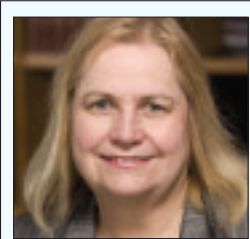


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Michele Cahill brings successes at city schools to her job at Carnegie

— IRISH ECHO INTERVIEW, Page 9



Regis Philbin returns for 10th anniversary of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?'

— ARTS & LIFESTYLE, Page 21



Setanta's stars of the future: Front row (l-r): Jack O'Reilly, Aidan Cyan, Conall Bracken, John Myers and Ronan Flanagan. Back row (l-r): James Welch, Joey McCormick, Carmel McDermott, Dominic Cheek, Anthony Cheek, Luke Padian and Luke Scopino. Missing: Brennan Hogan and Sean Mooney.

Future of the game

By Ray O'Hanlon
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THE GAA STARS of yesteryear will be honored later this month at Gaelic Park in the Bronx but what of the future of Gaelic Games in New York and around the U.S.?

In recent years, teams in cities such as New York and Philadelphia have experienced difficulties in fielding teams for football, hurling and camogie because of a falling off in Irish immigration and heightened difficulties facing Irish-based players wanting to compete in the U.S. during the season.

Not a few GAA fans and officials, then, are placing increased hope in fostering the game among young players on this side of the Atlantic.

And here are some of them, all potential GAA stars of the future.

They are the members of Setanta Gaelic Football Club based in Katonah, New York. They are pictured here during the recent Rockland County GAA Denis McHugh Gaelic Football Tournament for children aged eight and under.

Setanta was established only last April, so this was the first exposure to a Gaelic football competition for the youngsters.

What they lacked in experience, though, they made up for in grit and determination, winning their first three matches against teams who had been playing together for years. Indeed, the Katonah lads made it all the way to the semi-finals of the tournament, where they lost a close, hard-fought match to the New York Rangers.

"Overall, it was a great experience for the players, with their performance exceeding everyone's expectations, except perhaps their own," said proud parent Patricia Padian.

This fall, Setanta is planning to play a full schedule of matches. The club is open to children between the ages of 5 and 13, and currently consists of members from throughout Westchester as well as southwestern Connecticut. Information on joining at gpadian@tashpad.com or (917) 903-0938.

Clinton confirms

No envoys, but Hillary will eye peace process

By Susan Falvella Garraty
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U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton believes it is no longer necessary for the appointment of a full-time U.S. special envoy to the Northern Ireland peace process.

As reported in the Echo last week, Secretary Clinton said she will continue to keep personal interest in the finalization of agreements outlined in the Good Friday accord.

But she has stated the view that there is no need for a full time envoy, at least of the political variety.

"I and my team are on call to help in any way we can as the continuing decisions have to be made to realize the full benefits of a Northern Ireland at peace and moving toward the kind of prosperity they're looking for," she told the BBC while traveling recently in Thailand.

Pressed as to whether a part-time envoy might be employed, Secretary Clinton responded: "Well, it's part of the responsibilities that we're taking on that, just like I supervise the special envoys for the Middle East and for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and climate change and everything else, as well as running the dialogues with India, Russia, China, and so much, this is one that we're going to really keep a close eye on."

"I've been in consultations with representatives of the Irish government, the British government, the Northern Ireland leadership, and we're going to be as helpful as we can."

Acknowledging the work of the original special envoy, former Senate Majority Leader and now special envoy for the Middle East, George Mitchell, Clinton said all the parties involved with Northern Ireland had achieved a great



Secretary Clinton pictured recently with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband. STATE DEPARTMENT PHOTO BY MICHAEL GROSS.

deal of what was envisioned back in the 1990s and, as a result, there was no necessity for a singularly dedicated, fulltime U.S. official to oversee the situation.

"The problems that the continuing efforts toward finalizing the agreements in the Good Friday accord are really up to the parties themselves, and certainly in consultation with the British government and, to a lesser extent, the Irish government," she said.

"So I don't see the need for someone fulltime. But obviously, I've spent many years in this, on this issue. I care deeply about the outcome. I know the players. I stayed closely in touch with them when I was in the Senate, so I've made it clear that I and my team are on call to help in any way we can as the continuing decisions have to be made to realize the full benefits of a Northern Ireland at peace, and moving toward the kind of prosperity they're looking for."

Secretary Clinton's interest in Irish issues began during her husband's presidency. She traveled frequently to Ireland, north and south, as first lady and sponsored and participated in cross community discussions.

During her closely fought 2008

presidential primary campaign against fellow Democrat Barack Obama, some former Clinton administration officials downplayed her role in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Former Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble also minimized the role she played during the 1990s. However, former taoiseach Bertie Ahern and other leaders from the North defended the input Clinton contributed to the peace process.

As Secretary of State, she continues to have regular meetings and discussions with those leaders and officials from Dublin, Belfast and London. With such a background, Clinton now says it makes sense for her and her advisors to "take stewardship over this."

Even with an envoy, this would have been the case given that a State Department-appointed envoy would have ultimately answered to Clinton and would have certainly received instruction from her office.

Meanwhile, it remains to be seen if the U.S. will appoint an economic/business envoy to the North as has been widely anticipated.

U.S. Irish outposts face possible aid cuts

By Ray O'Hanlon

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Irish diplomatic outposts around the U.S. could be coming in for some cost cutting.

And while it seems unlikely that any of them will be entirely eliminated, the state of Irish public finances is casting a cloud over plans to enhance Ireland-U.S. relations as envisaged in the Irish government's separate strategic report on same issued early this year.

Irish immigration centers in U.S. cities could also be facing cutbacks in Irish government aid, or at least no increases in annual allocations that stretch back to 1990.

The An Bord Snip Nua report, com-

plied by economist Colm McCarthy, lists cost savings for every Irish government department, including the Department of Foreign Affairs.

McCarthy's report has identified potential annual savings of almost €42 million at foreign affairs. This includes staff reductions at the department's Dublin offices, where the special dedicated unit for the Irish overseas is housed.

"A significant proportion of the D/FA's expenditure is in respect of overseas missions, most of which are small," the report states.

"Given the potential for developing synergies between D/FA and agencies such as Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland and An Bord Bia (the food board)

as well as the potential establishment of a European External Action Service in the event of the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, the Group recommends that the network of embassies and consulates be reduced from 76 to 55," the report adds.

All the above agencies operate individual offices based out of Ireland House in Manhattan, where the Irish Consulate is also housed.

Ireland has four consulates in the U.S. in addition to its embassy in Washington. The consulates are in New York, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco.

The strategic report, meanwhile, recommends the opening of two new consulates in Atlanta and Houston. Of the two, Atlanta is viewed as being first in line for opening, and while

outright cancellation of the plan would appear unlikely, the government's parlous financial state could delay it.

With regard to services for immigrants, McCarthy's team is recommending that services should be cut.

"Given the budgetary crisis and the impact that this is having on the delivery of services, the Group recommends that the allocation for expenditure on Support for Irish Emigrant Services be reduced," the report recommends.

It specifically points to a saving of €1 million in this area.

Roughly a dozen Irish immigration and pastoral centers around the U.S. receive Irish government aid on an annual basis.

McCourt NY memorial Oct. 6

By Ray O'Hanlon

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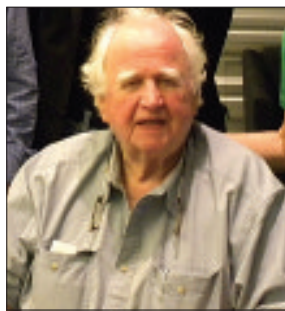
Frank McCourt will be remembered at a memorial gathering that has been set for October 6 in New York.

The event, a celebration of the life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author will be held at Symphony Space on Manhattan's Upper West Side," according to his brother, Malachy.

McCourt said that the reaction and response to his brother's passing had amounted to an "avalanche, an outpouring, a tidal wave."

He said that authors Peter Quinn and Colum McCann were expected to preside at the Symphony space gathering.

As for the matter of a scattering of his brother's ashes on the River Shannon, McCourt indicated that no final decision had been made.



Malachy McCourt.

He said that the city of Limerick was keen on erecting a statue to his brother but that idea would not have rested well with him.

"Frank didn't like pigeons," McCourt, who is himself recovering from a broken leg, told the Echo.

He said that his brother would also not want a statue of himself anywhere near the statue commemorating

another famous son of Limerick, actor Richard Harris.

"They didn't get on. Frank once busted Harris' nose even though Harris was twice his size," he said.

Malachy said that his brother's ashes would mostly rest near his home in Roxbury, Connecticut where the family had a plot.

There was a possibility that some might be donated to the University of Limerick and/or Leamy's National school in the city which features heavily in "Angela's Ashes," the book that catapulted Frank McCourt to worldwide fame.

"Most of all, and rather than a statue, Frank wanted a scholarship program to be set for poor kids," said Malachy.

Any such scholarship program would most likely be offered by the University of Limerick.

South Dakota's Badlands beckon Avril Copeland

By Ray O'Hanlon

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Most people think of an August break in terms of beaches and mountain lakes and not too much expenditure of energy

Dubliner Avril Copeland is setting her sights on the Badlands of South Dakota and planning to expend just about every last ounce of hers.

Copeland, who is 31 and studying physiotherapy at Dublin's Royal College of Surgeons, caught the bug of "Adventure Racing" during her seven years living in Nashville, Tennessee where she worked in the country music business.

"It is a multi-sport event with teams that race from the start to finish line as one unit using human-powered locomotion only," Copeland told the Echo prior to departing Dublin for the U.S.

"It can be by any combination of trekking, running, climbing, mountaineering, paddling, mountain biking. There is no set course layout, format, or requirements for an adventure race.

"Most races require the racers to navigate with a map and compass from one checkpoint to another, over an unmarked course, allowing the teams to take any route they choose between checkpoints though checkpoints must be visited in the order as designated by the race director," she said.

Racers carry food and water and only get to refuel at certain specifically designated checkpoints. Teams usually comprise two, three, or four racers, in either all male, all female, or co-ed categories.



ANDRES VARGAS

Avril Copeland competing in the Eco Primal Quest race in Montana last year.

"The traditional format for adventure racing is a four person co-ed team. Races can cover anything from 50 kilometers in a few hours and up to 900 kilometers over 10 days. These races take place in the most remote areas of the world.

"Considering they are of a non-stop format, most teams get less than two hours sleep a night. In our last race we slept 12 hours in seven days and covered over 850 kilometers."

Copeland is captaining an Irish team called Team Endurox R4 during the August 14-24 race across the arid Badlands.

The race is formally named the "Eco Primal Quest" and is a non-stop 10 day, 600 mile (1000 km) contest.

"Our team is made up of two Irish people, myself and Eoin Keith, an ultra-runner who holds the record for running the Wicklow Way, and also two Americans, Mark Lattanzi from Virginia, and Peter Spagnoli from New York," said Copeland.

The team is racing in aid of Pieta House in Lucan, just outside Dublin. Pieta House is a center for the prevention of self-harm or suicide, and is the first charity of its kind in Ireland.

Concern gets Gates helping hand

By Irish Echo Staff

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Concern Worldwide U.S. is to receive a \$41 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The money will be used to improve maternal, newborn and child health in a number of developing countries in Africa and South Asia.

The money will be paid to Concern over five years for use in six countries, the first three of them being India and the African nations Malawi and Sierra Leone.

All three are facing major obstacles to reaching the 2015 Millennium Development Goals for maternal and child health.

In Sierra Leone, for example, more than 25 percent of children die before reaching their fifth birthday, and in Malawi, one in every 18 women dies during pregnancy or childbirth.

In India and Malawi, two-thirds of mothers and children lack essential health services like vaccinations, skilled care at birth and micronutrient supplements.

According to Concern, which is Irish founded and based, but also operates out of New York, the money will be used as part of an initiative that will "seek out, field test and evaluate at least 27 breakthrough ideas that have the potential for rapidly increasing intervention coverage."

"This project is all about discovering and testing new ideas. It requires good leadership, an extraordinary team, prudent risk taking, and a relentless commitment to improving the state of our world. That's a cornerstone of our organization, and that is why we exist. We're delighted to have this opportunity," said Tom Arnold, CEO of Concern Worldwide U.S.

Please see op-ed on page 16.