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Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

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An Irish American Attitude

By

Raymond D. Aumack

Susan Boyd had showered and changed her clothes after work, from office formality into relaxed and casual sportswear. She was a very attractive young woman and selected her clothes to reflect the lifestyle of a young and energetic person. She was straightening up her already neat apartment while she was awaiting Michael. Friday was a traditional date night for them, as was Saturday, Sunday and frequent week nights. Michael was pretty creative about dating activities and over the past two months they didn't do anything twice except for Sunday Mass and the long afternoon brunch with their friends.

Susan's second floor apartment was located near a park and was a relatively simple four room walkup in an attractive building. Michael pushed her buzzer in the lobby and Susan responded to open the door. Michael was loaded down with grocery bags and struggled up the flight of stairs despite his high level of fitness.

"Wow, what is all this," exclaimed a surprised Susan.

"The first phase of our plans for the evening. I am going to prepare an elegant dinner, fit for the princess that you are. Second, we are going for a stroll in the moonlight in the park. Third, we will have desert, while watching a romantic video, *You Have Mail*. How does that sound?"

"It sounds wonderful. Is the night long enough? How can I Help?"

"Ah," said Michael with a flair for the dramatic. "Carefully decant the wine. Dress the table with your best dinnerware and finest cutlery."

"I have one set of dishes and knives and forks from Sears. Will that do?"

"If they are yours, they are already marked with elegance."

"Whatever's gotten into you tonight, I love it," she said as she tenderly kissed him.

When Michael said he would prepare dinner, he was being totally honest. Dinner was already cooked. All he had to do was heat it up. The dinner was one of Bookbinder's best trays of lasagna. The salad was Mediterranean. Michael mixed it up, placed it on salad plates, and applied the chef's "secret" dressing. The French baguettes were dressed with olive oil and fresh garlic and Michael placed them in the oven with the lasagna. The desert remained hidden in a grocery bag and Michael gently placed it in the refrigerator.

He led Susan to her sofa, inserted an Andrea Bocelli CD into the player, adjusted the volume, and joined her on the couch with a deep kiss. Dinner will be ready in twenty minutes. "How was your day?"

"It was good, but it is getting better. Tell me about yours'?"

“It was OK. Business is booming and boring. I need to do something about my role at work. I have a relatively large firm that depends on me to be the rainmaker. Every now and then, and this is one of the 'nows,' I get tired of practicing Law. I would like to do something substantive with my legal background and skills. Maeve is a crackerjack attorney. When she walks into a courtroom, the opposition quakes. She also has this amazing business that she started as a single practitioner. Brian does criminal law. His practice keeps growing. He was off for a month and directed the whole operation by telephone. John is a wonderful attorney, in the mold of my father. He loves running Glen Gables. My father asks him to take on a few significant cases each year and he handles them as deftly as my dad. Sometimes I can do a little good. I have this wonderful general practice, but I have five attorneys to handle it. I go to all the public community events, Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, a half dozen charity boards, church activities, and what not. Visibility and hand shaking is what it takes to build the business. Sometimes I think that I would be a better high school teacher.”

”It sounds like a mid-life crisis at age thirty.”

“Enough of this maudlin talk. We will dine at a table fit for a princess and drink the elixir of the gods.”

“Gee, I only have my Sears dinnerware and my ShopRite wine goblets.”

“And nothing could be more elegant,” said Michael, as he carried the salad plates to the table.

Both were hungry and devoured the Mediterranean salad.

Michael carried in the hot lasagna tray and baguettes with his hands wrapped in towels.

Dinner was delightful. Night had finally fallen. Susan turned down the lights and the flickering candles added to the romantic atmosphere. Michael changed the CD player in favor of the love songs of Josh Groben. The atmosphere, the evening, and the small talk through dinner was perfect.

After dinner, Michael rinsed the dishes and put them in the dishwasher. He cleaned up the kitchen and the dining room table.

Michael then suggested phase two of the evening, a slow walk in the park. The road around the park was about a half mile and toward the end of the road, Michael suggested that they sit on a bench under one of the very dull lights that graced the park.

“Susan, you know by now that I am crazy in love with you. I need to know if you feel the same way about me.”

She looked him straight in the eye and then gave him a ferociously passionate kiss. When their lips parted, she simply smiled and said, “Yes, Michael, I am deeply in love with you. Did you do all this to seduce me? If so, it was hardly necessary.”

“No, I was sure that you loved me too. I guess the lawyer in me just needed further assurance. I was going to ask you if you would be my steady girlfriend, but I have a far better idea. Can we look forward to becoming engaged six months from now and marry, six months after that? She hugged him and sighed, “Yes, yes.

Michael reached into his pocket and pulled out a jeweler's box. He opened it to reveal a beautiful gold Claddagh ring. "You already know what this means. It is a pledge of our shared fidelity, loyalty, and love. We'll pick out an engagement ring when the time comes."

"Oh, Michael, this is the greatest night of my life. Thank you! Thank you! I will cherish this ring for the rest of my life. Yes, I pledge to you my fidelity, my loyalty, and my love. Can I tell our friends?"

"Of course, but I think we should tell our parents first. Let's walk back to phase three of our date, desert and a movie."

Back at Susan's apartment, Michael produced a Boston cream pie. Michael plated slices of pie and they shared it as the movie, *You Have Mail*, came on.

Like two teen agers at a drive-in, they were so wrapped up in each other that they barely realized the movie was on.

At the end of the evening, after the movie ended, Michael got up to go.

Susan said, "Michael, please stay with me. We talked about this before and you thought we could do this chastely."

"What if we fail?"

"It certainly won't be the worst thing that could happen. But on a higher level, I love you. We pledged to each other our fidelity, loyalty, and love. I promise I will fight hard to protect our virtue because I want to do this right. I also want to fall asleep in your arms and wake up in your arms. I want you to kiss me as the last act of the evening and kiss me again as the first act of the morning. I want to get up and feed you breakfast in the morning, even if it is only a slice of Boston cream pie. We won't fail because it is the right thing to do. When we finally do make love, we'll be married, and we'll both experience the rainbows and fireworks that we always dreamed about and we'll both know that it is a significant part of our lives together."

And so, the best date that either of them ever experienced continued through the next day.

A week later, June Gilliam sauntered into the Jesuit Urban Mission. You could set your watch by her punctuality. If she was thinking of anything, it was destroyed by a gala of noise from cheers, noisemakers, and thrown confetti and multi-colored ribbon. She was stunned and could suddenly feel the beating of her heart. All the Garvey's were there, Maeve, her three brothers, her parents, and her friends. The resident Jesuits were dressed casually and looked like the college students that would descend on them within a week. There were many clients that admired June for her work on their behalf.

Fr. Jim Keenan, the resident director, took the microphone. "Anyone who can survive Theresa's orientation is a very special person indeed and we decided on this breakfast as a way to formally welcome you. You have been here for years, it seems, and if what we have seen over the last month is any indication, we are in for a great adventure, the adventure of spreading Christ's love throughout the entire Philadelphia community. For years, June and Maeve were an awesome

team, striking fear onto the hearts of anyone who dared to abuse the people of the community. Now that she is our Executive Director, it opens the door to even greater horizons. June just received her Ph. D. and I heard her groan after one of Theresa's orientation sessions, that U. Penn was a walk in the park by comparison. More important, we are all part of a marvelous team that because of Theresa and her friends, gives us the ability to create new directions in this ministry. Like the hymn says, we can build the city of God. Thank you Theresa and all of your friends, first for giving us the years that have brought us to our present situation. Thank you for bringing us June. Thank you for giving us a great future. I feel like the Holy Spirit just descended into the room, and the dove's name is June."

June accepted the microphone. She thanked everyone for the wonderful surprise. She said that she couldn't wait for next Friday to see what kind of surprise Fr. Jim would provide. "This is really good for staff morale."

"Theresa Malone is the real Mother Theresa of Philadelphia. She built this place to where we are now and now chairs a gigantic fundraiser that will ensure our continued existence for years to come. And I can assure you, doctoral studies were less intense than this transition. The staff and students at the high school where I worked are broken-hearted, as I am to leave them. This is the next step in my life's journey, and I expect to pause here for a very long time. I love this place and the work we do. We have always brought the love of Christ to our neighborhoods. Most of you will continue to be here as volunteers. We will have a much larger staff. We will have thirty recent college graduates who have postponed their careers to work with the Jesuits in our neighborhoods. We are a team. We have each other's back. We share each other's thoughts; we stimulate each other's imaginations. Wherever our adventure brings us you can be sure it will be in the spirit of Ignatius and for the greater glory of God. Thank you for your confidence in me. Now go and enjoy your breakfast."

There was great enthusiasm in the room. However, Dave and Bridgid Garvey had to leave for work. Michael hung around with Maeve who was free to stay because Susan was taking care of the office. Fr. Jim was at a table in conference with Theresa and John. June filled her plate and she and Brian joined a table with her parents and a few new staff members. Friends from the neighborhood kept stopping at their table to wish June well.

The Sunday gathering was even bigger. Maria and Desmond were back from Florida and told of the gracious reaction of her parents to Desmond. They described the church and the pastor and spoke of how accommodating he was. They described the party that Maria's parents arranged for them. Maria described the wedding dress she and her mom picked out. The Garvey parents came again. Susan and Michael generated a lot of discussion with their three-step plan toward marriage. Everyone was excited about the plan and Susan's beautiful Claddagh ring. The Garvey parents were especially proud of Michael. They would dine with Susan and Michael later in the evening, though Susan emphasized a light low preparation supper. The gross income for the gala so far was almost three million dollars and Dave Garvey had volunteered to be the treasurer. June was already using some of that money to refurbish a vacant apartment house that the Jesuit Urban mission owned, for use by the thirty college students who had volunteered for the year.

The following day, at 4:00 PM the entire group gathered in the large conference room at Garvey Legal. Included in the meeting were representatives of the consulting group.

Dave was the first to address the group with a report on the finances of the event. The total so far was just shy of three million dollars from 520 Philadelphia companies providing sponsorship donations of various sizes. The expenses included a draw from the Jesuit Urban Ministry for renovating the apartment building and the headquarter's building to generate office space, purchase office furniture, and personnel recruitment costs.

A significant amount was drawn by the consultant group for various well-documented business expenses related to the activities of the various committees. Theresa made sure that there were copies of the financial report for every committee member to study at their leisure.

Tickets were being printed and would be available by the end of June. Address lists were being generated. Representatives of the sponsoring companies would certainly be present at the event, especially since tables would be reserved for the large donors. Representatives from those companies would do their own mailings. Theresa distributed a report of the ticket committee. The invitations would be mailed immediately after Labor Day.

June was in charge of the auction committee and reported that substantial gifts were coming in, including a week at Sundial's in Jamaica, a week at Club Med in the Dominican Republic, a week at an Irish country home in County Kerry complete with a butler and a maid, a Tauck Train Tour of the great northwest, a week at a company's apartment in New York City and a cottage for a week of skiing on the Aspen, Colorado slopes. There are gifts of jewelry, autographed sports memorabilia, cases of wine, among many other gifts. The three professional teams and the players were very generous

The consulting group would be in charge of decorating the venue. John Garvey was in charge of that committee and had several productive meetings with representatives of the consulting group. He had given Theresa his report and she made copies to be distributed among the group.

The meeting went on until well after 6:00 PM. Theresa announced that they had contracted with the ever popular, Byrne Brothers band that would provide Irish American music, along with Italian and Hispanic music, with some popular opera arias. You could hear a stunned gasp when Theresa told the group that Bono (Paul Hewitt) and Jon Bonjovi had volunteered to play a set with the Byrne brothers. The entertainment alone was worth the price of admission. In addition, Bonjovi donated one of his guitars, autographed, for the auction.

Maeve was very pleased with the progress of the event and in her planning book, they were well ahead of schedule. Patrick couldn't believe the scale of the event considering that it was started by his very modest suggestion. This was indeed Philadelphia's biggest event since the Declaration of Independence.

Dave Garvey was very impressed with the efficiency of the activity to date.

Later that week, Maria and Desmond met with Fr. Jim for another session of their pre-marriage conferences. The topic for this one was money and the problems that money or the lack of enough of it can put pressure on a marriage.

Father Jim started the session with a prayer that included a few minutes of silent reflection. Maria and Desmond exchanged their letters. Desmond was very encouraged with Maria's letter.

With her relatively modest teacher's income she has managed to save twenty-two thousand dollars in cash, and another sixteen thousand in the teacher's equivalent of a 401K plan. She had a teacher's life insurance policy valued at \$170 thousand, health care insurance, and a dental plan. Her major expenses included a relatively modest rent, car payments and expenses, tuition, and general expenses for food, clothing and recreation.

When Maria opened Desmond's letter she was stunned. She had never seen that many zeros after a number except in Gala financial reports. Desmond has about four million dollars in cash and investments. He explained that this year was a very good year for investors with cash. Each international tariff crises caused a significant market dip. Desmond purchased heavily when the market dipped, knowing that within a month the market would stabilize. He had no mortgage on his relatively modest home, and his two cars were leased. His 401K held about one million dollars, and he was generously insured.

He explained that he invested with Mr. Bookbinder and had done extremely well. His salary was also very generous.

"I was so worried that we would overspend on our wedding," said Maria. "I was going to ask you tonight about protecting our finances so that we would have enough for our marriage. I was feeling guilty that you paid for our trip to Florida."

"Don't worry, Maria. First of all, my investments are safe and protected. I chose to live frugally after my wife's death. Bookbinder invited me to invest with him, an invitation that I accepted because early on I didn't know what I was doing. My income kept increasing and as my investments grew, the return on them kept increasing. By keeping cash in the bank, I was able to take advantage of investment opportunities. Believe me, our marriage will be financially secure.

Father Jim commented that he was pleased that they would not have any financial struggles in their marriage. Desmond nodded in assent. "Maria, everything that I have is now yours as well."

"I have always been very careful with money," said Maria. "When we escaped from Cuba we had only the clothes on our back. My father had been secretly sending money to a Miami bank, but it wasn't very much. The heat of the government came on him faster than expected, and the decision was to leave Cuba and get away while we can."

"My parents have done well, and money is no longer a problem for them. Our relatives were very generous. My father worked as a waiter in a local Cuban restaurant. He picked up odd jobs here and there, and taught English to other asylum seekers. I went to public schools and started as a beginning high school student. I received a scholarship to the University of Miami and supported my master's degree as a student assistant. I wanted to pay for my sisters' high school tuition, but my parents wouldn't hear of it. They both attend a Catholic high school. My parents are very conservative but their early struggles in America were such that they weren't very conservative with me. My high school friends nicknamed me, Sandy, as a tribute to our arrival at Miami Beach. It was an extra four hours of rowing with a good current, but we wanted to evade the immigration authorities who were waiting for refugees in the Keys. I pulled one oar and my dad pulled the other. I remember being so exhausted, I fell asleep in the sand. That resulted in my nickname. "

“My father was a prominent attorney in Cuba, but he had to take courses and reapply for a law license and take the bar exam. He was also an outspoken critic of the Castro administration.”

“That is an incredible story, Maria,” said Fr. Jim. “I’ve known you for years and I never heard it before.”

“I’ve heard bits and pieces,” said Desmond, “but this puts the whole story together.”

“June wants to start a magazine,” said Fr. Jim. “That would be an incredible story told by one of our highly valued volunteers.”

“Ah, that brings us up to date,” said Maria. “ I started teaching Spanish and French in Maimi. When I first came to Philadelphia to accept an amazing job opportunity at more than double my previous salary, I went to Mass in the first Catholic Church I could find. After Mass I met Maeve Garvey who invited me to lunch with her and Theresa Malone. They invited me to volunteer, teaching English as a Second Language at the Jesuit Urban Mission. That is what started it all. June joined us the following week, and here we all are.”

Desmond interjected, “And there is more to the story of the Maeve connection than we will ever know. I knew her as a petulant pre-adolescent dining with her parents at Bookbinders. I thought then that she had the gift of *Fey*. Contemporary Irish will deny that such a thing exists. I come from a generation of believers.”

“You mean that you think that Maeve is witch,” exclaimed Maria!

“A bad choice of a word my dear. Maeve has gifts. They only work when she does. Consider that to date 520 companies in the Philadelphia area made contributions, some of them major, simply because she asked them. Consider that she has a nationwide business that she started as a one woman shop only a few years ago in a rented room that she couldn’t afford. Consider that all the meanest slum lords in the city concede and walk away when she walks into a court room. Consider the intensity of the friendships that she has with all of us. Consider the humility that is in her soul, the namesake of the warrior queen of Ireland. Maeve is an incredible risk-taker. God loves risk-takers. She has the gift and she doesn’t even know it.”

“I would say the gift of the Spirit,” said Fr. Jim. “The good warrior queen must have had it as well, even in pagan Ireland. As far as I know, the Spirit doesn’t check baptismal certificates.”

GAA TRIVIA

What does the G stand for in GAA?	Gaelic
When was the first football final played at Jones Road in Dublin?	21st March 1896
Who or what is Croke Park named after?	Archbishop Thomas Croke, first patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association
Where is the Hogan Stand?	Croke Park
What name is given to the ball used in hurling?	The sliotar
What type of timber is used to make hurleys for camogie and hurling?	The Ash
The first General Secretary of the GAA was a Clare man. What was his name?	Michael Cusack
Where would you find GAA ground Cusack Park?	Mullingar
What nickname is given to Kilkenny sporting teams?	The Cats
Who were the famous Mayo full back line of 1950 and '51 All-Ireland fame?	John Forde, Paddy Prendergast and Sean Flanagan
Which cup is played for in the Hurling Championships?	The Liam McCarthy Cup
After whom is the cup named?	A London born Gael who established a GAA London board in the 1890's
What year did the Sam Maguire cup make its first appearance?	1928
What was the Sam Maguire cup modelled on?	The Ardagh Chalice
After which footballer is the Hogan Stand named?	Michael Hogan who was shot in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, Nov 1920
When was the first live televised GAA match?	August 6th, 1962 - Kerry v Dublin, shown on the new RTE channel
When did the GAA museum at Croke Park open?	Jan 1998
What is the name of the GAA grounds in Newry?	Pairc Esler
Galway won their first All-Ireland under 21 hurling title in 1972. Who captained that team?	Iggy Clarke
Who was known as the 'Iron Man from Rhode'?	Offaly full-back Paddy McCormack
Name the three famous Rackard brothers from Wexford?	Bobby, Nicky and Willie
Irish golfer Padraig Harrington had a famous father. For what was he famous?	Paddy Harrington was a well known Cork and Munster footballer in the late 1950s, early 1960s.

THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - JULY

1st 1892 - Edward Carson sworn in as Solicitor-General for Ireland.

1916 - First day of the Battle of the Somme. The 36th Ulster Division sustains 5,000 casualties on this day alone.

1950 - The former British Representative, Gilbert Laitwaite, becomes the British Ambassador to Ireland.

2nd 1970 - Neil Blaney is cleared of conspiracy to import arms.

3rd 1918 - Lord Lieutenant bans Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers, the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan.

1924 - Teaching of Irish to be made compulsory in schools.

4th 1921 - James Craig refuses to attend a peace conference in Dublin because De Valera had addressed the invitation to him personally instead of using his title of Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

1957 - The Ne Temere boycott at Fethard-on-Sea is debated at the Dáil.

5th 1922 - Cathal Brugha refuses to surrender to pro-Treaty forces and is badly injured.

1977 - Jack Lynch is elected Taoiseach.

6th 1907 - Irish state jewels are stolen from Dublin castle.

1946 - A new republican party, Clann na Poblachta, is founded in Dublin.

1953 - Sit-down protest by the unemployed in Dublin.

1962 - First ever episode of The Late Late Show.

1997 - Violence flares at an Orange Order march down the Garvaghy Road.

7th 1905 - Drunkenness (Ireland) Bill debated in the British House of Commons. Irish MPs object that it is offensive.

1913 - Home Rule Bill carried in the House of Lords, despite Andrew Bonar Law's attempts to obstruct it.

1966 - A new secondary education scheme is announced.

9th 1959 - The first twelve female recruits are selected to join An Garda Síochána.

10th 1914 - Provisional Government of Ulster meets for first time in the Ulster Hall.

1917 - Sinn Féin's Éamon de Valera is victorious at the East Clare by-election.

1927 - Minister for Justice Kevin O'Higgins assassinated by the anti-Treaty IRA.

11th 1901 - The Celtic, now the largest ship in the world, is launched in Belfast.

1921 - Truce in the War of Independence.

1938 - Three Cork harbour ports are returned to the Irish government.

13th 1922 - The Irish government appoints a War Council, including Michael Collins.

1962 - The Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, arrives in Dublin.

14th 1935 - Sectarian rioting in Belfast leads to five deaths.

16th 1971 - The SDLP withdraws from Stormont.

17th 1974 - The Contraceptive Bill is defeated at Dáil Éireann.

18th 1951 - The Abbey Theatre in Dublin is burned down.

19th 1997 - The IRA declares a ceasefire.

20th 1982 - The IRA kill ten servicemen in bomb attacks on two parks in London.

21st 1914 - Buckingham Palace conference to allow Unionists and Nationalists to discuss Home Rule.

1972 - Bloody Friday: nine people in Belfast killed by IRA bombs in Belfast.

1976 - The UK Ambassador Christopher Ewart-Biggs is killed by the IRA.

22nd 1848 - Habeas Corpus is suspended so that the Young Irelanders can be detained without trial.

1957 - The Gough Monument in Phoenix Park is blown up.

1985 - The Virgin Mary is seen to move at Ballinspittle.

23rd 1803 - Robert Emmet's attempted Rising in Dublin.

1916 - Thousands gather at Phoenix Park to discuss British proposals to partition Ireland.

24th 1990 - The IRA kill three policemen and a nun in a bomb attack.

25th 1917 - Irish Convention meets for the first time.

1957 - A boy who was beaten at school is awarded £100 compensation.

26th 1914 - Erskine Childers and his wife land 2,500 guns for the Irish Volunteers at Howth.

28th 1927 - Ireland's first automatic telephone exchange opens in Dublin.

1957 - The Carlisle Monument in Phoenix Park is blown up.

29th 1848 - The Young Ireland rebellion in County Tipperary is a failure.

1915 - Republicans under Patrick Pearse take over the Gaelic League at its Dundalk Conference, forcing the resignation of Douglas Hyde.

1959 - The Department of Transport and Power is established.

31st 1893 - Gaelic League established by Douglas Hyde and Eoin MacNeill.

1947 - The Soviet Union blocks Ireland's entry into the United Nations.

1969 - The halfpenny is withdrawn from circulation.

1972 - Operation Motorman begins in Northern Ireland.

1975 - Three members of the Miami Showband are killed by the Ulster Volunteer Force.