

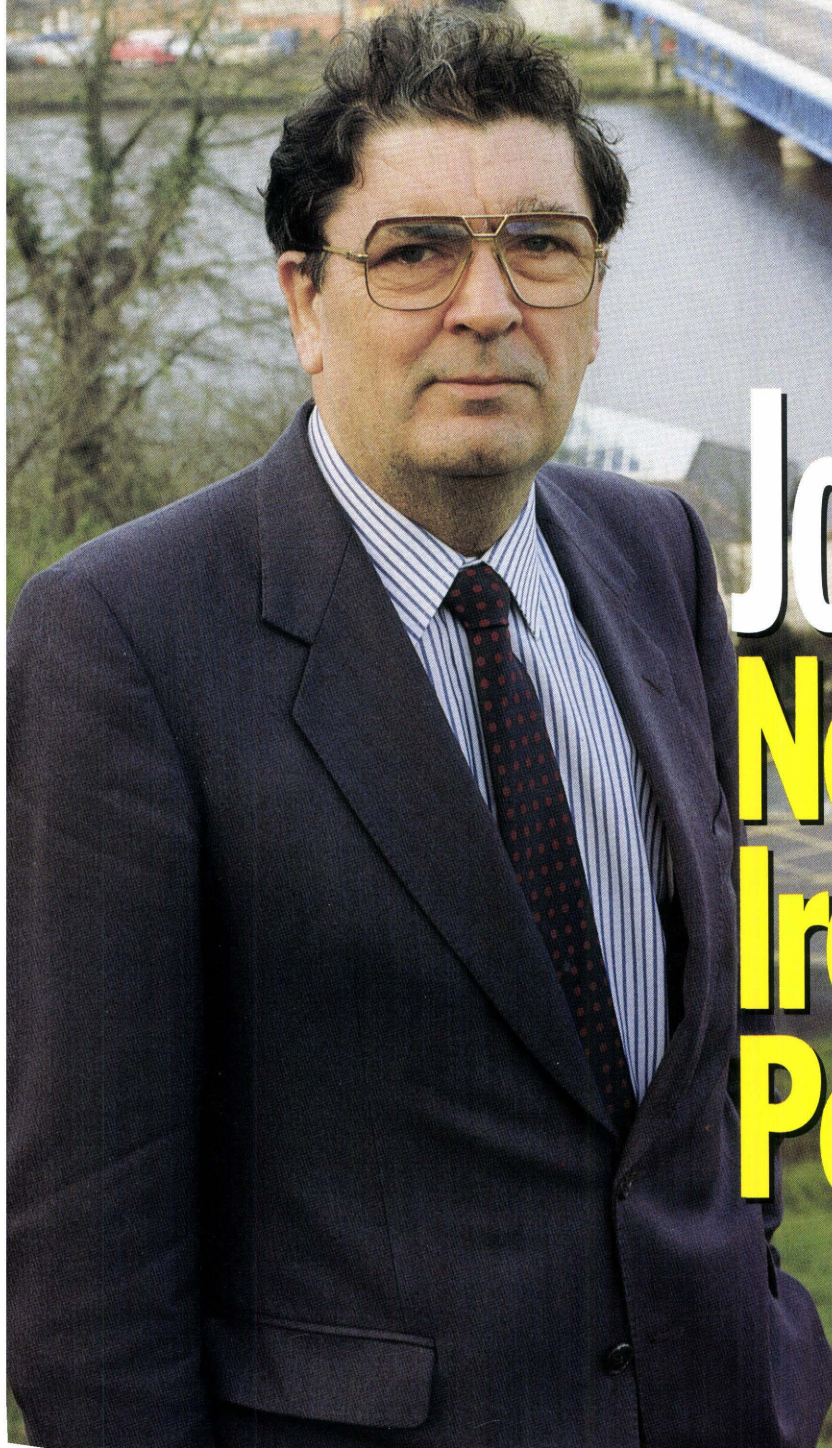
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## John Hume Northern Ireland Peacemaker





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# EUROPE

MAGAZINE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



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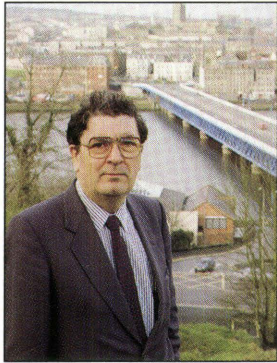
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# Letter from the Editor

"For the first time in 25 years the guns in Northern Ireland have fallen silent and a peace process is under way which promises to bring the whole island a period of political stability and economic cooperation unthinkable a few years ago," writes our Dublin correspondent Joe Carroll. The cease-fire is holding in Northern Ireland and the mood from Belfast to Londonderry is very positive that the peace process will continue. As John Hume told me during an exclusive interview in his hometown of "Derry," "The mood in the streets is very powerful for it to work. No one wants violence. No one would dare take us back to the trenches of the past 25 years."



**John Hume,  
Northern  
Ireland  
Peacemaker**

Hume, who more than anyone else was instrumental in bringing about the cessation of violence in Northern Ireland, speaks out on the peace process, the recent White House conference on Northern Ireland, the role of the EU and the US in bringing about the peace accord, and the future economic development of Derry and other regions in Northern Ireland.

*EUROPE* also looks at Northern Ireland as a possible destination for tourists now that the "Troubles" are hopefully a thing of the past. Northern Ireland offers beautiful scenery, an unspoiled environment, friendly people, luxurious guest houses, world famous golf courses, interesting museums, and a less hectic lifestyle for tourists used to crowded cities.

Joe Carroll presents political profiles of Ireland's new prime minister, John Bruton, and the leader of the Democratic Left party, Proinsias De Rossa.

You may or may not have noticed that Ireland is the production location of many new movies, including Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* and the upcoming story of Irish revolutionary leader Michael Collins starring Liam Neeson and Julia Roberts. *EUROPE* talked with Michael D. Higgins, the Irish minister of the arts, to find out why Ireland has become the new "island of imagination" in the film industry.

For your upcoming visit to Europe this summer or fall, *EUROPE* provides a listing of festivals, concerts, and operas from Greek drama to jazz on the French Riviera to Finnish folklore.

Opera houses in Europe are going through a transition period, and *EUROPE* looks at the changes taking place in the best-known opera houses from Milan to Vienna to Moscow.

Barry Wood takes us on a quick tour of the music scene in Prague, and *EUROPE* presents an interview with Northern Ireland writer Bernard MacLaverty as well as a review of his latest book entitled *Walking the Dog and Other Stories*.

**Robert J. Guttman  
Editor-in-Chief**

# EUROPE

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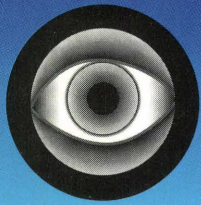
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# EYE ON THE EU



Profiling  
Personalities and  
Developments  
Within the  
European Union

**T**he European Union is clear as to its forthcoming relationship with most of its neighbors to the east. Four of them—Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia—are candidates for early membership, and it is likely that formal negotiations for entry will start fairly soon after the end of the 1996 intergovernmental conference. Bulgaria and Romania are officially in the same category, though there is a feeling that it will take longer for these two countries to prepare themselves for membership.

Slovenia and Albania have yet to attain the same status, but the general assumption is that they are only a step or two behind in the queue. The eastern neighbor about whom there is the greatest uncertainty is Turkey, which applied for membership as long ago as 1987 but has been left waiting on the doorstep with no assurance that it will eventually be admitted. Indeed, the opinion which the European Commission delivered on the Turkish application was distinctly discouraging. Not only did it state that neither the Turkish economy nor the democratic political system was yet sufficiently developed for membership, it gave no indication at all of a likely timetable if the desired developments did in fact occur.

The Turks did not allow themselves to be put off by

this rebuff. Instead, they suddenly announced that they would proceed at an early date to prepare for a customs union with the EU. This had, in fact, been foreshadowed by the 1963 EC-Turkey association agreement, but no progress had been made, and the commitment was virtually forgotten on the EU side.



**Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller would like to see stronger ties between her country and the EU.**

After a year of complex negotiations, the customs union agreement was finally signed in Brussels on March 6, and it should come into force next January. Yet no sooner was the ink dry on the signatures than 35,000 Turkish troops stormed into northern Iraq in an attempt to eradicate the bases from which the marxist PKK (Kurdish Worker's Party) guerrillas had, according to the Turkish government, been waging their separatist campaign in southeastern Turkey.

The military success of the Turkish operation is uncertain. What is beyond doubt is

that it caused profound disquiet among both governmental and public opinion in Western Europe. Among those most disturbed were many Members of the European Parliament, whose opinion is crucial as the MEPs have to ratify the customs union agreement before it can come into force.

Already on the day that the agreement was signed by then French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, on behalf of the EU, he had warned that Turkey needed to show greater respect for human rights particularly with respect to the Kurdish population, and deplored the persecution of journalists and writers and the imprisonment of MPs for differences of opinion. Turkish Foreign Minister Murat Karayalcin responded that his country intended to modify laws inherited from the former military

regime and would amend 21 articles to the constitution to introduce greater democratization and respect for human rights. The Turkish government, however, seems unwilling to recognize that a military solution to the Kurdish problem is beyond its reach and that it should instead mount a determined effort to seek a negotiated settlement, perhaps with the help of international mediation. The late President Turgut Ozal seemed on the point of recognizing this shortly before his death, but his successor, President Demirel, and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, no

doubt under pressure from Turkish generals, have shied away.

The consequence could well be that the European Parliament will refuse to ratify the customs union when the time comes in the fall. This would have the effect of isolating Turkey and would risk pushing it into the arms of the Islamic militants, whom the Western-oriented Turkish political elite most fear.

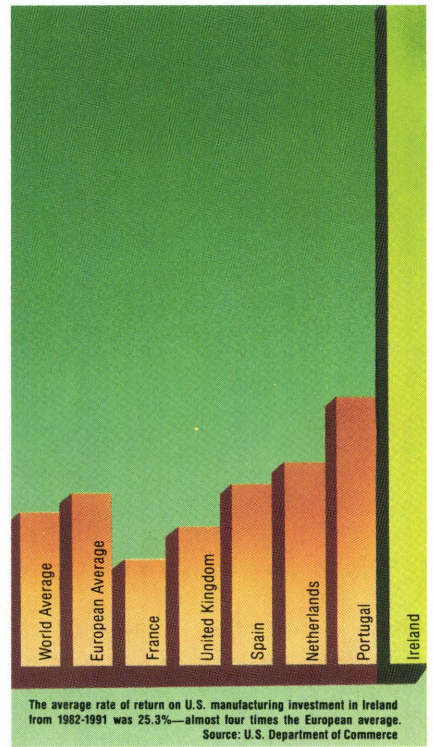
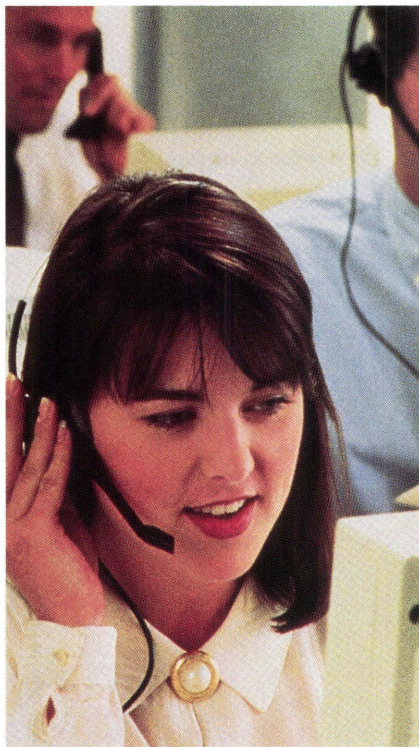
Ms. Ciller and her ministers are now faced with a stark choice: If they wish to consolidate their relationship with the EU and keep open the possibility of future membership, albeit not for some years to come, they need to rethink their whole approach to the Kurdish problem. No doubt the PKK are a ruthless and intransigent group, but the way to isolate them is to guarantee full civil rights (including language rights) to the Kurdish population, and to put an end to the blind repression which the military action has too often produced.

A fully democratized, secular Turkey, which was at peace with all its ethnic groups, should be a welcome future member of the Union. It has a tremendous amount to offer, its youthful, energetic population, its extensive trading, and linguistic links with the former Soviet Union, with southern Asia and the Middle East, and its abundant resources. This is undoubtedly the future to which Ms. Ciller aspires. It is largely in her own hands, and those of her ministers, whether it will actually materialize.

—Dick Leonard

# IRELAND

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British Prime Minister John Major, Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, and Deputy Prime Minister Dick Spring signed the historic "Framework for the Future" in Belfast last February.



**A**fter six months in office Ireland's unusual coalition government is enjoying the feel of power and is hoping that it can stay together until the next election, which is due in two years' time. But the past few years have shown that nothing is certain in Irish politics, and no one is laying any bets that this partnership between the conservative Fine Gael and the two smaller left wing parties, Labor and Democratic Left, will stay the course.

The shock of the breakup of the previous coalition between Labor and the largest party, Fianna Fail, is still reverberating as an example of how hard-headed politicians who love power can still throw it away through misjudgment and personal pique. How Albert Reynolds—as leader of a government with the largest majority ever in Irish politics, with the triumph of the Northern Ireland peace process under his belt, and an economy powering ahead, fueled with huge injections of EU funding—handed it all over to his opponents because of the appointment of a judge and the delay in the extradition of a pedophile priest is still hard to grasp.

But the Labor leader and deputy prime minister, Dick Spring, maneuvered with superb political skills and put together a new government where he and his Labor ministers hold more levers of power than when in partnership with Fianna Fail. For the first time, Labor holds the key finance ministry as well as the high profile departments of foreign affairs, education, and the environment.

The price Spring paid was to bring Fine Gael in from the cold after eight years in opposition and see its leader, John Bruton, take the prize of taoiseach or prime

# Ireland

BY JOE CARROLL

**Peaceful and Prosperous the Republic Confidently Faces the 21st Century**



minister. It was expected that the third partner would be the liberal Progressive Democrats as this would have given the coalition a comfortable majority, but instead Spring insisted on offering a seat at the cabinet table to the small Democratic Left party led by Proinsias De Rossa whose political career has passed from violent republicanism in the 1950s through marxism in the 1980s to impeccable social democracy in the 1990s.

The new government inherited the kind of situation that politicians dream of. For the first time in 25 years the

guns in Northern Ireland had fallen silent and a peace process was underway which promises to bring the whole island a period of political stability and economic cooperation unthinkable a few years ago.

On the domestic front, the new government took over an economy that has won the approval of the European Commission for observance of the guidelines for future economic and monetary union, and where steady growth and low inflation have been established as the norm. As a bonus, some \$14 billion of EU grant aid for the next four years

is just coming on stream and helping to improve roads, railways, ports, and inject investment into education and community development.

This generous funding is seen as the last of its kind that an increasingly prosperous Ireland can hope to get as the EU prepares to enlarge to the east and take on the burden of raising the living standards of former communist states. Yet Ireland is still far from overcoming its most persistent economic problem—high unemployment coupled with one of the youngest populations in the EU.

## For the first time in 25 years the guns in Northern Ireland had fallen silent and a peace process was underway which promises to bring the whole island a period of political stability and economic cooperation unthinkable a few years ago.



The country is awash in government-funded schemes to create jobs and train young people and the long-term unemployed. While these have been moderately successful, the net effect is often negative because of the contraction of the agricultural sector and the closure of older industries facing low-cost competition from Eastern Europe and Asian countries. Unemployment is hovering around the 16 percent mark, one of the highest in the EU and would be higher were it not for emigration. If this government cannot take advantage of the excellent economic indicators and the peace process to get unemployment down substantially over the next two years, it will pay a heavy price at the next election.

Fianna Fail, in its unaccustomed position in opposition, is gearing up under its new young leader, Bertie Ahern, for a return to what it regards as its rightful role of running the country. First it has to get over the shock of los-



**Fianna Fail's new leader, Bertie Ahern, looks to lead his party back into power.**

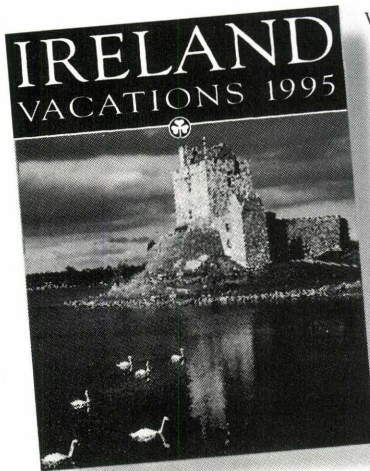
ing power in such traumatic circumstances last year, but there are signs that its hunger for the spoils of office is reasserting itself as its experienced front bench probes for faultlines between the coalition partners.

There are problems for the government on the economic and social fronts. The discipline of the EU's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) means that the Irish pound has to remain within the 15 percent band with strong currencies such as the deutschmark but at the same time not appreciate too much against sterling, which is floating freely outside the ERM. As Britain is still Ireland's most important trade partner, the tensions caused by this uneasy monetary situation will remain until Britain decides to rejoin the ERM, and there is no indication of that under the present Conservative government.

On the social front, the government is committed to holding a referendum later this year to introduce divorce into Ireland—the only EU country where it is illegal. In 1986, the last time such a referendum was held, it was heavily defeated. This time the ground has been better prepared through legislation on legal separation, property, and pension rights, but the Catholic Church opposes divorce and will influence many voters, mainly elderly ones, to vote against it. Fianna Fail in principle supports divorce but will want to see the details before deciding how to campaign in the referendum.

Abortion is an even more sensitive issue. Surrounding it is a confused legal situation following a decision of the Supreme Court three years ago that a woman is entitled to an abortion if there is a "substantial risk to her life," including from the threat of suicide. But doctors in Ireland are forbidden by their own rules from carrying out abortions, so an estimated 3,000 women travel to Britain each year for abortions. Information about abortion clinics abroad has now been legalized, but the ban on doctors referring women to these clinics will probably be chal-

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lenged before the European Court as against EU commercial rules.

The cease-fire by the Provisional IRA and the loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland is now almost a year old and looks as though it will be permanent. But the negotiations for a political solution acceptable to the divided nationalist and unionist communities and including North-South relations are proving extremely difficult.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland is

poised for economic takeoff after 25 years of violence as generous funding from the EU and investment from the United States become increasingly available. A certain amount is earmarked for the six counties on the southern side of the border which were affected by the troubles on the northern side.

The conference held in Washington last month under the patronage of President Clinton to encourage US investment in Northern Ireland and the bor-

der countries was rated an outstanding success. No previous administration has made such efforts to support the ending of violence and stimulate economic growth in these areas.

Overall, the prospects for a peaceful, more prosperous Ireland facing into the 21st century have never been better. ☺

---

*Joe Carroll is EUROPE's Dublin correspondent and a writer for the Irish Times.*

### **Taoiseach John Bruton**

**A**t 48, John Bruton is the youngest taoiseach the country has had in recent times, but he has served one of the longest political apprenticeships. He first entered the Dail or Lower House in 1969 when he was only 22.

He is proud of his American connections through an ancestor who sold mules to both sides during the Civil War. He is also an honorary citizen of Sioux City and once spent time studying the politics of Gerald Ford.

In opposition he had to struggle to assert his leadership of Fine Gael. Just 10 months before he became taoiseach,

he had to fight off a motion of no confidence from some of his most senior colleagues.

Since becoming taoiseach, Bruton has grown into the job. He

has learned to modulate his foghorn voice and braying laugh and cultivate a more statesmanlike demeanor. He is a warm-hearted person, very popular with his constituents. Unusual for an Irish politician he is interested in ideas but would hardly be classed as an intellectual.

Bruton is married to a former party activist, Fiola Gill, and they have four young children. He appointed his younger brother, Richard, as a minister in his government, but this was not criticized as nepotism as Richard was so well qualified for the post.

Bruton comes from wealthy farming stock in County Meath, near Dublin, and went to the top schools. He took a degree in politics and economics and qualified as a barrister but never practiced. He was a junior minister for education at the age of 26 when he also became deeply interested in parliamentary reform.

After a spell in opposition he was appointed minister for finance in 1991, but that government fell over measures in his first budget taxing children's shoes and clothes. Back in government a year later, he served as minister for industry and energy and later for trade and tourism.

Bruton failed in his bid for the leadership of Fine Gael when it became vacant in 1987. This turned out to be a

lucky break as the new leader, Alan Dukes, was deposed three years later and Bruton got his chance. But Fine Gael under his leadership was outshone by the smaller Labor Party under Dick Spring and failed to make the expected gains in the 1992 election. Bruton was also seen to bungle the subsequent negotiations with Spring for a Fine Gael-Labor coalition.

Once again Fine Gael was out in the cold, and Bruton found it a lonely place as he struggled to maintain party morale in the face of depressing opinion polls. When his lucky break came last November, he seized it gratefully. But the real test will come at the next election when the people will give their verdict on his record in the top job.

### **Proinsias De Rossa**

**A**s leader of the small left-wing party, Democratic Left, Proinsias De Rossa (in English Frank Ross), seemed destined to be in perpetual opposition, overshadowed by the bigger Labor Party, and reminded continually by his opponents of his extremist republican and marxist past. But it suited Labor last November when putting together the present government to have the Democratic Left as a coalition partner to counterbalance the larger conservative Fine Gael, so De Rossa tasted power for the first time as minister for social welfare.

De Rossa, 55, was interned briefly in the 1950s as a teenage republican during an IRA campaign. Later he held a number of jobs including bus driver and selling fruit and vegetables. Turning away from the violent side of republicanism, he worked to transform Sinn Fein—the political arm of the IRA—into a marxist party. This led to a split with the traditional republicans in 1970.

Eventually De Rossa became leader of the Marxist Workers' Party but shrewdly anticipated the fall of communism in Europe, he turned the party toward social democracy in 1989. This caused yet another split and De Rossa and his younger colleagues broke away from the hard-liners to set up the Democratic Left in 1992.

He was also elected a member of the European Parliament in 1989 but gave up his seat in Strasbourg after a few years to concentrate on leading the Democratic Left. He is married with three children. He suffers from a slight stammer and has a somewhat austere manner but also a sense of humor.

—Joe Carroll

## **Profiling Ireland's New Leadership**

# TIME FOR PEACE

Belfast children celebrate the first day of the cease-fire in Northern Ireland.

# INVESTING IN

**A** quarter-century of violent conflict (which saw more than 3,000 deaths, thousands more injured and maimed for life, and structural damage and destruction costing hundreds of millions of dollars) ended last year when the main warring elements in Northern Ireland declared a cease-fire. The Nationalist Irish Republican Army (IRA) announced their cease-fire at midnight on August 31. The main Loyalist paramilitary groups, the Ulster Defense Association (UDA) and Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), followed a few weeks later. Ten months on, the peace holds, with all sides now appearing determined to set aside past recriminations and seek, instead, reconciliation. And that peace is already bringing its own dividend—in new jobs, new industry, new infrastructure, new understanding. In May, President Bill Clinton made his own contribution to that process when he hosted a major Washington conference aimed at underpinning the still fragile peace. There's a new air of confidence evident within Ireland, north and south, as people face the future without violence, concentrating instead on investing in the Irish peace.

Like the best Irish parties, it went off with a bang, although it wasn't exactly planned that way. As President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, got the Washington conference off to a flying start, the elements intervened. An electric storm burst overhead, temporarily cutting off the sound system in the giant tent erected on the White House lawn.

But if the gods were angry, it didn't last. The thousand or so US, British, and Irish politicians, businesspeople, and community leaders set to work with a will, seeking to bury

**By Mike Burns**

old hatreds and concentrating instead on rebuilding a new and stable Ireland.

President Clinton made it clear he was acting as a catalyst in the peace process, assisting in practical terms along the road to new economic growth in Northern Ireland and in the southern areas adjacent to its border with the Irish Republic. He plans to follow up that initiative with a four-day visit to Ireland in the fall, spending a day and a night in Northern Ireland and the remainder in the Republic.

Politics with an eye to the huge Irish-American vote and reelection? Possibly. But that may be too simplistic an answer. Certainly no one in Ireland now doubts the president's personal commitment to helping create the economic conditions in which meaningful reconciliation can be made. His only agenda, he says, is peace in Ireland and helping to sustain it—with millions of US dollars to aid the process.

Tourism and property growth should be immediate beneficiaries. New industry and business opportunities seem certain to follow. And cross-community ventures will also be heavily supported.

Not that the Washington forum was all about business and economics. Behind the closed doors of a room in the Sheraton Hotel, Sir Patrick Mayhew (Britain's chief minister in Northern Ireland) had a 30 minute meeting with Gerry Adams (president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing).

They ended that meeting with an historic but very private handshake... a sort of British-Irish peace-making seal.

Gerry Adams said it was "a frank and positive meeting." And Sir Patrick was in no doubt about President Clinton's worth as a facilitator. "By calling this conference, by giving people the opportunity for trade and investment in Ireland,

the US administration has played an important role in the peace process," he said.

Dick Spring, the Irish deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, was equally enthusiastic, an enthusiasm shared by Paul Bradford, co-chairman of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body, which acts as an umbrella for members of both the British and Irish parliaments.

The chief whip of Fianna Fail (the main Irish opposition party) Dermot Ahern, whose parliamentary constituency runs partly alongside the Republic's border with Northern Ireland, says it was "the best opportunity for investment Ireland has ever enjoyed."

And senior Northern Ireland politicians, including the SDLP leader John Hume and the Westminster Unionist MP, Ken Maginnis, also enthused about the gathering.

Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, the conference provided an away-from-Ireland backdrop where former paramilitaries, many of whom had served lengthy jail sentences for terrorist activities, were able to meet and ex-



President Clinton (shown with former Senator George Mitchell and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown) hosted a conference to help stimulate economic development in Northern Ireland.

# IRISH PEACE

change views and jointly indulge in the social events surrounding the forum.

The euphoria of Washington was understandable. Now comes the time for building on the US base and managing the promised new aid packages from the European Union, the US, and other countries.

Over the years 1994-99, the European Union will channel more than \$1.5 billion to Northern Ireland and almost \$9 billion to the Republic of Ireland in support of economic and social development.

The International Fund for Ireland was established in 1868 by the Irish and British governments to promote economic and social advance and encourage contact, dialogue, and reconciliation between Nationalists and Unionists.

With contributions from the US, the European Union, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, the total resources available to the fund amount to almost \$400,000, with new money already in the pipeline.

The lesser-known, non-governmental American Ireland Fund, headed by HJ Heinz President Tony O'Reilly, has already raised more than \$60 million for a variety of areas including arts and culture, community development, and education.

A variety of other smaller bodies, such as Cooperation Ireland, British-Irish Encounter, and the Irish Partnership, have also made important contributions to the peace process.

**Inquiries from foreign businesses wishing to relocate in both parts of Ireland are also zooming upward—with highly educated labor forces and easy access to European Union markets key factors in determining boardroom decisions.**

That peace process is already generating its own momentum. Exports from Northern Ireland are at an all-time high, according to latest figures from the Industrial Development Board, with markets in the Irish Republic becoming increasingly more important.

The equivalent authority in the Republic reports similar increases.

Inquiries from foreign businesses wishing to relocate in both parts of Ireland are also zooming upward—with highly educated labor forces and easy access to European Union markets key factors in determining boardroom decisions.


Even the once-stagnant property market in Northern Ireland has seen prices moving rapidly upward since the cease-fire.

Charles Meisner, US assistant secretary for international economic policy, says Ireland's problem is not a lack of capital. "The real lack is projects," he says while reflecting the Clinton's administration's support for the peace process through investment.

That problem is now being addressed on both sides of the Irish border—yet another indicator that the peace process is working and, hopefully, producing a cross-community self-confidence in a future without violence. ☺

*Mike Burns, based in Dublin, is a writer and former correspondent for RTE Irish Television.*

NORTHERN IRELAND



# John Hume Northern Ireland Peacemaker

**He's personable, eloquent, good-humored, morose, Jesuitical, strong, the most internationally respected of all Irish politicians, fixer and friend of the mighty, the chief intellectual force of constitutional Irish nationalism, with an ability to combine theory with practical politics.**

Those descriptions, from the millions of words written about him in more than a score of languages, are just an aperitif. For John Hume, the remarkable politician whose reasoned, non-violent voice has done so much to bring sustained peace to a Northern Ireland ravaged by a quarter century of death and destruction, is much more than that.

The leader of Northern Ireland's mainly-Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP) is probably one of the world's most highly respected politicians, as much at home on Capitol Hill or in the White House as he is at Westminster or within the European Union, in Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

John Hume, international statesman, has come a long way from his childhood days in an area which once was tagged "the United Kingdom's main unemployment black spot."

Hume, growing up in the city of Derry, had personal experience of those days. His father, Samuel, spent most of his life on the dole queue in a city where jobs then depended on religious persuasion rather than ability.

Hume's family—Roman Catholics—were among the have-nots, despite boasting a great-grandfather of Scots Presbyterian background.

Close up family deprivation and political manipulation might easily have forced Hume, like scores of fellow Catholics, into the extreme nationalist IRA camp seeking unity with the neighboring Irish Republic. But Hume's message then, and echoed consistently over the intervening year, was, "The only unity I cherish is that which has the whole-hearted and freely given support of my Protestant fellow-countrymen."

Even Hume's education was different. The leading Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, recalls Hume as a student in St. Columb's College in Derry, "The best and the brightest of the scholars." He then went to St. Patrick's College at Maynooth, south of Dublin, to study for the priesthood. Fellow students included the former Irish EU Commissioner, Senator Michael O'Kennedy, and Sean Donlon, former Irish ambassador to Washington and now chef de cabi-

net to Irish Prime Minister John Bruton.

All three decided not to continue their studies. Hume returned to Derry as a teacher and, subsequently, as an organizer of the local credit union.

From 1964 to 1968 he was president of the union's Irish League and an active and leading supporter of the growing non-violent civil rights movement in Northern Ireland, seeking fair housing and employment.

Those demands led to forceful overreaction by the then Northern Ireland government and the creation of the modern day IRA.

Hume remained the articulate voice of the Roman Catholic minority, becoming deputy leader of the newly formed SDLP from 1970 to 1976 (and a Northern Ireland MP and minister for commerce). He then moved briefly to Harvard as associate fellow at the Center for International Affairs. Later, he became a research fellow in European Studies at Trinity College, Dublin.

In 1979 he became leader of the SDLP and a member of the European Parliament, where he still holds one of the three Northern Ireland seats. He has also been a poll-topping member of the British Parliament at Westminster since 1983.

But Hume will be best known internationally as the man who initiated the then much-damned talks with Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein (political wing of the IRA), which led directly to last year's cease-fire (August 3, 1994) and the ongoing peace.

—Mike Burns

*In an exclusive interview, John Hume spoke with EUROPE Editor-in-Chief Robert J. Guttman in Derry on the day he returned from the White House conference on Northern Ireland. He speaks out on the conference, "the Troubles," the cease-fire, the overall peace process, and economic prospects for Northern Ireland.*

**What were the results of the White House conference on Northern Ireland?**

It was an extremely historic conference. It was the first time in history that all the representatives from Ireland were ever in one room discussing economic issues. The goodwill of the Clinton administration was essential and is essential for our economic development.

**Could you explain your peace plan to end the violence in Northern Ireland?**

Our peace plan is heavily modeled on the European experience. What is needed is a framework for peace. We must create, as the Europeans have, institutions which respect diversity but allow us to work together in our common interest, which is economics. By doing that and spilling our sweat and not our

blood, we will begin the healing process that will lead to a new Ireland in a generation or two, based on respect for diversity and built by agreement.

## EUROPE INTERVIEW

### How is your peace plan patterned after the European Union?

I have already spelled that out, but I would like to underline that the European Union is the finest example of conflict resolution in the history of the world, and it is the duty of everyone in areas of conflict to study how it was done.

Fifty years ago 35 million people lay dead across Europe for the second time in a century. Who could have forecast that they would all be together today in a new Europe? And Germans are still German and French are still French. It is the duty of everyone in areas of conflict to study how this was achieved. Central to European peace is respect for diversity and working together in common economic interests, thereby building the trust and creating a process which brings about the political resolution.

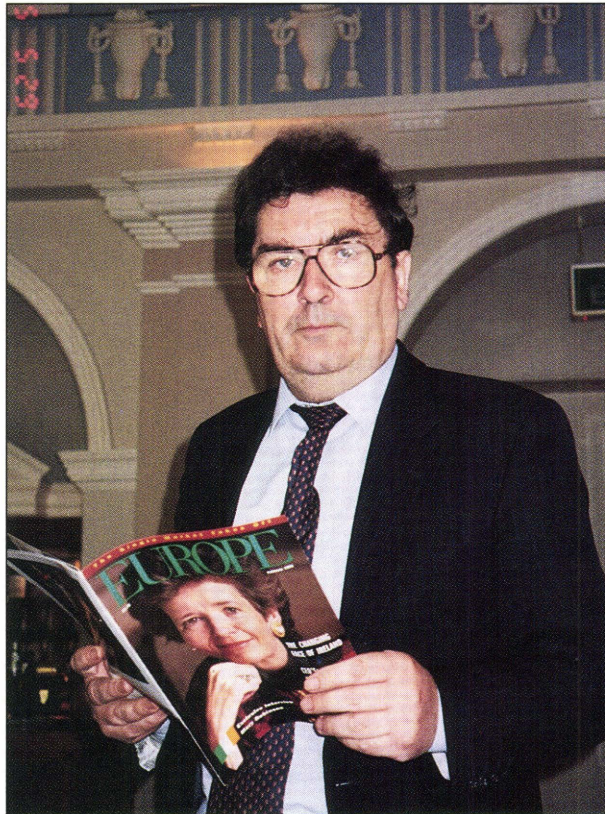
### How important has the Clinton administration been for the peace process?

The Clinton initiative is crucial. Also, the former president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, with myself, Ian Paisley, and Jim Nicholson—the three members of the European Parliament from Northern Ireland—announced a European plan for peace. The new president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, and EU Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies have been to Northern Ireland twice. The United States under President Clinton and the European Union have both been crucial to the peace process. The healing process is at work economically because of the EU and the president of the United States.

### Does the peace process depend on personalities?

The peace process goes beyond personalities. It is a valuable process that

threatens no one. On all sides, politically, we are committed to peace. We need the allegiance of everyone involved. The process threatens no one but challenges us all to come together to the table. I say that victories are not solutions. You need compromise. It was the past negative attitudes that made this necessary.



### Will the cease-fire hold?

I am certain it will keep going. The mood in the streets is very powerful for it to work. No one wants violence. No one would dare take us back to the trenches of the past 25 years. It was very, very encouraging that all the groups were together for the first time at the recent White House conference on Northern Ireland.

### What is your attitude toward what's referred to in Northern Ireland as "the Troubles" and how the peace process started?

I am, and have always been, totally opposed to violence. The only weapon we need is dialogue. This means listening and dialogue among all sections of the people. There needs to be a reex-

amination on all sides of past attitudes because past attitudes have brought us where we are today. The nationalist attitude is a territorial mindset. But it needs to be remembered that it is *people* who have rights, not territory. And when people are divided they can only be brought together by agreement and not by any form of coercion.

On the other side is the Unionist mindset, which is an Afrikaner mindset. They believe the only way to protect their identity is to hold all power in their own hands. That leads to widespread discrimination and conflict. What they must realize is what they are required to do is to reach an agreement with the people whom they share a piece of earth. An agreement that will respect both identities. If we follow the European model, we can do that.

### What will be the follow-up to the White House conference?

It has to be a major follow-up in investment. In Northern Ireland, there are 43,000 small companies which employ between one and 50 workers. If every company creates one extra job, we will halve our unemployment. Therefore, marketing the products of our small companies in the US by using the Clinton initiative is a crucial part of our economic regeneration.

Also, President Clinton will be coming to Northern Ireland. He will be the first American president to do so. This is an enormous gesture of goodwill.

As I have said, the role of Bill Clinton was crucial. We would not have had peace without President Clinton. He had a direct interest in peace in Northern Ireland. It was at the top of his agenda. Also, Senators Kennedy, Dodd, and Moynihan together with the other friends of Ireland in the US Congress have been very helpful.

### What are the original causes of "the Troubles"?

As a result of "the Troubles" there have been around 3,200 people killed in 25 years. Everyone knows someone who has been killed. More than 30,000 people have been maimed or injured.



This is a long historic conflict whose roots are European. It began in the siege of Derry in the 1600s. The English colonized the north of Ireland. The settlers were Protestant and the natives were Catholic, and from that moment onward religious differences had a deeper significance than religion itself.

**Are "the Troubles" mainly a cause of religious differences in Northern Ireland?**

It is not a Northern Ireland problem. This is the British-Irish problem. It is only called a Northern Ireland problem. It has been left to fester. Today, the British and the Irish are committed to solving the problem. The agenda on all sides is firmly set. The problem in the 1990s is different than in the 1920s. Today we are all together in the new Europe. All parties are now in dialogue. We are talking. It will work, but it won't be easy.

**What is the key problem in the dispute?**

The key issue in any dispute is that you have to agree on how you are governed. We have the best opportunity today that we have ever had. Our party, the SDLP, models its approach on the EU. For example, in my home city Derry, we respect our diversity by changing the mayor every year even though we could take the office all the time. By agreement, one year a Catholic is mayor and the next year a Protestant takes over.

**How important is money from the European Union for the economic development of Northern Ireland?**

EU assistance is vital for our development. Our development strategy is supported by the EU. We are an "Objective One" region in the EU. (An Objective One region is considered to be a priority region to be financed by the regional funds in order to promote infrastructure development in the area.)

We are developing our infrastructure with EU money. We have moved our harbor in Derry to deeper water so we can move in bigger ships. And we have built a new airport.

**What new developments are being built in Derry?**

I set up the Derry-Boston Ventures

now called Northwest International. We take small company business people in Northern Ireland to the US to market their products. We have achieved \$45 million worth of orders for small companies from this project.

We have been successful. Today, the O'Connell Brothers, real estate developers from Boston, are building a new shopping center complex in downtown Derry. The main store will be Marks and Spencer. And 1,000 new jobs will be added to our work force.

As we say in Derry, "The next parish is Boston." I have just returned from Boston where I received honorary degrees from Boston College and Suffolk University. The very first bridge in Derry was built by a Boston company in 1814. As you can see, we have an extensive connection with the United States.

**Do you consider yourself Irish or British?**

I am first a Derry man. I am an Irishman, and I am also a European.

**What do you consider the greatest accomplishment of the European Union?**

As I said, the greatest accomplishment is conflict resolution. It is the greatest example of conflict resolution in the world. People who twice fought each other in wars this century are now united and working in a single economic market.

**Does such a thing as Europe exist today?**

Europe does exist. There is absolutely no doubt about it. We are now in a post-nationalist world. We are moving beyond the nation state. As can be seen by the two world wars, nation states haven't served us that well in this century. This has been the worst era ever in history. The nation-state is over. We are now moving toward a Europe of the regions.

**What is your overall message regarding peace, not only in Northern Ireland, but also in Bosnia and other war torn areas?**

We have to remember that victories are not solutions. You have to build institutions that respect diversity and promote economic development among all parties.

**What is happening in Derry today? Is there an economic revival going on?**

The city of Derry is where the Troubles started and the worst injustices began. Today Derry is the best example of people working together of any community in Northern Ireland. The people of Derry are taking charge of our economic future. Derry will become a major tourist destination. We are a gateway to Europe. Donegal, in the republic of Ireland, and Derry are working together in a cross border program. This is an example of a border-free area.

**How did the cease-fire talks begin?**

We started in 1988 with steady dialogue and persuasion. I was condemned for talking to Gerry Adams. If you don't believe in violence—and I have always believed in non-violence—then your only weapon is dialogue. We now have dialogue with all parties. There is a total cessation of violence. We are now receiving strong support for our efforts.

**What American firms are now in Derry?**

Seagate International came directly to Derry as a result of my discussions in Santa Clara with a Seagate executive. I invited him to visit Northern Ireland. He was reluctant, but he came and was sold on Derry. Seagate has increased its original number of workers from 300 to 800.

Other US companies located in Derry include Fruit of the Loom, which employs 3,000 people in the area. Dupont has 1,100 workers, and we also have United Technologies located here. We are aiming to get more American-based high-tech firms to locate here.

Americans like our high level of education and the loyalty of our work force and friendly people and the beautiful area.

Ask any of the Americans who have come here. They will all say how good it is. They will tell you that they do not want to leave Derry.

**What are your views on being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year for your work in bringing about a cease-fire in Northern Ireland?**

I have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the Socialist group in the European Parliament as well as by members of the US Congress. I am very honored to have received this nomination, but the real prize I want is peace for my people. ☺

# CALLING

## CALL CENTERS ARE THE

BY CHRISTINA BARRON

**F**or many US corporations their lifeline is a telephone wire. One call can solve a computer glitch for a frustrated customer, process an insurance claim, or book travel plans. And American consumers have come to expect that these services will come toll-free.

In the past few years the American model of a call center—an office dedicated to helping people over the telephone—has been transplanted to Europe and has seen an explosion in interest. US and Asian firms are battling for a European presence to provide toll-free service to a market of 400 million. Such an endeavor has faced language barriers and technical challenges, but the country that has overcome these hurdles and rapidly is becoming the toll-free hub of Europe is Ireland.

Ireland is perhaps one of the last European nations widely associated with booming high-tech industry. But the pastoral island nation can boast a state of the art fiber optic telecommunications network, low labor costs, and an abundant young, multilingual work force. Government agencies also have embarked on a tremendous marketing campaign to en-

tice foreign firms into the European market and away from neighboring nations. The combination has proved successful as nearly 30 companies, such as Best Western, Digital Equipment, Gateway 2000, and KAO Infosystems, have set up pan-European call centers in Ireland.

**Help From the Government.** The concept of Ireland as a call center hub came about five years ago when Ireland's Industrial Development Authority put together a study that showed the country to be a favorable location for telemarketing services. Several factors, such as labor and infrastructure, were competitive with the rest of Europe, but the agency felt incentives were needed to create more interest, according to Oisín O'Connor, assistant project executive in the IDA's international services division.

The government agency had already used tax breaks to expand the country's manufacturing base, so it incorporated the idea for telecommunications operations. O'Connor said the 10 percent ceiling on corporate taxes was and is well below European neighbors. O'Connor said he believes the tax incentives will be in place for many years. "The rate is guaranteed until 2010, and we're optimistic we will get another extension if we're below the EU employment average," he said. The agency also sweetened the offer with rent subsi-

**US companies, including Dell Computer, have found Ireland to be a cost effective location for their call centers.**



# IRELAND

## NEW BOOMING BUSINESS

dies, capital, and training grants to incoming telecom firms.

The IDA then joined with Ireland's telecommunications agency, Telecom Ireland, in an effort to create a package deal. "Companies look at the quality and effectiveness of the telecom network no matter what the organization is involved in," said Margaret Malloy, marketing manager for Telecom Ireland. The agency had developed a \$3.7 billion fiber optic network in the late 1980s, which was ahead of many other European nations. When the proposal for marketing the country as a telecom hub came about, the agency retooled its pricing policies and began offering volume discounts for incoming and outgoing calls. The two agencies then launched a massive marketing campaign to lure companies to Ireland.

Global-Res International was one of the first companies to respond to the marketing effort. The Phoenix, Arizona-based service center, which handles bookings for 10 hotel chains such as Renaissance International, shelved plans to open a call center in the Netherlands after looking at Ireland, according to Cathal McCarthy, operations manager in Ireland. But government incentives were only part of the equation that drew Global-Res and others.

### A pan-European call center mandates transparency: A caller should have no inkling that the call is being taken in Ireland.

**Language and Education.** A pan-European call center mandates transparency: A caller should have no inkling that the call is being taken in Ireland. A German would find a German-speaking individual on the other end of the phone line. The same would be true of French, Spanish, or Italian.

McCarthy said Global-Res was impressed by the language capabilities of young people in Ireland. "The people here are fluent. If they're not, [the call center] will fall apart... Everybody here is at least bilingual, some trilingual," McCarthy said. The company's call center in Cork, now two and a half years old, with capabilities in nine languages takes calls from 15 European nations and Israel with capabilities in nine languages.

"Throughout history, Ireland's traditionally been known as the land of saints and scholars... Ireland's always been very focused on education," said Frank Murray, European business developer with KAO Infosystems. KAO, which markets its own brand of diskettes and also handles telemarketing for software companies, set up a call center in Dublin 18 months ago. The company boasts Russian- and Lithuanian-speakers among its 60 call center employees.

Even with the rapid growth in the call center industry in Ireland, neither McCarthy nor Murray foresee any problems attracting needed employees to their firms. The IDA reports that

some 20,000 Irish university students are studying a foreign language as a part of their coursework. The country's language training agency recently set up a database of multilingual people interested in working in the telecommunications industry. Telemarketing and technical support training also have taken off. "I'm at the point where I don't advertise," McCarthy said.

**Labor Costs.** The educational level of the young population might have been matched by other European nations, but Ireland also offered labor costs that were on the low end of the European scale. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1993 Irish companies compensated their employees in the manufacturing sector at a rate of \$12.18 per hour. European neighbors mostly faced higher costs, with Germany at \$25.71 per hour, France at \$16.23, and the Netherlands at \$19.95. Only Spain, Portugal, and Greece offered lower costs for the employer. Although the IDA does not have telecommunications salaries broken down by per hour costs, O'Connor said on average labor costs are 25 percent cheaper than in France and 30 percent cheaper than in Germany.

**Telecom Boom.** Ireland's resources coupled with its own marketing campaign has created a boom in the telecom sector. "I think the business in Ireland is going to literally explode in the next year," said Pat Cannon, technical support center manager for Creative Technology in Dublin. "You can't pick up a business magazine in Ireland and not read something about call centers." Cannon said Creative decided in the summer of 1993 to open a call center operation in Ireland for its computer add-ons, such as sound cards. The total setup time was 12 weeks, and the center serves all major European regions.

Cannon and others see the call center industry as becoming more high-tech in the future, more automated with a higher level of service. US toll-free callers already may connect with a Dublin technical support center to answer software questions. This service, called "interflow," may greatly reduce labor costs for call centers. With the transparency of the industry, "a super-center to handle calls worldwide is the next logical step," according to McCarthy. And the innovator of the call center concept, the United States, need not be the global hub, he said. McCarthy sees no reason why such a super-center could not just as well be situated on his island nation. ☺

*Christina Barron is a writer based in Washington, DC.*

**Michael D. Higgins is regarded in his native Ireland as an eccentric, a wispy, white-haired, 54 year old, hip, academic, and free-thinking poet, whose passionate love of literature, involvement in the developing world, and unpopular causes should have excluded him from mainstream politics. Instead, he's now enjoying a second term as Ireland's minister for arts and culture and happily helping to project on the international stage what he describes as his "island of imagination."**

**Hollywood Ireland? Michael D. Higgins, the gnomish minister for arts, culture, and the *Gaeltacht* (Irish Language) says he detests the description.**

**By Mike Burns**

"The appellation is awful," he asserts as he impishly confirms that his personally engineered tax breaks for big time movie producers encourage and help foster the California-style image of Ireland as a Euro-Hollywood.

Higgins—the Irish rarely use his official title, preferring to call him simply "Michael D"—is now very much a full-time politician with a rapidly growing influence on the European arts and culture stage.

But the transition from prophet and espouser of unpopular causes to respected government minister has not been easy—particularly within his own parliamentary constituency.

His early commitment to socialism in a mainly conservative country marked him as a controversial figure.

Later, as an alderman and mayor of the ancient west Ireland city of Galway, he refused to join in the general welcome for visiting President Ronald Reagan—not, he points out, because of personal anti-American bile but due to his passionate involvement in Central and South American affairs and his compassion for the poor and op-

# Michael D's

Michael D. Higgins with two world-famous celebrities, U2 guitarist The Edge (left) and *Schindler's List* star Liam Neeson (center).



pressed. The US government's policies were patently wrong, he still argues with heartfelt conviction.

Ironic then that the one-time lecturer in sociology and politics should now be using Ronald Reagan's Hollywood as a model launch pad for Ireland's rapidly growing movie industry—with Higgins, traditionalist, and Gaelic speaker, as the guiding force.

His ministerial department, embracing all aspects of the visual arts and culture (including broadcasting), was seen as a Higgins self-creation—a post in a coalition government which would act as a plaything, keeping him happy and happily away from weightier and less-exotic areas of mundane but more important decision-making.

“Michael D has his toy and that should keep him out of mischief,” one government colleague said dismissively at the time. That was in January 1993.

But instead of silently sitting back and basking in his new ministerial role, he strode into cabinet meetings and argued at length that investment in the promotion of artistic and cultural expression could have a dramatic im-

stories with low budgets. But the big-budget films tend to dominate.

And the names of producers and stars involved read like a Hollywood roll call: Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*; Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman in *Far and Away*; the made-for-television *September* with Michael York and Jacqueline Bisset; *Words Upon the Window Pane* with Geraldine Chapman and Geraldine James; *Scarlett* (the sequel to *Gone With the Wind*); Peter Ustinov in Charles Dickens' *The Old Curiosity Shop*; and Colin Lane in *Broken Harvest*.

Currently underway is *Moll Flanders* with Norman Freeman. *Interview With the Vampire* director Neil Jordan has just started *Michael Collins* with *Schindler's List* star Liam Neeson as the Irish revolutionary and Julia Roberts as his girlfriend. *Last of the High Kings* with Gabriel Byrne is also in production and the remake of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* began shooting in June.

Even Britain's Royal Family have got in on the act, with an Irish animated version of *Budgie the Little Helicopter*, a

# Isle of Imagination

pact on one of the key areas of government concern—unemployment.

Less than three years on, the Higgins' vision has led to the creation of thousands of new jobs in the Irish film and television industry—and a recognition, even among the hard-nosed Hollywood movie fraternity, that Ireland has much more to offer than green landscapes and ecologically friendly open spaces.

One of Higgins' first acts as minister was to reestablish the long-dormant Irish Film Board, which provides development and production financing to filmmakers. He linked this with a significant extension of tax relief for investment in film.

Wearing his broadcasting hat, he introduced new legislation which obliges Radio Telefís Éireann (RTE), the national broadcasting service, to establish closer links with the independent production sector by making financing available for the commissioning of independent television programs.

Higgins says that by 1999, 20 percent of all television expenditure will be devoted to independent productions. And, on top of that, he's established a third national television service for Irish (Gaelic) language broadcasting. *Telefís na Gaeilge* (ThaG) is due to go on the air in November 1996, with more than 700 hours of programs commissioned from the independent sector.

But his real successes, so far, have been in the movie world. From a previous norm of two to three films each year, there's been a dramatic increase in production with 12 major movies completed in 1993. Last year, 18 feature-length films and 11 major television dramas were underway. Currently, 21 films are underway.

Not all are blockbusters. Many are indigenous Irish

children's story by the former Sarah Ferguson, now the Duchess of York.

The main key to this upsurge in moviemaking is an extended Section 35 of the Irish Finance Act, which allows for generous state aid and tax breaks for investors. In return, all projects must make a significant contribution to the national economy and a minimum of 75 percent of production work must be carried out within the country.

An absolute maximum of 60 percent of the overall production costs may be raised by relevant investments and other criteria include the employment of Irish actors and technicians.

Not surprisingly, the result has been a massive increase in employment and a growing expertise in the indigenous film industry. Ardmore Studios at Bray in County Wicklow is enjoying almost round-the-clock use of its four studios. A second studio complex near the west coast city of Galway is now in the planning stage.

And even Ireland's small army is involved, providing soldiers as combatant extras in *Richard III* epic battle scenes (between stints as United Nations' peacekeepers on Middle East duties).

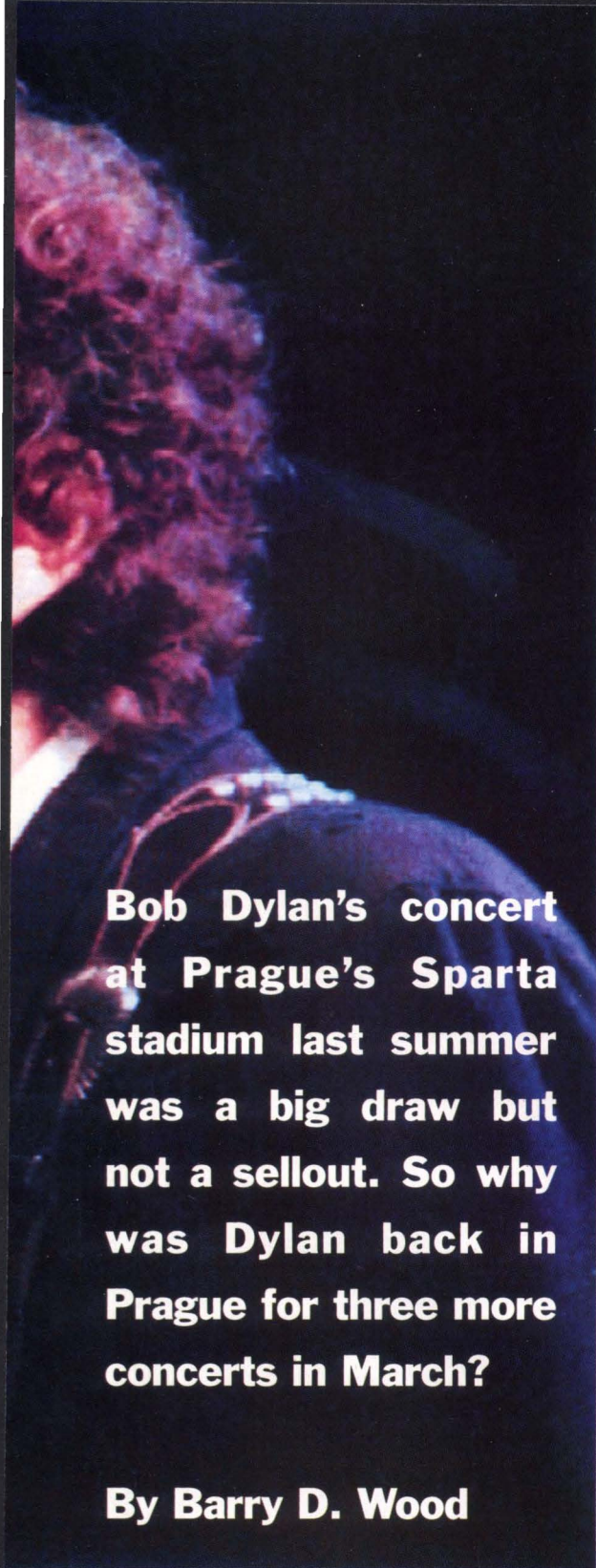
The big name stars say they enjoy filming in Ireland. They all receive the traditional Irish greeting *Cead Mile Failte* (a hundred thousand welcomes). Then they are left to their work, with little hassle from autograph hunters.

So modern day Ireland sounds like one giant film lot? It isn't. But it does have a growing reputation, potential huge spinoffs in tourism, and a belief that what Hollywood achieved in the past, Ireland can build on in the future. ☺

*Mike Burns, based in Dublin, profiled and interviewed Irish writer Maeve Binchy in EUROPE's March issue.*



# Culture Springs



**Bob Dylan's concert at Prague's Sparta stadium last summer was a big draw but not a sellout. So why was Dylan back in Prague for three more concerts in March?**

**By Barry D. Wood**

"You've got me," says *Prague Post* culture editor Richard Allen Greene. "But artists keep coming back," says Greene. "They know they're appreciated here, and they're impressed with the quality of the audiences." Whether it's Dylan, the Stones, or Pink Floyd these Western musical icons remain powerful symbols of freedom in post-communist Europe. And if you're playing the former East Bloc, there's no better place than magical Prague.

Beyond Prague's artistic tradition and unrivaled beauty, Czech President Vaclav Havel is the magnet that is drawing artists to the Bohemian capital. Shortly after the velvet revolution Frank Zappa roamed Prague castle as a kind of resident arts commissioner. So immense is Havel's reputation that in Australia recently Mick Jagger and Keith Richards held up their plane at Melbourne airport so that they could have a brief chat with the playwright president. As with Dylan and Pink Floyd, Havel no doubt will be in the crowd when the Stones' *Voodoo Lounge* show reaches Prague this summer.

For classical performers the lure is even greater. Who can resist playing the Stavovske Divadlo (Estates Theater), the little green jewel off old town square, where Mozart premiered and conducted *Don Giovanni* from the piano in October 1787? Indeed, the Prague Spring music festival has quickly emerged as a model for how to merge music and tourism. The six-week-long extravaganza, which in its own way flourished under communism, fills hotels as well as concert halls and leaves audiences clamoring for more. The festival enhances Prague's standing as the hottest tourist destination in Europe.

In a predictable, shopping mall-driven world, the emergence after 1989 of a grand medieval city, untouched by modern war in the center of Europe was an electrifying development. Colin Amery, architecture critic of the *Financial Times*, wrote that Prague's cultural fabric "has a rare density that is curiously enhanced by long years of neglect." He counseled those "with a sensitivity to the gentle movements of history and a penchant for the picturesque qualities of decay" to pay long visits to Prague. It is the awe that comes from strolling the Charles Bridge, built before Columbus sailed to America, that attracts a Tom Cruise (who just finished filming *Mission Impossible*) and a Bob Dylan.

Alan Levy is the old Czech hand and *Prague Post* editor who coined the durable phrase "Prague is the Paris of the 90s." Of course, there never were 20,000 young Americans in Prague, but Levy's dictum has taken on elements of self-fulfilling prophecy. On a recent Saturday at the Globe second-hand bookstore, a young American architect spread out blueprints for a preservation project next to his cappuccino. Upstairs the 20-something editors of *Trafika*, the acclaimed literary quarterly, were planning their next issue. Alongside the Vltava River embankment the fiercely controversial "Fred and Ginger" building rises next to the apartment building where the Havels once resided. Designed by Frank Gehry and Vlado Milunic, the avant-garde deconstructionist glass, concrete, and steel mid-rise resembles two dancers, with Ginger's flared dress sweeping out over the sidewalk. This is the artistic energy that Alan Levy was talking about at work.

But all is not well for the English language arts scene in Prague. Two of the city's four English language papers failed to survive the winter, and the English language radio station has gone off the air. Scornful of the triumph of free market economics and the ascendance of grotty capitalists, more than one artist in exile proclaims the Prague dream is over. The backpackers, they warn, face hard times earning enough money for the Rolling Stones' concert this August. ☹

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*Barry D. Wood is EUROPE's Prague correspondent.*

# Eternal in Prague

Europe's eastern operatic frontier is currently a scene of Byzantine struggle for power and prestige. There is little new or different here; scandal, backstabbing, and politics have always been essential components of self-respecting theaters.

Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, however, is unique, at least in two respects. It is big, as its name suggests. And its problems, easily corresponding to its size, are remarkable for the interest Russia's authorities traditionally have taken in the historic place. Neither is this surprising, for the Bolshoi's legendary reputation has translated over the decades—and never more than during the present century—into hard cash. More importantly, arguably, is the prestige attached to the old company. Proof of this is furnished every time it performs and the magnificent hall fills with foreign accents and wondrous faces searching out its fabled mystique. Giving witness to the Bolshoi's place in Russian life, Boris Yeltsin issued in March the second of his recent decrees whose aim was to eradicate decades of creeping institutional rot. Such political initiative is solid

evidence of art being too important an issue to leave entirely in the hands of squabbling artists.

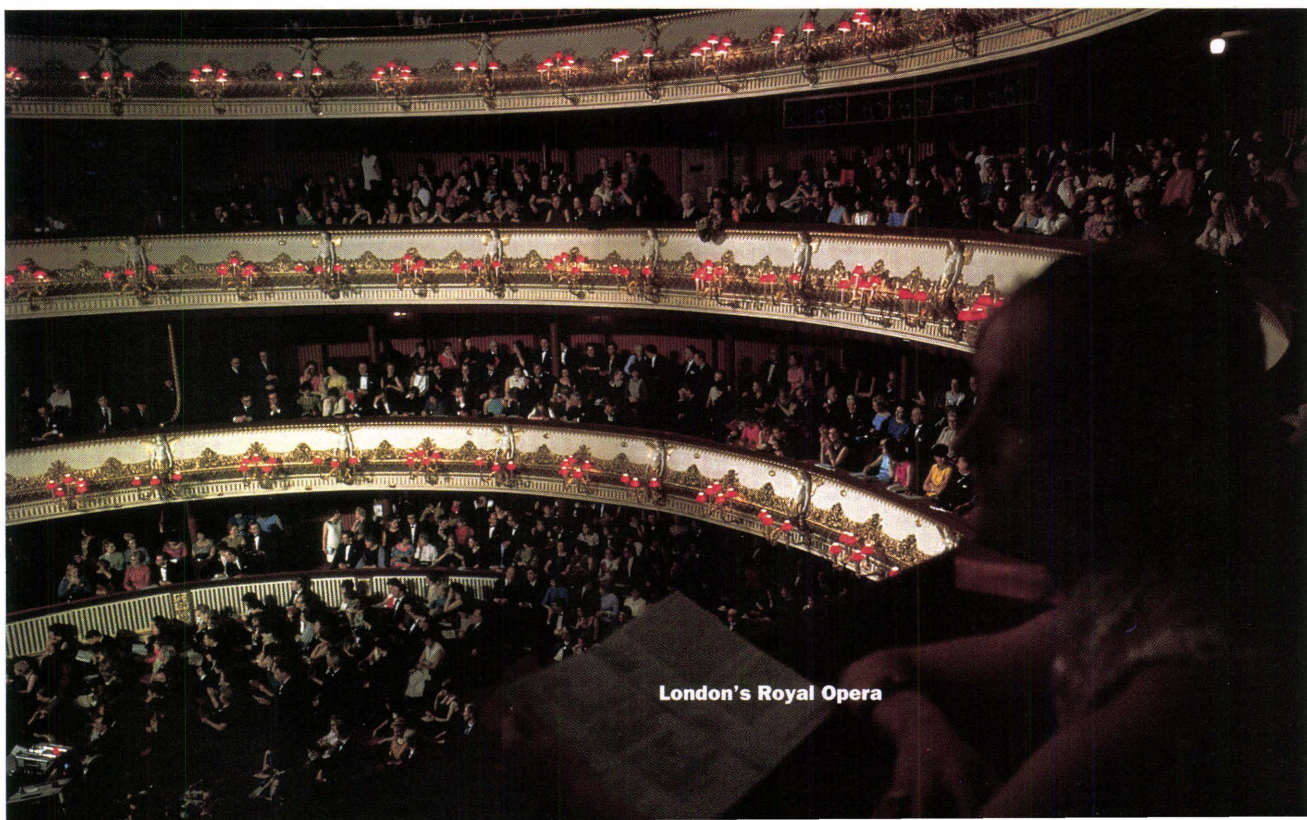
While in English-speaking countries such interference is mostly unheard-of—opera, ballet, and music being more or less appendages to local society—the Bolshoi, Scala, Vienna State, and a host of smaller theatrical enterprises are *intrinsic* elements of local life and mirror images of national cultures. "The Scala Theater is the city's salon," the great French novelist Stendahl wrote in 1816. "There is no society except there... 'We'll see each other at La Scala,' people say about every sort of matter." Nowadays when Italy's prominent public and political personalities gather from across the land to attend the season's opening performance, La Scala is literally symbolic of the entire nation.

Pietro Vetri, a celebrated 18th century Milanese political economist and law reformer, and no less renowned as a lifelong aficionado of theater, described La Scala's public as a "numerous gathering made up of as many groups of people as there are boxes, seeking to pass the evening by chatting and playing cards, taking pleasure in interrupting

By Kenneth Asch

# Palaces of

## The Revitalization of Europe's Opera Houses



London's Royal Opera





# Song

these (activities) by paying brief and cursory attention to a few interesting places." Across the corridor from each of the boxes stands a private cloakroom. Historically, this was used as a kind of pantry by footmen who conveyed food and drink for the wealthy family to enjoy while actually watching the performance.

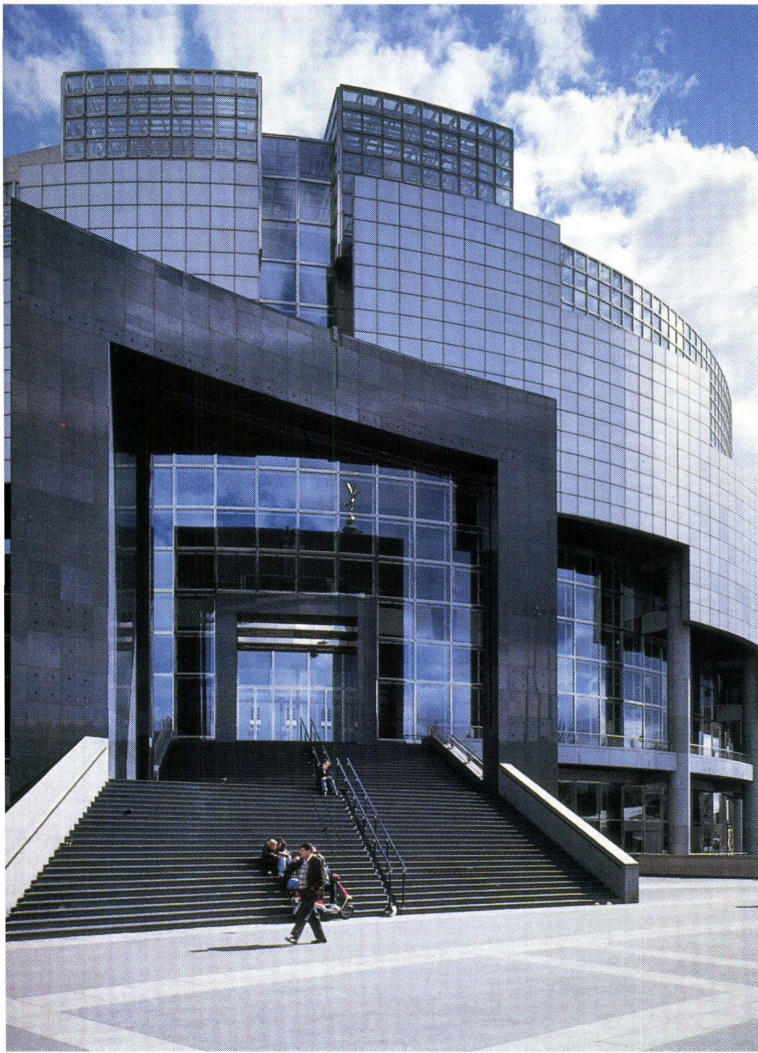
If this sounds like certain modern practices of couch-potatoing in front of the family television, it is simply proof that culture reflects time, place, and habit. Meanwhile, opera has been characterized by outstanding contributions it has made to city planning and architecture. Go to any European town and odds are better than even that one of the most striking public buildings will be the opera house. Moreover, it usually enjoys a central location surrounded by fine hotels, restaurants, and shops.

Vienna's massive *Staatsoper* (State Opera), which occupies just such a wonderful space, on one of the world's most celebrated boulevards, is a classic example. Built in 1869 by Hapsburg Emperor Franz-Joseph I in an age when Vienna was fairly bursting at the seams, the *Staatsoper* is absolutely unique. Its orchestra—a last bastion of male exclusivity—is unchallenged as the best in the business, not only while in the pit but in its even more legendary concertizing

guise as the Vienna Philharmonic.

Currently in the throes of a multi-million dollar refurbishment, the *Staatsoper* epitomizes Austria's subtle knack of mixing the best of fashions—traditional and contemporary—with a sense of stylish creativity. Peek around the back of the great building and what do you find? Built upon the foundation of the *Kärntnertor Theater*, where the ghost of Mozart surely hovers, is the glorious *Hotel Sacher*, second home to celebrities through the ages.

The Hapsburgs covered a lot of ground in their 600-plus years of European hegemony, and theater thrived everywhere under their auspices. Four years ago one of the most historic, the *Stavovske Divaldo* (Estates Theater) in Prague, reopened in a blaze of excitement celebrating Mozart's presence here 200 years earlier. Salzburg's famous son rewarded the musically literate Czechs, in whom he had found his most sympathetic public, with the world première of *Don Giovanni* at this theater in 1787. The Estates is an architectural jewel set in the very heart of this magnificent remnant of baroque Europe. According to theatrical rules of the age, Prague functioned in a provincial circle bounded by Venice's *Teatro La Fenice* in the south and Dresden's *Semper Opera*, a short journey north across the frontier with Saxony. Brill-



**Paris's Opera Bastille**

liant as this operatic constellation was in its heyday, current experience of performance in these glorious historic buildings leaves something to be desired.

In Berlin a wholly different cultural history is reflected in the presence of three opera houses, all boasting international reputations. Prussia's Frederick the Great started things off in the 18th century by spending an emperor's ransom on a beautiful building crowning another of Europe's famous avenues, the Unter den Linden. Despite the best efforts of war and politics to change the landscape, the "Linden Opera" has recently reclaimed, under the inspired leadership of Daniel Barenboim, its status as Germany's National Opera and finds itself at the epicenter of European reconstruction. A few moments' saunter under the famous linden trees in the direction of the Brandenburg Gate takes you past the Komische Oper, almost as historic as its neighbor while recently famous for its courageously imaginative productions designed to provoke the former communist regime. Having thus won its way into the heart and soul of the city, it is safe to claim that the "Komische" is the Berliner's favorite theater. This may not be enough to save it, however, in the struggle to surmount the city's unrelenting fiscal problems. Across the line where the Berlin Wall stood is the Deutsche Oper, West Berlin's answer during the cold war to its famous rivals on the Unter den Lin-

den. The Wall may have gone, but a political-cultural divide between east and west remains and has tended to focus on the relative values of the cultural enterprises in the "zones."

"If Covent Garden's prices continue to rise...it will soon be cheaper to take the Eurostar (train) to Paris and the Opéra de la Bastille or the lovely old Opéra Comique than to take the Tube from Clapham Common to a performance at the Royal Opera." In a nutshell this recent quote from *The Sunday Times* sums up what is wrong with London's opera and why it is almost impossible to beg, borrow, or steal a ticket in Paris. Britain's establishment, unable to articulate a sensible program of "culture" subsidy, has created the loony situation where this year's 300th anniversary celebration of composer Henry Purcell, one of England's greatest contributions to art (the French are known to rate him higher than Shakespeare), has been more easily accessible in Paris—more performances, cheaper tickets—than London.

Opera is popular in Paris because the price is right. Outside the Châtelet Theater during the recent Purcell run of *King Arthur*, upwards of 100 people could be counted on any of the eight evenings holding up placards begging for tickets at any price. Such is the enthusiasm that the Opéra Garnier, Paris's matchless "first" opera house, has been closed in order that staggering sums be spent on its renovation. A textbook example of how important cultural enterprise can be to the political establishment, the Opéra was a cornerstone in former French President François Mitterrand's "Great Projects."

**A textbook example of how important cultural enterprise can be to the political establishment, the Opéra was a cornerstone in former French President François Mitterrand's "Great Projects."**

Inevitably, many of Europe's opera houses, and some of the finest, must go unmentioned in a short treatment of the subject. Munich's "other" opera stages, both the National and Cuvilliers theaters, lovingly restored as soon after the war as was possible, are examples. Just two years ago Helsinki inaugurated Finland's first building dedicated to opera and ballet, a stunning achievement in public works and contemporary design. To omit St. Petersburg's Mariinsky (formerly the Kirov) Theater, which

owes its renewed energy and reputation to the extraordinary talents of artistic director Valerij Gergiev, deserves retribution of Dostoevskian dimensions. There are cities such as Graz, Zurich, and Basel where performances consistent with international standards may be enjoyed. This may be less true in Stockholm, Barcelona, and Brussels, Palermo, Genoa, and Naples, but in places such as these the visitor is still able to relax in sumptuous surroundings which recall an age when the opera house was an indispensable ingredient of everyday life. ☺

*Kenneth Asch is a journalist based in London.*

# *Inside* EUROPE

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## EU NEWS

### SANTER OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW WASHINGTON OFFICE

European Commission President Jacques Santer and Commission Vice-President Sir Leon Brittan cut the ribbon for the new headquarters of the



Washington Delegation of the European Commission shortly after meeting with President Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac at the White House. Among the key issues discussed in that meeting was a desire to redefine and strengthen the transatlantic relationship, particularly with regard to security and trade.

In keeping with the theme, Santer jokingly noted that the delegation's move last January to its new location three blocks farther from the White House should not be taken as a "symptom of Atlantic drift." After his speech Santer joined delegation staff and more than 600 guests including Attorney General Janet Reno at a lively reception to inaugurate the new facilities at 2300 M St., NW on June 14.

### CYPRUS AND MALTA MOVING TOWARD EU

Cyprus and Malta have signed agreements in Luxembourg that would pave the way for their entrance into the EU, placing them among the first countries that will be considered for the next round of expansion after the end of the EU's inter-governmental conference scheduled for next year.

### NEW CURRENCY AND EMU DISCUSSED AT CANNES

The leaders of the 15 European Union nations met in Cannes, France on June 25 and 26 and decided that 1999 was a realistic date to launch the EU's single currency. They agreed to adopt a name for the currency by the end of the year. European Parliament leader Klaus Haensch suggested adding the prefix "Euro" to the name of each of the 15 currencies. Thus, a French franc would become a Euro-franc, a British pound, a Euro-pound, and so on.

French President Jacques Chirac, host of the summit, made unemployment and job creation a centerpiece of the meeting as French joblessness continues to hover around 12 percent. EU leaders agreed to launch job-creating, continent-wide transport projects to help ease unemployment. Chirac also focused on Bosnia and discussed ways that the UN rapid reaction force would work in the near future. Carl Bildt attended the summit in his new role as EU mediator for Bosnia.

The leaders also agreed on a refinancing package for the European Development Fund, which provides assistance to developing nations in Africa, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and elsewhere. Also, a new financing package was agreed upon for Central and Eastern European countries.

While Chirac dominated the Halifax G7 summit in early June, the discussion in Cannes focused on British Prime Minister John Major, who resigned recently as the leader of Britain's Conservative Party

## EU NEWS (CONTINUED)

and said he would stand for reelection as leader of the party. Major now faces challenger John Redwood for control of the Conservatives. Also, British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd announced that he would soon resign from his position. Speculation centered on the British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as a possible replacement for Hurd.

### NEW FDP LEADER IN GERMANY

With a year's worth of political defeats still lodged in their short-term memory, Germany's liberal Free Democrat Party elected Wolfgang Gerhardt as its leader. Mr. Gerhardt's main challenge will be to define a strong identity for a party whose policies have largely been taken over by the Greens without jeopardizing FDP's role in the tenuous governing coalition with Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Party. Gerhardt defeated former economics minister Jürgen Möllemann in the vote to replace Klaus Kinkel as leader of the FDP.

### SWEDEN TO CUT SPENDING

In keeping with the EU economic criteria for monetary union, Sweden will cut spending by \$2.2 billion in the coming year. In a period of slow economic growth and severe budget deficits, Sweden's finance ministry

sees no room for raising taxes, and is looking instead at carving out a leaner welfare state. It is believed that privatization will also enrich the national coffers by about \$7 billion over the next four years.

### FRANCE INTENDS TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING

Provoking angry responses from many governments and ecologists worldwide, French President Jacques Chirac announced that France would target the Moruroa Atoll for eight nuclear explosion tests. The French decision comes on the heels of another extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty signed by 180 states. France hopes to sign a comprehensive test ban treaty next May, after the eight tests.

### CHECHEN REBELS LEAVE RUSSIAN TOWN

After releasing hundreds of hostages, Chechen rebels left the small town of Budennovsk in six buses, taking with them journalists, medical staff, and other volunteers as assurance against Russian reprisals along the road back to Chechnya. The move follows Russia's concession on several key demands, even though Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin restated his government's denial of Chechen independence.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Jaguar**, the luxury car manufacturer, boosted worldwide sales by 40 percent to an eight-year high in the first five months of 1995 with America buyers spending more than \$400 million.

The company expects to produce more than 40,000 cars this year compared with 32,000 in 1994 of which 75 percent will be sold in 60 markets abroad.

Jaguar's revival has boosted hopes that its American parent **Ford** will approve a \$750 million investment for a new smaller model to be built in Britain.

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**United Parcel Service**, the world's biggest parcel delivery company, will invest more than \$1 billion in Europe over the next five years adding to the \$1 billion it has spent over the past decade.

UPS acquired 16 European express companies between 1987 and

1992 and now employs more than 26,000 people in the continent.

Atlanta-based UPS has never made a profit in Europe despite impressive increases in revenues which reached \$1.4 billion, or 7 percent of its total revenues of \$19.6 billion in 1994.

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**Crown, Cork & Seal**, the largest packaging company in the US made an agreed bid worth \$5.2 billion for **CarnaudMetalbox**, the Anglo-French group.

The merged company will have yearly sales of more than \$10 billion.

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The Hungarian government is preparing to sell 40 percent of **Matav**, the national telephone company, in central Europe's biggest share offering that will raise more than \$1 billion.

The sale will complete a privatization begun in December 1993

with the disposal of 30.3 percent of Matav to **Deutsche Telekom**, the German telecoms monopoly, and **Ameritech** of the US.

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**Candy**, a privately-owned Italian household appliances group, acquired **Hoover**, the European unit of **Maytag** of the US, for \$170 million.

Candy, which is wholly owned by the founding Fumagalli family had sales last year of \$940 million.

Hoover, which has two plants in Britain and one in Portugal, only made an operating profit of \$1.2 million on sales of \$98.7 million in the first quarter of 1995.

The sale marks the end of Maytag's presence in Europe which was marred by a disastrous sales promotion by Hoover in 1992 which left the company nursing a \$75 million loss after 220,000 people in Britain and Ireland took advantage

*(continued after next page)*

The aftershock of the Mexican peso's collapse has been a humbling experience for the Group of Seven. When the leading industrialized nations met for their June summit in Halifax, their first order of business was to mitigate some of the risk of sharing the world economy with fast-growing nations still only flirting with market reforms.

Indeed, the G7 leaders from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the EU signed off on ways to better control their fate: with better surveillance and a multi-billion dollar emergency fund. First, they pushed for what costs the least and yields the most: requiring governments to publish economic and financial data in time for investors, bankers, aid donors, and other interested parties to avoid blind decisions. But they also had to pass the hat around to make a crisis fund available for shoring up an ailing economy whose health is critical to global well-being. Still smarting from its own fight to mobilize \$20-billion-plus for the Mexican bailout, Washington hopes that the hat won't return empty.

"The United States cannot be the lender of last resort to the world," US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin admonished. But with all of the G7 members on a strict budget diet, their chances of splurging to finance an international emergency fund are slim, even if the pooled effort is designed to benefit them. Going beyond their own coffers for contributions, the G7 will now try to tap cash-rich Asian and Middle Eastern nations.

Halifax heightened the G7 members' recognition that while they worry about putting the rest of the world into some semblance of financial order, they still have to mind their own internal problems and their impact on the developing world.

The US, which provided the most horsepower in the G7's drive from recession to recovery, is now skidding. Joblessness is edging up and income growth is declining. Many observers caution that those trends could throw the economy back into recession.

Unemployment rates remain stubbornly high in Europe. This is the most pressing problem for new French President Jacques Chirac. Trying to beat back a 12.2 percent unemployment rate by subsidizing jobs for youth and the long-term out of work, increase publicly funded housing, and boost the minimum wage—Mr. Chirac could well send the deficit to a staggering high level and the franc into a slide. Even relatively high-growth countries cannot put their unemployed back to work. The persistently high yen has dampened prospects for Japanese firms and saddled them with large inventories.

"There is a real danger of a simultaneous slowdown in the G7 countries," says Robert Hormats, vice chairman of New York-based Goldman Sachs. Every G7 member has revised its economic forecast downward. Recession looms ahead, he says.

The G7 partners need not look beyond their own club for the importance of averting risk. The US-Japan

auto dispute, which threatened to turn into a full-scale trade war, showed G7 divisiveness at its worst.

While President Clinton was threatening to impose punitive tariffs on imports of Japanese luxury cars because of Japan's closed auto market, there was no G7 support for his contention that the entire world stands to gain from Washington's efforts to pry open the Japanese market.

In Halifax, Jacques Santer, the European Commission's new president, appeared with Sir Leon Brittan, who earlier condemned the US for employing unilateral measures in violation of the new World Trade Organization's rules. But Sir Leon reached his own separate EU auto trade agreement with Tokyo, a move that further isolated the US and showed just how fractious the G7 can be.

On support for international organizations such as the United Nations and on prickly problems including Bosnia and Chechnya, the G7 was hardly the consensus group it was originally designed to be.

There is simply too much on the G7 plate, charges Chirac, who will host next year's summit in Lyon, France. He intends to limit the summiteers' menu to a few choice selections so they can better focus and perhaps work toward coordination.

—Amy Kaslow

### WHAT THEY SAID

**"Don't talk to me about wars of religion. These people have no faith and know no law. They are terrorists."**

—Jacques Chirac, French president, on the subject of Serbian aggression

**"There has to be a political process and that has not been there for some time."**

—Carl Bildt, EU mediator for the conflict in ex-Yugoslavia

**"From now to the end of the summer, it is possible to prepare the conditions to a return to democratic normality through electoral and civil confrontation that cannot be postponed any longer."**

—Silvio Berlusconi, former Italian prime minister, announcing that he will lead his Forza Italia movement in fall elections

**"I'm not saying the Swedes are doing badly or the Austrians are doing badly, but I think the Finns are doing very well."**

—Peter Ludlow, director of the Center for European Policy Studies

**"I think the Atlantic Alliance does not have a leader."**

—Jacques Chirac, French president

**"If there are any misperceptions that have been created, no doubt I will correct them in my memoirs."**

—John Major, British prime minister, on his predecessor Margaret Thatcher's new autobiography

## BUSINESS BRIEFS (CONTINUED)

of its offer of free airline tickets to Europe and the US for every purchase worth more than \$150.

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**ICI**, the British chemicals group, became the world's biggest paint maker with a \$350 million acquisition of **Grow**, the US paint firm.

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France's new government relaunched its privatization program with the announcement of the sale of **Usinor Sacilor**, Europe's biggest steelmaker that is expected to raise more than \$4 billion.

Usinor Sacilor, which transformed a loss of \$1.16 billion in 1993 to a profit of \$306 million in 1994, is pushing for a quick sale to take advantage of the strong recovery in steel prices.

Alain Juppé, the new French prime minister, is aiming for privatization proceeds of around \$10 billion this year to help cut the budget deficit and finance job creation schemes.

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The Belgian government has drawn up a short list of five international consortia which are bidding for a 25 percent stake worth around \$1.5 billion, in **Belgacom**, the Belgian state telecommunications company, which reported record profits of \$336 million in 1994.

The sale will be Western Europe's first and biggest telecoms acquisition so far in the run up to the liberalization of the European Union's telecommunications market in 1998.

The contenders are **British Telecom** and **Bell Atlantic** of the US, **Koninklijke PTT**, the Dutch telecoms company, **Stet**, the Italian state-owned telephone operator, and **Ameritech** of the US.

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Three of Europe's leading aircraft manufacturers, **British Aerospace**, **Aerospatiale** of France, and Italy's **Alenia** formed a joint venture to build a new regional short-haul cargo plane.

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**Interbrew**, the acquisitive Belgian brewer, is buying Canadian beer and entertainment company

**John Labatt** in a \$1.95 billion deal that will catapult the firm from seventeenth to sixth place in the global brewing league.

The friendly bid, which topped a hostile \$1.67 billion offer by **Onex**, a Toronto-based investment trust, will increase pressure on privately owned Interbrew to go public.

Interbrew, whose best-known beer is **Stella Artois**, has already acquired breweries in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Croatia and is active in the Chinese market.

Interbrew is expected to quickly dispose of Labatt's non-beer interests, worth around \$725 million, which include Canadian cable television stations and 90 percent of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

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**Ing**, the Dutch banking and insurance group, opened the first office of a foreign financial firm, in Vladivostok, the port city in far east Russia.

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**Deutsche Telekom**, Germany's giant telephone monopoly is sprucing itself up ahead of next year's sale of shares to private investors.

Europe's largest telephone company cut its losses to \$213 million in 1994 from \$1.15 billion in 1993 and signed up 1.2 million new customers in the former East Germany.

Chief executive Ron Sommer, the former president of **Sony's** European operations, who joined Deutsche Telekom in March, predicted an improved result in 1995 as 10,000 jobs will be eliminated, cutting the payroll to 215,000 and 1 million new lines will be opened in the east.

The government plans to raise around \$11 billion by selling a minority stake in Deutsche Telekom to domestic and foreign investors, starting in mid-1996.

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**British Airways** and **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines** continued to outperform their state-owned European rivals, reporting sharply higher profits on the back of record passenger and freight traffic.

KLM made a record net profit of \$299 million in the 1994-95 finan-

cial year, more than quadrupling the \$66 million profit in the previous year and enabling the company to pay its first dividend since 1991-92.

Chairman Pieter Bouw said KLM's profitability and financial strength meant it will not be rushed into seeking a European partner in response to the recent alliances between **Lufthansa** and **Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS)** and **Swissair** and **Sabena**.

British Airways reported a pre-tax profit of \$718 million in the year ended March 31, up 62 percent on the previous year.

BA wrote off nearly half of its \$400 million investment in **USAir**, the troubled US carrier in which it has a 24.6 percent stake.

BA chairman Sir Colin Marshall said the airline had received benefits worth \$100 million during the year from its alliance with USAir through sharing facilities and transferring passengers.

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The Spanish government is mulling a partial privatization of **Iberia** in a bid to convince the European Commission to approve a \$1 billion aid package for the financially troubled state-owned airline.

The Commission has said it can't approve the state aid in its current form and has demanded substantial changes. Iberia received a \$1 billion government handout in 1992 and the current package breaches the Commission's policy that airlines can only be bailed out once.

—Bruce Barnard

### INSIDE EUROPE Correspondents

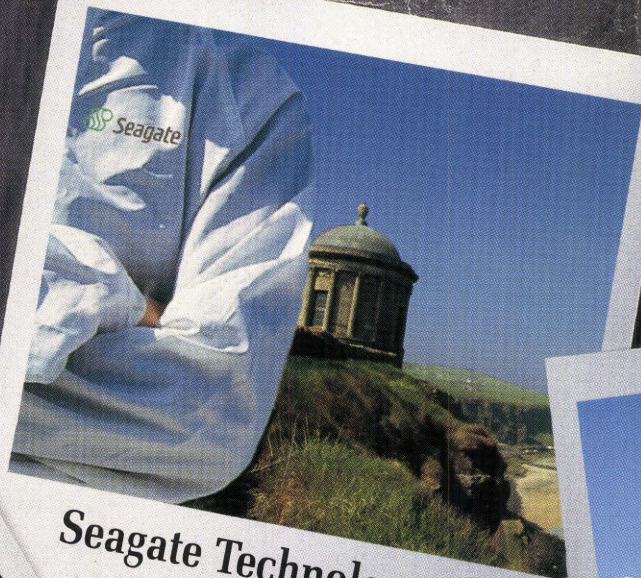
Bruce Barnard  
Amy Kaslow

Reuters contributed to news reports in this issue of *Inside Europe*.

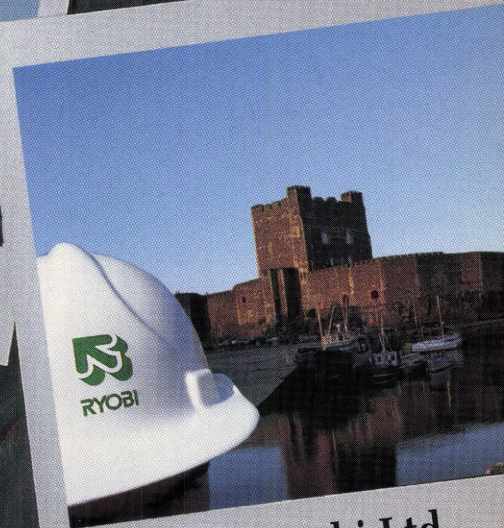
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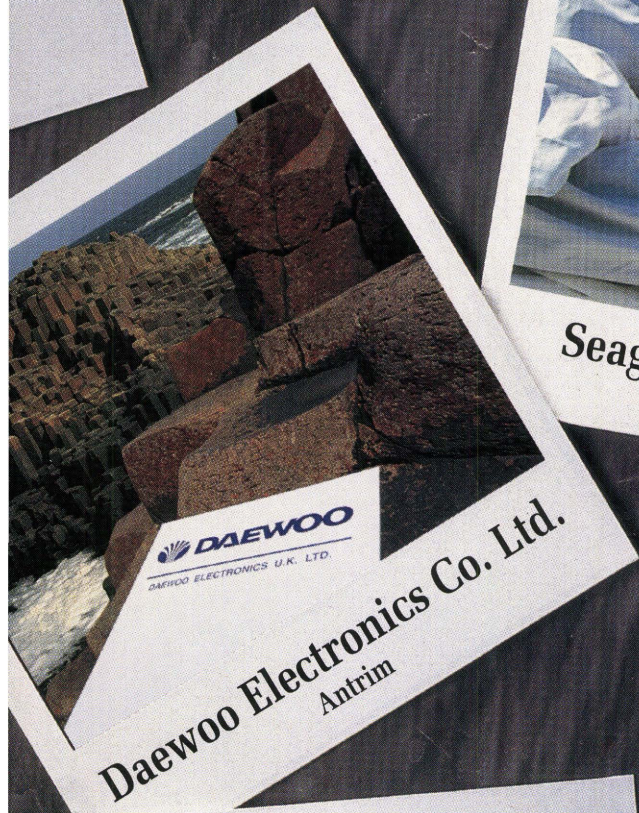
# You'll find parts of the world all over Northern Ireland.



**Seagate Technology Inc.**  
Londonderry



**Ryobi Ltd.**  
Carrickfergus



**Daewoo Electronics Co. Ltd.**  
Antrim



**Fruit of the Loom Inc.**  
Londonderry

Many factors attract companies from around the world to locate in Northern Ireland:

- *Highly productive workforce*
- *Available skills in advanced technology*
- *Access to world markets*
- *Attractive investment incentives*
- *Best labour relations in the UK*
- *State-of-the-art infrastructure and telecommunications.*

If you are interested in finding out more about Northern Ireland's success story, we're interested in meeting you.




By Robert J. Guttman

"Northern Ireland is a great place even if you don't play golf," Lord Rathcavan, the chairman of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, explained to me at his beautiful manor house located a half-hour outside of Belfast.

"Northern Ireland is unspoiled, unpolluted, with friendly people, and a beautiful countryside. We are an environmentally clean destination. Hot, passive destinations are no longer in fashion. Cool, active places like Northern Ireland are popular today," says Lord Rathcavan.

Personally, I don't think people will be giving up going to the Côte d'Azur or the Algarve or Italy in place of cooler climates, but for a purely interesting place to visit Northern Ireland would have to be near the top of the list.

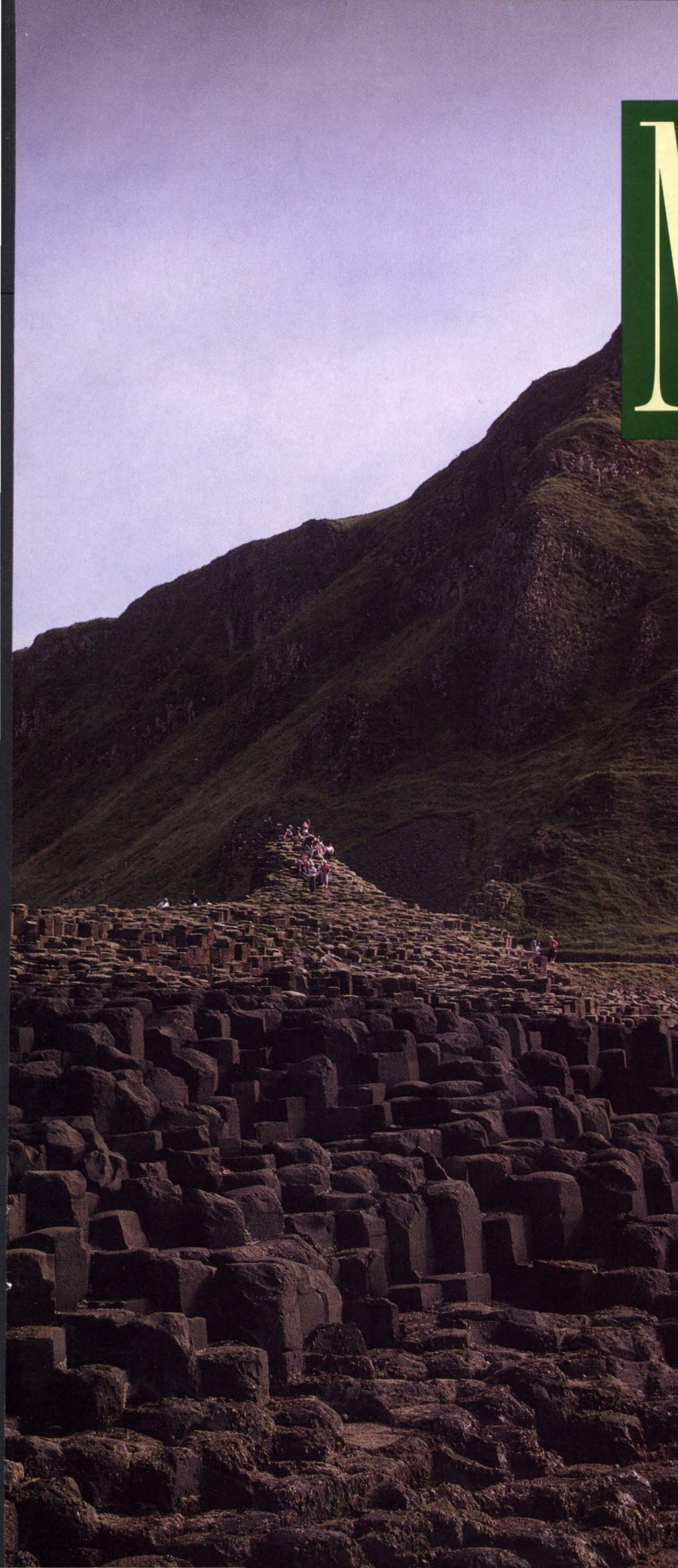
Giant's Causeway in County Antrim



# NORTHERN IRELAND

YOU WILL NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU GO!





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any tourists, especially Americans, do come to play golf at Northern Ireland's championship courses at Portrush and Portstewart and then go on to Scotland to play other famous links.

When many potential tourists think of Northern Ireland they think quite positively of golf, but also less positively of what are known locally as "the Troubles" that have beset this area for the last 26 years.

"Peace can't be anything but good for all of us," says John Toner, general manager of the Europa Hotel in downtown Belfast. The hotel is well known as a place where journalists stay and also because of the fact that it "has been bombed at least 30 times." Mr. Toner mentioned this fact quite calmly to me as if it was part of doing business in Belfast over the past several decades.

It cannot be denied that Northern Ireland has had a fairly negative image around the world in the past, before the current cease-fire. Before I journeyed to this beautiful land I only knew of Belfast and Derry through news reports on bombings and other terrorist activities. I must admit I was a little apprehensive before I boarded the train from Dublin to Belfast.

However, as I settled back on the train and watched the beautiful countryside roll by with quick glimpses of the sea I began to feel more relaxed. When I arrived in Belfast and didn't see any troops patrolling the streets (since the cease-fire, they remain in their barracks). I became even more at ease and began to enjoy my adventure to Northern Ireland.

Although Lord Rathcavan informed me that 65 percent of all Americans visiting Northern Ireland come through London, I would definitely recommend the short (about two and a half hour) train ride from Dublin. After visiting the Europa Hotel I ventured across the street to the famous Crown Liquor Saloon where in the past many a foreign journalist has sat and had a pint or two while on assignment to cover the Troubles.

The Crown Liquor Saloon sports gorgeous stained glass windows, a granite-topped bar, a mosaic tile floor, and booths resembling church pews where you can close the door and have a quiet conversation. The Crown, formerly a railway hotel, was built in the mid-1880s.

The surrounding areas outside the city offer much to see for the traveler who has access to a car. When I heard there was an exhibit about the Titanic, which was built in the shipyards of Belfast, at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, I headed out of town to view this unique maritime display.



**Dunluce Castle overlooking the North Atlantic in County Londonderry**

The exhibit, although small, was very informative and interesting, especially to a person like myself who has always been fascinated by the sinking of the Titanic. The exhibit featured photographs taken by survivors and other rare photos of the elaborate and elegant rooms on the Titanic. The advertisements for the ship were extravagant, and the exhibit presents copies of these ads which “reflected the self confidence of the age.”

After leaving the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, which has other excellent displays on automobiles, bicycles, and trains, I passed by the shipyards with their huge cranes reaching into the sky and was reminded not only of the tragedy of the Titanic but also of a more positive aspect—Belfast is still building ships in the 1990s.

**My favorite attraction along the northern Causeway Coast from Belfast to Londonderry was Dunluce Castle on the Antrim Coast, two miles west of Bushmills.**

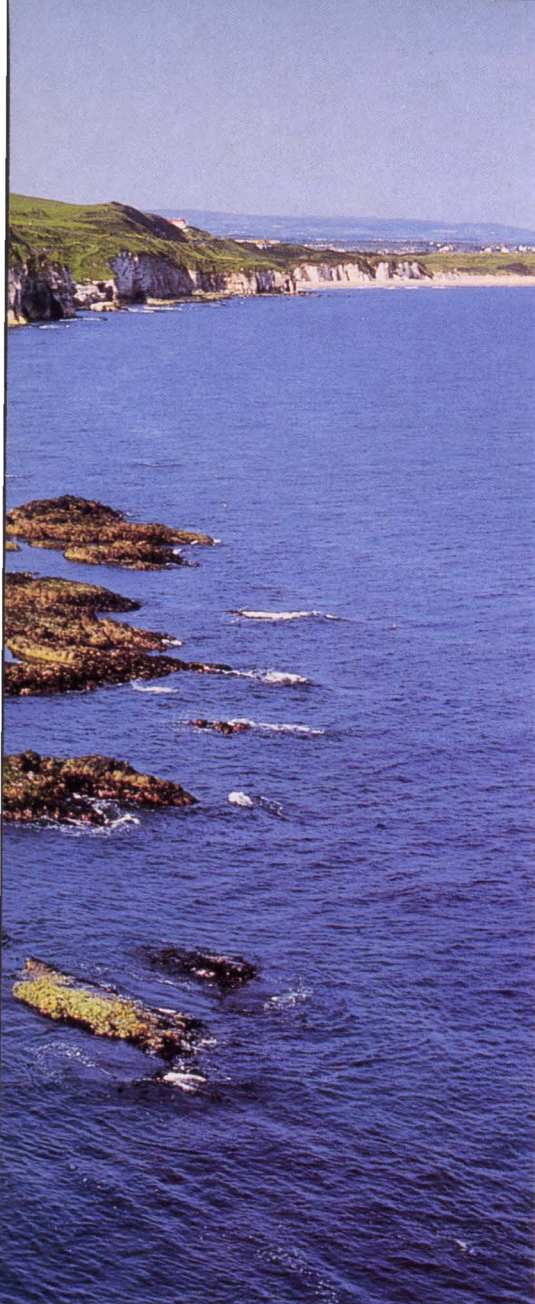


Along the way, I stopped off at Belfast Castle, a wonderful place to have afternoon tea and look at the beautiful scenery, including a view of the Belfast Lough. Set on a hillside 400 feet above sea level it is the perfect place to get an overview of the city of Belfast and the surrounding area.

The Chichester Room of the castle is a popular place for weddings and other functions. When I was visiting the castle, several confirmation parties were in progress.

Adjoining the castle is a colorful garden called “Cat’s Garden” which is supposed to bring good luck to anyone who walks through it. The garden was partially supported with money from the European Union’s Regional Development Fund.

When my guide told me I had been



My very large room featured a canopy bed and a bathroom larger and more elegant than any I can remember in any large four-star hotels. The view outside my bedroom window was of Ms. Noble's gorgeous gardens.

As I discovered, gardening and the love of flowers is popular across Northern Ireland. From the most famous garden in the country at Mount Stewart, which is world renowned, to Ms. Noble's 12-acre garden to gardens in all the small towns across the region, one quickly realizes that beautiful flowers and flower arrangements are an integral part of life in Ulster.

I also discovered along my travels that the Northern Irish connection to the United States is everywhere in evidence. A tourist can visit the ancestral homes of American presidents Chester Alan Arthur, Ulysses S. Grant, Woodrow Wilson, and Andrew Jackson. Another famous American family, the Mellons, originated from Northern Ireland. The Ulster-American Folk Park is built around the old Mellon house.

After my interview with Lord Rathcavan, I drove through the Glens of Antrim area with its splendid waterfalls and outstanding scenery. You can almost forget the intermittent rain, which seems to fall every few minutes, when you view the deep green fields and the spellbinding cloud formations appearing over the mountains.

Driving along the coast with each passing small town appearing to be more charming and postcard-perfect

than the next, I stopped for tea at the small village of Carnlough at an inn once owned by Winston Churchill.

Stopping at Ballycastle I viewed the nearby island of Rathlin. Visitors can take a short boat ride and visit this island, little changed in this century.

Before coming to Northern Ireland I had seen pictures of the Carrick-a-rede rope bridge, which connects the mainland to an island. In the pictures it looks fairly harmless to cross. In reality this flimsy-looking rope bridge, which swings precariously 80 feet above the ocean, is very frightening. This is probably part of its appeal. It is very unstructured. One just walks out a ways and sees this very narrow bridge with a narrower board path in the middle, grips the rope handrails, and, without looking down, crosses over to the small island.

The rope bridge gives fishermen access to the commercial salmon fishery on the other side of the island except during winter, when the bridge is taken down.

Crossing was really scary, but I am glad I dared and have pictures to prove my bravery!

Tourists visiting the coast can visit Bushmills, the home of the world's oldest legal whiskey distillery. After a tour of the distillery you get to taste the product, making a visit to Bushmills an obvious favorite among tourists.

My favorite attraction along the northern Causeway Coast from Belfast to Londonderry was Dunluce Castle on

booked into a country guest house, I was not too excited as I like to stay in hotels in the center of cities. I was thinking I would be in a tiny bed-and-breakfast.

I was in for a wonderful surprise. Country guest houses in Northern Ireland are *the* places to stay. They are really very comfortable, with friendly proprietors who go out of their way to make your stay in their house enjoyable.

I stayed at the lovely Oakhill Country House located a few miles outside of Belfast. The owner, May Noble, makes her guests feel as if they are part of her family, giving them full run of the house. She is an excellent cook who made a large Irish breakfast consisting of eggs, coffee, and a delicious assortment of fresh potato, soda, and wheat breads served with homemade jams every morning.



Carrick-a-rede rope bridge,  
County Antrim

the Antrim Coast, two miles west of Bushmills.

As the official Dunluce Castle guidebook states, "The dramatic ruin of Dunluce Castle forms the remains of the largest, most sophisticated castle of the Northern Ireland coastline."

I found this castle fascinating. You could almost feel how people lived more than 400 years ago. You could al-

the ocean to go to her. It is a wonderful legend.

While visiting Derry, I stayed at the charming and elegant Beech Hill Country House Hotel, located two miles out of town. The Beech Hill is set in a beautiful garden with tennis courts and an area called "Country Walk" where you can take an hour-long walk through the grounds.

When I left Northern Ireland to return to Dublin I flew out of the newly renovated Derry airport on Jersey European Airlines. In fact, I was the only passenger on the flight. The airport has been partly financed, like so many other projects in Northern Ireland, by the EU's Regional Development Fund.

During our visit, Lord Rathcaven told me that "during the hard times (North-

**The food is first class, and the people working at Beech Hill could not be friendlier.**



most hear the MacDonnell family, who used to occupy the castle. You can visit the cave underneath the castle. The views from the castle are phenomenal. I highly recommend this attraction.

The most popular tourist attraction in all of Northern Ireland is the Giant's Causeway. The scenery at the causeway is staggering in its beauty. It appears as if all the rocks had been neatly planned and laid out by city planners. Of course, the causeway is a result of volcanic activity which produced these unique rocks and stones stretching into the ocean. "It is composed of thousands of strangely symmetrical basalt columns which jut out into the sea," says the official Giant's Causeway guidebook.

The legend behind Giant's Causeway and its name is that an Irish giant, Finn MacCool, found a girlfriend in Scotland and was building a path across

The Ardmore restaurant at the hotel provides delicious food prepared by a young Irish chef named Noel McMeel. When I arrived at 11 pm I told the desk clerk I was hungry and the kitchen prepared a gourmet meal for me even though the hour was late and the kitchen should have been closed. The food is first class, and the people working at Beech Hill couldn't have been friendlier.

**Beech Hill Country House, located just outside of Derry, is a lovely place to stay.**

ern Ireland) put in an infrastructure for tourism. We are ready for tourists."

For the first time, Aer Lingus will begin flights this summer from Boston and New York through Shannon to Belfast.

I came away from this beautiful region, with its outstanding scenery and very friendly people, convinced that if the cease-fire holds and terrorism becomes only a distant memory Ulster will become a very popular tourist attraction for Americans and Europeans alike.

The negative publicity on political and religious issues has obscured the fact that this is a great place to visit...even if you don't play golf. ☺

*Robert J. Guttman is EUROPE's editor-in-chief.*

### Traveler's Notebook

**Contacts:** Northern Ireland Tourist Board, 531 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10176-0799. Tel. (212) 922-0101; Fax (212) 922-0099.

#### Guest Houses:

**Oakhill Country House**, 59 Dunmurry Lane, Belfast BT17 9JR; Tel. (44) 232 610658; Fax (44) 232 621566

**Beech Hill Country House**, 32 Ardmore Road, Londonderry BT47 3QP Tel. (44) 504 49279; Fax (44) 504 45366

The thirty-fifth annual Jazz a Juan in Antibes will feature musical greats such as Wynton Marsalis and B.B. King.



“Give them a hunk of *focaccia* and a good show.”

—Juvenal, 1st century Roman satirist (loosely translated)

# Bread and Circus

By Tina Lund Andersen

Since even before Roman emperors instituted the concept of *pan et circensis* as a means of crowd management, both bread and festivals have had extraordinary significance in the lives of people in Europe. For the whirlwind tourist or the harried business traveler, there is perhaps no better time to experience both the local color and international flair of Europe than in the summer months, when villages and metropolises alike put forth their best and brightest in the form of festivals. Here is but a sampling of the musico-theatrical cornucopia, from the local to the international. The telephone numbers are written as they would be dialed from the United States, with the country or area code in parentheses. (Remember that for international calls from the US, you must dial 011 before the number.) For more information about the rest of the year, the national tourist offices are very helpful.

**AUSTRIA ■ 75th Salzburg Festival, Salzburg, July 25–August 31** ■ This is the place for optimal opera options. Performances include Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducting), and *Don Giovanni* (Daniel Barenboim at the baton), Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Verdi's *La Traviata*. The festival also offers orchestral opuses: George Solti and André Previn conducting the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Israel Philharmonic performing a Mahler program under the direction of the exuberant Zubin Mehta, to name but a few. Also not to be missed is pianist Maurizio Pollini playing Beethoven on August 19. This is but a sampling of the highest-caliber program of classical music available in one festival. Don't forget your *Bauernbrot!* ■ **Contact:** Salzburg Information Office, Auer-spergstrasse 7, 5020 Salzburg; Tel. (43) 662 80 450

**BELGIUM ■ Festival of Wallonia, Wallonia, July–October** ■ This growing international music festival combines music with sightseeing, as most of the concerts take place amid Belgian national treasures, with venues ranging from castles to Romanesque churches. For example, *Beloil Night* takes place on August 5 at the Castle of Beloil, and on every weekend in July and August the town of Durbuy hosts chamber music and classical recitals in its picturesque buildings. Bread to sample: *cramique*. ■ **Contact:** Belgian Tourist office, 780 Third Avenue, Suite 1501, New York, NY 10017; Tel. (212) 758-8130

**DENMARK ■ Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Copenhagen, July 7–16** ■ World-renowned and local jazz groups gather on street corners and in cafés in one of the world's jazz capitals. Guaranteed good atmosphere and satisfying performances from well-known professionals and accomplished amateurs. As substantial as thick Danish *rugbrød*. ■ **Contact:** Copenhagen Tourist Information Office; Tel. (45) 33 11 13 25

**Copenhagen Film Festival ■ Copenhagen, September 15–21** ■ One way to preview the 1996 Cultural Capital to be hosted in Copenhagen and see more than 100 productions by Danish and international directors. Tickets are available on site. ■ **Contact:** Danish Tourist Board,



**Copenhagen's renowned Jazz Festival begins July 7.**

655 Third Avenue, 18th Fl., New York, NY 10017; Tel. (212) 949-2333; Fax (212) 286-0896

**FINLAND ■ Sibelius Festival, Loviisa, September 2–3** ■ "Music in the surrounding of Sibelius' youth." To be enjoyed with Finnish flatbread. ■ **Contact:** City Tourist Office, PO Box 77, 07901 Loviisa; Tel. (358) 9 15 532 322

**FRANCE ■ Festival d'Avignon, Avignon, July 7–31** ■ As the old folk song goes, *Sur le pont d'Avignon, on y danse on y danse....* Not only dance, but also theater and orchestral performances make up this avant-garde festival, lesser known than that of its neighboring town, Aix-en-Provence (July 11–30), although no less exciting, especially for sharpeners of the cutting edge. Bread: *Baguette* or *boule, bien sûr!* ■ **Contact:** Tel. (33) 90 82 67 08

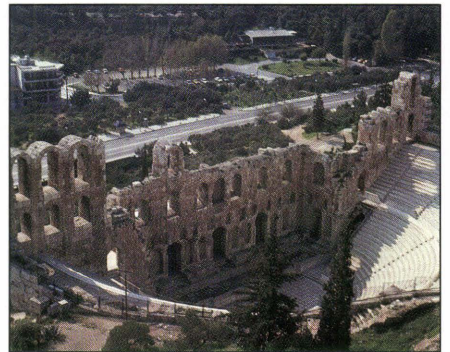
**Jazz à Juan ■ Antibes/Juan-les-Pins, July 17–26** ■ The thirty-fifth annual International Jazz Festival in the pine forest. This year's program reads like a booking agent's fantasy, with Wynton Marsalis, B.B. King, Etta James, Sonny Rollins, David Sanborn, and many more of the best in jazz and blues congregating in Picasso's town. With the *Fondation Maeght* nearby, this is a perfect destination for a vacation focusing on the soaring artistic achievements of the 20th

century. ■ **Contact:** Tel. (33) 92 90 53 00

**GERMANY ■ Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, June 24–August 20** ■ Hamburg, Rendsburg, Flensburg, Lubeck, Bad Segeberg, and other towns

Throughout Schleswig-Holstein, the northernmost state in Germany, towns will host a wide variety of primarily European groups performing in cathedrals, mansions, barns, and castles. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter performs in Lubeck on August 18. Instead of bread try the Lubeck marzipan (just to go against the grain). ■ **Contact:** German National Tourist Office; Tel. (212) 661-7200; Fax (212) 661-7174

**Richard Wagner Festival, Bayreuth, July 25–August 28** ■ If the Schleswig-Holstein festival is the gentle cycle, why not go through the Ring Cycle at the annual Bayreuth Festival? From *Tannhäuser I* to *Götterdämmerung III*, the month of August is filled with the sounds of Wagner. ■ **Contact:** Bayreuth Festival Tickets; Tel. (49) 917 8780



**Athens's Odeon amphitheater.**

**GREECE ■ Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Athens, June–September** ■ The Odeon just below the Acropolis seats about 5,000 people and is a unique combination of ancient styles and modern conveniences. The festival draws companies and artists from around the world to show their theatrical, musical, operatic and balletic stuff in what is certainly one of the oldest performance spaces in Europe. Have a *pita* picnic. ■ **Contact:** Greek National Tourist Organization; Tel. (212) 421-5777

**Theater of Epidaurus, Epidaurus, July–August** ■ From the Bacchanalian to the Oedipal, the topos here is ancient Greek drama performed by the companies of the National Theater of Greece

in Thessaloniki and other Greek and foreign troupes. Time travelers, this one's for you. Located in the northeastern Peloponnese (across the Saronic Gulf from Athens), the 14,000-seat theater is more than 2,500 years old! ■ **Contact:** Greek National Tourist Organization; Tel. (212) 421-5777

**IRELAND ■ Galway International Oyster Festival, Galway, September 21–24** ■ The pearl of mollusk celebrations, we think (at least in Europe). Definitely a public festival, as the pubs around town promote their catch along with their draft. They probably also sell Irish soda bread. ■ **Contact:** Irish Tourist Board; Tel. (212) 418-0800

**LUXEMBOURG ■ European Union Youth Orchestra, Luxembourg Conservatoire, July 30 and August 10** ■ Two concerts by the 140-member orchestra which is considered a feeder to top European orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic. On July 30, the program is Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, and on August 10 Martha Argerich plays Liszt's *First Piano Concerto*. No loafing around here; in this internationally oriented town, bread comes in all kinds. *Note:* Luxembourg, as the 1995 Cultural Capital, will be presenting numerous other cultural activities throughout the remainder of the year as well. ■ **Contact:** Tourist Board of Luxembourg; Tel. (212) 935-8888

**NETHERLANDS ■ Heineken Jazz and Blues Festival, Rotterdam, August 24–27** ■ At press time full details were not available. The tourist board can provide more information, including whether *roggebrood* goes best with edam or gouda cheese. ■ **Contact:** Netherlands Board of Tourism; Tel. (312) 819-0300

**Westfriese Folklore, Schagen, June 29–August 31** ■ A folkloric festival featuring sheep shearing, children's games, and demonstrations of old trades. ■ **Contact:** DHR W. Vand der Voort, Rensgars 5, 1741 BR, Schagen, Holland; Tel. (31) 2240-15456

**PORTUGAL ■ Our Lady of Agony Festival, Viana Do Castelo, August 18–20** ■ In puzzling contradiction to its name, this festival features what is described as a "funfair," dancing, colorful religious al-



**The Rättvik Folklore Festival will offer plenty of Swedish folk dancing.**

legoric processions, and fireworks. Sounds painful indeed. ■ **Contact:** Portuguese National Tourist Office; Tel. (212) 354-4403

**Feira de Sant'Iago, Mirandela, July–August** ■ Shakespeare's Iago may be evil, but he was named after a saint. In the cool mountains of Portugal you can help celebrate St. Iago's day at a religious festival with lots of bright costumes and local color. Othello will not be in attendance. ■ **Contact:** Portuguese National Tourist Office; Tel. (212) 354-4403

**SPAIN ■ Cante de las Minas (Flamenco song contest), La Unión (Murcia), August 6–12** ■ This festival focuses on the miner's song subgenre of flamenco. Be prepared for *cante jondo*, or "deep song," that is judged on the performer's ability to display profound emotion during the song. ■ **Contact:** Council of La Unión, Ayuntamiento de La Unión, Antiguo Mercado; Tel. (34) 968 54 17 92; Fax (34) 968 54 08 04

**Feria y Fiestas de la Vendimia, Requena (Valencia), August 24–September 4** ■ For aficionados of the grape. There is more to Spanish wine than sherry, and at the Grape Harvest Fair and Festival near the Mediterranean city of Valencia, you can find a perfect libation to accompany your meal in this coastal region known for its delicious *paella*, a rice and seafood dish. ■ **Contact:** Tourist Office of Valencia; Tel. (34) 96 352 40 00; Fax (34) 96 394 27 98

**SWEDEN ■ Rättvik Folklore Festival, Dalarna, July 24–29** ■ The oldest and biggest folk festival in Sweden, with in-

ternational folk dancers and musicians. Sweden's fiddle tradition is alive and well, and Dalarna is the region where melodies and harmonies are passed along in jam sessions year-round. You can also put jam on your *tunnbröd*. ■ **Contact:** Swedish Travel & Tourism Council, 655 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017; Tel. (212) 949-2333

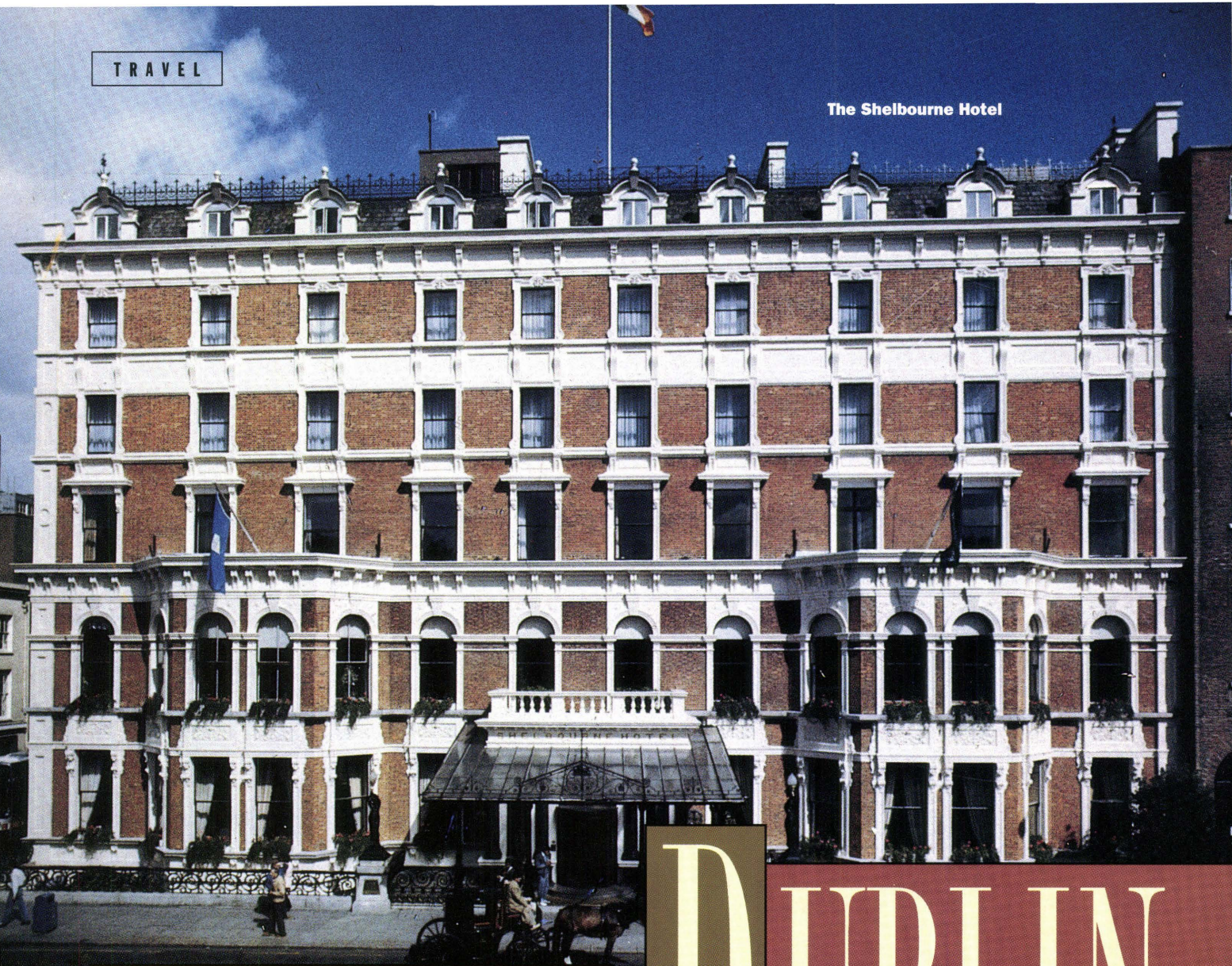
**Malmö Festival, Malmö, August 11–18** ■ As the summer draws to a close and a long winter looms ahead, this promises to be a very lively festival with music, exhibitions, and a dragon boat competition in this southernmost part of Sweden. An added incentive for adventurous gourmets to time your Sweden trip in mid-August is the "Sour Herring Premiere." Sour herring is herring that has been fermented and salted and sealed in a can. August 17 is the official date that the sale of the year's supply may begin and is marked by a ceremonial and pungent opening of a can. ■ **Contact:** Swedish Travel & Tourism Council at the above address

**UNITED KINGDOM ■ Three Choirs Festival, Gloucester, August 19–26** ■ Of the UK's cultural giants, some consider Henry Purcell to be more notable than even Shakespeare. In memory of the tercentenary of Henry Purcell's death, four commissioned pieces will be performed at this 268th meeting of Europe's oldest choral festival, including Francis Grier's *My Heart Dances* and Elinor Remick Warren's *The Legend of King Arthur*. Toast of choice: "Hovis" whole wheat. ■ **Contact:** The Festival Secretary, Community House, College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LZ; Tel. (44) 1-452-529 819

**Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh, August 13–September 2** ■ With 15 performances a day, all the major theaters and concert halls are put to use for dance, music, opera, and drama. Yo Yo Ma, the Kirov Opera, the Mark Morris Dance Group, as well as outstanding local performers make it especially worthwhile to plan a Scottish sojourn this summer. ■ **Contact:** Edinburgh International Festival, 21 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1BW; Tel. (44) 1-31-226 4001 ☎

*Tina Lund Andersen's favorite bread is rugbröd.*

The Shelbourne Hotel



BY ROBERT J. GUTTMAN

**A good hotel, or a bad one for that matter, can make all the difference in a visit to a city, especially a first visit. The following is a profile of two of Dublin's best hotels.**

**The Shelbourne Hotel.** Although Irish President Mary Robinson and Prime Minister John Bruton might disagree, The Shelbourne Hotel calls itself "The most distinguished address in Ireland."

The Shelbourne, which has played an important role in Irish history, has managed to preserve its 171 year old heritage and remain one of the liveliest places to meet and be seen in Dublin.

The Horseshoe Bar and the more refined Lord Mayor's Lounge appear to be a popular place to come after work on a Friday evening to have a pint or two. After seeing several journalists I know in the Horseshoe, I went to the quieter and more elegant Lord Mayor's Lounge for some tea and a late dinner.

Sitting in the Lord Mayor's Lounge I felt as if I were rest-

# DUBLIN

ing in a comfortable living room in an older, elegant house. Sitting under the massive central chandelier on comfortable overstuffed Italian furniture, one can easily relax, as I did, after a long airplane trip.

The Shelbourne, now part of the Trusthouse Forte Group, originally opened in 1824 as a group of three townhouses joined together as a hotel. Certain conditions were established for the new hotel. It could not look like a hotel, and the three buildings had to match the surrounding properties. They also had to keep their original staircases and front door. The name, Shelbourne Hotel, was discreetly put over the front door.

The hotel has figured prominently in Ireland's history. In fact, in 1922 the Irish Constitution was drafted in the Shelbourne in a meeting chaired by Michael Collins. Today the room where these deliberations took place is appropriately called the "Constitution Room" and contains some memorabilia of the occasion. The hotel's literature says the Irish



Free State first came into effective being at the Shelbourne.

James Joyce mentions the Shelbourne in his classic novel *Ulysses* and also talks about the hotel in his short story *The Dubliners*. Elizabeth Bowen wrote a book entitled *The Shelbourne* in which she says the hotel was not just an institution but was "also a legend and for the Irish people a symbol of grandeur, style, and well-connectedness."

The beautiful main dining room, the Aisling Restaurant, overlooks the street and St. Stephens Green, one of the oldest and most magnificent squares in Europe. The food is excellent and the waiters attentive.

My room was gorgeous, overlooking St. Stephens Green. The bathrooms were large and the room had all modern conveniences for business travelers, and I was quite impressed by how quiet my room was for overlooking such a busy part of town.

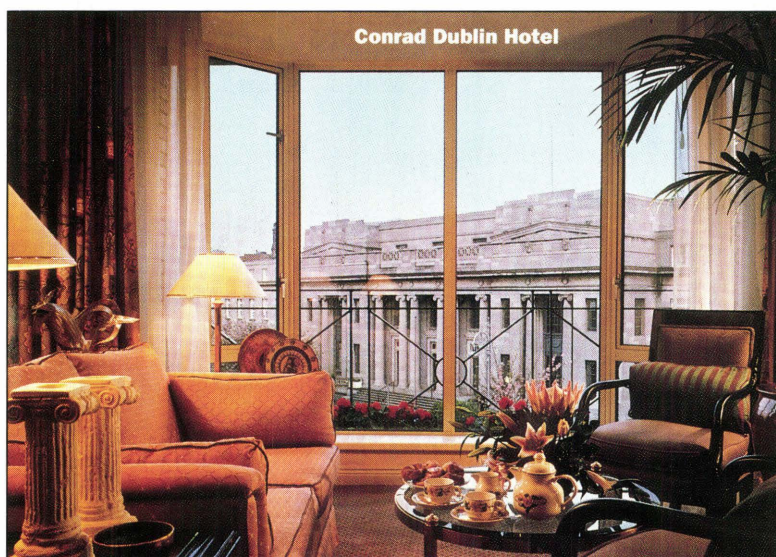
I toured the elegant presidential suite, named the Princess Grace Suite after the movie star turned princess who had stayed at the Shelbourne. Other celebrities including former President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jackie Kennedy, Sean Connery, and Elizabeth Taylor, have all stayed at the Shelbourne over the years.

When I asked several of the guests why they preferred the Shelbourne they unanimously responded that they enjoyed the old-fashioned feeling of the hotel with all its many modern conveniences, and they all mentioned the excellent

walk out the front door and I was in downtown Dublin.

All the rooms feature a very large executive desk and three telephones. My room overlooked a garden. At night the maids provide a complimentary bottle of mineral water and an Irish chocolate by your bed.

The main restaurant in the hotel, the Alexandra, is named after Alexandra College, which previously stood on the site of the hotel. This gourmet restaurant is known not only for its delicious and well prepared meals but also for its display of paintings by Irish artists.



# DESTINATIONS

service and attention to detail by the hotel's staff.

The Shelbourne is an inextricable part of Dublin's literary, culinary, and artistic traditions. And, it is a wonderful, luxurious, and convenient place to stay when you visit Dublin. Tel. (353) 1-676-6471; Fax (353) 1-661-6006.

**Conrad Hotel.** If you prefer modern hotels with all the latest conveniences for the business traveler in a centrally located downtown location then you need look no further than the Conrad Dublin Hotel, directly across the street from the National Concert Hall in the center of Dublin. The Conrad, which calls itself "Ireland's only truly international business hotel" is part of the Hilton Hotels collection of international luxury hotels.

My room at the Conrad was very modern. It is the closest I have come to feeling like I was at a hotel in the United States on any of my trips to Europe. Yet all I had to do was

My favorite part of the Conrad was Alfie Byrne's Pub. Even in a city known for its pubs, Alfie Byrne's stands out as *the* place to have a drink after work. It is also a great place to meet people. For example, I had been attempting to get an interview with Peter Sutherland,

the former head of the GATT and the WTO, for a long time. He was seated at the table next to me and agreed to an immediate interview.

I found out that Alfie Byrne was a popular former Lord Mayor of Dublin throughout the 1930s. According to the hotel's press kit, "Today, Alfie's memory is suitably enshrined in the pub by the three hand-painted ceramic tile wall panels which depict his movements throughout the city."

Before leaving for the airport I took a quick walk through St. Stephen's Green to the walking and shopping street of Grafton. It is an easy stroll from the Conrad.

For the business traveler looking for comfort and modern conveniences the Conrad is the perfect answer if your next business destination is Dublin. Tel. (353) 1-676-5555; Fax: (353) 1-676-5424. ☎

*Robert J. Guttman is EUROPE's editor-in-chief.*

If tourism takes off in Northern Ireland, as it certainly will if the cease-fire continues to hold, then one of the most popular tourist destinations will undoubtedly be the walled city of Londonderry or "Derry," as many residents call their city. The city is situated on a hill overlooking the banks of the Foyle estuary with the Sperrin Mountains nearby.

According to the guide who showed me around the city, Derry is the last remaining walled city in Ireland and the United Kingdom. I felt as if I were entering a fort as I journeyed into the city best known in the international media as the place where "the Troubles" began in the late 1960s.

Certainly Derry has a long way to go to erase its less than positive image during the last two decades. Like most tourists to the city, I visited the Bogside area and saw buildings being rebuilt in the downtown area that had been destroyed in previous bomb blasts.

Although the Troubles will not soon be forgotten even if the cease-fire holds, I was genuinely impressed with the city and can see it becoming an important tourist destination in the not too distant future.

The Tower Museum, like many other tourist attractions across Northern Ireland, is partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union.

I have been to several museums across Europe, and I would have to say that this is certainly one of the most impressive that I have visited. I had planned on only staying in the museum for several minutes and ended up spending two hours. I could have spent even more time

## Letter from Londonderry

in this fascinating building built under and into the impressive O'Doherty Fort. You actually feel as if you are in an old fort hundreds of years ago.

Each exhibit features an audio-visual

be the location to trace one's Irish ancestors. A new genealogy and heritage center is now being built with a massive data base where

one can check out or check up on famous, not so famous, or infamous relatives from days gone by.

It is also quite fun to walk along the walls which have protected the city since the 1600s. According to local lore, the walls of "The Maiden City," as Derry is known, have never been breached, in peacetime or in war.

The stone walls which are about a mile in circumference, have seven gates into the city.

At lunch I visited the Metro Pub which modestly calls itself "Probably the Best Bar in the World."

I don't know if it was the best in the world, but it was quite good, and anyway they cover themselves by using the word "probably."

The Guildhall, which houses the offices of the city



The impressive Guildhall rises above the walled city of Londonderry.

presentation, all of which are very informative and entertaining. I learned more about the causes of the Troubles by visiting the Tower Museum than I have from reading many books on the subject.

The museum also focuses on the history of Derry from prehistoric days to the present. Obviously, I am not the only tourist impressed by the Tower Museum. The museum, which only opened in 1992, has already won the British Airways Award for Best Tourist Project in Northern Ireland for 1993; the National heritage IBM UK Museum of the year of the year for 1994; and a special commendation for being the European Museum of the Year for 1994. The Tower Museum is a very alive, very informative, and a very fun place to visit. I would definitely start my tour of Derry there.

For any genealogy buffs, Derry could

council and the mayor, is a gorgeous building with a number of beautiful stained glass windows. The city hosts concerts and plays in the large ballroom in the middle of the building, which seemed to me to be in the shape of an old ship.

Two cathedrals are worth a visit. St. Columb's Cathedral has become known as "Planters' Gothic," and St. Eugene's Cathedral is also built in a gothic revival style.

The downtown area is built around the "Diamond" which is the square in the middle of the city. An old style village called the Craft Village with pubs, restaurants and craft shops—also partly financed by EU funding—is located near the Tower Museum and is the sight of many of Derry's music festivals.

Derry's big festival is held on Hal-

loween with dancing and fireworks in the middle of the city. The city is beginning to get a reputation as a place for hearing new rock and roll bands and light Irish music. It may not rival Dublin's hot music scene, but it is a start.

As for Derry cuisine, I enjoyed excellent salmon and lobster as well as traditional Irish breakfasts with delicious potato bread while I was there.

Derry is the home of many Americans now living in Northern Ireland who work for Dupont, Seagate, or Fruit of the Loom. The ones I spoke with agree with John Hume that they don't want to leave the area. They enjoy the open spaces, the clean air, the less hectic life style, and—as they all told me—the friendliness of the people of Derry and of Northern Ireland in general.

The chairman of the Northern Irish Tourist Board, Lord Rathcavan, told me that "Derry is marvelous. It is back together again. It is the first city to bring life back to normal. And it is also the first city to grasp the new economic realities of the cease-fire for attracting new business. Derry is a lovely place with good attractions."

Other recommended sites include the Foyle Valley Railway Center and the Amelia Earhart Center located several miles outside the city. A new 18-hole golf course has just opened close to the city.

The people of Derry seem to be quite positive about their future. As they would say, "There is something special in the air." If the people put their 'Troubles' behind them then Derry will flourish as a leading tourist destination in Northern Ireland.

—Robert J. Guttman

## PARIS

### ASTÉRIX LIVES!

It was the closest shave he has ever had. Astérix, the cunning little Gaul with the droopy yellow mustache, who is France's most beloved cartoon figure, whose theme park north of Paris draws the kind of crowds Mickey Mouse would be only too pleased to welcome at Euro Disney, Astérix the invincible came within a whisker of being killed off. After 36 years of rousing adventures, recounted in 29 books which have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide, the pint-size hero was very nearly history. What almost finished him off was not the Romans, whom he has outwitted by the le-

gion dozens of times, and not any shortage of the magic potion that gives him superhuman strength, which is brewed up for him by the druid Getafix.

No, Astérix was all but destroyed by the hand which created him—cartoonist Albert Uderzo. He, together with his friend, the writer René Goscinny, gave birth to Astérix in 1959. After Goscinny died in 1977, Uderzo carried on alone, both scripting and drawing the further adventures of the bulb-nosed little Gaul who by then had become a world celebrity. But a year ago, to the great consternation of Astérix fans everywhere, Uderzo announced that it was all over. There would be no more adventures for the wily warrior and his monumental sidekick Obélix, who heaves menhirs around and devours roasted wild boar with great gusto.

What caused Uderzo to take such a drastic and, as it turns out, short-lived decision, were two bitter battles over royalties and publishing rights. One was a lengthy court case against Dargaud, the publishers of the first 24 Astérix books. Uderzo fought long and hard to win control over what he considers to be his artistic property, but the final ruling went against him and granted Dargaud the continued rights to all the books they originally published.

The second fight is a still unresolved feud with René Goscinny's daughter Anne over who should have now a large share of the fortune that Astérix is worth today. After the death of his partner, Uderzo created his own publishing house, the Editions Albert-René, which has brought out the five Astérix books he has produced on his own. It also controls all the spinoffs generated by the comic strip, including films and videos. Uderzo owns 80 percent of the company and—generously, in his own eyes—accorded Goscinny's family the remaining 20 percent.

Considering that Astérix brings in close to \$4 million a year just in royalties, a one-fifth slice of such a lucrative pie does not sound like a bad deal. But Anne Goscinny feels very strongly that Astérix is at least as much her father's brainchild as Uderzo's, and believes herself entitled to a 50 percent share of the profits, even those stemming from the Astérix adventures published since her father's death.

Uderzo, a solitary, taciturn man who was always overshadowed by the charismatic, sociable Goscinny, was completely demoralized by both quarrels. But he has decided not to abandon

Astérix after all. No doubt he realized how disloyal and foolish it would be to turn his back on the little hero who has been his faithful companion for 36 years (and who has made him an extremely rich man along the way, with a garage full of Ferraris). So he has gone back to the drawing board and is working on a new Astérix adventure, due to be published early next year.

In the meantime, the seventh Astérix film, produced by an animation studio in Germany, where Astérix is even more popular than in France, has just been released. It is called *Astérix Conquers America*, which is actually about the only place he has *not* conquered. The United States so far have remained curiously uninterested in the exploits of the feisty warrior. But given the film's title, this seems like the ideal moment for Astérix to cross the Atlantic and try to convince Americans to join the 162 million people who went to see his previous six films.

—Ester Laushway

## LONDON

### CONSERVATIVES FACE TOUGHER LABOR

Prime Minister John Major's leadership of the ruling Conservative Party faces a new challenge following the mid-term local elections which swept the party out of power in the city halls of middle England.

The Labor Party captured nearly 50 percent of the May vote. The Conservative share slumped to a mere 25 percent, only a fraction above that of the country's perennial third party, the Liberal Democrats.

It was Labor's best performance in 30 years, and if this trend is repeated at the general election due in two years, they would surge to power, and Tony Blair would be the new prime minister.

But mid-term local elections are notoriously unreliable as guides to voting trends at general elections. Four years ago Labor did very well at the local elections, only to lose the subsequent general election yet again.

There is still time for the ruling Conservatives to win back the support of middle-class England. But whether this can be done under the lackluster leadership of Major is in question.

If the party feels that he is a liability, then it will have no hesitation in ousting

Major. But it will not be easy, the premier is stubborn and said he will not consider stepping down. "I have never run away from a difficulty in my life, and I don't intend to do so now," he has said.

Labor leader Tony Blair encouraged Major to stay on, declaring that the incumbent is the best man the Conservatives have for the job. Such a clear signal that he would prefer to fight a Conservative Party led by Major hardly helps the premier's position.

If the Tories are to act, it will have to be this fall, to give his replacement enough time to establish a new style of leadership which can win back disaffected voters, especially those in such formerly traditional Tory strongholds as Tunbridge Wells in the south of England, which has not been out of Conser-



Portuguese watch the wedding of would-be king Duarte Pio to Isabel Ines de Castro.

vative hands in over a century. This is the party's southern heartlands, and these are the voters they must hold if they are to stay in power.

The Tories' problem is not just the leader. The results were a dramatic demonstration of the voters' reaction to a series of problems—divisions over Europe, sleaze, ministerial resignations, and what many see as a betrayal of election tax pledges.

The other factor is that the Labor Party is reinvigorated under its new leader, Tony Blair, who has managed to distance the party from its socialist roots and move it into the center of the political spectrum.

Some observers warn that Labor may have peaked too soon. The real question is whether the Conservatives drained by 15 years in power are capable of peaking at all.

—David Lennon

LISBON

MONARCHY QUESTION REVISITED

The whole of Portugal watched, as Duarte Pio, duke of Bragança and pretender to the Portuguese throne, married Isabel de Herédia in a ceremony broadcast live on state-run television in May. Duarte Pio would be the king of Portugal—had the monarchy not ended 85 years ago, when the Republic was declared. Nevertheless, hundreds of Portuguese waving flags carrying the blue and white of the country's monarchy lined the streets to watch the couple arrive to be wed. The ceremony, which was celebrated by the Cardinal of Lisbon, took place at the 17th century Jerónimos Monastery, which survived the 1755 earthquake and is one of Lisbon's main monuments. The wedding was attended by many foreign guests representing once influential aristocratic dynasties. But the main figures of Portugal's political establishment were also there, including President Mário Soares, a staunch Republican.

The wedding has revived the debate over whether Portugal should again become a monarchy. The country's last king, Manuel II, fled to Britain when the Republicans deposed him in 1910. He died in exile in 1932 without children, leaving Portugal's monarchists searching for a pretender. They agreed that it should be Duarte Nuno, the current duke's father, who belonged to a branch of the Bragança family defeated in a civil war between the victorious King Pedro IV and his

brother Miguel in the early 19th century. The descendants of this "Miguelist" branch lived in Austria, as they were banned from returning to Portugal. In 1942 they fled on to Switzerland to escape Hitler's Nazis. It was here that Duarte Pio was born in 1945 and lived until 1953 by which time the banishment order had been suspended. In Portugal, he studied agriculture, and he remains a keen farmer who likes to be photographed driving a tractor. He is also seriously concerned about the environment, and—whenever possible—he travels by tram, train, and boat. Isabel, the new duchess of Bragança, is 28, also Portuguese, and by general consent would make a perfect queen—if the throne were to be restored.

Opinion polls regularly show some 15 percent of Portuguese in favor of a constitutional monarchy. If asked to pick a king, most would choose Duarte Pio, but many would also give President Soares—often affectionately called "King Mário" a chance. Fervently Republican politicians and historians, however, say there simply is no monarchist question in Portugal. They say Duarte Pio may be a nice man but that he hasn't distinguished himself in any way to deserve the attention he has received. But this hasn't deterred Portugal's monarchists from being happy. They're celebrating because—they hope—the line of succession is now finally guaranteed.

—Peter Miles

BERLIN

HEALTHY DOMESTIC BEER

German beer exports are yielding some healthy numbers. The German Brewers Association has reported an unexpected 21.5 percent rise in foreign sales to 8 million hectoliters in 1994. Fifty-five percent of their exports went to other EU countries. And, more good news for German brewers, imports of foreign beers last year dropped by 3.26 percent to 2.7 million hectoliters.

That decline has pleasantly surprised German beer makers because in 1987 a European Court of Luxembourg ruling opened the German beer market to foreign competition. The verdict ended a five-year dispute between then West Germany and the rest of the European Community. The court ordered that foreign beers not brewed according to Germany's Beer Purity Law (*Reinheitsgebot*—

which permits only barley, malt, hops, yeast, and water as ingredients) must be allowed to be sold in West Germany. So German brewers were faced with competition from beers made of maize, rice, and millet.

The Germans said the verdict was a "black day for German beer drinkers and others around the world." But, as they now know, there was no need for all the fuss. "The court's ruling has not changed anything," says Thomas Winzek of the German Brewers Association in Bonn. "Quite the contrary, it made everybody aware of our purity law."

Beer hasn't always been as pure as it is today. For centuries, all sorts of cheating and adulteration went on, as shown by old court records and official purity regulations. The most famous of the rules is the Bavarian (later national) law of April 23, 1516, promulgated by Duke Wilhelm IV, which is said to be the oldest foodstuff legislation in the world.

Foodstuff? Yes. That's right. Beer in Germany is considered liquid food. Ninety-two percent of German beer drinkers say the *Reinheitsgebot* is a guarantee of quality and health. Their creed is: Beer is your thirst-quencher, your medicine, your mood, your liquid bread.

The Germans' strong regional attachment to their favorite brews explains why there are still 1,278 German breweries (almost 70 percent of them in Bavaria) which produce more than 5,000 different brands—a world record. It is this fragmentation of the German brewing industry, coupled with a per capita consumption of about 140 liters a year (Bavarians alone are alleged to down 230 liters each) makes Germany the biggest EU beer market.

Although the bulk of the total 1994 annual production of 118.6 million hectoliters is manufactured by a small number of large brewers, fewer than 25 percent of German brewers have an annual output of more than 1 million hectoliters.

Because of German beer drinkers' regional loyalty to local beers it is difficult for the German brewers to profit from the economies of bulk production. In Cologne beer drinkers continue to stick to their *Kölsch* (a dry top-fermented beer), and only a 30-minute drive away in Düsseldorf, the locals prefer *Alt* (a rich, dark old ale), and so on across the country. So the brewing industry has turned attention toward the potential of export markets in Eastern Europe, Taiwan, and Japan.

To make sure that the German beer purity law is kept in the public mind, the beer industry has declared April 23 to be Beer Day, like Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Forest Day. The first Beer Day this year was a foaming success.

—Wanda Menke-Glückert

## STOCKHOLM

## SWEDEN'S JAMES BOND

He's all that a true hero should be—good looking, intelligent, strong, rich, deadly—and on top of it all, a nobleman. He is Carl Gustaf Gilbert Hamilton, alias Coq Rouge, and he is Sweden's own James Bond.

The colorful top agent of Sweden's secret service, with a past in the US Navy Seals as well as the revolutionary Clarté movement, Hamilton travels the world on dangerous missions from Murmansk to the Middle East, from the deep Baltic waters to the shores of Sicily.

Hamilton is, of course, no more than a fairy tale hero—but he does bear some resemblance to his creator, Jan Guillou. Guillou has, for the past 20 years, been one of Sweden's most respected and controversial investigative journalists. With a past in the student left of 1968, Guillou found himself in journalism only by "remarkable coincidence and a few innocent mistakes." He says he was fired from his first job on a weekly tabloid for his outspoken views on the Vietnam War and recalls that it was "too late to go back to the university...I had had time to travel a lot, and I had discovered Vietnam, the Middle East, Africa, the wars, the refugee camps, the invasions (including Prague), the imperialism."

Over the past 25 years, he has acquired a reputation for being somewhat of a crusader, taking pride in making enemies in high places. He spent some time in jail in the 1970s on charges of violating national security for exposing the real Swedish secret service at a time when the public believed Sweden did not engage in such covert activities. (Guillou's sentence was a rare thing indeed in a country where freedom of the press is one of the constitutional pillars.)

Since then, he has tackled just about any imaginable issue controversial enough to suit his taste, foreign as well as domestic. He is a fan of Tom Wolfe and the "New Journalism" and has practiced his trade in numerous books, papers, magazines, as well as in radio and

television, taking great care to step on as many people's toes as possible. He once wrote of journalism that its most important function, "though not the only important function, is to create hell for the powers that be."

Nothing escaped his careful and critical examination—including himself. A dark 1981 book entitled *Evil* delved deep into his own childhood.

Thus, in 1986 Jan Guillou was already practically a household name when he published his first significant work of fiction. *Coq Rouge* marked the first appearance of Agent Carl Hamilton, and it took Sweden by storm. For the die-hard spy-novel fans, there was all the action one could possibly want; for the Stockholm power circles, there was in the cast of characters obvious resemblances (often biting satirical ones) to real politicians, diplomats, policemen, and journalists. *Coq Rouge* was the first of a string of Carl Hamilton best-sellers which has made Guillou, the onetime revolutionary, one of Sweden's most well-to-do writers.

But even though he continues to produce spy-thrillers at the rate of close to one per year, Guillou still finds the time to hound the powers that be with his venomous velvet tongue whenever and wherever he can.

—Jonas Weiss

## MADRID

## NEW NATIONAL PARK

Spain, which already has one of Europe's largest protected wetlands at the Donana park near Seville, now boasts the continent's biggest national park, following a vote by Parliament to expand an existing reserve to almost 160,615 acres located in one of the Iberian peninsula's most beautiful regions.

The original Covadonga National Park was created in 1918, becoming Spain's first such park, and encompassing within its 42,000 acres about half of the stunning Picos de Europa mountain range situated in the country's far north.

Some 1.2 million trekkers, climbers, mountain bikers, and wildlife enthusiasts visited the old park each year, drawn by the unsurpassed natural wonders.

Lush, green forests spill down the slopes of dramatic mountains into scenic valleys crisscrossed with rivers, reminding visitors more of the Swiss Alps than Spain.

In summer, the region provides a refreshing retreat for those escaping the

heat of the country's baking central *meseta* or the hordes mobbing Spain's ever popular beaches.

And except for the occasional hiking party from Britain, France, or Germany, the Picos de Europa are virtually free of foreigners.

With the expansion, the new park now includes the entire Picos de Europa, and authorities hope an influx of even more visitors will help create jobs for local inhabitants in the remote and rugged area.

Park director Javier de Sebastian says that bears, wildcats, otters, martens, wolves, deer, and eagles populate the oak and beech forests, which are some of the wildest left in Europe.

Still to be worked out are the regulations concerning what the thousands of people actually living within the national park's new boundaries will be allowed to do, although the park director says rules in force within the old park might provide a precedent.

"In Covadonga, hunting, fishing, mining, and logging have been prohibited," says De Sebastian. "But the local people were allowed to carry on their traditional endeavors such as cattle and sheep raising, beekeeping, etc."

The new park straddles three of Spain's autonomous regions—Asturias, Castilla y Leon, and Cantabria—which could signal administrative headaches and turf battles, but all concerned say they will work together to make the park a success, hoping that the surrounding region will attract much needed European Union development funds.

—Benjamin Jones

## BRUSSELS

### GRAND PLACE

**B**elgium revels in anniversary celebrations, perhaps because it is a relatively young country, whose independence dates only from 1830. In August it will commemorate the 300th anniversary of the blackest day in the history of Brussels but one which had a glorious aftermath.

It was on August 15, 1695 that the French Marshal Villeroy, commanding the troops of Louis XIV, subjected the city to a heavy artillery bombardment that lasted two days. The Brussels of the Middle Ages was largely wiped out. Four thousand houses and 16 churches were destroyed; many monuments were severely

damaged; and the dead and wounded were numbered in the thousands.

At the center of the carnage was the Grand Place. The spire of the town hall, surmounted by a statue of St. Michael, had been used by the French gunners as a target. Every single house in the square was destroyed, but miraculously the town hall, a splendid gothic building



**This summer the city of Brussels will commemorate the 300th anniversary of the destruction of the Grand Place.**

dating from the 13th and 15th centuries, was almost untouched.

The burghers of Brussels did not take long to rebuild the Grand Place. The various corporations of craftsmen—haberdashers, boat builders, archers, joiners and coopers, tallow merchants, bakers, hosiery makers, painters, tailors, masons, cabinet makers, millers, tanners, wine merchants, brewers, and butchers—each took it upon themselves to build a guild house, and most of them completed their building within two to three years. The consequence result was to give the square an extraordinary unity. There the buildings still stand today, with their elegant baroque facades, each surmounted by a symbol of the trade concerned and many of them prominently engraved with the date of completion, 1697, 1698, or 1699.

The result was to create one of Europe's most beautiful squares. Virtually every visitor to Brussels now spends an hour or two strolling around and drinking in the atmosphere. At one time the square was throttled by a ceaseless flow

of traffic, but thanks to an energetic campaign by the local English news weekly, *The Bulletin*, it is now a car-free zone and can be freely enjoyed by Brusselers and tourists alike.

Yet this year Brussels is looking to the future as well as to the past. It is about to put in a bid to hold the Olympic Games in 2004, which, if successful, will certainly endow the city with greatly enhanced sporting and tourist facilities.

Brussels has never hosted the games before, though Antwerp did in 1920. It faces fierce competition from Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul, and Rome which have already put in their bids. The decision will be taken by the International Olympic Committee in September 1997.

—Dick Leonard

## ROME

### LOOKING FOR DANTE II

**L**anguages have always been in constant evolution, but thanks to television, new words are introduced and factored in to daily conversation at a frenetic speed. Even official dictionaries are not impervious to the barrage of new words. The *Devoto-Oli* dictionary, edited by Giacomo Devoto and Gian Carlo Oli, is to Italians what *Webster's* is to Americans. In its latest edition, the bible of *la bella lingua*, included a variety of foreign jargon as well as idioms spawned by Italians from Dante to Umberto Eco.

Many of the new entries found in the dictionary are prolific English terms such as: *Eurotunnel*, *decoder*, *laser-disc*, *cyberpunk*, and even *exit poll*—a term that filled national newspapers during the last elections when all the forecasts made at the polling stations were proven false.

Words like *decoder* have an exact translation in Italian, but the dictionary acknowledges the English word that predominates in common usage. Even *serial killer* could be directly translated, but thanks to Hollywood movies, the foreign term is more popular. Theoretically *air bag* could find an Italian equivalent, but why go to all the trouble of finding one if the English term is accepted all over the world?

Italy, which is ever fashion-conscious, gladly accepts French fashion terms. For example, *fuseaux*, is used by Italians to describe tight-fitting clothing that is currently the rage.

However, amidst resignation in the

face of the Anglo-international language invasion that has created such Italian verbs as *cllicaro* (to click), purists have not given up hope.

"How to save the Italian language from television and journalistic jargon?" asks Gian Carlo Oli. "A poet needs to come to the forefront—a great poet who will fight against stylistic conformity." The hunt for the new Dante is on.

—Niccolò d'Aquino

AMSTERDAM

THE BETUWE LINE

It's back to the railroads for the Netherlands. A direct freight line called the Betuwe line will link Rotterdam (the world's largest port) and Germany by the target date of 2004. This new railroad connection will be used exclusively for container transport. The government considers it the best way to guarantee development while taking pressure off the overcrowded highways.

Dotted with small quiet villages in the heart of the country, the Betuwe is an area that comprises farms and orchards along the basin of the Rhine and Meuse rivers. The 130-mile line stretching from the German border to Rotterdam will slice through this area from west to east.

In a country as densely populated as the Netherlands, any infrastructural work raises enormous physical and environmental challenges. Wherever you go, there are houses, farms, villages, or towns. Understandably, the opposition to the Betuwe line was widespread because locals feared the landscape's destruction and the excessive noise from trains passing by every 15 minutes. However, the authorities considered a proposal to construct the railroad underground to be too expensive and technically precarious. In the end, to calm protesters the government offered more than \$500 million to go toward protecting against the noise. Altogether, the Betuwe line will cost more than \$5 billion—part of which will be privately financed with the rest coming from a special fund for large infrastructural projects.

After the elaborate Dutch system of consulting the population is over, the Betuwe line's construction is scheduled to begin in 1997 and end in 2004. The container trains will then be able to move from the port of Rotterdam to Germany and further on to Eastern Europe and Switzerland.

In order to force freight companies to use the Betuwe line, the government is considering a special levy on trucks that use the congested Dutch highways.

The Betuwe line is by no means the only large infrastructural project facing the Dutch government. Plans are also underway to link up with the European high speed train system from Amsterdam to Brussels and Paris. Also, Schiphol Airport is due to be expanded.

As the case of the Betuwe line demonstrates, opposition to these huge investments in infrastructure is great. Despite the protests, however, the government is determined to forge on. Improving the infrastructure is considered to be vital for the economic future of a country that is dependent on the best links with its thriving hinterland.

—Roel Janssen

COPENHAGEN

GAZELLE COMPANIES

Reports of the death of capitalism in Denmark are premature. A recent study shows that more than 1,000 Danish companies were able to double their

profits in the four-year period 1990 to 1993, despite the fact that the country was in an economic recession for most of that period and that Denmark has high taxes and a generally difficult business climate.

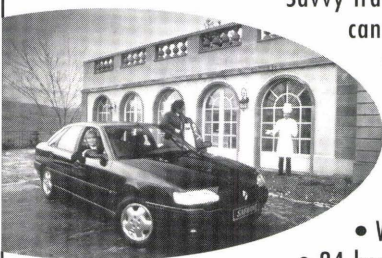
Dubbed "gazelles," a term coined by the Boston economist David Birch, the companies also doubled their employment in the period, despite the fact that many of them are using the most sophisticated, labor-saving technology.

Most of the Danish gazelle companies are small, but they are found in all industries. They have often been started, and most are still run, by people with little or no formal business education.

The preliminary analysis of 1994 and the first part of this year shows that the recovery in the Danish economy is creating a large number of new gazelles and that the fatality rate of the gazelles is decreasing. Gazelle companies have created at least 15,000 new jobs in the 1990s, and growing companies not meeting the strict gazelle criteria have created another 45,000 jobs. In the beginning of the decade, job creation in growth companies was not sufficient to make up for jobs being shed by industry

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in general, but last year and this year there has been a net contribution.

This news is obviously good for the government, and it is the major reason for the rapid drop in unemployment in Denmark. Though still unacceptably high, with 285,000 Danes without work, unemployment is now well below the EU average. The ambition of the government is to almost halve that figure over the next few years. Since the government does not plan to expand public employment, creating growth and growth companies in the private sector has suddenly moved to the top of the agenda.

A major survey of the views of the growth companies themselves show that they regard the level of Danish income taxes the most important barrier to growth. But they also worry about bureaucratic regulations, about the cost of producing in Denmark, about developing new products, and about the qualifications of the people they need in the future. Surprisingly, access to venture capital does not seem to be a major barrier to growth. Danish Minister of Industry Mimi Jakobsen has promised to try to ease some of the more cumbersome regulations, and to initiate programs in schools that will try to develop the entrepreneurial motivation among the young. She candidly admits that Danish culture at the moment, gazelle companies notwithstanding, focuses on the virtues of earning a wage and not on personal and financial challenges of assuming the risk of

starting your own company.

One change that she is now making seems to prove her point. Public support for start-ups was limited to persons who had been unemployed for a long period of time, cushioned by the Danish welfare state. Now the institutions supporting new businesses are clamoring for people with good jobs to leave them and get on with starting their own business.

But to change a culture is time-consuming. Business success has not traditionally been socially rewarded, and Danish family-owned businesses have tended to keep a low profile. But business failure has been stigmatized, making it difficult for entrepreneurs who have stumbled to try again. This is an important barrier because success often comes to entrepreneurs after several failures.

—Leif Beck Fallesen

HELSINKI

CROSSING THE FINNISH LINE

If you're looking for some unusual festivals this summer, head north to Finland. In addition to the Sibelius concerts, boat races, and such, the Land of a Thousand Lakes offers perhaps the widest (and wierdest) range of contests, celebrations, and spectacles in all of Europe. WARNING: these are only for the athletically inclined.

Start with the "Wife-Carrying Competition," elsewhere translated as the

"Dame-Lugging Contest," which takes place in the center of Finland, in Sonkajärvi, on July 1. Contestants don't have to be married. According to Jaana Nousiainen of the Iisalmi District Tourist Office, the "wife can be borrowed or stolen, but she must be at least 17 years old." Thus laden, the man races down a grass, sand, and asphalt track measuring 157 yards and over three obstacles, one of which is a shallow pool of water. Legend has it that a local robber by the name of Ronkainen used a similar contest to screen potential gang members. Today, the winner gets a plaque and soft drinks equivalent in weight to the wife.

If you're less of a sprinter and go in for stamina, try the Swan Dance, an international 24-hour, non-stop dance competition held in Pietarsaari (also known as Jakobstad) on July 22–23. This one can be done in relay teams. There is even a Mini Swan Dance of 12 hours duration, for senior citizens only.

For the *Jätkän kulttuuripäivät* (Lumberjack Festival), we suggest a lot of supervised practice before you go. This festival, now in its thirtieth year, brings together not only lumberjacks but also a broad range of people interested in the management and conservation of one of Finland's greatest natural resources. For example, this year's festival in Savonlinna will draw speakers on the theme "Is there a nationally selfish forest policy?" This year Finland also hosts the Chainsaw World Championships, which

NEWSMAKERS

Having gone through a Spartan period when passengers were crammed into their seats and sometimes even asked to provide their own lunch, airlines are now bringing some luxury back to air travel. First class passengers on the new long-haul Airbus A340 will soon be able to stretch out in bed and snooze undisturbed in their own little sleeping cabin.

The ever resourceful chairman of Virgin Atlantic, **Richard Branson**, himself never a man to be caught napping, intends to be the first to offer sleepers on Virgin's new routes to Australia and South Africa. Airbus has come up with a design that pleases Branson: an under floor "villa" with five separate bedrooms, each with its own dressing table and space for hanging clothes. Branson

wants to fit four such villas into two new A340s, selling the 20 beds as part of a first-class ticket. The Civil Aviation Authority has no objection to the sleeping cabins, provided that passengers can be evacuated from them quickly.

...

A special German government committee is currently trying to unravel the twisted threads of a secret service operation that could have come straight out of a book by John Le Carré. The convoluted plot runs as follows: Last August German police made a chilling discovery at Munich airport. They found 12.8 ounces of deadly plutonium in the suitcase of a passenger arriving on a flight from Moscow—like a global nightmare come true: Russian plutonium being peddled around Europe, freely available to any crazed individual who wanted it.

**Bernd Schmidbauer**, head of the BND, Germany's secret service, was promptly dispatched to Moscow to investigate.

But now it seems that the whole scary episode might just have been an elaborate hoax set up by the BND, with Schmidbauer's knowledge, to prove that nuclear smuggling was a real danger. Schmidbauer, with his career hanging in the balance, denies that he or any other agents set up an international "sting." But suspicions are strong enough that investigators are tracing the entire operation back to its beginnings.

It apparently started in Madrid. The BND agent there, **Petr Fischer-Hollweg**, is said to have recruited a Spaniard, code named **Rafa**, and a German, code named **Roberto**, to spread the word in the Spanish underworld that a certain German was keen to buy plutonium and would like it delivered to Munich.



were organized by Hungary and Yugoslavia back in 1970 and held last year in Romania.

Finally, for those of you more likely to overexert your biceps by hitting the snooze button than by chopping wood, there is indeed a special day for you in Finland. "Sleepyhead Day" is held on July 27 in both Hanko and Naantali, two well-known spa towns. In Hanko, festivities start at 6:30 in the morning with a rousing parade through the streets to the Spa Park, where the Sleeper of the Year—often a public official—is awakened with lots of water over the head. The tradition, traced back to the Christian remembrance of the Efesos martyrs, who slept in a cave, took its present form in the 17th century, during the heyday of spas, when it was common to gather early in the morning to drink the healthy waters. Sleepyhead Day abides in private homes, too, where the *Unikeko*, or family sleepyhead, gets thrown into the nearest body of water for an eye-opener.

—Tina Lund Andersen

ATHENS

SUPERFAST FERRYING

Three brand-new Greek-owned ferries are plying the Adriatic crossing between Greece and Italy this summer, shortening the journey time by more than one-third.

The arrival this year of the "Super-

fast" ferries, two new vessels which were designed specifically for the Adriatic crossing and the luxury ferry *Aretousa*, could herald a major shake-up of Greece's passenger shipping industry.

The Adriatic Sea bridge has become Greece's most important transport link with its European Union partners now that the war in former Yugoslavia has cut the overland route through Croatia to Germany. Tourists traveling by car to Greece and Greek trucks carrying goods to EU markets make the Greece-Italy crossing one of the busiest in the Mediterranean.

Passenger and vehicle traffic using the Adriatic crossing has doubled since 1991. Last year more than 2 million passengers and over 800,000 cars and trucks traveled on Adriatic ferries.

All but three of the 45 ships working the Adriatic route this summer are Greek. The lower operating costs of Greek ferry owners have driven away most Italian ferry companies, while Scandinavian companies have not yet entered the eastern Mediterranean.

But until this year, the Greek fleet comprised aging Japanese and East European vessels converted at Greek shipyards to carry larger numbers of passengers and trucks. Slow speeds and cramped conditions on board reflect the fact that the average age of the Greek passenger fleet is now 23 years.

The "Superfast" ferries, built in Germany at a cost of \$146 million, are the

first new passenger vessels to join the Greek fleet for more than 30 years. They can make the crossing from the western Greek port of Patras to the Italian port of Ancona in 20 hours compared with 28 hours for the average Greek ferry.

The vessels are owned by Attica Enterprises, an Athens-based shipping company which is joining the passenger market for the first time. Its chairman, Pericles Panagopolos, one of Greece's most successful shipping tycoons, used to run a cruise ship company.

Attica hopes to capture a sizable chunk of the truck market on the Adriatic crossing. Unlike tourists, truckers travel year-round and are looking for the fastest route to northern Europe.

But competition will be tough, as the *Aretousa*, owned by Minoan Lines, a cooperative shipping company based on the island of Crete, comes on line. Built in Norway at a cost of \$175 million, the *Aretousa* is just as fast as the Attica ferries and can carry more heavy vehicles. It also operates on the Patras-Ancona line, together with the *Erotokritos*, another large Minoan-owned ferry, which takes four hours longer to make the crossing.

Speeding up the Adriatic crossing is just the first stage of Attica's and Minoan's plans. Both companies are planning to enlarge their fleets with new fast ferries with an eye on the year 2004, when coastal shipping will be liberated throughout the EU.

Soon after, a Colombian, **Justiniano Torres Benitez**, and a Spaniard, **Julio Oroz Eguia**, (neither one blessed with short and catchy code names) arrived in Munich on a train from Moscow, with a tiny sample of plutonium. The Bavarian police were alerted, and one of their number, by the (false) name of **Walter Boeden** posed as the plutonium buyer.

Torres, the Colombian, then supposedly went back to Moscow and picked up the 12.8 ounces of plutonium, which were found in his suitcase when he landed in Munich.

As if matters were not complicated enough already, the German magazine *Stern* has come up with an intriguing subplot. It has suggested that **Viktor Sidorenko**, the Russian deputy minister for nuclear affairs, was involved in the operation. It turns out that he was on the same plane from Moscow as Torres, who

allegedly had told a contact in Munich that he was bringing another man with him to pick up the money and fly back to Russia.

Government investigators are now bravely trying to make sense of it all and decide who actually organized the plutonium caper and what heads, if any, should roll.

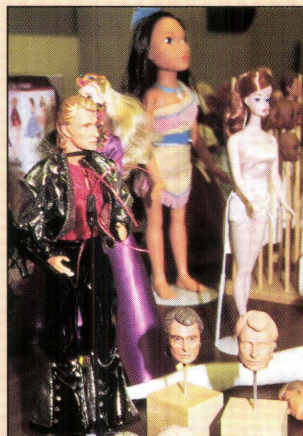
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After seeing an Elvis doll last year in New York, French rock star **Johnny Halliday**, 51, decided that if the King could be a playmate of Barbie's then so could he. He contacted Mattel France and asked them to produce a *poupée Johnny*.

The first batch, 1 million of them, will be launched in August. Hallyday insisted on having that many produced because, as he put it, "When I bring out a song, I sell one million copies. An LP, one million; so for a doll, I want one million of them as well."

It is not yet clear exactly what the Johnny doll will look like, but it will no doubt come with a full range of Halliday accessories, including a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, splittable tight leather trousers and iron-on tattoos.

—Ester Laushway



Invasion of the Johnny Halliday dolls

That is when cabotage regulations, which permit only domestic ferry companies to operate internal shipping routes in several EU member states, are due to be lifted. Greek ferry operators should be well placed to compete with domestic shipping companies elsewhere in the EU and open up new routes between Mediterranean ports.

—Kerin Hope

## LUXEMBOURG

DISNEY-LUXEMBOURG  
TV CHANNEL

The Walt Disney Company and Luxembourg's national television broadcasting network are launching a new channel to provide programming aimed at German-speaking families and children.

In late May, the European Commission cleared the way by authorizing the creation of the television channel "Super RTL" after considering whether the venture would have anti-competitive impact on current and future broadcasting stations operating within Europe's German-speaking regions.

"As the new channel does not have any market share at present for television advertising on German free access television, its formation raises no serious doubts as to its compatibility with the common market," the Commission stated in a press release. It noted that, "Despite Disney's strong program library, there are other competitors who will be able to provide similar types of programs to the joint venture and to other channels."

Some critics had raised concerns that Disney's participation in the project would perhaps lead to the company dominating entertainment programming on television. Disney sells its rights for videos, movies, and music throughout Europe. The many characters developed in its animation studio, such as Mickey Mouse, are as much a part of a child's development in Europe as they are in the US.

The joint venture is Disney's first direct entry into the German broadcast market. For Luxembourg, the project is another effort to strengthen its role in providing programming for European stations.

The new station will be provided free of charge via the Astra 1A satellite with broadcasting by cable networks following.

Super RTL promises to be a major challenge to the general interest chan-

nels serving Germany and other German-speaking countries. Its managing director, Peter Heimes, forecasts that a profit of \$33.2 million will not be turned until at least 1998, while start up losses may amount to \$119.9 million.

While the channel will be free, Heime indicated that it may become pay television should this be "necessary from a business management point of view."

—James D. Spellman

## VIENNA

## FLOATING OPERA

Beethoven's glorious *Fidelio* gets its premiere on the world's only floating stage on July 21 here in the capital of Vorarlberg, Austria's westernmost province.

The event will be watched by some 6,500 people who will be seated in the vast, open-air auditorium facing Lake Constanze (called Bodensee by the Austrians), with the huge stage anchored on the lake facing them.

It's all part of the annual Bregenzer Festival, an impressive series of operas, operettas, concerts, and plays performed not only on the floating stage, but also in the spacious opera house and in various theaters and other locations throughout the summer.

But while the overall program is impressive, there is no doubt that the dramatically colorful opera performances on the lake rank highest in the public's favor. It is partly the unique setting of the stage itself and partly the background of the lake, shimmering as the sun sets. The platform is attached to some 200 wooden pilings that are driven into the lake. From time to time parts of the stage may separate and float away in the context of the action.

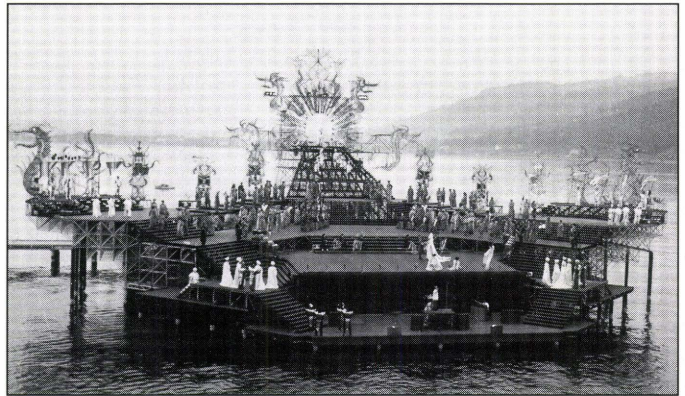
At other times, the vast, brightly lit sets may explode—as they do in the highly dramatic staging of Verdi's *Nabucco*—or fireworks may erupt into the night sky. This certainly isn't conventional opera staging, but there is no doubt that the quarter of a million people

who watched the spectacular opera performances during the past two years immensely enjoyed it all.

*Fidelio* is being performed throughout the last week of July and again during August. As always, the Vienna Symphony, the "house orchestra" for the Bregenz Festival, will be in attendance, ensconced (and invisible) in a lower part of the stage.

Dr. Alfred Wopmann, the director of the Bregenzer Festspiele since 1983, maintains that the operas he chooses are more than just musical performances. "What is important is what the story tells us today, what it means to our world now," he says. "Freedom is an important theme in all of our programs."

Certainly, freedom was a key in Verdi's *Nabucco*, which at Bregenz became a story about persecution of the Jews, and it looms large in Beethoven's



The Bregenzer Festival's famous floating stage.

epic opera of love and liberty.

The first "floating" performance took place in 1946, almost 50 years ago, with the singers on one huge sand barge and the orchestra on another. Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* was the opera.

In the years that followed, with the floating stage established, there followed performances ranging all the way from *The Flying Dutchman* and Bizet's *Carmen* to *Porgy and Bess*.

Bregenz, the ancient Brigantium, was a Roman garrison town. It sits in a spot close to where Austria, Germany, and Switzerland meet. Steamers bring thousands from these countries to the performances on the lake.

The town itself is a charming place with a lovely old section. It sits on the vast lake, with looming mountains behind it, offering varied scenery that is among the most impressive in all of Europe.

—Fred Hift

# ARTS & LEISURE

## Bernard MacLaverty

### WRITER'S CORNER

Bernard MacLaverty, an author from Northern Ireland, recently spoke with *EUROPE* about his new book *Walking the Dog and Other Stories* and his approach to writing.

#### What is the theme of *Walking the Dog*?

It probably doesn't have one. It's a series of stories I'd written over the past 7 years or so about the unhappy things that were happening in Northern Ireland and the unhappy things that are happening to people. It makes it sound very gloomy, but there are some more comic elements to lighten the thing.

#### How do irony and humor play a role in the snippets of life in Northern Ireland that can be very depressing and violent?

It's a very important thing to keep people going—that sense of irony, that really black humor. I remember hearing someone during the great petrol bombing phase say, "How many houses are you getting to the gallon?" Once you've been to the bottom, you can make jokes about anything. It does help, although not in individual tragedies, but just the whole situation.

#### What is the appeal of your books to an American audience? We don't hear as much about writers from Northern



#### Ireland as we do writers from Ireland.

You would hear about the poets from the 1960s and 1970s like Seamus Heaney and Paul Muldoon. The prose writers are thinner on the ground; I include myself in that. The appeal is something to do with a sense of place, almost a sense of being parochial. A writer like Flannery O'Connor, who writes about her territory and makes it so palpable and believable, can be set down anywhere in the world, and you will know what she's talking about. Similarly, if you reflect your own territory with that kind of accuracy, you could come to somewhere like Boston or Washington and people would perceptively read it and say "Ah yes, I know what you're talking about" because, paradoxi-

cally, the parochial is what leads to the universal. And the opposite is the provincial, which is always looking over your shoulder and saying "What's happening in the capital or what are they doing in New York?" It's not just Irish writing that does that.

#### Why do you write?

I think that one of the things that is basic and inherent to the (human) species is play. As kids, we play all the time, and it's something you can't stop people from doing.

What I liked to play was farms. You'd get wee cows and sheep and put a wee farmer and his wife over there, and you'd be making this landscape. Many years later when I was writing *Cal*, I thought this is what I'm doing—I'm making a landscape. I'm putting that farmer there and his wife there, and I'm pushing them into motion to see what they do and what comes out of it. It's a whole adult, very serious play situation, and that's why it's difficult to stop.

#### How much of you is in your stories?

It's difficult to say. Some of them you could point at and say that is definitely you, but it wouldn't be. It's a construct of me or of my wife. There are bits of people I know mixed together. The sensual data you use when

writing can only come from you out of the five ports of your senses, making that description of the world around you. If you can make that vivid for the reader and he says "Yeah that's the way it is," then he will begin to trust you on emotional issues. For example, *Cal* as a boy: I've been a boy, and I've experienced many of the things that are described in the novel—simple things like washing your face and the feeling of fear when you get the soap in your eyes. You think "anybody could do anything to me at this moment—my eyes are closed. Someone could crashing through that door and kick me or kill me or shoot me." So I mean living with that fear. I never experienced anything like being part of a violent organization or a violent killing.

#### Were you picked up off the street while walking your dog as in the title story of your latest book?

That happened to a neighbor in the early 1970s. The story had so terrified me when he told me that I didn't write it down. Many years later, it had still niggled with me. I wondered what ever happened to the dog. A kind of crazy piece of logic like that is what led me into writing that story to answer that question. If you're kidnapped, does the dog run away or does it bark or does it try and bite them or does it come into the car? And then the dog took on a bigger value—it's there as a presence, and you're afraid for the dog as well. Are they going to shoot

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the dog? That helps build the tension.

**What enables human beings to justify such acts of violence and terrorism that go on in Northern Ireland, that went on in Oklahoma City, that go on in the Middle East?**

By vilifying and dehumanizing the opposition. The other technique is if you hit a government building, and you find that there were 16 children killed, then you say that was an accident. This is a technique the IRA used all the time. They would do something resulting in the horrible deaths of children and innocent people, and they'd say "It was an accident. We didn't mean to do that. We are aiming to hit members of the armed forces, government, police." On the other hand, what John Hume is talking about is actually sitting down and addressing your differences, saying "Look, I don't have to like you, but I have to live with you, and we can do this kind of an agreement here, and we can get structures where people can live together without blowing each other's heads off."

**What do you think of Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein? Should he be included in all of the discussions? Should one deal with terrorists?**

Yes. I think that the only other way to carry on is to continue killing and for one side militarily to wipe out the other, and that's impossible. So the only other alternative is to sit down and talk and say "What is bothering you?" Talk never hurt anybody.

**How is the Irish peace process affecting you personally, your writing? I pulled the quote from Cal: "Ireland is like a child. It is concerned with the past and present. The future has ceased**

**to exist for it." Is that how you felt about Ireland in 1983, and how has that changed?**

Well now it has a future. If people sit down and talk, it has a great future. And if they can do it only by nonviolent means, then Ireland will have a future and people will then start to learn not to look back. The only other way we can go is like Bosnia, and nobody wants to go that way.

**What's it like writing about Northern Ireland from Scotland?**

It maybe adds a wee bit of distance from it—a political distance. Growing up in Northern Ireland, I thought that politics consisted of the Orange and the Green (the British and the Republicans). Moving to Scotland made me realize that a bigger divide exists between left and right—between capitalism and socialism. In Northern Ireland it was cloaked by this other thing for which people were dying, and Scotland added that distance for me.

**How do you view yourself in relation to Northern Ireland, Ireland, Britain, Europe? What is this concept of Europe for you?**

When somebody phones you up and asks you to read in Florence, you don't say no. I went and read in Milan and Florence. When I go there, I feel extremely European and pro-European, and I feel a certain guilt about the way the British behave about Europe. The British are terrible Europeans, whereas the Scots are totally pro-Europe and the Irish are totally pro-Europe. Ireland has thrown itself into Europe as complete members, and they're all for it. Certainly the Scots and the Irish are more European than the British.

**Which authors do you admire?**

It would depend on my

stage of reading. In the very beginning there was a name-sake of mine whom I admired greatly—Michael MacLaverty, a short story writer from Belfast—and of course James Joyce. *The Brothers Karamazov* from Dostoevski was given to me by a friend after I finished school. It took me months to read it, and it lifted the top of my head off. Living there with Ivan and Dimitri and debating about whether or not God existed and what was suffering about and BOOM! That first flush of reading...this is what it's all about! And then, at a kind of arrogant level you say "Gosh maybe I can do that?" and that makes you start to put words down on the page. It took a long time, though. It took me 18 years to publish my first book.

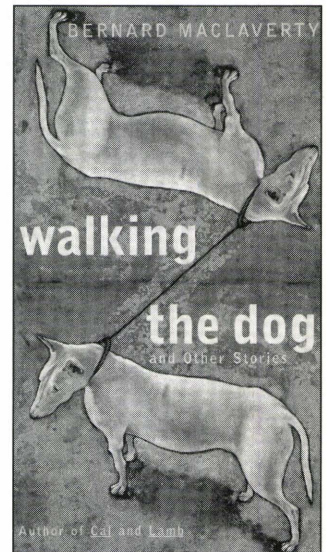
**What are you working on now?**

I've just finished a screenplay. I always have a couple of stories on the go—in the machine—at various stages of completion. I would like to write another novel. The screenplay was adapting a novel from about 1912 called *Children of the Dead End* by an Irish writer called Patrick McGill, and it's a very thinly disguised autobiography. One hundred years ago there was no support system for anybody without money. It tells the story of him at the age of 10 at a hiring fair. It's a genuinely experienced story. Later he went on to Scotland to pick potatoes, became a tramp, worked at an electric dam, all this time starting to write poetry and articles for a London paper—the *Daily Express* and became a journalist. All this and he's only 21.

**What is it about Irish writers that makes them so popular around the world?**

It has something to do with language—a kind of

heightened awareness to language and also to irony and a sense of storytelling.



## BOOKS

**Walking the Dog and Other Stories**

By Bernard MacLaverty;  
W.W. Norton; 198 pages; \$20.

*Walking the Dog and Other Stories* is a collection of nine tightly written short stories woven together by a series of monologues from "Your Man"—the alter ego of Belfast-born author Bernard MacLaverty.

Residing in Glasgow, Scotland, MacLaverty has been writing about the tensions of life in Northern Ireland for years. His two novels *Cal* and *Lamb* have been made into movies, and MacLaverty himself recently adapted a novel for the screen.

On the surface, MacLaverty's latest short stories appear banal—a man walking his dog; a conversation between a bored Protestant prison guard and a Catholic schoolboy who is considering joining the priesthood; a middle-aged couple's holiday at the beach—but in reality they offer profound glimpses at the tensions that boil in Northern Ireland and the uni-

versal complexities of the human condition.

The title story "Walking the Dog" begins with the nine o'clock news when a Belfast man takes a break from the television set to walk his dog. During the course of 10 minutes, he is picked up by men claiming to be the IRA (but who are in fact British Loyalists looking to kill IRA members), terrorized, and dumped back on the side of the road listening to the jingle of his dog's identity tags. MacLaverty crafts a dramatic tension that describes this fearful element of life in Northern Ireland by making the reader contemplate the unknown: Who are

the kidnapers? What is the religion of the kidnapped man? What will they do to him and to his dog who innocently jumped into the car?

In "A Silent Retreat," a young Protestant prison guard and a Catholic schoolboy find themselves sharing a smoke together between the prison's fence that overlooks the school. The friendliness of their exchange is overshadowed by the tensions of their incompatible worlds. "How could you have a United Ireland with you and me in it?" asks the prison guard.

The longest of the short stories "At the Beach" shows the disharmony of a mid-life

couple on holiday in Spain, hoping to rekindle the sparks in their marriage. Jimmy becomes obsessed with knowing the past sexual experiences of his wife, Maureen, oblivious to the fact that she is contemplating leaving him. Frustrated with each other, they notice a couple in their eighties down by the sea. The old man appears to be yelling at the woman who is paddling around in the ocean. "He's teaching her how to swim," Jimmy suddenly realizes and looks at his wife who is somewhere between laughing and crying. "That's magic," she said. "What a bloody magic thing to do."

Magic permeates the mun-

dane in each of MacLaverty's stories and monologues.

*Walking the Dog* is a richly painted composite of life in Northern Ireland, accessible to any reader. MacLaverty's wonderful sense of irony lightens otherwise bleak situations.

In the monologue "The Fountain-Pen Shop Woman," "Your man" sends his fountain pen away to be repaired and is surprised when he receives a bill for the services. When he shows the fountain pen shop woman the pamphlet that says the pen is guaranteed for life, she sarcastically replies, "How can anything to do with writing be guaranteed for life?"

—Natasha Schlegel

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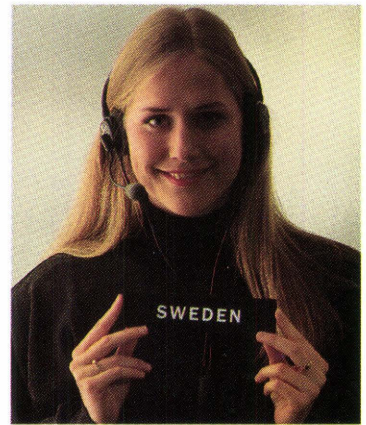
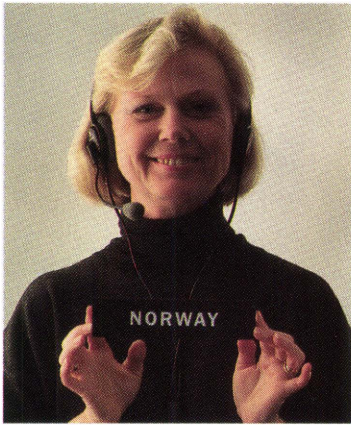
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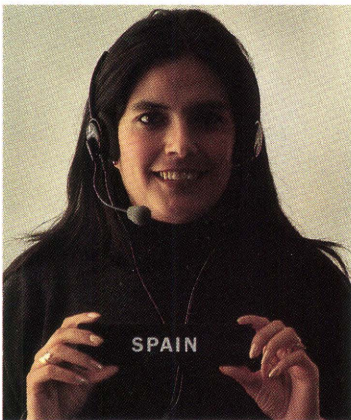
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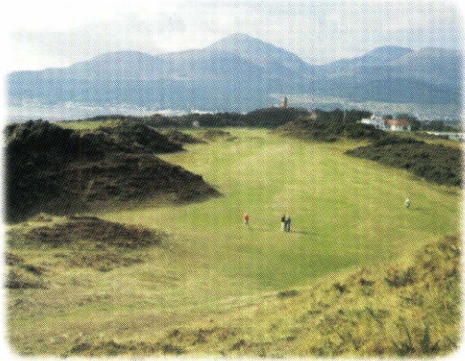


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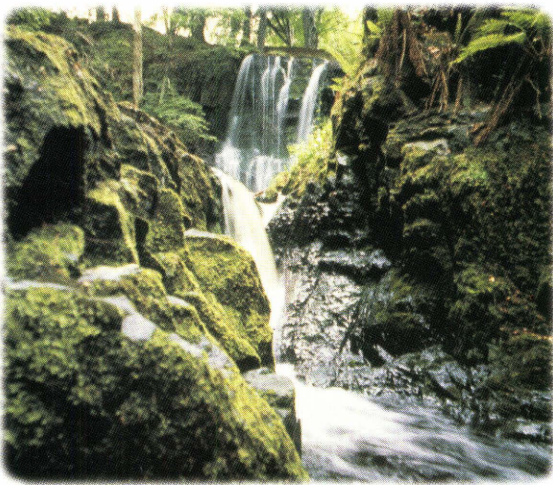
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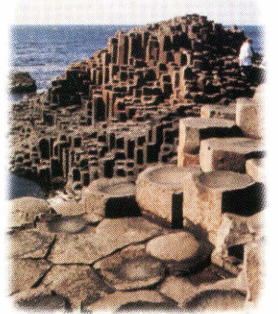


How the sound of a fiddle can float soft and low. ● Never wander over the glens of Antrim,

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from the stream, Or a scone weighed down with Mourne honey and cream. ●



Never drive a ball to an emerald green. The Giant's Causeway,

sure, a sight to be seen. ●

No, you'll never know,

Unless you go. ●

Yes, I'd like to go, and I'd like to know more.

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**Northern Ireland  
Tourist Board**

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