



MALE Perspective

Saint Patrick's Day



by: Michael C. Waters

So when is it appropriate these days to pinch someone for not wearing green? I remember growing up; we always made sure we remembered to wear green clothing to school on St. Patrick's Day in order to avoid that dreaded pinch. Things sure have changed a lot between then and now though. Men and women have to be much more careful nowadays as that type of action may be construed as sexual harassment in the workplace! I mean, one minute you are pinching someone and the next you are shuffling down the street in a bathrobe looking for a new job! If a pinch is not judged as offensive, then where on one's body do you pinch someone? That becomes way too tricky for my taste. Why do good natured traditions become so complicated, when originally done in the spirit of good, clean, old fashioned fun?

Speaking of traditions, I wanted to share a memory of my trip to Ireland. Back in 1998, during my time in the military, I had to go to Iraq and Saudi Arabia for nearly a year. We flew out of Baltimore late one January evening. Our plane had to stop midway and refuel at a small airport located in Shannon, Ireland. The plane touched down at 5:45am local time. We were allowed to deplane for around 30 minutes or so, even though we had to remain inside of the little airport terminal. I had always heard rumors that the local bars in Ireland never closed, and sure enough, the rumor turned out to be true. The airport pub was open and serving the thickest dark beer I had ever seen! Guinness stout flowed into not-so-clean pint glasses, and we were allowed to taste a little of the local culture (even though it was at breakfast time!!!). It was an experience I will never forget. I only wish I could have gotten out of the airport and into the country so that I could have truly experienced Ireland. Maybe one day, I can go back and see just what I missed there.

And with that, I wish each of you a happy St. Patrick's Day! My recommendation is as follows: Make sure to go out and get a pint of green beer, eat some corned beef or a Reuben, but also be sure to wear something green! Neither Bangle Magazine nor I carry responsibility for any sexual harassment lawsuits that may stem from this article! Cheers, and enjoy the festivities!!!