

The feiseanna reference, therefore, is not meant to be derogatory. The Comhairle Feis has Irish competitions in poetry and essay; the Erin Minstrel Society this year introduces an award for figure dance choreography; the UICA Feis has competitions in the essay, poetry and art, however archaic the themes may be.

But there must be more: let the spirit not be confined to competitive outings, which are wholly Irish and primarily imitative. It's amazing that in all these years there is yet no formal creative expression from the Irish-American community. Is it possible that there is no unique expression which can come, and no need for it? We're aware of the hiatus between Ireland and the second generation, but who's going to fill it in?