



“It’s been a fantastic carousel. I’ve enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you and good night”

He taught Irish people everything they needed to know about sex
Finola Doyle O’Neill
 Page 4

He had an unerring capacity to work out what the viewer wanted
Terry Prone
 Page 13

The most memorable and controversial Late Late Shows that got the nation talking
Dan Buckley
 Page 5

Irish Examiner

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

www.irishexaminer.com

No. 61,686

€2.20 (£1.50 in N. Ireland)

‘Beyond compassion, he had a sense of what was just’

Conall Ó Fátharta, Liz Dunphy, and Joe Leogue
 He was a titan of broadcasting whose talk show “broke the endless silences in Irish life” but to an Ireland now mourning his passing, he was simply ‘Uncle Gaybo’.
 Born in Dublin in 1934, Gabriel Mary ‘Gay’ Byrne grew up in Rialto in a family of four boys and one girl. He would go on to leave an indelible mark not just on Irish broadcasting history but on

Irish socio-cultural history. Byrne suffered a heart attack in 2015 and was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2016. He died yesterday, at the age of 85, at his home in Dublin and is survived by wife Kathleen, a harpist and author, and their daughters Crona and Suzy and their families.
 When he became the presenter of *The Late Late Show* in 1962, it was intended to last for just one summer season. He went on to present the show until 1999, and it

remains on television, an institution in Irish broadcasting and the longest-running chat show in the world.
 The show was always more than just a talk show. It tackled some of the country’s most divisive issues and often unspoken taboos, challenging the Catholic Church, and opening up discussions on taboos such as contraception, homosexuality, and divorce.
 Finola Doyle O’Neill, a broadcast historian and the author of *The Gaybo Revolu-*

tion, described Byrne as “the arbitrator, the facilitator, of all the talk that broke the endless silences in Irish life” and a “morass of contradictions” that made him perfectly placed “to debunk the unsavoury aspects of Irish life”.
 “He somehow mirrored and shaped what we were. Byrne became the first undisputed king of the invisible empire of Ireland’s first television station,” she said. “He interviewed lesbian nuns, discussed condoms

and abortion, and held singer Sinéad O’Connor’s hand as she appeared on the show dressed in clerical garb as Mother Bernadette Mary. He held right-wing views but appeared middle-class and conservative. He taught many Irish people everything they needed to know about sex but were afraid to ask.”
 President Micheal D Higgins led the tributes to an icon of broadcasting, saying that, through his work, Byrne “challenged Irish

society and shone a light on the dark sides of Irish life”.
 “Through his work in radio and on television, he challenged Irish society, and shone a light not only on the bright but also the dark sides of Irish life,” he said. “In doing so, he became one of the most familiar and distinctive voices of our times, helping shape our conscience, our self-image, and our idea of who we might be. Beyond compassion, which he had in abundance, he had a sense of what was just.”

Current *Late Late Show* host Ryan Tubridy described his predecessor as “a legend and an icon who was such a critical part of the country’s story in the 20th and early 21st century”.
 Stephen Fry, whose interview with Byrne in 2015 led to a blasphemy probe, sent a tribute to RTE to the man he was informed by Irish people was simply known as ‘Himself’.
 “To have earned the sobriquet Himself says something, I reckon,” Fry wrote.

“My most notorious experience with Himself came when he dropped me a question which led to quite a hoo-ha. I fear I shocked him somewhat with my reply, but he couldn’t not have been more delightful, charming and — I think — tolerantly amused by my wickedness. So here’s to Himself. Who knows? Maybe he will wake up in a certain place and be able to pass on my regards.”
News: 2-5
Editorial: 12
Analysis: 13

Family slams ‘narrowing’ of terms of inquiry into death

Michael Clifford
 Special Correspondent
 The family of Shane O’Farrell has criticised what they say is the narrowing of the terms of reference of a State inquiry into his death in 2011.
 Their concerns arise after the Department of Justice “rejected” terms proposed by the judge conducting the inquiry.
 The family met with Judge Gerard Haughton and was satisfied he had taken on board their concerns in

drafting his terms of reference.
 However, following consultation with the Attorney General, Judge Haughton’s terms were narrowed by the department, excluding what the family consider to be crucial elements in the case.
 Mr O’Farrell died while cycling near his home in Carrigmacross, Co Monaghan, in a hit-and-run incident on August 2, 2011.
 The driver, Zigimantas Gridziuska, had a long record of criminality over the previous two years and was

on bail at the time of the offence. He also had broken bail conditions a number of times without any sanction over the previous year and had been sentenced to a prison term which he never served.
 “The family has the utmost respect for Judge Haughton,” said a statement from the O’Farrells. “However, the family believes that the terms of reference now proposed by the department do not reflect the spirit of the Dáil and Seanad resolutions. “These terms will not



Shane O’Farrell, who died in a hit-and-run incident in 2011.

allow the inquiry to ascertain the full and relevant facts pertaining to Shane’s case and appear to be an attempt to curtail the scope of the inquiry and further delay matters.”
 Members of the O’Farrell family are scheduled to meet a number of politicians today in Leinster House to express their concerns.
News: 8

Jastine Valdez’ parents ‘long to hug her’

Louise Roseingrave
 “We will never know why this happened. We will never understand how such evil can exist in the world. Our grief will never pass, the loss of our beautiful Jastine will never fade, we will never have peace.”
 The parents of 24-year-old Jastine Valdez, abducted and killed in May 2018, said they long to hug her and talk to her.
 “Jastine was our life and when she was taken away, our world ended. We try to smile, but in our hearts we are still crying,” Danilo and Teresita Valdez said in a statement following an inquest at Dublin Coroner’s

Court into the death of their only child.
 Teresita Valdez said she last saw her daughter alive on the morning of Saturday May 19, 2018 before she and Jastine’s father went to work.
 She and Jastine exchanged messages throughout the day and she last heard from her daughter at 4.20pm. She was walking home when she was abducted by Mark Hennessy at 6.20pm.
 She was murdered shortly afterwards and her body was found two days later near Puck’s Castle Lane in Rathmichael, Co Dublin.
 The cause of death was asphyxia due to manual

strangulation.
 Hennessy, aged 40, was shot and killed by a garda in the Cherrywood Industrial Estate near Bray on May 20.
 The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.
 Coroner Myra Cullinan described Jastine’s death as “thoroughly shocking” and commended the parents’ dignity in their loss.
 “The image of that beautiful young woman remains with us,” she said. “It is inconceivable how her parents can bear the loss of their only child. We’ve had a glimpse of the person that Jastine was and it is tragic that she’s been so cruelly taken in this way.”
News: 7

Inside

Arts
 The circle of life looms large around the new Script album. **Page 14**



Sport
 World Cup champion Damian de Allende signs for Munster. **Pages 10-11**



MUNSTERS LARGEST STOCKISTS OF CARPETS, VINYL, BEDS & WOOD FLOORING

FACTORY CARPETS

SuperStores

THINKING OF A NEW CARPET, WOOD FLOOR OR BED FOR CHRISTMAS? THEN NOW’S THE TIME TO ORDER

www.factorycarpetscork.ie



KINSALE ROAD ROUNDABOUT CORK Tel: 021 431 9363. Open 7 days COMMONS ROAD BLACKPOOL Tel: 021 439 6683. Open 7 days LINK ROAD BALLINCOLLIG Tel: 021 466 6000. Closed on Sundays

FREE MEASURING SERVICE • EXPERT FITTING SERVICE • FREE LOCAL DELIVERY • GREAT SAVINGS ON WOOD FLOORING • OLD BEDS AND MATTRESSES TAKEN AWAY (ASK IN STORE FOR DETAILS)