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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Are You Irish?

Are you Irish? Of course you are! You would hardly be reading this magazine if you were not. But just how Irish are you and what does being "Irish" mean to you? Were you born in Ireland? Were your parents born in Ireland? Were any of your grandparents? Are you an F.B.I. (Like John McEnroe)? Are you married to or adopted by somebody Irish? Perhaps your Irish links go back further to ancestors who left Ireland in the wake of the Great Famine and who worked hard and prospered in the USA of the 19th Century. You might also be descended from the Scots-Irish of an earlier period.

Ireland's recent prosperity and opening up has broadened the concept of being Irish. We have increasing numbers of immigrants, not of Irish origin, but living in Ireland, paying Irish taxes and becoming naturalized citizens; their children will be Irish. So also will children born in Ireland to parents who arrived fleeing political or religious persecution or just seeking a better life. These categories are ones that Irish Americans will be familiar with, but they are novel for Ireland. In any event, if you are one of these you are also part of the worldwide Irish family.

For there are many types of "Irish" out there. Should we be surprised? We have around 6 million living on the island and somewhat over one million of Irish birth living elsewhere, chiefly in Britain and the USA. Around this core, there are the Irish Abroad. There are no accurate figures on the numbers who left Ireland over the last two centuries alone, but their descendants run into tens of millions. US immigration figures show that over four and a quarter million Irish arrived in the century to 1920 (80%, incidentally before Ellis Island was even opened). By 2006, the US Census reported that the numbers claiming Irish descent were over 30 million, and Irish-Americans were the US' second largest ethnic group.

Elsewhere, during the last century, at least one and a half million Irish emigrated to Britain, where census estimates are that roughly 10% of the population are of Irish origin or descent (I have more first cousins in England than in Ireland). Indeed the Irish are still the largest foreign community in Britain! Australia, Canada, South Africa and Argentina

all have large communities of Irish descent. With the possible exception of North Korea, the Irish are to be found everywhere. In Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, in the farthest reaches of Central Asia, the first voice I heard in the hotel elevator after my arrival some years ago belonged to an Irishman from Navan, living and working there.

History is festooned with links between Ireland and her exiles, and the role of the Irish overseas in developments in Ireland has been at times vital. Cromwell roundly cursed the Irish overseas for their role in his major military setback in Ireland, Clonmel, in 1650. Some of the patriots deported to Australia after 1848 travelled later to Canada and the USA, and obviously many families ended up in more than one location (indeed there is a story—presumably apocryphal—that Buffalo Bill was related to the legendary Australian outlaw, Ned Kelly, as a result of two sisters emigrating to different continents).

Nineteenth century Irish nationalism was fertilised and nourished by emigrants. Could an independent Ireland have emerged without the support of the Irish in America? In recent years also, the role of Irish in America in support of the peace process in Northern Ireland was very considerable. Over generations, Irish communities overseas have offered hospitality and a helping hand to successive generations of Irish obliged to emigrate. Money sent home from emigrants kept the country going in hard times. Investment by and through the Irish overseas helped employment in Ireland.

The worldwide Irish family numbers at least 50 million (some would say 80 million). The family analogy is a good one and merits teasing out. Why not do so? Take five or ten to reflect on where you stand on being Irish. Clearly you relate to Ireland—the Motherland—but is it confined to a feeling of bonhomie around St. Patrick's Day? The chances are it's something more than just pleasant sentiment (everybody empathizes with St. Paddy's Day) but actually defining that may be difficult. Now may be a good time to begin. Probably the intensity of your sentiments depends on the closeness of your links. Those born in Ireland, or the next generation, are more likely to feel strong affinity

than somebody whose ancestors left Ireland in the 1850s. Have you traced your ancestors? Or are you close enough to the Motherland to count as an Irish citizen?

There are practical advantages to being an Irish citizen (automatically if you or a parent were born in Ireland; possibly otherwise, through a grandparent, marriage or residence). There is no restriction on dual citizenship. An Irish passport can be more acceptable—and safer—in certain situations and countries. It also allows the holder to stay and work in any country of the European Union. Citizenship, which does not carry Irish tax obligations (these are governed by residence rather than nationality) could have tax advantages, in the hands of a smart accountant. Be careful, however; to make it worthwhile the exercise might involve compromising your existing citizenship or some of the rights it carries; so hire a lawyer first. Finally, there is no half-way house; every Irish citizen has the same rights.

The downside of this is that most of the Irish family, particularly Irish Americans, cannot qualify, since their Irish roots go back too far. There's no half-way house here also; there's nothing if you don't satisfy the rules, and Ireland has no system of official recognition for services rendered. This is fine and egalitarian as befits a republic, but for many this is un-

satisfactory (for example, we cannot honour Ted Kennedy or others of his generation). Much service has been done Ireland and the Irish by her extended family—and they know it. While there is talk of introducing an honours system within a few years, the first beneficiaries, if and when it happens, are likely to be citizens. So don't hold your breath.

There are many, this writer included, who would like to see more official recognition for the worldwide Irish family. Among them is David McWilliams, the young Irish economist, who has advanced the insightful concept of the Mothership—Ireland—as a fruitful starting point for relations between Ireland and Irish communities elsewhere. He has argued that an interaction between Ireland and her diaspora could have a major and beneficial impact, "creating a global network with the homeland at the fulcrum." He has suggested Israel and the worldwide Jewish community as a possible model. This may be stretching things, but it serves to make the point that our own kith and kin should receive special consideration. And this has particular resonance today, with Ireland exposed to a much changed Europe amid a worsening economic situation. The idea merits and should receive serious consideration. I will return to it.



The Michaels; Flatley & Putman.

Putman World Champion Dancer

Michael Putman, 17, from Oak Lawn won the 2009 World Irish Dancing Championships in the men 16-17 age group. Mike dances with the Dennehy School of Irish Dance. His teachers are Kathleen Dennehy and Kathleen Moloney Horan. He's a 3-time Regional Champion, finished second at the North American Championships and has qualified six times for the World Championships. The World Championships were held in Philadelphia April 5th-12th, which was the first time the championship has been held in the United States. Michael Putman is the second champion to come from the Dennehy School with their first world champ being Michael Flatley in 1975.

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(ISSN #1085-4053)
USPS #013454

June 2009 Vol. XXXIII # 6

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Irish News, Inc. is published
monthly on the 1st of month.

SUBSCRIPTION
First class delivery
Fastest: Delivered in envelope
1 year \$35 2 year \$65 3 year \$90
Regular delivery
1 year \$30 2 year \$55 3 year \$75
Canada 1 year \$35 2 year \$60
International: 1 year \$85

Irish News Inc.,
7115 W. North Ave. #327,
Oak Park IL 60302.
(Periodicals Postage Paid at
Palatine, IL and additional
mailing offices.)
POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Irish News, Inc.
7115 W NORTH AVE #327
OAK PARK, IL 60302
708-445-0700
e-mail to:
editor@irishamericannews.com

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
The opinions and statements
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Distribution
25,013



**Chicago
Gaelic News**

Pat Hennessy



**Southside Parade in
Honor of St. Patrick
Must Continue**

Recently President John Griffin and his dynamic Gaelic Park Board of Directors honored and entertained our Southside Parade Committee for organizing and putting together great southside parades over the past several years in honor of Ireland's national apostle, Saint Patrick. It was a beautiful gesture and certainly one very well deserved. This fine group of Irish-Americans not only honored St. Patrick, but they also demonstrated that they are very capable of organizing large parades and run them, despite many obstacles.

My sincere apologies for not being able to attend, as it was one Irish American gathering I hated to miss, especially missing the opportunity to circulate and thank each and every member of the committee. May I now do so by saying in the old Gaelic tongue, Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde agus beannact De ar an oibre. (Thank you very much, my friends, and may God bless your work.)

Hopefully, by this time, the members of the committee have been able to get together and discuss the future of the parade, and have hopefully decided to carry on by adding some additional bylaws to eliminate what has happened in the last two parades. The "mashing" of the neighborhood has not been good, but, discontinuing such an anticipated parade by thousands of Irish Americans and

other good people, would be to surrender to the make-believe Mardi Gras lovers who drifted in from all over three states.

Last month I offered a few suggestions that might help. I received some pro and con replies. But most of those who called or wrote seemed to agree that the taverns have to help by closing down for a few hours during the parade, say from 10am to 4pm. This would certainly lessen the tension and still provide the owners with some profitable hours. It's either agree, or lose the Parade. Certainly that would be a much bigger blow. Another suggestion that drew agreement was the detailing of the police. The most agreed upon choice was to detail the police on the sidewalks instead of inside the barriers, where the Parade Marshalls already take good care of the units. Police patrolling the sidewalks would certainly be a better deterrent.

To fold up now would be to surrender to the people who come there to let loose with no regard for the objective of the parade or for the people in the neighborhood. We must not allow them to take over our Parade, which many fine men and women work hard to put together, and which is now considered by many as much more representative than the downtown parade. Let's give it one more chance with everyone's cooperation. It must continue.

**Hurling and Football
at Chicago Gaelic Park**

June is usually the month that GAA activity, hurling and Gaelic football, can be witnessed at Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL, (east of Harlem and west of Cicero at 147th Street.) The games, men's and women's, get underway at 2pm, and with slides and enclosed picnic areas, you can bring

along the whole family and watch the thrilling action on the field, and, of course, have a cold Guinness or Smithwicks. Call before you leave home and get the schedule, 708-687-9323/. See you at the games.

**Young Cork
Student Seeks
Immigration
Information**

Katie Lynch, a young Cork student, recently wrote seeking information on Irish immigration, particularly in recent years. She is working on an internship with Chicago Immigration Support and was asked to write a brief history on the situation as a whole.

I immediately forwarded my information covering the period of the changing of the old National Origin Quota System, under which most of us had entered the United States since 1920. It was based on how well earlier immigrants from different countries assimilated into the U.S. and how they performed in the building and defense of our country.

It was determined by the Bureau that immigrants from western Europe had performed better and were given their share of visas. Ireland, England, Germany, France and others were in that category. There were countries that merited no visas, and others that received small amounts. Ireland received approximately 20,000 visas annually and, strange as it may seem, never filled all that were granted.

President Harry Truman was the first Chief Executive who called for an equitable U.S. Immigration Policy in 1950. Other presidents, Kennedy and Johnson, followed in that appeal. Finally, the system was abolished and Johnson signed the new bill at Ellis Island in 1965.

The National American-Irish Immigration Committee fought this bill all the way and was successful in the passage of the Rodina Bill in 1968, which would have allowed a fair amount of visas for all concerned. John Collins, chairman of the Irish Committee, argued the bill all the way, and was called backed three

times to present more information regarding the pattern of Irish immigration, etc. He finally convinced Congress that his bill would be fairer all around. Unfortunately, it "died" in the Senate. However, the State Department promised that "no country will be neglected." That promise was never kept, which resulted in the "undocumented." The State Dept. did however grant 60,000 Amnesty Visas to the Irish in the early 80's.

Had this Bill become law, it would have solved the "undocumented" situation, at least with regard to the Irish. The secret of getting such legislation through Congress is to do as the Irish did in the late 60's, and get a good national committee and cover most of the states individually by getting the attention personally of each congress person and member of the Senate. Above all, stay off the streets waving flags and shouting slogans. Such methods have done more harm than good.

We wish the best of good luck to the young Cork lady and hope she will help the present situation, so that well educated young Irish are not prevented from coming to the United States—a great country that earlier Irish helped build and defend on the battlefield.

**Congratulations
Sheriff Tom Dart**

Congratulations are extended to the popular Sheriff of Cook County, Tom Dart, who was recently named in prestigious Time Magazine as "one of the nation's most influential people." Judge Abner Milkva wrote a recommendation lauding him for stopping evictions of renters whose buildings had been foreclosed and hammering out a decision last year in which renters be notified in advance.

Sheriff Dart is a strong advocate of many Irish-American activities, including the great Southside Parade, in which his unit not only participates, but also helps participants along the route. Beannact De ar an oibre, Thomas (God bless your work, Thomas.) Our own P.J. O'Dea, who works for the Sheriff, is a great advocate of his in the Irish American community.

**Some Favorite
IAN Columnists
"Online Only"**

This Month
Due to space considerations, vacations and health issues, several of your favorite IAN columnists will be online only this month, and in the months to follow.
Tom Boyle's Boyle the Kettle, and Chris Fogarty's For the Republic, as well as Deirdre Kozicki's Reel Jiggy. Tom is recovering from a double knee replacement. We wish him a speedy recovery! You're a brave man Tom!

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



Finally June is here! I hate cold weather and I've never developed a taste for "winter sports." I like June best of all, and one of the big reasons I love June so much is the fact that June, the third weekend to be exact, is when the best piping competition in the Midwest is held. The 23rd Annual Illinois St. Andrew Society Scottish Festival and Highland Games takes place on Friday, the 19th of June, from 4-10pm and on Saturday, the 20th of June, from 8am-9pm. Friday night has a great ceillidh and lots of musical entertainment. The vendors

will be open along with the food and beverage stands. Saturday has the piping and drumming competitions which start early, right at 8am, so get there early, because you don't want to miss this. The best pipe bands, best solo pipers and drummers, all come here to compete. You won't believe the quality of the piping. It's simply the best we'll see in the Midwest. If you love the pipes, this is the place to be. I suppose I should mention all the other attractions too, like world-class athletic competition, highland dance competition, clan tents, car

show, belly dancers (that's right, Celtic belly dance, you ain't lived till you see that) plus great food and drink. We set up and sell our music at a lot of Scottish shows, and this is definitely the best you'll find in the Chicago area. The games are held at the Oakbrook Polo Grounds and you enter the parking area on 31st Street just West of York Road. You can get more info on their website at www.chicago-scots.org. And, I love June because he was born on June 12th.

New Releases

It has been a wonderful month for music with some stunning stuff coming out. First I have to mention Pete Purvis' new release *A New Tradition*. Peter, the piper with Gaelic Storm, really surprised me here. I knew he was a great piper, but I never knew about his talent on the piano. This CD is being reviewed by Shay Clarke, but this one you'll want.

While working a show in St. Louis, I ran into a group of eight young ladies who play the sweetest trad music I've heard in awhile. No, it wasn't *Cherish the Ladies*, but Joanie Madden was quoted as saying, "The combined talents of these girls is frightening. They are a force to be reckoned with." After hearing their CD, I agree with Joanie. The band? *Girsa*, which means "young girls" in Gaelic, hails from the Pearl River, NY, area and have been playing together since they were kids—it shows. Lovely vocals and tight, well crafted instrumentals. Here is a gem created by eight talented young ladies who know their music. They deserve your support, buy the CD, *Girsa*. You'll thank me.

Also while in St Louis, got a chance to talk to Mike Rafferty, who

told me about his new CD that was coming out shortly. The New Broom has Mike with his flute joined by Willie Kelly and his fiddle along with Donal Clancy on guitar—talk about a winning combination. Mike has recorded a number of fine traditional CDs, but I think this is his best ever—and that's saying a lot.

I often get the complaint "there's nothing new coming out of Scotland." Well that's just wrong, as any fan of the Greentrax Music label will tell you, and the next two CDs I want to tell you about will prove my point. Between Two Worlds by The Paul McKenna Band, is one of the most innovative sounds, contemporary and traditional in the same breath—the future of Scottish music? I hope so. Led by Paul McKenna on guitar and vocals, the band features David McNee on bouzouki, Ruairidh Macmillan on fiddle, Sean Gray on flute & whistle, and Ewan Baird on bodhran. Paul McKenna also wrote several of the songs and some of them will be classics, the title song for one. I spent the better part of a day in the store just playing and replaying this CD, making all my customers listen to it. They liked it.

The second CD from Scotland, again on Greentrax, is the third release from the group GiveWay and is titled *Lost in This Song*. The group consists of four sisters, Amy, Fiona, Kirsty, and Mairi Johnson. On their first CD they were just kids, very talented kids and absolutely charming. On their second CD, they were teens, full of promise and still very talented. Now they've reached a point where they're still charming, still talented, and the promise is fulfilled. My son got to see them at a recent house concert and he was blown away.

Their new CD was produced by the multi-talented Phil Cunningham. He also plays on the recording. Its simply magic.

The last item on my musical agenda contains both good and bad news. Good in that Eric Bogle, Scottish-born Australian folk singer/songwriter has released both a new CD. *The Dreamer* and his first DVD, *Live At The Stonyfell Winery*, and bad, in that Eric Bogle has decided to hang up his touring boots and go roving no more. Those of you who have seen his live performances know the magic. You can buy the DVD. His new CD carries on the tradition of songs that will rip the heart right out of you given half a listen, songs that hold us up to a mirror and force us to look at ourselves in the cold light of honesty, songs that will cause you to call your best friend and tell them "You just gotta hear this!" I'm sorry that Eric won't be touring any more, we'll miss him, but I hope he never stops writing his songs and recording them.

Benefit Concert for Michael McMechan

Michael McMechan, who has volunteered his time as a teacher of the Irish language for more than 20 years at the Irish American Heritage Center with Na Gaeil, was diagnosed with a stage 4 brain tumor in December 2008, and has since had surgery and is currently undergoing chemo treatments. He did not have health insurance, and has amassed enormous medical bills and is in need of our help.

Na Gaeil Irish language group has organized a benefit concert to be held at the Irish American Heritage Center's Fifth Province Pub, on Sunday, June 21st, 4-8pm. Along with music, there will be a silent auction and basket raffle, with all proceeds going to help pay for Michael's medical bills. Performers include John Williams and friends, Baal Tinne, Deorad, Academy of Irish Music, and Tantrum, featuring Kathleen Keane. Here's your chance to hear some great music and do a good deed for a great guy. Admission is \$10 at the door, kids 12 and under are free.

Donation to: The Discretionary Trust for Michael S. McMechan, c/o Andrew McMechan, P.O. Box 2317, Birmingham, MI 48012-9998.

Thanks to Noah Smulkis for all his work on the benefit—you're a good man. Eileen, you know you're in our prayers, stay strong, we love you!

Comments at pipingitin@comcast.net or stop by the store - Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa, Villa Park, at 630-834-8108. Slainté!

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Irish American author **Cathal Liam**, writer of *Blood on the Shamrock* and *Consumed in Freedom's Flame: A Novel of Ireland's struggle for Freedom 1916-1921* will appear at a special book signing at Paddy's on the Square's booth at the **Printers Row Lit Fest, June 6 and 7, from 11am-5pm.** *Blood on the Shamrock* chronicles the Irish Civil War through historical fiction.

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Boyo's in the Hood:

By Scott Powers

This could be a happy story.

It could also be a sad one.

Only time will tell.

See, these words have been written eight days before Henry Coyle enters the boxing ring at Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to square off against Neil Sinclair for the Irish light-middleweight title.

It will be the biggest fight of the 26-year-old Coyle's professional career. There will be 9,000 people watching in the arena, as well as countless thousands on television via Sky Sports. It will be for a prestigious Irish championship. All that, and his boxing future will likely be determined by the bout's outcome. Win, and Coyle will rise in the rankings. And in the boxing world, that is all that is important. A higher ranking leads to higher-profile fights, which ultimately leads to bigger paydays.

"All this is about is winning," said Coyle, who is from the village of Geesala in the County of Mayo and has lived in Chicago since 2006. "All I have to do with this fight is win it and become the Irish champion. Champion of the greatest country in the world, my country."

He may be young and possess a short professional résumé (10 wins, 1 loss, 9 knock-outs), but he has reached an all-important crossroads, where a loss would be detrimental to his career.

"Everybody wants to win; I need to [expletive] win this," he said. "Because if I don't win this, I'm [expletive]. I'm back working. That's the harsh reality. The harsh reality is I need to make a few pound. The way I can do it is by winning. That's just the way it is."

Catch Coyle away from the ropes, and he's not like this. He'll laugh with you all day. Whether he knows you or not, he'll use himself or even you as the punchline of his jokes. His boyish grin rarely disappears. But when it comes to boxing, he's as serious as an obituary. He does love the sport, but he understands greatly that for him to continue to make a living doing what he loves, he must win.

It's that thought that Coyle awakes to every morning. It's why he only eats meals made

by a nutritionist. It's why he's at the Chicago Boxing Club every day working out with Butch Scalani and his trainer Sam Colonna. It's why he puts himself through the intense workouts of Prentiss Rhodes at Rhodes Fusion Fitness to improve his foot speed. It's why he runs countless miles when he's tired. It's why he gave up drinking a few years back. It's why, when he hears the bell signaling the final minute, he finds that one extra gear to push himself to.

"You have to be driven," Coyle said. "You got to work hard. I know no one works as hard as I do. . . . You ever get tired in a fight? You ever play sports and get tired? Worst feeling in the world. Conditioning is key in this game."

A 25-year veteran of Chicago's boxing scene, Colonna even believes Coyle pushes himself too far sometimes. Often, Colonna has to make Coyle stop. "His style is of a Mexican-Irish fighter," Colonna said. "He keeps going and nothing discourages him. He's got the heart of 10 lions."

It's a heart that first beat in the outside world on July 8, 1982. Born to a father who loved boxing and even created the Geesala Boxing Club and to a mother who hated it, Coyle had to walk a tight rope in his boxing career until he got older. While he made his way around the boxing club from the moment he could walk, it wasn't until he was 10 that he was allowed to train more than one day a week.

All together, he would fight in 207 amateur fights in 14 countries. He won 189 of them. Twenty-eight times he fought representing Ireland. He was the Irish national senior champ in 2004 and '05 and in his final amateur bout won the gold medal at the World Military Games in July 2006.

In December of that year, he departed Ireland and joined his younger brother, Alan, and two uncles (Henry Coyle and John Coyle) in Chicago. His uncle Henry was also an Ireland champion in 1959.

"It's the place to be for boxing," Coyle said of America.

On March 16, 2007, Coyle lived out a boxer's dream and made his pro debut in Madison Square Garden. His dad was in his corner as he knocked out Jason Collazo in the first round on the eve of St. Patrick's Day.

"Madison Square Garden is where all the legends have fought," his father Gerry Coyle said from his home in Mayo. "It was Ali and Liston, Floyd Patterson, all the great names in boxing."

Coyle said, "It was great. It was an honor to fight at Madison Square Garden for your pro debut."

That joy, however, was short-lived. In his third fight he was knocked down by Omar Bell 29 seconds into the first round. The referee stopped the fight and awarded Bell the win.

Like that, Coyle's world fell apart.

"To say I was broke would be an understatement," Coyle said. "I didn't sleep for five weeks. I actually don't drink alcohol at all now. I gave up the drink three years ago. But I couldn't sleep. I put myself to sleep at night drinking wine. I couldn't [expletive] sleep for five weeks. "My head was [expletive] burning. My old man had to come out from Ireland. I couldn't explain it to you. I was just [expletive]. It was just like the worst [expletive] thing ever. I was a broken man. My father came out and brought me back training."

Gerry Coyle said, "You have ups and downs in life. It builds character. The key is he wants to fight and is ready to fight."

Coyle quickly learned who his real friends were. People who called him when he was on top of world suddenly stopped after he lost. He relied on his father, his brother, his two uncles and others, such as Davie McAllion and Gerry Conway.

Eventually, Coyle returned to the ring. And now, he sees that loss as a necessary development in his career. It taught him a wide range of lessons. It also motivated him. Since the loss, he has won eight consecutive fights.

"A lot of people want to see you fail so they can say to you, 'I told you so. I told you, you shouldn't have gone pro,'" Coyle said. "There were a lot of guys laughing. There was a lot of hurtful stuff said to me.

"It's funny; I could have thrown the hat out. That's not me. I'm going to win a world title. I'm going to win a world title. If I win this Irish title, then maybe American, European, world. I'm going to win a world title. All my energy is going into that every day."

*Scott Powers traveled with Henry Coyle to Belfast for his championship fight. Check out www.irishamericannews.com for video coverage of Coyle's journey. Henry met a roadblock in his quest for a title when he was defeated by Neil Sinclair for the Irish belt. The ref stopped the fight in the third round. Henry is 10 and 2 in his professional career now. Our hope is that he will take his time before making a decision to continue or end his quest. Either way, he is a winner.

Martin Lynch Q & A

Name: Martin Lynch

Occupation: Owner of the Irish Times Pub and Restaurant

Location: 8869 Burlington Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513

Age: 30

Originally from: Athenry, Co. Galway, Ireland

How long have you been in Chicago?

I first came in 1998 as student, then moved over in 2004.

What brought you here? My uncle, I came over to visit. I remember actually coming out of O'Hare and coming down the tollway and seeing 16 lanes going one way and 16 lanes going the other way. Coming from the west of Ireland, I had seen nothing like it.

What do you enjoy most about Chicago? Honestly, the biggest thing is the people. I think Chicago is very clean. I love the way Mayor Daley runs it. When you compare it to other places, you can't compare it. What more do you want? You're only six hours away from Ireland, too.

When did you purchase the Irish Times? I bought it in October 2008. My uncle owned it since 1991. I actually bused tables my first night in Chicago. He gave me a steak sandwich, which I never had, and then told me to clean off the tables. The first day I bused the tables, and I came back 10 years later and bought it.

Why did you buy it? Without a doubt, it's the nicest pub in the Chicagoland area. It's just beautiful. One thing I think about the Irish Times is that it's a pub where you actually feel as if you're home in Ireland rather than a pub trying to be. It's an authentic pub feel. It's just a versatile pub. It adapts for every season. We have roasts now and a lot of different events in the summer. In the winter, people love coming in for the fireplace and the fish fry.

What makes the Irish Times so authentic? We have so many antiques here. The Irish Times was done bit by bit. It wasn't like we had a budget of a million dollars and went to a company that builds bars. The money goes back into it. It's continuously changing and improving. We're upgrading all the time, making it better. You go to pubs now, and you don't have a feeling for what they are. We're very homey and cozy.

Why did you get into the restaurant business? I personally like people. My father was a politician in Ireland. He was very popular, and he was a good man. All my life, we had people coming in and out of our house all night long. I just watched him give and give and give all the time. When I was a civil engineer stuck in the office from 8 to 6 every day I thought my life was passing me by. I remember spending my summers in Chicago and seeing how much more to life there was. Meeting people in a pub, what better life is there? It's my house, too. I live upstairs. It's just the people. That's what I enjoy. I enjoy talking to people and meeting people.

What do you hope a person says after leaving the Irish Times? A perfect example is we had a benefit here last Saturday. One of the women said she was going to do all of her benefits from now at the Irish Times. We like to go one-on-one with people. When you have dinner here, I try to go around and talk to every table. I think it's that personal touch when you're meeting the owner. The most important thing is my staff. If you don't smile at me in the first 10 seconds, you don't get a job. I can't train someone to smile and be friendly. The thing is when people come in here they inevitably come back with more people. They feel they found this hidden treasure. We don't advertise, so all of our advertising is by word of mouth. We're very successful. It says a lot of the product we put out and just how good of a place it is.

What's your beer of choice? Guinness.





Photo by Cathy Curry, 4girls@4girlsp photography.com.

(L to R): Sean Ginnelly, Henry Coyle and Martin Lynch ham it up on the stairs of the Irish American Heritage Center. They're young and brash, and as Irish as the Ed Cox art in the background. Don't worry gray hairs, they're here to stay, you'll be in good hands!

What do you like to do away from work? Spend time with my daughter Emma.

What are your plans for the future? Just to continue the success of the Irish Times. Just working to keep the standard we're at. Maybe expand more down the road.

To be doing this at 30 must feel good? To tell you the truth, I'm honestly very proud of it. I've owned other bars, but the Irish Times I've always seen as THE bar. It's a benchmark. It's a place you could literally have Obama walk in and he'd be proud of it.

Anything else you'd like to add? I'd like to mention my father Martin. He was a county councilor in Ireland. He passed away more than 12 years ago. ...Also, if anyone is in Athenry, look up Seamus Lynch. He's a certified tour guide. He'll give you the best tour you'll ever receive. I wish Henry Coyle all the success with his boxing career. He's a good friend of mine.

*More information about the Irish Times can be found at www.irishtimespubchicago.com. If you're interesting in having a party or any sort of event at the Irish Times, e-mail Martin at martin@irishtimespubchicago.com.

Sean Ginnelly Q & A

Age? 35

Job titles? Had a few in my day—trainee/bartender/server/assistant manager/front of house manager/sale & marketing executive/general manager—pick one.

Originally from? Just outside Castlebar, Co. Mayo—a little place called Glenisland.

How long have you been in Chicago? Came here in June 1999—so coming up on ten years (yikes! didn't realize I've been here so long!) Time flies when you're having fun, I guess.

What brought you over? Eamonn Brady (Kitty O'Shea's fame) was involved in the opening of original Curragh in Schaumburg. He came to Ireland looking for people interested in coming over to work there. I met up with him in Dublin, and he hired me to come work there. At the time, I had been looking for an opportunity to experience living and working in the States, and this opportunity included

employment, a visa, and accommodation, so I jumped at the chance.

What about Chicago has kept you here? Lots of things really—Chicago is such a great city with so many things to offer—especially in the summer. Not only that, I've met so many great people—the natives are very nice, friendly people who love the Irish, and there's such a strong Irish community in this city. Not only that, but I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to take on the position of general manager at the Curragh, which in itself provided great challenges and responsibilities. The one downer—winter in Chicago!

What is about Chicago's Irish community that led you to immersing yourself into it with the radio show and working in the restaurant business? My background was in hospitality—I graduated with a degree in Hotel Management back in Ireland. I had spent a year working in Germany in a family-owned hotel, and spent most of the time there working in the gourmet restaurant. Later, I completed post graduate management training in the U.K., spending periods of time work in London, Birmingham, Newcastle, and a few other cities completing various training assignments. Working in an Irish bar, I was in constant contact with many Irish and Irish Americans, so I gradually became more involved with and became more aware of things happening in the community. When the opportunity to work in Irish radio presented itself, I felt it was a great opportunity to "give back." I'm a strong believer in "giving back"—it's what helps a community to thrive and prosper.

How did it come about that you took over for former Good Morning Ireland presenter and founder John Gurhy? Well, I always had a big interest in radio and in fact, prior to accepting the opportunity to come to the States, I had an opportunity to get involved with a pirate radio station in Dublin. Instead, I took up the opportunity to come to the States but still wanted to pursue my interest in radio. I signed up for a broadcasting course that involved on-the-job training at

an actual working radio station—kinda like an internship. My tutor was veteran radio broadcaster Ken Southern, who had years of on-air experience and also taught radio at Columbia College. He was working with 93.9 WLIT at the time, and each week I would go to the station for a training session. By the time I was nearing completion, I learned that Gurhy who had been presenting Good Morning Ireland was planning on returning to Ireland permanently. I figured it would be a big loss to see the program go off the air—it was providing a great service to the Irish community in Chicago—including weekly news and sports reports from Ireland, as well as covering issues of interest locally in Chicago. I got in touch with Gurhy and offered to continue the show. He was delighted at the prospect of the show continuing and the rest is history.

What do you enjoy most about hosting the radio show? Love every single thing about it. I particularly enjoy the weekly news reports with Eileen Magnier and the opportunity to go beyond the headlines and get ...in the words of Paul Harvey... "the rest of the story." Also love having the opportunity to interview all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds. It's also great to know that you can help people less fortunate in the community by being able to spread the word when it comes to promoting benefits and fundraisers—it's a duty that comes with the territory.

Who have been some of your most memorable interviews? There have been many memorable interviews—many come to mind and some of those that stand out include Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan who has accomplished so much both as an athlete and tenor and who's life story was the subject of 20/20 Barbara Walters special entitled Dr. Courageous. Former EU Commissioner Pdraig Flynn spoke to us after the death of former Taoiseach Charles Haughey—Pee Flynn as was known, held various senior ministerial positions in all of Haughey's administrations, and he had great insight on the former Taoiseach. Irish Tenor and international recording artist John McDermott did a wonderful interview with us—there have been many more too.

What makes your show unique? Apart from Bernie (my sidekick!)? Ha ha. I guess it's "fresh"—lots of energy and very much "in-touch" and "informed." I suppose it's got a more youthful perspective. The content is often determined by the issues and so it's very topical. Since I'm a more recent transplant from Ireland, I think I have my finger on the pulse when it comes to what's going on

over there. We have very in-depth new and sports reports which definitely stand out from anything else. Eileen Magnier's news reports are very popular, and Tommy Marren does a very comprehensive sports report which the Irish sporting enthusiasts in Chicago really seem to enjoy.

What do you hope listeners take away after listening to your show? I suppose different people will take different things but hopefully enjoyment is one of them. After all, most of what we do is entertainment. I would like to think people are feeling that time spent listening is time well spent, and that we've imparted information that they consider useful or beneficial. In other words, hopefully, a benefit of sorts has accrued.

What drives you? Success, I guess! When I set my sights on something, I like to succeed, and willing to work as hard as it takes.

What is your beer/drink of choice? Varies with the mood! Hard to beat a good pint of Guinness when in an Irish Pub.

What do you like to do when you're not working? Um, when is that? If I'm not working at the Curragh, I spend my spare time at Starbucks—usually reading or doing research for the show. Other than that, I love to squeeze in a visit to the gym!

Plans for the future? Um, not sure... would like at some point to delve further into the field of broadcasting—that's my passion. I love politics and current affairs.

To be doing all this at such a young age, must feel fulfilling? Yes, it's fulfilling to be doing something you love. Of course, anytime you set your sights on something and you succeed—whether it's through hard work, a bit of luck or a combination of both—that's always fulfilling. As Hanibal used to say in the A-Team, "I love it when a plan comes together!"

Anything else you'd like to add? Just like to thank everybody who has supported the show. It's bigger than me or any one person. The show provides a valuable service to the Irish and Irish-American community, and it's a collaborative effort—without our sponsors and advertisers we wouldn't have a show—so thanks, first and foremost to those who have stuck by us even in tough economic times. Without our listeners—we wouldn't have a show—so thanks to all our many loyal listeners, and it's great meeting you everywhere I go. Finally, thanks to Bernie—who works behind the scene to help each show run smoothly—couldn't do it without her!

*The show is broadcast every Saturday 1:05pm to 3pm on 1450 AM WCEV and on the web at www.goodmorningireland.net.





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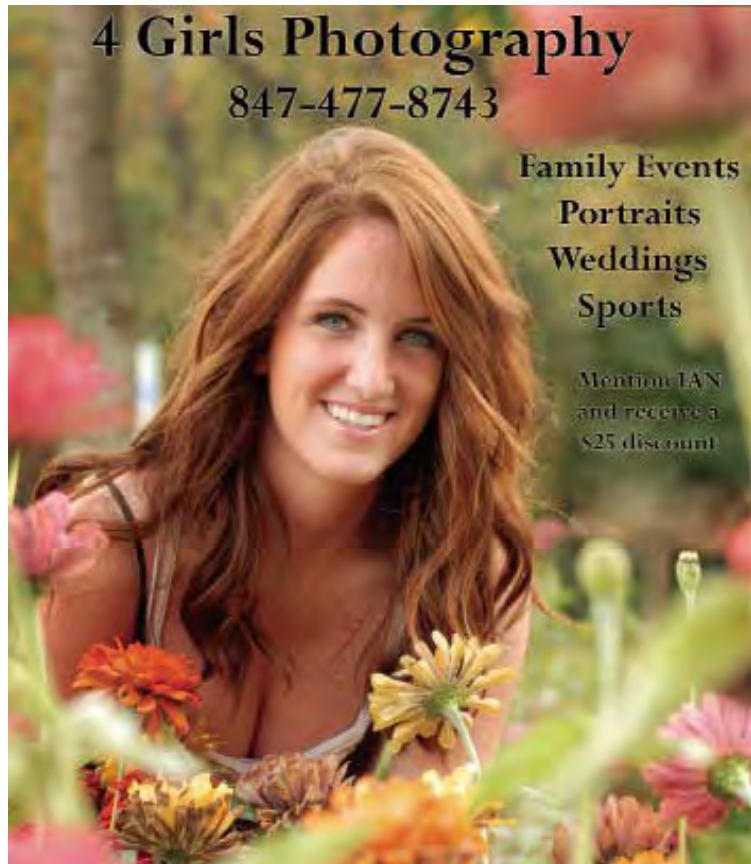
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Barrel of Monkeys' Celebraties Authors

Barrel of Monkeys (BOM) will hold their 8th Annual Celebration of Authors event on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 7-10pm, at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Chicago IL 60657. This special end-of-the-school-year celebration honoring BOM's student authors and their families includes about 75 minutes of youth-generated scenes (list available on request a week before the event), followed by a post-show party with refreshments. Audience

members have the rare opportunity to meet the authors, the teachers and principals from the schools BOM members have worked with in this school year. This performance consists of all new student-authored, adult-performed stories never before seen on the public stage. The heart-warming and exhilarating evening combines the two communities BOM serves all year—the educational community and the theater community for one special night.

Celebration of Authors is a free event, but reservations are required at 312-409-1954 or hthompson@barrelofmonkeys.org.

Check out Barrel of Monkeys Radio Theater at BarrelOfMonkeys.org/podcast, featuring stories written by kids and performed by adults, provided direct to your MP3 player. Many (though not all) of the podcast stories have never been performed during BOM's stage show, and some podcasts are new takes on old favorites. www.BarrelOfMonkeys.org.

Ray Collins to Speak at Hunger Strike Commemoration

Twenty-eight years ago, ten bravemen stunned the world by their agonizing deaths on Hunger Strike in Long Kesh jail in Ireland. Seven political prisoners allied to the Irish Republican Army, and three representing the Irish National Liberation Army, sacrificed their lives to expose injustice and brutality in British



jails and to restore Political Status to their imprisoned comrades. These ten martyrs, united in cause and principle under different factions of Irish Republicanism, left an unfulfilled legacy of strength in unity to Irish Republicans today.

In 2009, the Chicago Hunger Strike Commemoration Committee will again gather together in unity to pay homage

to the memories of the ten H-Block Martyrs, who gave their lives in the fight for political status in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh 28 years ago.

On Saturday, June 6th, at the Abbey Pub, 3420 W Grace in Chicago, Ray Collins, formerly of Belfast, will be the guest speaker and musical performer. During the Hunger Strikes of 1980 and 1981, Ray visited the prisoners, played numerous benefit gigs, and embarked on speaking tours in Britain and Europe to highlight the struggle for Political Status by Irish political prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh women's prison.

708-655-2078, 312-560-9311 or visit www.wemustbeunited.com.



The Muskegon Irish American Society met recently in Muskegon, Michigan. Pictured (l to r): Chris Zart, Kevin O'Donnell, Cliff Carlson, Frank West, and Neil Mullaly. Cliff spoke to the group of eighty about Irish American News, and the future of newspapers. Chris Zart coordinates the Michigan Irish Musical Festival in September.

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Kenny Gilhooley's dogs were the Barrymore's of Canine Actors.

Kenny Gilhooley was the "dog guy" on the Christian Bale thriller Hound of Hell. You'll see his name in the credits, "Animal Wrangler, Kenny Gilhooley."

The movie was a box-office sensation and teenage girls flocked to the flick to see Bale "transform" into a vicious Doberman whenever the moon looked weird.

Kenny Gilhooley's dog, Rex III, was the co-star of the film with Christian Bale. Kenny would tell pals, "Let's be real, the dog is the star of the movie... otherwise they would have called it 'The Jaws of Christian Bale,' or something like that!"

Bale had just signed on for a double sequel deal with Miramax Pictures and Rex III was part of the package. It meant traveling to Belgrade, Budapest, and Bangkok on location. There would be big fat per diems on top of Rex's acting fee, for both artist and it's trainer.

Kenny Gilhooley was sitting pretty.

But "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." Nobody in the

Gilhooley animal world was all that they appeared to be. Rex the First had played the ferocious Doberman guard dog of Sgt. Schultz in the hit TV sitcom, Hogan's Heroes.

Rex II had starred in the indie film, Bent, which was an examination of homosexuals in a Nazi concentration camp. Kenny bragged that Rex II had once humped the leg of movie star Richard Gere.

Rex III was the direct descendant of them both, but this Rex had a secret that nobody noticed in the first film. Rex III was a female. Kenny wanted to keep that little bit of information classified. He feared that Rex III, (who Kenny actually lovingly called "Sweet Vickie," after a stripper he met at Weazels up in the North Woods of Wisconsin), would be the victim of dog gender discrimination.

This was a horror movie after all, and Kenny feared that Rex III might be too sympathetic if the audience knew she wasn't a he. And that would mean the end of the line for the Gilhooley dog gravy train.

So Kenny Gilhooley started working and training Rex III to perform

wearing a merkin. He designed a furry, sort of "testicles toupee" for the dog to wear on the set. He sewed a couple of walnuts into a... well you get the idea.

Kenny smiled to himself and said, "I'm a feckin' genius!" as he combed the toupee in Rex's trailer before the first day of shooting.

Hound of Hell II was a much larger budget than the first one, and Christian Bale was being paid a cool twenty million for the picture. Bale was flattered when critics had pointed out the resemblance between himself and Rex in the first blockbuster. Bale admired the lean and mean quality of the Doberman, and liked chicks thinking of him as this sleek hound dog.

His latest girlfriend, starlet Elena Bulima, had playfully started calling Bale by her pet name, "Sexy Rexy" in the sack. He dug it and as he smoked a cig with Elena, he wondered aloud, "Should we have some close-ups of the hound's cojones in the sequel?"

Elena giggled as she fell asleep, and murmured "I'll talk to Kenny about it."

"Kenny? Who is Kenny?"

Next morning on the set, the shot was finally ready, and after three hours of tinkering with lights and set design, the assistant director knocked on the door of Bale's trailer.

"Christian, we're ready for you."

The scene they were shooting was Bale in his smoking jacket, in front of the fire, petting his loyal dog, Rex. Kenny had Rex in position and had actually posed the dog legs splayed to show off the Doberman's dramatic package.

Bale took his seat and said, "Are you Kenny?"

"Yes Mr. Bale, we worked together on the first picture."

Bale cast a suspicious eye on him, "What else have you been working on, Kenny?"

Meanwhile Bale is rehearsing his petting of Rex and Kenny is looking down, hoping the star doesn't get fresh with his Sweet Vickie.

The director shouted "Action," as Kenny Gilhooley stepped out of the shot. With the cameras rolling, Bale closed his eyes and stroked the dog absently as he contemplated his next victim. And that's when all hell broke loose.

Somehow his fingers had dangled along the flank of the dog and gotten snagged in the merkin's netting. Bale had told the director to get close-ups and the next thing you know he's got his hands full of dog walnuts.

Kenny screamed, "Stop! What are you doin'?"

Sweet Vickie spun her neck around and snapped a nice piece of flesh right off Christian Bale's wrist

and the blood started gushing all over the set.

Bale is screeching, the dog is growling and barking, the director is screaming... and Kenny Gilhooley was crying.

According to Variety, "Production has been shut down on the film for the next two months because Christian Bale suffered significant injuries while attempting a hairy stunt."

Kenny and Rex were fired immediately, and the producers are now working with a Schnauzer for the part. These days you'll find Kenny playing fetch with his dog along the lakefront.

He's finally come clean and changed her name to Rexina. Kenny says, "Yeah, she's just like show business... she's a bitch!"



Eileen Ivers will appear at the IAHC Festival on July 11th.

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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



Chickens in the Garden

There's a lot of guff been spoken about recession and depression recently and it's beginning to really get on my wick. Sure these are tough times, and not only here in America—it's everywhere. A friend said to me a few weeks ago that, "We will have chickens in the garden next," and when I told my mum back home about this, she had a good laugh, as chickens in the garden were as familiar to us as flowers and plants are in gardens nowadays.

Last night we were talking with friends and the subject came up again, not the chickens in the garden, but these troubled times, jobs lost, business tough and bills to be paid, kids to be educated. You know yourself, the usual stuff. Somebody said, "But we are better off than our grandparents were," and I said nothing. I

was back to the "chickens in the garden" and thoughts of a simpler lifestyle in the rural Ireland of the 50's and 60's.

When my grandmother sent me off to "do the messages" for her, I would cycle to Kells with a very small list. I would buy tea, sugar, flour and whatever else was needed in Butlers, an ounce of tobacco and the Meath Chronicle for my grandfather, and sometimes a few postage stamps at the post office on my way out of town.

You see, everything else we had ourselves. We were almost self-sufficient. My grandmother baked the bread every morning, and kept the chickens that in turn provided the eggs. My grandfather kept the garden and grew potatoes, carrots, turnips, peas, parsnips, lettuce, cabbage, and

onions. The dairy on the farm where he worked provided milk, butter and in season, we would have strawberries, gooseberries, apples, pears and tomatoes. We had bacon, ham, chicken, beef and venison. My grandmother made jams and jellies, and when the grandchildren were visiting, she would buy corn flakes although she made the best porridge in the world.

The water came from the well, and the fuel to cook and heat came in the form of turf from the bog, and we would cut firewood when necessary. When electricity came, we got a radio. Television came much later, and I swear to you my grandmother, God rest her soul, said Novenas for Richard Kimble, The Fugitive, her favorite TV show.

When I think about it now, they were great times, and I don't believe that they were hard times, even for my grandparents. I'm sure they had their share of worries, but the only regular bill that came was for electricity. I don't believe they ever had a bank account, my grandmother did keep a post office savings book, and my grandfather dutifully gave her

his pay packet on Friday night from which she gave him the price of a few pints.

Cows were milked, hay and turf were cut, garden tended to, animals fed, and The Angelus and Rosary were prayed. My grandfather and I cycled into Kells on Saturday nights for his few pints in Muldoon's, while I went to the chipper, only to join him at the bar for a lemonade before we cycled home again. Sunday was back again on our bicycles to Mass, and we would chat with neighbors and meet friends afterwards. Sometimes there were "céilis," nothing more than a few visitors who would sing songs or play a tin whistle, and I remember as a nine year old, I cried my eyes out when a visitor, George Heery, sang Kevin Barry. We played cards and checkers and darts. I listened to Jim Reeves and Elvis on Radio Luxembourg and on Sundays, Radio Eireann had the Walton program. "If you feel like singing, do sing an Irish song" was their catchphrase. They were simple times, the best of times, but they are now long gone. The water was sweeter, the bread fresher, and it must be

thirty or forty years since I had a fresh free range egg. Hard times my arse, we had the best of everything in those rare auld times.

In my early teens, I often helped my Uncle Patsy collect eggs from the country folk around Kells. Patsy was the egg man and everyone knew him. We would buy the eggs directly from farmers wives and patsy would sell them in Dublin. The "egg money" was considered "pocket money" for farmers wives and provided them with an independent income for their own discretionary spending. I loved those days and the laughs we had riding around the country roads in a van with my Uncle Patsy, and I learned a lot from him. I loved the people we met. Patsy and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently and they went to Italy visiting Lake Garda and Venice. I've been to Lake Garda—it's a beautiful place—and I bet my Uncle Patsy had his eye out for chickens in the gardens, with his entrepreneurial spirit, he could have paid for his holiday by being "the egg man" once more. Those were the days my friend.

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This is the next in a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

The Healy Law Firm is comprised Every Parent of a Young Child Should Be Aware of These Product Recalls

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regulates the safety of many products we use on a daily basis. On occasion, it mandates a product recall, and sometimes the manufacturer voluntarily recalls a product. Over the years, there have been recalls on various types of cribs for infants. In

early May of this year, the CPSC and Stork Craft Baby Cribs recalled more than 500,000 cribs because the metal support brackets used to support the crib mattress and mattress board can crack and break with ordinary use. When the support is broken, the mattress can collapse causing a gap between the mattress and crib rails,

where a child can become trapped and suffocate.

The recalled cribs carried the popular Fisher-Price logo and were sold at multiple major retailers including J.C. Penney, K-Mart, Walmart and Amazon.com, babiesrus.com and Costco.com. The cribs were sold from May 2000 until January 2009. Owners of these recalled cribs were sent a replacement kit with new support brackets.

Jardine Cribs Were Also Recalled Recently

Shortly before the Stork Craft recall, the CPSC and another crib manufacturer, Jardine, recalled 96,000 cribs, involving seven different models of cribs sold since 2005. The cribs were sold at popular stores such as Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us nationwide and online at babiesrus.com. The recall was based on 31 incident reports of slats breaking. Two of the reports described children becoming entrapped in the gap created by a broken slat. In 10 of the accidents, the child broke the slat while inside the crib. When the slats are broken, it could allow an infant to trap his or her head between the remaining slats causing serious injuries or death. When this type of danger is recognized, it is very important that parents first of all be aware of it and, second, take the necessary steps to prevent injury or death.

The CPSC instructed users to immediately stop using the recalled cribs and to contact the manufacturer to receive a full credit toward the purchase of a new crib. However, comments on the consumer reports.org website indicate that Jardine is slow to respond to requests for a replacement, and that since the recall, Babies "R" Us has been out of stock on similarly priced cribs.

The recent Jardine recall was actually an expansion of an earlier recall by Jardine and the CPSC. In January, the firm recalled 3 models of cribs, totaling about 56,000 units for the same problem.

Simplicity and Delta Enterprise Have Also Seen Large Recalls in the Past Year

Stork Craft and Jardine cribs are only the most recent in a long line of cribs with problems and recalls. In April 2009, approximately 1 million Simplicity brand cribs were recalled after reports of two infant deaths and over 50 other incidents involving these cribs. The defect in the Simplicity cribs allowed the user to inadvertently install the drop-side of the crib upside down,

causing weakness in the hardware and allowing the drop-side of the crib to detach. As with other crib defects, the misassembly created a gap where a child could become trapped or suffocate.

An infant death last year also prompted the recall of 985,000 Delta Enterprise Drop Side cribs because of missing safety pegs allowing the drop side to detach. The recall was based on the one death as well as two entrapments and nine disengagements when the safety pegs were missing.

How to Find Out About a Recall

Of course, a recall cannot help a parent with a dangerous crib unless that parent is aware of the recall. One way of becoming aware of a recall is receiving a notice sent by the manufacturer. When either a mandatory or voluntary recall is initiated, a notice will usually be sent to the "buyers" of the recalled product. The notice will tell the buyer that they may have purchased a defective product, and they will be instructed how to remedy the defect. This notice, however, may have many problems.

First, the manufacturer's record keeping may not be accurate or up-to-date, resulting in not all of the buyers receiving notice. Unlike the purchase of an automobile, where there is much paperwork and licensing involved, the purchase of a crib will not be as well documented as to buyer information. There are other sources, but most buyer information comes from warranty or survey information sent to the manufacturer by the buyer. Sometimes, products come with a registration card to be sent back to the manufacturer which would provide them with name and address information.

Second, with the increase in the volume of mail, a recall notice can easily be dismissed as junk mail by a consumer. Finally, many infant products are handed down between family members or given to friends once the first child has grown out of them. As a result, the notice is not getting to, or is not getting quickly enough to, the person who currently uses the dangerous product.

What the Consumer Should Do

So what is a consumer to do? Especially where child safety products are involved, it is important to be proactive. The Consumer Product Safety Commission keeps a list of recalls on its website, www.cpsc.gov. The recalls can be searched by the approximate date of the recall, the product type, the manufacturer name, and the type of hazard. Most importantly, the CPSC has sections on the recall page of its website labeled "child products (not including toys)" and "toys."

As a parent, it may be a good idea to check the CPSC website after purchasing a crib to see if there are any issues with the particular model. If you receive a crib as a gift, especially if it is a used crib from family or friends, it is important that you check to make sure that there have not been any recalls, since you will not be mailed a formal notice of recall if you are not listed as the actual "buyer."

Conclusion

Finally, if you have a crib and believe it may be defective, you should immediately stop using it, find a safe alternative and notify the manufacturer and the CPSC. Most product recalls begin with consumer complaints. Only by letting the CPSC know about defects can we attempt to limit the harm to others.

If injuries do result from a defectively manufactured crib, you may have a products liability claim against the manufacturer. Because time is of the essence, you should consult with an attorney immediately if you believe you may have a claim. If there are any questions, feel free to call The Healy Law Firm for information.

By: Martin Healy, Jr. and

Dennis M. Lynch (above).



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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



on this album. Martin Hayes, Frank Harte, Ronan Browne, Nollaig Casey, Maighread ni Dhomnaill, Gerry O'Connor—why did I start this listing? Stop! Stop! Everybody is here.

These songs and tunes are from the vaults of RTE, and have not been heard for years. Magic. This is sort of onestopshoppingforthemodern trad fan. Epic. Look, we can't cover all this effectively here. Just know that this album exists out there, and should be a must have if you love the music.

It is something you will play and play. Don't lollygag. Get it! As usual in so many of these cases in the last few years, we have to thank pal, Alan O'Leary of Copperplate in London, for hippping us to both of these RTE albums. Alan never misses. If he recommends it, we grab it and run. So should you. Rating: Four Harps.

Notes:

Short column this month. Don't forget the radio show. Monday nights. 7-9pm Chicago time. WDCB 90.9fm. Or, online at www.wdcb.org. The shows are also archived at www.blarneyontheair.com, so you can listen anytime!

I will be talking to Kathy O'Neill at the Irish American Center about the annual Festival coming up. Call 'em at 773-282-7035 x 13 for info. Fun! She apparently had a dream recently that I was dying. I have been waiting for years for the comely Ms. O'Neill to have a dream about me, and this is it? THIS is it? No casaba for her!! Ta!

So many newsy bits and albums, so little time. Under a nasty deadline from Nazi editor, Cliff Carlson. Normally, I would complain to the publisher, as with the other publications I write for—but Cliff is also the publisher. What can one do?

Oh, well. First, and this is important, if you are going to be in Ireland on July 11, check out the National Concert Hall in Dublin and the Shaun Davey/Rita Connolly Concert being planned that night. It will feature Elisis Kennedy, Seamus Begley, and Liam O'Flynn, joining Shaun and Rita. And, there will be lots of others, as well. Let's be understated here. It will be the greatest concert ever. Anywhere. Ever.

As in the entire history of mankind "ever."

Featured will be several selections from their latest, greatest album, *Beal Tuinne*. Oh. My. God. Oh. My. God. If you're there, just be there.

Let's see. Crossroads. Mairtin O'Connor on box, Cathal Hayden on fiddle, banjo and viola, and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, vocals, mandolin and something called—honest to God—"casaba." Isn't that Spanish for "head"? Is O'Dowd playing his head? It is a great album. There are those who will tell you that Mairtin O'Connor is the best button box player in Ireland. As usual, when you get to this level of musicianship, that is just a matter of taste. Is it Mairtin? Paul Brock? David Munnely? Joe Burke? Just matters whose style you prefer. But, make no mistake, O'Connor is incredible. Hayden does great work, as does O'Dowd. Is he really playing his head? Wait! "Casaba" is not head. "Casaba" is. "Casaba" is a melon. Is O'Dowd playing a melon? Whaaaa??

Brilliant, brilliant instrumentals here. Truly stunning work. We are not anywhere near as in love with the vocals, but no matter. This is about these three and their guest stars holding forth on some amazing tunes. Amazing, we tells 'ya. The title track is brill, as is the re-working of the old De Dannan classic, "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba in Galway". The Cooley Set is also fab. Perfect engineering. Great production values. This is an album you will love. Promise. Melons and all! Rating: Four Harps.

The RTE Series sends along two pieces of excellence for the true trad aficionado. We briefly previously mentioned Elizabeth Crotty—Concertina Music From West Clare. This lovely lady is gone for some time, but we still have this. She is revered by concertina players around the world, and rightly so. Elegant playing, and a treasure house of rare tunes, seldom if ever heard. It is a double album, and therefore a fitting tribute. There are 31 tunes. As is so often the case with RTE albums, the sleeve notes alone are worth the price. Written by Michael Turbidy, these notes give an unprecedented insight into the woman, her music, and her quiet power in the tradition. I have had a Smithwick's in her pub in Kilrush. The spirit of the woman is everywhere. There is also a festival that bears her name. She is a real, true legend. See, when all these young musicians spend years studying the Masters—one of them is Elizabeth Crotty. The real, true deal. All the way to the ground. A true foundation touchstone. Rating: Four Harps.

Masters of Tradition is also out on RTE, and is also a double album. Here we have, again, 31 glorious tunes. Try to think of who is NOT

Celtic Music Meetup Group Presents "A Celtic Cabaret" June 6th

The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meet Up Group will host "A Celtic Cabaret," an evening of live Irish music, dancing, and the chance to visit with old and new friends, on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 8pm at The Irish American Heritage Center (Fifth Province Pub), 4626 North Knox

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<http://celticmusic.meetup.com/113>, <http://www.irish-american.org>, www.paddyhoman.com.



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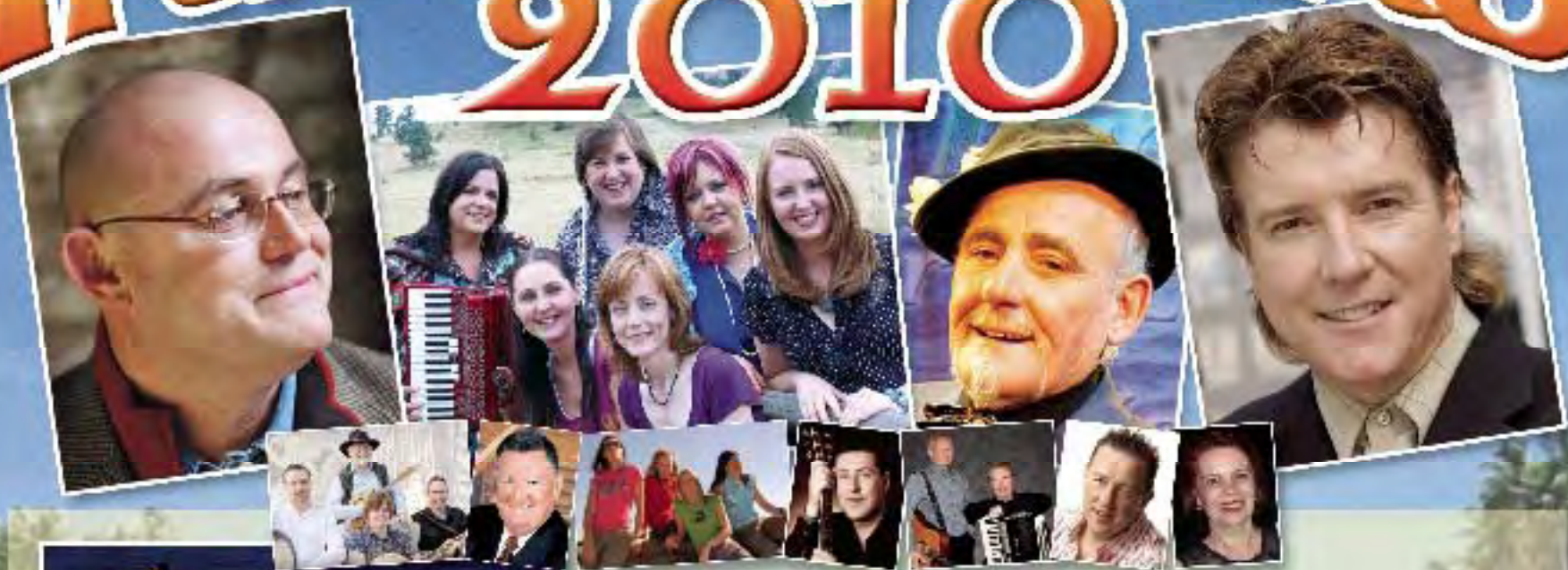
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It's the beginning of the festival season and many artists are coming out with new albums. One of my favorite artists is not only a solo musician, but also plays with an Irish band. He is a Canadian piper and plays with Gaelic Storm. It's pretty obvious that it's Peter Purvis I'm talking about. Peter already has one CD out called Highland Spirit, and his second album is called A New Tradition. Peter has played with Gaelic Storm for about 3 years. Since then he has put out two albums with the band, Bring Yer Wellies and What's The Rumpus.

Peter's first album was a compilation of Scottish hymns that many people request for weddings and funerals done on bagpipes. Now, I'm not always a girl to go for traditional music, but this album surprised me. The tune "Skye Boat Song" is one of my favorites. My dad used to sing it to my brother when he was little and sometimes he sang it to me. Peter was able to do traditional music in a mod-

ern world, and he did it well.

When I heard Peter had a new recording, I expected nothing but the best. I borrowed my parents play copy and put it on my iPod right away. When I was listening to it the next day, I was shocked that it wasn't just Highland pipes, it was everything from whistles to piano to guitar. It shows off his many talents. All of the songs on this album are traditional yet modern at the same time. One of the tracks is called "Trailer Park Piano" and it is so fun. It starts out with some church bells and gets right in with an unwanted accordion. The beat is smooth and fast, without being too fast, and not too slow. It's something dancers can work a routine with, and something you can listen to when you just want to relax. It's a universal song.

One of my favorite festivals is the Irish Heritage Fair at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. I've been going to this festival my entire life. It's a family affair. There are

Kurt Hellwig Memorial Golf Outing

The Midwest Council for Children with Disabilities (MCCD) will hold their 12th Kurt Hellwig Memorial Golf Outing Monday, June 15th, at White Pines Golf Course, Bensenville, IL and Maple Meadows Golf Club, Wood Dale, IL.

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children's games, dance schools performing, and bands to fill your quota for the weekend. Outside, the vendors are together and the food isn't too far away. There is a tent outside that offers storytelling, instrument workshops, and dancing. I have always had fun there, and I wouldn't miss coming for any part of the day. Gaelic Storm plays Sunday night, and there is nearly no space in the entire neighborhood to park, because everyone is coming to see Gaelic Storm. The Festival is being held on the weekend of the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth of July.

This year, the festival will have a number of wonderful acts. Gaelic Storm will be accompanied at the festival by Searson, The Screaming Orphans, The Makem and Spain Brothers, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, and Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul. The festival season is here and ready, so never leave the music unattended. The more music that comes out this summer, the longer the shuffle will get.



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By Julianna Leber

The Veggie Side of Irish Paradise

Near the heart of Downtown Cork City and minutes from Cork University, a small restaurant, an Irish vegetarian restaurant, is run by an innovative and yet earthy traditional chef/owner, Denis Cotter. The creator and re-inventor of Irish vegetarian cuisine at the Café Paradiso starts his day by checking out the best, local produce for the season. Denis is a fanatic about fresh, seasonal foods. He also is a supporter of the local artisan cheese and dairy farms, along with other family businesses

such as bakeries and non-native olive farms. All of these priorities present him with a praiseworthy final dish, utilizing the season's best from the local farmers and artisans. Though he's been many places and employs flavors from other countries, Denis Cotter is still cooking with the fruits of Ireland's harvest.

When Denis Cotter came in to the Ballymaloe Cookery School to teach the class on vegetarian cooking, I was both concerned and relieved. Concerned because I didn't want the usual veggie food of tofu, texturized vegetable protein (a meat 'substitute') or any mélange of vegetables that attempt to fool the consumer into thinking they are actually eating a Philly steak and cheese sandwich (I had one of those and it was memorable...) But I was also relieved to have a proper arrangement of vegetables away from potatoes, fish, and other Irish staples. I loved learning Irish cooking and the strict veggie version was, to me, a new path off

of the same traditional road.

Denis Cotter was passionate about food. That was the first thing I took in as he told the story about his food education. Denis realized he was not cut out to be in the banking world, that his passion was more in the food industry. He went to London and worked there for a bit in a vegetarian restaurant and then, with his wife, went to New Zealand for

was a vegetarian, it was a belief, an ethic for him, so he lived in that path. Denis was not about recreating "veggie BBQ ribs," but in really seeking out the highest quality, freshest and in-season produce to making the most of that product.

During the classroom demonstration Denis was talking about different types of squash and gourds. He was talking non-stop about the

owner, whose face clouded over as Denis cut into her fall gourd collection. Finally, as Denis started to cut into the largest one called turk's turban and Darina declared 'That one is decoration.' The whole display, save the last one, was diced into a rice dish. However, Darina let Denis make his point: with some creativity, any fresh and local food could be made into a great dish.

Denis Cotter and his Café Paradiso impressed me with his amazing use of the local artisan products and seasonal produce. However, he does recognize that sometimes seasonal and popular on his menu don't always move with the calendar. He has items on his menu like asparagus au gratin or couscous crusted aubergine (eggplant) that people look for any time of the year. He does, on occasion, rely on stored or imported products for his restaurant's popular products. Yet for the most part, it's the local farms and dairies in and near Cork City which supply the restaurant with its raw products. It is then up to Denis to use the Irish bounty and culinary heritage, London education, and New Zealand horticultural instincts he was gifted with to create the new Irish Vegetarian cuisine he and his restaurant are known for and sought after.

The two recipes I would like to share are inspired from both Ballymaloe and Café Paradiso. I originally made both of them at school and then revised them into my own recipes to enjoy as appetizers or as a side, or even as a light meal on a warm summer night. Brilliant!



a year. It was there that he learned about appreciating the seasons of growing food, how to make the most of that season's highlight vegetable and getting the foods to maintain their unique flavors and integrity on a plate of food. Being that Denis

different soups and breads and main dishes one could make. As he told us this, he was grabbing the gourds from the window sill, cutting, slicing and peeling each one and tossed it into a risotto he was making. A few of the students looked at Darina, the



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Spring Pea and Cilantro soup Serves 4-6

- 1 quart vegetable or chicken stock
- 4 cups fresh or frozen spring peas
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/2 jalapeno, seeded and chopped
- 2 T. chopped fresh cilantro
- Salt and pepper
- Garnish
- Heavy cream, lightly whipped
- Whole cilantro leaves

Warm stock in medium pot. In skillet, melt butter and add onions. Cook for 2-3 minutes and add garlic and jalapeno. Gently cook for 4-5 minutes, careful not to color. Add peas to stock and simmer for 5 minutes. Add onion mix to stock and stir. Using a blender or hand mixer, puree soup. Soup will be thin.* Return to low heat and season with salt and pepper. Stir. Ladle into bowls and garnish with cream and leaves.

• To thicken, add a little cooked

potato or rice before pureeing.
Ginger Garlic Sweet Potato Egg Roll
 Makes 8
 1 large onion, thinly sliced
 2 T. olive oil
 4 garlic cloves, chopped
 1 T. grated ginger
 1/2 jalapeno, seeded and chopped
 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into matchsticks
 1 t. ground coriander
 Juice of one lime
 2 T. soy sauce
 2 T. chopped cilantro
 2 green onions, white and green, cut on a bias

8 wonton roll wraps
 Small dish of water
 Oil to fry
 Yogurt dip
 1 cup plain yogurt
 1 - 2 t. Thai chili sauce
 2 t. grated coconut
 2 t. chopped cilantro
 1/2 t. salt
 Mix together and chill.
 Put water on to boil. Put potato matchsticks into water and cook 2-3 minutes, just until tender and drain. In large skillet, heat oil and sauté onion until translucent. Add rest of ingredients except wraps and potato. Stir for 1 minute. Add potato and stir until combined. On a clean surface, place one wrap in a diamond shape, with point towards you. Scoop large spoonful out and

onto point farthest from you. Fold over point and roll once. Turn side ends in. Dip finger into water and paint tip near you on the two edges to seal. Then fold over and press edge lightly. Repeat. Heat skillet and pour in 1/4 to 1/2 inch of oil. Fry rolls just until golden.

Serve with yogurt dip.
 You can find Café Paradiso at www.cafeparadiso.ie.

*Julianna Leber is a part time personal chef and caterer, while finishing her post baccalaureate degree in nutrition at the University of Akron. In 2001, she received her certificates from the professional culinary course at Ballymaloe Cookery School, County Cork, Ireland. She can be reached at JulieLeber@hotmail.com.

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John's Journey Benefit June 14th

On July 16, 2008, John Kohn's life changed forever. He was injured in a work related accident, and suffered a severe spinal cord injury which has left him paralyzed from the chest down. Since this tragic day, John has undergone two surgeries and countless hours of physical rehabilitation. John now has to teach himself how to function day to day from a wheelchair with the help of his loving wife Colleen and his two beautiful children Stephanie (11), and Kyle (6).



Following that tragic day in July, life as John knew it has not been the same. He was recently released from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago at Northwestern University after a 3 month stay. Initially John had to spend three weeks in intensive care at Lutheran General. The family has been staying at a local hotel while their house is completely modified for wheel chair access. To say this tragedy has affected the entire family would be an understatement. The emotional, physical and financial stress brought on by this tragedy has overwhelmed John's family. Their lives have changed forever.

With the continuous support and love of his family and friends John has remained positive and optimistic throughout this ordeal. The love, strength, and encouragement shown by his wife Colleen and his children have kept his spirits strong. His strong faith in God has also kept a smile on John's face.

On Sunday, June 14th, 2009, from 2-7pm, a benefit will be held at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W 115th St.

in Merrionette Park. Admission is \$30/person and includes: food - buffet, served 2-4pm; draft beer & wine; soft drinks; free valet parking; raffles; Silent Auction; Money Wheel; and live entertainment. *Must be 21 or older.

All proceeds from this benefit will go to help John & his family with their future needs. www.johnsjourney.net.

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



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

On Father's Day, dads will receive a lot of greetings that sum up their lives in the eyes of their grateful children: "Thanks for always being there for me!" "Thank you for taking such good care of me." That's how good fathers show they love their families—through their loving presence and actions.

As fathers care for their families "through thick and thin," Catholic Charities cares daily through 159

programs for the health and human dignity of more than a million people: parents, children, seniors, veterans—of all religions and backgrounds—particularly those who are in need of the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, housing, utility and rental assistance.

As a result, we also strongly believe that the need for health care, like the need for food, is a basic human need.

As one of our young adult Health Fair volunteers observed last year: "Being in good health is basic to having a good quality of life; and everybody deserves access to good health and a good life!"

The precious gift of good health is central to everyone's happiness and success in school, work and family life. So, each spring and summer since 2002, doctors, nurses, dentists and health care professionals from a large variety of hospitals and health care agencies staff several Catholic Charities Annual Health Fairs, which offer free medical services, check-ups and information to families that may not have health insurance, or may live in underserved communities.

Two Catholic Charities Health Fairs, open to all people of surrounding communities, will take place on June 20 at Holy Cross/Immaculate Heart of Mary, 4541 S. Wood Street in Chicago; and on August 22 at St. Frances of Rome, 1401 S. Austin in Cicero. Our Lady of Tepeyac on the near Southwest Side of Chicago, and St. Anne Parish in Hazel Crest hosted Health Fairs for their communities in April and May.

The Health Fairs provide "one-stop" check-ups for the whole family. Children can receive their immunizations for the next school year, and adults and children can receive dental exams and general physical exams. Diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings are done on the spot. Optometrists and podiatrists provide eye and

foot examinations. Doctors can make referrals for further care if necessary. Hearing and vision screenings, and informational materials about obesity, nutrition, smoking cessation, mental health and substance abuse are available. Loyola's Ronald McDonald Mobile Unit is available for children's health services. Volunteers from the community guide family members to the various services at the Fairs, or act as translators.

In our efforts to help families in need of health care, we are blessed with and rely upon extraordinarily dedicated volunteers like Nurse Kathy Shannon who keeps all our Health Fair supplies and machines organized, inventoried and in working order—and "begs" suppliers for medical materials on our behalf. Kathy also recruits and orients the nurses who volunteer; and is on hand to care for patients at every Health Fair.

These generous doctors, nurses, and healthcare and social service professionals volunteer their precious time and services to help their neighbors who are in need of affordable health care.

More than ever, their essential services are needed.

This year, we are seeing a disturbing change in the people who are attending the Health Fairs. In the past, we have served many more children than adults as parents brought their children for health check-ups or required immunizations. But this spring, more mature and middle-aged adults

than children have sought health services and examinations; and many of those adults have told us that they have lost some degree of medical coverage.

This is an alarming trend that shows how important our Health Fairs are to the health of families who are struggling on low-incomes, or are unemployed or laid off. In these times of great economic stress, as basic necessities such as work, food and health insurance diminish, it is even more important for fathers and mothers to care for their own health as well as that of their children and elders. Too frequently, we see fathers and mothers who bring their children for health care, but who do not take advantage of these tests and services themselves.

As we look forward to celebrating Father's Day on June 21, why not give the gift of health to a father—or a mother—who hasn't seen a doctor in years? Our health is a precious gift from God and we have an obligation to take care of it—for our own sake, as well as for the welfare of those for whom we care.

I am deeply grateful to all the pastors and parish volunteers, and the medical professionals and facilities whose generous collaboration with Catholic Charities makes our Health Fairs possible.

On this Father's Day, let us all give thanks for our fathers and grandfathers – and for all those generous "father-figures" who have inspired us to grow in faith, hope and love for our neighbors in need.

Happy Father's Day!

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks at the Health Fairs, including registering participants and guiding them from station to station. For more information or to volunteer for Catholic Charities Health Fairs, please call (312) 655-7298.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' services and volunteer opportunities, visit www.catholic-charities.net.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Mike Bowen, Honesty and Secrets

Thank you, America. Without you, at the present moment, I wouldn't have a job

outside of travel writing as apart from the magazines that are closing in Ireland, we scarcely believe in free speech any more.

Any more? We never did. Look at the historical facts, and you'll see that this was always a country that lived under Father Church, his dictates, and the craven cowardice of our politicians.

You see, here in the laughingly entitled land of saints and scholars, we are just in the process of introducing a new ruling against the so-called crime of "blasphemy." Next thing you know is, we'll have people marching in the streets because somebody has done a cartoon that they consider offensive.

Justice Minister Dermot Ahern, for whom the word "creep" was invented, has brought in his ghastly 1984-style bill that will tell people like myself that we cannot say ill, even in an ironic way, of any religion.

This is going to be bad for me, since I love making fun of Catholics, Protestants, mad Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, and lunatic religionists in general.

Also expect and would be disappointed if those same people didn't make fun of myself and my atheistic beliefs.

Ahern, you moneygrubber, can't you see that this is what makes the world go around: the ability to have fun and banter with people who do not think as you do?

You didn't think twice when, at a time when you were telling us to "feel the pain," your allowance for travel in 2008 alone was close to 900,000 euros.

You spat in the face of the taxpayer; you put two fingers up to the people who are out of a job now because of the incompetence of your leaders Brian Clown, Typhoid Mary Harney, and Big Brain Lenihan, and now you're slapping this on us?

But let's keep this a happy column for a change.

And apart from smoking, drinking too much, avoiding even entering the doors of a church, and hanging around with loose women, what could be more wonderful than reading one of Con Houlihan's columns?

If you never trust me on anything I say, then trust me on this one: he is probably one of Ireland's finest wordsmiths. Of course, like John B. Keane and Hugh Leonard before him, he'll be in the grave before the snobs start writing eulogies about him.

That's just the way that life is.

Which leads me rather nicely onto one of the best books on Ireland that I've ever read.

Mike Bowen, who is a County Cork man now living in Australia, wrote it in 2004. I was expecting another hideous self-serving pile of junk like Angela's Ashes.

Instead, I got *A Time of Secrets* by Bowen. It is pure, it is self-deprecating, and it is honest to an extreme that I'm not sure that I could ever be. But best of all is the fact that he talks openly of his own flaws.

The early scene in Limerick's Wentworth Hotel would need to have been filmed by Martin Scorsese, for crying out loud—if only for the language alone.

Apart from the fact that it is almost cinematic in its imagery, it brought back so many memories for me of the exact same hotel.

Mr. Bowen, you have captured in these pages what it was like to live in Ireland then. And it WAS a time of secrets: secrets in the family, secrets in the church, and secrets in politics and society. That themerunning through this marvelous book is probably why you didn't keep any secrets about yourself either.

You don't make yourself out to be some kind of hero; you don't try to portray yourself in a particularly good light.

Yet, it's as if you have pulled out your own guts and displayed the often-difficult job of living with yourself. And you come out the better for it. And even manage to make much of it incredibly funny.

And you sure as hell are swimming upstream.

Your account of your move to Australia in the mid-seventies is hilarious. I haven't laughed so much in years as I did at your description of your first introduction to a barbecue.

That is the difference between *A Time of Secrets* and the awful *Angela's Ashes*.

Mike has a sense of humour, and there's a pure joy in his writing, and yet a yearning for things and people that have been lost.

I'd love to sit down and have a pint with him if he ever gets back here. So, Mike, the invitation's out there. Sure, you might turn out to be a psycho and you're an avowed Celtic fan so you're probably in that category.

But I loved your book. And that's enough for me.

A Time of Secrets is published by Pie in the Sky Publishing in Victoria, Australia.

If you never read another book on Ireland this year, then I urge you towards this one.



Mike Bowen

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Shadows of Doubt

By Frank West
By Noel Redican. Mercier Press. 223 pages, \$25.95.
When Sean Harling shot and killed Timothy Coughlan, a known IRA member, in the conflicted Ireland of 1928, he was officially cleared of all charges. But, his former friends in the Republican movement were suspicious, and he was forced to flee the country.
This book is filled with the adventurous, and entertaining stories of Sean Harling. He was a young man

who, according to him, was essential to Ireland's War for Independence (1916-1921).

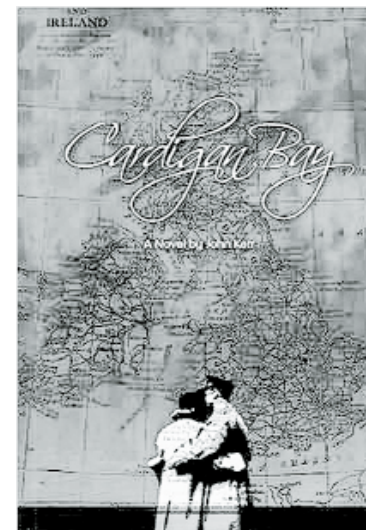
He says he worked closely with all the major figures of that war, from Michael Collins to Eamon de Valera. They all knew him, depended on him, and were even on a first name basis with him.

However, as the book's title suggests, there is a big shadow of doubt about those stories. I consulted the exhaustive indexes of five biographies of Michael Collins. Harling is not even mentioned once!

Cardigan Bay

Set against the backdrop of Ireland, England and Wales in World War II, Cardigan Bay is a wonderfully crafted story of love between a young American Irish widow and a British officer and their struggle to find each other amidst preparations for the Normandy Invasion. Numerous intriguing characters fill out the story of long-distance love, seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and the random twists of miscommunication and misunderstanding that life seems to throw at us with such deadly aim.

Like any great tale, love perseveres over all else, despite our best efforts to stumble toward, or turn away, from our destinies. A wonderful story, intriguing, quirky side characters and great descriptive details of living and loving in the war years centered around the 1940's makes Cardigan Bay an enjoyable read. Cardigan Bay by John C. Kerr. Corona Publishing, 2008. 342 pgs.



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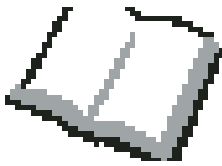
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Irish Books and Plays in Review



Frank West



The Annals of Dublin

By E.E. O'Donnell, Currach Press.
252 pages, \$52.95.

This is a yearly account of important events in the history of Dublin, and often, Ireland.

It is unique because it is illustrated with the incomparable photographs taken by Father Browne. The pictures are of buildings, bridges, and sensi-

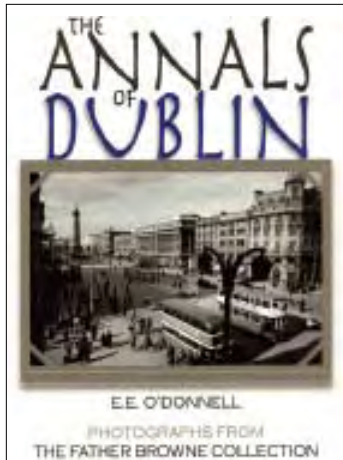
tive pictures of people in Dublin street life. Some of these photographs have "never been seen before in print."

Father Browne was a Jesuit priest. He had the time, money, and dedication to take 42,000 pictures of Ireland! His photographs are of Dublin life in the early 1900's until the late 50's.

The book is well researched and highly accurate. It also has thirteen appendixes, a bibliography and "alphabetical references" or indexes.

A wonderful feature is the sections at the bottom of pages called: Elsewhere. Here are listed the events in the world that happened at the same time as the pertinent events in Dublin.

All of this is illustrated with photos from the Father Browne Collection. He was wonder-



The News From Ireland: Foreign Correspondents and The Irish Revolution

By Maurice Walsh, I.B. Tauris. 258 pages, \$29.95.

During World War I British propaganda painted German soldiers as barbarians and Huns. The propaganda image became very influential in our government. The British got away with this because the news services on the Associated Press telegraph cable came from continental Europe. However, the cable went through London, and only the British view of the war came to the United States.

The German soldiers were young enlisted men, not different from American, or even British soldiers, but our country heard only how evil they were. These biased stories - The rape of Belgium for instance - got us into World War I (1914-1918).

After the war, Woodrow Wilson, helped small countries become independent, but when it came to Ireland he did nothing. Wilson said it was an internal matter of the British Empire! He wouldn't even speak with the delegates from Ireland at the peace conference.

British propaganda attacked Irish Republican soldiers during the Irish War for Independence (1916-1921). British propaganda was aimed at smearing the ideals and goals the Republican soldiers fought for.

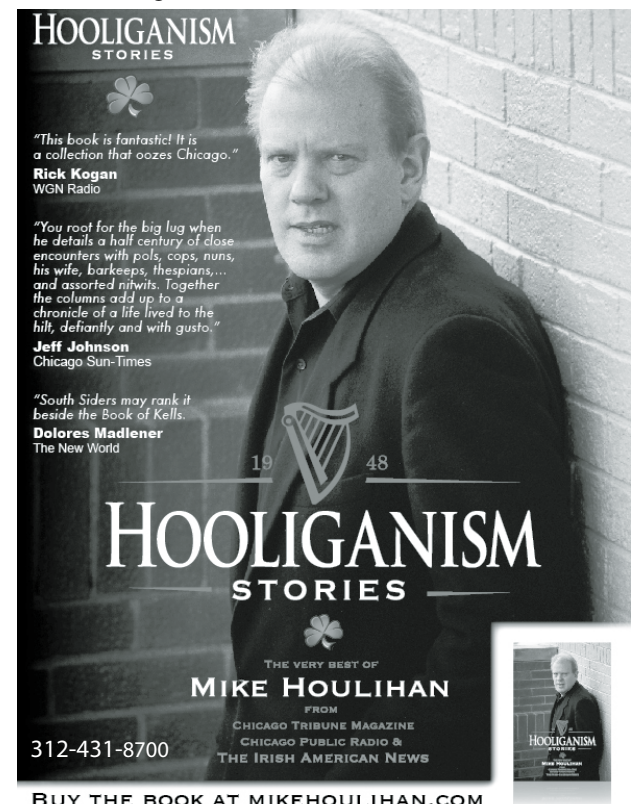
This fascinating book describes how it was done. Some correspon-

dents were just mouthpieces for Britain. (Thatcher tried to do the same in our times during the Hunger Strike). However, some international reporters visited Ireland and gathered unbiased facts.

This book describes the struggle for the truth.



fully observant, and seemed to be everywhere in the city. His photographs are warm with human feelings, accessible, and feel immediate in the places and for the people shown. This book is a delight!



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SAT, 6/20	9pm	Dennis O'Rourke
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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



The Toronto Irish Players scored a rousing triumph at the 16th Acting Irish International Theatre Festival in Winnipeg, Manitoba, last month. The award for the outstanding production in the adjudicated competition went to them for *A Skull in Connemara* by Martin McDonagh directed by Lucy Carabine. The award for best performance by a male actor also went to the City of "Tee-Oh." It was awarded to Stephen Farrell for his flashing neon sign like portrayal of Martin, a mischievous, intellectually challenged but crafty, smart-mouthed post-adolescent man child. No sooner did Farrell appear on stage dressed in his Manchester United shirt and sucking on a lollipop than he had the audience drooling in the palm of his hand.

"This was a high energy production containing all the elements of theater—staging, lights, costume, set and the characters stayed connected to each other. The truth of the comedy came through the characters and not the other way about," commented David Warburton, one of the adjudicators.

Leenane Trilogy

A Skull in Connemara is the second in the Leenane Trilogy of

Martin McDonagh's plays set in Connemara. At first blush it does not appear to have much to recommend it. It centers on Mick Dowd a local grave digger whose official job is to disinter old bones from the town's small graveyard to make room for new bodies. What he does with the bones is anyone's guess and as the play progresses, we find out. Anyone interred for seven or more years is fair game to be dug up. This year it is Mick's responsibility to dig up the bones of his deceased wife who died in a car crash—or did she? Local gossips wonder if Mick bashed her on the head before the crash occurred. And again, as the play evolves we get the answer to that.

Runners up for best production were *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness, directed by Matthew Singletary, performed by Shapeshifters theatrical group Chicago, and *Love in the Title* by Hugh Leonard, directed by Jean Gordon Ryon, performed by Rochester Irish Players. *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* chronicles the plight of three men, an American, an Irishman and an Englishman (Adam, Edward and Michael) held prisoner for years by faceless Arabs in the basement of a house in Lebanon. The light is on all the time and they never know if it is day or night. As they strive to maintain their sanity they survive by the use of fantasy, humor, and playacting, and not giving in to their captors.

Adjudicators

In opting for *A Skull* as the winner, the adjudicating judges John Gleeson, David Warburton, and Kevin Prokosh preferred the romp of well-delivered slapstick and skulduggery to the solid and difficult-to-deliver serious drama of *Someone and the poignant down memory lane trip of Love*. Gleeson is Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Center for Celtic Studies, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; Warburton is a professional local Winnipeg actor/director, and Prokosh is Theatre Critic for the Winnipeg Free Press, a local newspaper.

In addition to winner Farrell, the nominees for best performance by a male actor were Mark Whelan as Mick in *A Skull in Connemara*, and Ollie Oliver as Edward in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. Nominees for best performance by a female were Barbara Taylor as Maryjohnny in *Skull*, Rebecca Spindler as Triona



and Loreli Mellon as Cat in *Love in the Title*. Mellon received the award.

Nominees for best performance by a female in a supporting role were Cara Campbell as Miss Manning in *The Patrick Pearse Motel* by Hugh Leonard, directed by the Tara Players, Winnipeg; Bridget Christianson as Flora in *'Attaboy,*

Mr. Synge by Deirdre Kinahan, directed by Georgina Chapman, and co-directed by Tom Kearne, performed by Gaelic Park Players of Chicago; and Neasa McCann who received the award for her role as Kitty, the cook in *Salute the Servant* by Walter Macken, directed by Jim Reid, performed by Holding Court Theatre, Dublin.

The outstanding performance by a male actor in a supporting role award went to Jonathon Musser of Shapeshifters, Chicago, for his role as Adam in *Someone*. The other nominees were Mick Kenna as Conor in Gaelic Park's *Mr. Synge*, and Sidney Gray as Hoolihan in *The Patrick Pearse Motel*.

Special Award

This was the third year in a row that Holding Court Theater has participated in the festival and the group

has been invited to become a permanent member of the AITF core membership. For putting on *Salute*, they received a special Adjudicators' award for enacting a piece of Irish theatrical history. The play was originally written in Irish in the early 1940s and then translated to English. This was the first time the play was performed in North America.

The week-long competition was staged at the 200-seat Tom Hendry Theatre – MTC Warehouse, a delightful state-of-the-art facility in downtown Winnipeg, a prairie city of about 700,000. Performers and playgoers had to contend with record setting cold for May that included episodes of torrential rain, snow, and sleet as they traipsed back and forth from hotel to theatre. Next year's festival will be sponsored by Shapeshifters and will be in Chicago in May.

Ibsen's Influence on Irish Playwrights

By Frank West

Henrik Ibsen's most powerful and thought-provoking play, *Hedda Gabler* is being produced in Chicago. Extraordinary today, it was revolutionary when he wrote it in 1890.

It is receiving the sensitive and graceful production it deserves. This outstanding production is being presented by Raven Theatre.

Henrik Ibsen (1828-190) is called the father of modern drama. This

Today, he is the second most produced playwright in the world after Shakespeare.

Ibsen used natural dialogue to expose the "stresses of modern life by showing the inner pressures and conflicts that inhabit each person."

Eve Le Gallienne, translator of Ibsen's plays, says, "he used a spare, deceptively simple, lucid style from which everything extraneous has been whittled away. A style that



Hedda in black, and other cast members in the play, *Hedda Gabler*.

is because he felt plays should be about ordinary people, not about Greek or Roman mythology. He was concerned with the psychological complexity of ordinary people. What motivates people? Which social structure most permits people to achieve their potential?

The playbill states that his work "examined the realities that lay behind many facades." And, he created female characters that were full, complex persons. This was deeply disquieting and threatening to his Victorian contemporaries.

seems to spring from the thoughts and emotions of each character."

Henrik Ibsen had a strong influence on Irish playwrights. James Joyce acknowledged that, as did George Bernard Shaw, and Oscar Wilde. The great Irish American playwright, Eugene O'Neill, repeatedly acknowledged his influence. He used the same frugal writing style as Ibsen to reveal the psychology of characters.

Le Gallienne says: "The range and variety of his portraits of women are incomparable. His grasp of the



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intricacies of female psychology is miraculous. With Ibsen, woman was for the first time allowed to dominate the stage as a full-fledged individual." Gallienne says. "Hedda Gabler is the most popular of the whole Ibsen repertoire."

An experienced, skilled director is able to elicit from the actors strong and sensitive performances. Michael Menendian has years of directing experience, and of creating memorable scenes. In directing Hedda Gabler, he has created another great theatre experience.

Menendian is also the artistic director of Raven Theatre, and told me he had wanted to produce Hedda Gabler for a long time. It was worth the wait because he draws marvelous performances from the actors.

Menendian is faithful to the script and to the spirit of Ibsen's work. His production carefully shows the moral dilemmas and social pressures exposed in the play. There is no equivocating here. Menendian begins the play with an amazing theatrical touch. Hedda hangs a picture of her father, General Gabler, on the wall. Her psychological reverence for him is shown when she bows to the picture, almost a religious genuflection. The entire play is performed under the gaze of the stern, old general.

Ibsen used her maiden name to show the profound influence of her father. This creates a kind of psychological struggle similar to warfare.

Don't miss this production at Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St., Chicago. Box office, 773-338-2177.

Pump Boys and Dinettes at Drury Lane

The popular Rock 'n' Roll, Country and Blue Grass music revue, Pump Boys and Dinettes, opens June 4 and runs through August 2 at Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

Pump Boys and Dinettes is a toe-tapping, totally entertaining musical tribute to life along the open road. The pump boys sell high octane fuel on North Carolina's Highway 57. The sassy dinettes

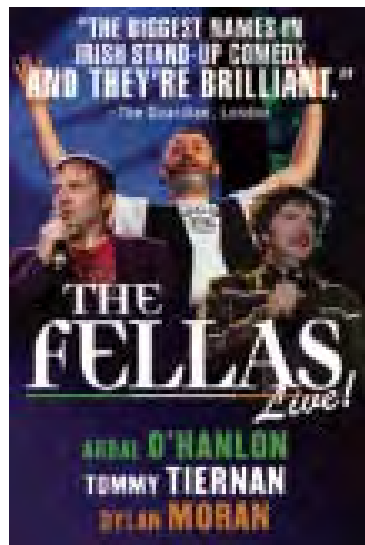
run the ever popular Double Cupp diner next door. Between changing tires and baking pies, the gang performs a rousing, down-home mix of country western, rock 'n' roll and blue grass in this charming tale of friendship, romance and life's simple pleasures.

Box Office (630) 530-0111 or call TicketMaster at 312.559.1212; or www.ticketmaster.com or www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

The Fellas Live! in Chicago June 12 & 13

Ardal O'Hanlon, Dylan Moran and Tommy Tiernan are set to perform their critically-acclaimed stage event The Fellas Live! in a limited U.S. tour. This special limited engagement lands in Chicago on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, 13th at 8pm at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield in Chicago. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or at The Vic Box Office, (773) 472-0449.

After selling out 10,000 seats at the Liverpool Echo Arena, Ardal O'Hanlon, Dylan Moran and Tommy Tiernan reunite onstage as the trio brings their show stateside hitting celebrated performance venues in select cities this summer. These unstoppable legends of comedy share the bill as each "fella" makes a triumphant return to the U.S. stage.



For more info, check out www.WestBethEnt.com.

Echoes of Ireland The Musical

Take the rich comic blarney and guttersnipe grit of Emerald Isle storytelling royalty Frank McCourt and Malachy McCourt, mixed with The Magic Of Ireland's timeless culture of music, song and dance and you have Echoes of Ireland—one helluva of a Ceili!

Echoes of Ireland features the sparkling spoken word of world renowned raconteur brothers Pulitzer Prize winner Frank McCourt (Angela's Ashes, 'Tis, Teacher Man) and seasoned actor/activist/author Malachy McCourt (A Monk Swimming), in collaboration with The Magic of Ireland—a unique, interactive, musical must-see audience experience that leaves sold-out houses on their feet cheering for more.

The Brother's McCourt are a story telling force to be reckoned with.

Whether you're Irish or not, Frank McCourt and Malachy's McCourt's masterful memories of childhood and beyond, will simultaneously tug and tickle your heartstrings, be it in the dank streets of Limerick, Ireland, or the hustle and bustle of The Big Apple's Brooklyn.

Echoes of Ireland will be touring (regionally) on the following dates:

Sunday, June 21 - Bloomington, IL, Bloomington Performing Arts Center at 7pm

Wednesday, June 24 - Stevens Point, WI, Sentry Theatre 800-838-3378 (Wisconsin residents only), 7:30pm

Thursday, June 25 - Racine, WI, Racine Civic Center, 7:30pm

Friday, June 26 - Madison, WI, Barrymore Theatre, 7:30pm

Saturday, June 27 - Sheboygan, WI, Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30pm

Monday, June 29 - Eau Claire, WI, State Theatre, 7:30pm

Wednesday, July 1 - Muskegon, MI, Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts, 7:30pm.

www.echoesofireland.com.

IAHC Bloomsday Celebration In Honor of the Life of James Joyce

The IAHC celebrates the life and works of writer James Joyce with its tenth annual Bloomsday Celebration, The Rattlin' of the Joists this June.

The Rattlin' of the Joists is Tuesday, June 16 at 7:30pm at the IAHC. Tickets are \$10.

On June 16, 1904, writer James Joyce met his future wife, Nora Barnacle and immortalized the date in his monumental epic, Ulysses. Mod-

ern Joyce aficionados have denoted June 16 "Bloomsday"; a day set aside throughout the world to honor the great man and his controversial and thought-provoking works.

The Rattlin' of the Joists includes performances with readings, music and song, presented by notables from Chicago's theatre and music community. Josephine Craven directs.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Daley Affirmation

I've been wanting to catch the one-man play Hizzoner, about the legendary Richard J. Daley, mayor of Chicago from 1955 to 1976, who ran the city with intimidating power and the twinkling of an inviting eye. Although the timing has never been right for me to catch the play, it occurs to me that one day the timing was right for me to meet the man himself.

This came from the fact that the mayor was not only a South Side Irishman hailing from Bridgeport and the Back of the Yards, but he was a Michigander (sic) as well, at least every summer. The Daleys had their summer retreat in Grand Beach, Michigan, just over the state line from Indiana on the shores of Lake Michigan. The beach estate was separated by distance and land from the rest of the summer vacation cottagers in Grand Beach, but shared the same lakeside road.

I remember on more than one occasion my parents driving us from our little rented cottage all the way down to the Daley place at the end of the main road. You couldn't quite make out their home, but I remember a man looking like a Chicago cop in a grey trenchcoat standing outside a stucco guardhouse with a green roof making it clear that our little tour was over. Just the same, it was always exciting for Irish Catholics from Kalamazoo to see the Midwest's version of the Kennedy family Hyannis compound on the East Coast.

In the summer of 1968, the Daleys probably felt a little more need for protection and isolation than normal. After the shocking assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy in the Spring and West Side riots, came the Summer of discontent in Chicago, where Mayor Daley presided over the tumultuous Democratic Convention and Grant Park erupted in riots. Chicago and the nation were arguably being torn apart. And the enclave of Grand Beach, Michigan, with its window boxed Sears catalogue cottages sandwiched between the sparkling blue lake and a lush green golf course along U.S. 12, no doubt became more of a refuge.

In the late 1960s, Grand Beach was little changed from its post-World War I heyday. Milk was still delivered by hand by the Peters Dairy man. I

was thrilled when he starting dropping off a tiny bottle of chocolate for me along with our regular order during the week or two we stayed there. My first lesson in politics came when I learned to lobby for my own milk order. The second would come when I met The Mayor.

Grand Beach had a relatively modern two-deck community center. During the week it would serve for dances, concerts, and parties like the annual Christmas in June, when the children among the vacationers would share gifts on June 25th to mark six months until Christmas. On Sundays, the community center was also a makeshift house of worship. If we got up early enough, we would go there for Mass rather than the late service in Michigan City. Mayor Daley was a daily communicant, so it was not unusual for him and his family to attend the Grand Beach services.

My mom always made it a point to give us cultural and learning experiences, (she excelled at pulling us out of class during the school year to meet celebrities and newsmakers without earning the wrath of the nuns at St. Monica's in Kalamazoo), so one Sunday, she decided it was time for us to meet the Daleys.

As we walked up to them after Mass, I instantly recognized Mayor Daley. In our household there was always at least one radio and television on, and Chicago newspapers and Time and LIFE on the end table or in the mailbox. When you're seven years old, someone you see in the news all the time doesn't only seem familiar, he seems like one of the family.

In was in this context that I boldly introduced myself to Daley. "Hi, I'm Jimmy with the McClures of Grand Beach!"

With the trademark smile and chuckle he jollily said, "Oh yeah, the McClures! How are ya?" and patted me on the head. Wow... he knew us! Mom would later tell me that he may well have been aware of us from my older brothers and sister perhaps rubbing elbows with his brood over the two decades or so my family had been visiting the summer resort. I suspect, though, that a standard part of good politics is to always acknowledge new acquaintances as old friends when some connection is expressed.

Faced with the friendly greeting by the fatherly jolly man, I instinctively

did what I did when I greeted my own father. I reached up and patted him on the mayoral backside. His wife, Eleanor "Sis" Daley seemed a little taken aback by my boldness, but I didn't see what the big deal was.

The bottom line is that McClures are butt people. My dad would pat me on the rear and I would do the same in return. You can't debate the efficiency. It communicates a lot, especially when you're in a crowd of well-wishers. I imagine that Chicago cop from the guardhouse was among a group of mystified bodyguards that summer day. Suffice to say, the Mayor and I both knew and recognized innocent friendship in the midst of an unfriendly season.

About 30 years later, I was at an event at Navy Pier and met the current mayor. Naturally, I introduced myself and mentioned Grand Beach. "Oh yeah, the McClures! How are ya?" was the reply.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com



Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, presented a Valor Award to Officer Thomas Olson and Distinguished Service Awards to Officers Ryan Delaney, Tony Ramirez and Adis Klincevic.

After observing a known gang member running from rival gang territory, Officers Olson and Delaney approached the offender, who turned and fired at them while they were exiting their vehicle, shooting Officer Olson in the shoulder. Officer Delaney returned fire and Officers Ramirez and Klincevic joined in and they were able to subdue and disarm the offender.

Pictured (L-R) are Officers Thomas Olson, Ryan Delaney, Tony Ramirez and Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7. Officers Adis Klincevic is not pictured.

Irish Freedom Committee Site Hacked

The National website for the Irish Freedom Committee was recently hacked. Their web host and technicians have been working on restoring the site. Google attached a warning to the site until the Committee is able to reload the hundreds of pages compris-

ing over ten years of their web history.

Techie friends are urged to contact them at webmaster@irishfreedomcommittee.net.

They will continue to post news on the situation, and upcoming events, through their newlist.

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The Scattering of Sliabh Ban Part Seven

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.

School would start soon enough and with luck they found a house to rent not a mile and a half away from St. Michael's. They found a Montessori School for Kelly right on Booterstown Avenue and as time passed and they all grew accustomed to the news surroundings, they made the decision to head west to Roscommon. Just to say they had been there, to the place where their ancestors had lived.

They would take the old orange InterCity train from Heuston Station. Even this required some effort, as the train left at 6:30am and there would be the walk to the DART and then the walk to Heuston from the Tara Street station.

On the train, which had all the comforts of a frontier era stage coach, the kids all complained about the trip. They really didn't want to go.



It was a Saturday and after all, they'd been at school all week. The train made several stops and the sun was just peeking up over the bogs when it came to rest in Roscommon town. The town was sleeping too. The journey would now require a car rental, which they expected to find in this, the county seat. But in 1997 the Celtic Tiger was only just now taking shape and a request for a rental car at the train station brought nothing more than a snicker.

Walking into town, then across town, then back again, they eventually stopped at a gas station and asked if there were taxi's into Strokestown. The man under the car wheeled himself out and told them there has never been a taxi in all of Roscommon, but if they needed to travel to Strokestown, he would lend them his car for a very reasonable price.

Driving into Strokestown, they stopped at the edge of town, high up on a hill and had their pictures taken. It was really all they wanted to do. That, and maybe wander around the town just looking to see what it might have been like 150 years ago. And oddly enough, not much had changed in that time. It was only much later that

they would learn that the hill upon which they stood was the foot of Sliabh Ban. Checking into the town's only hotel for the evening they were told that the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, had just been in town for the opening of the Manor and museum. The Monaghan's didn't yet realize it, but their ancestors, both the Lyons and the Monaghan's had been tenants on a 30,000 acre estate that surrounded Strokestown.

The tour of the manor house only lasted ten minutes but was quite impressive. The kitchen had its own second floor gallery so the lady of the house could bark orders to the cooks without having to mingle. More impressive was the underground passage that allowed the servants to travel back and forth unseen. The lady of the house, being a rather discerning type, didn't want the unkempt locals cluttering her view.

At some point they toured the bedrooms upstairs and like most people on a guided tour, they had maintained their silence, only whispering when necessary, when suddenly Michael's bellowing blasted through the silent hallways. "Hey Dad!" He screamed. "Isn't this the guy what took our land!"

In that moment, at age 10, three hundred and fifty years of history descended clearly yet maliciously upon him. Michael stop walking in lock step with the 20 or so tourists, mostly



Irish from the surrounding counties, and bolted for the front door, his hands gripped in fists and swinging his elbows out to the side as if to say, "I've had enough of this!"

The Monaghan's would all reconnect in the museum next door where all the events of the famine had been captured with newspaper accounts, hand written letters, and even a pistol or two. Their whispers echoed as the rest of the family turned the corner into one of the large cavernous rooms. They witnessed Michael standing at the foot of a wall that had giant reprints of newspaper pages towering ten feet into the air. He had found something.

"Dad!" he screamed, obviously unaware of the museum protocol for whispering. "Dad, I think we're FROM here!"

And there on the wall they found the beginnings of the real story of Michael and Mary. Michael stood with his finger touching the words on the wall. "Michael Monaghan."

Here they would unravel the story about two kids caught up in the tragedy of the famine. But the story presented a mystery of its own.

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 tar-

geted 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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2009 Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing

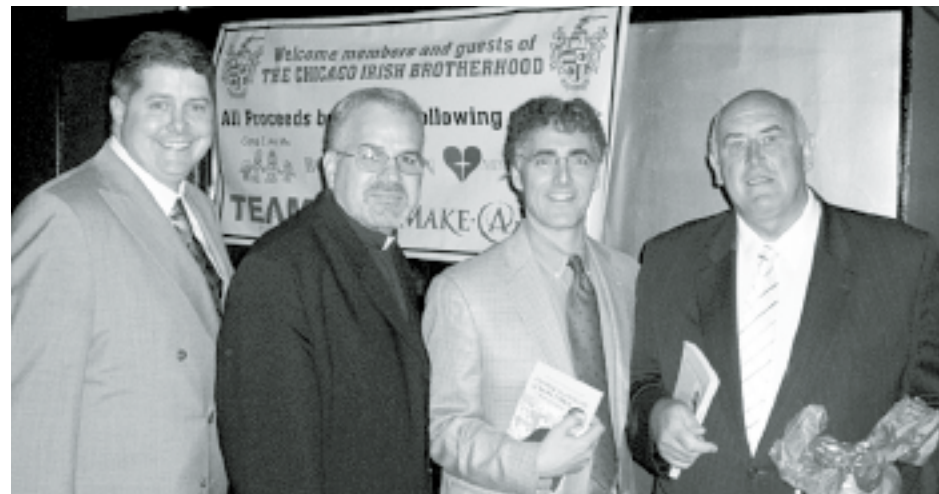
The 2009 Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at Harborside International Golf Center. Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart will serve at this year's golf outing as Honorary Chairman.

The event format is a scramble with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Afterwards, all are invited to attend a buffet dinner for sponsors, players and guests. Individual player spots and various corporate sponsorship levels are available. Please visit www.concernusa.org.

Funds raised from the 2009 golf outing

will support Concern Worldwide's water and sanitation program on the island of La Gonave, Haiti, one of the poorest and most vulnerable regions in Haiti where the lack of access to safe water is particularly acute. Concern's goal is to improve access to clean water by constructing seven community cisterns and to rehabilitate a damaged water system.

To register for the golf event or for additional information, please contact Lisa Jacobus at Concern's office at 312.431.8400 or lisa.jacobus@concern.net or visit www.concernusa.org.



(Pictured left to right): C.I.B Chairman Tim Egan, Boys Town of Chicago Executive Director Fr. Bruce Wellems, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart and Mr. Billy Lawless) Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart was the driving force behind the success of the Chicago Irish Brotherhood and Irish American News' first ever Fr. Flanagan Spirit Award. The event raised over \$21,000 to fund programs and services at Boys Town of Chicago. Sheriff Dart was the Honorary Chairman, which was co-chaired by C.I.B. CEO Tim Egan and Chicago Police Department Commander Hector Rodriguez. Billy Lawless was the inaugural honoree for his tireless work for immigration rights.

GAA Games Are On at Gaelic Park

The Gaelic Athletic Association hosts Gaelic games of football and hurling each weekend at Chicago Gaelic Park.

Gaelic football is a fantastic sport, resembling some elements of basketball, rugby and soccer with the rules of the game intentionally designed to keep the game moving quickly. The first record of Gaelic Football is from the Statute of Galway in 1527.

Hurling, the fastest field game in the world, is played by the ancient Irish rules, with very skilled players, a "hurley" stick, made of ashwood, and a very hard ball called a "siothar" (pronounced slitar). The

object of Hurling is for players to put the siothar between the opponents' goalposts either over the crossbar for one point, or under the crossbar, into a guarded goal, for three points. Body checks, side-to-side shouldering and shirt pulling are common as well as slashing at the siothar. No protective padding is worn and helmets are optional.

Admission is \$6. Refreshments such as sausages and chips, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, and ice cream are available at all games for a small price. Call 708-687-9323 for times and games.

4 the Love of Art to Benefit Young Aids Patients & Families

The 4th Annual 4 the Love of Art event to Benefit Children Affected by HIV/AIDS will be held on June 10 at Rokit Bar & Grill from 5:30-8:30pm. Guests of the event will have the opportunity to purchase artwork from local and national artists who have donated their pieces to help children and families in Chicago that are affected by HIV/AIDS.

The art sale brings together works from local and national artists, with all pieces reasonably priced from \$25 to \$1,000 and appealing to a wide range of artistic tastes. Guests also will be treated to cocktails, appetizers and desserts.

Tickets to the event are \$40 in advance/\$50 at the door. Rokit Bar & Grill is located at 22 W. Hubbard St. in Chicago. To purchase tickets to 4 the Love of Art please contact The Children's Place Association at 312-660-3030 or by email at 4theLoveofArt@childrens-place.org. To learn more or purchase tickets online, visit www.childrens-place.org.

Irish American Heritage Festival July 10, 11 & 12

Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities this year including, Eileen Ivers, Gaelic Storm, The Tossers, Makem and Spain, and the Screaming Orphans. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening Irish culture in Chicago.

Festival Hours: Fri., 6-midnight; Sat., noon-midnight; Sun., noon-11pm.

Visit www.irishfestchicago.com for details.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 N. Knox Avenue in Chicago, phone 773-282-7035. www.irish-american.org/

Bagpiping Instruction Sessions In Naperville

The Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming, Pittsburgh, PA, will hold a bagpiping week-long instructional session, which aims to serve the Chicago community of pipers and drummers, at North Central College in Naperville, IL on July 5-10. For information visit www.bagpiping.org or call 412 323-2707.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Watch this space! The moves towards comprehensive immigration reform are growing stronger by the day. All indications are that the ground is being set for reform of our broken immigration system.

The first week of May saw a Schumer-led Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing, which followed on the heels of the President's press conference. Both events placed immigration squarely on the map.

A key take-away from the Senate Hearing was the credibility and authority with which a distinguished panel of witnesses, including Former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan and Pastor Joel Hunter, spoke in favor of real, comprehensive reform. Their views were in stark contrast to the one markedly anti-immigrant witness Kris Kobach, Professor at the University of Missouri School of Law and representative of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). It was however encouraging for proponents of reform that his calls for mass deportations did not hold much sway with the assembly. Instead much more weight was given to testimony by Former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan, who stated:

"There is little doubt that unauthorized, that is, illegal, immigration has made a significant contribution to the growth of our economy"; he went on to state that "our immigration laws must be reformed and brought up to date."

Another clear sign that immigration reform is moving forward was the new ABC/Washington Post poll that shows a whopping sixty-one percent of Americans now favoring a "pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants." Given the recent anti-immigrant backlash in some corners of the media and the strong campaign of mistruths purported by some right wing elements, it is encouraging that the American public is choosing common sense over kneejerk reactions.

Testimony was also given by Montgomery County, MD Police Chief Thomas Manger, also the Chairman of the Major Cities Chiefs Association's Legislative Committee. He noted the community safety benefits of the federal government taking back the reins of leadership on immigration policy. He referred specifically

Program.

Manger argued:

"The overwhelming majority of major-city police agencies have elected not to participate in 287(g) training. In fact, the last figures I've seen indicate that over 95% of police and sheriffs departments in the U.S. have elected not to participate in the 287(g) training- primarily because it undermines the trust and cooperation with immigrant communities that are essential elements of community policing. We need to have strong policies that take into full account the realities of local law enforcement. One of those realities is that public safety increases when people have trust and confidence in their police department. Delivering fair and consistent police service to all crime victims has to be a priority."

Pastor Joel Hunter, a prominent evangelical leader, made a compelling moral case for immigration reform, saying:

"The hope of any religion is that those who have been on the wrong path can be set upon the right path. The need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform is to create a path that will help people do the right thing. A broken system produces a dysfunctional society, fractured families, and it increases the vulnerability of both legal and illegal residents. It helps criminals who thrive in the shadows and it harms decent people, consigning them to a life of insecurity, hiding, and minimal contribution to the general welfare. A broken system produces both broken and crooked people. The cost to our nation in terms of productivity, national unity, and national security is depressing. But it does not compare to the damage being done to individuals and families."

Another clear sign that immigration reform is moving forward was the new ABC/Washington Post poll that shows a whopping sixty-one percent of Americans now favoring a "pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants." Given the recent anti immigrant backlash in some corners of the media and the strong campaign of mistruths purported by some right wing elements, it is encouraging that the American public is choosing common sense over kneejerk reactions

With the release of the new polling, President

Obama's renewed pledge on immigration, and this week's hearing, it's clear that the American people want action and solutions on the big issues before us, not excuses for inaction and mere finger-pointing. The work ahead is still daunting but we remain committed to the men, women and children who live with the daily burden of a broken immigration system.

One day, a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided since the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway, it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. So, the farmer invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed shovels, and began to shovel dirt into the well.

All the other farm animals were very upset about this, because the donkey was their friend. But they discovered there was nothing they could do to help him. At first, when the donkey realized what was happening, he cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well, and was astonished at what he saw.

With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off, and take a step up on the dirt as it piled up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well, and trotted off!

MORAL: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. But each trouble can be a stepping stone. What happens to you isn't nearly as important as how you react to it. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not giving up!

Shake it off, and take a step up!

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Bridget Gainer pictured with family, and Illinois Supreme Court Justice, Anne M. Burke, at her swearing in as County Commissioner for the 10th dist., on Fri., May 1, 2009. From (L): Bill Gainer (father), Justice Anne M. Burke, Bridget Gainer, Dennis Kibby (husband). Her 3 children: Finbar (6), Lilian (4) and Mary (1) and Gerry Gainer (mother).



The Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, hosted their memorial service recognizing fellow officers who died in service. The families of officers, the men and women who worked with them, the Gold Star families and dignitaries attended. Officer Richard Francis, Officer Nathaniel Taylor, Jr. and Detective Joseph M. Airhart, Jr. were memorialized. (l to r): Mark Donahue, President of the FOP, Lodge #7, Anita Alvarez; Cook County State's Attorney, and Alderman Edward M. Burke.

CONCERN golf OUTING

Wednesday, June 24, 2009
12:30 Tee-Off

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2009 Honorary Chairperson
Thomas J. Dart, Cook County Sheriff

Join Concern Worldwide U.S. for its 7th Annual Concern Golf Outing. Funds generated from the event will benefit Concern's water and sanitation program on the island of La Gonâve, Haiti.

For additional information about the golf outing, or for sponsorship opportunities, please call 312.431.8400 or visit www.concernusa.org and register online.

Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental, international humanitarian organization that works in 28 of the world's poorest countries across Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean providing emergency relief and long-term assistance in the areas of health, education, HIV and AIDS, and livelihoods (including agricultural training and microfinance).

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Horoscope



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ARIES: The month of June 2009 will be a good time to pursue matters close to home. If you are planning a vacation on a slim budget, stay home and rest and enjoy the nice weather. Instead of going to the beach in Aruba, go to the beach closer to home.

TAURUS: Venus and Mars are meeting in your sign. This is very good for you, especially if you were born in the first week of May. You will feel and possibly look healthier and more energetic with this sexy duo in your sector.

GEMINI: Your finances are getting your attention this month of June 2009. The New Moon in the earliest part of Cancer will help you set your finances for the year ahead. You can plan a strategy to build wealth or a solution to any trouble that you have encountered.

CANCER: The latter part June will usher in your time in the sun! You will get a well deserved respite from the rat race of your working life. This would be a good time to take a vacation.

LEO: You are exploring the depths of your soul in the month of June. Do you have a clue what this means? If not, try to see the larger issues in life and your most important people in it. After all, aren't others what makes life interesting?

VIRGO: Feeling dull or out of sorts this month? It could be because you sometimes can't see the forest for the trees. If you are looking for results in your present endeavors, do not expect instant gratification. Let some things go. Let Venus and Mars guide you to a new light.

LIBRA: Your possible entrenchment in indecision has drained your spirit and lost you valuable opportunities in the recent past. You could be obsessed with an illusion. Relationships are not habits, they are the essence of life. Be honest and reveal your true self first to you, then to the ones closest to you.

SCORPIO: You are in line for a gift from above in the form of positive planetary weather. The planets are conspiring to help you prosper in your chosen field of activity. Go for your dreams.

SAGITTARIUS: There is a triple conjunction of some rare and benefic planets that are helping you get what you want! Use this time wisely, because the planets will not remain in this position forever.

CAPRICORN: Do your best to get some important tasks out of the way before the month of June 2009 is over. You can easily conclude important business and negotiations. Clear the slate before the next month's set of eclipses.

AQUARIUS: You are enjoying a rare and wonderful triple conjunction of Jupiter, Chiron, and Neptune in your sign! The last time this happened was just after the end of World War II! This signifies the conclusion of hard times and the dawning of better times to come!

PISCES: You are in line for a piece of the good news pie like you neighbor Aquarius. Your ruler Neptune is being closely accompanied by lucky Jupiter and Cinderella Chiron. Use this time to further your pet projects!

It has been a year since Michael (Murph) Murphy life was cut short on June 6, 2008 when he was struck down by a hit and run driver at age 31.

His passion was music. He was a guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter. He played a variety of instruments from guitar, mandolin, accordion, harmonica, a bit of the keyboard and was taking violin lessons. His creativity and abilities were varied. He was a member of 4 bands; "Leave" was an original music band that Murph founded and he was devoted to its vision. The members of Leave also performed as a cover band called "Joe V." The other bands that he regularly performed with were "The Larkin and Moran Brothers" and "A Week Back"—all of them brothers to the end.

Murph taught at the Music School in Oak Lawn and encouraged and inspired people of all ages to learn how to play an instrument and love music.

Now, through his family and friends, Murph can continue to encourage and inspire. The Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund has been created with the mission to

provide music related lessons and instruments to children from families that do not have the financial means to provide this opportunity. The goal of the charity is to carry on Murph's legacy and make a difference in a life by giving them the gift of music.

A fund raiser has been scheduled on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 115 Bourbon St., 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL, 3-8pm.

Monetary donations can be sent



directly to: Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund, Founders Bank, 3052 W. 111th St, Chicago, IL 60655.

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SATURDAY
NOON-MIDNIGHT

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- The Clancy Brothers
- Chicago Celtic Pipe Band
- Joe Collins & Tower Shire
- Clara
- The Eganey Brothers
- David in the Wood
- East Linn & Billy O'Donoghue
- Edison's Song Band
- Fit and the Clats
- The Faddy Family Band
- The Flannery Family Singers
- The 1st Music Society of Chicago
- Grady's Kitchen
- Matt Swisher Band
- Joe McEvoy and the Blue Ridge Band
- Mick and the Hill Brothers
- Maureen's School of Irish Dance
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