




What's on this weekend?  
Check our events calendar

HAVE A GANDER

ireland.com  going out

 [Email @ireland.com](mailto:Email@ireland.com)  [Find your ancestors](#)  [The Irish Times Dating Service](#)

- « Prev
- Next »

# IRISHTIMES.com

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

4 °C Dublin » 

- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Comment](#)
- [Life & Culture](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Classified](#)

Search  

- [Ireland](#)
- [World](#)
- [Supplements](#)
- [In Depth](#)
- [Other](#)
- [Today's Paper](#)
- **Sport**
- [Soccer](#)
- [GAA](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Other](#)
- [irish-racing.com](#)
- **Business**
- [Latest](#)
- [Markets](#)
- [Exchange Rates](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [The Economy](#)
- [Management](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Diary](#)
- **Comment**
- [Opinion & Analysis](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [On the record](#)
- [Pricewatch](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Outside In](#)
- [Pursued by a Bear](#)
- [Today's news poll](#)
- **Life & Culture**
- [Features](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Weekend](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Pricewatch](#)
- [Education](#)

- [Crossword Club](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [Competitions](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Weather](#)
  
- **Shop**
- [Page Sales](#)
- [Photo Sales](#)
- [DVD Club](#)
- [Readers' Offers](#)
  
- **Classified**
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
  
- **Other**
- [Search this site](#)
- [Premium Email](#)
- [Digital edition](#)
- [Print on demand](#)
- [Irish Ancestors](#)
- [Irish Times Training](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
  
- **About us**
- [Company information](#)
- [Terms & conditions](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Help](#)
  
- [Home »](#)
- [Ireland »](#)
- [Other Stories »](#)
  
- [Email to a friend](#)
- [Email to Author](#)
- [Print](#)
- [RSS](#)
- Text Size:
- 
- 

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

## Eames-Bradley archive refusal dismays academics

### [In this section »](#)

- [Ryanair deputy chief says RTÉ has left-wing agenda](#)
- [Council planners to deal with appeals](#)
- [Assembly supports ban on cigarette displays](#)
- [Assembly backs calls for client confidentiality](#)
- [Former Ryanair pilot tells tribunal he was subject of 'harassment'](#)
- [International interest in sale of Haughey collection](#)

FRANK MILLAR, London Editor

ACADEMICS AT Boston College have expressed disappointment that the Eames-Bradley Consultative Group discounted a proposal for an oral and video archive for victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland Troubles.

The archive would have been modelled on the renowned Shoah archive recording the testimonies of witnesses to the Holocaust.

The idea was originally floated in the autumn of 2004 by former White House special envoy Mitchell Reiss as a way of ensuring that all those affected by the Troubles would have the opportunity to have their stories recorded and saved. It would be in recognition "that for many, it is difficult to build a shared future without coming to terms with the past".

After consulting Mr Reiss about how they might advance his proposal, Prof Thomas Hachey, executive director of the Centre for Irish Programs at Boston College, wrote to Lord Robin Eames and Denis Bradley detailing the plan, to be conducted in partnership with the Linenhall Library in Belfast.

Prof Hachey has spoken of his disappointment at the receipt of only "a generic response".

He urged Lord Eames and Mr Bradley to think again lest the opportunity to ever obtain such a unique and potentially valuable resource was permanently lost.

While he did not envisage the proposed Northern Ireland archive being on the same scale as the Shoah Visual History Foundation originally funded by Steven Spielberg, Prof Hachey advised that a Northern Ireland victims archive could achieve the same goals. These aims were:

- To enable individuals, free of external pressure, to record the stories of their experiences so that they cannot be forgotten;
- To provide a measure of consolation and psychological healing by offering affected individuals the opportunity to tell their stories;
- To provide a unique learning tool for others on the human consequences of hatred and violence.

Prof Hachey told *The Irish Times* he was surprised and disappointed that "there appeared little interest" in the offer to undertake this initiative, not least given Boston College's reputation for professional and non-partisan conduct. Prof Hachey expected a positive response, because Boston College had already completed an oral history among former paramilitary veterans from the IRA and the UVF who proved amenable to having their perspectives and experiences recorded for posterity.

Prof Hachey stressed he was less concerned about a role for Boston College than with the possibility that "the consultative group may very well have lost an opportunity to help redress the very human need people have to vent their own sentiments about personal loss, or cost, for a tribunal that would incorporate such commentary within a permanent record available to all at a time mutually agreed upon".

The professor of history continued: "It really does not matter whether or not Boston College and the Linenhall Library directs a programme for recording interviews of the many people from all sectarian, political and avocational . . . groups who have been victims of various trauma . . . What . . . is essential is that this opportunity not be lost before the passage of time results in too few survivors."

According to Prof Hachey: "That would not only preclude these individuals from having the opportunity to vent about, and expound upon, their own experiences, it would also deny posterity access to an archive that would be enormously helpful to future understanding of the phenomenon of victimology."

Approved by the appropriate government office, he concluded, "a project of this kind . . . could very well represent the consultative group's most invaluable legacy".

This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

#### ADVERTISEMENT

**THE IRISH TIMES**  
irishtimes.com

Reader offer

**CLICKFREE PC BACKUP**  
Just plug it in and the backup starts  
- it's that easy!



- \* 120GB
- \* No software to install
- \* Backs up over 400 file types

€159.90 inc. p&p

ORDER NOW!

## Latest »

- [11:06England's Care apologises for yellow card](#)
- [11:02Unemployment may reach 450,000, Cowen warns](#)
- [11:00Numbers signing on rises to record 354,400 in February](#)
- [11:00Man \(28\) dies in Co Cork collision](#)
- [10:53Crew of Latvian owned boat refuse to sail out of Cork](#)
- [10:51Opposition invited to submit ideas for budget](#)
- [10:42Man held over 1972 NI double murder released](#)
- [10:35Motorists warned of treacherous roads as winter blast returns](#)

## Popular Stories

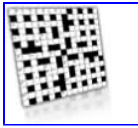
- [Most Read](#)
- [Most Emailed](#)
- [1Irishman shortlisted for 'best job in world'](#)
- [2Ireland has changed and we are in uncharted waters](#)
- [3Developer who gambled big - and lost](#)
- [4Working women almost certainly caused the credit crunch](#)
- [5Government to raise taxes in emergency Budget move](#)
- [1Working women almost certainly caused the credit crunch](#)
- [2Irishman shortlisted for 'best job in world'](#)
- [3Online gamblers should not bet on securing a mortgage](#)
- [4Developer who gambled big - and lost](#)
- [5Tough year for man once lionised as a 'wizard'](#)

## Your Vote

[« Yes](#)  
[No »](#)  
[Results](#)

Do you agree with the Government's decision to invite submissions from opposition parties on the forthcoming emergency-budget?

## [Crossword Club »](#)



[Today's Interactive Irish Times Crosaire and Simplex crosswords, plus 10 years of crossword archive.](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Google

**Northern Ireland**

Events, Festivals & Attractions in Northern Ireland. Explore More!

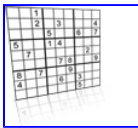
[www.DiscoverNorthernIreland.com](http://www.DiscoverNorthernIreland.com)

**Cheap Dublin Hotels**

Up to 70% Off Dublin Hotels. Prices Include Breakfast & Tax!

[www.GTAHotels.com/Dublin](http://www.GTAHotels.com/Dublin)

## Sudoku »



[Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid](#)



- [SLIDESHOW: Barracks Life](#)The Barracks Life Discovery Room at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks



- [The Builders Revisited](#)A six-part series looking at the high-flying developers brought back to earth with a resounding thump



- [Too high a price for a tan?](#)Melanotan may seem like a miracle short-cut to a sunless tan. But it's only available online, and doctors have expressed concerns



- [A pinch of SUV, a dash of estate and a slice of saloon car handling](#)Subaru has been mixing genres for years and the Forester diesel is a fabulous powerplant, despite the interior



- [Getting back in the box](#)CoisCéim's David Bolger revival of his old show 'Boxes' is proving an apt metaphor for these fragile times.

Collection available nationwide



Order online now!

[irishtimes.com](http://irishtimes.com)

- ADVERTISEMENT
- CLASSIFIED

### Homes



[Newcastle Lyons, Newcastle, Co Dublin Price: €295,000](#)

[Bedrooms: 3See More »](#)

- **Jobs**

Select your categories

- Accountancy
- Architecture / Design
- Banking & Financial Services
- Construction
- Customer Service, Call Centres & Languages

[Next](#) »

• **Cars**



[Take a pinch of SUV, a dash of estate and a slice of saloon car handling](#)

[Find](#) »

• **Dating**

I am a  Man  Looking for a  Woman  Located  All  Only with photos:  [Next](#) »

© 2009 [irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)

- [Company information](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)