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TINA TURNER

Ike made me go to a brothel on our wedding night

ASTONISHING SOUL-BARING INTERVIEW SEE PAGES 7 AND 35-39

MY REMORSE OVER HORROR CAR CRASH

Yet presidential candidate Gavin Duffy continued to rack up a litany of serious driving offences

EXCLUSIVE

By Michael O'Farrell

INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

PRESIDENTIAL hopeful Gavin Duffy was involved in a horror road crash that maimed a young woman - yet he racked up a litany of driving offences in subsequent years.

The PR guru's 1985 settlement with a student motorcyclist made national headlines. But this is the first time the serious accident has been linked directly to Mr Duffy, as he was sued over the accident under his birth name, Liam, in



INCIDENT: Mr Duffy was sued under his birth name, Liam

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Gavin Duffy's re

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the High Court. The case came seven years after the accident which resulted in Mr Duffy's prosecution for driving with no insurance or driving licence in an incident that left the female motorcyclist in danger of losing her leg.

He was also found guilty of a reduced charge of careless driving resulting in lifelong injuries to the then 25-year-old university student he collided with. After the accident – on August 21, 1978 near Dunleer, Co. Louth, the young woman – whose identity we have chosen to withhold – underwent several operations and was left with severe scarring and a permanent disability.

In 1978, aged 18, Mr Duffy – born William but known as Liam – was on the cusp of a broadcasting career that has since propelled him to become a millionaire and a presidential candidate.

He says he first started using Gavin as a broadcasting name in 1977 yet the only references to the new name the Irish Mail on Sunday could find in newspaper archives begin in the summer of 1979.

Mr Duffy told the MoS yesterday he formalised the name sometime in the 1980s by putting it on his passport but insisted he used it from the start of his broadcasting career.

His career took off under the name Gavin Duffy as he swiftly graduated from pirate radio in Drogheda to the national airwaves with RTE in the mid-1980s. During this time he was being sued by the female

'Formalised name change in the 1980s'

student and when the case got to the High Court in 1985, he was a household name in much of the country as a Radio Leinster presenter.

He was also head of training at Carr Communications, on the verge of breaking into RTE and engaged in a lobbying campaign to get the government to licence local radio stations.

But few knew who Liam Duffy was and the case proceeded under that name. After Mr Duffy admitted negligence the jury awarded damages and compensation for loss of wages amounting to €221,127.

Taking inflation into account this would be worth about €550,000 in today's money. The average house price in 1985 was equivalent to about €46,600 according to the CSO.

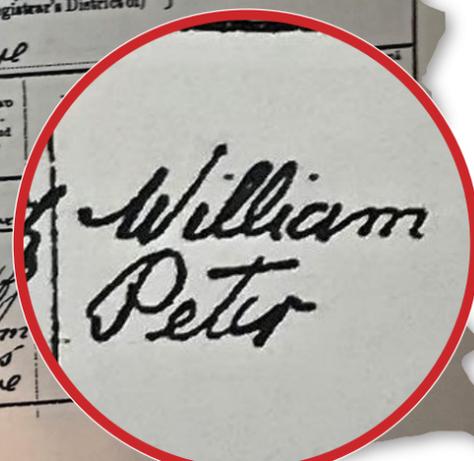
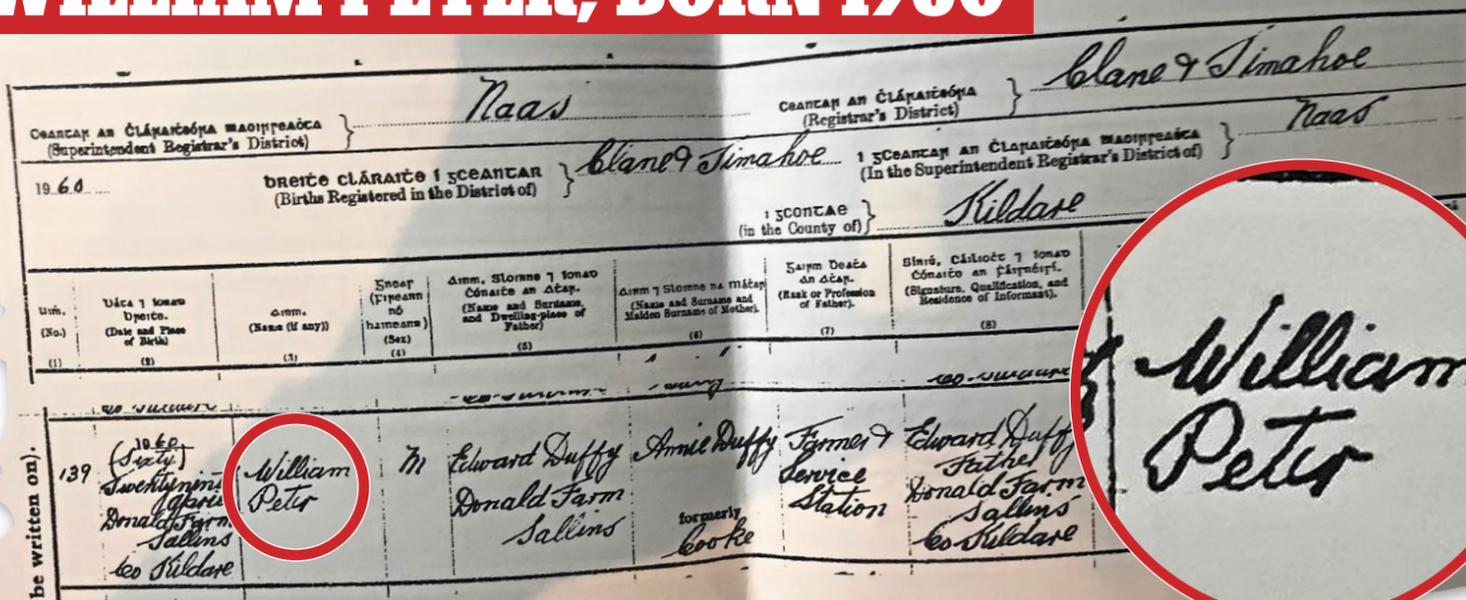
Mr Duffy yesterday portrayed the experience as a formative one, emphasising his remorse over it when asked what voters should think.

'I think when you look at the case, and you'll see it was reported in the court, the remorse I felt over an accident like that,' Mr Duffy said on the campaign trail in Co. Kildare.

'There are 18-year-olds all over the country who sometimes get involved in accidents and it's how you handle that and deal with that and I was full of remorse to the motorcyclist and, you know, I don't think it's appropriate to answer a question: "Do you think people who have been involved in an accident should vote for you?"

'This is not about votes this is about at 18 years of age... did I handle it properly? What was my

WILLIAM PETER, BORN 1960

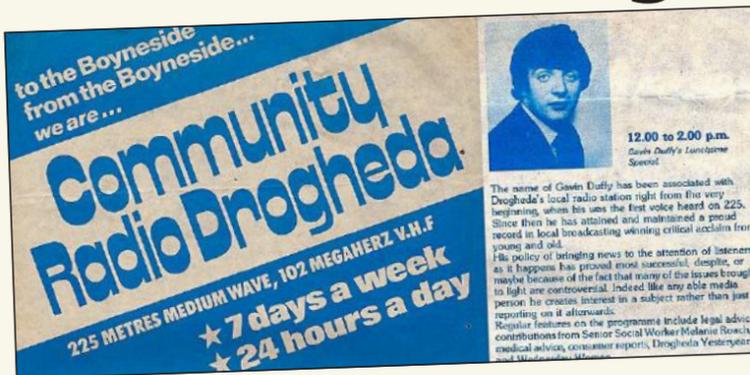


Serious crash in 1978 as Liam was the first in a series of motoring offences

AUGUST 21, 1978 – An 18-year-old Liam Duffy seriously injures a 24-year-old university student when he crashes into her motorbike. She narrowly escapes having her leg amputated and suffers lifelong injuries. Though his birth name is Liam, Mr Duffy says he had adopted the radio name of Gavin the previous year.

JANUARY 1979 – Liam Duffy is convicted of a 'reduced charge' of reckless driving related to the crash. He is also convicted of driving without insurance and having no driving licence. By the summer of 1979, advertisements start to appear in the local press for discos he is running under the name Gavin Duffy.

SEPTEMBER 1981 – By now Mr Duffy has formally changed his name to Gavin. But his driving habits don't appear to have improved. Three years after his first crash he is returned to court for fresh driving offences and is disqualified from driving for six months and fined when he fails to appear in court. He is also convicted of driving without a driving licence and insurance and having no tax displayed – and failing to produce these



concluded in the High Court and makes front-page news. Despite being a household name at this point no one associates the crash with Gavin Duffy.

DECEMBER 1993 – Now aged 33, Gavin Duffy continues to drive dangerously. He is seen by a Garda overtaking coming to the brow of a hill 'with absolutely no vision' in his black Porsche. He was doing 73mph in a 40mph zone. He is fined for dangerous driving and speeding.

OCTOBER 2012 – In an article celebrating the importance of his local paper, the Drogheda Independent, Mr Duffy describes how the publication has chronicled his entire life from his early school days to the shame of being caught driving without insurance. 'I was in court for driving without insurance,' he wrote. 'I had taken my brother Eamonn's car when he was away.' A search under the name 'Gavin Duffy' of the Drogheda Independent will uncover the September 1981 case as listed above, but it will not reveal the more serious matter of the crash he was involved in as Liam Duffy in 1978.

documents at a Garda station when requested.

OCTOBER 2, 1981 – Gavin Duffy appears in court in Drogheda after being 'summoned on a series of motoring offences'. Representing himself he seeks an adjournment because his lawyer – his brother Pádraig – is at another court. The adjournment is granted and there appears to be no further mention of the case again.

JUNE 17, 1985 – The negligence and personal injury case against Liam Duffy for the 1978 crash is

character like? Did I go and try and make contact with the injured party? When it came to a civil case you know I didn't offer a defence so full compensation would be available. So I handled a situation I wish

would have never happened to any 18-year-old but I handled it as well as one could in those circumstances.'

Despite his comments, the 1978 incident, although the most serious, is

not the only time Mr Duffy has been prosecuted for driving offences.

In September 1981, when using the name Gavin, he was disqualified from driving for six months and fined after failing to appear in

Drogheda Court to answer a number of driving offence summons.

At the same sitting he was also convicted of driving without a licence and insurance, having no tax displayed and failing to produce these documents at a Garda station when requested. It is not known if the court was aware of Mr Duffy's change of name and prior conviction under a different name. He was back in court again a month later for a series of motoring offences.

By the 1990s, Mr Duffy's business career was flourishing and he was en route to millionaire status through his stake in LMFM – the radio station granted a licence in 1989 when Ray Burke was communications minister. But his dangerous driving habits continued – albeit in more expensive cars.

In December 1993, Mr Duffy was convicted and fined €500 for dangerous driving in his black Porsche.



Meeting our reporter in Monasterevin

GAVIN Duffy spoke to the Mail on Sunday at the Junction 14 motorway services station near Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, yesterday. Later, he canvassed in Punchestown and at the Aviva.

al name is Liam



POWER COUPLE: Gavin Duffy and his wife, Orlaith, on the hustings on Thursday



PARTNERS: Gavin Duffy and Orlaith Carmody on their 1993 wedding day

The pig farmer's son who became a DJ and millionaire

By Michael O'Farrell

INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

HE MAY have been born on a Kildare pig farm but there's no indication that Gavin Duffy ever wanted for much as a child. For starters, Dorland Farm near Sallins was owned by his father Edward who bought it at auction in 1953. A haulier from Castlereagh, Edward sold the farm in 1971 and bought the Gem bar and restaurant on Drogheda's West Street when Gavin, then called Liam, was 11.

The bar later became the Weavers when it was taken over by Duffy's brother Eamon.

Today, Duffy's campaign HQ is across the street from the pub he grew up in with Eamon and another brother Pádraig – a solicitor once censured and fined €10,000 by the Law Society for a series of failures to honour client undertakings on property deals.

When Gavin was 15 his father was in court for allegedly punching and threatening to kill a 26-year-old waitress and throw her body in the Boyne. He was fined €60 reduced to £25 on appeal.

Such dramas aside the family business afforded Duffy a privileged lifestyle that included a Golden Palomino pony with which he hunted, pony-clubbed and showjumped before selling it in 1976 at the age of 16.

Having learned to drive, Duffy ran discos and entertainment shows in nearby towns and counties. His radio career began in 1980 with Local Radio Drogheda – a pirate that became Boyneside Radio – before leaving to form his

own pirate, Community Radio Drogheda. By the early Eighties he'd moved to Leinster Radio in Dublin. A 1983 clampdown silenced the pirates in anticipation of a licensed regime for which Duffy actively campaigned.

Duffy – now working for RTÉ and Carr Communications – was among the investors that won the licence in Louth and Meath and LMFM was launched in 1989 by then-minister Ray Burke.

According to the Drogheda Independent at the time there was a 'strong FF presence on the six-man board' of LMFM. The return on their estimated €150k each investment was substantial when the station sold for €10m in 2004.

Duffy married RTÉ journalist Orlaith Carmody in the Canary Islands on St Patrick's Day 1993. She was on the RTÉ board from 1999 to 2015 and together with Duffy ran Aerga Productions Ltd – which won a number of RTÉ commissions during her tenure.

In 1998 they bought Kilsharvan – their lavish Meath country estate, which made headlines as the first home to top the million pound mark in the region. His Irish Nationwide-funded property empire, once reported to be worth €100m, has been sold and just Kilsharvan remains, together with Duffy's famed ambition which continues to expand abundantly.

He also confirmed to the MoS he currently has three penalty points.

Asked about what his subsequent driving record says about his character, Mr Duffy refused to see any connection. He has only once referred publicly to his driving record

in a Drogheda Independent article he wrote in 2012 in which a sanitised version of his offences refers to his 1981 motoring conviction.

As Mr Duffy never mentioned his change of name, an archive search does not show the 1978 incident.

This week Mr Duffy stated: 'If you're putting yourself forward as president... everything about you and everything in your background has to be tested... I fear no question, I welcome them all.'

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as gloves are off

AND ALSO-RANS... AND WHO LANDED A SUCKER PUNCH?



CAR CRASH: Gavin Duffy is struggling

Joan Freeman

STRATEGY: She was attempting to escape from the Gay Mitchell zone and move into contention for the silver medal position. But she failed in this objective miserably. Ms Freeman came across as a very nice charity advocate who would be totally overwhelmed should the Presidency be involved in a crisis.
PRESIDENTIAL POISE: Ms Freeman delivered a self-knockout blow when asked what she would do were the Presidency to face a real crisis over property legislation or a dissolution of the Dáil. Definitely not the

person you would want to be taking a 2am call over another bail-out. Not even sure she should be let on radio by herself.
BEST MOMENT: Ms Freeman joined the posse on expenses noting that coming from a charitable background where 'every penny is counted' she believed the sainted Michael D should have been far more transparent.
WORST MOMENT: Explaining her convoluted fiscal relationship with Des Walsh and Herbal Life. The episode comprehensively under-cut her previous attachment to the high moral ground.
QUOTE: 'I wouldn't be qualified to answer that question right now.'
SCORE: 2/10



OUT OF HER DEPTH: Joan Freeman performed badly

Gavin Duffy

STRATEGY: Recover from what has literally become a car-crash of a campaign, and regain credibility. The fact that nobody brought up his judgement in continuing to drive badly well into his 30s, after the serious crash he was involved in when he was 18, might seem like a good thing. But actually, it meant nobody including the other also-rans, view him as a real threat.
PRESIDENTIAL POISE: Strong on the issue of the real rather than imaginary powers of the Presidency. But still not entirely convincing on the hearts and minds stuff. He comes across as a functionary.

BEST MOMENT: Was the best of the amateurs when it came to the issue of the actual powers and role of the Presidency in areas such as referring a Bill to the Supreme Court.
WORST MOMENT: No particular disaster but he was left behind when the other two dragons attacked Michael D from the start. Showed him up as an irrelevance.
QUOTE: 'When we come to commemorate the foundation of the State we need to have a conversation about what kind of society do we want for future decades? We need to set a new moral compass, for a new modern Ireland.'
SCORE: 4/10

Seán Gallagher

STRATEGY: Detach himself from the rest of the contenders and make inroads into the Higgins lead. He did this by not being quite as rabid as Casey in his attacks. And defending his fellow candidates – Freeman on her loan, and Higgins on his age – when they were being questioned over other difficult issues. This is also a shrewd voting strategy. As he will need to attract a lot of transfers, if this turns into an actual race.
PRESIDENTIAL POISE: Sounded Presidential, in a safe pair of hands sort of way. Role of reasoned mediator calming the squabbling panel was particularly effective.

WORST MOMENT: Struggled badly when Liadh Ní Riada took the fight to him over his essential disappearance from Irish public life after 2011.
QUOTE: 'We've heard stories of €3,000-a-night hotels, and the issue for us as taxpayers is we're not in a position to see these figures as they're not transparent... it's shocking we had to hear through the PAC that these accounts are not audited.'
SCORE: 7/10



SECOND TRY: Seán Gallagher with his wife Trish

BEST MOMENT: His recall that Michael D was behind Eamon Gilmore when he called for the resignation of John O'Donoghue because of unacceptable extravagance before noting: 'If extravagance is not acceptable in 2009, how is it acceptable today?'

Michael D Higgins

STRATEGY: Avoid errors, inspire us all and remain floating high beyond the reach of his puny opponents. Unfortunately, President Higgins was badly mauled over the unaudited €317,000 allowance due to his weak position of, 'you can have transparency, but not until after you elect me'. Calling for reform after he has been in the gig himself for seven years was not effective. Perked up a little when the debate moved on to the

constitutional role of the Presidency but did not really recover from his initial mauling.
PRESIDENTIAL POISE: Mr Higgins got a rude awakening. And for the first time, sounded old. While he displayed great knowledge of how the office operates in practice rather than theory, he has been doing the job for seven years.
BEST MOMENT: Being assailed left and right, particularly by Peter Casey, Mr Higgins managed to get off one zinger, suggesting Casey wanted a return to 'landlordism' where only the rich got into politics.
WORST MOMENT: The whole first half of the debate, where at one point the President was reduced to complaining that: 'I am answering quite a lot of questions.'
TOP QUOTE: 'I took a reduction in my salary. The salary is now €249,000.'
SCORE: 5/10



POLL POSITION: Michael D. Higgins

Duffy campaign fudge on payout for reckless crash



GAVIN DUFFY'S presidential campaign deliberately misled this newspaper last week when we asked who paid the compensation awarded to the woman maimed when he crashed into her.
 At the time of the 1978 crash, Mr Duffy had been driving without insurance and a driving licence. The victim was awarded €221,127 when Mr Duffy was sued under his birth name Liam Duffy. Last Saturday we asked whether he had paid this

By Michael O'Farrell

himself or if it had been funded by the Motor Insurers' Bureau of Ireland. His PR adviser Richard Moore said: 'Gavin Duffy made a payment from his own funds in relation to the case.'
 The full truth – which Mr Duffy withheld until after we published – was that he'd made a settlement of £35,000 and that the balance of £186,127 had been paid by MIBI – meaning other

drivers, who were paying their insurance, funded the vast majority of the claim against Mr Duffy. A-Ceart road safety campaigner Mary Clinton called on the multimillionaire to repay the money, adding: 'Other people who are paying their insurance are paying for what he did.'
 In a statement Mr Duffy told the MoS: 'I paid the MIBI the amount sought by them from me in full and final settlement. That then concluded all matters arising from the accident.'