

## Irish Examiner Tomorrow



**Proper pop**  
A guide to the champagne that will best suit your New Year's Eve celebrations

### Press rewind

The year that was in cinema



Arts



**On the run**  
Five Irish asthmatics chose to run the Boston marathon as their New Year's resolution

Feelgood

### Racing

**Pat Keane reflects on the Lexus Chase and the battle between Beef or Salmon and War of Attrition in the showpiece race at Leopardstown**



Sport



**KEEPING LOOKOUT:** red deer on Inishtrahull Island, seven miles north of Fanad Head, Co Donegal, as captured on camera by Sheena Jolley. There are no longer any stags there as the island could not support an expanding population. The rock formation is similar to that found in Greenland but not found anywhere else in Ireland. Ms Jolley's work will be part of a photographic exhibition opening in the Miriam Bailey Gallery, McSwiney Quay, Bandon, Co Cork, on Friday, January 5.

Picture: Sheena Jolley

# Flatulence fight breaks out in prison

USA: Brian Bruggeman caused a stink in Nebraska's Lincoln County Jail earlier this month and will now have to answer for it in court. Another inmate, Jesse Dorris, alleges that Bruggeman's flatulence, passed in close proximity to Dorris, sparking a December 14 fight between the two at the jail.

Now Bruggeman, 38, faces a January 11 preliminary hearing on the state's complaint of assault by a confined person. It's a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

Bruggeman is accused of injuring Dorris, his cellmate, when he pushed him into cell bars. Dorris, 26, was not charged.

The two began scuffling, county attorney Jeff Meyer said yesterday, because Dorris was fed up with Bruggeman's flatulence.

Sheriff Jerome Kramer said the incident was a result of overcrowding. "You just can't get a reprieve from one another," Kramer said. "When

you've got a guy causing problems passing gas, there's no way to get away from the smell."

GERMANY: A 21-year-old German woman who did not feel like going to work at a fast food restaurant sent her parents a text message saying she had been kidnapped.

Police in the Bavarian town of Straubing said yesterday they had launched a massive search throughout the region for the woman who disappeared on December 23 but turned up unscathed the following morning, saying the kidnapper had set her free.

A spokesman said the woman admitted she made up the story because she owed a colleague €25 and did not have the money to pay her debt. She now faces a fine of up to €1,000.

BRITAIN: Animal-loving Britons have taken their obsession with furry pets to new lengths — including many members of the cat family not



worldapart

usually associated with domesticity, according to a survey published yesterday.

The Big Cats in Britain (BCIB) group used the Freedom of Information Act to survey local councils on the weird and woolly creatures legally kept in private hands.

It found a total of 154 assorted cats — including 12 lions, 14 tigers, 50

leopards and 16 wild cats — plus 2,000 ostriches and 500 monkeys.

At the same time 300 American bison and 6,000 wild boars are also kept privately.

At the less cuddly end of the spectrum BCIB found more than 250 poisonous snakes and 50 members of the crocodile family.

The figures exclude zoo animals. "Although these animals are regarded by law as dangerous, the public should rest assured, that these animals very rarely escape," said researcher Shaun Stevens.

JAPAN: A Japanese woman charged with inflicting injury on her neighbour by blasting music at her house for two-and-a-half years was given a 20-month prison term, a court official said.

Miyoko Kawahara, 59, was sentenced Tuesday by Osaka High Court, revoking an initial ruling that had given her a one-year prison term,

court spokesman Takanao Kawasaki said.

Kawahara, of Heguri in western Japan, was arrested in April 2005. She was accused of causing insomnia and headaches to her next-door neighbour by playing loud dance music almost 24-hour-a-day on a portable stereo she had pointed at her neighbour's house, 20 feet away.

The two women had had several disagreements that police did not elaborate on.

"The defendant ignored calls by local authorities and continuously played music at a high volume for some 29 months," Kyodo News agency quoted presiding Judge Hiroshi Furukawa as telling the court.

In handing down a longer prison term than a local court ruling last April, Furukawa told the court that the defendant "still maintains a hostile attitude toward the victim and it is highly likely she will commit the crime again," Kyodo said.



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# The People's Republic of Crass

CORK-BORN journalist Brendan O'Connor got it wrong when, on Ryan Tubridy's chat show last Saturday, he claimed that Cork is a 'class-less city' with just different variations on an accent that go from intelligible to well-enunciated.

As every Corkonian knows, Cork is one of the most class-ridden cities in Ireland. Some of our mothers have virtual data-bases in their heads on the lineage of well-known Cork families. Mention someone new and, before you know it, these avid social column/obituary reading ladies will have trotted out the names of their parents, their grandparents and their respective professions and place in society. (They used to do this around china plates of cakes in Thompsons. Now, the ladies-in-the-know meet up in the Ballymaloe Café in the Crawford).

Someone I know (she's the daughter of a professor — yes, I am beginning to sound like one of those middle-class mothers) was in a dentist's chair when the dentist started recounting a tale of woe to his nurse. He and a few friends were fishing in Waterville when a low-flying helicopter unsettled their tranquillity. "We could have been drowned; myself, a dentist, a doctor and an honours maths teacher," he said.

I once heard a well-known Cork businessman greet a fellow traveller on the South Mall with the question: "Is she on the water yet?" They love their yachts in Cork and sure, haven't we the oldest yacht club in the world?

The merchant princes may be a dying breed and Rochestown, Glounthane and Montenotte are not what they used to be, what with relentless property development muscling in on the city's former posh suburban enclaves. But there's still some 'old money' in these areas (the only kind of money worth talking about in



Colette Sheridan

The Last Word

Cork up until recently).

However, the old money brigade is having to tolerate the new kids on the block, the SUV-driving upstarts who have made loads of new money in the property development game. They may not speak snobbish accents that used to dominate Crosshaven during Cork Week. But, by God, the arrivistes now own Cork and drink the best champagne by the case load, whether it's in the Royal Cork Yacht Club or 'down in the Showgrounds' for a Bob Dylan concert at a corporate hospitality pre-gig party.

O'Connor, from Bishopstown I believe, may have detected the virtual disappearance of old money in Cork when he made his 'class-less city' comment but there's a whole new competitiveness going on. Admittedly, it's more accessible than D4. It's the People's Republic of Crass.

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