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WORLD

Movie revives anger felt by Irish family over false convictions

LONDON (AP) — Anne Maguire says she has forgiven the police who beat her, the judge who sentenced her and the system that wrongly jailed her and her family as IRA bomb-makers.

But she harbors no love for her nephew, Gerard Conlon, who implicated her. Conlon's own ordeal is the basis of "In the Name of the Father," a movie nominated for the Academy Award.

The film shows Mrs. Maguire serving breakfast to Conlon and his buddy Paul Hill, now married to a daughter of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Mrs. Maguire said she met Hill only briefly, at an Irish folk dance.

"He was not in my house," she told a reporter in her London apartment. "I wasn't showing anybody how to make bombs in my kitchen, and for Gerard Conlon to let that scene be shown in the film! Twenty years onward, he's still calling me a liar."

Conlon acknowledged implicating his aunt, but said he did it under duress during police questioning. He has since said that she was not involved.

Jim Sheridan, the movie's director, has been criticized for taking liberties with the facts. In London last month, Sheridan said he did not set out to make a documentary but to tell the story "of one person suffering and becoming an independent spirit."

Conlon, Hill, Paddy Armstrong and Carole Richardson were convicted of planting IRA bombs in pubs in Guildford that killed five people.

Mrs. Maguire saw the movie with Ms. Richardson. They became close friends during years in prison together.

Police raided the Maguire family's tidy northwest London home on Dec. 3, 1974, after Conlon and Hill implicated her. Mrs. Maguire said she was deprived of sleep and food, violently interrogated and beaten, but always maintained her innocence.

She, her husband Patrick, her brother Sean Smyth, her sons Vincent and Patrick,

family friend Patrick O'Neill and Patrick Maguire's brother-in-law Guiseppe Conlon were convicted in 1976 of making IRA bombs. The crucial evidence was a scientific test for nitroglycerine traces that has since been discredited.

Guiseppe Conlon, Gerard's father, died in prison in 1980.

It was one of four major IRA cases in the mid-1970s that sent 18 people to prison, 11 of them for life. After long public campaigns, all of the convictions have been reversed by the Court of Appeal.

"I know there were 18 innocent people at the time," said Mrs. Maguire, who served nine years of a 14-year sentence. "But our

family seemed to be the only one that was stripped of everything. Our kids were left orphans. They lost both mum and dad."

The unhealed wounds and unanswered questions are summed up in the title of her recently published book, "Why Me?"

When the judge sentenced her to 14 years, Mrs. Maguire thought about her children and fainted.

"Who is going to look after my kids? You were there 24 hours a day, you washed, you cooked, you loved them, you held them and you listened to them and I just thought 'No, I might as well be dead,' because that was mental torture," Mrs. Maguire said, tears welling behind her thick glasses.

IN BRIEF

40 killed in wake of prison break

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Security forces killed 40 Islamic militants on Sunday and arrested 30 other people in the wake of a Muslim fundamentalist-led prison break-out that freed hundreds of inmates.

Violence has spiraled in recent weeks as the army-backed government and the militants have stepped up their attacks in the 2-year-old conflict that has killed at least 3,700 people.

President Liamine Zeroual has called for talks this week with all opposing factions, but there was still no word Sunday whether any groups agreed to talk.

Security forces said they killed 40 escapees Sunday, bringing to 64 the number slain since scores of gunmen overran the prison in Lambaze in eastern Algeria on March 10 and freed an estimated 400 comrades.

Tunisia opens parliament seats

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Voters thronged polling stations Sunday in national elections that will bring Tunisia pluralism of a sort — the opposition is guaranteed seats in parliament, but the incumbent president ran unopposed and Muslim fundamentalists were barred from running altogether.

The Democratic Constitutional Assembly, which has ruled the country since independence from France in 1956, was expected to dominate the legislative body and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali was headed for a second five-year term.

Ben Ali structured the election process to guarantee other parties would hold at least 19 out of the parliament's 163 seats.

Aid convoy finally reaches Muslim town

U.N. spokesman: Maglaj is in ruins

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Joyful cries of "Food! Food!" greeted a U.N. relief convoy that came Sunday to Maglaj. It was the first food shipment since October into a city largely reduced to rubble by a nine-month Serb siege.

U.N. officials said Bosnian Serb forces withdrew late Saturday from the southern edge of the Maglaj-Tesanj area, home to 103,000 people, mostly Muslims.

People who have lived underground for months ran into the streets as the trucks carrying food and medical supplies arrived under heavily armed escort, including armored personnel carriers.

The U.N. workers were warmly greeted by residents, many of whom helped unload the precious supplies. Six trucks went to Maglaj, and three others to the nearby village of Tesanj.

NATO warplanes roared overhead, ready to strike in case of any moves by Serb forces.

"Maglaj is no longer a besieged city," said Larry Hollingworth, head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' operation in nearby Zenica. "The corridor to Maglaj is open, and it's going to remain open."

Hollingworth, who led Sunday's convoy, said relief trucks would be coming regularly to the town, which had its land supplies cut off last October and has been living on airdropped food through the harsh Balkan winter.

In Sarajevo, residents took another step of their own toward normalcy, when the home team beat U.N. peacekeepers 4-0 in the city's first soccer match in two years.

Such an open-air event involving thousands of people would have been unthinkable only a few weeks ago.

The Maglaj convoy had been expected for more than a week, as U.N. and Red Cross workers pressed the Serbs for permission to feed the town. It had been devastated by nine months of Serb siege and shelling.

In Zagreb, UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler described the situation in "An-



Associated Press photo

People surround three Red Cross trucks carrying Bosnian Muslim prisoners of war late Saturday in eastern Mostar, which is held by Bosnian Muslim forces. More than 800 Croat and Muslim POWs walked free over the weekend.

parently, there are no buildings left in Maglaj," he said.

However, witnesses told The Associated Press the damage did not appear to be as severe as Kessler had portrayed it.

Maj. Jose Labandeira, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo, said the international forces would start patrolling the Maglaj region today.

Bosnian radio said the Serbs had withdrawn troops and artillery Saturday night from positions along the Bosna river near Teslic, about 15 miles west of Maglaj. It said Serbs had held those positions since June 24 last year.

Croatian radio said the withdrawal followed an "ultimatum" by Croat forces.

But the Bosnian Serb military denied reports about the withdrawal.

"Units of the (Bosnian Serb) army are not pulling back, nor have their heavy weapons been blocked," the Bosnian Serb news agency Srna said Sunday, quoting a statement by the military.

In a letter to U.N. officials, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic promised Serbs would honor the Feb. 10 cease-fire around Sarajevo, adding he hoped cease-fires would succeed as well in Maglaj and the northwest Bihac region.

But Bosnian radio reported Serb artillery continued heavy shelling of the towns of Bihac and Cazvin over the weekend. Ten people were reported wounded.

U.N.: Confusion delayed support

By JULIA PRESTON

L.A. Times/Washington Post News Service

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations has concluded that a four-hour delay after U.N. troops in Bosnia called for NATO air support during a March 12 attack was caused by hesitation and confusion in the world body's chain of command and by insufficient information provided to the region's top U.N. civilian official by U.N. military commanders.

After French U.N. troops came under shelling near the Muslim-held city of Bihac and called for help from NATO fighter planes, four hours elapsed before NATO action was approved by U.N. special representative Yasushi Akashi. By the time two NATO F-15E jets reached the area, the Bosnian Serb anti-aircraft guns had been withdrawn and no airstrike could be launched. U.S. and French officials, concerned that NATO's credibility could be undermined, complained that the United Nations had moved too slowly.

A U.N. post-mortem reveals that there was U.N. hesitation and confusion at several points up the chain of command. But it also shows that U.N. peacekeeping officials remain reluctant to summon NATO air power.

NATO said last August that it would provide close air support for U.N. peacekeepers under attack in Bosnia, but the threat did not become real until NATO reached a new determination to use its force after the Feb. 5 massacre of shoppers in a Sarajevo market.

According to the report on the March 12 incident, a French battalion came under cannon and tank fire and requested NATO close air support at 7:30 p.m. At that time the top U.N. commander on duty in Bosnia ruled out contacting Serb commanders, since repeated U.N. warnings had been issued in response to earlier, smaller Serb attacks.

Gen. Jean Cot, the U.N. force commander for the Balkans, did not authorize the call for NATO support until three hours later, after Serb troops renewed their firing.

IDEAS

Remembering Spiro Agnew

WASHINGTON — Now that the Senate has voted to hold hearings on the Whitewater affair, comparisons between it and Watergate are bound to increase. Don't be fooled. If historical analogies are needed, the more appropriate scandal is one that was virtually obscured by Watergate: the resignation of Richard Nixon's venal vice president, Spiro T. Agnew. He was another small-state governor who came to Washington and found that you can go home again. He almost made the journey in handcuffs.

Don't get me wrong. I am not comparing Bill Clinton to Spiro Agnew. The former vice president was a crook. As governor of Maryland and, before that, as a county executive (Baltimore County), he took bribes for almost every conceivable service the state could provide. These payments continued even as Agnew moved his office from Annapolis to Washington. In the end, he was forced to resign and, in a plea bargain, pleaded no contest to a single charge of tax evasion. Another man, an ordinary guy, probably would have gone to jail.

Clinton, on the other hand, has been accused of no crime, least of all bribery. In fact, Whitewater's most salient feature is the total absence of a known crime. No government official has been arrested, indicted or — as far as we know — told that he is under criminal investigation. The special prosecutor's grand jury investigation has all the characteristics of a reconnoiter, an attempt to get the lay of the land. Robert B. Fiske Jr. seems not so much to be investigating a crime, but whether in fact one has occurred. Little wonder the Clintons are steamed.

BUT, AS WITH AGNEW, the focus in Whitewater is mostly on what happened before the principals got to Washington. Here is where some comparisons are apt. Agnew's salary as governor was only \$25,000 a year. Clinton, as governor, made \$35,000, even less, \$26,500, as lieutenant governor. For a while, Hillary Clinton didn't do much better. Along with her husband, she taught law at the University of Arkansas. They each earned \$18,090 for that. Even when she joined the Rose law firm, her pay was modest — \$46,000 a year in 1980, the year she became a partner.

What we have here is a typical small-state syndrome — poorly paid public officials often forced to live beyond their means and all the while associating with people who



Critic
At Large

Richard Cohen

earn more in a week than they do in a year. The tendency is to turn to these rich people who are, often, all too happy to help. The Clintons, it seemed, did just that. One was James McDougal, head of the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, who apparently used his institution as a petty cash drawer. The Clintons became his partner in Whitewater Development, a firm created to sell vacation sites on the Whitewater River. Madison, meanwhile, went bust, costing the taxpayers \$60 million.

James B. Blair is yet another friend of the Clintons. The New York Times says that this general counsel for Tyson Foods, the nation's biggest poultry company and Arkansas' single largest employer, recommended that Hillary Clinton establish two commodities trading accounts. With his advice, she made about \$100,000 in profits in a single 12-month period — 1978-79. There is nothing illegal in commodities trading, although it's risky, but Blair was not a disinterested party. Tyson is heavily regulated by the state and has relied on it for all sorts of help. Once again, though, the Times comes up with no evidence of a quid pro quo — help from Blair in exchange for help from Arkansas.



■ Is it proper to end sentences with a preposition?

✓ Yes. A preposition at the end may sound nature and avoid a stilted construction: "It was the bank he referred to." "My wife is the one I can depend on." What should we talk about?

SCANDAL BUFFS should beware the Cuomo Syndrome. Because the New York governor is Italian-American and because his political decisions may seem inexplicable, both his political enemies and certain journalists have suggested some sort of connection with organized crime. That's a calumny. In the same way, it would hardly be fair to suggest that all small-state governors, typically underpaid, are inevitably corrupted. Nevertheless, states like Arkansas or Maryland have certain characteristics. They're both mostly one-party states where a semipermanent political establishment prevails no matter who's in office. These are the guys who own what the state regulates.

A closeness, a chumminess, between a small-state governor and well-heeled businessmen is nearly impossible to avoid. They supply the private planes for trips that aren't state business. They often pick up restaurant checks. They put together campaign finance committees and they can, as both Blair and McDougal did, open the door to potential wealth. Occasionally, this relationship is symbiotic and corrupting — you do me a favor and I'll do one for you — but often it's not. Almost always, though, it's suggestive (Remember the Cuomo Syndrome and be alert to the difference between appearances and reality).

In the case of the Clintons, there's no evidence that they did anything wrong. If they did, the roots will be found deep within the political culture of Arkansas and the scandal will not resemble Watergate, but what you might call Agnewgate instead. Let's hope this affair has a different ending.

■ Cohen is a Washington Post columnist.

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Did not vote to fire Tipton

A March 16 News-Journal editorial requested support to encourage Howard Tipton, Daytona Beach city manager, not to accept a position which may be offered him by the city of Orlando. Mr. Tipton is a fine gentleman and has indeed served the city well. I wish to correct a statement in the editorial. Commissioners Christina Travis and Darrell Hunter and I as mayor did not vote "to fire Tipton." Instead, our vote was against the motion made by Commissioner Bud Asher to give Mr. Tipton a vote of confidence. I felt it was not the proper time for such a vote.

Recent changes in the political leadership in Daytona Beach and Volusia County call for CHANGE. Frequently senior managers have difficulty accepting the reality of the necessity for change in both policy and direction. I feel this is evidenced by the recent notice of resignation given by our county manager, Dr. Tom Kelly, and the most recent communique by Mr. Tipton that he also is contemplating a move by considering a position with the city of Orlando.

I have never asked Mr. Tipton to resign. To the contrary, I feel he has the talent, professionalism and expertise to continue to serve this city well. He has assumed, in the past, a responsibility more properly the role of elected officials. That obviously changed with the election of the present governing body.

I sincerely work toward cooperation with Volusia County and neighboring cities to move into an era where the entire area will prosper and establish an image that will bring national and international attention to the fact that the quality of life here is great now and will improve year after year.

PAUL A. CARPENELLA

Daytona Beach

Bicycle helmet bill

Regarding a bicycle helmet law being considered for bike riders 16 and under in Florida: At what point does government regulation inhibit personal choice? According to a March 16 article, at least 20 children not wearing helmets died in Florida bike accidents in 1992. How many died in car accidents? How about a law mandating helmets in cars? How about skateboarding, roller blading, surfing, and bungee jumping?

And leaving one's house is dangerous. How about crossing the street? Riding a tricycle? Sitting in a stroller? Playing on a slide?

Personal safety issues should be just that — personal. Parents should decide what protection their children need, not government.

JEANNE M. BRIGANDI

Daytona Beach

Florida vehicle registration

J.W.'s feelings (March 15 letter) regarding vehicle registration fees in Florida are outrageous.

What he didn't say was that the fee for initial registrations is a one-time cost. Successive yearly license fees are the most reasonable of all in the United States, including those in Illinois. I know. I lived in Illinois all my life until moving to Florida in 1981.

J.W. plans to bring four vehicles to Florida and will be using Florida roads and highways. He should be willing to help pay for Florida maintenance.

Keeping his vehicles registered in Illinois, using the address of a relative, is deceptive and probably illegal. He should stay in Illinois.

I have two sons living in Minnesota. License fees there cost 6 percent of the value of the vehicle, every year. Now that's outrageous.

J.T.

Georgetown

Whitewater witch hunt

Whitewater, Bluewater, Wastewater, Stillwater. Who cares? This country faces more serious problems that need to be addressed. I resent these cheap-shot, witch-hunt artist politicians who seem to delight in keeping this issue alive and well.

It appears they will go to any length to derail the president's programs. These folks have had an eternity to address our problems, but have not had the courage to work together for our country's good. We finally have a president trying to implement good programs, and he is being sabotaged at every turn by these guys whose only interest is self-interest. Let's hope these people will curb their own image of self-importance and help instead of hindering our president.

LOUIS GARDNER

Daytona Beach

As a former resident of New York state for some 60 years, I also read Lars-Erik Nelson's column in the March 9 News-Journal. I am a liberal Democrat and, like the writer of a March 13 letter, find it absurd to take seriously any remark Sen. Alphonse D'Amato makes about President Clinton's record in office.

After all, this is the same man who after a two-year investigation was rebuked by the U.S. Senate for using his office in an improper and inappropriate manner.

STUART PALMER

Palm Coast

Stacey Koon's appeal fund

A Feb. 28 News-Journal editorial said convicted Los Angeles police Sgt. Stacey Koon got what he deserved.

He owes The News-Journal a "thank you" as the editorial reminded me that I also received a letter asking for funds so he can appeal. I immediately responded with encouragement and a donation to help him in what I feel was a raw deal.

AUDREY SCHUPPENER

Palm Coast

North Street needs traffic light

As employees of Saturn of Daytona on Nova Road, we have witnessed many accidents at the intersection of North Street and Nova Road in Daytona Beach. A recent accident resulted in another fatality, which could have been avoided if a traffic light had been in place at this very dangerous intersection. How many more have to die before a traffic light is installed?

EMPLOYEES

Daytona Beach