

Calendar

4/5 Demonstration

11:30 a.m. Monthly anti-deportation demonstration in front of the Federal Court building on Market Street downtown.

4/9 Letter Writing for the POWs at the Flynn's House

7:00 p.m. 1011 Blase Ave, Des Peres. Any questions, please call Jenny Flynn, Leslie Alikhan, or me.

4/17 Monthly Noraid Meeting

7:30 pm in the basement of the house next to St. Joseph's Church in Clayton; corner of Maryland and Meramec. All are welcome.

Update on Matt Morrison's Deportation Fight

From Francie Broderick
(From Internet)

Our Show Cause hearing was scheduled for March 11 at 9:00. I didn't do any PR for it as I did not see it as a major event.

Bill McClellan, however, did a story on March 10 suggesting the Brits must have something on "Clinton from his Oxford days" because it made no sense why they wouldn't settle this with all the support we have. Well, that got the TV media going.

Oddly enough, my electricity was, with no notice, shut off Monday (came home and found a note saying UE had to make some changes). Result was no one could get through on our phone or answering machine, so within 30 minutes of my coming

home from work, we had five unexpected TV crews line up at the house waiting to do interviews.

It was ridiculous. This story has had coverage off and on, pretty heavy during the time I stalked Clinton in Ireland, but this was over the top. Some did story from scratch. It was all pretty sympathetic.

The most incredible moment for me was when I looked over and saw Katie on the couch with a mike on her shirt and a flood light on her, preparing to be interviewed. She was pulling at her skirt but she spoke. They asked if she knew what this was about and she explained they were trying to deport Daddy. The guy asked the favorite question "how does this make you feel?" and she said "kind of nervous" He then said and does it make you scared and she said "a little."

Then they did Matthew and, being a nine year old boy, he was loath to talk about his feelings so he searched his brain for everything he had ever heard me say, I think. He went on and on 'til finally the reporter said "how does this make you feel" and Matthew said I'm kind of worried about what the Brits will do to my dad if we go to Ireland."

The hearing was kind of an anti-climax. There were three lawyers and an INS official and Matt and me. The judge was in Texas; the INS lawyer was in KC. The hearing was conducted over the phone. The purpose was for Matt to plead to charges as to why he was deportable. Judge commented she had never before seen a 13-page show cause letter, longest she had ever seen before was 3 pages. Matt's plea "disagreed" to all charges except overstaying visa. Our lawyers and INS lawyer agree we would need at least a full week to present testimony. First full week block of time judge had was first week of December.

I confess my heart sank when I heard this. All I could think of was that I wanted to move over the

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summer time (if we had to move) and here goes another Christmas dealing with daddy's case instead of Christmas (last December we had campout vigil).

Lawyers were happy because it gives them more time to prepare and see how new law is applied. Crowd of reporters met us as we left again. By the time they spoke to me, I had moved from depressed to mad. I said I wanted President Clinton to donate the use of the Lincoln bedroom for a weekend as a fund-raiser.

Anyway, at least we have a date and we can start planning on who we will bring in to give testimony. I am reluctant to start naming names at this time as nothing is confirmed but we plan to bring in some pretty substantial witnesses and it should be an interesting hearing. We will make it a very political case and plan to have demonstrations every day.

Matt and kids went to Chicago for the parade there, at the invitation of INA and carried the Defense Fund banner which got a mention on the TV.

The last thing I want to tell you is that we were Grand Marshalls for AOH St. Patrick's Day parade Monday the 17th. It was an incredible experience for us. Here we are being kicked out of the country and all these people came out to cheer us. This parade is in a working class old Irish neighborhood and the crowds were great. They all seemed to know us and people were running up to the car to shake hands and wish us luck. It was just amazing.

We are so thankful to the people of this community. We are still wishing we did not have to go to the expense of this hearing but I promise all of you that we will do our best to put Britain on trial so those of you who have contributed to our defense should get the extra pleasure of knowing that you have not only helped us but you have contributed to the slow and difficult task of getting the truth about the six counties out.

Thanks to you.

Believe it or believe it not. The day of the parade when we were out all day, we came home about 8:00 and the house looked a little worse than usual.

Our dog is very enthusiastic when visitors come near the house. It appeared that she was very excited because the front curtain was down and there were lots of paint chips on the floor from the windowsill where she had obviously been digging into the woodwork.

OK, maybe someone was at the door but explain this, the only a poster celebrating our picket of Thatcher was missing from our wall with only the hanger left on the wall.

Pearson Wins Asylum

On March 26, a U.S. immigration judge denied deportation of Tyrone man Brian Pearson, 45, who has lived in the United States since 1988. The judge also granted political asylum. Pearson was captured and imprisoned in 1977, where he was tortured first by interrogators and then by prison warders. After his release in 1988, he immigrated to the United States. Pearson is married to an American citizen and has a 5-year-old daughter.

Immigration Judge Phillip Williams said in his ruling that Pearson, a carpenter, has led an "exemplary life" while in the United States and has not been involved in any criminal activity.

"The court finds that the respondent is eligible and deserving of a grant of political asylum," Williams said.

The judge also granted "adjustment of status" based on his marriage to his US citizen wife Doris.

Judge Williams asserted that Mr Pearson's participation in an IRA bomb attack was a political offense under existing US immigration law.

Gerry Adams, commenting on the news, said: "Justice has been done in the case of Brian Pearson. Brian is a credit to his community and continues that great tradition of Irish immigrants contributing to the United States.

"It is the hope of Sinn Fein as well as Irish America that Brian Pearson's case will be the first victory. The other men facing similar legal battles can take heart from this decision."

Francie Broderick warned against the possibility that the decision might be appealed. She urged supporters to fax, call, write, and tell Clinton to honor the court decision and not to appeal.

The following two letters are good examples of what we need to be telling the President. Please copy one or both of them and send them to the President today. In addition to asking him to stop the deportations and end the appeals, we must let him know that Jimmy Smyth is being tortured once again in a British prison. The rest of the H-Block Four must not be returned to such a barbaric regime.

Dear Mr. President,
I was pleased to see that Federal Judge Philip Williams granted asylum to Brian Pearson. I would urge you to contact Attorney General Reno and order her not to appeal this decision.

Remember your promise of "no more Joe Dohertys." Let us end the ordeal for Brian and his family now the court has spoken.

You might be interested in knowing that Jimmy Smyth, a man you sent back to a Northern Ireland prison, was severely beaten by prison authorities on Good Friday. This despite a promise by the British that he would be well treated if he was sent back.

I eagerly await your decision.

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. President,
As I write this letter on Easter Sunday morning I give thanks regarding the decision by Immigration judge Philip Williams to grant political asylum to Brian Pearson. Certainly Brian, his wife, and 5-year-old daughter will have many prayers of thanks to offer on this holy day.

I believe Judge Williams' decision to be the correct one. The judge recognized the political nature of the struggle in Northern Ireland and realized that Brian's return to Ireland would endanger his life and that of his family. I hope that as President of the United States you will direct the Immigration and Naturalization Service to honor this decision and not appeal it to a higher court. An appeal will simply add to the anxiety and suffering Brian and his family have endured over the last several years.

We must not forget similar cases by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that are in process. The cases of, Matt Morrison, Gabriel Megahey, Kevin Crossan, Robbie McErlean and Noel Gaynor are all similar to Brian's and hopefully will result in the same just outcome. These men suffered through, and struggled against, the same type of persecution as Brian. Since coming to this country they and their families have all made significant contributions and deserve our protection.

Sincerely,

Roisin McAliskey Update

British Home Office Minister David Maclean last month referred to uncharged prisoner Roisin McAliskey as "evil IRA scum."

The Pat Finucane Centre, a human rights organization in Derry, has drawn attention to a significant development in Germany with

regard to Roisin's case.

After arrest at home last November 20 and questioning, she briefly occupied a feces-smear cell in London's all-male Belmarsh Prison. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch/Helsinki charged "cruel, inhuman and degrading" treatment violated international human rights conventions. Until recently, that included nearly 100 strip searches, solitary confinement, threats that British social services would take her baby at birth, and inadequate medical care. British courts denied bail repeatedly, last on March 14.

But as a consequence of a television programme shown in Germany on Thursday night (27 March), it appears that the chief witness on whose identification evidence the case against Roisin McAliskey is based has not been shown any photographs of her and does not recognize her on the basis of photographs shown to him by the television programme.

The programme Kontraste, an ARD TV production said that while both the German and British authorities have been reluctant to specify exactly what the evidence against Roisin has been, a fax issued by the German embassy in Washington to a US citizen Joseph F Boyce [Joyce] (dated 5 February) states that "the landlord, who had been in regular contact with the [IRA] group, recognised Ms McAliskey and identified her on various photographs which were shown to him."

Please continue to write to Roisin McAliskey at TE 2456 HMP Holloway Parkhurst Road, Holloway London, ENGLAND N70NY

Mr. Joyce's hard work proves that just a few people can make a difference. Please follow his lead and write to the institutions below. Ask them to release Roisin on humanitarian grounds.

British Embassy in Washington
3100 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-3600

Telephone: 202-898-4343
Fax: 202-898-4273

German Embassy in Washington
4645 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Telephone: 202-298-4000
Fax: 202-298-4249 or 202-333-2653

Smyth Beaten in Long Kesh

Jimmy Smyth, Joe Doherty, and 6 or 7 others were singled out for "special treatment" by warders in Long Kesh on Good Friday. Jimmy was beaten severely, leaving him with bruising over most of his body, and nerve damage to one arm from a blow to the elbow, followed by the forcing of the same arm up behind his back. He will have no use of the arm for at least eight weeks. The incident must be viewed in light of the British government's assurances to the American government that Jimmy would not be mistreated in any way if returned. It is vital that our government hear from as many as possible regarding this situation, both for Jimmy's sake and for the sake of Terry Kirby, Kevin Artt, and Pol Brennan, who are currently awaiting a decision on their extradition back to Long Kesh.

President Clinton can be e-mailed at President@whitehouse.gov. You may also fax the White House at (202) 456-2461, or phone the White House at (202) 456-1111.

Write to the POWs

The following prisoners have birthdays in April and May. Be sure to send a birthday card to Jimmy Smyth. Entries are organized as follows: Name/ Birthday/ Prison/ Number or Hometown/ Sentence/ Release date (if any)

Anderson, Martina / 4/16 /
Maghaberry / F647 Derry / LIFE
Bateson, Peter / 5/18 / Maze /
A2151 Magherafelt / 25 / 6/2001
Bradley, Gerard (Whitey) / 5/9 /

ize / A2171 New Lodge [Belfast] /
10 / 2/99
Brennan, Tom S. / 5/3 / Maze /
A4608 Strabane / LIFE
Brown, Charles / 4/12 / Maze /
B3395 Poleglass [Belfast] / 5 / 6/1/97
Butler, Eddie / 4/17 / Frankland /
338637 Limerick / LIFE
Campbell, Bernard / 4/13 / Maze /
A536 Coalisland / LIFE
Carroll, Gregory / 4/27 / Maze /
A6620 Armagh City / 22 / 2/2002
Clinton, Terrence / 5/16 / Maze /
A7883 Ormeau Road [Belfast] / 14 /
9/98
Coyle, Kieran / 4/4 / Maze / A2150
Dungannon / 17 / 6/97
Doherty, James / 4/7 / Maze / A1002
Derry / LIFE
Doherty, Michael J. / 4/16 / Maze /
A1644 Ardoyne (Belfast) / 16 / 4/98
Donnelly, James / 5/9 / Maze /
A4388 Ballymurphy [Belfast] / 22 /
1/2001
Ferrity, Geraldine / 5/15 /
Maghaberry / F234 Omagh / LIFE
Ferry, Ciaran / 4/11 / Maze / B738
Andersonstown [Belfast] / 22 / 3/2004
Gillespie, Drew / 5/4 / Portlaoise /
Donegal / 10 / 9/2001
Grimes, Patrick / 5/23 / Maze / A570
Carrickmore / LIFE
Harkin, Richard / 5/3 / Maze / A6754
Derry / 20 / 2/2001
Hughes, Sean / 5/1 / Maze / B2431
New Lodge [Belfast] / 12
Ireland, Patrick / 4/29 / Maze / B267
Clonard [Belfast] / 10 / 12/97
Johnston, Paul / 5/9 / Maze / B790
Andersonstown [Belfast] / 15 / 9/2000
Kane, Patrick / 4/1 / Maze / A2617
Andersonstown [Belfast] / LIFE
Kinsella, Denis / 4/12 / Frankland /
EN1944 Dublin / 25
Lafferty, Martin N. / 5/14 / Maze /
A3377 Claudy / 19 / 7/2002
Leonard, Patrick / 5/9 / Maze /
A6772 Short Strand [Belfast] / 20 /
5/2002
Mackin, Gerard / 4/30 / Maze /
B4245 Belfast / 25 / 10/2010
Magee, Patrick / 5/29 / Maze / New
Lodge / LIFE
Moen, Declan / 4/28 / Maze / A4163
Monaghan / 15 / 6/97
Moore, Declan G. / 5/19 / Maze /
A6757 Derry / 20 / 2/2001
Moore, Eamonn / 5/4 / Maze / A597

Derry / LIFE
Morgan, David / 4/14 / Maze / A8290
New Lodge [Belfast] / 25 / 6/2005
McArdle, Mary / 5/8 / Maghaberry /
F7 Turf Lodge [Belfast] / LIFE
McComb, Damien / 5/1 / Maze /
B3723 Short Strand [Belfast] / 30 /
12/2009
McErlain, Dermot S. / 5/18 / Maze /
B159 Toome / 11 / 5/98
McGarrigle, Seamus / 5/3 / Maze /
A6061 Strabane / LIFE
McGennity, Patrick / 4/9 / Maze /
A2156 Newry / 18 / 6/99
McGilloway, Patrick / 5/21 / Maze /
A2101 Derry / 22 / 11/99
McKinney, John / 5/11 / Maze /
A2037 New Lodge [Belfast] / 18 /
6/97
McLaughlin, Patrick / 5/2 / Maze /
Turf Lodge [Belfast] / 20
McMahon, Tommy / 5/1 / Training
Unit / Monaghan / LIFE
McPhillips, Patrick / 5/23 /
Portlaoise / Dundalk / 40
McWilliams, Thomas / 5/1 / Maze /
B727 Ardoyne [Belfast] / LIFE
O'Connell, Joe / 5/15 / Frankland /
338635 Clare / LIFE
O'Kane, Francis / 4/6 / Maze /
B1194 Co. Derry / 18 / 1/2002
Rooney, Danny / 4/1 / Maze / A7374
St. James [Belfast] / 16 / 6/99
Sheehan, Patrick / 5/28 / Maze /
A1871 St. James [Belfast] / 24 /
10/2004
Smyth, Jimmy / 4/11 / Maze /
Ardoyne [Belfast] / 20
Storey, Robert / 4/12 / Maze / A845
Andersonstown [Belfast] / REMAND
Sullivan, Damien / 5/15 / Maze /
B2690 Andersonstown [Belfast] /
LIFE
Taylor, Tony / 5/18 / Maze / B2316
Derry / 18 / 1/2003
Tennyson, Francis / 4/7 / Maze /
B227 Portadown / 17 / 7/2000
Timmons, Michael / 5/29 / Maze /
A4530 Twinbrook [Belfast] / LIFE
Walsh, Seanna (Sid) / 4/19 / Maze /
A2107 Poleglass [Belfast] / 22 / 11/99

IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST
POWs

Gallagher, Brendy / 5/4/66 / Maze /
3026 Belfast / REMAND
Hogan, Eddie / 5/5/54 / Portlaoise /
Cork / 40 / 4/18

Addresses:

H.M. Prison Frankland
Finchale Avenue
Brasside, Low Newton
Durham DH1
ENGLAND
H.M. Prison Maghaberry-Female
Old Mill Road
Ballinderry, Co. Antrim
North Ireland BT28 2PT
H.M. Prison Maze
Lisburn, County Antrim
North Ireland BT27 5RP
Portlaoise Prison
Portlaoise, County Laoise
IRELAND
Training Unit
Glengariff Parade
North Circular Road
Dublin 7, IRELAND

We are thinking of starting a lending library like the Kansas City group. It is still in the planning stages, but if you are interested, start getting your book lists (fiction, history, politics, art, folklore, etc), including author, title, and subject, together. Include any Irish-interest videotapes you may have, and give these lists to Leslie Alikhan or myself.

If you didn't get tickets from Noraid for the Unity Raffle (\$20 each) to be held at the AGM, I have extra. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

If you are interested in selling candy bars for the Defense Fund, please get in touch with Leslie Alikhan. This is a good fund-raiser; the Nestle candy bars are \$1 each, and the Defense Fund gets 50 cents of that. It's an easy way to raise money for the Defense Fund, so get your box from Leslie today.

If you have any contributions you would like to make to this newsletter, please call me at 781-7981, e-mail me at jfurey@inlink.com, or pass on any events, etc. to me at the monthly Noraid meeting.