



Fuel for Thought

By John McKay

With gas and electric prices going up and up and up, what's DAS doing to help save energy?

"We're doing a lot, with lots of initiatives already in place and more to come," said DAS Procurement Services Director Carol Wilson.

Wilson went on to explain that it's not just DAS working to save energy.

"Talk about partnering with other state agencies. We work with DEP and OPM a lot in trying to find ways to cut costs in energy and purchase more energy efficient products," she added.

Diesel fuel appears to be public enemy number one.

In an effort to reduce the state's consumption of diesel, DAS is working on contracts regarding bio-diesel fuel – a diesel fuel mixed with a soy based oil - for a more clean and efficient fuel.

Also on the radar is eliminating that fragrant diesel fuel smell.

DAS and DEP are teaming to establish a contract for diesel retrofits that will reduce diesel emissions on school buses and industrial trucks, keeping the air cleaner. An added bonus is that CT Transit will be encouraged to use this contract for all city buses.

"The state is trying to be as proactive as possible in this area," said Wilson. "There's a lot of action at the federal level to protect the environment and it slowly trickles down to the state level. However, I do think Connecticut is steadily moving ahead in our efforts to save energy."

And what about DAS' fleet of over 4,000 state vehicles? Definitely, ahead of the energy curve.

Today, less than one percent of the fleet consists of diesel fuel vehicles. With a real push towards E85 fuel, natural gas and electric-unleaded hybrid vehicles, and with 125 hybrids on order, a mix of fuel alternatives keeps the fleet non-reliant on any one type of fuel.

A bill introduced in this year's legislature would require that after 2010 all new cars and light trucks bought by the state must be

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Anne Gnazzo is Sworn in as DAS Commissioner by Governor M. Jodi Rell, March 26, 2007



Budget Gurus Say, "Check Before You Charge"

By Nina Ritson

The breezes of spring may bring a change in season, but that doesn't mean more change in our pockets.

Not uncommon in the state's fiscal landscape, DAS has found itself tightening its belt and preparing for a couple of very tough months ahead, followed by some potentially lean years.

It's time for some Connecticut Yankee thriftiness and just plain common sense to kick in.

"People really need to scrutinize their purchases. Simply said – purchase only what you need!" says Jean Michael, Director of the DAS Business Office.

"Over the years, spending has just gotten out of hand. With the use of the P-card, although it cuts down on time and paperwork, it also makes it more difficult to manage our limited resources. The convenience of the P-Card makes it easy for people to purchase individual items without realizing the cumulative effect on the agency's budget."

Michael says that, for now, her folks are reviewing all P-card usage, while monitoring all purchases to intercept and eliminate wasteful spending.

All agencies have been affected by reduced spending, and DAS, in addition to its own operating costs, has assumed the business office functions of the agencies included in the small agency consolidation.

"Next year is going to be equally challenging. But DAS has an incredible budget team, and thanks to them

we will be ahead of the game when FY 08 hits," she said.

"Carolyn Koloseus is a wonderful manager who has built a team of folks who know their agencies inside and out! These folks are so dedicated that they have been attending legislative meetings personally and dealing with high-level people in each agency for which they are responsible."



L to R: Carolyn Koloseus, Jennifer Frazier, Jean Michael, Marie Rosales, Jay Yasensky, Lien Dong, Al Vanleuvan, Kerry Kudelchuk, and Paul Felix. Missing is Carl Hosmer.

According to Michael, employees need to exercise conservative practices - a sort of fiscal South Beach

Diet. This is not a short-term fix but, in fact, a long-term, healthier way of operating, she explained.

What is Michael's advice?

Before purchasing, think ahead to determine unit needs and consider weighing those needs in three categories - *must buy*, *should buy*, and *would like to buy*. Minimize purchases in that order. Then before buying – go online and check the contracts!

Michael said it's time for all DAS employees to think of their budget as if it were their own personal checking account - with payday weeks away!

"Purchase only what you need!"

Jean Michael

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M. Jodi Rell Governor

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Visit our website at www.das.state.ct.us

Deputy Commissioner John T. Wiltse from the Department of Veterans' Affairs wrote the following message to Donna Micklus regarding **Nina Ritson**: "I just wanted to let you know that Nina has done a wonderful job on a program booklet for the CT Veterans Hall of Fame Induction ceremony we are having with the Governor on Thursday. It is just going to be gorgeous...and SUCH a step-up from what we had last year, the first year of the Hall of Fame. She also arranged to get the printing done all in-house at DAS at a very reasonable cost – my fiscal guys are loving that!!! She is a treasure...and a pleasure to work with...from our "little" agency – that doesn't always have too much to work with – we GREATLY appreciate the support and help!! Thanks so much!"

hats off

By *Cindy Rusczyk*

Lots of kudos for **Steve Soklow**:

Deborah Craig thanked **Steve** for creating a worksheet for calculation of service time and said to co-workers, "It's great! If you choose to use it and like it, please take a moment to THANK Steve for taking the time to create this. Thanks!"

Heather Tweeddale wrote: "I have to agree. I know that Shari and I really appreciate all that you do for us, **Steve!**"

Steve Caliendo also commented "As always, thank you **Steve**. Your assistance to SmART continues to be simply extraordinary. You're the best!"

Isabelle McKinney also applauded **Steve Soklow** for his help in running demographic reports for four agencies. "Thanks for your help and your willingness to do so...much appreciated!"

Government Account Manager Brian Kaplan from CDW Corporation of Illinois sent the following message to **Procurement Services** regarding the Procurement Video on the DAS website: "This is one of the neatest things I have seen from a government customer...I work with Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and this is really unique...I dig it..."

Kudos to **Carlos Velez** and **Joanne Cusano** from Kerry DiMatteo for helping to distribute 1,815 new P-Cards to 84 agencies. "They helped create customized spreadsheets and categorize, alphabetize, count and recount all the new cards. It was a lot of work, but we really needed to come up with a distribution process that would account for all the cardholders, yet make it easy for the agencies. I couldn't have done it without them. Thanks!"

Patsy McLaughlin had words of praise for **Nina Ritson** and **John McKay** "for providing assistance on the national search for the commissioner of DECD. Nina's artistic talent with graphics and eye for design created a visual state-of-the-art recruitment ad, that attracted over 80 candidates from across the United States. It was such a success, the layout was also used for the DCF commissioner position as well. John was the reliable wordsmith when challenges with the text occurred, offered suggestions and proofed the

numerous revisions. A great team effort! Kudos to Nina and John!"

Scott Benson, working on CoreCT, praised **Matt Shea** for his work with CoreCT interfaces from DAS. "CoreCT Financials was upgraded in March and Matt quickly and accurately handled all the issues that arose. Matt continues to be instrumental in ensuring that the lines of communication between CoreCT and Procurement Services stay open and clear."

DAS presents

The Sixth Annual State of Connecticut Nurse of the Year Awards

*May 8, 2007
Old Judiciary Room
State Capitol*



*Nominations are now
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http://www.das.state.ct.us/HR/Nurse/NU_Nurse_Guidelines.asp

The 2007 Session: What's Happening Under the Dome?

By Andrea Keilty

Two and a half months into the 2007 Connecticut legislative session, literally thousands of bills have been introduced by Connecticut's Senators, Representatives and Legislative Committees. A number of these proposals would affect DAS and the way in which our business units perform their work.

Procurement. As usual, numerous bills this year affect state contracting. Proposals to codify a State Contracting Standards Board and create a Uniform Procurement Code for all state agencies are still outstanding.

Also outstanding is whether and how the legislature will alter set-aside provisions in the law. At least four different proposals still exist that would change the standards governing which companies qualify as a "small business" entitled to the benefits of set-aside preferences in contracting. Several other legislative proposals involve whether municipalities should be subject to our set-aside goals, whether companies owned and operated by service-disabled veterans should be provided a set-aside or a preference when they bid on state contracts, whether funds should be provided for a disparity study to update the set-aside goals, and other concerns of our Supplier Diversity Unit.

Also back from last year are bills that would require reviews of state contracts awarded to companies that provide services outside Connecticut, and bills that may provide contracting preferences to instate companies. We have been working hard to

discuss with legislators how these proposals would be administered, if passed, in an attempt to achieve workable, practical solutions that do not unnecessarily burden the procurement process.

Contractor Prequalification.

DAS is promoting some changes to the statutes affecting our Contractor Prequalification program. Specifically, the changes will clarify some inconsistencies in the statutes, and will also provide stronger enforcement (1) against contractors that engage in conduct that significantly undermines their skill, ability or integrity, and (2) against agencies and entities that award public construction contracts if they do not use prequalified contractors when they are required to do so under law.

Fleet. This year, the Governor's Office and legislative leaders are looking at a variety of ways to save energy, curb pollution, and reduce our reliance to foreign oil. DAS is involved in these discussions as they relate to our purchase and maintenance of the state fleet of vehicles. We continue to work with the legislature on ideas about how we can purchase state vehicles that burn fuel more efficiently, and how best to invest in the state's infrastructure to ensure that there are reliable and effective sources of energy for our vehicles.

Collections. A bill likely to pass affecting DAS' Collections Unit includes a proposal to limit the state's ability to recover money the state paid on behalf of individuals who had received care and assistance from the Department of Children and

Families. We are working hard to ensure that the final language of this bill is drafted properly to ensure that collection efforts that are beyond the scope intended by the legislators are not inadvertently jeopardized. Another proposal has been introduced that would effectively halt all social services collections. The enormous revenue loss associated with this proposal, however, makes it unlikely to succeed.

Statewide Human Resources.

Upon request of the Governor, we are working on legislation to temporarily extend the vacation accrual cap for state employees on active duty in the military. Currently, employees are entitled to accrue only up to 60, 90 or 120 days of vacation, depending on statutes and applicable union contract provisions. This proposal would temporarily lift these accrual caps for employees called up for active duty, since they are not able to use their vacation time freely until they return from service.

Bills also have been raised that would change both the overall structure and functioning of the state merit system as well as the application of the merit system and other statewide personnel rules to certain agencies. Specifically, the Labor Committee has favorably voted on a bill that would subject the state merit system – including the establishment, conduct and grading of exams – to collective bargaining. Another bill being considered by the Government Administration & Elections Committee would exempt three agencies – the Freedom of Information Commis-

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sion, the Office of State Ethics, and the State Elections Enforcement Commission – from DAS oversight over its hiring and other personnel decisions.

Workers' Compensation. As always, there are numerous workers' compensation bills that DAS is watching, since changes to the workers' compensation laws would affect DAS' budget and, in some cases, the manner in which we administer claims (DAS enforces statewide policies regarding workers' compensation for state employees, and manages the workers' compensation budgets for most state agencies). There have been over thirty workers' compensation bills introduced this year, including a proposal to increase workers' compensation benefits for scarring; a proposal to increase the amount of discretionary benefits that an employee may recover after exhausting the scheduled benefits provided to the employee for a permanent partial disability; and a proposal requiring employers to assist injured employees in filing claims.

There are still another two and a half months to go in this legislative session. Some proposals will be negotiated, some will peter out, and some will be amended to ultimately look nothing like their original selves.

Stay tuned to see how DAS fares!

And on the lighter side...

By Donna Micklus

In addition to those bills affecting DAS, there are others that may affect you as a private citizen or at least bring a smile to your face.

Year after year you find bills to raise taxes, repeal taxes, exempt you from taxes. Then you always have the clean air, clean water, clean car, clean energy bills. Eminent domain is big this year. And count on legislation for remediating brownfields and for tons of bond funding requests for local projects.

But here are a few proposed bills that kind of stood out:

If you're a nonprofit organization that holds a bingo permit and you want to sponsor more than two poker games a year? You can't if the bill passes. Ya gotta know when to fold 'em.

There's a proposal to require the Department of Public Health to establish a fall prevention program. Will summer be next?

Then there's the bill authorizing Connecticut to enter into an agreement with other states to have the President of the United States elected by popular vote. Al, get over it.

Day care is an issue for lots of families. But doggie day care? Yep,

there's a bill to allow dog groomers to also provide doggie day care services. Is that kind of like the equivalent of leaving your child with your hairdresser?

How about moving the celebration of Halloween to the Friday before the thirty-first of October?

Got milk? There's an act to establish a handler fee on milk sold in Connecticut. Not touching that one.

Now you'll breathe a sigh of relief...there is a bill proposed to allow windmills on residential lots of ½ acre or more. It's a Don Quixote thing.

What about the proposed law to rename the state "budget surplus" the state "overtax". No editorial comment needed.

And finally, get ready to kick up your heels if this bill passes and the Ballroom Polka becomes the official Polka of the State of Connecticut!

We might make light of some of the thousands of bills proposed, but we take the work performed by our state legislators very seriously and appreciate the long hours they labor on behalf of their constituents.



Know your serving sizes (the following are equal to one serving):

1 slice of bread (white, wheat, rye, etc.)
 ½ cup dry cereal
 1 small potato (baked or broiled)
 1 small to medium fresh fruit
 1 cup milk
 1 oz meat, fish, poultry or cheese

1 slice of bacon
 ½ cup cooked vegetables
 1 cup raw vegetables
 ½ cup ice cream
 3 cups popcorn

Where Are They Now? Here They Are Now!

By Nina Ritson

"I have just washed and blow-dried my hair and will be taking a walk on the beach. I walk several times a week, weather and schedule permitting, and on a good day I'll walk 3-4 hours."

If exercise is key to beauty and youth - then it certainly shows in Rose Gaudio Lamy, formerly of Management Information Solutions. Looking younger than ever, Lamy is one very happy retiree.



Rose Lamy on her 70th birthday

"I recently celebrated my 70th birthday and the children had a huge party for me — it was wonderful. We had a photographer come to take a family portrait, but he was having so much fun he ended up taking 300 casual shots throughout the party."

Lamy retired four years ago this June after 17+ years in state service and has never looked back.

"I enjoyed my employment in state service. When you retire, you finally have the opportunity to spend so much more precious time with the family. I was so busy working I did not have the extra time to truly enjoy my home or family. My daughters/sons-in-law/daughter-in-law and family members live in Connecticut and my son is in Arizona."

"I used to get together regularly with other folks from DAS who retired: Dan Donahue, Bettye Bishop, Bob Wallace, Sue DeMauro, Kathy Valone, Mike Barletta, Sandra Bzdyra and others - but now I am so busy with my grandchildren - I have seven (one for each day of the week) that I am just going - going - going!"

Shortly after retiring she was asked if she would consider coming back to work on the 120-day agreement, but when she looked at her calendar she had so many commitments that she had to let the offer pass!

"I love Connecticut, we have everything here. As a rule I really do not like to travel out of New England but I am taking a trip out to Arizona (with children) to visit my son. He has invested in a "Grand Resort" house I would like to see. We will visit the Grand Canyon and Sedona. This should be fun!"

So what is Lamy's advice for all us poor souls still working away? "Do your very best, stay calm and swim like a swan. Just ride that wave of opportunity to the end - hang in and enjoy the adventure while you are there, because it is definitely worth it! State employee benefits are matched by no other, and when you retire some day, you can wake up in the morning and do whatever you wish, thank God!"

Rob Giuditta joined the DAS Workers' Compensation Unit in September 2006, from the Workers' Compensation Commission Chairman's Office.

A Waterbury native and West Conn graduate, he also attended graduate school at Northeastern University. He was a Justice and Law Administration major, and spent nine years as a safety program officer assisting private sector employers with health and safety committees and accident prevention.



Rob Giuditta

The Worker's Compensation Commissions' core function was the adjudication of claims.

"I traveled all over the state brainstorming with employers about a constructive program for accident prevention. The cost to the state's employers associated with workplace accidents is just astronomical – many could be avoided through a commitment to education, training and hazard assessments," he says.

Prior to state service, Giuditta spent 15 years with Waterbury Hospital where he was a key participant in the reengineering of the hospital. At DAS, Giuditta works with the Judicial Branch and other state agencies by outreaching to establish response planning and accident prevention. "This is a team approach. I cannot stress this more – it is everyone's responsibility to prevent injury in the workplace!"

Giuditta is no stranger to public service – his mom worked for Naugatuck Valley Community College and his dad worked for the Post Office for 38 years. Because his sister is in New Hampshire and his older brother just moved to Washington State, he chose to plant roots locally. "I built a colonial in Watertown in a really nice family neighborhood. At least I am close to my parents – who are getting on in age. I enjoy building things in my house – minor carpentry, electrical – but I am not a hacker, so I know when to quit and call in the professionals."

An avid walker and hiker, Giuditta is just plain *active*. "I referee basketball games a couple of nights a week, and I am also involved with friends who are State Troopers who organize fundraisers for those suffering from a traumatic illness or injury."

Giuditta confessed his true love. "I am redoing a 1977 Monte Carlo — Firethorn-2-door Sport Coupe-Red on Red w/Landau top. It was my very first car back in high school and it has sentimental value." And then he asked, "Can everyone remember what his or her first car was?"

COOP Planning Committee Issues Report on Agency Exercises

The following is a summary of that preliminary report:

On February 27 the State of Connecticut conducted a statewide test of agency Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) for a simulated pandemic influenza outbreak.

This exercise tested each agency's ability to continue functioning during a pandemic influenza emergency in accordance with their plan. The exercise was from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the simulation covering events unfolding over a series of weeks. The Committee successfully received reports from fifty-nine state agency/location incident management teams participating in this exercise.

The exercise also tested a new communications system intended to provide the State Emergency Operations Center and Governor Rell with accurate and actionable information concerning agency functionality as state employees and contractors became affected by the pandemic.

Analysis of the preliminary data shows that of the agencies/locations

that successfully reported during the exercise, eight agencies were forced to shutdown, 18 agencies lost at least one critical priority 1 function, 30 agencies had disruptions of priority two services, and a total of 27 agencies remained functional without any disruption of priority 1 or 2 services.

Preliminary feedback from the agencies indicated that the exercise was very effective at showing strengths and weaknesses both within each agency's structure and within the communications system that was used for the first time.

In order to improve the performance of the agency COOP plans and to improve the emergency communications systems, the COOP Planning Committee asked each

agency to complete a brief questionnaire indicating the top three issues that affected them during the exercise, as well as the top three benefits of the exercise.

"The exercise provided an important step towards preparing our state for a potential pandemic influenza outbreak. No one knows precisely when a pandemic may affect the United States, how-

ever the threat remains very real. An infection of the bird population appears likely within the next few years and an infection of the human population remains a very real threat for the foreseeable future," the COOP Planning Committee said.

Another large-scale exercise is already being planned and all agencies will again be asked to participate.

"The exercise provided an important step towards preparing our state for a potential pandemic influenza outbreak. No one knows precisely when a pandemic may affect the United States, however, the threat remains very real."

Surplus News

DAS' Surplus Property unit hosts a number of vehicle and property auctions throughout the year. What's the return? Where does the money go?

Just look at these figures!

In FY 05-06 DAS returned the majority of \$2,635,707 earned to the General Fund, and by March of 2007, \$2,245,613 has been generated!

"We're on track for another great year," said Procurement Program Manager Carlos Velez. "And it feels right that DAS is doing its part to contribute to the state's General Fund."

Energy, cont. from page 1

powered by alternate fuel, hybrid electric or plug-in electric motors.

"Having a diverse pool of vehicles that can use various sources of fuel is the way to go," said DAS Fleet Operations Director Tom Yuhas.

"Instead of the fleet being totally dependent on one type of fuel, we diversify our consumption to more environmentally friendly fuels with lower emissions as well."

"I really believe the majority of successes are yet to come," said Procurement's Paul Greco.

"Saving energy and saving the environment have been discussed at all levels of government for years. However, these things take time, and I think their time is coming. We've worked on initiatives in the past, we continue to work on these types of conservation issues today, and we'll continue to work on them in the future," Greco added.

Identity Theft: A 21st Century Threat

The Department of Information Technology (DOIT) has launched a new Information Security Awareness Program to educate employees and the public about basic information security issues and practices. Their first e-issue focuses on identify theft, with resources and tips on how you can protect your own personal information.

Is identity theft just a problem for people who submit information online?

No. You can be a victim of identity theft even if you never use a computer. Malicious people may be able to obtain personal information (such as credit card numbers, phone numbers, etc.) by stealing your wallet, overhearing a phone conversation, rummaging through your trash, or picking up a receipt at a restaurant that has your account number on it.

How are victims of online identity theft chosen?

Identity theft is usually a crime of opportunity, so you may be victimized simply because your information is available. Thieves may target customers of certain companies for a variety of reasons: a company database is easily accessible, the demographics of the customers are appealing, there is a market for specific information, etc. If your information is stored in a database that is compromised, you may become a victim of identity theft.

Are there ways to avoid being a victim?

Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee that you will not be a victim of online identity theft. However, there are ways to minimize your risk:

- **Do business with reputable companies** - Before providing any personal or financial information, make sure that you are interacting with a reputable, established company.

- **Take advantage of security features** - Passwords and other security features add layers of protection if used appropriately.

- **Check Privacy Policies** - Take precautions when providing information, and make sure to check published privacy policies to see how a company will use or distribute your information.

- **Be Careful What Information You Publicize** - Attackers may be able to piece together information from a variety of sources. Avoid posting personal data in public forums.

- **Use and Maintain Anti-Virus Software and a Firewall** - Protect yourself against viruses and other harmful programs that may steal or modify the data on your own computer and leave you vulnerable by using anti-virus software and a firewall.

- **Be Aware of Your Account Activity** - Pay attention to your statements, and check your credit report annually. You are entitled to a free copy of your credit report from each of the three main credit reporting companies once every twelve months.

How do you know if your identity has been stolen?

Companies have different policies for notifying customers when they



discover that someone has accessed a customer database. However, you should be aware of changes in your normal account activity. The following are examples of changes that could indicate that someone has accessed your information:

- **unusual or unexplainable charges on your bills**

- **phone calls or bills for accounts, products, or services that you do not have**

- **failure to receive regular bills or mail, or new, strange accounts appearing on your credit report**

- **unexpected denial of your credit card**

For more details and for actions you should take if you think your identity has been stolen, visit DOIT's website at:

<http://www.ct.gov/doit/cwp/view.asp?a=1244&Q=331012>

The Irish Emigration: Fleeing the Famine

By Nina Ritson & Cindy Rusczyk

More than 40 million U.S. citizens claim Irish ancestry – but have you ever wondered what exactly caused the great emigration to America?

As history will tell, it was no “luck” of the Irish.

Ireland in the mid-1800s was an agricultural nation, populated by eight million people who were among the poorest people in the Western World. Half of the rural families were living in single-room, windowless mud cabins. For the most part they were landless laborers, farming the land of tenant farmers in exchange for rent. Their crop of sustenance – the potato.

Poor Irish laborers, more than anyone, became totally dependent on the potato

crops for their existence. More than three million Irish peasants subsisted solely on the vegetable, which is rich in protein, carbohydrates, minerals, and

vitamins; it is possible to stay healthy on a diet of potatoes alone.

The Irish consumed an estimated seven million tons of potatoes each year. The agri-system worked year after year, and the people were sustained as long as the potato crop didn't fail.

Throughout the summer of 1846, there were high hopes for a good potato harvest, but the cool, moist summer weather had been ideal for the spread of blight. At first, the crop appeared healthy. But by harvest time the blight struck ferociously,

spreading fifty miles per week across the countryside, destroying nearly every potato in Ireland.

There were only enough potatoes to feed the Irish population for a single month. All over Ireland, people just sat on the fences of their decaying fields, bitterly bemoaning the destruction that had left them starving.

Panic swept the country as the Famine showed no mercy.

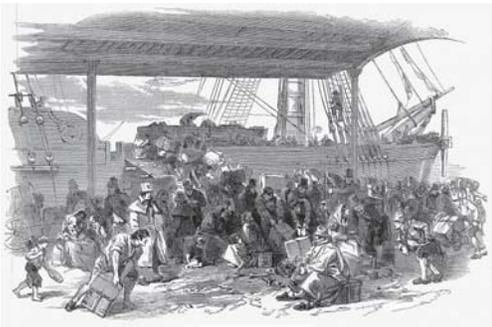
They sold their livestock and pawned everything they owned, including their clothing, to pay the rent to avoid certain eviction. They bought what little food they could find with any leftover money. They were literally dying in the streets - men,

women, and children buried in mass graves.

During the Famine and over the next ten years, more than 750,000 Irish died and another two million people left Ireland to escape starvation and

start a new life overseas. They sailed to Great Britain, Canada, Australia and the United States. The journey to America lasted about a month, and much longer in bad weather. Within five years, Ireland was reduced by a quarter of its population.

After the Famine, Ireland's slow economic progress resulted in a continued drain of talented, hard-working young people. Between 1851 and 1921, an estimated 4.5 million Irish left home and headed mainly to the United States.



Ireland since then has experienced a resurgence in its economy due to the successful changeover from an agricultural to an industrial base, with 60 percent of the people now settled in urban areas.

Today its robust economy, equal to Great Britain, welcomes the arrival of high-tech companies from around the world seeking to make use of the country's hard working and conscientious work force. About 850 foreign companies, including 300 from the United States, now have operations in Ireland. In addition, tourism employs 15 percent of the entire workforce.

Between 1845 and 1852, the Potato Famine killed over a million men, women and children in Ireland and caused another 2 million to flee the country.

So, next March 17 when you are guzzling that Guinness, remember it was the little potato that nearly took a nation down – but that also made America what it is today - 40 million Irish strong.



...our strength is in our differences