

Irish Examiner Tomorrow



Your complete guide to Orogen Festival survival tips, the acts you can't miss, plus staying stylish in your wellies

Features



Prints charming Rembrandt's etchings are on show at the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin

Arts



Meet McGahan New Munster coach Tony McGahan on his plans for the Heineken Cup champions

Sport



Word from the west Kieran Fitzgerald and David Clarke count down to Sunday's Connacht final

Sport



LIFT OFF: This picture of a herring gull taken off the Old Head of Kinsale, Co Cork, with a calm sea and bright sun. It is part of Sheena Jolley's exhibition of wildlife photography, *Double Take*, which will be opened by ecologist Tom O'Byrne in Kinsale on July 10.

‘Yo Harper!’ Bush’s blooper at G8

JAPAN: US President George W. Bush yesterday kept up his tradition of informal relations with fellow world leaders by summoning Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper with a brusque “Yo Harper!”

Bush and Harper, a rather stiff and shy figure, are in northern Japan for a summit of leaders of the Group of Eight leading industrialised countries. Television footage of a G8 lunch with African leaders showed Bush talking to Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua and saying “Yo Harper! The president of Nigeria.”

At a G8 summit in 2006, Bush landed ally Tony Blair in some trouble by calling out “Yo Blair!” Critics said the greeting showed the unequal nature of Bush's relationship with Blair, then the British prime minister.

Harper's ties with Bush are sensitive, since critics of Canada's

right-wing Conservative government regularly accuse it of taking orders from Washington.

It was not the first time Bush has surprised Harper in public. In July 2006, when the two men met at the White House for the first time, Bush publicly called the Canadian “Steve”.

Analysts said at the time this might actually help Harper dispel questions about the closeness of his relationship with Bush, since no one who even slightly knew the somewhat wooden Canadian leader would ever think of him as “Steve”.

USA: A man has been jailed after posting a video online showing him and his father shocking each other with a stolen stun gun.

Paul Crowell, 22, pleaded guilty to possession of an electric weapon and was sentenced to two years in prison



by a court in Wisconsin in the US.

Documents say he stole a Taser stun gun from an East Troy police officer. He got it while sitting in a patrol car after his vehicle was found in a ditch.

NETHERLANDS: A woman who shares her house in the Netherlands with five dozen cats has been ordered by a judge to get rid of 50 of them, the ANP news agency reported.

The woman has been using her front and back yards and all of the rooms of her house in the town of Sint Annaparoche to shelter stray cats, it said.

Neighbours complained and the woman was fined by municipal authorities — prompting her to approach a judge for relief.

But the court agreed 60 cats were too many and gave the woman until November 1 to get rid of the majority of her feline companions. She may keep 10.

ENGLAND: Church officials are investigating after a vicar allegedly asked for a couple's toddler son to be removed from their wedding service

because he was making too much noise.

Ashley and Vicky Thorpe said their wedding ceremony was ruined when two-year-old Cameron was ordered out of Christ Church in Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, for repeating his dad's name.

The couple told The Sentinel newspaper a close relative also left the service after being told by vicar David Cameron not to make a scene during the ceremony.

USA: A 91-year-old woman who crawled under her car to look for her keys ended up stuck there for two days.

Betty Borowski, from Milwaukee in the US, was found when her postman noticed letters piling up on her door mat. Police said she became trapped after getting her head pinned under the car's axle.

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Searching for that perfect ickle word

SOMETHING deeply annoying has happened. I've written a song on my guitar. I didn't mean to — it just happened. The chords worked themselves together in the ridiculous way that chords do, and now I'm stuck with a little melody that I've no idea what to do with. Obviously, conventional wisdom suggests I should make up some lyrics. I've tried that, however, and I must admit I'm struggling.

The problem isn't that I'm bereft of words. It's just that I'm bereft of the right words — ie small words, charming words — the little silly words that uniquely suit pop songs as opposed to, say, discussions on the impossibility of representation in postmodernity.

Oh yes, I'm well stocked up on the latter drivel. Too well stocked up, some would say. What I need, then, are ickle words that do exactly what they say on the tin. I used to know thousands of them when I was a young fella but somewhere along the line the small words and I just started to drift apart.

Looking back, I suppose we simply outgrew each another. I spiked my hair and started hanging around with bad boys like 'fortuitous' and 'exacerbate', leaving old childhood pals like 'lucky' and 'worsen' back in the crib to goo-goo and ga-ga with those infantile dillards 'happy' and 'nice'.

It's all left me nicely flummoxed, however, now that I'm faced with writing a pop song. The fact is pop songs and snooty words are like chalk and cheese. If anything, most pop songs are militantly monosyllabic in their approach.

Take Tracy Chapman's Fast Car, for instance. The first line, famously, is the uncomplicated statement: “You've got a fast car.” It's simple. It's direct. It doesn't mess about. If I wrote that song, however, the first line would be: “You've got access to expeditious vehicular transport.” Not quite the same ring to it, I think you'll agree.



Padraic Killeen
The Last Word

Of course, there's also such a thing as being too simplistic, and a strategic big word can work wonders. Take the brilliant hubris of Hal David in I'll Never Fall In Love Again, where he rhymes 'pneumonia' with 'phone ya'. Nobel Prizes have been handed out for less.

Indeed, in my view, the most impressive big word used in a pop song comes courtesy of an Irishman, The Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon, for his couplet: “Daddy drives the mobile library / He works peripatetically.” Even before you reach for the dictionary, you're pleasurably nodding at the lilted metre alone.

Not that any of this has helped me pen my own pompous pop song. Already on line one I'm stuck trying to find a rhyme for 'enigmatic'. Hmmm ... automatic? Systematic? Hydromatic? Tsk. That feckin John Travolta has used up all the good ones in Greased Lightning.

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