

# Irish American Post

A JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY IRISH & IRISH AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
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**This beautiful watercolor of stones and plant life in Ireland's Burren was painted by Milwaukee artist Dedi Knox. She recently had a major exhibit of her works at the city's Villa Terrace Museum, overlooking Lake Michigan.**

ALSO...  
CORY REPORT SHAKES UP POLITICOS,  
TIME AND DR. O'REILLY,  
ANDY PIKE'S MISSION,  
BRENNAN ALA *CHAPPELLE*,  
IRISH TROOPERS IN LIBERIA,  
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO FARRELL,  
COADY'S POEMS AND  
THE CHIEFTAINS GO WILD WITH  
CANADA.

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# Irish American Post

## Irish American Post

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## Publisher's Comments

Spring has sprung and the Irish world is awakening from its winter slows. On the political front, the long-awaited Cory Report has been released, with all due shaking up the halls of Northern Ireland's power structure, with its hard facts on death, violence and collusion. And, far from home, some of the more serious charges have been dropped against the Colombia 3, accused of aiding Latin terrorists.

On a more cultural front in this issue of **The Irish American Post**, we offer essays on the famous Chicago writer James T. Farrell (1904-1979), as well as more adventures of Patrick Taylor's marvelous Dr. O'Reilly and interviews with major poet Michael Coady and broadcast writer Neal Brennan. There's also the usual round of news, more features and plenty of other grand stories.

Forget mowing the lawn. Settle in, run off a copy of **The Post** if you prefer not to sit at the computer screen. Whatever way you enjoy your magazine, you'll be right on following the world of the Irish.

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*In the Lilt of Irish Laughter*  
*(You Can Hear the Angels Sing)*

In Spring  
he said he toppled a statue in Dublin town  
or was it County Down?  
To the docks of Liverpool he fled  
never sleeping in the same warm bed  
An official document with a new name claimed  
his passport photo remained the same  
Then off to parish America he said  
to find an heiress to be wed  
Arriving in the Windy City  
seeking work and seldom pity  
he poured beer in empty pails  
and was paid for telling tales  
After kisses and practiced sighs  
before one golden sunrise  
he removed a cream colored girdle  
off a virgin named Myrtle  
Seven of his children lived  
he told them lies but called them fibs  
Still, a legend in his own time  
after amber pints of Early Times  
he'd mumble on his stool  
when they called him "Irish"  
or played pool  
Then a lonely usher all in black  
opined it was a shame  
that no one knew his name  
but Grandma Myrtle said n'are a blink  
she kicked him out, to swim or sink  
'cause he made her use rags  
account a' the drink.

— Wayne Frank

Wayne Frank is a playwright and former City of Milwaukee Alderman. He recently had work published in poetry journals in Texas, North Carolina and Tennessee. He can be reached at <a href="mailto:teddy27@execpc.com">teddy27@execpc.com</a>
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# Letters to the Editor

**The Irish American Post** is eager to hear from its readers and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 150 words and should be signed.

**The Irish American Post** reserves the right to edit any piece to conform to space limitations. Letters can be mailed to Editor, The Irish American Post, 301 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202 or e-mailed to [letters-to-the-editor@irishamericanpost.com](mailto:letters-to-the-editor@irishamericanpost.com).

Letters do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of

## **Bush Envoy Urged to Look at Cory Report**

Dear Editor

Perhaps President Bush's special envoy to Northern Ireland, Mitchell Reiss, should have a look at the Cory Report (and the Steven's Report, the Patton Report, the Saville inquiry and the numerous other reports and broadcasts by the BBC, RTE and Panarama) on British state-sponsored terrorism and collusion by security forces with loyalist paramilitaries in the murders of innocent people before accusing Sinn Féin of "massive untruths" about policing in Northern Ireland and before pressuring anyone to join the overwhelmingly discredited RUC/PSNI.

Of the Sinn Féin position advertisement on policing that ran in the New York Times on March 15, Reiss said: "At best it was enormously misleading, at worst it was untruthful." He also said he would provide a point by point rebuttal to the ad. That was almost three weeks ago, and Reiss has offered no comment.

What will he and other Bush administrator's have to say on Trimble's remarks below? Will they again take up the Brit/unionist/loyalist line? Will they again make embarrassingly shallow remarks criticizing the largest nationalist party in the North? Will they again offer no evidence for their ridiculous blather? Will they again side with the conservatives? Birds of a feather?

Fishwood1@aol.com

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## **Michael Moore**

*May 5, 2004*

Dear Editor:

I recently learned of the decision by the Walt Disney Company to block its own film company, Miramax, from distributing a new documentary by Michael Moore, "Fahrenheit 911". Disney executives reportedly made their decision because they felt the film was too partisan. The documentary traces the links between the Bush family and prominent Saudi Arabian families.

Not everyone agrees with Michael Moore's politics. And this documentary certainly is controversial. But no corporation should have the right to tell me what films I can see. Disney has this power because it owns ABC, film studios, TV and radio stations, and cable channels. I am concerned that this is yet another example of the dangers of media consolidation, as corporations decide what people should and shouldn't see.

There are other examples. Last week, Sinclair Broadcasting decided that "Nightline's" tribute to the dead U.S. soldiers in Iraq was too partisan, and pulled the program from its ABC affiliates. What will be the next issue too controversial for us to see?

Congress must act to stop the growth of giant media corporations that can control our access to information and entertainment. Call your member of Congress and ask him or her to prevent the growing concentration of the media.

Sincerely,

Bob McKiernan  
Milwaukee, WI

# Perchance to Dream: The World of James T. Farrell

By Tim Weldon  
Special to *The Irish American Post*

Upon hearing of the assassination of President Kennedy, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then executive assistant secretary of labor, commented:

*I don't think there's any point in being Irish if you don't know the world is going to break your heart eventually.*

Perhaps no author of the Irish-American experience expressed as plainly, as prolifically, the broken-heartedness of the Irish in America than Chicago's perennial South-Sider, James T. Farrell (1904-1979).

Farrell's productivity is legend. Spurred on by what an acquaintance described as an 8 a.m. to midnight writing schedule, Farrell authored 50 volumes of fiction, 250 published short stories, poetry, and several volumes of critical writing (he produced 75 book reviews in 1933 alone).

Farrell's fiction earned many labels, among them: naturalism, minimalism, aesthetic realism, proletarian literature, and immigrant literature. He was also the recipient of varied criticism. In a 1968 interview with *Chicago Sun Times* journalist Roger Ebert, Farrell told the then reporter, "One thing pleased me: *Time* called me the worst writer in America. I take that as a great distinction." Of greater distinction was Farrell's being awarded in 1979 the Emerson-Thoreau award for distinguished achievement in literature.

With his achievements, his millions of words, Farrell provided a platform for contemporary Irish-American expression. As Charles Fanning, the renowned commentator of Irish-American letters reminds us: "With his body of work, Farrell single-handedly brought the Irish voice into 20th century American fiction."

It is at the heart of 20th century American fiction that we find Farrell's best and most famous work, *The Studs Lonigan Trilogy* (1932-1935).

The epigraph of the novel, lyrics from Blake and Lawlor's 1894 song, *Sidewalks of New York*, set the theme for much of Farrell's fiction:

*East side, West side,  
All around the town,  
The tots sing ring-a-rosie,  
London Bridge is falling down.  
Me and Mamie O'Rourke,  
We tripped the light fantastic,  
On the sidewalks of New York.*

For Farrell this was *the* song, the dream of America's city Irish: the wonder of the fresh world of skyscrapers and bridges (some

of the same structures they helped to build) was theirs to revel in, if they only could.

*Studs Lonigan* begins with a 14-year-old William (Studs) Lonigan locked in a bathroom, smoking and rapt in reverie: he is leaving St. Patrick's grammar school and his love from afar, Lucy Scanlan. "Once when he had been in the sixth grade, he had walked home with Lucy," Farrell wrote in the opening pages. Herein, it's downhill. Even while walking with Lucy, Studs understands that with the onset of evening, "the day would get blacker." As would his short life.

Studs wasn't dreaming alone. Also in the opening pages of the novel is Studs' father, Patrick J. Lonigan, who "with reverie-lost eyes," is daydreaming on the back porch of the family's middle class home.

The elder Lonigan longs for his youth, wishes to see Ireland and contemplates perfect love and a perfect life, all the while humming *Little Annie Rooney* and *My Irish Molly O*. Personal and occupational ruin await him. With her husband's business failure, so goes the dream of ascendancy to lace-curtain status for Mary Lonigan, and worse, her pain at Studs' failure to enter the priesthood.

The starker ruin of prostitution and prison and alcoholism and early death on the one hand, and compromised and broken dreams on the other, await many of Farrell's characters in the *Lonigan* trilogy and throughout his fiction.

In his short story, *Mary O'Reilly*, the protagonist dreams of religious life:

*She had spent long hours in wishful contemplation of joining them (the Poor Clares), of escaping from the hurting continuities of everyday existence into a quiet that seemed like an endless summer evening's swoon.*

Farrell's following sentence says everything: "But she had never entered the convent." Farrell's writing leaves a trail of the brokenhearted and downright broken: Mary O'Reilly never took her vows, Patrick J. Lonigan never saw Ireland, his wife never got her Gold Coast residence, and Stud's never saw 30 -- let alone love with Lucy Scanlan. Reminiscent of his walk with the Lucy years before, Studs' last words were: "Mother, it's getting dark."

The inclination of the Irish-American, the immigrant, to dream and the often evanescent nature of dreams set against the harshness of city life was accompanied by a related theme in Farrell's work, the fragmentation of the Irish neighborhood. As early as 1932, Farrell was to write in a letter about the final volume of *Studs Lonigan*, that a "dominant theme of the sequel

will be the decay of the neighborhood."

The grandson of Irish immigrants (Co. Tipperary), the Chicago of Farrell's writing, the streets of 58th and Indiana (the Washington Park neighborhood), were predominantly Irish. Farrell in fact described himself as "Chicago born, and American, but also an Irishman." In the 1960's he wrote "the effects and scars of immigration are upon my life."

But the concentration of Irish in Farrell's neighborhood during his lifetime was short-lived. With their upward mobility, the wane of Irish immigration to Chicago which peaked before 1870, the migration of blacks from the American South to Chicago's South Side, Irish flight to other parts of the city and suburbs and the rest of the country was ongoing. And as Farrell was to emphasize in his fiction, the spiritual brokenness of the person, in this case the Irish Catholic of the working class, followed the collapse of the neighborhood.

In his 1926 short story, *Studs* (upon which the trilogy is based), Farrell, using the character of writer Danny O'Neill (Farrell's alter ego), wrote "My associations with the corner gradually dwindled. I went to college and became an atheist."

In 1948, Farrell revisited his old neighborhood (he left Chicago for New York in 1931) in the short story *Kilroy Was Here*. Again using the character of Danny O'Neill, the story is centered upon Danny's dispirited tour of the old neighborhood and Danny's, or Farrell's, wistful conclusion, expressed here in a conversation with a current resident:

*This neighborhood was a world to me; now it's only so many streets.*

Streets empty of a Mamie O'Rourke or Lucy Scanlan. Streets that were no longer home because home was where the Irish lived, where they invested their dreams in each other and in the city.

Farrell's world is a vivid chronicle of the unfulfilled dreamer in a new world, a world where the pursuit of happiness was possible -- which made failure all the worse. Farrell's fiction was a portrait of the pre-suburban as yet fully assimilated Irish focused upon and striving to translate the American dream into their cultural language, with its emphasis on Catholicism, the family, civic obligations and political participation. That untold thousands in this group succeeded is history. Farrell wrote of and for the Irish who didn't.

As someone who made it out of his Washington Park neighborhood, Farrell never left it, clinging spiritually to its Irishness -- his Irishness -- as the source of his creativity and inspiration to endure, hoping all along for the fulfilled dreams of others. It was near the end of *My Days of Anger* (1943) that he wrote of a Danny O'Neill who "would do battle so that others did not remain unfulfilled as he and his family had been."

As the voice of the dreaming immigrant and their sons and daughters, Farrell's influence was and remains far-reaching.

It was from the title of Farrell's chief work that Chicagoan Louis Terkel, the voice of the social left in America for decades, borrowed the name Studs. While in a recent interview

with *The Chicago Tribune*, novelist Tom Wolfe wrote:

*My whole picture of writing comes from Chicago, from Farrell... Many writers my age will, I bet, tell you the same thing. Farrell had a tremendous influence on young writers. He was galvanizing.*

Fellow novelist Pete Hamill, urban, Irish and from an era different than Farrell's, maintains a special affinity for Farrell and his work, both for its educating quality and likeness to his own experience: "He (Farrell) taught me and other city writers to look with pity and terror and compassion at the people we knew and at ourselves, to give value to the casualties

of the urban wars, to speak in some way for those who have no voices."

Andrew Greeley, Chicago's own author and scholar of the Irish experience in America, dedicated a chapter to Farrell's most famous character in his sociological study, *That Most Distressed Nation: The Taming of the American Irish* (1972).

In the chapter, "The South Side since the Death of Studs," Greeley discusses the plight of Chicago's remaining majority-Irish neighborhood, Beverly (According to the 2000 Census, 56% of Beverly's residents listed their ancestry as Irish). In his discussion, Greeley theorizes that: "He (Studs) would have bought a home in Beverly and moved to Christ the King Parish, finding at 93rd and Hoyne a community where the old loyalties of 58th and Indiana could be born again."

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Farrell came from his heir apparent, the Pulitzer-prize winning author William Kennedy. In the opening pages of his *Ironweed*, Kennedy has his protagonist come across a grave marked "FARRELL" which is curiously placed next to grave marked "KENNEDY."

In this centennial year of Farrell's birth it is no small wonder that his work remains the subject of inspiration, of critical study, of representation of American 20th century literature.

Today, the fiction of James T. Farrell serves as a tribute to the enduring dreams of the Irish in America, their love for each other and love of country, worthy topics in themselves. As the often elegant William Kennedy reminds us in his novel *Very Old Bones* (1993): "Nobody loves you like an Irishman."

Note: In celebration of the Centennial of his birth, The Library of America will republish the *Studs Lonigan* trilogy in 2004. The American University of Paris is also hosting a James T. Farrell Centennial conference June 17-19.

*Tim Weldon is department chair at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill. He has written on aesthetics, philosophy and politics. He and his wife Clodagh, department chair of theology at Dominican University, live in suburban Chicago. He can be reached at TWeldon@stfrancis.edu*

# It's Just a Matter of Time

*By Patrick Taylor*

There is a difference between broken and bent. If you don't believe me, I'll explain. As with anything vaguely related to Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, you may find the explanation convoluted.

When I worked for Dr. O'Reilly, Ireland had returned to daylight savings time. But during the second great numbered unpleasantness we had had a peculiar system of "double summer time" when the clocks were advanced not one but two hours. This, it was widely believed, had been introduced to foil the Luftwaffe's night bombing raids.

How, the denizens of Ballybucklebo reasoned, could the German airforce indulge themselves in a touch of nocturnal bombing when there was no longer such a thing as night and the sun, literally, shone at midnight? (It was this kind of reasoning that allowed the Irish to plan a manned mission to the Sun. They'd avoid the heat by going after dark.)

The Germans short-circuited the defensive ploy by resorting to, what was, according to the new clock settings, very early morning bombing raids. This upset that sense of fairness so dear to the hearts of the average Ulsterman. The Germans were regarded as no longer playing by the rules.

Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly would never have failed to play by the rules. Never. He was, or at least as far as Her Majesty's Royal Navy had been concerned, he had been an officer and a gentleman. I can categorically assure you I never saw him break a single rule during all the time I spent with him.

Bending was another matter. It is said the first pretzel was designed by O'Reilly when he mistook a straight biscuit for a statute for which he disapproved.

You may be wondering what the vagaries of springing forward, falling back and O'Reilly's disdain for the laws of mere mortals have in common. To help you see the connection let me add the catalyst—alcohol. Still confused? Bear with me.

You do know that O'Reilly enjoyed a shot, both in the "of whiskey" sense and at the occasional unsuspecting duck. It might help if I explained that the months for molesting migratory mallard ran from September to February. You also are aware, because I have been at some pains to tell you, that when the omens were propitious on any given autumn or winter Saturday Dr. O' would stick me with being on call, summon Arthur Guinness, his black Labrador, and vanish in the pre-dawn blackness to bang and blaze barrel after barrel at the bewildered birds.

On the third Saturday of October in the year of our Lord, I don't remember exactly, O'Reilly and the faithful hound had been somewhere on the foreshore of Stangford Lough since well before dawn. I had been ministering to the medical emergencies; one cut finger, one marble up a nostril and one hang-

over—Donal Donnelly's—that could have been mistaken for the symptoms of a brain tumour in anyone who actually possessed such an organ. I'd eaten a splendid supper—slices of one of Mrs. Kincaid's roast hams—and for once feeling like a bit of company had wandered over to "The Mucky Duck."

By this stage of my apprenticeship with Dr. O', I was well known to the locals and they to me. The snug was full of the usual suspects—Arthur Osbaldiston behind the bar, Fergal McGillicutty, Donal Donnelly, as the English call it, "having a hair of the dog" or as the Irish say, "taking the cure"—in front. The local constable leant against the bar, straight glass of stout clutched in one hand.

"Evening, 'Doc. Sherry?" Arthur asked.

"Thanks."

He poured, handed it to me and glanced over to where a large clock hung high up on the opposite wall. It was six minutes to ten. "Himself's late the night."

"The ducks," I remarked, sipping from my glass.

"Oh, aye," said Arthur, polishing a glass with a grubby dishcloth, "Dr. O'Reilly's a terrible man for the ducks." He glanced back at the clock and his head made an almost indiscernible twitch towards the rotund arm of the law. "The doctor'd better get himself in soon if he wants a wee hot whiskey to keep away the dew. I've to close in five minutes." He smiled obsequiously at the constable, "Isn't that right officer?"

"It is, Mr. Osbaldiston. The licensing laws are very strict. Very strict." He held out his now empty glass. "I've just the time for the one more."

"Time, gentlemen," called Arthur as he started to build the policeman's pint.

At precisely nine fifty-five the door flew open and O'Reilly pursued by Arthur Guinness entered. His cheeks were a slate gray, his nose a screaming red. He blew on his hands, rubbed the palms vigorously together and blew on them again. "Jasus, it's cold as a witch's tit out there," he remarked to the bar in general, and, "Hot Irish. Double." to Arthur Osbaldiston in particular.

The constable turned and glared first at O'Reilly then at Arthur Guinness. I suspected the episode when Arthur had mistaken the man for a burglar and had bitten him still rankled. "Last shout's been called. It's ten o'clock, doctor."

O'Reilly looked at the clock then back to the officer. I may have been the only one in the place to notice the change in the colour of O'Reilly's nose tip, but he hid his anger well.

*(Continued on page 10)*

"True, officer true," he said, "and I know you are just doing your job."

The constable hurried to finish his pint within the five minutes drinking-up time permitted by the law. "True, sir."

"But," said O'Reilly, "if I could prove you're wrong about the time could I buy you a pint and have a wee warmer myself?"

Every eye was on the peeler. The silence was such that the dropping of a single pin might have resulted in a bang of sufficient magnitude to rupture eardrums.

"Well..."

"Walking stick, Arthur," said O'Reilly in his best quarterdeck voice.

The stick was produced.

O'Reilly stepped over to the clock, pushed open the glass front with the stick's rubber-tipped ferrule and with great concentration used the thing to turn the minute hand back through sixty-five minutes. It was now, local "Mucky Duck" time, eight fifty-eight.

"But," spluttered the constable, "you can't just do that."

"You're right," said O'Reilly, "I can't, but Her Majesty's Government can." He glared round the room. "Today is the third

Saturday of October, and what happens tonight?"

To give him credit, Donal Donnelly saw it first. "Jasus, doctor. The clocks go back."

"They do," said O'Reilly.

The constable began, "But not until two..."

"Drinks have been poured, officer. One for you and, Arthur, a hot double John Jameson for me."

The constable laughed. "All right, doctor. I'll allow you're not breaking the law—only bending it."

"Right," said O'Reilly, lifting his steaming glass, "Cheers."

*Patrick Taylor is an Ulsterman living in Canada. He has written about Dr. O'Reilly, his young assistant Dr. Barry Laverty and denizens of Ballybucklebo for six years. These characters are the subjects of Taylor's third novel, The Apprenticeship of Doctor Laverty, to be published this fall by Insomniac Press of Toronto Canada.*

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## Mitchell Scholars Hold First Reunion

The first three classes of George J. Mitchell Scholars assembled in Washington, D.C. early in March for the first alumni gathering of the program. The Mitchell Scholarship program, the flagship project of the US-Ireland Alliance, annually sends American post-graduates to universities on the island of Ireland for a year of post-graduate work. Less than five years old, the program has quickly become one of the most prestigious competitions in the country.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) opened the festivities by hosting a reception for the 32 Scholars in the US Capitol. Several Senators and members of their staffs dropped by to meet the Scholars. Senators Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Senator Chris Dodd (D-MA) and Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) were among those in attendance.

The Scholars spent Friday morning on Capitol Hill meeting with senior staffers. Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, met with the group. Reynolds, right-hand to Senate Leader Bill Frist (R-TN), served recently on the selection committee that chose the class of Scholars that will study in Ireland and Northern Ireland in the fall. The Scholars were joined for lunch by several senior staffers who discussed politics and their work for Members of Congress. President Bush's Special Envoy for Northern Ireland, Dr. Mitchell Reiss, gave the Scholars a briefing on the current state of affairs in Northern Ireland, as did Tim Losty, the Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau. Dr. Tony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Advisor, who

played a key role in the Northern Ireland peace process, spoke with the Scholars about the current state of world affairs and his experiences in government.

On March 12, Scholars, friends and supporters of the US-Ireland Alliance were treated to a private concert by singer Maura O'Connell.

Dell Pendergrast, director of the Mitchell Scholarship program, noted that all but four former Scholars were in attendance: "The fact that all of those who physically could get to Washington for these three days did so, is testament to how much their year in Ireland meant to them." Trina Vargo, President of the Alliance, added, "It is our hope that all of the returning Scholars will remain interested in the island, and involved in this organization, throughout their lives."

The scholarship program was launched in 1998 with an endowment from the Irish Government and is further supported by the US Congress & Department of State, the Northern Ireland Department of Employment and Learning, Automsoft, Becton, Dickinson & Co., Bombardier Aerospace (NI) Foundation, Cross Atlantic Capital Partners, The Crucible Corporation and the McDonnell Charitable Foundation. Corporate sponsors of the Alliance are CRH, Diageo Ireland, IONA Technologies, and Jurys Doyle Hotel Group.

# Brennan Writes Chappelle Laughs

By Steve Hintz

Irish American Post New York Bureau

Neal Brennan is a monster. A hulk of unadulterated comedy. Half of the outrageous creators of the hit *Dave Chappelle* television show. Brennan, at 30, is one of today's foremost contemporary comedic writers, albeit one with a deliciously Irish twisting of humor.

The dude is cool, too. I sat up with him on St. Patrick's Day and discussed comedy, celebrity status, being Irish and working with one of the hottest, most outrageously enlightening acts of the current entertainment scene.

Brennan's office is sparse, with only a simple desk, bookshelf, couch and a couple of chairs. A storyboard for the Chappelle show hangs above this young guy. There are with huge gaps on the planner where later sketches will be penned. Although shooting for the last show of the season is coming up, the writers still haven't come up with the concepts.

Unfazed, Brennan leans back in his swivel chair.

I almost expect him to kick up his limbs on the desk and drag on a smoky Swisher Sweet. Brennan's Outkast tee-shirt, baggy jeans and oversize wintery coat make him look like he'd be more comfortable out on the block than in this stuffy room. But it's exactly where he wants to be.

Hey, Brennan is the king of this block. Phone calls pour in and out from the likes of Mike D of Beastie Boy fame. Eager management tries to snare prestigious guest appearances for their clients and a young staff jets back and forth running errands.

Despite the frenzy, Brennan's very approachable. I almost feel like we've hung out together before.

Brennan attended the prestigious NYU Film school for a year after graduating from a working class Catholic high school in the suburbs of Philadelphia. His collegiate stay would be short, however. His street-smart sense of humor and modest upbringing didn't jive with the upper echelon attitude of the other students at the prestigious institution.

Comedy was calling and it wasn't long before Brennan found a job handing out flyers at the Boston Comedy Club in NYC's Greenwich Village. Although struggling at the lowest rungs of the comedy chain, he was finally immersing himself in his element. This is when he met a young comic in need of a critical ear, Mr. Dave Chappelle. Chappelle was a young relatively unknown comic, making the rounds in New York's comic underground.

"I pitched him some improvements on his jokes," Brennan repeats. Before long, the two were "boyz." The friendship seemed predestined, because the writer's career finally started to show some life. He got his first break at a skit writer on the MTV



Dave and Me

show, *Comikaze*. At 19 years old, Brennan was living the life.

A year later, Brennan moved to L.A. to work on the pilot for *Singled Out*, starring the young Jennifer McCarthy. But he wasn't comfortable in California. "I began to feel like I was always waiting for my friends from New York to come out and visit," Brennan laments, his hands behind his head.

"I was still very inexperienced in dealing with the entertainment establishment and didn't play the game very well," Brennan admits. "I didn't know how to deal with the industry until I was 25."

"When I was younger, I used to take everything so personally. And I was a junkie for showbiz rushes...meeting famous people, going to parties, ego boosts...I just had no relationship with myself until around age 25."

The next couple of years found Brennan working on a show for Nickelodeon called *All That*, a project for which he credits gaining writing discipline. "They really showed me the business of writing and the importance of discipline," Brennan remembers.

In 1996, Brennan snared a pitch meeting with producer Bob Simonds. "Bob Simonds is a film producer...he's produced, *Cheaper By the Dozen*, *Happy Gilmore*, *The Wedding Singer* and about 20 other movies. I got a meeting with him because a friend of a friend worked for him and read a script of mine (don't remember much about it.) She didn't like the script much, but took a meeting with me as a favor, and we got along, so then I got to meet with Bob."

Although his film script didn't get picked up, Simonds liked Brennan and encouraged him to keep working at his writing.

A couple of weeks later, Chappelle called and told Brennan that he had just met with a producer. "Dave told me that if the guy calls, tell him we're working on the script for a weed movie," Brennan chuckles. It turns out "the guy" was Simonds and the writing duo was in.

The team had a month to come up with a premise for a spur-of-the-moment pitch for a film centered around marijuana. Not inspired until the night before the deadline, the two threw together ideas for cult classic *Half Baked*. Subsequently, the two 23-year-olds landed their first movie deal.

"It was really fuckin' incredible. We were there for every take of the film," says Brennan. The two guys did, however, learn a great deal about the Hollywood machine. Without much creative control of their piece, the "real film" that they had envi-

sioned "ended up being a cartoon," indicates an exasperated Brennan, rolling his eyes when recalling their efforts.

Yet Chappelle's performance made the movie, according to critics.

Subsequently, the two earned their first writing credits for a major motion picture, a feat few such tyro screenwriters can brag about. The duo solidified their relationship, allowing the Chappelle/Brennan ship to set sail on a voyage that started in a small Boston comedy club almost four years earlier.

The writing for Chappelle's Show season starts in July. According to Brennan, "There is no rhyme or reason" how the two come up with the outrageous sketches that have made their show a must-see for the hip-hop generation.

"We're the first fans of our sketches," Brennan admits. They almost come from somewhere else, like gifts." When deadlines crunch, which is every day, they enforce a little forced Buddhism. "Be in the moment and write ...some of my best work was done at the last minute in school," he says. Sixteen hour workdays are fun but grueling. Brennan admits giving up a personal life in pursuit of his career. But for all **The Irish American Post's** lovely lady readers out there, Brennan is currently single and residing in New York City.

"There are currently no women on the hook. I guess at this point I'm looking for a woman who gives me a lot of freedom and time to myself without taking it personally. I'm a bit of a loner. Truth be told, I'm not looking all that hard. Just busy working, taking advantage of the current professional opportunities.

"Right now, I'm renting this furnished one bedroom near Central Park. It's super granny style. The decor is awful. And I never got the Park. I didn't move to New York for the nature," he admits.

F.Y.I. to the ladies...The way to Brennan's heart is through apple pie ala-mode. "I'd rather throw an apple pie party then go to the club sometimes," he proclaims.

As we spoke, St. Patrick's Day revelers filed into bars around the Big Apple and Brennan groans that there would be no celebrating on this typical work day. Yet he's Irish to the heart and has been to the Emerald Isle a couple of times, first visiting Ireland as a child with his family and again to Dublin.

"I've been to Ireland twice in my life...once when I was about 8 years old...I remember my grandmother who lived there (in Castleisland, Co. Kerry) would always try to get my dad to stop so she could buy all us kids sweets. And my dad would snap, "Oh, Jesus, they just had candy, Mary. Give it a rest." I went there a couple years ago for about a day-and-a-half. It was kind of cold and everybody looked like me. It made me a little crazy, so I went to London. More of the same."

Chappelle often teases Brennan about his Irish heritage. Paraphrasing an Irish quote, his pal tells him, "May the Lord have work for your hands."

The joke calls to the heart of what the two find funny about everyday experiences and the subtle nature of comedy. Like in any good Irish home, there is a fair share of comedic sensibili-

ties. Brennan's brother Kevin, one of 10 from this Irish Catholic family from the Chicago area, has written for *Saturday Night Live* and is close friends with comic Dave Attell of *Insomniac* MTV fame and Ray Romano from *Everybody Loves Raymond*. "It was really cool having these guys around...a real in to the comedy scene."

Brennan has his summers free and started doing stand-up about a year. "I did it once in 1992 and was horrible. Then I did it again in 1997 and it went pretty well, but then we ended up doing *Half Baked* after that. I didn't do it again until 2002. A couple of months later, we did the pilot for *Chappelle's Show*. I can't explain it, but I do it as a last resort. Whenever I'm not happy with how my career is going, I do it, and then coincidentally, my career picks up. What's nice about it is, you can prove that you're funny without a lot of red tape. Just walk onto the stage and speak into the microphone. It's a good feeling when things aren't going your way career-wise. Confirmation that you're not crazy," Brennan says.

Asked about the difference between writing comedy and performing comedy, Brennan explains that "writing for comedy is like detonating a bomb and watching it go off in the distance. Stand-up is when the bomb detonates on you."

Although he enjoys the challenges of performing, Brennan admits that his natural gifts lie more in directing and writing. "Dave is a natural actor and I'd be disrespectful to put myself in the same category with him. I'd be happy to direct Dave the rest of my life," says Brennan. As for the future, Brennan wants to continue the directing, although he admits he's "a pretty big pain in the ass."

"I think I can just be a pain in the ass when I work on the show in any capacity. I'm a bigger pain in the ass when I'm not directing, because I have to look over the director's shoulder and make sure they're getting what Dave and I want. I'm sure it's a pain for them.

How do you know, I asked him. "Because they've told me. When I'm directing the stuff myself, I know exactly what Dave and I want. We wrote it. We've talked about it. We almost always want the same thing. It cuts out the middle-man so to speak. But I like the directors we use and they always add stuff to the material in one way or another."

He says his favorite films are by "anybody who writes and directs their own stuff. I even liked *Seabiscuit*."

The duo's claim to fame, according to Brennan, is that they "do their show on Planet Earth." The sketches originate from talking about issues on the lips of most of the hip-hop generation, both white and black between the ages of 18 and early 30s. Brennan insists that viewers often interpret too much from the show at times. When there's talk of "white people," Chappelle and Brennan refer to the corporate milieu and the powers-that-be.

"In reality," Brennan asserts, "we're equal opportunity comedians with blacks, Hispanic and Asians all receiving their fair share of the comedic milkshake.

A recent sketch for the show outlined a race draft, in which culturally ambiguous icons were "drafted" by representatives from

different groups.

"Dave is not a racist," Brennan counters, rather he is "the biggest representation of a human being." Much of the appeal of the show is the full range of personality that is on display when Chappelle acts. Brennan insists this is what he calls "rare" in television, which often tries to caricature a person. "In our show, freedom becomes the message," Brennan continues.

"Dave is just about as talented a guy as you could be. He can act, write, produce, direct, do stand-up, and is also really adept handling all the corporate stuff that goes along with it. The thing about Dave that not a lot of people know is he has a bunch of songs on his tunes library that are like *a cappella* versions of classical music. So we'll be writing a sketch about crack or racism or sex, and Mozart's *Canon in D Minor* as sung by a choral group will be playing in the background. He's just a really hilarious, surprising, multi-talented, multi-faceted person. And we still get along after all these years."

The *Dave Chappelle Show* is an anomaly. The fact that these two dynamic men — one white and one black — understand

their complex nature as humans in relation to the country's cultural and racial experience has created truly freeing comedy. Their friendship is grounded in truth, Brennan says, allowing them to explore sticky cultural situations in a safe place. This space is only a small part of their friendship, a relationship which involves many similarities in musical tastes, philosophical beliefs and — most important to their audience — comic sensibilities.

"The show is something Dave and I put our blood, sweat, and tears into and are very proud of. It comes out of a friendship and creative chemistry that I think we're both grateful for."

Of course, Brennan's been blessed with talent. Combine that with the creativity of a close buddy and it's obvious that the pair has the whole world of entertainment by the neck.

Chappelle's Irish blessing for his good friend Brennan has paid off. The Lord has presented more than enough work for his hands.

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## Bronx Native Ivers at Heritage Celebration

Violin virtuoso and Bronx native Eileen Ivers was honored by Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. as part of an annual event celebrating Irish Heritage on March 31, 2004, at the Gaelic Park Sports Center.

Ivers is a proud Bronxite and Woodlawn native. Growing up as the daughter of Irish immigrants, her unique understanding of Irish traditional music was solidified by age ten when she first represented the U.S. in the All-Ireland fiddle championships. Ivers proceeded to win that title nine times.

As an Irish-American who was raised in an ethnically diverse Bronx neighborhood, Ivers was forever intrigued by the multi-cultural sounds of her childhood environs. The ongoing development of Ivers' globally-infused, traditional Irish sound has received international critical acclaim since the late '80s.

"I was so fortunate to have grown up in a loving, strong Irish American household in the Bronx, one that instilled in me the love and pride in our heritage while respecting and embracing the diversity of the Bronx," said Ivers. "Growing up and learning music in such a rich, multi-cultural environment has greatly influenced my music and has had a profound effect on the development of my career."

In 1999, Eileen Ivers formed Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul

which encompasses Irish instrumentalists, soulful American vocals and a mix of African and Latin percussion and bass has been privileged to perform at major arts centers, as guests of numerous symphonies, at major festivals worldwide and on national and international television programs numerous times. A sampling of the overwhelming critical response can be read at [www.eileenivers.com](http://www.eileenivers.com).

Carrion honored Ivers as part of the annual event celebrating Irish Heritage, which took place at Gaelic Park. Ivers said, "I am deeply honored and extremely proud of this wonderful recognition." Also being honored are Elaine Brennan, vice president of Montefiore Medical Center, Judge Thomas B. Galligan, retired justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and Donald MacDonnell, the former president, Ancient Hibernians, Division 4.

Gaelic Park was established in 1928 by the Gaelic Athletic Association of New York, to promote hurling and Irish football. After being taken over by the City of New York, the park was leased in 1941 to John Kerry O'Donnell, who ran the park, dance hall and tavern. Leased in 1991, by Manhattan College, The Gaelic Park Sports Center continues to host sporting events, concerts, dances, and serves as a meeting place for local community groups.

# Wild Canadians Add Youthful Boost to Chieftains' Sound

*By George Houde  
Irish American Post Chicago Bureau*

Just when you thought the Chieftains were getting a little long in the tooth and perhaps a bit too somber, along they come with a couple of wild Canadian boys who have added energy and fun to the legendary group's American tour.

They've also added a stunning harpist to fill the void left by the death of Derek Bell, whose name still arises often in the group's on-stage performances and off-stage discussions.

Their recent performances have more the feel of a pub session back in the old country, though in Chicago they played in the famous venue of Orchestra Hall, home of the Chicago Symphony. The hall was sold out for the performance.

"The Chieftains are such a legendary group," said Kevin O'Connor, whose 12-year-old daughter, Jennifer, was in the Dennehy School of Dance troupe that performed as guests of the Chieftains. "Their popularity in Chicago and in the Irish community is well-known and it's always an honor to see them here."

There is an element of wildness to the dancing of Jon and Nathan Pilatzke, brothers who grew up learning step-dance under the encouragement of their Irish mother. The Brothers Pilatzke have adopted what they called the Ottawa Valley style, a fusion of traditional step-dancing, modern tap and their own variations. The result is a sensational burst of energy on stage with even the Chieftains sometimes looking on slightly amazed and amused. Jon also plays fiddle "brilliantly," said Chieftains band leader Paddy Moloney.

The counterpoint to all of the flying feet and "crazy legs," as the brothers are known, was the soothing, nearly angelic sounds from the harp of Triona Marshall, a young red-head from Co. Laois who doubled on keyboard.

"It's been amazing for me to play with the Chieftains," said Marshall after the performance. She has performed with many of Ireland's well-known musicians, including the Three Irish Tenors.

All in all, there has been a transfusion of new young blood, as Chieftains band leader Paddy Moloney put it.

"It sparks us, and people like the energy," said Moloney.

Considering the band had some 30 performances scheduled on the tour, the energy is a key element and gives the performances of flautist Matt Molloy, fiddler Sean Keane, and vocalist Kevin Conneff a renewed vigor, not to mention Moloney, whose pipe music, and wisecracking, seemed sharper than ever.

Always ready to experiment, the band has taken on Jeff White,

a bluegrass and country guitarist and vocalist who got the Chieftains revved on such classics as "Wabash Cannonball" and "Cotton-Eyed Joe." This latter tune brought out the famous step-dancers Donny Golden and Cara Butler for the first of their classic evening performances. The band also mixed in hot Latin strains from their "Santiago" album as well as a play on the music of the Rolling Stones as they did "The Rocky Road to Dublin."

Often considered ambassadors of Ireland and perhaps a bit too rehearsed in their roles as diplomats, the Chieftains seem to have lost some of that formality and are having more fun with the music and the performers. When Jon Pelatzke included a reel called "King George the Fourth" in his second-half fiddle solo, the band unanimously let out some raspberries, but all in good humor.

Saddened by the unexpected death of Bell in 2002, the band also seemed inspired by his memory and composed a tribute called "Derek's Tune," which began with sad and mournful strains as only Irish music can be sad and mournful, but ended in a happy Irish jig, as only Irish music can be happy. Bell had been with the band since 1972, when he just sort of "drifted in," according to Moloney.

"The old Ding Dong himself would like that tune," Paddy told the audience, using an affectionate nickname for Bell.

Together now for 42 years, the Chieftains continue to delight and amaze fans as their music ranges far and wide, across continents and nations, taking the spirit of Ireland with them. And this year, they seem more spirited than ever.

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# Okay So It's Scotch, But It's Still Top Celtic

The world's most expensive and exclusive single malt Scotch whisky vintage collection – The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintage Collection of 38 bottles valued at \$170,000 – debut exclusively at Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City in April.

Previously unavailable by the glass anywhere in the U.S., the entire range of The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintage Collection – with vintage-dated malts spanning from 1926 to 1973 – will be served exclusively and in its entirety at Borgata. The collection is now being served only by the glass (that's "by the dram" in Scottish parlance) at the hotel's culinary landmark restaurant, Old Homestead Steak House.

This is the first time the complete collection has been offered on-premise anywhere in the world since the collection launched in the U.K. in 2002, and in the U.S. in late-2003. These limited-edition single malts will be dispatched directly to Atlantic City, New Jersey, from The Macallan's distillery on the banks of the River Spey. Once at Borgata, one bottle of each of the 38 vintages will be displayed in a dramatic glass case at the bar of Borgata's Old Homestead Steakhouse.

Prices for The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintage Collection by the glass will range from \$50 to \$3,500. Upon ordering a dram of one of The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintages, the customer will receive a special Spiegelau whisky snifter, a leather passport containing tasting notes for each vintage and an area for a stamp highlighting the date of consumption[1]. The customer will keep both the snifter and the passport and subsequently present the passport as additional drams are sampled from The Macallan's unique history of liquid excellence.

The Macallan, founded in Cragellachie on Speyside in 1824, is believed to have the deepest single malt vintage reserves in all of Scotland. In 2002, the distillery tapped its archives to create the extraordinary Fine & Rare Vintage Collection. Each whisky in the collection is drawn from a single cask of a specific year, yielding a limited number of bottles from each cask. Fine & Rare Macallan represents the greatest compilation of vintage-dated single malts ever assembled by a single distillery. It also represents the "liquid history" of The Macallan, considered by many critics to be the most collectible whisky in the world.

"These 38 bottles reflect the very best of The Macallan's oldest stocks," said David Cox, director of Fine & Rare Macallan. "We are thrilled that the collection's on-premise debut stateside is taking place in such a remarkable setting. This collaboration with Borgata unites a rare taste of the Old World with a dynamic and contemporary destination in the New World."

The upscale Borgata, a \$1.1 billion joint venture between Boyd Gaming Corporation and MGM MIRAGE, became the first new casino hotel in Atlantic City in 13 years when it opened in July, 2003.

Victor Tiffany, vice president of food and beverage for Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, noted, "Our goal at Borgata is to provide our guests with unique and memorable experiences – not only

in gaming, but also in luxury, relaxation and the very finest in food and drink. The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintage Collection fits this perfectly."

"The Old Homestead Steak House at Borgata is the ideal venue to showcase The Macallan's vintage collection of whiskies," said Tiffany. "Respectful of its origins as a culinary landmark, but with a breathtakingly new design, the restaurant's stylish interior provides a stunning backdrop upon which to showcase The Macallan Fine & Rare."

Borgata features 2,002 guest rooms and suites, 11 destination restaurants, a 1,000-seat performance theater and 50,000-square-foot spa. The Macallan Fine & Rare display will be showcased at Borgata's Old Homestead Steakhouse situated across from the main floor of the casino that includes 163 gaming tables and 3,600 slot machines.

In order to ensure that Borgata's guests are able to maximize their opportunity to sample the Fine & Rare Vintage Collection by the dram, bartenders at Old Homestead will receive special training to help them describe the distinct vintage bottlings. Variations within the collection are broad, not only in age, but also in natural, cask-driven color, alcohol by volume, aroma and taste. And yet, the whiskies all share a kinship, distinctively The Macallan, both in spirit and in wood maturation.

A definite advantage for Borgata's patrons is the relative durability of whisky, compared with wine. Considered remarkably stable once bottled, whisky is considered easier to store than wine (a cool cabinet or basement is fine); and, it remains shelf-stable for appreciably longer once opened (months, as opposed to hours).

Mark A. Izatt, brand manager of the single malt Scotch whisky portfolio at Remy Amerique, Inc., exclusive U.S. importer of The Macallan, believes that the stunning Fine & Rare display will attract not only Scotch aficionados, but also adventurous Borgata guests looking for something spectacular.

"Where else can you step up to a bar and order a dram of whisky from a collection that is simply not available anywhere else on the planet?" noted Izatt. "I think the odds are excellent that The Macallan will be a big hit with Borgata's savvy guests. Some may come seeking to sip a spirit from their birth years, others to expand their single malt horizons, or even perhaps to mark the winning number following that last spin at the roulette table. All will experience something totally unique."

The full Fine & Rare range includes vintages from:

1926, 1937\*, 1938\*, 1939, 1940\*, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1949\*, 1950\*, 1951, 1952\*, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968\*, 1969\*, 1970\*, 1971\*, 1972\*, 1973\*\*

(\*Each of these years had two exceptional casks, which have been used in two separate bottlings. \*\*The 1973 will be released in May, 2004, and will be the 38th bottle available at

Borgata.)

Individual bottles from The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintage Collection, in both standard 750 ml size and 50 ml miniatures (available in the U.S. in mid-2004) can be ordered directly from The Macallan distillery through fine wine and spirits shops across the U.S. For a listing of shops and for more information on The Macallan Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky, visit [www.themacallan.com](http://www.themacallan.com) or contact The Macallan Brand Ambassador, Caspar MacRae at 212-399-4200.

For more information on Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City, NJ, visit [www.theborgata.com](http://www.theborgata.com).

### About The Macallan®

The Macallan is the world's most precious whisky. Distilled on the Easter Elchies estate above the banks of the Spey River in the Scottish Highlands since 1824, The Macallan Single Highland Malt is produced without compromise to achieve the highest standard of quality and taste.

The hallmarks of The Macallan are its deep and natural color (caramel is never used); flavors of citrus, dried fruits, cloves, wood and toffee; subtle sweetness and profound richness carry into the finish. The Macallan vintages from 1945 through to 1950 also have hints of peat smoke from the use of peat in the maltings at the distillery in the immediate post war years. These hallmarks are achieved through The Macallan's exclusive use of Spanish sherry casks and Golden Promise barley.

The Macallan range of single Highland malts in the U.S. includes: 12 Years Old, 18 Years Old, 25 Years Old, 30 Years Old, Cask Strength, 1841 Replica, 1861 Replica and Fine & Rare vintages. For more information, please visit [www.themacallan.com](http://www.themacallan.com).

### About Remy Amerique, Inc.

Remy Amerique, Inc. is a private and wholly owned subsidiary of Rémy Cointreau, S.A. France. The company is the exclusive U.S. importer for a variety of premium spirits and wines, including Remy Martin®, Cointreau®, Piper Heidsieck®, Charles Heidsieck®, Marchesi Antinori®, Masi Agricola®, Vietti Wines®, Jacopo Biondi Santi Wines®, Vina Haras de Pirque®, Damrak Gin®, The Macallan®, The Famous Grouse®, Highland Park®, Tamdhu®, Mount Gay Rums®, Gonzalez-Byass®, Galliano®, Passoa®, and others. Please savor responsibly.

### About Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa

Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa is a joint venture of Boyd Gaming Corporation (NYSE:BYD) and MGM MIRAGE (NYSE:MGG). Located at Renaissance Pointe in Atlantic City, it features 2,002 guest rooms and suites, 125,000 square feet of gaming, 163 gaming tables, 3,600 slot machines, 11 destination restaurants, 11 retail boutiques, a 50,000 square foot spa, 70,000 square feet of event space, and parking for 7,100 cars

### About Old Homestead Steak House

Old Homestead is a classic steakhouse that has been a New York institution since 1868. Greg and Marc Sherry, who created the decadent Kobe beef burger, opened a second location of Old Homestead Steakhouse at Borgata. They are the first in three generations of their family to do so.

## Paramilitaries Behind Catholic Reluctance To Join Police Force

Two thirds of Catholics feel that they can't join the PSNI due to fear of intimidation or attack by paramilitaries, according to the Ulster Unionist Party.

UUP MLA for North Belfast and Police Board Member Fred Cobain today responded to a Community Attitude Survey that found that just over 67% of Catholics, when asked their reasons for not joining the PSNI (Police Service Northern Ireland), cited 'fear of intimidation or attack on them or their relatives.'

In a statement Mr. Cobain said, "It is clear from this latest survey that we are not going to get an inclusive police service until we get rid of paramilitaries. "After so much progress, it is particularly disappointing that Catholics feel unable to participate because of fear of reprisals from the paramilitaries."

Further information—Anne Smith, UUPNA 202-828-9866 (Washington DC)

# Michael Coady : An Irish Poet On Getting It Right

By Alice M. Vollmar

"If you can get it right where you live, then you can say something universally," observed Irish poet Michael Coady, recipient of the 2004 Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry. "The universal things happen everywhere."

Coady traveled to St. Paul, Minn, from Ireland this spring to accept the University of St. Thomas Irish Studies Department eighth annual award honoring Irish poets. The two of us talked in his host's living room on an uncharacteristically balmy Minnesota March afternoon, Coady's pale lilac shirt a hint of spring.

To be chosen for the award surprised and delighted Coady. "It was a wonderful experience to get the phone call sitting in my house in my hometown in Ireland," he said.

His home of Carrick-on-Suir (pronounced 'sure') is a town of 5,000 people in southeastern Ireland's Co. Tipperary. Here the articulate and trim Coady was born in 1939 and still lives today.

"It just happened that, unlike most writers, I am a writer living where I grew up," he told me and reiterated later in his stay, during a Twin Cities book talk. Speaking to that group, his direct gaze and modulated voice engaged listeners, as if his words were personally directed to each of us. Coady took a teaching job in a boys' school in the town where he grew up and stayed on, retiring after 30 years. "In fact, I've been here long enough that I've taught nearly every man in a certain age cohort," he laughed.

The author of several collections of poetry: *Two for a Woman*, *Three for a Man* (1980), *Oven Lane* (1987), *All Souls* (1997) and *One Another* (2003), Coady draws his readers into the past and present, to rub shoulders with the people, to soak up the sounds and smells and very life of a place.

*Flesh out the inventory with snores and singing,  
boiled potatoes and the aftersmell of cabbage,  
copulation, defecation and death-rattle,  
glint of glass and amber eye of whiskey,  
melodeons and chamber pots and sides of bacon,  
fires alight and rain against the windows,  
steam and coins and candles and  
the grey rewind of mornings after....*

-- "Invisible Hotel" (*Oven Lane*)

Coady writes out of and about Carrick-on-Suir:—"I know a lot of the people living in Carrick-on-Suir today - that's the horizontal aspect - but I know the vertical aspect, too, the things that happened and the people who were here over the years. My long poem, 'All Souls,' is a walk through the town, ending up back at home, getting into bed with my wife."

An intriguing walk that turns out to be for his readers, a meld of

past and present on a foggy night, between the village pub and his home:

*...on this grounded night I meet them all.  
There's old Dick Bromley drunk as a lord  
and fined in 1790 for leaving  
the whole town timeless for most of a month  
because he neglected to wind the clock,*

*and here's Mag Delaney at the West Gate  
hearing her own last Act of Contrition  
under the wheels of a Crossley Tender,  
.....*

*Then, as if led on by remembered heat,  
I pick up the scent of deep fat frying,  
and though it's hard to fathom north from south  
my foghound nose navigates my mouth  
in to Ella's for black pudding and chips  
and yes to the salt, and yes to the vinegar  
before I reel out again in billows of steam...*

.....

*past my grandfather leading the band  
from the opening day of Davin Park  
by houses whitewashed for the Eucharistic Congress  
and marching home to die in six months...*

— (*All Souls*)

Multi-talented Coady, a former-teacher, trombonist and photographer, brings us into intimate acquaintance with his town's life and history, as well as a painful piece of his family history quite amazingly brought to resolution through a poem he wrote, "The Letter," published in *Oven Lane*.

Coady wrote the poem about a bitter event in his family's past involving his great-grandfather, James Coady, who emigrated to America after his wife died in childbirth, leaving behind his only living son, Michael Coady's grandfather. Raised by James Coady's father, the child felt abandoned. After 30 years of silence, James Coady sent one letter begging forgiveness, which his son tore up and burned without answering.

Coady's poem about that letter broke the long silence and set off a chain of events culminating in the poet's trip to Philadelphia in 1991 to visit the places where the remarried-and-again-widowed James Coady had lived out a poverty-ridden life, as well as his parish church and gravesite.

In fact, Michael Coady read a poem in a church on the very spot where James Coady had married his second wife in 1886 - a reading which prompted Irish Americans to share with the poet their own immigration stories of separation and loss. As an

(Continued on page 18)

act of resolution, the poet took earth from the American gravesite of his great-grandfather to sprinkle on his own grandfather's grave in Ireland.

Having effected a healing of a bitter family wound, Coady now wonders about the silence overlaying other Irish families' immigration hardships, the stories repressed or lost, the stories never told, "the tragic undertow of the unsaid." He has noted that his journey to America to track down his lost relative is unusual; typically, Irish Americans travel to Ireland seeking family roots, not the other way around. It is heartening to Coady to see Irish studies in American universities developing in recent years, to see Irish heritage people "coming to serious grips with their culture."

Coady came into his poetic voice "late," he said. He started writing poetry in his late 20s, but had always been fascinated by poetry. It seemed a natural thing for him, because his father wrote and recited poetry.

"I grew up with poetry, and it enchanted me. In school, we memorized a lot and I've still got it in my brain. You could say I was influenced by Yeats and Shakespeare, surely, but really it was the Roman Catholic church that inspired me ... the litanies, all the symbolism and metaphor. And the writing of Seamus Heaney, who came from a farm background and used language in ways that were poetic... You know, I hesitate to call myself a poet," admitted Coady, "but it's nice when other people do."

Coady's latest book, *One Another*, also drawing on his locale, centers around themes of mortality, community and memory and integrates poetry with prose (folk tales and fables) and Coady's photographs. *All Souls* also includes a mix of poems, memoir and photography.

"I have a squirrel instinct," chuckled Coady, reflecting about the sources of his material. "I collect bits and pieces of things. Well, you know, I carry a notebook and jot things down."

And those collected jottings, from his 60-plus years in Carrick-on-Suir, together with his photographic files, give Coady the rich well of material from which his poems spring - vivid and detailed - telling the story of a small Irish town, nudging readers into realizations about their own life and time in this world. That connection happens because this Irish poet is observant and pays attention - absorbed with getting things right where he lives.

"I am fascinated by change and the mystery of time," said Coady, a keeper of memories in his town. "Joyce maintained that memory is the basis for imagination.... Everything is about story in the end."

More About Michael Coady:

Michael Coady and his wife, Martina, have three children, including a daughter, Lucy, who drums in the three-girl band Fair Verona. Michael Coady's poetry collections can be purchased through Irish Books and Media in Minneapolis, Minn., (612) 871-3505; from Coady's publisher, Gallery Press, at [gal-lery@indigo.ie](mailto:gal-lery@indigo.ie); or from Amazon.com.

Writer Alice Vollmar can be reached at [avollmar@pro-ns.net](mailto:avollmar@pro-ns.net).

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## Blair Again Rejects Immediate Finucane Inquiry

04/28/04 11:32 EST

**By the Irish American Information Service**

Calls for an immediate public inquiry into the murder of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane were rejected by the British Prime Minister today.

Tony Blair stuck to his insistence that all criminal proceedings must be concluded before a probe can be launched despite mounting pressure to speed the inquiry.

Former SDLP leader John Hume demanded swifter action when he raised the issue at Commons question time.

He asked: "Following the death of Pat Finucane and the enormous suffering of his family and given their consistent request for a public inquiry, do you agree that the time has now come for such an inquiry?"

The British Government promised to hold any inquiry recommended by retired Canadian judge Peter Cory who was asked to investigate claims of British security service collusion in four high-profile killings.

But when his report was published, Northern Ireland Secretary Paul Murphy said Mr Finucane's death would only be investigated after a prosecution was concluded.

Loyalist Ken Barrett is due to stand trial in September for Mr Finucane's murder. He has denied all charges.

Blair told MPs: "We have announced inquiries into certain of these cases. We stand by the commitments that we gave at Weston Park. There are inquiries proceeding now because of the prosecution in respect of Finucane. We believe it is important that that is taken through its proper process."

In one of the most controversial killings during the Troubles, Pat Finucane was hit 14 times when gunmen opened fire on him in his north Belfast home in February 1989 as he ate an evening meal with his family.

# Music Out of the Mist

By **Mattie Lennon**

No. This piece is not about our ex-leaders luxury sailing vessel.

Celtic Mist is a five-piece band, which plays traditional music, ballads and folk songs. With a touch of country, bluegrass and even light opera thrown in. Shay Eustace and Margaret O'Doherty formed the group in 1993. (They have since formed a nuptial alliance).

Patsy McEvoy and Sean Butler joined them (in the band, that is) in 1998. Brian Kilcawley is a more recent addition.

Eustace, who hails from the Dublin/Wicklow border near Manor-Kilbride, was involved in music from an early age. (Don't tell him I said this but I first heard him sing in 1963.) He formed the very successful group, The Fair Isle Folk, in the 1970s and is a collector of Irish music and ballads. His radio program, "Shay's Ballad Session," has been running for 25 years.

O'Doherty, who holds many Feis Ceol gold medals, was born in Inishowen, Co. Donegal and trained as an opera singer, having studied voice at the College of Music, in Dublin. She is a mezzo-soprano and has appeared in the National Concert Hall and also in London and the USA. On the first anniversary of Sept. 11, she performed in a series of concerts, in New York, with the Garda Male Voice Choir. Next June, she will accompany them as a soloist throughout Germany and Austria.

Patsy McEvoy, from Blessington, Co. Wicklow, is a powerful singer and talented songwriter. McEvoy was lead singer with The Fair Isle Folk" and has many records to his credit. He's no stranger to the Irish music charts.

Sean Butler was born in Inchicore in Dublin but his interest in folk matters was sharpened by childhood summers spent in Sneem, Co. Kerry. Butler plays electric accordion and guitar, was taught by John Mitchell and was Leinster Accordion Champion and a qualifier in the All-Ireland Championship. He also sings the odd ballad.

Brian Kilcawley, the newest member is from Beaumont, in

Dublin.

He studied guitar, mandolin, violin, tenor banjo and G-banjo. Music is in his blood: the late James Gill, famous for his flute and concertina, who hailed from Crossmalina, was his grandfather. Kilcawley is well known in Dublin, and surrounding areas, as a session musician.

Their latest album "By Popular Request" has 14 tracks; a number of old favorites plus four original songs. Three were written by members of the band.

O'Doherty having been inspired by the death of her friend's twin infants wrote "Two Little Angels." This heart-rending track is much requested on radio programs. McEvoy wrote "Homeland In Mayo" and "I'm Only Thinking Of You." The former was born out of his life-long interest in stories of emigration and the latter came to him while he was a patient in hospital "not knowing what tomorrow would bring."

Donegal man Shunie Crampsey wrote "If I Had My Life To Live Over" and he joins O'Doherty in a duet on this album "By Popular Request," on the Ceol label, is in the shops now and it promises to be even more successful than their previous one "The Rovers Return."

Don't take my word for it. This is what Brian Warfield of "The Wolfe Tones" has to say about it, "The performance by the group is top class, both the singing and the musicianship, so have a listen. I know you'll love it."

If the album not in your local record store just put 16 euro in an envelope (that includes postage and handling) and send it to Shay Eustace, Lisheen Music, Lisheen, Britts, Co. Dublin.

If you want the words of any ballad, Shay is your man. You can email him at [shayeustace@hotmail.com](mailto:shayeustace@hotmail.com) or [celticmist@eircom.net](mailto:celticmist@eircom.net).



**Mattie Lennon**

## U2 Tickets, Private Maura O'Connell Concert in Auction

The US-Ireland Alliance announces an upcoming fundraising auction using the popular online site, eBay, beginning on May 17, 2004, and lasting for 10 days. Two tickets to the next U2 show at Madison Square Garden in New York City and a private concert with Maura O'Connell are among the items to be auctioned.

The official kickoff of the auction will coincide with the closing dinner of this year's US-Ireland Alliance Golf Challenge. Bidding will begin on May 17 at 8 p.m. GMT (Dublin)/ 3 p.m. EST (East Coast, USA)/ noon, PST (West Coast, USA).

# Adams Attacks Governments Over IMC Report

04/24/04 15:11 EST

The Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, says he wants answers from the Taoiseach about how to put the peace process back on track, after the Independent Monitoring Committee advised the Irish government to take sanctions against his party.

Adams said: "There is an anger at the IMC and the way it's conducted its business. There is a grave and bitter disappointment at the Taoiseach."

Speaking to party activists in Belfast this morning, he added: "The taoiseach was here, you may recall, on invitation just a short time ago, and people just are beside themselves that an Irish government would work with a British government, and step outside the terms of the Agreement, to give a British minister the right to penalise the party."

He said their reckless attitude towards the Peace Process needed to end and he called on nationalists and republicans to rally behind the Process and make their voices heard.

"Nationalists and republicans are justifiably incensed this week. It has been almost ten years since the first IRA cessation. In that time, republicans have taken enormous risks for peace, often entailing great sacrifice. At times, even our harshest critics have acknowledged the work we have undertaken. But sometimes, like now, our contribution is completely ignored. This week's report from the British government's so-called IMC is a partisan, short-sighted, unjust attack against Sinn Féin and is evidence of both governments growing recklessness."

Sinn Féin had fulfilled the promises they made in the Good Friday Agreement, said Adams. "But we have had to deal with the many unfulfilled promises of the two governments, with regard to policing, demilitarisation, human rights, equality and many other areas. Sinn Féin didn't bring down the Assembly and the

Executive. It wasn't our actions that postponed the elections last May. We didn't walk away from the sequence of events aimed at restoring the political institutions last October.

"And yet our electorate are victims of the two governments' cynical attempts to blame Sinn Féin for everything that is wrong with the Peace Process. What is at stake here is a very valuable prize - a Peace Process that has brought, and can continue to bring, much needed change to this island. The two governments seem to be willing to risk that prize for the sake of short-term political gain. They must be made understand that the Peace Process is too important for that to happen."

"I firmly believe that these events do not reflect the public's attitude towards Sinn Féin. I firmly believe that, just as the public made their position clear in the Assembly elections last November, they will use the European elections to make their views clear once again.

"It is obvious that our support is not diminishing, it's growing. It is growing because people value our contribution to the Peace Process and our work to bring about real change across all of Ireland. And we have to build on this work in June. I believe that these elections - North and South - have the potential to be our best elections so far. We have never elected a representative to Europe.

"This year, will be the year this can be achieved. It's essential that we encourage our voters to show the same support for us that they did in the Assembly elections. That will remind the two governments, and all our opponents, once again, that the Peace Process cannot be held to ransom. That will be the loudest answer we can give to them, and to every obstacle they choose to put in the path of the Peace Process," Adams concluded.

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# Andy Pike's Mission in the United States Won't Be Easy

**By George Houde**  
**Irish American Post Chicago Bureau**

As the newly appointed British consul for Northern Ireland in press and public affairs, Andy Pike will be trying to deliver the official word about the troubled land to Americans who are already preoccupied with troubles of their own. That message includes the British perspective on the peace process and where the peace process is on any given day.

Pike acknowledges that delivering the official message on Northern Ireland in a country wedded to quaint visions of *The Quiet Man* will pose a challenge. Not only that, Northern Ireland and its never-ending strife remains low on the international radar screen, given the war in Iraq and world terrorism. Still, Pike expresses optimism for the future and believes things may be changing as the often frosty relationship between Irish Americans and the Northern Irish state appears to be thawing a bit.

"We're starting to see things begin between Northern Ireland and the U.S.," said Pike. "For instance, a group of emergency medical people from New York are going to the training center in Omagh to learn about trauma care."

Sending a trauma team to learn what Irish paramedics learned in the infamous Omagh bombing and other terrorist attacks in Northern Ireland is not exactly the happiest of occasions, but it could be the beginning of wider exchanges and a different attitude toward the north.

"Nobody in New York thinks of taking a vacation in Northern Ireland," Pike acknowledged. "So right now I don't think we're in the business of engaging the wider American public, but things are changing."

Change in the north remains slow, but perceptible. He noted that the familiar hulking personnel carriers that police used to patrol the streets of Belfast and Londonderry have given way to normal police cars. The graffiti and murals of gunmen wearing ski masks have changed and the tone of the country is softening, he said. In one place in Belfast, a rendering of the Titanic has replaced the shadowy gunmen mural, he said. The famous ship was built in the city.

And for the first time, a group of Northern Ireland leaders spoke to the Kennedy Group, an assembly of Irish Americans, to plead the case for loyalist causes.

"They learned this from the IRA," said Pike. "They told the Kennedy Group, 'We know you're green to the heart, but here's our case.' When they finished they received a standing ovation."

In Chicago for a North American meeting of British consular public affairs coordinators, Pike met with representatives of

Mayor Richard M. Daley's office and traveled to Milwaukee to visit the Center for Celtic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He met with **The Irish American Post** over lunch at the famous Berghoff restaurant in Chicago's Loop.

A native of Wales, Pike has been a career diplomat and has had extensive postings abroad, including a stint at the British Embassy in Dublin. He took a break from the diplomatic corps to work for the BBC before taking his current government position. In the States, he will work out of the British Consulate General office in New York.

There may be less political violence and an easing of tensions, but Northern Ireland still seems poised on the edge of civil disorder. The bitterness of decades of feuding and bloodletting will not soon go away, Pike agreed.

"There are 1,800 unsolved murders in Northern Ireland and each of those is important to the families," said Pike, making reference to the recently released Cory Report and its recommendation of far-reaching inquiries into the murders of Pat Finucane, Rosemary Nelson, Billy Wright and Robert Hamil. The inquiries would be to determine whether there was collusion between loyalist paramilitary forces and British government agencies in the murders.

Pike said the possibility of a truth and reconciliation commission as part of a healing process for the North remains a distinct possibility.

He also noted that with a decrease in the paramilitary operations in the north, common crime has increased. He attributed much of it to the paramilitary groups which have time on their hands. In addition, Northern Ireland has not shared in the same economic boom of the Irish Republic and unemployment is a problem.

"Criminality is at an all-time high. That's what the paramilitaries have turned to," said Pike. "Much of the activity is on the loyalist side."

Ending the paramilitary organizations and gaining control over arms caches remain major goals of the peace process, he said. Pike predicted a shift into overdrive by the British government to achieve those ends, as well as a continuing attempt to persuade Sinn Féin to join the Police Board.

"It would be a monumental jump forward and everyone is encouraging them to join, including the U.S. and the Catholic Church," said Pike. He added that Sinn Féin has declined,

*(Continued on page 22)*

saying it needs to maintain its own intelligence operations and arms.

Hope is blooming, however, particularly in the Catholic community and the entire country is hoping for another peaceful marching season.

"Last year was the quietest in recent history and we hope we can build on that," said Pike. Animosity remains, but tolerance is growing, he said. "The people who lived in the neighborhoods where the marches occurred just sort of gritted their teeth. I think most people will agree there is no going back to violence."

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## Commission Thanked on Voting

Irish Citizens for Trustworthy Evoting (ICTE) would like to thank the Commission on Electronic Voting for its efforts under undoubtedly difficult circumstances and for the opportunity it gave for concerned citizens, such as ourselves, to draw attention to the fundamental and undeniable flaws in the Electronic Voting system chosen for use in June.

In particular ICTE welcome the Commission's conclusion that it is impossible to certify the accuracy of the software as it is as yet unknown and that "the absence of a VVAT significantly raises the standards and quality of other system testing that is required". ICTE also fully supports the Commission's recommendation that there should be an independent end-to-end test of the system and that there should be independent parallel testing of the system, including where possible in a live electoral context.

The Government should now accept that Electronic Voting must be accompanied by a voter-verified audit trail (VVAT). "A voter-verified audit trail remains the only way the accuracy of any evoting system can be established" said Colm MacCarthaigh, a representative of Irish Citizens for Trustworthy Evoting.

"Over 150 of the 162 submissions to the commission were not in support of the proposed system and over half called for a voter-verified audit trail to be mandatory in any system, including the submission of the Irish Computer Society - the professional body for the IT industry" he continued.

"It is impossible to determine the accuracy of any system without an independent and verified record against which to compare" said Mr. MacCarthaigh, "We can't continue to use real elections as "trial runs", especially when there is neither an integrated voter verified audit trail nor a traditional paper ballot run in parallel" added ICTE member David O'Callaghan.

"The Commission's report fully endorses the concerns expressed by IT experts and the Department of the Environment should now take time to reflect upon the report and finally meet with groups such as ICTE who have been requesting a meeting for many months now" said MacCarthaigh.

"Evoting has the potential to bring many benefits to our electoral system, not least greater accessibility and fewer mistakenly spoiled ballots. The Department of the Environment should now engage with the IT community to ensure that a trustworthy Evoting system with a voter-verified audit-trail can be implemented." continued MacCarthaigh.

# Colombia Three Acquitted On Training FARC Charges

04/26/04 12:25 EST

By Irish American Information Service

Three Irishmen charged with training Marxist rebels in Colombia have been acquitted of the serious charges but were found guilty of the lesser charge of travelling using false documentation.

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP has welcomed the news from Colombia that Martin McCauley, Jim Monaghan and Niall Connolly are to be freed. He called on the government to ensure that the men get home safely to their families.

Adams said: "This evening's news from Colombia that Martin McCauley, Jim Monaghan and Niall Connolly are to be freed is very welcome and we now need to ensure that the men get home safely to their families. The last three years have been very difficult for the men and their families. They have been pilloried in the media, their case subject to huge prejudicial commentary and the men's lives have been in constant danger. And of course this case has been used to try and destabilise the Irish peace process.

"There was never an justification for this trial in the first place and it is clear that there were those who were intent on using these three men for their own political agenda - an agenda which at its core was about damaging the Irish Peace process," Adams said.

The men were arrested at Bogota's El Dorado international airport on August 11th, 2001, and subsequently charged with training the Marxist guerrillas of the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) in bomb-making techniques and with travelling on false documentation.

The Attorney General's office said it would appeal the ruling. It is thought the three would be released from the Bogota prison where they are being held once they have paid fines of about \$7,000 each. But they will not be able to leave Colombia while the case is under appeal, a spokeswoman for the Attorney Gen-

eral's office said.

Among the key issues in the trial was the reliability or otherwise of alleged former members of the FARC who claimed to have seen the three men training the guerrillas. This was strongly disputed by the defense who produced numerous witnesses who testified that they met or saw the accused men in Ireland or Cuba on the dates when they were alleged to be training the FARC.

The Colombian Vice-President Francisco Santos faced protests and parliamentary criticism when in Dublin last month over the case and met with the Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Cowen.

McCauley was given 36 months and 18 days, Monaghan 44 months and Connolly 26 months.

All three are obliged to 50 months legal salary as bail. This is the equivalent of approximately €6,000. The judge must decide then if McCauley and Monaghan will walk free as the men have only served approximately 32 months in prison on remand. Connolly has been in prison for longer than today's sentence and so will go free automatically.

Senator Mary White welcomed the ruling. She said: "This is a great tribute to the Colombian judicial system" that the judge didn't come under any pressure.

Sinn Féin North Belfast MLA, Gerry Kelly, welcomed the verdict but said there was a lot of anger that the process had taken so long

"Today's verdict...will come as a huge relief to the men's families and friends and to those who have been campaigning for their release for almost three years now. Despite the obvious collapse of the prosecution case last year it was never certain that the men would be released and sent home, there was always a concern due to the pressure on the Judge from the Colombian government and the military."

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## Cowen Working To Ensure Safety Of Colombia Three

04/26/04 16:29 EST

By the Irish American Information Service

Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Cowen said his department had been working today to ensure the safety of three Irishmen acquitted today on charges of training FARC rebels in Colombia.

Cowen said he was assured that their departure from Colombia would be "facilitated in every way possible."

Cowen said he noted the judgment of the court and hoped the men would soon be reunited with their families whom, he said, had "borne the strain of their detention for such a long period."

The minister added: "I am grateful to the Colombian authorities for the assistance they have provided to our officials who have monitored this case closely from the start and have provided all possible consular assistance to both the men and their families. The department and the embassy in Mexico have been in close contact today with the Honorary Irish Consul and with the Dutch Embassy in Bogota, and also with the Colombian authorities with a view to ensuring that the safety of the men continues to be fully assured and that their departure from the country will be facilitated in every way possible," the Minister added.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Colombian President, Mr Alvaro Uribe said the verdict underscored the separation of

powers in the country. "The government respects the verdicts," said Mr. Ricardo Galan.

The Colombian Attorney General's office has said it will appeal today's ruling. A spokeswoman for the Attorney General Luis Camilo Osorio's office said the men would not be able to leave Colombia while the case is under appeal.

"Their lawyers will ask the judge to free them immediately and let them leave Colombia because of the high risk to their lives," a lawyer for one of the three, Jose Luis Velasco, said.

Far-right paramilitaries often target people they suspect of cooperating with the FARC.

"They have been used as guinea pigs in a political game involving military intelligence from the United States, Colombia and Britain," said Velasco.

The decision by Judge Jairo Acosta was a big blow to the government, which blamed the men for teaching the FARC how to carry out attacks including a mortar bombardment aimed at President Alvaro Uribe's inauguration in 2002.

Osorio said he was "surprised" at the rulings by Acosta, who decided both verdicts and sentences without a jury.

The prosecution's case was based mainly on a combination of circumstantial evidence and testimony by alleged guerrilla deserters. The trial was carried out without a jury and Acosta decided both verdicts and sentences. Judge Acosta denied he was under political pressure to convict the men.

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## Adams Supports 'Alamo' Campaign

04/02/04 15:53 EST

The Irish government should be ashamed of its lack of commitment to save a building known as 'Ireland's Alamo', Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams claimed today. Number 16 Moore Street in Dublin City Center is revered by historians as the house where the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule finally surrendered to the Army.

They moved into the 18th century building following a fire at the General Post Office in nearby O'Connell Street, the focal point of the rebellion.

Today, 16 Moore Street is a run-down terraced shop behind a bustling fruit and vegetable market. It is difficult to note its significance save a tiny plaque high on the crumbling walls.

Mr. Adams called for the campaign to save the house from commercial developers to be stepped up.

"This was a hugely important event in our recent history and the proclamation remains a document of some note," he said.

"There should certainly be some sense of what happened here. How would you even know if you were walking up and down Moore Street? It's shameful that there is no fitting state commemoration of what is a pivotal event in recent Irish history."

Mr. Adams said the demolition of the building had so far been prevented but the fact there were no plans to develop it was indicative of the state's attitude to the event.

"Now you go into any other state in the world and they all commemorate events in their history watershed events," he added.

"But they don't do it here. Why not? What is the establishment ashamed of?"

The Sinn Fein leader was in Dublin to unveil the party's Easter commemoration program and called on people across Ireland to wear an Easter Lily to honor Ireland's patriot dead.

Christy Burke, Dublin city Sinn Fein councillor, said the city council had passed a motion that it be developed into a museum but was still awaiting a supreme court decision.

"Here we have a golden opportunity to develop 16 Moore Street so that tourists and our citizens can be proud and see our history," he said.

Last year, environmental campaigners collected signatures to a petition to save the building, which was a fishmongers at the time it was occupied by the Rising leaders.

On that historic Easter Saturday, Thomas Clarke, Joseph Plunkett, Sean MacDermott, Padraic Pearse and William Pearse gathered around the bed of the wounded James Connolly and agreed on the surrender, to prevent the "further slaughter of the civil population".

Padraic Pearse then wrote the notice of surrender on a small piece of cardboard which is preserved in Ireland's National Library in Dublin.

# Irish Republican Socialist Party

## Statement on Working

May, 1, 2004

In its annual May Day message, the Irish Republican Socialist Party stressed the urgent need for workers to take back International Workers' Day from those in power and to combat all efforts to demonise workers who oppose the construction of a European Super-State.

A spokesperson for the IRSP's Ard-Chomhairle stated: "May 1st is our day to remember past struggles through which our class achieved many important advances for working class people. It is also a day on which we express our solidarity with others engaged in similar struggles as ourselves worldwide, in pursuit of common class interests and our shared goals, the Emancipation of Our Labour!

"Today in Ireland, no one should be hoodwinked by any promise of some kind of 'Euro Disney democracy' that 'gives' workers the right to celebrate International Workers' Day and demonstrate freely on our own streets.

"While thousands intend to peacefully protest against a capitalist Europe and all that the concept entails, the Irish 26 Counties' regime has made their views about such 'democratic rights' quite clear, by arming themselves against Irish workers and preparing to attack them. The PSNI have already sent a water cannon down to Dublin for use on May Day. This, in stark contrast to the backdrop provided by the Irish state media hype over the past several months, is a continuation of the policies that have whipped up an atmosphere of fear and intimidation on the streets of our capital.

"Thousands of riot police, Irish military personnel and expanded weaponry -- provided to the Dublin regime by the crown forces occupying six Irish counties -- will be deployed to 'control' legitimate acts of protests planned in connection with the observance of May Day. Let us speak frankly, this is nothing other than the shape of things to come and the repression that should always be anticipated whenever working people take to the streets in opposition to the powers that be.

"As republican socialists, on May Day, we proclaim our class solidarity and hail the unity between workers the length and breadth of Ireland, of Europe, and throughout the world. We remain steadfast in our solidarity with the working class refugees now resident in Ireland and we refuse to allow the 26 County regime to further criminalise any resident, as they are clearly hoping to do through the forth-coming racist referendum.

"The IRSP call upon all those opposed to the 'Fortress Europe' agenda to actively participate in International Workers' Day events planned in Dublin and throughout the country. Irish workers must reclaim International Workers' Day from offi-

cial parades sanctioned by the ruling class and create a working class resistance to efforts to create a capitalist European Super-State and against the demonization of any workers who openly oppose this multi-national nightmare. A European Union that will serve as yet another tool of repression for the capitalist class and will perpetuate slave labour, racism, and poverty for the masses of working people, throughout Europe and worldwide."

"In Iraq and Afghanistan, the forces of occupation are attempting to consolidate their power in those nations and throughout the entire region, so as to maintain their economic interests. Though documents have been made available which reveal that a major reason for this effort is to ensure American control over oil supplies, the loss of which would put the European Union into a strangle-hold, the capitalists of Ireland, Britain, and Europe as a whole will not take any effective action to protect their own sovereign interests. The needs of capitalism must always supersede any particular interests.

"In contrast, the IRSP support the resistance fighters presently engaged in liberation struggles against Anglo-American imperialism, because we know that imperialism's interests are directly counter to those of working people everywhere. The Anglo-American axis of imperialism, under the guise of its 'war against terrorism,' is seeking to swiftly erode civil and human rights of people around the world.

"In Ireland, both administrations through their securocrats are stifling democratic political dialogue; creating not only a political vacuum, but also promoting the conditions where sectarianism, racism, and its violent manifestations on the streets have been seen to thrive. The regimes on the island of Ireland are engaged in raising revenue through service taxes and stealth taxes. Campaigns are already up and running against the introduction of water charges in the North, in the South the wider community is engaged in fighting against bin taxes. We salute all those involved in these campaigns, especially those who have been imprisoned for having taken a principled stand.

"The message is already clear: working people throughout this island, working together, can defeat the imposition of unfair taxes. Double taxation must be thwarted!

In conclusion, the IRSP Ard-Chomhairle spokesperson added, "It may be a cliché, but it is no less true for that -- the world can no longer afford the rich. It is long past time that the working women and men here in Ireland, throughout Europe, and around the globe stood up and demanded what is rightfully theirs. It's like James Connolly said a century ago, "our demands are quite modest, we only want the Earth!"

*(Continued on page 26)*

(Continued from page 25)

## Statement Number Two

May 1, 2004 Irish Republican Socialist Party -- International Department

The International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party issued a statement on the occasion of International Workers' Day, reiterating their position on the Irish presidency of the European Union and in opposition to the anti-working class agenda of the European Super-State.

The IRSP spokesperson emphasized the 'irony' of an Irish Euro-President ushering in the radical expansion of member states taking place on May Day 2004.

"The IRSP cannot overlook the irony of the fact that the expansion of the European Super-State, which is bound to have serious negative repercussions for working people throughout Europe, is taking place on International Workers' Day or that this expansion, which is likely to put the final nails in the coffin of the so called 'Celtic Tiger,' is to be ushered in under an Irish Euro-President.

"As the former Comecon nations of Eastern Europe, along with Cyprus and Malta, are brought into a newly expanded Europe, multi-national corporations from Europe and from abroad will once again relocate to wherever they are best able to exploit working people. Transfer their operations to wherever the cost of human labour power can most cheaply be had, thereby ensuring that wages everywhere are eroded and exploitation is increased. The brief mirage of Ireland's much talked about economic growth will then falter and be trampled under the stampede of capitalists in search of lower wages.

"We cannot and do not blame our working class sisters and brothers in the newly admitted nations of the EU. The imperialists have virtually starved them under the strain of severe austerity programmes imposed as the price of EU entry. Instead we extend our hand to them, as fellow working class people; as

comrades. If we fail to unite -- if we fail to hang together, as the old saying goes -- we shall surely be hung separately.

"It is not having to pay fair, living wages that causes the problems of the capitalist system, it is the relentless pursuit of profits without concern for the quality of human life. Without the brains and muscle of working class people, not a single industry could operate -- no wealth could be produced. It is the drive for profits in order to support the useless parasites of the capitalist ruling class that there is no need for. Those who amass their wealth through the exploitation of working people -- who contribute nothing other their own self-aggrandisement and their conspicuous consumption of luxuries, while millions endure crippling poverty -- that the world can well do without.

Concluding the statement, the IRSP International Department spokesperson added, "The Irish Republican Socialist Party offer our profound solidarity with our class sisters and brothers throughout the world. As we reflect on this holiday celebrating the working people of the world, we are filled with admiration and pride for all that our class has created; the great advances that have been possible only because of our class's collective efforts. Moreover, we recognise how much greater might be our class's contribution to the advance of humanity, were it not for the greed, inhumanity, and tyranny of the capitalist class.

In offering our solidarity, therefore, we clasp the hands of our working class sisters and brothers throughout the world, and remind them, as well as ourselves, that only through our collective efforts can we gain our liberation. Every victory they make is an advance for us. Every triumph we gain moves them forward as well. We have created all the wealth of the world we see arrayed around us. Let us reclaim it, as our own."

For more information: Republican Socialist Publicity Bureau  
392 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DH, Ireland Tel/Fax: 028 90 330786 <http://www.irsm.org/irsm.html>

# ACIS Midwest Regional Meeting Calling for Papers at Milwaukee Confab

The Midwest Region of the American Conference for Irish Studies will hold its annual meeting on October 14-17, 2004. The conference will be hosted on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus.

The theme of the conference is Community and Nation. The conference organizers welcome proposals (250 word abstracts) for papers (20 minutes max.) and panels on any aspect of Irish Studies, particularly those that focus on the conference theme. Topics may include (but are by no means limited to):

- Minorities in Ireland
- Irish America
- Nationalism and regionalism
- Celtic communities
- Artistic communities

Participation is especially encouraged in a roundtable on Irish-Scottish relations (community-sponsored by the Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee), and a roundtable on Women's Issues (community-sponsored by the Milwaukee Celtic Women).

As always, the Midwest Region encourages the participation of graduate students. A limited number of scholarships will be made available to student members of ACIS. Applicants should submit proof of student status and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor along with their paper proposal.

Paper and/or panel proposals should be submitted either by mail (preferred) or electronically to: José Lanters, Department of English, University of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201 ([lanters@uwm.edu](mailto:lanters@uwm.edu)). All proposals should be submitted no later than July 1st, 2004.

# Irish Defense Forces Deploy in Liberia

The following text is courtesy of Brian Cleary, press officer for the Irish Defense Forces. Occasionally, **The Irish American Post** will present reports from Irish military stationed around the globe on its various peace-keeping missions.

**Below find text of a recent press release from my office of an operation conducted by members of the Defense Forces Army Ranger Wing (SF troops)** who are based in Monrovia Liberia. An 800-man (and -woman!) battalion of Irish Infantry (the 90th Infantry Bn) are based a few kilometers outside Monrovia, in Camp Clara, (so called because there is a township in Monrovia called Clara Town and the Battalion Commander , Lieutenant Col. Paddy (Puck) Moran, just happens to live close to Clara, Co. Offaly.

The Ranger Wing are the Irish Defense Forces Special Forces element and a platoon of 40 were deployed in addition to the 90th Inf Bn. (more info available on [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie))

ARW personnel were tasked with the following missions for their tour in Liberia:

1. Special Recce.
2. Human Intelligence Missions
3. Liaison Tasks
4. Extraction and Hostage Rescue operations.

Patrols have concentrated on the more remote areas of Liberia particularly in the border regions and where UNMIL forces had not been previously been deployed. They have been inserted and extracted by MI 26 Heli's and MI 8's. They have also used the HNLMS Rotterdam for these as they have an amphibious landing capability.

In the best tradition of Special Forces ops, they have tried to vary our operational methods in order to create an impression of unpredictability and deception. This has worked to date so much so that the local militias (MODEL, LURD and GOL) have the impression that ARW personnel seem to just pop up everywhere and without warning.

They have also started to use MI 24 attack helicopters (supplied by Aviation Battalion of the Ukrainian military ) to provide air support on recent missions as it again offers another dimension to the patrolling pattern and also the physiological impact of these things turning up is significant. Information gathered by the patrols is all collected and analyzed in the FHQ to help plan future operations unit deployments and timing schedules.

When out on patrols contact is made with the local leaders both civil and militia and meetings are conducted with them. ARW personnel try to assist the local civilian administrators - empowering them by supporting both civilian and local law enforcement personnel - this has been quite successful to date. ARW Medical Officer and his team of patrol medics have also run medical clinics in the local hospitals and health centers. This assistance has included conducting medical operations in these locations and has even resulted in people from Guinea traveling to one clinic in particular.

Some patrols have lasted for over nine days and are resupplied by air with the MI 26's and MI 8's, we keep in constant contact with HQ via HF communications and sat phone. In some instances, and based on intel gathered by ARW personnel, Force HQ have deployed Civ Pol personnel out to flashpoints to conduct investigations of suspected crimes or collect information for future investigations.

## **DEFENSE FORCES RANGER WING DETAIN RENEGADES IN LIBERIA**

The Defense Forces Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) based in Liberia detained members of the renegade Government of Liberia (GOL) forces in an operation 300 KM northeast of the capital Monrovia yesterday (6th Jan 04) .

The patrol, consisting of members of the Defense Forces Army Ranger Wing (ARW) was inserted by Mi26 helicopter, at 1200hrs yesterday, to Gbapa in the northern sector of Nimba County, close to the border with Guinea. Local civilians reported that there were over thirty (30) people being held captive against their will by renegade Government of Liberia (GOL) forces, in a 20-foot container near the town of Yekepa.

On foot of the information received , the Army Ranger Wing patrol secured the release of the 35 captives (male and female) and detained the commander and deputy commander of the GOL force. Other militia members are believed to have fled into Guinea.

As there were such a large number of captives in such a confined space it was decided by the ARW commander on the ground to initially engage in a non lethal intervention. Heavily armed members of the patrol swooped on the location where the captives were being held using the elements of surprise and a major show of force which effectively caught the renegades off guard. Nobody was injured during the intervention.

The renegades are currently being held in a local police station which is being secured by the Army Ranger Wing patrol.

Many of the 35 persons released were brought to the local medical facility for treatment as a result of alleged beatings and rapes inflicted upon them while in captivity.

The Army Ranger Wing continue to secure the area and their Medical personnel are providing on going medical assistance.

Followup patrols were conducted in mid January in the area during which more arrests were made in relation to the original incident at Yekepa. The suspects (eight in total) were all flown to Monrovia and placed in custody with the Liberian National Police (under the supervision of Civ Pol). They still remain in custody awaiting trial.



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