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An Irishman's Diary



Hey Big Spender: a visitor to the London Art Fair this week studies a picture of prime minister Gordon Brown made by artist Andrew Firth from 1p coins.
REUTERS/Andrew Parsons

Photograph: The Irish Times

'IT'S 3am at Doheny Nesbitt, a favourite watering hole of Dublin's political and business elite, and the property tycoon Seán Dunne stoops to retrieve a penny from the pub's grimy floor, writes John Lavelle .

So begins a recent article in The New York Times tracing the fall of the Irish economy.

What image could better capture the depths of our descent? Ireland's most extravagant tycoon gropes for a single cent on the floor of the pub where, according to legend, Ireland's elite conceived the economic miracle two decades previously. The symbolism was too much for the NYT to resist.

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