

# Opinion

## Who was this St. Patrick anyway?

Tomorrow (Sunday) is St. Patrick's Day and the Irish, and those who wish they were, will be celebrating around the globe. Yet Patrick was probably not even an Irishman.

It's difficult to sort the real facts about Patrick because there's so much legend but it seems probably that he was born in Wales where his father, Colpurnius, was a Roman official. So he's likely half-Italian and half-Welsh. According to his own account of his confessions, Patrick was captured by Irish slave traders at age 16. Sold to an Irish farmer he was a swineherder for six years on Mount Slemish in the county Antrim. He had been an indifferent Christian up to that time, but herding pigs gave him time to think and pray especially for deliverance from bondage.

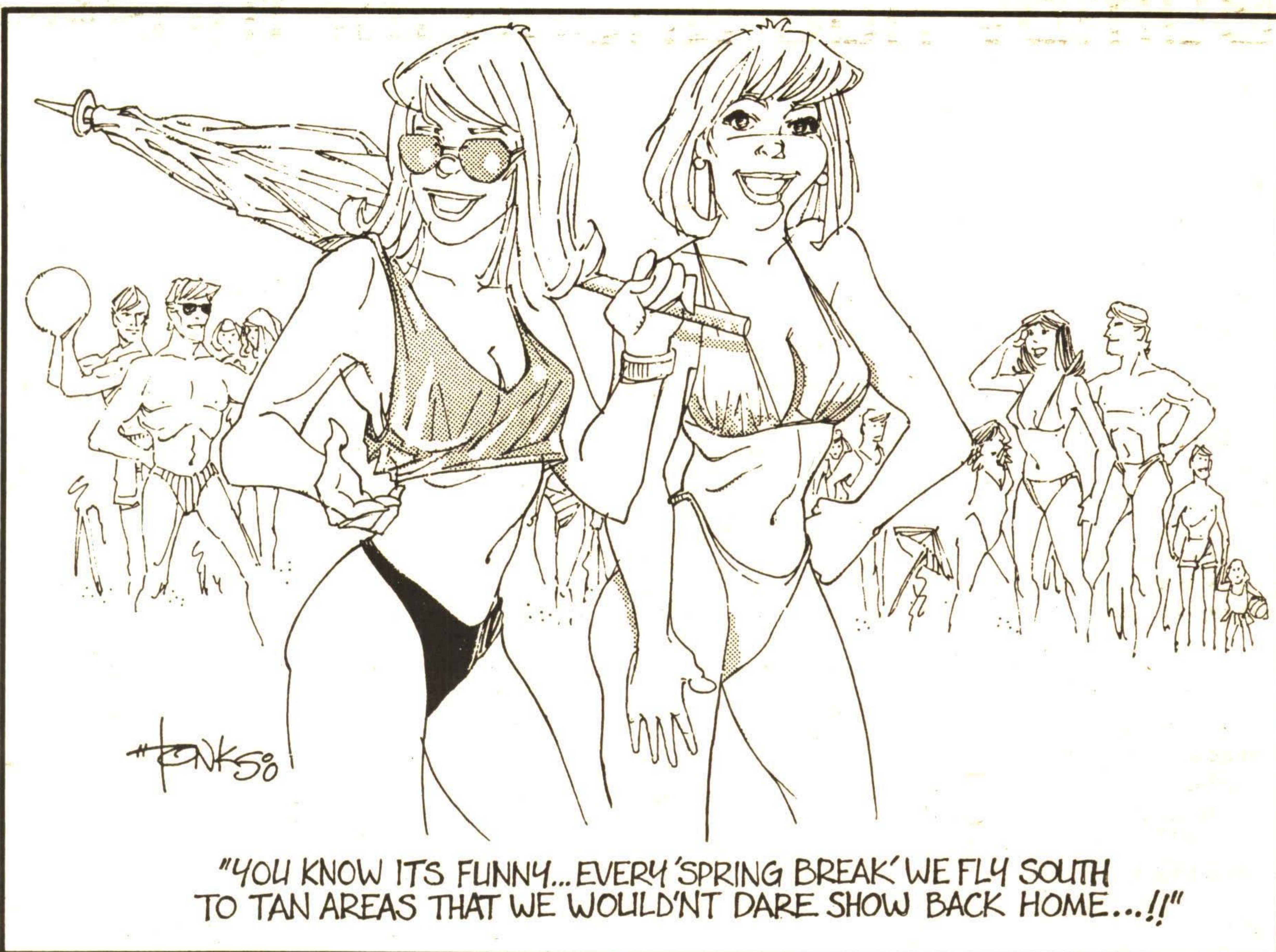
He escaped and returned to Wales a new person. He had a dream in which he was given a letter from the people of Ireland asking him to return to Ireland. He journeyed to Rome where he studied for the priesthood.

In 432 AD, the Bishop of Ireland, Palladius, died and Patrick was made a bishop by Pope Clement and appointed Apostle of Ireland. His zeal and energy led to the founding of a well organized church in Ireland but he was threatened with death 12 times, he relates in his confession. He died in Armagh on March 17, 492 AD but his fame was confined mainly to Ireland until the 17th century.

Then in 1618, an Irish Franciscan friar named Luke Wadding was sent to Rome by his order. He established an Irish College in Rome to train, educate and ordain priests. This friar also used his influence to have the Feast of St. Patrick on March 17 inserted into the calendar of the Church.

Sunday, the feast of this 5th century cleric will be celebrated, sometimes in a manner which St. Patrick himself would disapprove, but the popularity of the saint as bon vivant continues to grow all over the world on March 17.

More than a few ales will be drunk and rivers of green will appear to mark the event.



"YOU KNOW ITS FUNNY...EVERY 'SPRING BREAK' WE FLY SOUTH TO TAN AREAS THAT WE WOULDN'T DARE SHOW BACK HOME...!!"

### Our Readers Write

#### Supporting the Canadian effort

Dear editor,

The following is a tribute to those Canadians who served in the Gulf. So much is said about the role the Americans played and so little about the Canadian effort. Stand with me and let's support with thanks the men and women who left for the Gulf not knowing if they would return alive.

Thanks so much.

Helen Pasanen

#### A PRICE IN THE GULF

A cry for help reached government ears,  
To go to war or not was priority now.  
'Join the coalition' rang loud and clear,  
To halt aggression we must decide.  
How could we accept the ruthless Saddam,  
Perhaps Saudi Arabia too he intends to damn?  
Mulroney's decision was swift and sharp,  
Our troops in boats and planes took position  
In the Persian Gulf and Saudi sands.  
At home we sat glued to the tely

And prayed Peace to come in a hurry.  
When Saddam refused to retreat  
Allies bombed and bombed each night.  
In seven weeks Iraqi fearing their lives  
By the ten thousands surrendered alive  
As ground soldiers began their advance.  
The air force delivered to targets precise  
In one hundred hours a ceasefire resulted.  
Kuwait was jubilant, liberated but lost  
Cities were rubble, waters polluted and smoke  
From oil fires choked all living matter,  
While one hundred thousand Iraqi and more  
With seventy-eight Allies lay dead in the sand.  
Canadians, you served well in the Gulf  
It was you who secured the sky and sea  
And bandaged those wounded by mines  
While Allies accomplished tasks assigned.  
We are proud of you who risked your lives.  
Accept our many many THANKS  
For it comes from the bottom of our hearts.

Helen Pasanen

#### Probe results won't come quickly

Dear editor,

In the Globe & Mail, page B2, March 8, the headline reads "Gas probe extended nation wide." The article goes on to say a federal investigation of gas prices in Sudbury and Ottawa has been expanded to other parts of the country. However people should not expect quick results of the probe.

As a Libertarian, since when could we ever expect quick results by a government body? It seems these types of things benefit the participants more than the people paying the bill—taxpayers.

Since we own our own gas company, which at the time it was purchased was to give us info on

oil and gas prices, I wonder why we do not use this info. One problem, I suppose, is that Petro Canada prices are sometimes more expensive than other brands. However we did purchase Petro Canada for this purpose. Perhaps a phone call could get the information on prices, and eliminate the cost of this probe. I assume we still do call the shots at Petro Canada. After all the company cost us plenty.

Thanks.

John Shadbolt,  
Libertarian,

P.O.Box 75, Acton, Ont. L7J 2M2

#### Perky honored by Heritage award

Dear editor,

For the many years I have spent in minor hockey and baseball I was specially honored by the people of Georgetown and Hockey Heritage.

I would like to thank all who honored me: minor hockey, government, midget hockey team, Walter Bianchi, Town of Halton Hills, Softball

Ontario, Tri-County minor hockey, National Hockey League, Bryan Lewis and Georgetown Referees Association.

This was the greatest thing in my hockey life.

Many thanks,  
Gerald "Perky" Perkins

Halton Hills

# WEEKEND

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**KEN BELLAMY**  
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