

MIRRORMAN REVEALS HELL AT HANDS OF SEX PREDATOR

BY PAT FLANAGAN



You can't get lower than molesting ill children but such was the deference to people like Shine, he was able to get away with it...

DEATH and taxes are supposedly the only certainties in life but young boys who visited Dr Michael Shine's surgery knew there was a good chance he was going to put his hands down their pants.

It didn't matter if you had a cut head or a busted finger, he would begin to feel under your arms and then put his hand down your trousers to massage your testicles.

I'm still trying to take it in that this creep has actually gone to jail for assaulting two teenage patients.

Fair play to Judge Cormac Quinn, I know it's only 20 months, but it's the principle, he escaped justice for 50 years, but we got the bastard in the end.

Not allowing this slimy pervert another week's freedom to "put his affairs in order" was a nice touch, thanks Judge.

He had denied eight charges of indecently assaulting six patients at the Lourdes Hospital and at his private clinic, both in Drogheda, Co Louth, between 1964 and 1991.

These dates are important because during those 27 years every young boy or teenager who attended one of Shine's clinics was in danger of being indecently assaulted by this predator.

His examination table held the same horrors for boys and teenagers in the North East as the casting couch did for young women in Hollywood.

While the latter were pursuing a career in the film industry, the former were only looking for medical attention.

To put it another way, Michael Shine was a very strange man, in a very strange hospital at a very strange time.

Shine, who was struck off the medical register in 2008, denied his guilt right up until his conviction and so did a good many of those who should have exposed him years ago.

That fact he evaded justice since 1964, the year my father died, until now tells you all you need to know about Irish society in the decades since.

It's not that it was not known that Shine was a danger to children.

He was so notorious that boys and young men would go without treatment rather than volunteer themselves to be sexually assaulted.

On one occasion I went to the Lourdes to have my injured fingers

examined and within a matter of minutes Shine had his hand down my pants feeling my testicles.

Like any other boy who had the misfortune to be treated by this fiend I knew what to expect, because it happened before.

You might ask why I'd go back but when you can see your shin bone through a gash it was a matter of priorities and while my mother was a skilled seamstress she couldn't stitch up

the hole in my leg. And there you have it, Shine had an unlimited supply of boys and teens to molest and he knew there was absolutely nothing anyone could do to stop him.

You can't get any lower than molesting sick and injured children but such was the deference to professionals like Shine, he got away with it.

It's not that this abuse wasn't known about, it was common knowledge, but no one wanted to do anything about it.

He was so notorious that boys thought to be feigning injury on a football field in the Drogheda area would expect taunts such as, "Get up or we'll send you up to Dr Shine".

Whatever medical good he might have done during his long career it pales into insignificance compared to the damage he has caused.

I wonder if any children suffered infections or may have even died because of Shine. I risked tetanus

rather than seek treatment for a dog bite to my left hamstring reckoning that if he groped you for a finger injury what would he do if you had to take your pants down.

I would say he molested me on at least four occasions over the years and apart from tell my mother, brothers and friends I did little about it.

I did feel a burning anger because I knew there was absolutely nothing I could do about it. I didn't even have the

vocabulary to properly describe what had taken place. Even if I did who would listen to a young fatherless boy whose mother was out working struggling to feed five children?

It was also a class thing, Shine was the hero surgeon working in the Lourdes International Missionary Training Hospital and we were the lower orders getting

free medical attention.

"Accuse Mr Shine of doing such terrible things? You should be damn grateful you had the expertise of a great surgeon like Michael Shine" would have been ringing in my mother's ears had she gone to the local Garda station.

When the complaints against Shine went from a trickle to a flood the authorities at the Lourdes and some staff wrote letters of support for him to make it

even more difficult for the brave men who came forward. While I never made a formal complaint I did make my feelings known to a young nurse as I left Shine's surgery on my last visit. She just shrugged her shoulders - as if to say, "That's Shine, what do you expect?"

It has been a long struggle to bring this pervert to justice for although he was first investigated by gardai in the 1990s he was acquitted of indecent assault when he went on trial at Dundalk Circuit Criminal

Court in 2003. But great credit to those who persevered for they have ensured justice was done for all the others.

Giving evidence during his recent trial, he said that he would never do anything that would embarrass or upset a patient.

You're a liar, you put your hands down little boys pants.

If he is fearful of going to jail in disgrace at the end of his life hopefully he will think of the children he terrorised at the start of theirs.

SENT DOWN Michael Shine abused boys for decades

I risked tetanus rather than treatment for a dog bite to my leg



EXCITED Brian O'Donovan

O'Donovan is new RTE man in the States

BY TREVOR QUINN

RTE has appointed Brian O'Donovan as its new Washington correspondent.

He replaces Caitriona Perry, who is moving to become the co-host of RTE's Six One news bulletin alongside Keelin Shanley.

He worked with TV3 as a news reporter for 10 years as well as finance correspondent and documentary maker.

Mr O'Donovan said he was "absolutely delighted" with his new role.

He added: "For me, this is the dream job.

I have very big shoes to fill following on from my colleague Caitriona Perry and I am really looking forward to starting in Washington in the new year."



A BIT RICH Big jackpot win

Lotto winner lifts cheque for €5.8m

BY TREVOR QUINN

A LOTTO winner said hitting the €5.8million jackpot was like an "out-of-body experience".

Speaking as they collected the cheque at Lotto headquarters in Dublin, the punter added the feeling is "still indescribable".

The winner, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "It's fantastic - and to happen just before Christmas.

"The whole family will be getting slightly more extravagant Christmas presents than originally planned.

"Retirement is the last thing on my mind at the moment but with this magnificent windfall, I am definitely going to take it a few years early. I am delighted."

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Perv doc caged for 20 months

Vile retired surgeon guilty of assaulting two 15-yr-old boys

BY DECLAN BRENNAN

A RETIRED surgeon was jailed for 20 months yesterday for sexual attacks on two teenage boys.

Michael Shine, 85, had denied the charges of indecently assaulting the two 15-year-old patients in a hospital in the mid-70s.

The predator had pleaded not guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to eight charges of indecently assaulting six patients at Our

Lady of Lourdes Hospital and at his private clinic, both in Drogheda, Co Louth, between 1964 and 1991.

He was acquitted on the remainder of the charges.

Judge Cormac Quinn said the severe breach of trust by a senior doctor at the pinnacle of his profession was one of the most aggravating factors. He added Shine had abused the trust of patients and the trust of the hospital.

Judge Quinn said the abuse occurred in

places where the victims, who were children, were entitled to feel they were in a place that was safe.

He imposed consecutive sentences of 10 months for the indecent assault on each of the victims.

The judge rejected an application from Shine's lawyers to give Shine a week to put his affairs in order and to marshal his medication.

The court heard both victims were aged 15 when Shine, of Wellington Road, Ballsbridge,

South Dublin, groped them during medical examinations.

One survivor attended at the hospital with an ingrowing toenail.

He told the trial that Shine tied him to a bed with rubber restraints and a blanket and then slipped his hand under and massaged his testicles.

He said he knew it was weird but thought "who was I" to speak out



NOTORIOUS Michael Shine at Dublin Circuit Court yesterday

because he was "just a young boy". The victim said the assault had a profoundly negative effect on his life and he suffered insomnia and depression after the attack.

The second survivor testified that during two follow-up examinations for undescended testes at Shine's private clinic in Drogheda, the pervert massaged his penis.

On the second occasion, the victim forced himself to ejaculate because he was afraid the attack

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Roof falls in on homeless figures scam

THE Government, and useless Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy in particular, are desperate to stop the number of homeless people breaking the 10,000 mark.

They are so unnerved at hitting this landmark figure but rather than find homes for the homeless they have now resorted to doctoring the numbers.

A leaked memo from Louth County Council has blown away the Government's lies and totally contradicts Mr Murphy's claims that these people are not homeless.

It states: "It is important to note that the Council still consider these individuals as homeless."

This is just the latest effort by the minister to hide the shocking truth as he usually publishes the bad news late on a Friday night to avoid the figures making the papers and being scrutinised by the likes of Morning Ireland.

That's transparency Fine Gael style.

Are we past caring about our heritage?

PRESIDENT Higgins was right to hit out at the fact that history is no longer a core subject for Junior Cert students.

Michael D, below, said he shares "deep and profound concern" of historians at this development and so do a lot of others.

He pointed out that understanding the past is imperative to how we shape the future and without this future generations run the risk of being "permanently burdened with a lack of perspective, empathy and wisdom".

Better that the young be trained as corporate drones to work for the likes of Apple without questioning why they pay half their wages in tax while their employer pays almost none.

Without knowing the history of workers' struggles for their rights that will be the case.



It's sorry State of affairs in this so-called Republic

ANY lingering doubts that this State has an innate hatred of women were well and truly dispelled this week.

On the other hand if you were looking for more proof this so-called republic is rotten to the core you didn't need a microscope to observe it.

At least 17 women are dead and thousands more could have had their health destroyed or even lose their lives as a result of the smear test scandal.

The latest scandal concerns cervical cancer but has exposed a diseased State with a health service which exists for the welfare of those who run it rather than for the health of the citizens who pay for it.

When it comes to secretive organisations which operate largely outside government control, Britain has MI5, America has the CIA and Russia a new version of the KGB. Ireland has the HSE.

Now there is to be another statutory investigation on the way, to join the dozens of other tribunals and inquiries, into a scandal which could eclipse the hep C one.

Surely it's now time for an actual Minister for Scandals to deal with the

new ones which break with increasing regularity.

The dreadful irony is that from the outside this country looks like an efficient, well-run state but unfortunately beneath the surface is a mountain of corruption which is only occasionally exposed at very low tide.

Such a low tide occurred in the High Court last week when Vicky Phelan lifted the lid on what could be the worst health scandal in the State's history.

The mother of two didn't find out there was a mistake made with the results of her 2011 smear until 2017 and a review of her test was carried out in 2014, the year she was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Now there could be hundreds, if not thousands, of other women affected or in the same situation.

Had it not been for the courage of this terminally ill mother other women would be living and dying in ignorance of the grave wrong done to them by the State. Were these tests not meant to detect anomalies which might indicate that the patient had a chance of developing cervical cancer in the future? What was the point if they were going

to be ignored? So how did we arrive at the situation where women given the all-clear are now worried the results were wrong and they might be developing cancer?

Probably for the same reason the State gave blood to thousands of women knowing it to be contaminated killing at least 260 of them in what became known as hepatitis C scandal.

Now the truth is out the rats are running for cover and making promises they hope they will never have to keep and everyone is questioning the lack of accountability in public affairs.

HISTORY

In a tweet Vicky Phelan yesterday said she wants to see a Commission of Investigation that is urgent, prompt and public. If past history is anything to go by the opposite will be the case.

Meanwhile, over at Dublin Castle the Disclosures Tribunal lawyers are dealing with smears of another kind, that of whistleblower Sgt Maurice McCabe.

Like the case of Vicky Phelan, we wouldn't know anything had the courageous copper not blown the whistle and used his tape recorder.

Vicky is also to be thanked for revealing in a roundabout way the head of the HSE Tony O'Brien was also on the board of an American drug company.

The Irish Times reported he joined the board of US contraceptive firm Evofem Biosciences earlier this year and was in line to receive fees totalling €45,000 a year for the

MAYDAY, Mayday, Mayday, socialism is lost and needs rescuing from the yobs who ran riot in Paris this week.

The scenes on Mayday were an insult to the French students and workers who took to the streets in 1968 and who didn't need balaclavas to hide their faces. How is smashing the windows of

McDonald's and burning the scooters of the workers flipping the burgers inside furthering revolution?

As our friends in the North will tell you, this is what's known as recreational rioting and those involved have as much interest in workers' rights as football hooligans have in the clubs they supposedly follow.

THIS FAILS TO MAKE CENTS

CRIME really is rampant in the country as RTE viewers will have witnessed last week.

Shocking video on Crimecall showed two older men stealing coins from a church candle collection box and in other clips a woman was seen leaving a store without paying for toys.

Unfortunately there was no footage of the €1 billion plus robbed from up to 50,000 bank customers during the great tracker mortgage robbery but it still happened.

Also, when detectives do manage to solve the great collection box heist they might have a look at the findings of a certain tribunal which has been gathering dust for over seven years.

Hopefully then our modern-day Sherlock Holmes will finally investigate Moriarty?

Ed to the bank as guitar icon folds

AROUND 405,000 people here are due to attend Ed Sheeran's Irish concerts, which apparently is a record.

The promoter also claims that this glorified pub singer is "the best rockstar there is in the world".

Up to 120,000 of the tickets are for the singer's Cork shows which means

that the entire population of the Southern capital is

going to his three gigs.

This week legendary guitar maker Gibson, left, filed for bankruptcy while Ed laughs all the way to the bank. Kind of sums up the state of rock 'n' roll at the moment.



PLUCKY GUY Ed Sheeran



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Donegal is in top tip condition

THE people up in Donegal have complained for years about being dumped on but it would appear they're pretty useful at dumping on themselves.

After the RTE Investigates programme the county is not just at the tip top of Ireland, it's the country's top tip.

It is now clear Donegal County Council has been turning a blind eye to what can only be described as an environmental disaster.

On the one hand the county wants to attract tourists, and on the other, it is as good as giving the green light to certain individuals to despoil the landscape and pollute waterways.

RTE Investigates was public service broadcasting at its best because if it was left to the local council in Donegal the illegal dumpers would go unchallenged.

RYANAIR is seeking to restrict alcohol sales at airports after a string of drink-related incidents on board its flights.

Michael O'Leary's airline wants an early-morning booze ban at airports and a two-drink limit before they fly.

Naturally enough Ryanair will be putting its money where its mouth is and imposing similar restrictions on its planes - won't they?

Not a chance. Indeed the sky's the limit for extra profits as thirsty passengers will have no option but to refuel at Mickey's Mile High bar.

Irish seek to give asylum.. just not in our own country

HERE'S a country that wants to deport a 14-year-old boy to a land he left when he was a baby and where he has no friends and doesn't even speak the language.

No, it's not Donald Trump's Fourth Reich where children are separated from their parents and kept in cages, it's our own lovely little island.

The appalling treatment of migrant children in the US has put the spotlight on this country's treatment of asylum seekers.

The disclosure that the State wants to send a young teenage boy who has spent almost his entire life in Ireland to Nigeria puts us right up there with Trump.

Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan has signed a deportation order against Nonso Moujeke and his family and their only hope of staying in the country is the Supreme Court.

The child's friends in Tullamore, Co Offaly, have mounted an intense campaign to prevent him, his 18-year-old brother Victor and their mother Chidi being sent to Nigeria.

Ms Moujeke fled her home country because of domestic abuse but she was denied asylum here.

Is it fair to send a child back to a country where he has no friends, doesn't speak the native language and whose very life may be in danger?

This is probably one of the reasons why the Government's criticism of

Trump's "zero tolerance" approach to migrants on the Mexico border has been somewhat muted.

The Donald and his executive order, Charlie and his deportation orders - it's a bit like the pot and the kettle scenario.

The Government might be a little cagey about pulling up Trump on his kiddie "jails" when they have 5,000 asylum seekers, with at least 2,000 children, living in what amounts to open prisons.

Donald and Charlie are like the pot and kettle scenario

Those incarcerated in the 31 Direct Provision centres around the country are not allowed to look for work or even cook food for their children.

They are expected to live on an allowance of €21.60 a week in rooms with their entire family.

But all is not lost. There was a protest in Dublin last night and another one in Galway tomorrow in solidarity with, yes you've guessed it, what is happening to children in the US.

We are great ones for championing causes at a safe distance where they can't cause us any bother but are reluctant to get involved in ones closer to home.

In recent times the Irish Naval Service has received much praise here for saving thousands of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean, and rightly so.

It might be a different matter if the naval vessels were bringing their human cargo up the Liffey, the Lee or the

Boyne. It's all fine and dandy that our sailors are saving lives in the Med and bringing the migrants to Italy or Spain but I've no doubt the Naval Service

could be pulled off the rescue mission if there was an EU decision made to fly the migrants to the country from which the ship originates.

That might well be the case as the new Italian Government has refused to take more migrants and Spain, which took in more than 600 people recently, is growing reluctant to accept any more.

Italy has been criticised for this decision but the reality is many of the other EU states would make similar ones if they were in that predicament.

Indeed the entire situation has become preposterous where the deal appears to be that the people traffickers take the migrants' cash in exchange for leaving them out at sea in rickety boats for the Naval Service to find.

They then take them anywhere except Ireland as there might be an outcry if thousands of migrants started to land here.

In a recent poll taken in March in Lisdoonvarna, 93% voted to reject plans

by the Reception and Integration Agency to house 115 asylum seekers in a local hotel.

And 55 men seeking international protection were greeted by protesters who wanted them gone when the first of them arrived in Killarney, Co Kerry, last December.

On the other hand, Irish people are the best in the world when it comes to looking after outsiders when they get to know them.

More than 22,000 people have signed a petition to keep Nonso and his family in the country in a move which has piled pressure on Minister Flanagan, who now says he will look again at the deportation order.

Similarly public and international pressure has forced the monster that is Trump to sign an executive order preventing the separation of migrant children from their families.

As for the cruel Direct Provision system, I have no doubt if Trump hears about it Leo Varadkar will be getting a call praising him for a like-minded approach to migrants and refugees.

He'd probably go as far as saying Leo was a man after his own heart, if he had one.



TYRANT Donald Trump



LAW Charlie Flanagan



DECLAN POOPS POPE'S REQUEST TO PERFORM

FAIR play to singer Declan O'Rourke for taking a stand by turning down an invitation to perform for the Pope during his visit to Dublin.

The singer felt he couldn't sing for Francis because of the numerous abuse scandals and because the Catholic Church has caused so

much suffering in this country. It's a pity he wasn't allowed perform his hit Galileo which might not have gone down too well with the pontiff.

Didn't one of his predecessors persecute the Italian astronomer for suggesting the earth went around the sun and not the other way around and only escaped being burned at the stake by recanting on his discovery?

Thankfully the Church no longer has problems with the sun, except if the son is gay.



HOLY SMOKE Declan O'Rourke, and, inset, Pope Francis

BENT banker David Drumm got off lightly as he will spend not much more than four years in jail for actions which destroyed thousands of lives.

The great and the good are forever promoting the notion of restorative justice and suggesting violent offenders should atone for their crime by meeting their victims.

Drumm should be made to share a cell with a prisoner from a family who lost their home because of his and other banks.

He should also be forced to accept prison visits from the relatives of suicide victims forced to take their own lives from the stress caused by the collapse.

The authorities must also ensure every cent he stole from the taxpayer is returned - including his home.

If tens of thousands of families have lost their home why shouldn't the man responsible lose his?

Eamon talking balls is TV goals

IT's been a great World Cup so far and it's made all the better by Eamon Dunphy, Liam Brady and the rest of the RTE pundits.

While we mightn't have a team in Russia, Dunphy, pictured, and his side are wiping the floor with the opposition when it comes to analysis and general banter.

I've been looking back over some of the spats between Eamo, Gilsie, Brady and the late Bill O'Herlihy and they're priceless.



I remember ringing him around 9pm on the day he was taken off air during a lunchtime match during the 2002 World Cup and when asked for the reason for his disappearance replied "tired and emotional darling, tired and emotional".

Stay with us Eamon, you're a national treasure.