

PAULA LAVIGNE

Violence makes Irish eyes cry

Erin Go Bragh" ye little lads and lassies. You'll all be sportin' a bit o' the Irish green this St. Paddy's day, won't ya? You'll be kissin' the Blarney stone and wishin' on a four-leaf clover as you down a few pints of Guinness too, aye suppose. When your Irish eyes are smiling the next morning, you'll forget your 24-hour Leprechaun patronage.



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You'll forget the number of Irish Catholic peasants who starved during the great potato famines in the 1840s while being evicted at the hands of British Protestant landowners. Many were forced to immigrate to America, where they suffered further discrimination. The luck of the Irish?

You'll forget the innocent children, both Protestant and Catholic, who were killed in senseless Irish Republican Army bombings. You don't know about the Irish nationalist children in Belfast spitting on the British loyalists as they walk down the street.

What we see in movies such as "In the Name of the Father" only scratches the surface of the troubles that plague the Irish people. This is why some Irish eyes don't smile much anymore.

In the wake of St. Patrick's Day, here's a little slice of true Irish heritage. There are the two basic factions — the British loyalists and the Irish nationalists. Although most loyalists are Protestant and most Irish are Catholic, the issues are becoming more secular.

The entire island of Ireland used to be under British rule, and Irish people were not allowed to serve in Parliament. In fear of a rebellion, the British government granted the Irish people home rule — a diluted version of self-government. Irish people were allowed to represent themselves in government, but they were still oppressed. After several uprisings and rebellions, Ireland was split.

Now, Ireland is under Irish rule, in which the Catholic Church dominates the majority of social policy through prohibiting divorce, abortion and premarital sex. Northern Ireland is still

under British rule. This is where the IRA comes in. Its goal is to reunite these two countries under Irish rule. The Protestant/British equivalent of the IRA, the Ulster Defense Association, tries to prevent this.

They kill children. They kill mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. They kill the enemy and their own people. They kill innocent people.

These trigger-happy terrorist factions claim to be fighting for some cause when, in effect, they exist for racketeering and extortion. If peace ever came, they would end up being an Irish version of the Mafia.

The IRA's big hoax relies on the minority of nationalists in Northern Ireland who want a united Ireland under Irish rule. The fallacy lies in that 70 percent of the people in Northern Ireland, both Protestant and Catholic, don't want a united Ireland. They believe their living conditions are better under British rule. If they were under Irish rule, they could "enjoy" Ireland's fluctuating 10 to 20 percent unemployment rate.

The British government is more than guilty of this too. They've been persecuting Irish people for years and continue to do it. An Irish person finding a job in London was like a high school dropout trying to find a job on Wall Street. They never paid for their mistakes.

So what's being done? John Major, the British prime minister, and Albert Reynolds, a leader in the Irish government, came up with the Major-Reynolds peace plan. The plan respects the interests of both the North

and the South and would grant a united Ireland, by peaceful means, if a majority of the people agreed to do that.

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein (the IRA's political wing), voiced conditions under which the IRA would lay down its arms and stop the terrorism. This did not, however, include compliance with the Major-Reynolds plan.

Violence continues and more people are needlessly slaughtered. The dazzling Emerald Isle, with green fields and towering castles, is tarnished with bloodshed. Everybody wishes the fighting to be over. Both sides have some justifiable claims, but whatever problems exist, violence is not the solution.

I have a Catholic friend in Dublin and a Protestant friend in Belfast. They have a cynical attitude about the whole thing and don't see why the violence continues. Neither do I, and I'm not even Irish.

Throughout this whole ordeal, the Irish people have maintained their culture, rich with traditions and customs. They're hard-working, considerate people who are proud of their heritage. So, when you're rallying for the "Fighting Irish" of Notre Dame or when you pop in "The Joshua Tree" and listen to Ireland's own Paul Hewson, remember the people of Ireland and why St. Patrick still looks over them today.

Lavigne is a freshman news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

PAUL KOESTER

Changes needed to save land

Eight years ago, I made a big change in my life. I deviated from the norm. I quit eating animals.

I, like many in society, grew up caring for animals, but those concerns quickly were suppressed by a false lesson about the four food groups. We were told we had to eat animals to survive. We weren't told about the millions of vegetarians in the world who were experiencing vitality and extremely low incidences of heart disease, obesity, osteoporosis, strokes and many forms of cancer.

In this modern society, we simply go to the store and buy our flesh neatly packed on a Styrofoam platter. There is no need to get our hands bloody. There is no need to think about whom we are eating or what that creature went through to get on our plate.

Advertisers constantly desensitize us. Most of the food corporate America offers us is meat-based. On television, tuna fish and chickens want to be eaten, and dairy cows want to be pumped full of chemicals and milked with a machine twice a day.

Even our university advertises the meat and dairy industries on its radio station, KRNU, through public service announcements that push the four food groups. These four food groups no longer are recognized even by grade schools.

Now that corporate America has managed to force out more than a third of the family farmers, the only way to compete is to adapt to a system where bigger is better. In "agribusiness," animals are reduced to being nothing more than production units. Through drugs, confinement and research at public universities, increasingly cruel methods of maximizing that bottom dollar and squeezing out the family farmer are found.



In a world where the population is doubling every 50 years and half the people are hungry, it is increasingly important to preserve our limited soil, water and energy reserves.

When will the madness cease? More disturbing than the ill effects on human health and the small farm is the ill effect of the American diet on the environment. In a world where the population is doubling every 50 years and half the people are hungry, it is increasingly important to preserve our limited soil, water and energy reserves.

It disturbs me that while millions are starving worldwide, we are raising animal products that exhaust the environment. Millions of taxpayers' dollars are spent subsidizing sales of these products to elite foreign markets, and the environmental costs are simply passed on to future generations.

For every pound of animal protein produced, about 10 pounds of plant protein must be consumed by the animal. This means 10 times more land must be used to feed a meat eater than a vegetarian. This also means that 10 times the pesticides, chemical fertilizers and fossil fuels are used.

Because of the high-impact American diet, native animals must lose 10 times the habitat as is necessary. As a result, many species are endangered. Throughout the state, perceived threats such as coyotes and prairie dogs are wiped out in large numbers so the public can eat cheap meat. Fifty-six coyotes were killed in this year's organized coyote hunt in Chadron. Ani-

mals are not safe from humans anywhere. If we're not farming or grazing the land, hunters are going in and hunting them.

Water consumption for animal production is phenomenal, for water is used not only for animal consumption but also to irrigate the corn crop which is fed to them. In my opinion, this is an abuse of our uniquely abundant water resource and already has led to groundwater contamination all over the state by nitrates and pesticides. Irrigation is another way of keeping out or squeezing out the little guy who can't afford the costly methods to compete in a system controlled by the livestock industry.

The effect of our diets on the soils is also scary. Soils take hundreds, even thousands, of years to form, and when we cultivate them at 10 times the rate necessary, we must rely on artificial inputs to maintain productivity. Through overgrazing and intensive farming, the processes that form soils are drastically altered, and that leads to a net loss of this limited resource.

Vegetarianism seems extreme to many, but if we are to assure plenty of resources for future generations, we must change the way we treat the land.

Koester is a senior soil science major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cornhusker Marching Band FLAG LINE AUDITIONS

(First round session)



March 29, 30 & 31
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Schulte Field House
Use entrance off of Avery Avenue

Auditions are open to academically eligible UNL students. No previous experience required. Dress for movement and wear tennis shoes. Equipment will be provided. If you have a schedule conflict, another first round audition session is set for Saturday, June 11. Second round auditions scheduled for August 12-19. For more information call 472-2505.

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Office of Campus Recreation University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Sport: Softball
Division: Co-Rec
Entry Deadline: March 15

Sport: Outdoor Soccer
Division: Men's and Women's
Entry Deadline: March 15

Sport: Wallyball
Division: Men's and Women's
Entry Deadline: March 29

Entries For All Sports Will Be Accepted At
55 Campus Recreation Center And
32 East Campus Activities Building Between
8:00 A.M. And 5:30 P.M., Monday Through
Friday.

For More Information, Call 472-3467.

