

Dire-ish Independent

WHO IS GARETH SHERIDAN?

By all hacks

A FEW short weeks ago, Gareth Sheridan was just another businessman desperately seeking publicity for his memoir. But in a short timeframe, the 35-year-old Dubliner has been rocketed into the media spotlight, as journalists report on his business ventures, Wall Street ambitions – and various other details I have painstakingly sourced from his Wikipedia page.

The atmosphere around the presidential



hopeful's campaign has only intensified recently as reporters compete to fill up the most space about the latest sensational developments. These include that Moldovan airline controversy, the tension with Seánie Gallagher and several other stories I've picked up from Google News.

It's left the general public asking: Can all these Sheridan fillers somehow save the most deathly dull presidential race in history? (Brilliant stuff, let's have another 5,000 words tomorrow – Ed.)

IRELAND COULD BECOME 'AI ISLAND'

IRELAND HAS the potential to become a world capital of AI, according to FFTD Malcolm Byrne, with many members of the Oireachtas already appearing completely robotic and devoid of personality. With many predicting AI will wipe out boring and repetitive tasks, it is also believed ministers' Six One News appearances will soon come under threat.



"The Government is totally isolated and out of touch, so the AI island concept is achievable," insisted Byrne. "Government TDs are world-renowned for being able to instantly regurgitate past statements, so our credentials in this area are second to none. Some ministers can even occasionally pass as human, which shows we're entering unprecedented terrain."

MAJOR POINTS OF THAT TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT



LESSONS:	Trump impressed with Russia's key takeaways – especially Crimea.
CEASEFIRE:	Putin concerned about President Trump's incessant attacks on Zelenskyy.
PEACE TALKS:	Little prospect of a breakthrough except for Russian offensive lines.
DEMILITARISATION:	Donald determined to keep gunning for Rosie O'Donnell.
SANCTIONS:	Trump has managed to avoid virtually everyone of them.
CULTURAL EXCHANGE:	Europeans unimpressed with Alaska's version of <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> .

GAZA BONO SPEAKS OUT!

IN A dramatic move welcomed widely by himself, Irish rock legend Bono has called for Israel to be freed from Benjamin Netanyahu while urging Hamas to release the hostages. Speaking at the Ivor No Shame Awards, U2's frontman emphasised the dense complexity of the problem.

"The whole genocide thing is so complex that it's taken almost two years for the world's most important voices – particularly mine – to take a muted stand on the treatment of Palestinians.

"I have been shocked by the latest revelations, ie Geldof's overdue intervention on Gaza,



which leaves me with no choice but to ask: Why did it take Sir Bob so long?

"Speaking forcibly and extremely cautiously, I believe something must be done – and I'm sure our American friends will come up with some kind of solution very soon."

GARETH SHERIDAN

NOBODY 2

"What about a female lead?"
HEATHER HUMPHREYS

"A box office bomb"
SEAN GALLAGHER

THIS COMPLETE UNKNOWN HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A SHOT AT THE BIG TIME. WITH MANY SAYING HE HAS DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR AND DOESN'T KNOW HIS ÁRAS FROM HIS ELBOW, CAN HE PROVE THE DOUBTERS WRONG?

MERCHANDISE BUSINESS HOSTS CONCERT SHOCK!





THE DEPARTURE OF WEATHER WOMAN JOANNA DONNELLY

... As I was saying on pages 2, 5, 6 and 10, the pressure on me reached unbearable heights when I was told what weather patterns to report! I was actually given a chart based on information from satellites that I had never seen and instructed to repeat that information without question!

This was despite any data emanating from cows gathering in a corner of a field, seagulls gathering over my house or even

my own knee playing up when it was about to be foggy.

I found this corrosion of my personal judgment highly unfair and intrusive. I stayed silent for a few years hoping my discomfort would blow over. But then, one night when caught in a sudden downpour that I had been forbidden to warn about, my anger burst like an ominous dark cloud and...

(Continued on pgs 15-17 and in all other major print outlets).

ALL-PURPOSE SPEECH FOR NEW FG CANDIDATE

THE TIME has come to shake up a presidential campaign dominated by dour figures in grey suits. Only I personally have the charisma to set the campaign trail alight as I prioritise vital issues such as traffic-light management, the country's inadequate supply of paperclips and making motor tax more efficient.

One thing is certain; the other candidates in this race are calculating careerists only in it for power and status. It's hard to not

feel sick when confronted with such naked ambition. In contrast, I will be a president for all – especially those high up in FG who feel we could do with a distraction from the complete disaster the Government is making of everything.

Now is the time to imagine a new version of Irishness, one not bound to tired old clichés. So let me sign off by saying: Is maith liom uachtar reoite.

(That's enough FG – Ed)

KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH IN THIS YEAR'S RUGBY WORLD CUP

JOANNA DONNELLY

Was hoping to cause a media scrum when she claimed to have left Met Éireann under a cloud but the public seem to have passed on her sob story. Will be hoping to remain centre of attention once her upcoming books are published.



MARY LOU MCDONALD

Was mauled by reporters when she suggested she might line out for Sinn Féin in the upcoming election but seems to have kicked for touch on that issue ever since. May instead play a supporting role if she decides to offload a hospital pass to another party colleague.



CATHERINE CONNOLLY

Her campaign has got off to a very slow start and she will have to up the pace if she wants to emerge victorious. Was a bit defensive about an unofficial tour of Syria she attended a number of years ago but nothing major has kicked off from it yet.



MO CHARA'S COURT GIG

Micheál Martin

The Kneecap trial highlights the importance of being bold when setting out your radical vision of the future. And experienced politicians like myself understand that getting high on raucous rap and drugs is far from the shared-island solution required to be on the right side of history.



Nigel Farage

They swarm here in dinghies waving terrorist flags, with no English and chanting lies about Gaza. They get the best court benefits and deprive decent British criminals of language interpreters. These thugs are constantly stirring up social unrest. Who do they think they are – Reform UK?



Michael Twee

Mo is essentially effervescent – a multi-talented charismatic figure, Irish-language enthusiast, community activist, all-round cultural icon, passionate, controversial and endowed with unlimited vibrancy. Indeed, he reminds me so much of myself when I was in my early 70s – just a kid with a crazy dream.



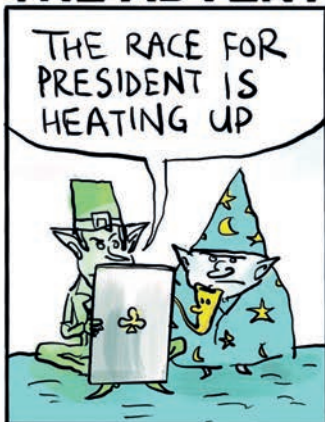
Garda Traffic Corp Report Latest

- Significant number of officers want to hit the road
- Levels of alleged laziness is breathtaking
- A lot hoping to speed up their retirements
- Commissioner definitely being taken for a ride
- Management denying they need to hit the brakes
- No signs of malaise slowing down
- Public witnessing a complete car crash

US FRANCHISE OPENS FIRST IRISH STORE

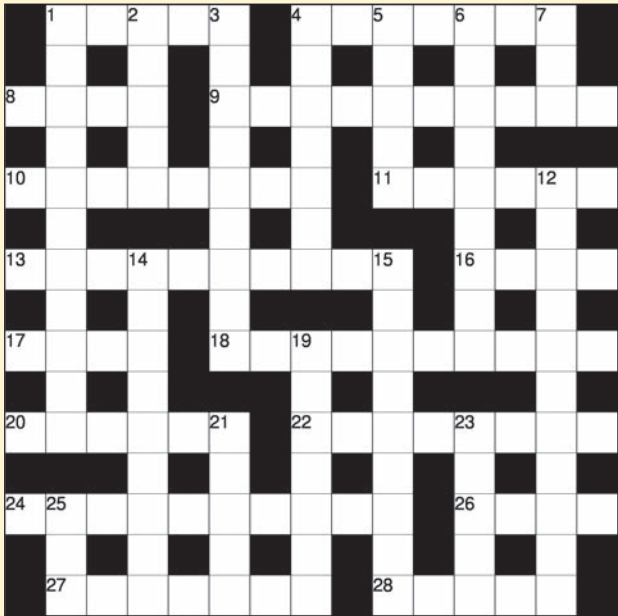


THE ADVENTURES OF FESTY O'SEMTEX





Win a Shannon Rollerball in Bog Oak, (RRP €110), www.irishpens.ie



Crossword by Procrustes

ACROSS

- 1 Though seen in dementia, rarely seen on outside of head of a grand woman. (5)
- 4 Get a letter from Athens, not in favour of Italian wine! (7)
- 8 Star of Sister Act gave away valuable material to play vital role in Titanic. (4)
- 9 In this series of matches and contests, success might turn on team changes. (10)
- 10 Whenever I eat crab salad, there's always the danger of picking up disease agents. (8)
- 11 Mediterranean trees in which snake-charmers' snakes are dispersed. (6)
- 13 Turning red before sickness hits is a serious matter for those whose lives are on the line. (10)
- 16 Short article appearing after lightweight person in some boats at Henley has a joint. (4)
- 17 How editor would tell his young lad to ignore suggested change and leave his cowboy hat. (4)
- 18 What one was doing before returning to yacht club and going on right old bender. (10)
- 20 High-flyer died in a crash in the Mediterranean, during America-Russia flight? (6)
- 22 Use your eyes! You can see these as going to compete before post-Beatles band. (8)
- 24 Being unsteady, omits abuse of indulgence while getting vowels in order. (10)
- 26 Despite going crazy, assure everyone that one is alright. (4)
- 27 Being corrupt, can rule with a degree of power never experienced in this country. (7)
- 28 Despite being a medical person, one does nothing for workers' hives. (5)

DOWN

- 1 By restoring the picture a beneficial effect will be felt by those who aren't well. (11)
- 2 Worry that Ger might be about to become a hoodlum? (5)
- 3 Torn or wet flag can be discerned in light of the fact that the sun has already set. (9)
- 4 Mission having unrefined character as backup inside? (7)
- 5 In conclusion, Icarus is the embodiment of one those classic Greek styles. (5)
- 6 The cruel man I have wounded in order to classify him on a scale of 1 to 100. (9)
- 7 Doing wrong, sing away but leave the pub. (3)
- 12 Man in ring had it on hand, to block all possible escape routes for child's horse, love. (6,5)
- 14 Fooling around with rich tart, I get stiff. (9)
- 15 Went all over the country playing old-style jazz with a bit of poetry thrown in. (9)
- 19 There are various different ways of spelling another name for Jesus. (7)
- 21 Not all get about a thousand red flowers to remember this engagement, and others. (5)
- 23 Get into an altered state in Florida hot tub. (5)
- 25 Produced by Baker in abundance when there's a conga taking off. (3))

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LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:

Across: 1. Putty. 4. Ricotta. 8. Bean. 9. Maiden Name. 10. Villains. 11. Teethe. 13. Atmosphere. 16. Limb. 17. Mimi. 18. Respondent. 20. Assail. 22. Souvenir. 24. Sarcophagi. 26. Soho. 27. Eastern. 28. Nexus. Down: 1. Paediatrics. 2. Tonal. 3. Yom Kippur. 4. Reissue. 5. Cleft. 6. Tunnelled. 7. Aim. 12. Human Rights. 14. Oligarchs. 15. Elucution. 19. Sustain. 21. Lapse. 23. Essex. 25. Ape.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Michael Creagan, Ballymote, Co Sligo

Craic & Codology ... Craic & Codology ...



"HE WAS HEAVILY UNARMED!"

TAYLOR SWIFT LATEST!

by Our Taylor Swift staff

THE POP megastar is back and while details are scarce, that doesn't mean a thing.

There is certainly no shortage of gossip about superstar Taylor Swift and her loved-up NFL player boyfriend, Travis Beefy.

Said one editor: "How could anyone have predicted that, after running out of Oasis front-page hype yesterday, whispers around Taylor's latest album could solve the tabloid summer problem of desperately filling up.

"We have even run out of traditional 'Phew what a scorcher!'

headlines and that dodgy foreign hornet hasn't attacked anyone at all.

"Of course, I'm a little uneasy about one or two of these dire filler pieces – such as recent rumours about Taylor's weight loss – which are painfully thin, even for the silly season.

"Maybe it's time journalists started putting some meat on the bones of their non-stories."



Inside

Who is Taylor Swift and what's with the Easter eggs? p2-32

Shock piece that's not about Taylor Swift p31

METRO SAYS AI WILL MAKE DERMOT DESMOND OBSOLETE

The proposed Dublin Metro has said that developments in AI will soon make Dermot Desmond unnecessary, as the rapidly evolving technology more perfectly mimics self-obsessed billionaires who love the sound of their own voices.

"We're working on an AI driven by rampant egotism," said the Metro. "It's completely shrill and insufferable, so it's likely to take over from the super-rich. It will also get you to the airport quicker, as more and more



people look to escape Desmond and Mick O'Leary's latest pronouncements."

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