

The Cedar Lounge Revolution

for lefties too stubborn to quit

Sunday Independent Stupid Statement of the Week *March 15, 2015*

Posted by Garibaldy in [Sunday Independent Stupid Statement of the Week](#).

[trackback](#)

The Sunday Independent's running theme today that the current crisis in Stormont that will see Martin McGuinness miss his trip to the US for St Paddy's Day has been manufactured in order to distract attention from the latest instances of shameful behaviour surrounding rape by members of the Provisionals. One wonders if it isn't much more about protecting against accusations of implementing austerity in the north that could prove very damaging when running for government on an anti-austerity ticket in the south. Anyway, this week's winner for displaying so many levels of stupidity simultaneously is from the [editorial](#)

The pragmatism of social partnership rotted Irish governance from the head down, while the same ideology stayed the hand of the self-interested Ahern administration from moving earlier to save the Celtic Tiger.

Jaw-dropping.

Comments»

1. roddy - [March 15, 2015](#)

WP members including at least one election candidate have been convicted of sexual abuse in the North. So get off your high horse. Also when group B were at their most active "kangaroo courts" were also known to have sorted out these sort of things. Your ex members in Burton's excuse for a party would be well aware of this too.

[Reply](#)

[Garibaldy](#) - [March 15, 2015](#)

That's a very revealing comment roddy, both about your ability to actually get the point spectacularly (that would be the cover-ups and not the fact that organisations have members who commit sexual abuse, which I would imagine every conceivable organisation of any type has) and

your attitude that nothing matters in all this is except that anyone has the temerity to criticise the provisionals.

This is not a conversation that deserves to go any further.

Reply

2. roddy - March 15, 2015

So the sticks never covered anything up ,mr self righteous?

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 15, 2015

No one, least of all on this site, has ever sought to pretend the WP in any incarnation was whiter than white. If you don't believe me go back and look through post after post. I've produced a cottage industry of posts pointing up the hypocrisy of people particularly in the LP who came from a background in the Official Republican movement who have apparently been unable to come to terms with SF and the IRA moving towards purely political approaches when armed violence was no monopoly of the latter over the years. And given that the site gave considerable prominence to The Lost Revolution there's no question of an unthinking attitude to these things.

The problem is we're not talking about the WP in this instance. It can't simply be that every time there's an issue with the IRA or SF finger pointing goes on about others. Matters have to be faced up to on their own terms as well.

Reply

3. roddy - March 15, 2015

Garibaldy never even admitted that the official IRA engaged in criminal activity for decades after they called a ceasefire.If he comes on here now and admits that they were always active ,killed all round them, swapped weapons with Loyalists,extorted ran tax scams and all to fund the WP ,,i'll face up to what he throws at me.If not i'll tell him where to go to in no uncertain terms.

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 15, 2015

That's an odd way to deal with matters roddy. Sort of an example of 'whataboutery' and not addressing the issue. Moreover in its list of all the supposed crimes and misdemeanours of the Officials it ignores the problem that others might just come out and list off supposed crimes and misdemeanours of the Provisionals. I don't think that's a constructive way for people on here to engage.

You know me, I'd be the last to engage in gratuitous bashing of PIRA or SF, but there are genuine issues here that do not reflect well and there's no point in evading them. Frankly the comment 'shameful behaviour' is at the mild end of the spectrum – and to many a neutral reading far from unreasonable – given what the likes of Micheál Martin and others are coming out with.

Reply

Sham Bob - March 22, 2015

That's the same as the Enda Kenny defence when asked anything by Sinn Fein.

Reply

4. roddy - March 15, 2015

I have no doubt that abuse was carried out by republicans but I also have no doubt that a lot of what

occurred after the abuse is not being truthfully related. For example when Adams says he did not make comments attributed to him by Maria Cahill, I believe him. Secondly when Padraig Wilson says he does not know nor never met either victim or perpetrator in the second case, I believe him. I could go into a whole argument about certain details being omitted from original reports of the Cahill case but being introduced in more recent reports to blacken Adams. However if I was to present a rational analysis of all this I would be accused of traumatising victims.

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 15, 2015

But what has any of that to do with the WP? If Garibaldi had arrived and said PIRA and SF have disgraced themselves, are this than and the other... that would be one thing. But to reference 'shameful behaviours' by some members of PIRA, and few would disagree that there are aspects of this that are shameful – not least forcing someone to meet their alleged abuser (and some of us would have real problems with exile of alleged abusers to other places, whether in Ireland or elsewhere) is just not on that level.

I'm sure there are things that don't add up, that there are aspects of this being politicised by others, etc, etc. But that's not really the point. Fundamentally this becomes about how SF (and by extension the IRA) handles accusations like this and whether it does and can do so in a way that is clearly about getting some measure of justice for those who had appalling crimes committed against them.

Reply

5. rod dy - March 16, 2015

Are you sure that anybody was "forced " to do anything. People who did not support the police were abused and asked the IRA to help them. They then turned on them when they did not get the result they wanted. One woman accused of being part of "a kangaroo court " was able to produce a letter of thanks from Maria Cahill but her name was still blackened by establishment politicians and media. Spotlight produced a picture of Padraig Wilson to the 2nd victim 13 years after the alleged IRA inquiry to get him to implicate Wilson. Wilson has offered to meet gardai and denies any knowledge of the "inquiry". Did the victims suffer abuse? . Yes they did. Are all the facts as presented by the mainstream media true. They most definitely are not. Only today Catherine McCartney (the most unrelenting opponent SF has faced in recent years) is accusing Maria Cahill of "vile harassment". Maria Cahill is a victim who deserves justice but that does mean she has the right to destroy people who tried to help her.

Reply

Jolly Red Giant - March 16, 2015

Roddy – can you start by providing a link about Catherine McCartney's allegations. I have tried to find one and the only thing I can find is your claim here and a thread on p.ie that has been pulled from that forum.

Second point – paramilitary organisations by their very nature engage in protecting their 'own', conducting kangaroo courts and engage in vilification against those who they perceive as a threat. Paramilitary organisations have to operate on this basis – they cannot engage with the state forces they are shooting and they cannot allow anyone who is accused of a crime such as rape to be handed over to the police (such individuals would sell their soul to avoid jail and the state forces would happily accept them as touts). Furthermore, a paramilitary group could not and cannot tolerate any criticism of its actions because such criticism can undermine the basis of its operation – such is the response to Maria Cahill and now McGahon (and previously the McCartney families and many others).

Sinn Fein, despite its dramatic shift to electoral politics, still has the mindset of a clandestine organisation, an organisation that is the focus of attacks by the establishment and an organisation that regards any criticism as a conspiratorial move against them (precisely because of the fact that SF and the IRA have, for decades operated in a conspiratorial fashion).

SF has, not a cupboard full of skeletons but an entire stadium full of skeletons. It will continue to act whenever these skeletons emerge in the same fashion as it has with Maria Cahill and Pat McGahon, ridiculing their claims and then engaging in a campaign of vilification. The likelihood is that something will emerge that will derail their progress (maybe not before the next election – but at sometime in the not too distant future). Their best chance of minimising the impact of what will be continuing revelations is for Adams and the old guard to slip quietly into retirement and for the new young guns to put their hands up, say sorry and blame the old guard for what happened. 25 years of paramilitary activity and another ten years of clandestine operation cannot be simply brushed under the carpet and once there is any kind of a turn against SF it could become a snowball hurtling down a mountain.

Reply

Marxie - March 16, 2015

JRG – Agree with much of what you say, but does the SP not also have such a mindset, for much less understandable reasons. For instance why does a party which has growing mass support, through the AAA, and rightly so in my view as it is presenting a real militant opposition when it is needed, not have open party conferences? There is a need for a more open debate throughout the Irish Left.

Reply

6. rod dy - March 16, 2015

jrg, go to Catherine McCartney's twitter account or the northern edition of the Sunday World. Cahill and McGahon's claims of being abused have been accepted. However is Pádraig Wilson saying the allegations against him are totally false "engaging in a campaign of vilification"? Is Breige Wright likewise not allowed to defend herself? And finally Adams had fuck all to do with abusing anyone and doesn't have to go anywhere.

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 16, 2015

'Forced', or if you prefer 'put in a context where there were only a limited number of options available'. I get that this was a conflict or immediate post conflict situation etc etc, but... Again that requires I would think that the implications of that are acknowledged.

You are correct, everyone in this had a right to express themselves, but people are also entitled to weigh up what is said.

JRG hadn't heard the point re McCartney and wouldn't disagree with a fair bit of what you say. Found this on p.ie...

<http://www.politics.ie/forum/sinn-fein/235725-spotlight-ni-10-march-2015-a-203.html>

Reply

7. Tomfoolery - March 16, 2015

'They then turned on them when they did not get the result they wanted.'

Ah, the poor IRA, doing their best and getting no thanks for it.

Roddy, the key question here is: if a female republican was raped by a non-member of the republican

movement, how would the IRA react? And if a 17-year old boy, whose family were in the IRA, was raped by a non-republican, how would the IRA react?

The rapists would have been shot and you know it.

The IRA acted here to defend itself as an institution; the victims were secondary and the bile being expressed by people on the net towards the victims does not chime well with the public claim that their stories are accepted.

[Reply](#)

shea - [March 16, 2015](#)

The IRA and IRA type organisations need trust among the support base to function, gross misrepresentation to think it is down to fear. Allegations where made, enquiries or courts or kangaroo courts, each to their own loaded term, that where out side their competency allegedly held. Not the same as brushing it under the carpet.

[Reply](#)

8. roddy - [March 16, 2015](#)

Go and read the sindo til your hearts content and take every word in it as gospel like the rest of the staters on here ,the vast majority of whom never set foot in the North and get their news filtered through the reactionary media.Cahill was totally opposed to policing North or South and resigned from SF when they supported policing.She went to the IRA ,not the other way round and as far as I know the IRA have not shot anyone in recent years.Members of the republican movement have been killed by criminal gangs in the past decade without response as to do so would have collapsed the peace process.Within the past couple of weeks a SF member was injured by a booby trap bomb planted by these criminals masquerading as republicans ,again with no response. Absolute lies are being pedalled by the free state media about “documents” which showed “top level SF meetings” about “up to 100 victims” . I say to the sindo ,produce the “document” or shut the fuck up. And I say to the Wolfie Smiths and crypto unionists on here,enjoy your slabbering when you can for in the unlikely event of SF being wiped out by this scurrilous journalism, the Sindo will concentrate its filthy resources on you.

[Reply](#)

Michael Carley - [March 16, 2015](#)

And I say to the Wolfie Smiths and crypto unionists on here,enjoy your slabbering when you can for in the unlikely event of SF being wiped out by this scurrilous journalism, the Sindo will concentrate its filthy resources on you.

I think you'll find the Sindo has already thrown plenty of mud our way, and never seems to run out.

[Reply](#)

9. roddy - [March 16, 2015](#)

The Sindo celebrated Paul Murphys victory over the real enemy.They regard you as useful tools to be cast aside and sunk when the real enemy has been seen off.

[Reply](#)

Michael Carley - [March 16, 2015](#)

The Sindo supports the SP? God love you, you're original.

[Reply](#)

Marxie - [March 16, 2015](#)

This claim that the SP are “pseudo-gang” promoted by the media and the Gardaí, to the extent that they arrest AAA members in order to promote their pseudo revolutionary credentials, is an argument which is now a mainstay of not only SF but CPI activists – the CYM even issued a press release outlining this theory. It’s just another interesting example of once you adopt a mindset which allows for the blowing up of children to create a “fair and just Ireland” – no longer any mention of a 32 county socialist republic – you’ve opened your mind to taking in any sort of bullshit in order to insulate yourself from the realities and pointlessness of the you’re organisation’s war on the Irish people. Yes, SF does currently collectively have a mindset which is not one that can be accepted as part of progressive politics, but also can change if people like Roddy are confronted with reality at all opportunities and decided to face up tot their organisation’s past rather than go on another blood lust rampage.

Reply

10. roddy - March 16, 2015

When Paul Murphy defeated SF they were crowing about it as they were when Joe Higgins beat Mary Lou. And your attempts at put downs are slightly patronising.

Reply

Michael Carley - March 16, 2015

When and if SF gets into government, the Sindo will have its little hissy fit and then note that capital is safe. It will treat SF as it used to treat FF or even Labour: the odd attack on matters of no real substance, but at heart agreement with their basic principles.

As for the ‘slightly patronising’ put downs, you might like to have a think about how you respond to even the mildest questioning of SF’s actions.

And I will leave it there before one of us says something not fit for polite company.

Reply

11. Ed - March 16, 2015

The idea that the ‘vast majority’ of posters on the CLR ‘never set foot in the North’ and get their news about it ‘filtered through the reactionary media’ is so absurd it’s difficult to know what to say. The fact that we are having this discussion on a ‘Sunday Independent Stupid Statement of the Week’ thread, on a blog where there are regular posts shredding articles from the Irish Times, Sunday Business Post etc., might give you a slight hint that people here take what they read in the ‘reactionary media’ with a pinch of salt. And your assumption that anyone who isn’t you has ‘never set foot in the North’ is both ignorant and partitionist – just an inside-out version of Dublin journalists referring to Adams as a foreigner poking his nose in our business. This sort of blather may play well down the pub with the true believers but if SF want to avoid serious political damage from these scandals, the first step should be to recognize that a lot of people who hold the southern political establishment in contempt aren’t going to give Adams and co a free pass on this.

(cue more hot air about the Sindo, I’m sure – you might want to read some of the articles the Sindo have published about Paul Murphy if you think he’s a favourite of theirs)

Reply

sonofstan - March 16, 2015

I know a half a dozen, at least, of the people who post here on a regular basis, and I’m pretty sure all have, like me, set foot in the North more than once – I’ve been in Belfast and Derry at least a few times a year, most years, since the late ‘70s, and I know people from all communities and none.

Reply

Dr. Nightdub - March 16, 2015

I wonder how many of the republican mural-painters of west Belfast ever set foot in Palestine, apartheid-era South Africa or the Basque country? Doesn't stop them forming a view.

And this whole thing of "you had to live here to know what it was (or is) like" is a bit limiting, it implies republicanism is an accident of birth more than a matter of conviction.

Reply

Michael Carley - March 16, 2015

"an inside-out version of Dublin journalists referring to Adams as a foreigner poking his nose in our business". Exactly that. If people in SF believe nobody is allowed an opinion except themselves, they should stay in Northern Ireland. If SF want to run in the Republic, they will have to learn to take some stick in the Republic.

Of course, by the logic of 'you're not from here so you may say nothing', Johnny Adair has more right to speak on Northern Ireland than a new member of a cumann in Cork who has yet to have a trip to Derry.

Reply

Ed - March 16, 2015

'They will have to learn to take some stick' – jaysis Michael you've let the cat out of the bag now, Roddy will have your number.

Reply

Michael Carley - March 16, 2015

I don't think the cat was ever in the bag. If we think back over the last decade or two, every major party in Ireland has had to take some kind of criticism over corruption, or clientelism, or stupidity, or cover-up. Even Haughey never said "you've never been on the Bogside so you haven't, so you can't question anything I've ever done."

Reply

Ed - March 16, 2015

I think you might have missed the bad punning there Michael ...

Michael Carley - March 16, 2015

That sound you just heard is me smacking myself on the forehead.

I think anyone who's been on the Lounge for a while knows what group I'm in (and it's not the WP).

CMK - March 16, 2015

Mr. r doesn't know, Michael, so I think you'll have make do with crypto-unionist-Free State-stick until you let him know.

que - March 16, 2015

Yeah you are Renua to the core Michael.

Secrets out now.

Michael Carley - March 16, 2015

(Rips off latex mask to reveal Lucinda Creighton's face)

“I’d have gotten away with it too if it hadn’t been for those pesky Shinnners!”

12. ALBERT SMITH MI6/NUJ JOURNALIST - March 16, 2015

DIARY OF AN MI6 AJENT.

Albert Smith Irish Independent Journalist was assigned to be part of a British intelligence Surveillance team that eight years ago regularly reported the activities of IRA members “The Hacker” (Thacker). Thacker was involved in shooting on common land in Enniskerry village (Shop River), the land was situated at the end of the 185 Dublin Bus Route in County Wicklow Ireland which travels between Bray town and Enniskerry Village. Albert Smith Irish Independent journalist was allocated a house at the end of the 185 Dublin Bus route exactly where the “wooded” area sported shooting at the weekends, the two men Thacker and Smith played a very dangerous game of cat and (m)scouse and were involved in a perpetual cycle of IRA/UDA. Albert Smith later on infiltrated Sinn Féin walking groups including Keep Ireland Open and his details can be found on their site, Patricia McKnight according to traveller king the “Gaffer” of Enniskerry Monastery claimed her death was mysterious she lived next door to Albert Smith and was involved in reporting both Smith and Thacker to the Phoenix Park Gardai. A number of violent shootings well published by the main press occurred 100 metres away from Albert Smith’s house (POtoole) other strange deaths that have occurred are Slazenger airplane crash that killed Slazenger (golf equip) a thousand and one metres away from his house also bee sting deaths, Albert lives 20 metres away from a pet cemetery and Janet Lombert former MI6 agent’s house, Keith Manning ran the cocaine where Thacker worked for a short time, Albert Smith is a pragmatist black shirted neo, and well known MI6 agent Rick Savage of Def Leppard fame lived near his house and once quoted Albert as the “2Beast” of British.

Reply

Gewerkschaftler - March 16, 2015

Pure literature.

I’m not sure how, by whom, or in what altered state of mind the above was composed but hats off to you. Even if you are a piece of software.

Reply

13. Karl - March 16, 2015

WoW a real spy

Reply

14. roddy - March 16, 2015

As usual a lot of the shrills on here are losing the run of yourselves. Marxie, I never said that the SP is a pseudo gang. They most definitely are not. I simply said that in a choice between the SP and SF the Sindo et al will favour the SP every time. They will attack you in small doses but will devote 15 articles per issue attacking SF. You may well say SF deserve this but the fact is most of what they run with is simply untrue. My point is that the real McCoy will be unleashed on you when they think they have destroyed SF. Michael I don’t reside in “polite company” so if you have anything to say go ahead. SOS, I’m sure your trips up North are very informative as you no doubt have gained a real impression of life from people who could not harness a fraction of 1% of the vote up here. Ed, where do you get your news on the North from then exactly because anyone on here who has commented seems to be informed by “spotlight”. Others have quoted Sluggie O’Toole to me and if you are relying on either to be rational regarding SF you’re being deluded. Accusations against SF are accepted without question from Cahill and any attempt to rebut them are described as vilifying victims. As an example from elsewhere, Julian Assange is now receiving sanctuary in the Ecuadorian embassy in London rather than face trial on sex crimes. By you and others way of thinking he should

immediately give himself up as the victim couldn't possibly be wrong in anything she alleges. I have no problem accepting that Cahill and McGahon are victims but I do have a huge problem in the way that others are being slandered without justification and that many on here are going along with it.

Reply

Ed - March 16, 2015

I don't get my news, or my line, from AP/RN or Danny Morrison's Twitter feed anyway, that seems to be the difference. 'Shrills', 'losing the run of yourselves', honestly, you'd need a heart of stone not to laugh. Roddy often comes across as a Provie version of Eoghan Harris and this is a prime example, sticks, sticks, sticks everywhere, they're all against me ... I'll say again, your attitude is ignorant and partitionist, ironic for someone who professes to be greener-than-thou every chance he gets.

Reply

sonofstan - March 16, 2015

go ahead. SOS, I'm sure your trips up North are very informative as you no doubt have gained a real impression of life from people who could not harness a fraction of 1% of the vote up here

Oh fuck off will you?

You have no idea who I know up north and I'm not minded to give you a list, but it's no more confined to those who agree with my politics than my range of friends and acquaintances in Dublin, London or anywhere else. Why, I even have shinner friends in Dublin.

Reply

Michael Carley - March 16, 2015

"Some of my best friends are Shinnners." A likely story.

Reply

sonofstan - March 16, 2015

I didn't say 'best'. I have standards.

Reply

15. roddy - March 16, 2015

Albert Smith story above would be as near to reality as what appears in the free state media about SF.

Reply

16. roddy - March 16, 2015

Michael your regular use of "Northern Ireland" says it all. You and Johnny Adair would have the same view on the constitutional question.

Reply

Ed - March 16, 2015

Or maybe it says absolutely nothing at all. Tommy McKearney, in his book about the Provos, uses the term 'Northern Ireland' the whole way through, and explains at the beginning why he does so. I guess he's the same as Johnny Adair too is he? Typical to focus on trivial nitpicking like that: when you've done everything you said you'd never do in a thousand years, from supporting the police to recognizing partition to joining a government under British jurisdiction, the only way to pretend that you're as pure as ever and everyone else is a Free State sticky bastard is to obsess about language.

[Reply](#)

17. roddy - March 16, 2015

Michael is a unionist but is very coy about exactly what micro group he is aligned with.

[Reply](#)

Liberius - March 16, 2015

Get a grip Roddy, all this thrashing around does nothing but add weight to the Eoghan Harris column from yesterday where he calls SF a cult; that, on an anti-Sindo thread, is something that shouldn't be happening.

On the wider issue, in reality SF and the IRA are having to face the consequences for their failures as an impromptu police force; hiding from those failures is no more valid for them than it has been for other organisations that have been in positions of responsibility and failed badly.

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/eoghan-harris/eoghan-harris-paudie-puts-spotlight-on-sinn-feins-cult-side-31067424.html>

[Reply](#)

18. roddy - March 16, 2015

Come on Michael, maybe you or your sidekicks could let out Roddy know or are you ashamed to admit what outfit you belong to.

[Reply](#)

19. roddy - March 16, 2015

Another unionist joins the fray.

[Reply](#)

20. Jolly Red Giant - March 16, 2015

roddy – you and the rest of the Shinnners will have to get over the fact that the AAA won the DSW by-election. Paul Murphy didn't win the by-election because the Sindo wanted to see SF defeated or because the middle-class blueshirts of Terenure transferred to the AAA in order to keep out SF. Paul Murphy won the seat because the AAA exposed SF's vacillations on water charges.

In relation to Maria Cahill – I believe that she was raped. Since the issue became public members of SF have engaged in an utterly despicable campaign of vilification against Maria Cahill. Many members of SF are now engaged in a similar campaign against Pat McGahon. This is not something new – when Robert McCartney was murdered by a member of the IRA a similar campaign ensued against both his memory and against his family. Every step of the way republicans have vilified anyone who they feel threatens their 'movement' – right back to the 'disappeared'. Republicans cannot see beyond the 'threat' to the fact that the very existence of a clandestine paramilitary group facilitates both the abuse of individuals (be that murder or rape) and the cover-up of this abuse afterwards. While SF have moved politically into purely electoral politics, the clandestine 'mentality' still emerges when the skeletons come out of the cupboard.

[Reply](#)

21. roddy - March 16, 2015

Where have I villified Cahill and be very wary about some of the stuff that appears on twitter as Slugger otool and others may soon find out to their cost. Your party is so clandestine that many of its members will not admit membership.

[Reply](#)

22. roddy - March 16, 2015

SOS just told me to f— off. Just like the staters told my ancestors over 90 years ago!

[Reply](#)

sonofstan - March 16, 2015

You think the irregulars were much bothered either? They were much more concerned about the Oath of Allegiance and Dominion Status. For someone who claims we don't know much about the North, you might, as a Republican, learn a bit about the rest of your country.

Your constant refrain that 'it was the Sindo what won it' in DSW shows how little you know about Tallaght, or working class Dublin in general.

[Reply](#)

23. roddy - March 16, 2015

Misrepresentation again SOS. I never said it was the sindo that won it in DSW. I said the sindo hailed it as a great victory over SF. My "stupidity" has often been highlighted by many of the college boys on here but I am not unaware of 1916, the tan war and civil war. I have a great book in my meagre library called "survivors" in which many of the participants recount their experiences. My late father summed it all up for me early on in the troubles when he declared "they're all staters down their now"!

[Reply](#)

CMK - March 16, 2015

You're going to find a United Ireland a hard place what with being outnumbered by 'staters'.

[Reply](#)

Ed - March 17, 2015

Just as I was saying it was like listening to a Provo Eoghan Harris, he starts talking about 'college boys'. Bloody hell.

[Reply](#)

24. roddy - March 16, 2015

Your crowd once railed against them too before they all collapsed into Moany Joany's arms via new agenda and DL.

[Reply](#)

25. WorldbyStorm - March 16, 2015

I don't know what to make of this. roddy, this has to come to an end. If you take your logic to its end then everyone is against you. And that's can't either be true or useful. Let's just be clear. There's no one here who supports the SI. No one. Not one. This thread every week takes the Sindo to task. Most people here while critical of SF, some more than others obviously, do not have any hatred of it even if there are political disagreements. Most people on here have been to the North and continue to have friends from the North, some from both communities, others not. It's all a bit straw man, isn't it? What's difficult to deal with is that you seem to think, as I've noted before, that you can throw around any accusation and take offence at anything and others can't respond in kind. That's not the way this site runs. I explained at the off that there was nothing reprehensible in Garibaldi's comment and really that should have been that, but you seem very very eager to paint us in the worst possible light when until you let rip people weren't painting you in a bad light.

I'd suggest a little time out to think about all that. This isn't a hostile place for republicans – I'm one myself, but it is a place where it's usually best to assume that others here even if one differs profoundly with them hold their beliefs in good faith. It's also probably best not to assume people belong to organisation x or y or z without perhaps asking. Or that they're unionists, or not unionists, or well. You see where I'm going with this.

Reply

26. roddy - March 16, 2015

WBS, Garibaldi's achilles heel is that his own organisation carried out kangaroo courts on sex offenders and did not recognise policing at one point. If he had admitted that my contribution would have ended. Not one poster on this site questioned the agenda of spotlight but all accepted every word of it as gospel despite several people being severely libelled in it and being defenceless to clear their names. You know as well as I do that once you have been convicted of IRA offences you are powerless to achieve a fair hearing. Adams was accused of saying things to Cahill that anybody who knows him would know he would never utter. Breige Wright whose own brother was one of the disappeared and who was thanked by Cahill for her kindness was severely libelled by both spotlight and the dail. She was able to produce a letter of thanks from Cahill. Pdraig Wilson's photo was shown to McGahon 13 years later by spotlight to get him to identify Wilson as a member of an IRA enquiry. Wilson totally denies having ever met or known either victim or perpetrator. If this site is so fair and open minded, how come not ONE poster raised the slightest possibility that people were being slandered unjustly?

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 16, 2015

Again what any of this has to do with the WP escapes me except as a form of pointless whataboutery and unfortunately whataboutery is part of the problem

I've no doubt there are issues re implicating oneself etc etc and of course detail can be mistaken. Moreover I'm certain what was said in the media can't be taken as gospel in all respects. But everyone admits that there were two rapes and that processes were adopted even if the cast of those involved is open to question.

Here's the thing. Cahill was treated In the last year I would suggest in significant part as a political attack in the response and that was a huge error. It doesn't matter what her motivations are, given what she went through shed hardly be human not to be resentful and bitter and angry. But to treat it as in large part a political attack seemed to many, whatever the intentions, and whatever the complexities as being wrong. In other words it doesn't matter if politics in part fuelled her – again who could really blame her, she couldn't be treated as if it did. We get some of that approach, though thankfully much less in the response to the latest round from Francie Molloy...that it's all politics and not the very real hurt of a person who was viciously assaulted by a predator.

It doesn't matter if others politicise all this, no one can police their responses and there's no point trying. All that can be done is that SF and republicans in that strand engage with people with histories like this as what they are, the victims of heinous crimes. Doesn't matter if those who were attacked don't reciprocate, it just has to be done. Doesn't matter if they don't like SF, doesn't matter if the Indo is going to town on it, that (engaging with them) is the only reasonable and human response.

Reply

shea - March 17, 2015

The shinners bit their lip on cahill, their supporters didn't.

Her rape case was moved from a court in belfast to the chamber of the Dail.

her story evolved from having to chase the IRA to investigate her complaint to the IRA forcing her to take part in an investigation.

she went from an opponent of the ruc to a supporter of the ruc, sauce for the goose and all that but to suit a narrative.

it was political and there was a cynical side to it, the shinners sucked it up like you suggest there, the support didn't have the same discipline and some of it looked silly but not with out context.

In the recent case not sure which bit of information do the state not have, which bit are the defunct IRA covering up, the abusers name, his location, witnesses?

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 17, 2015

I agree entirely re the politicisation of this, I hope I made that clear above. And I felt and still do that it was entirely inappropriate, particularly but not only the Dáil 'debate'. I also think it was absurdly counterproductive. I was talking with two left reps from different parts of the spectrum and they were saying to me that they thought none of this would affect the SF voter base and that the more FG etc went on the more it bounced back against them. I think that's mostly true, though some slippage wouldn't surprise me.

But, all that said SF's response initially re Cahill was totally uncoordinated, all over the shop and had an edge to it that sounded as if she was an irritant. I think that was because she was so clearly politically antagonistic to them and there fore – as I suggest above – they saw this as a political rather than a justice issue. I understand that but I think it was mistaken given the dynamics in this society (particularly in the South) re child abuse and sexual abuse.

The response this time around bar Molloy has been much better – Pat Leahy referenced that in the SBP at the weekend. But I can't help but feel that SF should try to be more proactive. I can't think how that would work, but... perhaps there's stuff there that they're doing that can fit that bill.

What really amazes me though is that this was so predictable. Surely someone in SF realised five ten or whatever years ago that stuff like this which happened at the interface between conflict and post conflict and in that area between accepting the police and non-acceptance of the police (something that the media and others simply don't address in their wish to say everything post GFA/BA was rosy) was bound to come back and cause problems. And therefore to prepare the base, prepare themselves and engage directly with those who had been affected directly by this and assist in getting them to the relevant authorities (again the politicisation has ben clear in relation to this particularly when one hears what is said about Arthur Morgan and then reads his letter which is clear about going to the Gardai). I wonder was it due to a sense that with the public disbandment of the IRA that that was now history and could be treated, or should be treated, as such? And that's very understandable, but given the forces who are opposed to SF that seems like a mistake too.

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 17, 2015

Just re the 'cover up' aspect, I'm guessing it's not the names of anyone who allegedly abused in this. It would be useful if those in the media and politics pursuing this were a bit more open on that score

because as you say it's not clear precisely what the charge is.

27. roddy - March 16, 2015

So Assange should leave the embassy tonight and engage with victims of heinous crimes and you believe everything the victims say about him. If Catherine McCartney who started out as an ally of Cahill in all this can now say that Cahill has turned on her, is it inconceivable that Cahill would also turn on republicans who tried to help her?

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 17, 2015

Hold on a second, got the wrong person if you think I'm particularly pro-Assange. Assange is in a completely different position given that he is the accused. The IRA or SF are not the accused – but they have had a degree of responsibility of care. As to believing everything victims say – no, what one does is listen and provide support as best as one can. And that's the key thing. Of course Cahill might or might not do x y or z. But even if she's a critical voice that doesn't undermine the reality of what everyone appears to agree happened to her.

Reply

28. Alibaba - March 17, 2015

Roddy, you said 'Go and read the sindo til your hearts content and take every word in it as gospel like the rest of the staters on here ... and get their news filtered through the reactionary media.' That's a serious accusation against commentators here. Let's put it into some perspective.

Never mind the Sindo, biased broadcasting is afoot. When I listen to those considered to be balanced and independent journalists in the media, I know full well they are out to get Sinn Fein. This is how it works when issues of sexual abuse are raised with SF reps:

You say you don't know about it
You admitted you didn't know about it
Why didn't you know about it?
Why do you think a person in leadership wouldn't know about it?
Why did you delay so long in dealing with it?
What do you intend to do about it?
And on the drilling down goes ...

This week alone, I have heard and seen Pearse Doherty and Pádraig Mac Lochlainn respectively being told they said things they clearly didn't say. Both persons objected to this misrepresentation to no effect and despite the fact it happened in a proven environment. So, let us take it for granted that mud-slinging will abound.

Friends of mind who are republicans (which I am not) tell me that much of the McGahon case is long since known (as too is the names of the very few in the IRA court). I am told there are 20/30 more cases likely to come to public attention in order to damage SF's electoral prospects.

Like others here, I am perplexed to know why SF apparently didn't figure that these issues were bound to surface and the appropriate on-message response would be given.

You say: 'Are all the facts as presented by the mainstream media true. They most definitely are not.'
Really? Again you say:
'For example when Adams says he did not make comments attributed to him by Maria Cahill, I

believe him. Adams was accused of saying things to Cahill that anybody who knows him would know he would never utter'. Why? Because Adams says so! Any rational response would be (in the absence of any evidence) I don't know. Your approach is taken also by SF reps along the lines 'The leadership has told me', 'I have every confidence' etc etc etc. It is not good enough. Legitimate questions remained to be answered. As put by Liberius '... in reality SF and the IRA are having to face the consequences for their failures as an impromptu police force; hiding from those failures is no more valid for them than it has been for other organisations that have been in positions of responsibility and failed badly.'

We know the establishment is out to damage SF. I tend to examine the broader context when it comes to any issue for consideration. But I dislike intensely all these jibes about those who 'never set foot in the North', 'the staters on here', 'college boys' etc. Cue the weakness of the counter argument: is this a litmus test to get your respect? No wonder all my efforts to strive to understand the other point of view will go amiss. You are not alone in dishing out barbs. I get it. It is deeply counter productive. I wish it to stop.

Reply

29. roddy - March 17, 2015

Alibaba, when the Cahill case was first aired several years ago ,by anti SF journalist Suzanne Breen ,she threw everything but the kitchen sink at SF .However no mention at all was made of the damaging comments attributed to Adams which only surfaced a few months ago.Do you not find it extremely strange that Cahill would not mention such outrageous comments in her first interview or any time since or that Breen would not have immediately seized on them.

Reply

WorldbyStorm - March 17, 2015

Again, I'd have sympathy with the point about politicisation of these events. But... the problem is it doesn't matter whether it's politicised by others, whether it's the Sindo, FF or whoever. The old line about 'when you're explaining you're losing' swings into operation here. You rightly point up to inconsistencies, but most people aren't going to have either the time or incentive or the inclination to investigate all that. And worse, as soon as one does that it flips the narrative – as SF's political opponents would try to shape it to one of SF attempting to be legalistic, and nit picking etc. I agree that leaves some people very exposed and unfair and unreasonable allegations being made (often very nebulous allegations at that), but to describe these processes is not to say that they're good – they're clearly not, whether one supports SF or not, and those on other parts of the left should bear in mind that precisely these sort of attacks can be used against them by the establishment, and indeed sometimes are – but to simply outline that they exist, that they were predictable and that offering political responses (however correct they may be) doesn't work.

Reply

shea - March 17, 2015

its shit but its war essentially, agreed to much crying on this from the shiners but in rodneys rambles and you echo the point there, if the sp ever get into the position of black dog don't expect less than twisting and the construction of misconceptions for political capital to be directed at you, murphy got a sip of it with the presidents a midget wankergate, a sip.

Reply

Alibaba - March 17, 2015

Roddy, you ask 'Do you not find it extremely strange that Cahill would not mention such outrageous comments in her first interview or any time since'. Fair question: yes I do. However, it is

indisputably legitimate for Maria Cahill to amend her statement and for Gerry Adams to contradict her claims. I am not in a position to make a judgement call on these issues because there is no evidence of who said what to whom. Some battles are not worth fighting and I believe this is one of them.

[Reply](#)

30. rodny - [March 17, 2015](#)

Shea, its Roddy as in "goes to die on the bridge of Toome today".Rodney would be more associated with "only fools and horses"! However "Roddy's rambles " has quite a ring to it and dont be surprised if you see a new blog with that title springing up soon!

[Reply](#)

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