

Mayor Bloomberg On the Record

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on windows to keep kids from falling out, better response time by ambulances. We put GPS on ambulances, which cuts 30 seconds of the average response time, which is a big deal.

What's your proudest achievement?

My daughters. I have to say that! Well it is in all fairness.

I guess the schools, because if I told you coming into office you could reduce crime you'd say okay. I'd say maybe you could do it, I doubt you have the skills, but I could conceive it.

If I told you you were going to make big improvements in the schools system, you would have said no. Too big, too intractable. Unions, politics, kids coming from families where they don't value education

and that's just the way it is, and so you have to come back to that.

Ray (Kelly) has done a great job. They said, 'Before you go make sure you have a list of everybody in your administration that's Irish.'

But it's not just the Irish, it's everybody. It's hard sometimes. If you had to pick one thing that Ray Kelly did to bring down crime, I would argue it was making sure that diversity of our police department reflects the diversity of the city.

It's management, leadership, it's all of those sort of things, but if the community thinks that you understand them, and if you do understand them, a lot of other stuff gets done. And you'd be fighting a lot of battles if you didn't do that. So now somebody get killed and a tragedy, you don't see people rushing to the

streets.

Al Sharpton has been very stabilizing influence behind the scenes which is good, and Ray reaches out to him, I reach out to him. Some people say, 'How can you talk to him?' Because we need the help. I think out of that comes so many other things.

Same in Northern Ireland.

Yeah. And when you look at the big cities in America, it's not. Inner city tends to be lots of minorities, and the police departments are not. And I'll show you how far we've come. The last class we swore in — about 1,200 cops, and they were born in 58 different countries. But one of the most fascinating things? Not one from Ireland. A lot of Irish Americans but no Irish. That was as impressive as the 58 countries.

My Time as a Budding Rose

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parents who left Ireland with little choice, and to see their beloved daughter/granddaughter entering the Rose of Tralee meant the world to them.

When the lovely Genevieve O'Reilly won the New Jersey Rose Title, the first thing I thought of was her father, the Cavan man who was bursting with pride as he took pictures with her. I don't think it could ever mean that much to my dad.

When the winners were announced — Ashling Colton for New York and Genevieve for New Jersey — everyone was genuinely

happy for them. It sounds cliché, but there were real friendships made.

The seven New York Roses and the nine New Jersey Roses got on like a house on fire, and we're already planning a reunion. The escorts brought the craic to the event, and the rosebuds brought the cuteness.

I regret my cynicism, and I can't believe I doubted entering. I made some fantastic friends, and I have such faith in the Irish diaspora being kept alive. I recommend it to anyone.

The Rose of Tralee is one of the ways to keep our heritage alive, and I hope it continues for

another 50 years. It was an amazing opportunity, and I want to thank the two main organizers, Rita Talty and Susan Stanek, who not only organized everything, but also were great fun while doing so. I also want to thank my sponsors, the Irish Voice and IrishCentral.com.

A big thank you goes to the other girls, who completely shattered the stereotype that is sometimes associated with the Rose of Tralee. And congratulations to the two winners, Ashling and Genevieve, who will go to Ireland and represent a great bunch of girls in New York and New Jersey.

Irish Couple's Lotto Dream Come True

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Company.

The Finnans claimed their \$41 million prize on June 15 at the New York State Lottery's customer service center in Fishkill, after a full month of safeguarding the winning ticket.

"It was such a mind-blowing amount of money. We never thought we would have to deal with such an amount so we wanted to take care of our affairs and get

proper advice," said Niamh of the delay. "The ticket was in the bank the whole time."

The happy couple will receive their prize money in one lump sum payment totaling \$23,269,397, less required tax withholdings. Niamh's net check will total \$15,156,057.

When the *Irish Voice* asked the lucky couple what they were going to spend their winnings on Niamh said, "We haven't made any definite plans for the money.

We will take some time off and enjoy the summer and think about it.

"And it's a chance to fix up the house, add a new bathroom, get a new garden shed. We'll take care of family. We have no real plans set in stone," admitted Niamh.

However, one thing is for sure — although the couple will remain in New York, they will visit Ireland a lot more frequently than they were able to in the past.

Lee Gets the Job Done in Germany

Declan O'Kelly

ANDY Lee (18-1) beat Oleg's Fedotovs (10-6) by unanimous decision last Saturday night on the undercard of the Wladimir Klitschko/Ruslan Chagaev heavyweight title fight at the Gelatins Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

The 25-year-old dominated the fight and easily won the contest to notch up his 18th victory as a professional. An accidental butt in the final round caused a slight graze on his right eye, but the injury is not serious and will not delay any plans for his next fight.

"I got a little nick at the end of the last round, a clash of heads, we were both going for it in the last round. He was trying to stop me and I was trying to get him out of there and we clashed," Lee told the *Irish Voice* Monday.

"It did not require a stitch and hopefully in three weeks I'll be back sparring again.

"If it was a big cut I would be very annoyed but it is not, and I would be taking the time off anyway because you need some off after a fight so I am happy," continued the 2004 Olympian.

"It was a day's work. That is how I would look at it. I had to go in there and do a job.

"It wasn't a big fight for me. I was the second fight on the undercard of the night, a six rounder against an unknown opponent, so I just said I would go in there, box, do a good job and that's pretty much how it went."

Due to TV scheduling the fight was changed from an eight rounder to a six rounder, and Lee had to make sure that he made no early mistakes. Fedotovs did not just show up for the paycheck, and his professionalism impressed the

Limerick man.

"Fair dues to him, he was spirited. He wanted to win the fight and he was determined. He caught me with a couple of good shots and he was no pushover at all.

"I had to fight him all the way and I had to stay concentrated. A couple of times during the fight I relaxed a bit and lost concentration and he caught me. He was a serious fighter and I respect him for it."

However, the Kronk gym fighter's superior skills told in the end and he had his

down, but I was told it was a straight left hand that put him there."

The Latvian survived the count and the final bell rang shortly after that.

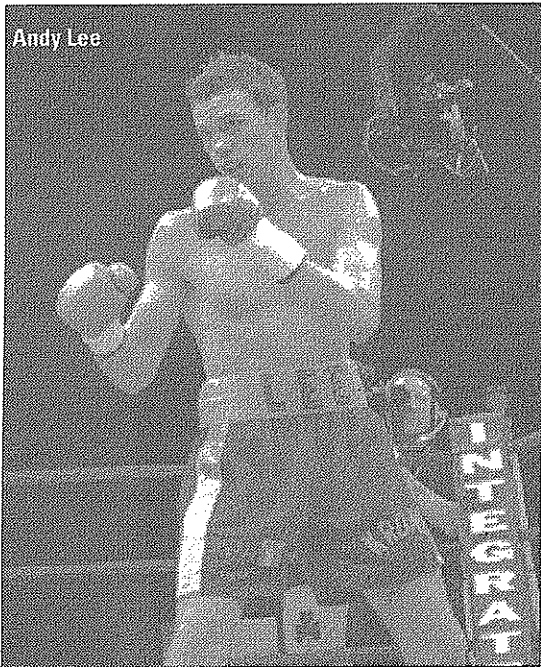
Lee will take a few weeks off in New York (he is in the process of moving here) but will stay in shape while trainer/manager Emanuel Steward looks for his next assignment.

"I'll stay training in New York, probably do a bit of running and shadow boxing. Whenever Emanuel gets a fight lined up then I will

head back to Detroit to train," he said.

Lee hopes to get back in the ring quickly and plans are afoot to have a fight in the U.S. in July or August as he aims to build on this win and climb up the world rankings.

In other news, the Irish ama-



teur team won three gold, three silver and three bronze medals at the European Union amateur boxing championships in Odense Denmark last week.

David Oliver Joyce won gold on the 57 kg division, Darren O'Neill topped the podium in the 75 kg division and Con Sheehan was king of the big men at 91 kg.

Olympic silver medalist Ken Egan picked up bronze after narrowly losing his semifinal bout. Finally, Irish-American light welterweight Danny O'Connor (6-0) will fight Sebastien Hamel (10-19-1) at The Roxy in Boston this Saturday afternoon in his first six round fight as a professional.

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GAA Shorts

By Cathal Dervan

DUBLIN could throw veteran Jason Sherlock into their full-forward line against Westmeath in Sunday's Leinster SFC semifinal. Sherlock is the favorite to replace long term injury victim Mark Davoren, with Rory O'Carroll and Diarmuid

Connolly also pushing for inclusion...

KERRY defender Killian Young sustained a shoulder injury with his club last weekend and could face weeks on the sideline. Meanwhile, the Kerry selectors have yet to confirm reports that former All-Ireland winner Mike McCarthy

is to return to the squad...

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