

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

and The Tampa Times

Know The Rules When Shipping

Insurance is no protection for some items the post office says are not to be covered.

DETAILS, Metro, Page 1



Lower The Stress Of Holiday Giving

Our guide combines expert advice, resources and recipes for maximum Merriment.

DETAILS, Baylife, Page 1



NASCAR Revs I Media Presence

A \$4.48 billion deal puts it on TV, Internet and phone beginning in 2007.

DETAILS, Sports, Page 1



Tribune photos by MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER

A Tampa pub's parking lot morphed into a venue for a larger-than-normal-life name Wednesday night when Four Green Fields presented Sinead O'Connor. Asked how he pulled off the booking coup, owner Colin Breen said it's all about who you know.

Sinead O'Connor Finds Greener Fields

The once-retired singer does a gig at an Irish pub in Tampa between shows in D.C. and New York.

By BEN MONTGOMERY
bmontgomery@tampatrib.com

TAMPA — Down at Four Green Fields on Platt Street, where the Guinness is not too cold and the smoky walls pay faded respect to Ireland's Paddy Reilly and Samuel Beckett and the volunteers of Sinn Fein, folks were buzzing through a wet Wednesday afternoon.

The window-box petunias were in full bloom. The tuna melts were on special. A homeless man named Steve Tomey parked his Chevy van out front and swore he was going to hijack a radio frequency and broadcast the Sinead O'Connor concert live to whoever wanted to hear.

Sinead O'Connor? Here?

The poster on the kitchen door says it's her Only Florida Appearance, and that is correct. Moreover, it's her only pub appearance and falls between a



O'Connor still sports the shorn look she had when she appeared on "Saturday Night Live" and ripped up a picture of Pope John Paul II, earning hearty boos.

Tuesday gig at the 9:30 Club in Washington and one Thursday at Webster Hall in New York.

"Everything else I recognize are pretty typical venues," said publicist Jill Strominger, on the phone from

See SINEAD O'CONNOR, Page 4 ▶

It was a farewell show — for a parking lot.

RELATED STORY, Metro, Page 2:
Curtis Ross reviews the show.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1990: Has her only top 40 hit, Billboard No. 1 pop hit "Nothing Compares 2 U," written by Prince

1990: Refuses her Grammy award for best alternative music performance

1992: Boos off stage for shredding a picture of Pope John Paul II on "Saturday Night Live"

1995: Drops off the Lollapalooza tour because she is pregnant

1997: Leaves Irish Catholic heritage, converts to Buddhism

1999: Ordained the first female priest in the Latin Tridentine Church, a splinter group of the Roman Catholic Church

2001: Marries British journalist Nick Somerlad

2003: Announces her retirement

2004: Takes out an ad in the Irish Examiner pleading with people to stop making fun of her

2005: Announces her comeback as a "spiritual" singer, releases a reggae album

Compiled by CHRISTINE PERRY

Al-Arian Case Seer As A Win For Justice

CIVIL LIBERTIES UPHELD, SOME

By ELAINE SIVESTRINI
and MICHAEL FECHTER
The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — Before Tuesday's verdicts, advocates for Sami Al-Arian said they didn't think the federal University of South Florida professor could get a fair trial in Tampa.

They argued that the "media harassment" and the political atmosphere would influence jurors to convict Al-Arian and his three co-defendants.

"Well, they were wrong, weren't they?" said Donna Hannigan, an alternate juror from New Port Richey. "I think [defense attorneys] were pro doing their jobs putting that out there. You've got 12 different people of all walks of life. I guess view things differently."

On Tuesday, Hannigan's fellow jurors acquitted Al-Arian of eight charges, including conspiring



Al-Arian

See AL-ARIAN VERDICTS, Page 4 ▶

"Fear did not win out over rational analysis."

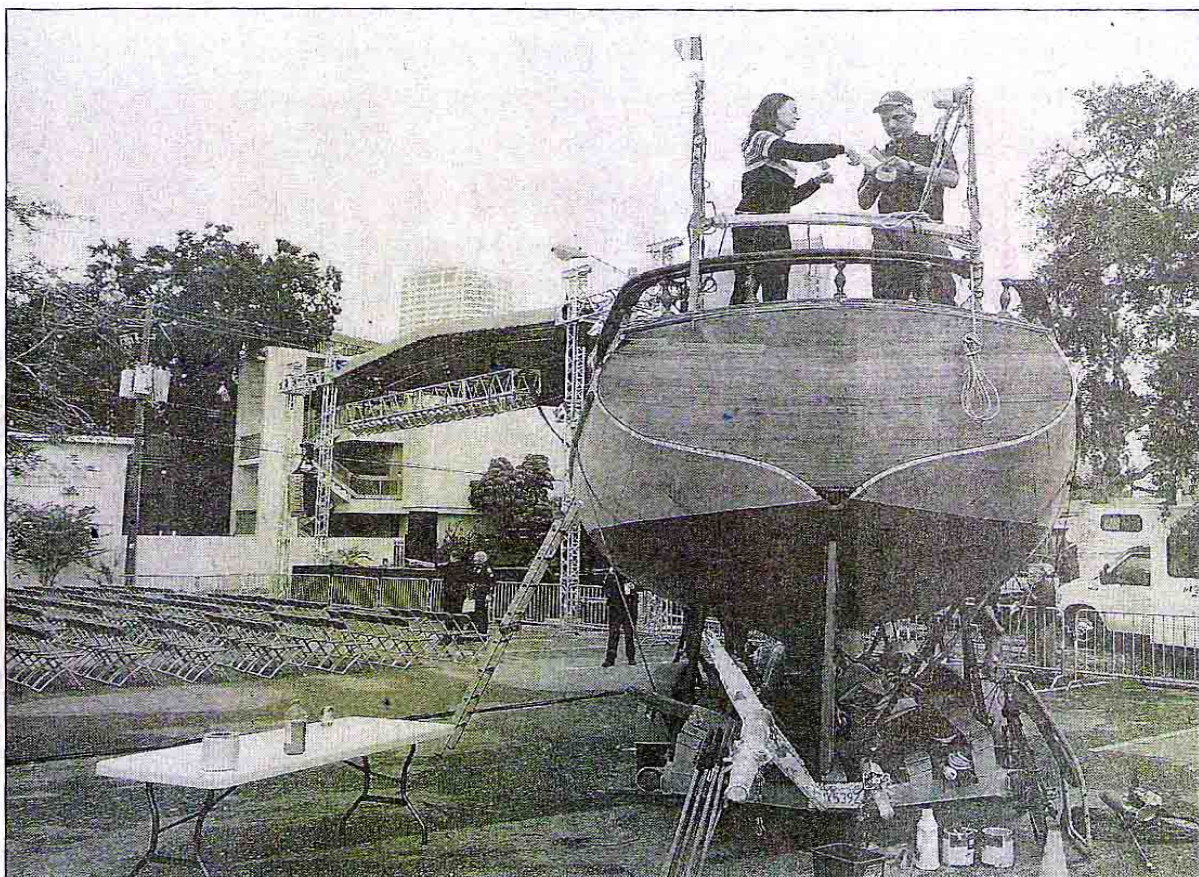
Air Marshals Shoot, Kill Passenger

MAN THREATENED HE HAD A BOMB

By KEN KAYE,
MADELINE BARO DIAZ
and MCNELLY TORRES
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

MIAMI — An agitated passenger was shot by federal air marshals Wednesday charged off an American Airlines jet at International Airport after threatening he had a bomb in his backpack, federal officials said.





Tribune photo by MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER

Alexis Frees-Kiernan and Shane Rodriguez decorate a wooden ketch in the parking lot of Four Green Fields. The boat sits in the parking lot where Sinead O'Connor performed Wednesday night.

SINEAD O'CONNOR

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Manhattan. "This is the only intimate Irish pub she's played on her tour."

How did a faded but followed singer land a show in these cozy quarters? Colin Breen, the man who has owned this place 14 years, takes a break by the bar between deadlines. It has to do with who you know, he says.

It's not really in Four Green Fields. Breen's plan is to say goodbye to the adjacent parking lot with the concert (he soon will build a hotel on the patch), so chairs were planted on asphalt and a stage erected before them.

The details of luring O'Connor to Florida lie also with the promoter, Frank Giglio, who says the venue fits a woman remade. "I think

it's just an attractive offer and arrangement for her to make the play," he said with a nod to the eccentric singer's new path. O'Connor's latest album is reggae, see, Burning Spear and Rasta roots stuff, cut at Jamaica's Tuff Gong studios, and she has told reporters it's an effort to "save God from religion." Where better for a performance by the woman who destroyed a picture of a pope than a place where a wall in the men's room says, "No amount of oppression can quell the human spirit?"

She certainly has sympathy here.

"Sinead is bad," said Tomey, meaning good, as he fiddled with wires inside his van, to which an Irish Democrats placard was taped.

"I support her fully," said

"This is the only intimate Irish pub she's played on her tour."

JILL STROMINGER

Sinead O'Connor publicist, on Four Green Fields

Brian O'h-Eachtuigheirn, who lives aboard a 66-year-old boat — painted red, white and green — inside the chain-link venue. (He said he turned south from Cleveland a year ago and was at the concert to raise money for a voyage to Belfast to "lend support to the movement to restore Irish as the language of Ireland.") "O'Connor broke a lot of ground," he said.

When the afternoon faded outside this tiny pub in Tampa, a man showed up for autographs and another climbed the stage, tapped on the microphone and said, "Four Green Fields presents Sinead O'Connor."

Researcher Christine Perry contributed to this report. Reporter Ben Montgomery can