the better.

Here is the story of one family touched by one person's great charity:

The family, devastated by illness and grief, consisted of a mother and father and their three children; ages 3, 9 and 12. Both parents were employed full-time, with the dad supplementing their income by seeking additional work at a day labor site. The mother was in the midst of a difficult pregnancy, but her employer, rather than pay thousands of dollars in medical expenses, laid her off, promising to re-hire her after the baby was born. The mother suffered a miscarriage, and within a few weeks, her

beloved sister died. Having experienced two great losses, she could not stop grieving in spite of her 3-year-old's plea: "Mommy, please don't cry!"

To make matters worse, they fell \$1,000 behind in their rent. Fortunately, because of the gift of our extraordinary benefactor, Catholic Charities was able to give the family enough money to pay their rent and additional funds as a "safety net" to prevent the loss of their apartment. We were also able to stabilize the family further by paying their electric bill and car payment.

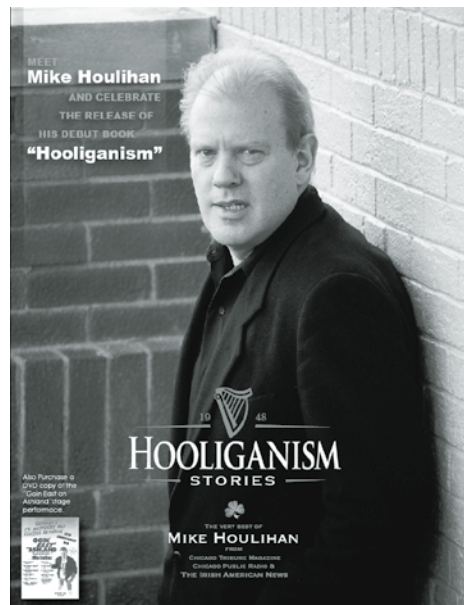
To the delight of all, they were presented with gift cards to three major stores to be used for food, medicine, diapers – and in the spirit of St. Nicholas—presents for the children! Their benefactor had gifted the family with great hope and love at a very sad time in their lives.

At Catholic Charities, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to help one person or family at a time and exemplify compassion to them—and they are grateful! The people we help are most often proud, self-reliant, hard-working people. And whether it's a bag of groceries, clothes, food from our food pantries, a hot dinner for our weekly supper guests—or simply our time as we listen or give information to them, it is a gift of love that will change their lives forever.

In opening our lives to those who are poor or suffering, everyone who has given from the heart to help their neighbors has also been changed forever.

From our Catholic Charities family to yours, Thank You!—and Happy St. Valentine's Day!

For further information about Catholic Charities' programs in your region, please visit [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).



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## An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



reunification in our immigration policy and join at least 19 other nations that provide immigration equality to same-sex part-

### CIR Enactment Begins

With the beginning of the new Congress comes the encouraging news that the new administration is going to make a renewed effort to enact comprehensive immigration reform. This is indeed encouraging news for all who have been working on this issue for the past few years.

The 111th session of Congress introduced S. 9 "Stronger Economy, Stronger Borders Act of 2009" Sen. Leahy, chairman of the Judiciary committee made the following remarks on the Senate floor when introducing the legislation (Sen. Kennedy resigned as chairman of the immigration subcommittee, thereby shifting immigration matters within the purview of Sen. Leahy.)

"Mr. President, as we begin the 111th Congress, we will try, once again, to enact comprehensive immigration reforms that have eluded us in the past several years. With an administration that understands the critical necessity of meaningful reform and that understands the policy failures of the last 8 years, I am hopeful that the new Congress can finally enact legislation consistent with our history as a nation of immigrants."

"The majority leader has included immigration reform as among the legislative priorities for the new Congress. I look forward to working with him, Senator Kennedy, Senator McCain, and others interested in working toward the goal of immigration reform. If our immigration policies are to be effective and play a role in restoring America's image around the world, we must reject the failed policies of the last 8 years. We cannot continue to deny asylum seekers because they have been forced at the point of a gun to provide assistance to those engaged in terrorist acts. We cannot continue to label as terrorist organizations those who have stood by the United States in armed conflict. We must not tolerate the tragic and needless death of a person in our custody for lack of basic medical care. We must ensure that children are not needlessly separated from their parents and that family unity is respected."

"We must move beyond the current policy that is focused on detaining and deporting those undocumented workers who have been abused and exploited by American employers but does nothing to change an environment that remains ripe for these abuses. We must protect the rights and opportunities of American workers and, at the same time, ensure that our Nation's farmers and employers have the help they need. We should improve the opportunities and make more efficient the processes for those who seek to come to America with the goal of becoming new Americans, whether to invest in our communities and create jobs, to be reunited with loved ones, or to seek freedom and opportunity and a better life."

"We must also live up to the goal of family

reunification in our immigration policy and join at least 19 other nations that provide immigration equality to same-sex partners of different nationalities. And I believe we would be wise to reconsider the effectiveness and cost of a wall along our southern border, which has adversely affected the fragile environment and vibrant cross-border culture of an entire region. Such a wall stands as a symbol of fear and intolerance. This is not what America is about and we can do better."

"Those who oppose a realistic solution to address the estimated millions of people currently living and working in the United States without proper documentation have offered no alternative solution other than harsh penalties and more enforcement. The policies of the last 8 years, which have served only to appease the most extreme ideologues, must be replaced with sensible solutions. I am confident that our country and our economy will be far more secure when those who are currently living in the shadows of our society are recognized and provided the means to become lawful residents, if not a path to citizenship."

"As President-elect Obama's administration considers immigration issues, I look forward to working closely with them and with the Senate's leadership to find the best solutions. President-elect Obama's nominees to lead the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor understand very well the importance of sensible border policies and the importance of workers' rights. The American people look to all of us to forge a consensus for immigration reform that rejects the extreme ideology that has attended this issue and prevented real progress."

While we welcome this development, we are well aware that much work needs to be done to get this legislation passed. We urge all of our supporters to write, call, or e-mail your Representatives and Senators and express your support for immigration reform.

### The Emperor's Seed

An emperor in the Far East was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided something different. He called young people in the kingdom together

one day. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you." The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today, one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor!" One boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about 3 weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. 3 weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks went by. Still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. 6 months went by; still nothing in Ling's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot but his Mother said he must be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his Mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace. When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kinds laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!" All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!" When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the

crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!" Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor? Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.  
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.  
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.  
If you plant perseverance, you will reap victory.  
If you plant consideration, you will reap harmony.  
If you plant hard work, you will reap success.  
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

If you plant openness, you will reap intimacy.  
If you plant patience, you will reap improvements.  
If you plant faith, you will reap miracles.

But:

If you plant dishonesty, you will reap distrust.  
If you plant selfishness, you will reap loneliness.  
If you plant pride, you will reap destruction.  
If you plant envy, you will reap trouble.  
If you plant laziness, you will reap stagnation.  
If you plant bitterness, you will reap isolation.  
If you plant greed, you will reap loss.  
If you plant gossip, you will reap enemies.  
If you plant worries, you will reap wrinkles.  
If you plant sin, you will reap guilt.

### Thanks

On the 10th of January board members and friends braved a very cold and snowy evening to gather for a celebration in honor of our retiring chairperson at C.I.I.C., Peter Dinneen. Peter became chairperson in the fall of '03 and worked tirelessly in service of immigrants and the Irish community at large. Peter readily admits that he doesn't care for giving speeches. Actions speak louder than words and Peter has proved that over and over again in his selfless dedication to serving others. We will miss Peter's presence on our board and we wish him health and everything that is good in the future.

As always please feel free to send questions, comments etc. to me at 312-534-8445 or e-mail me: sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.

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**Horoscopes**

By Theresa Castro

**ARIES:** Your aspirations are in the spotlight this February 2009. The planets and recent solar eclipse are all conspiring to fill your days and months to come bringing you closer to your dreams. Expect many interactions with your associates and friends.

**TAURUS:** There is a planetary pile up in your sector of career and public standing. You will be highly visible to the powers that be so hopefully you are putting your best foot forward. Job seekers and those in line for promotion have an extra edge.

**GEMINI:** You are thinking of broadening your horizons as in some form of travel, education or the law. You may be preoccupied with some legal matters as well. There is an over-emphasis of planets in your legal 9th sector.

**CANCER:** You are doing a lot of self analysis this February 2009 with six planets in your 8th sector of personal objectives. Cancer is a very sensitive sign that is heavily guarded by an outer shell so nothing from the outside can permeate. Your privacy is paramount.

  
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**LEO:** You are in for quite a ride with your significant other. If you have no one to fill that capacity in your life you will have a lot of attention from a lot of people that you may not anticipate. Try to be as diplomatic as possible.

**VIRGO:** You will be concentrating on your work this month of February 2009. You will be of great service to your organization. Virgos that work in the service industry will be greatly assisted by the prevailing planetary weather.

**LIBRA:** You will have some pleasant times with the planetary gathering in your sector of enjoyment. Even if you are ultra conservative you will have something (or someone) come into your life that will give you great joy.

**SCORPIO:** You will have a lot to do at home. You will be cleaning, decorating, or even moving. Your personal world will be activated by the prevailing planetary weather. Changes are certain for you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your life will be filled with a lot of correspondence this month of February 2009. There is a group of colorful characters coming and going giving you a lot to do. You could have a lot of dealings with your siblings as well.

**CAPRICORN:** You will be having more than your share of financial dealings with the planetary pile up in your sector of wealth. You may have to scramble to keep your money in order. Some of you may have a fresh influx of capital.

**AQUARIUS:** You are in the spotlight this February 2009. The planets of this month are potently crowding your personal space. This includes a full moon eclipse to top it all off! All this means that you have the tools to go after whatever you want.

**PISCES:** You are dealing with many hidden factors that may not be directly under your control. The planets of February 2009 are heavily occupying your chart. Your most private thoughts and feelings need scrutiny and protection.

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**We Get Letters**

Gerry Adams is a brilliant politician. I do not mean that as a compliment. It's hard for me to admit that I once admired the man. I now believe that he is a scoundrel who has incrementally sold out the nationalist people.

He has changed positions and backed out of promises made to Irish republicans countless times. But he has done it brilliantly. Instead of making a giant political u-turn he makes one major reversal every year or so, hoping that no one will notice them adding up. And the major media never seems to notice!

The latest reversal is backing down on his often stated goal of achieving a united Ireland by 2016. In his New Year's interview he stated "As we approach the one hundredth anniversary of the 1916 Rising we are asking the Irish Diaspora to put its full weight behind a renewed campaign for Irish re-unification." He made no mention of the 2016 target date. In fact he suggested that it could be possible in another 40 years!

Where is the outrage at the nerve of this guy? He calls himself a republican but the fact is that Mr. Adams and the rest of Provisional Sinn Fein have achieved NOTHING to move us closer to a 32 county Ireland. In fact, they have only helped to reinforce partition and secure the 6 counties' position as part of the UK.

Gerry Adams has not fooled me. He's a disgrace to Irish Republicanism. He can organize all the "Make Partition History" campaigns he wants but I know "The Emperor's New Clothes" story when I see it.

It's time to admit that the "Good Friday Agreement" has failed. It could never bring about a united Ireland.

Jane Enright  
 Woodside, New York

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In a 12 part series, this narrative examines some of the more obscure events in Irish history and the effect they had on the families of a small mountain in County Roscommon. It will also reveal the incredible chain of events that led to the discovery of these people as the winds of change delivered a blight upon their main source of food.

**The Scattering of Sliabh Ban Part Three**

Reduced to the level of indentured slaves, the Irish of the early 1800's were ill prepared to tackle the calamity that awaited them. A blight on their main food source would render the once hardy tenant farmers helpless and finally, hopeless. And history fails to mention that prior to the potato crop failure of 1845 there had been a failure 12 years earlier and another just 10 years before that.

The descendants of O'Manachain, the chieftains of Sliabh Ban and the Three Tuaths, are now peasant 'farmers-at-will' by a landlord system sustained after the Act for the Settlement of Ireland in 1652. The earlier 16th century Plantations of Ireland had decimated the Ui Neill Clan leading to the flight of the Earls. Unfortunately for the Irish, when they aligned themselves with the English Royalists (who were fighting the "Roundhead" supporters of the new Parliament) the Irish Catholics found themselves on the losing end of an English Civil war that would finally see Cromwell's Army soundly defeating the Irish, the Royalists, and dismantling the Catholic Confederation.

Sliabh Ban and 30,000 acres of land would be granted to the Mahon family by Charles II at the war's end. Ensuing generations would

build a manor and establish a tenancy that would provide a tax base for the English parliament.

Manor pic The Penal Laws, which were meant to make them poor and then



Oliver Cromwell

keep them poor, did exactly that. Two hundred years after Cromwell and 50 years after 'unification' with England which has been called 'the greatest single bribe ever

perpetrated by the English Parliament', the 1800 Act in a single stroke removed an Irish Parliament which had been in existence for 500 years.

The first attempt at Union failed but the second attempt after massive numbers of peerages were awarded, the Irish Parliament voted for its own abolition. A major codicil in the agreement was the emancipation of the Catholics and the removal of the punitive laws restricting their every movement. But shortly after the Union, King George III rescinded the proclamation. His explanation was that official support of Popery in English Ireland would violate his oath to protect the Protestant faith. Ireland was now being ruled from London. One hundred MP's entered the House of Commons and 30 new 'peers' joined the House of Lords at Westminster. And with the addition of a diagonal 'St. Patrick's Cross' subordinate to the white St. Andrew's and the red St. George's, the Union Flag would become the same that we see today. And the "culchies" of the Irish countryside, astonished by the proclamation of Union, labeled the Dublin based parliament "Jackeens"... a derogatory name which still echoes in the quiet country public houses today.



King George III

So the once proud Irish would continue to suffer the humiliation of ignorance, poverty, and subordination. Thirty years would pass



Daniel O'Connell

before the Daniel O'Connell would successfully argue the case for emancipation. Unfortunately, before any substantial gains were made by the landless farmers, a five year blight would descend upon them ravaging any and all hope.

Among the tenant farmers was a young man, not yet 21 years old, and a young girl of 15. Their story would remain hidden for exactly 150 years before being uncovered after what can only be called a 'miraculous' series of serendipitous events.

To be continued.

A quick note: In 2002, after stumbling upon the novel 'because they never do,' the story of Michael and Mary, a small group of Chicago's Southside Irish convened the first meeting of The Scattering Project. The sole purpose was to get the story of Ireland's famine years made into a film. There has never been a film dedicated to

this pivotal event in Irish-American history; perhaps because there was no good way to have it told. This series is a plea for your help. The team is attempting to get our screenplay, The Scattering, into the hands of a few targeted producers/directors and must have the representation of a seasoned agent. If you know anyone with those kinds of contacts please urge them to contact us. We can be reached thru the BlackthornScribe.com website or email contact @ BlackthornScribe.com

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## The Kreellers Are Crashing Ohio

By John O'Brien, Jr.

Somewhere between the respect for the ballad tradition of the Makem & Spain Brothers and the good-natured irreverence of Gaelic Storm you will find The Kreellers. Exuberant and passionate, talented and unique, a Kreellers show is a rollicking party reminiscent of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. Shout outs, sing-alongs and dancing in the aisles are the norm at a Kreellers show, so is a great joy in the ballad tradition.

Drums were never a part of CB & TM, tho' both Liam and Tommy played the Bodhran. Tommy played the war pipes and whistles too, and The Kreellers newest addition, bagpipe and whistles playing Larry Fortson, completes the package for one of the rising new stars on the Celtic music scene.

Starting as Bruno's Boys in 1998, brothers Derek Wade and Paul Bruno were raised on songs and stories, while trailing along side their dad as great Irish ballads were sung in the Detroit area. A career in music wasn't planned, but when the door opened, they were more than ready to step on through.

Not a band for the faint of heart, tho' they have many beautiful songs in their repertoire, most Kreellers songs are marked by a driving beat. They are as meaningful in sentiment and passionate in presentation as any singer out there. The Kreellers just tend to be at a higher speed or beat, with a little more humor than most ballad groups. It is a totally distinctive sound, and one earning them

new gigs and new fans throughout the Midwest and East Coast.

The Kreellers are brothers Derek Wade (lead vocals, harmonica, mandolin, and bodhran) and Paul Bruno (guitar, bodhran and accordion), percussionist and backup vocals TK, and the aforementioned Larry Fortson on pipes and whistle.

"We are absolutely Irish, said Derek. "The Clancy Brothers, I remember seeing The Dubliners, taking it all in, loving it. As the Bruno Boys, we couldn't grab people the way we wanted to. We are still steeped in the tradition, but we couldn't kick it up in our special way."

Bruno's Boys made their first Ohio appearance at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, in 2006. Return gigs in 2007 and in 2008, as The Kreellers, followed, and The Boys are looking forward to their 2009 appearance, with all four members ready to roll.

"Today, Flogging Molly, Dropkick Murphy, they influence us to a certain degree, mainly on the energy side," said TK. "We draw from a myriad of different bands; Dave Matthews, Three Eleven. For instance, we do some drum jams: we got that from listening to the Dave Matthews Band. It just brings the crowd out.

"You can draw influences from anything, be it classical music or Latin music. A lot of Afro-Cuban rhythms, island tunes, reggae to rock to trad tunes influence us," continued TK.

Most people, and bands, are a



composite of things they see, hear, experience, whether they consciously choose it or not. I hear echoes of Eileen Ivers in listening to TK, the same type of influences that fuel the formation and core of her Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul band.

As Derek explains, "We have a style as a band that comes out. The Kreellers sound comes from the energy, the rhythms, the Celtic style within us. That works out pretty well for us. We have worked hard at it, we are proud of it. We have come a long way.

"We had a trio in 2008, which was just starting to become a band (you can't really call yourself a band as a duo)," laughed Derek. Looking wider, they added percussionist TK. His first appearance with The Kreellers was two days before St. Patrick's Day, 2008.

"Baptism by fire," TK recalls. TK

had played with MindFreak magician, Chris Angel, on A&E, as well as performed for movies, such as Spiderman II and III and part of The Transformer movies. "Rock and Funk was the genre I played in. I had known Derek for about ten years, and they were looking for a drummer."

"It was a big change for Paul!" Derek added. "Paul is definitely the father of the group, the worry wart. He makes sure that everything happens that is supposed to happen. If it wasn't for Paul, nothing would ever get done. We call him Dad. Lord of the Flies—if Paul wasn't there we would probably have eaten each other a long time ago.

"We were lucky in 2008, to play a lot of Ohio festivals, the response was great. We decided we were going to continue to develop. In March of 2008, we took the name The Kreellers. The

name comes from friends of ours that played Gaelic Football. A big guy who delivers the big hit—your head is spinning—that is what it means to be "Kreelled." We liked that. We wanted to deliver that for our fans. They don't know where they are—but they want more! So we took the name.

"A lot of people, when they come in to hear us, expect one thing and get something totally different. We fill a void—slid right into it. People want more—and we're happy to oblige them. We feed off of that. That is what brings us into an even higher gear, if that is possible. The fan reaction is amazing. Indiana had the same response. Minneapolis, Washington. People are finding out who we are and we are fanatical about them."

February appearances:

Feb 7, 2009 - 8:30pm, PJ McIntyre's Irish Pub, Cleveland, OH

Feb 13, 2009 - 9:30pm, O'Callaghans, Milford, MI

Feb 20, 2009 - 9:30pm, The Dublin Pub, Dayton, OH

Feb 21, 2009 - 9:30pm, Byrne's Pub, Columbus, OH

Feb 27, 2009 - 9:30pm, Sully's Irish Pub, Medina, OH

Feb 28, 2009 - Irish American Club, Euclid, OH

A new album will be recorded in the spring, with a good portion being original material. While their sound is unique, their passion for the Irish heritage, the Irish ballad, is as familiar to us as old Ireland itself. [www.thekreellers.com](http://www.thekreellers.com).

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## Celtic Women First Friday Lectures

Lectures featuring topics of and by speakers from the Celtic heritages are held at Greene Hall on the UWM campus in Milwaukee, WI, 5:30-7pm with a cup of tea and cookies for all. Admission is \$7 and is open to the public and men are welcome as well as women. The February lecture topic by Jean-Andrew of Storylore is Women's Tales from the Seven Celtic Nations, and will be held Feb. 6, 2009.

Folktales arise from their cultures of origin. The best ones travel beyond their ethnic borders and take on new life in other places. Storyteller Jean-Andrew will present a sampling of Celtic tales with a woman's perspective and learn about the artistry of storytelling in the form of well turned tales.

March's lecture will be Genealogy for Dummies presented by Pat Geyh on Friday, March 6, 2009 from 5:30-7pm. If you want to get started in genealogy, but haven't done much about it yet, bring the information you have about your family and it can be used as a basis of conversation.

[www.ConferenceOfCelticWomen.org](http://www.ConferenceOfCelticWomen.org)

## Out & About in Michigan Event by Artists

Fonn Mor - Traditional Celtic and original music (local)

Feb 7 - 8pm - Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI

March 7 - 7:30pm - Dogwood Center for Performing Arts, 4734 South Campus, Court Fremont, MI

March 17 - 3-6pm - Curragh Irish Pub, 73 East 8th Street, Holland, MI;

9pm - Bell's Brewery, Fonn Mor's Annual St. Pat's Bash, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave. Kalamazoo, MI

Lunasa - Traditional Irish (Ireland)

March 19 - The Fenian's Irish Pub, Conklin, MI, 616-899-2640

March 20 - Harbor Springs Performing Arts Center, Harbor Springs, MI, 231-523-7649

March 21 - Central Michigan University, Midland, MI, Plachta Auditorium, 231-523-7649

Cherish The Ladies - Traditional Irish (New York)

March 1 - Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813, Box Office 517.541.5690

Slide - Traditional Irish (Ireland)

Feb 25 - The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Ar-

bor, MI 48104, Office: 734-761-1800

Feb 26 - Fenian's Irish Pub, Conklin, MI, 616 899-2640

Gaelic Storm - Celtic Rock (US-California)

March 19 - The Intersection, 133 Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49503, 616-451-8232

Jim Malcolm - Scottish singer/songwriter (Scotland)

Mar 27 - Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner Street in Lansing's Old Town, 517-487-9549

## Event by Venue

The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, Office: 734-761-1800;

Feb 5 - The Guggenheim Grotto; Feb 10 - The Heatons; Feb 11 - Tannahill Weavers; Feb 25 - Slide;

March 10 - Beoga; March 13 - Liz Carroll and John Doyle

Quinn and Tuite's Irish Pub, 1535 Plainfield NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 616-363-8380; Feb 21 - Brendan Loughrey

Fenian's Irish Pub, Conklin, MI, 616-899-2640; Feb 26 - Slide; March 12 - Beoga; March 19 - Lunasa





# irish iPod

Cate Baker



Since this is the month of my birthday, I decided that I would talk about one of my all time favorite bands. I'm very picky with my music, but when I like something, I love it. This band is from, I think, one of the coolest places in the world, Cork. I'm talking about the Fuchsia Band with Máirtín de Cógáin.

I first met Máirtín in November of 2006 when he performed at a local restaurant. He performed his famous broom dance and it was something that I had never seen before and I thought it was really cool! Everyone should see it. He was so nice to talk to and he had an awesome accent. We started carrying his CD's, and his bands CD's also. My brother and I were looking through the liner notes on Máirtín's CD and there was a picture of Máirtín that was just so funny that we knew he had to have a special nickname, so, one morning as I was waking up, my dad showed me the picture and asked me what I was thinking. So, I told him that I was thinking that the picture was going to eat my face right off. He looked like a baby eater, but he is just a sweetheart in real life.

In July of 2007, I met the rest of

the band. They were performing at the Dayton Celtic Festival at the stage right next to our booth. As always, at Dayton, my parents booth and Shay Clarke's booth are back to back. We make a make-shift alley cover and we all just relax back there, read, play cards, talk or just space out back there. Then there are the really lucky times when the musicians come on over and relax with us. That's when my family and I met Mícheál, Brian and Eoin from the Fuchsia Band. They all were wonderful to talk to and they all had really cool accents too! That could also be because of the fact that they all are from Cork. The Band has two CD's out, Grá Dá Raibh is my favorite.

In 2007, I got to meet Máirtín's girlfriend, Mitra. She was so soft spoken, but very pretty. She was great to talk to and she had lots of stories about her and Máirtín. Then, in 2008, Mitra and Máirtín got engaged. On New Year's Eve, they got married. I just think that is so romantic. Mitra and Máirtín are living in the States and Mitra is a surgical resident, so that means she's Dr. Mitra.

Máirtín comes to Chicago pretty

## Kathleen Edwards Tours in Support of Asking For Flowers

"Stellar storyteller" (Chicago Tribune), Kathleen Edwards returns to touring with her "third and best album" (USA Today) Asking For Flowers (Rounder) in the U.S. this winter. Recently the album was

named one of the Best Albums of 2008 by PopMatters.com who called it, "...the work of an artist who has come into her own... songwriting that's tight and self-assured; production that's stark and modest; lyrics that are equal parts bite and yearning; and choruses that are filled with shimmering, sing-along hooks."

Asking for Flowers is her first new album in three years, and the acclaimed artist's most penetrating collection to date. The album features eleven new songs, all written by Edwards, and finds her performing at the peak of her creative powers, supported by a group of master backing musicians. Flowers tells indelible, clear-eyed stories of hope and resignation, humor and death, unconditional love and brazen inequality. Although Flowers has its share of poignant moments, Edwards still



"kicks butt" (Entertainment Weekly) with "bravado and beauty" (Rolling Stone).

Regional February tour dates include 2/2 - Oakley, OH - 20th Century Theatre; 2/3 - Valparaiso, IN - Memorial Opera House; 2/4 - Detroit, MI - The Magic Bag; 2/6 - LaSalle, IL - Uptown Grill; 2/7 - Chicago, IL - Old Town School. [www.rounder.com](http://www.rounder.com)

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## IAHC February Events

### Fifth Province Bands

Entertainment at the Fifth Province for February includes: 2/6-Ceili Dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago; 2/7-Paddy Homan's Band; 2/13-Paddy Joe Joyce, direct from County Mayo, Ireland; 2/14-Jim McKee and Brendan Larrissey, direct from Ireland; 2/20-Gerry Haughey; 2/21-Dooley Brothers; 2/27-Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore; and 2/28-Joe McShane.

### Brian Conway Salon Concert

The Irish American Heritage Center will host an intimate salon concert with traditional Irish musician Brian Conway this winter at the IAHC in Chicago on Thursday, February 5 at 8pm; tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door. He will be accompanied by pianist, Brendan Dolan.

New York born fiddle player Brian Conway is a leading exponent of the highly ornamented Sligo fiddle style. Conway remains faithful to the rich tradition handed down to him. The distinctness of his tone, the lift of his playing and the deft ornamentation he brings to the tunes has placed him among the finest Irish fiddlers of any style. He has performed in North

America and Europe. Conway is also a noted instructor who has mentored many fine fiddle players, including several who have gone on to win All-Ireland championships.

Conway released his debut solo CD, *First through the Gate*, on the Smithsonian-Folkways label in 2002. This CD was voted the prestigious Album of the Year by the Irish Echo. He is considered one of the musical greats of the New York area.

Brendan Dolan has collaborated with singer/songwriter Cathie Ryan, Itzhak Perlman and the group Atlantic Bridge, which also featured former Solas vocalist Karan Casey. He scores music for programs on MTV and The Discovery Channel, and in 1995 co-scored the Samuel Golden film *Go Fish*. He is a student at the Jazz

Studies program at SUNY New Paltz.

### Love is in the Air at the Annual Hooley

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and love is in the air, or at least at the IAHC.

What's a hooley? A hooley is an old-fashioned Irish term for a dance and party. It has been a huge success in the past and includes dancing, singing, refreshments and live music. The year, the entertainment features Paddy Joe



Brian Conway



### Kathleen Keane

Joyce, direct from County Mayo, Ireland, Joe Cullen, Kathleen Keane and more!

To celebrate the holiday, there will be a Lisdoonvarna corner. Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, Ireland, is home to the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival, where each year, swarms of singles travel to meet that someone special.

The IAHC's foray into matchmaking will be set against the backdrop of the Fifth Province's fireplace, with facilitators available to make that perfect match. We have had many folks meet that special someone during the hooley, one match even resulting in a 2008 wedding!

The Hooley is Sunday, February 8, 2009 is from 5-9pm. The cost is \$12 and includes sandwiches, tea and soda bread. A cash bar will be available. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

### Quiz Night Returns

Think you're so smart? Quiz Night returns this winter at the IAHC. They have been hosting this challenging trivia night for ten years and last year's quizzes were more popular than ever. The monthly quiz is a fun way to test your trivia knowledge. There is a different quizmaster each month, so the styles of quiz vary.

The quiz is \$30 per team, with no more than six players per team. There will be prizes each week for the top three winners. Food and drink is available in the Fifth Province.

Quiz Night is February 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15 at 8pm.

### Kick Off St. Patrick's Day with Annual Dinner Dance

March is practically St. Patrick's Day Month at the Irish American Heritage Center. What better way to kick it off in style with the third annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance.

Festivities include dancing and music by Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band, a sit-down dinner, catered by Harrington's Catering and door prizes. The menu will include corned beef and cabbage, chicken entrees and more. There will be a cash bar available.

Reservations are necessary and must be made by February 25, as the last two years have been SOLD OUT!

The dance is Sunday, March 1, 2009 from 5-10pm and tickets are \$40. Reservations can be made by calling the IAHC Center office at 773-282-7035.

### Plan to Spend St. Patrick's Day with the IAHC

The Irish American Heritage Center continues its tradition of hosting some of Chicago's biggest St. Patrick's Day celebrations this March 2009 at the IAHC.

On Friday, March 13, 2009, the IAHC kicks off the holiday with Irish Dance Chicago, a large-scale Irish step dance concert at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free with a paying adult. Irish Dance Chicago showcases the talents of some of Chicago's finest Irish step dancers, all on one stage.



Tim O'Shea and Stephen Carroll

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, the IAHC holds its St. Patrick's Festival following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. This large-scale, family-oriented annual event includes traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and children's activities. The festivities begin at 1pm and end at midnight with live entertainment by Chicago Irish music groups as well as performers on tour from Ireland. Performers include the Irish Heritage Singers and Tim O'Shea and Stephen Carroll, direct from County Kerry, Ireland. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if purchased before the end of the day on March 12. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult.

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009 the IAHC will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Center's Fifth Province Lounge. The day-long event runs from Noon-1am. Activities include Irish dancing, traditional and modern Irish music and food. The cost is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the door.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox in Chicago. For more information, call 773-282-7035, or visit [www.irishamhc.com](http://www.irishamhc.com).

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## Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



I've been living a lie in these pages for the past four years, and the time has come to fess up.

To start with, my name isn't Scott Powers. I'm not from the North Side. I'm not, well, a lot of things you probably think I am if you've read this column. Everything I've written about others is the complete truth, but forget all that I've said about myself.

My name is actually Padraig McGillicuddy. You can call me Paddy. My family is originally from Cork and moved to Chicago in the early 1900s. I grew up on the South Side. The rest are just details.

Four years ago, I offered my idea for Sharing a Pint to the Irish American News, and for four years my only plan has been to write this precise column. I apologize for deceiving you for so long, but soon you will understand.

My father is/was James McGillicuddy. He was born on the South Side and never left it until his death a few years ago. He was a quiet man, faithful husband and great father. He worked hard for his family and never wanted any trouble. Mike Houlihan gave him trouble. I'm sure Mr. Houlihan is reading these words and racking his brain to think who James McGillicuddy was.

Don't worry, Mikey, you probably won't ever remember him. That's the type of person you are.

What Houlihan actually did to my father, I'm not going to publish, but believe me it's worth what he's about to get back. Recently, I suggested to Houli that I could feature him, his new book, his new movie and all his other past works in Sharing a Pint.

He's met me and read this column enough to know he could trust me. It's been a long time coming, but that was my goal all along.

I said, "It'd be a fun time for a couple of fellow IAN columnists to get together for a few pints."

Well, we did. We met at his work; I was introduced to his son; Mike and I talked for a while about all his creative productions; and then we went down to the pub. As I expected,



get a handful of pints in Mike Houlihan, and he sings like a jailbird. He rambled on about his enemies, evil thoughts on other Irish American News columnists, his long list of sins, secrets about his family and much more.

And now, I'm going to publish it all. Mike, hope you enjoy.

First, the real father to Mike Houlihan's children is... Just kidding... None of that's true... Sorry, Mike... I knew an enemy of yours coming back for revenge wouldn't be too farfetched, and I couldn't resist.

Also, I realize I owe you a phenomenal review here, and don't worry, you'll get it. Not because I'm sorry for putting you through that part; it's because it's deserved.

For the past week, I've been living a Houlihan life. On Monday, we talked, laughed and drank pints together. On Tuesday, I began

reading Hooliganism Stories: The Very Best of Mike Houlihan. On Wednesday, I threw in his soon-to-be-released feature film Tapioca. On Thursday, I watched on DVD Goin' East on Ashland, his former hit play. After all that Houlihan in me, all I can say is go buy, rent or steal them.

(Go to [www.mikehoulihan.com](http://www.mikehoulihan.com) for the buying option.) They're well worth your time.

Sure, Mike Houlihan isn't for everybody. Some people will find him crude. Others may find him obnoxious.

There are thousands of reasons why "Houli-haters," as he calls them, despise him.

And for all those reasons, people should love him.

Truthfully, !@#\$, Houli-haters. Mike Houlihan says what's on his mind.

Sorry if he isn't your average-Joe columnist. He isn't PC. He isn't going to spare someone's feeling. He's going to take shots at people, maybe even you or your business, when shots are required. He'll even do it to himself if it's that what needed. And he does it creatively and in a smart tongue. He may be from the South Side, but he knows how to put together a sentence and tell a tale—even if he's not sure how he does it.

"I have no idea," said Houlihan of writing his IAN column.

"Sometimes I drink a lot of beer, and I pound it out... The beauty is I get away with murder with some of the stuff I write in it... It's fun. Sometimes the columns are what are spun out of my imagination about some guy who might have come from the South Side."

Just as important, he's funny. If you don't laugh after reading his book, watching his movie or seeing his play, there's probably something wrong with you.

The thing is if you ever meet Mike Houlihan on the street, he's the same person that he is on the page or on the screen. He first told me that, then after sitting and talking with him for a few hours I believed it.

"It's just me talking," Houlihan explained. "There's no difference. It's just me having a conversation with the audience."

What inspired me as we talked was how at the age of 60—he just turned that in December—he isn't slowing down. He's only picking up. He just released the book and was doing a publicity tour for that. The movie was soon on its way to being distributed, and he had things going on with that. He also just decided to film a documentary—tentatively titled "We're Not White, We're Irish"—and is making his first-ever trip to Ireland in March to shoot a portion of that.

"We got the book," he said. "We got the movie. We got everything. It's good."

It is all good.

Sorry again, Mike.

\*Share a comment or suggestion with Scott Powers at [sharingapint@yahoo.com](mailto:sharingapint@yahoo.com).

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**H. WATSON CHICAGO**



World Premiere of The Quiet Man Tales at The Chicago Theatre Downstairs

The Quiet Man Tales, a riveting new play presented by Smock Alley Theater Co., in conjunction with Mavin Productions II and Pullinsi & D'Angelo Productions, will make its world premiere at The Chicago Theatre Downstairs, 175 N. State Street, previewing March 6 and opening Sunday, March 22nd. Susan Felder will direct.

Adapted for the stage by Frank Mahon and Milissa Pacelli, The Quiet Man Tales is based on Green Rushes, the classic book

of short stories by Maurice Walsh. Published in 1935, the book was the inspiration for the legendary 1952 Academy Award-winning film, The Quiet Man, which was directed by John Ford and starred Maureen O'Hara and John Wayne.

Set in the sweeping Irish countryside in the midst of the country's battle for freedom from England in 1921 and the years that follow, The play is a humorous and poignant story of the interconnected lives of the men and women who fought in the Irish War of Independence. The production features beautiful new and traditional Irish music performed by Chicago-area Irish musicians. For the first time ever, this beloved Irish story is told on stage in the rich context of Walsh's other stories, and offers plenty of laughs, plenty of drama, and plenty of action—entertainment in the grand style.

Of The Quiet Man Tales, Maureen O'Hara says: "A wonderful script both sensitive and honest to its time frame... You have managed to give uniqueness to the story and its characters that will make it stand on its own... I'm sure Maurice Walsh would approve of this story based on Green Rushes being scripted in such a delightful way."

Maurice Walsh (1879-1964) was a popular Irish novelist in the first half of the 20th century. His most famous work, The Quiet Man, appeared first in the Saturday Evening Post in 1933. Two years later, he included the story in a collection of stories called Green Rushes. The book was composed of five stories of men and women whose lives were caught up in the Irish War of Independence (1919-1921) and what happens to them during the years after the Truce in 1921. All five stories involve the same set of characters, giving the collection the feel of a novel rather than just a set of disjointed stories. Reportedly, Ernest Hemingway considered Maurice Walsh, author of 20 books, the greatest storyteller of all time.

Co-producer and co-writer, Frank Mahon, is the President of Smock Alley Theater Co. Ten years ago, Mahon noticed The Quiet Man & Other Stories (originally called Green Rushes) in a book store in Killarney, and realized that one of his favorite films had been adapted from the collection of short stories. This discovery was the inception of The Quiet Man Tales. One of Mahon's ancestors, Captain Frank Mahon, was the leader of a company of volunteers from Galway, much like those in Green Rushes and The Quiet Man Tales.

Tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster at 312-902-1500, through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by visiting The Chicago Theatre box office. 773-477-7666.

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**UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT February 2009** All shows start after 9 pm.

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Saturday, 2/7	Asah
Friday, 2/13	Paddy Joe Joyce choir from County Mayo, Ireland
Saturday, 2/14	Jim McMan and Brendan Courtney choir from Ireland
Friday, 2/20	Garry Houghley
Saturday, 2/21	Dorothy Brennan
Friday, 2/27	Suzanne O'Keefe & Jenny Hickey
Saturday, 2/28	Jim McMan

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## Gaelic Park February Events Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park

Gaelic Park is home to the Carraig Pub, the place for a great night out with music and delicious, mouth-watering food.

The Carraig Pub is offering a delicious Valentine's Day dinner special, on Friday, February 13th and Saturday, February 14th. The dinner includes a stuffed Portobello mushroom appetizer, an entrée of filet mignon and shrimp, a dessert of chocolate avalanche meringue, choice of red or white wine and coffee and tea. The price is \$70.00 per couple and reservations can be made with any of the Carraig bartenders by calling 708-687-9323.

The Carraig offers many daily food specials including: soup and salad, panini and soup, a reuben sandwich, BBQ ribs, beef stew, a fish and chicken special and many other entrees and appetizers. The Carraig serves food Monday through Thursday 5-9pm and Friday and Saturday 5-10pm.

Music is also big at the Carraig with free entertainment every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers beginning at 9:30pm. This month's entertainment includes: The Griffins, on Friday, 2/6; Joe McShane, on Saturday, 2/7; Bernie Glim & Country Roads, on Friday, 2/13; Pat Guinee, on Saturday, 2/14; Week Back, on Friday, 2/20; K Section, on Saturday, 2/21; The Ploughboys, on Friday, 2/27; and Mulligan Stew, on Saturday, 2/28.

Thursday evenings, come to the Carraig for the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

### Monthly Musical Luncheon

Gaelic Park will host their monthly Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, February 4th, 2009 beginning at noon.

The Musical Luncheon is a great way to enjoy a winter day with an afternoon of music by Sean O'Donnell, dancing and a delicious sit down lunch. Tickets are \$13 and reservations are required.

### Mass & Breakfast

Gaelic Park's Monthly Mass and Breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 8th with Mass beginning at 10am.

A delicious traditional Irish breakfast including bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more will be served following the Mass for \$8.

### The Wolfe Tones in Concert

The Wolfe Tones return to Gaelic Park on Friday, February 21st, 2009. The doors for this show open at 7:30pm.

For over 40 years, this rabble-rousing group has inspired many to fight against the injustices in Ireland with their poignant, powerful and unsurpassed style of music.

Tickets to this much-anticipated show will go quickly as the last appearance at Gaelic Park did sell out. Tickets are on sale now for \$25. More information on the Wolfe Tones can be found on their website at [www.wolfe-tonesofficialsite.com](http://www.wolfe-tonesofficialsite.com).

### Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park hosts weekly Celtic Suppers, every Sunday, from 4-9pm.

The Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for family celebrations for all occasions. For the cost of \$16 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided.

This month's entertainment includes: The Griffins on



The Wolfe Tones

February 1st and Joe McShane on February 8th.

There will not be a Celtic Supper on February 22nd. Children are welcome, ages 4-12 are \$9 and children under 3 are free.

(708) 687-9323 to reserve tickets or for more information on any of the above events or [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org). Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL.

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# Burke's Law



By Brian Burke



## "Good Cop/Bad Cop"

"Good Cop/Bad Cop" is when two or more persons on the same team and trying to achieve the same goal try to fool someone into complying with their goal through various forms of deception.

As the federal government bails out the "Big 3" U.S. auto manufacturers with taxpayer dollars, consider the following scenario:

You buy a "New Car" from a car "Manufacturer," AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION.

("AMC"), through an "Authorized Dealer" - e.g., Eddie Murphy AMC.

You also buy a "Service Contract" (a/k/a "extended warranty") from the authorized dealer, Eddie Murphy AMC, that is administered by AMERICAN MOTORS SERVICES, LLC.

You finance the vehicle through AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP., the lending arm of the car manufacturer.

The extended warranty you purchase is for 48 months/100,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Within the terms of the extended warranty, and with 95,000 miles on the vehicle, you bring the car into an authorized dealer of AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION, because the transmission is slipping. The authorized dealer finds nothing wrong and sends you on your way.

Again, within the terms of the extended warranty, and with 98,000 miles on the vehicle, you bring the car into an authorized dealer of AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION, because, again, the transmission is slipping. Again, the authorized dealer finds nothing wrong and sends you on your way.

Then, shortly thereafter, outside the terms of the service contract, when

you have 102,000 miles on the vehicle, your car breaks down and you're stranded on a road trip while driving through Texas. You call a tow truck and have the car towed to the nearest authorized dealer for AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION. Lo and behold, you need a new transmission. And, since the car is no longer covered by the extended warranty, you are forced to charge over \$3,000 for a new transmission on your credit card.

Then, when you get home about a month later, AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. repossesses your car because you are a couple of months behind in your monthly payments. AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. sends you a notice of repossession and demands payment. Moreover, at the time of the repossession, you are in receipt of a letter by AMERICAN MOTORS SERVICES, LLC, offering to pay \$1500 toward the repair, which would lend some credence to the argument that they were liable for making the repairs when the transmission broke down, if not before. You hire a lawyer. (In this scenario, the couple months past due payments owed to the lender, AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP., amounts to less than \$1,000 and you just spent over \$3000 out-of-pocket to pay for a repair in Texas to another authorized dealer of AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION that should have been performed for free under an extended warranty that you were sold by the Manufacturer's authorized dealer, Eddie Murphy AMC, and administered by the Manufacturer's subsidiary, AMERICAN MOTORS SERVICES, LLC.)

Your lawyer notifies AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. of the breach (i.e., failure or refusal to

honor the extended warranty) by AMERICAN MOTORS SERVICES, LLC, the company that failed to make necessary repairs under the terms of the extended warranty. AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. informs you, that, that is a matter between you and them (AMERICAN MOTORS SERVICES, LLC), but they (AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP.) are a separate entity. Hmmm? Separate entity? Have they ever heard of each other? Can anyone use AMERICAN MOTOR'S name and logo if they are a separate, unrelated entity?

Despite your demand for return of the vehicle, and your attorney's letters to that effect with citation to relevant case law, AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. is unmoved and auctions the car off and notifies you of the deficiency (i.e., they claim you owe them money!) Do you have an action against the lender, AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. for wrongful repossession and/or conversion?

This is not an uncommon scenario. The authorized dealer acts like an innocent broker when problems go wrong with the car that they are unable to resolve. They might even "point the finger at" or blame the manufacturer and inform the customer that the car is a piece of junk and will usually be oh so generous as to offer "relief" in the form of a "generous" trade-in value for the lemon in exchange for another new car off the authorized dealer's lot. If the customer tries to "revoke acceptance" (a legal term meaning to cancel the sale and demand return of your money) of the car, the authorized dealer refuses to take it back, and the lender continues to demand its monthly payments; if you don't continue to pay, the lender will repossess the car. (In law school, "revocation of acceptance" seemed a simple concept. In the real world, without adequate consumer protection laws, it can mean protracted litigation.)

Can the lender get away with this? Maybe not, if the lender is a "captive finance company," like AMERICAN MOTORS CREDIT CORP. and similar to Ford Credit, Chrysler Credit, etc. But then again, maybe so.

In *Valentino v. Glendale Nissan, Inc.*, Bank One repossessed a car and was then sued for conversion and violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act. The trial court dismissed the counts against Bank One and the appellate court affirmed the trial court and held that Bank One had a perfected security interest in the vehicle which entitled it to repossess the vehicle upon default, without the need for judicial intervention. The court found that the buyer's security interest arising under UCC Article 2 was subordinated to

the lender's security interest arising under UCC Article 9. In other words, the Bank One's security interest had priority. The trial court had reasoned the following:

...from an economic perspective, if the FTC Rule were to subordinate a creditor's security interest to that held by a buyer, it would have a significant, adverse effect on the availability of consumer credit. The creditor's right to take collateral securing the loan would be severely restricted, resulting in a substantial risk by the creditor in making a loan.

Does the same reasoning apply when the lender is a captive finance company (i.e., the lending arm of the manufacturer)? That is, when the lender is, for example, Chrysler Credit (as opposed to a third-party lender like Bank One) would it be less inclined to make a loan for the sale of a new Dodge/Jeep/Chrysler, manufactured by their parent corporation, if they were not able to repossess the vehicle after an alleged breach of warranty or extended warranty by Daimlerchrysler Corporation or Daimlerchrysler Services LLC? Would prohibiting a captive finance company (like Chrysler Credit or Ford Motor Credit) from repossessing the car after the consumer stops making payments have an adverse effect on the availability of consumer credit? Not likely when, in the case of a captive finance company (i.e., the lending arm of the manufacturer, a wholly owned subsidiary), curtailing the availability of consumer credit would also, in turn, have an adverse effect on the sale of its parent corporation's new cars.

In *Christinson v. Venturi Construction Company*, the court discussed the "close connection" doctrine, which holds that a purchaser of negotiable paper (e.g., the IOU or note you signed with American Motors Credit Corp. to finance the purchase of the car from the authorized dealer of American Motors Corporation) cannot be a holder in due course if its relationship with the transferor is too intimate. (The "purchaser of negotiable paper" would be a bank or other financial institution to whom the car dealer transfers the IOU or note—a/k/a "retail installment contract.") The case involved two commercial entities, not consumers, so the doctrine did not apply. But in the case of consumers, as in the AMERICAN MOTORS hypothetical scenario outlined above, does Illinois law provide adequate protection of consumers when, unlike Bank One in *Valentino*, supra, the lender is an entity related or "closely connected" to the seller—i.e., authorized dealer—and manufacturer? In *Christinson*, the court stated:

The close connection doctrine was apparently fashioned to preserve this remedy for the consumer: where two entities are interrelated, and one of the entities breaches an executory contract with a consumer, allowing the consumer to raise the seller's default as a defense against the financing entity provides realistic protection for the consumer.

Other jurisdictions have also addressed this issue. In *Freeman v. Hubco Leasing, Inc.*, the Georgia Supreme Court stated the following:

Where two corporations are owned by the same stockholders and have the same directors and officers and where one of those corporations breaches in a material way its agreement with a consumer, causing the consumer to breach an agreement with the other corporation, the latter is estopped from insisting upon timely performance of its agreement with the consumer while its related corporation remains in default on its obligations to the consumer. Estoppel prevents two corporations having the same stockholders, directors and officers from squeezing a consumer like a pair of pliers held by a common hand, while one of those corporations continues to breach its contract with the consumer. It prevents one such corporation from collecting sums due from the middleman, until the other pays such damages as are due the middleman. We therefore affirm the denial of summary judgment to Hubco Leasing. For the same reason we reverse the trial court's order requiring Freeman to pay accumulated arrearage on the lease prior to Hub Motor's payment of sums as may be due to Freeman.

The question is whether the Illinois Supreme Court would ultimately hold in favor of the consumer in the above hypothetical involving the fictitious "American Motors." I filed a case like it based on the same facts and same legal argument against one of the "big three" but it was several years ago, I was working for someone else's law firm at that time, and I don't know how it finally resolved. I assume it eventually settled out-of-court.

But this is how the American auto manufacturers treat consumers. What's the difference between a consumer and a tax-payer? Nothing. Amazing how the "big three" treat the tax-payers/consumers versus how the tax-payers/consumer treat the big three when the big three show up to Congress "with hat in hand." Thank Congress for that.

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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



A GOOD MAN has died. Cardinal Pio Laghi (1922-2009) was Pope John Paul's envoy who travelled to the White House to dissuade Bush from launching his 2003 invasion of Iraq. Cardinal Laghi said he was trying to prevent a morally and legally unjustifiable war. "You might start and you don't know how to end it," he said at the time.

"ISRAELIS BOMB hospitals and a UN school. Some 500 people were sheltering in the Al-Quds hospital in the city's southwestern Tal Al-Hawa district when it was bombed by Israeli jets and set ablaze Thursday. Hospital officials said the fire was caused by a 'phosphorus shell.'" (Informational Clearing House) Phosphorus splashes onto flesh and burns to the

bone. Its illegality doesn't deter Israeli leaders or Bush (and the US Congress) who, beginning last year, have been massacring Gazans by projectiles and by blockading food, medical supplies and fuel (thus idling water and sewage pumps). The Bush gang supplies the weapons. Meanwhile, increasingly, decent Jews and their rabbis campaign against Israel's crimes.

GAZA WITNESS. "They parade in fear, their eyes looking upwards, surrendering to the sky showering terror and death upon them, fearing the earth that keeps shaking under every step they take, opening craters where there were houses, schools, universities, markets, hospitals, and burying their lives within them forever;" Vittorio Arrigoni.

"STOP THE SLAUGHTER; Israel! Ultimately, the Palestinians are a people struggling for freedom from occupation and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital and the return of refugees to their villages from which Israel "cleansed" them. Whatever the cost,

the continuation of Israel's massacres will neither break our will nor our aspiration for freedom and independence;" Ismail Haniyeh, Gaza's Prime Minister.

ACTION! The current Gaza massacre (1,100 now dead) is by bombs, F16s, apache helicopters, tanks, etc. that Bush and our bribed Congress force us to donate through our taxes, making us accomplices. Let's phone Obama, Senators Durbin and Burr and our congressional repurging them to represent America; not Israel. Urge them to cease US complicity in Israeli crimes against humanity and to hold Israel responsible. (In separate calls urge them to permit stem cell research that does NOT kill the unborn, and to prosecute the Bush gang for their Supreme Crime against Iraq. Ditto to reject Admiral Blair for Directorship of National Intelligence, because of the East Timor genocide. As reported by Democracy Now (on Chicago's CAN TV, weekdays, 7-8am), while Indonesia's military murdered one-third of East Timor's population, Admiral Blair was ordered to get them to stop. He disobeyed orders and gave the green light, and subsequently lied to Congress about it. Why is such a monster in Obama's administration? LET'S TRAVEL! Ireland's auto rentals are ceasing their heavy

fees on drivers 70 to 75 years of age. Ditto their ban on over-75s. Instead, they will be guided by a Safety Assessment Form re health and proof of Stateside auto insurance which renters must fill out. Better check online before renting. Along with the pleasure of meeting relatives and revisiting childhood scenes, Mary and I love Ireland's people, its music, culture, and ubiquitous visual evidence of the layers of Ireland's rich history, including its latest, though mostly tragic, 800 years.

COOLACREASE, the landmark book featured here last month, is available from Athol Books in Ireland. Go to [www.atholbooks.org](http://www.atholbooks.org) to order it directly. For copies at my cost, email [fogartyc@att.net](mailto:fogartyc@att.net) or phone 312 664 7651. I've ordered 20, but most are spoken for. Coolacres shows that Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE), Ireland's State TV agency, treasonously falsifies history to delegitimize the Irish nation, to impugn the integrity of modern Ireland's Founders, to slur the exemplary Irish Land Commission and Ireland's people, especially those of Co. Offaly. It is hard to believe that Irish bureaucrats are that treacherous, but their own acts and statements in Coolacres comprise abundant, indisputable proof of it. It is especially shocking that their treason benefits only Britain and Ireland's Anglo-Irish. Irish-America must become familiar with Coolacres. It also reveals the courage and intellect of Ireland's ordinary people faced with traitors operating from within gov't. Much of the book's power comes from the follow-up correspondence with Coolacres's authors wherein the perpetrators compound their original falsehoods. The perpetrators are not only RTE personnel but an Irish senator and key members of Ireland's news media. The book includes the complete transcript of the RTE show, the refutations thereof, and proofs of RTE's falsehoods (in the form of contemporaneous documents from archives of the IRA, the British army, the RIC, the Irish Land Commission, Britain's compensation office, and from newspapers of the day). Together they make Coolacres the most elegant "case closed" refutation of falsehood, ever.

ANOTHER CHALLENGE now confronts the Irish everywhere. Fianna Fail, Ireland's main political party, is promoting an annual "Irish famine commemoration day" sometime in Spring. That they persist in using "famine" despite the well-known and indisputable

fact of the Food Removal by 75 Brit reg'ts (see [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org)) demonstrates that Fianna Fail has chosen to join Britain's cover-up, thus further betraying the murdered 5.25 millions by bearing false witness to their deaths. That is Fianna Fail's tardy response to Irish Holocaust Commemoration Day of Nov. 3 which the Irish everywhere adopted some years ago. Nov. 3 was chosen because on that date in 1845 Britain's viceroy in Ireland, Lord Heytesbury, officially launched two events; 1) the Irish Holocaust, and 2) its cover-up Big Lie of "potato famine." Heytesbury initiated them thusly; 1) He pretended to not hear the urgent delegation of 22 of Ireland's native leaders including Daniel "The Liberator" O'Connell, and the mayor of Dublin. They beseeched Heytesbury to stop the food removal—to no effect. Instead of responding to their urgency he ignored them. Then, 2) Heytesbury officially initiated the "famine" lie including its "potato famine" variation by reading to the delegation a prepared statement that mentioned only potatoes. He then showed them out. Nov. 3 is commemorated here in the US, Ireland, Australia, Canada, et al by those familiar with the Food Removal and the identities of all 75 Brit reg'ts that perpetrated it, murdering Ireland's most Gaelic, least Anglicized, people. It is a mystery why Fianna Fail pols want a "commemoration" date in opposition to Nov 3; but Britain does reward collaborators.

CATHOLICS, TOO? Now comes a notice from a writer who used some of my [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org) data in "his" upcoming column in a newspaper named The Irish Catholic. He used only what advanced his purpose—to promote the "potato famine" lie. Call me naïve, but with Catholic in its title and a mission statement that begins "To Truthfully present..." I confidently wrote to The Irish Catholic, cc-ing the writer. I informed its editors (in the remote chance that they didn't know) of the Food Removal which renders moot any talk of potato blight (and demolishes "famine"). Like Lord Heytesbury, The Irish Catholic's editors have ignored my letter; so evidently they, too, are "potato famine" promoters. See my [www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org) map that shows which reg't starved which Irish district. The "famine" lie cannot survive that "smoking gun." (Note: The Cork Examiner newspaper applied "Holocaust" to 1847 Ireland, and Michael Davitt similarly labeled it "Holocaust.")

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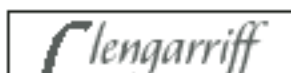
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### A Great Civics Lesson: The Who, What, Where and Why of Impeachment

Most elected officials want to make history in their offices. The way our Governor is making history is probably not what he had in mind. On January 9, 2009, Governor Blagojevich became the first governor in the history of the state of Illinois to be impeached. Since the Governor's arrest, a great civics lesson is unfolding in our legislative, executive and judicial branches.

#### Historical Perspective

Until now, no Illinois governor has ever been impeached, let alone removed from office. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the last time any public official was impeached in Illinois involved a Circuit Court judge in 1833. Nationally, in the history of this country only seven governors have been removed from office following impeachment, the last being Arizona

Governor Evan Meachum in 1988. At the federal level, two U.S. Presidents have been impeached: Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. Notably, our Governor was then a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and voted against impeaching Clinton. Johnson avoided being removed from office by just one vote, while Clinton defeated removal by a wider margin. Additionally, the House Judiciary Committee recommended Articles of Impeachment against President Nixon; however, Nixon resigned before the full house could vote, and thus avoided being impeached.

#### First Judicial Relief Sought

After the Governor's arrest, many questioned whether he could still effectively govern. Every other constitutional officer of Illinois immediately called on him to resign. When the Governor refused, Attorney General Lisa Madigan attempted to invoke Illinois Supreme Court Rule 382, which allows the Supreme Court of Illinois to determine the ability of the governor to serve office. Rule 382 had never previously been invoked to remove a governor from office. Madigan's argument was that because of the accusations against the Governor it was clear he was unable to "distinguish between his financial

interests and his official duties" and additionally that he had lost the ability to serve as Governor essentially because the public had no faith in him. Five days after the Attorney General filed her motion, the Supreme Court denied it without comment.

#### Second Judicial Relief Sought

The ability of the Governor to continue to hold office was again seriously criticized on December 30, 2008, when the Governor appointed Roland Burris to fill the vacant senate seat of President Obama. The Certificate of Appointment form, used by the Governor to appoint Burris, has a place for the signature of the Secretary of State. However, the Illinois Secretary of State, refused to sign or place the state seal on the form. Burris argued that Illinois law requires the Secretary to sign the form and to affix the state seal on it. The Secretary argued he was only required to register the appointment in the official records of the state. Complicating the issue, the U.S. Senate refused to seat Burris or grant him any powers or responsibilities of a senator until the Illinois Secretary of State signed and sealed the appointment.

In an attempt to resolve the issue, Burris filed a Petition for a Writ of Mandamus with the Supreme Court of Illinois. Mandamus is an extraordinary remedy rarely invoked by the Supreme Court to compel a public official to perform a mandatory duty. If Burris was correct and the Secretary was required by state law to sign and seal the appointment, the Supreme Court could use its Mandamus power to compel the Secretary to do so.

However, the Court found that state law did not require the Secretary to sign or seal the appointment, but instead found that his only responsibility was to register the appointment. The Court did note that the Secretary would be required to produce to anyone who requested it and paid the proper fee, a certified copy of the appointment. The certified copy would contain the state seal and an attestation by the Secretary of State that it was a true and correct copy of the appointment. Based on this recommendation from the Court, Burris obtained a certified copy of the appointment, presented it to the U.S. Senate and was sworn in as a U.S. Senator.

#### The Impeachment Process Begins

The Illinois Constitution provides that the House of Representatives has the sole power to conduct investigations as to whether there is cause to impeach the governor, or any other

elected member of the executive or judicial branch. A majority vote is necessary to impeach. The Illinois Constitution does not define what constitutes an impeachable offense. However, the committee investigating the Governor noted that the impeachment power should be "reserved for serious abuses and misconduct."

In the case of the Governor, a special investigative committee was formed to investigate allegations of impeachable offenses and make a recommendation to the full house. The bipartisan committee was made up of 21 members and conducted 6 days of hearings before unanimously recommending impeachment to the full house.

The committee considered evidence of wide ranging allegations against the Governor, including: attempting to obtain financial and other benefits for appointing a replacement for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President Obama; attempting to give state financial assistance to the Tribune Company only if the Chicago Tribune would fire members of its editorial board that were critical of the governor; multiple instances of attempting to trade official acts for campaign contributions; paying for imported foreign flu vaccinations despite notification that the U.S. Food & Drug Administration would not approve the importation; and refusal to comply with Freedom of Information Act requests.

Based on the Committee's recommendation, the House voted to impeach the Governor, returning one Article of Impeachment, alleging that the Governor abused the power of his office in one or more of thirteen different ways.

#### An Impeached Official Continues to Hold Office

The impeachment of the Governor caused many to believe that it was enough to disallow him from continuing to hold office. There is a critical distinction between impeachment and removal from office. Similar to criminal charges by a grand jury, impeachment is an accusation of wrongdoing that begins the process. An impeached official continues to hold office unless or until a judgment is entered against him following a trial.

#### The Second Step in the Impeachment Process: Trial in the State Senate

The Illinois Constitution requires that an impeached governor be tried with the State Senate acting as jurors and the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court as the presiding judge. The House of Representatives is required to appoint a prosecutor. To

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remove the governor from office, two-thirds of the 59 senators must vote in favor of removal.

In this instance, David Ellis, counsel to Illinois Speaker of the House Michael Madigan will serve as lead prosecutor. Once the prosecutor files the Article of Impeachment with the Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate will serve notice on the Governor and the Chief Justice as to when trial will begin. The Governor must file a written appearance and answer to the Article of Impeachment. If he fails to answer the Article of Impeachment or file an appearance, the trial will still proceed without him as if he had plead not guilty.

Like any trial court, the Senate will have the power to subpoena witnesses and documents and an individual can be held in contempt for failure to appear, or be compelled to give testimony. Unlike a typical trial, formal rules of evidence do not apply. The Governor or the prosecutor can object to the admission of certain evidence and the Chief Justice will rule on its admission. Interestingly, the Senate can reverse the ruling of the Chief Justice by a majority vote.

The trial will consist of opening statements, examination of witnesses, and closing argument. The prosecutor will have the first opportunity to question a witness, then the Governor or his counsel, then any senator who wishes to question a witness will also be allowed to do so by submitting a question in writing to the Chief Justice, who will then ask it of the witness.

Following the closing argument, the Senate will take a vote as to whether the Article of Impeachment should be sustained and the Governor removed from office. If more than one article of impeachment is presented, the articles should be voted on separately. In its present form, only one Article of Impeachment was entered against the Governor. As such, the article can be sustained and the Governor removed with a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn would then become Governor of Illinois.

If the Senate votes to remove the Governor from office, another vote will be taken as to whether he will be barred from holding any future public office in Illinois. This vote also requires the vote of two-thirds of the Senate.

**Conclusion**

In the last two months we have seen an extraordinary exercise of powers by our three independent branches of government, the executive, legislative and judicial. The fact that they have moved along on such an important matter without major turmoil is an indication of the strength of our three-branch system on both the state and national level.

Lt. Governor Quinn has predicted that the trial will conclude before the celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday on February 12, 2009. It may be concluded and we may have a new Governor at that time.

By Martin Healy, Jr. and Dennis M. Lynch

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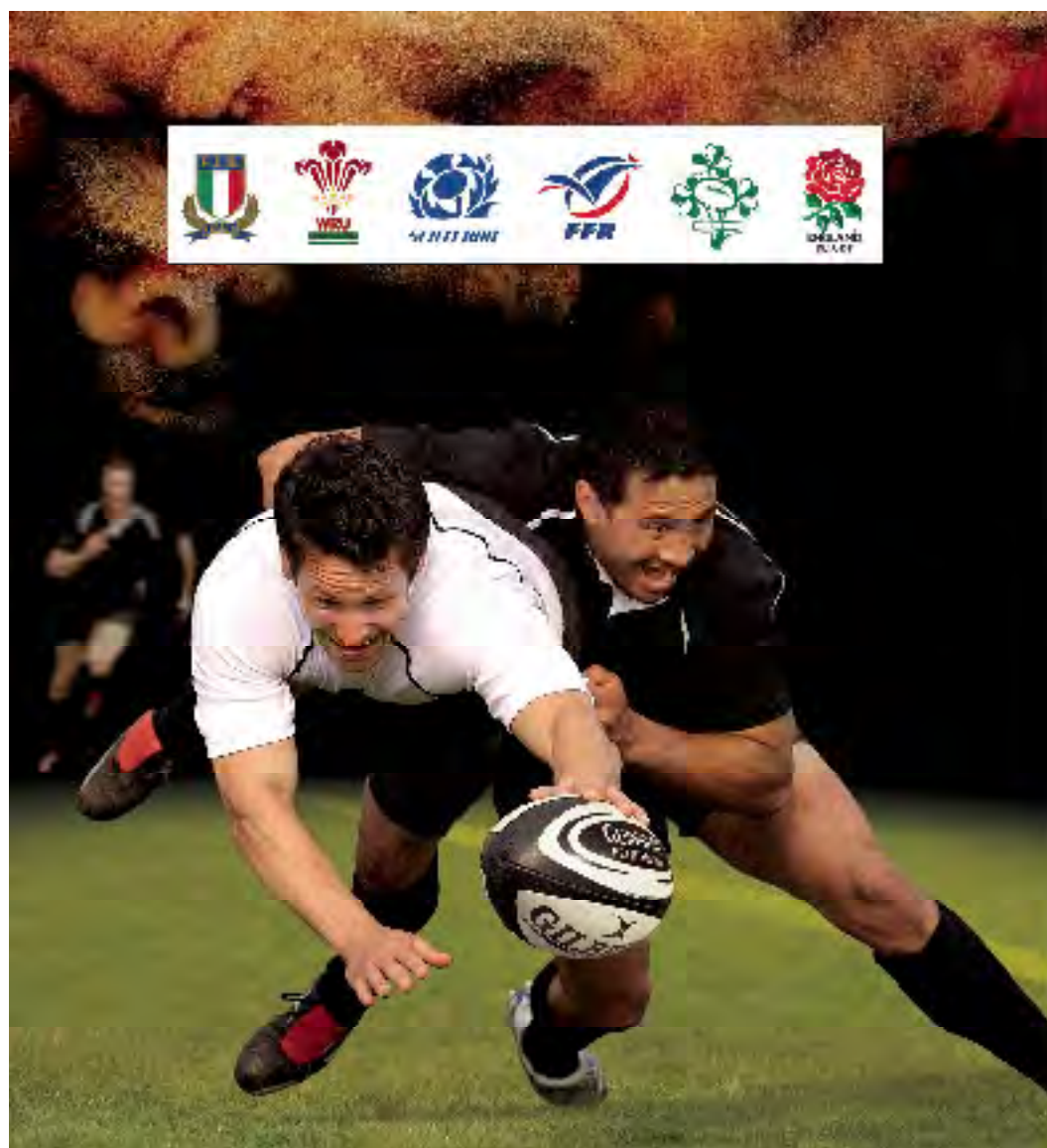

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