

# Swim coach accused of teen rapes hangs on to U.S. home



Sunshine lifestyle: The pool outside Gibney's condominium

FORMER Irish swimming coach George Gibney – who once faced numerous sexual abuse charges – has managed to rescue his Florida home from being seized by the bank after it went into foreclosure.

In April, Bank of America lodged papers with a court to seize the \$154,000 (€105,000) apartment in Orange City near Orlando, which Gibney bought in early 2007.

Property values have plummeted and foreclosures have soared in the Sunshine State since the property bubble burst.

Gibney, 63, has also lost his job on more than one occasion after a local anti-abuse group outed him as an alleged sexual abuser.

However, the auctioneer selling his condominium, located at Enterprise Cove Avenue, in Orange City, now states on its website that it has been taken 'off the market'.

The property had been up for sale for \$55,000.

The estate agent selling it on behalf of the bank, Florida State Homes, was unavailable for comment about why the property was taken off the market.

However, sources in the U.S. said properties are taken off the market in foreclosure cases when the owner has been able to restrike a

By **Alli Bracken**  
Crime Correspondent

financing deal with the bank. National swimming coach between 1984 and 1992, Gibney was charged with 17 counts of sexual abuse of minors.

But a judicial review in 1994 prevented the case from going forward because of the lapse of time between the alleged offences and when the complaints were made.

Gibney was accused of sexually abusing swimmers between 1966 and 1982.

After first going to Scotland, Gibney moved to Colorado, then to

## 'He is a continuing danger to children'

Florida, where he bought the apartment, found work in a hotel and became a prominent member of the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

He lost his job at the Marriott Hotel after being outed by the anti-abuse group, Abuse Watch, led by Irishman Evin Daly.

More recently in June, Gibney again lost his job at the Wyndham Vacation Resorts in Cypress Palms, Florida, where he was employed on the front desk.

The hotel was later contacted by

Faced 17 abuse charges, George Gibney escaped trial on technical grounds



this newspaper and a U.S. charity, One Child International, enquiring about Gibney's employment. Upon hearing of his background, he was again sacked.

Protests have also been held outside the apartment and fliers sent to his neighbours about his past.

Mr Daly said: 'He is a continuing danger to children. Society cannot afford letting someone like him wander around freely as the Irish government did when they did not prosecute him for his offences, of-fences so well documented that not prosecuting him is in itself a crime.'

'Instead, they allowed him to leave and live unmonitored in the U.S. where local law enforcement received no notification at all from the gardai about him.'

Earlier this year, the High Court ruled against a 39-year-old woman who took a civil action against Gibney and two Irish swimming associations, claiming she was abused

20 years ago. She claimed it happened on a swimming trip to Orlando, Florida, close to where Gibney lives.

The court ruled against the woman because nothing happened in connection with the complaint for nearly 13 years.

At the time of the alleged offences she was 17 and considered one of the country's top swimming prospects.

She claimed in an interview in 2007: 'He raped me there in the hotel and I remember he had his hand around my neck.'

'He said to me that if I ever told anybody he'd sue my family, and that nobody would believe me because I was a nobody and he was George Gibney.'

Gibney was originally charged in 1992 with raping seven boys and girls but evaded a trial on technical grounds.

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# Climate change claims were a huge mistake, argues expert

By **Tamara Cohen**

ONE of the authors of a scientific study billed as the 'end of scepticism' about climate change yesterday threatened to quit after she said the project leader underplayed the fact there has been no global warming for 13 years.

Professor Judith Curry was one of ten experts attempting to compile definitive temperature data going back more than 200 years.

But she claimed that it had been 'tarnished' by the project's director 'overselling' the results in favour of global warming.

Funded by a number of donors including sceptics of climate change, the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project concluded global temperatures had risen by around 1c since the Fifties, in line with official estimates from Nasa.

The project's director, Professor Richard Muller, told the media it showed 'you should not be a sceptic, at least not any longer'.

He also claimed the temperature rise was ongoing, saying: 'We see no evidence of [global warming] having slowed down.'

But Professor Curry, who chairs the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology, said Professor Muller's comments were a 'huge mistake' and

## 'This isn't the end of scepticism'

that she planned to discuss her future on the project with him.

She said their data actually showed average world temperatures had 'paused' since the late Nineties and that a graph published on the project's website depicting temperatures from 1850 to 2006 appeared to 'hide the decline'.

She said: 'There is no scientific basis for saying global warming hasn't stopped. Of course this isn't the end of scepticism.'

'To say that is the biggest mistake he has made. When I saw he was saying that I thought, "Oh my God".'

The researchers analysed 1.6billion records from nearly 40,000 weather stations in a bid to counter criticisms that scientists use inaccurate or selective records.

On her blog, Professor Muller denied that Berkeley's raw data was misleading but said the problem was that it had been 'oversold'.

Of the temperature graph published by the group, she said: 'This is nowhere near what the climate models were predicting.'

'Whatever it is that's going on here it doesn't look like its being dominated by CO2.'

'I was saying you can no longer be sceptical about the fact global temperatures have risen over the past 50 years.'

'There are other aspects of climate change which are still uncertain as I have made clear.'



'Talks a lot': Brian Kirwan

# Do It Yourself, Cullen's Apprentice challenge

By **Yvonne Tarleton**

WHEN Bill Cullen tells The Apprentice 'you're hired', his or her dynamic performance will have paid off.

But this week, the show boss has a job trying to channel the contestants' energy for their latest task.

For the challenge, teams Zest and Spirit had to create an advertising concept for the B&Q DIY chain.

And Cullen proved the old adage that if you want a job done right, it's best to do it yourself.

Cullen appointed the project managers for each team – Conor Browne for

Zest and Brian Kirwan for Spirit – because they had been 'playing it safe'. Cullen said: 'I will only be partnering with a risk-taker.'

In tonight's episode, the teams attempt to create an original concept encouraging B&Q customers to become more energy efficient.

Each team was given props, photo-shoots, graphic designers and an energy-saving expert to help them in their task. Team Spirit carried out their photoshoot at a studio while

Team Zest shot at Johnnie Foxes pub in Glencullen, Co. Dublin. Eugene Heary even dressed up as a granny for the team but it was not enough to win over Cullen and partner Jackie Lavin.

She said: 'Brian talks a lot about being brave and thinking outside the box, but Brian is very much inside a box – with a lid on.' Meanwhile, reports emerged over the weekend that during filming at The Apprentice house in Swords in North Dublin, several male contestants got the idea to drive a tractor around after partying.

Stills show how Maurice O'Callaghan hopped into the back of the tractor as he drank a beer. Eugene Heary climbed into the cab of the tractor and drove Mr O'Callaghan around the property. Pictures show Mr O'Callaghan climbed into the cab, while holding cans, to hand a beer to Mr Heary who was drinking alcohol as he sat behind the wheel and careered around.

The cast's weekly alcohol allowance has since been cut.

An Apprentice spokesman said: 'The tractor was returned without any damage. The culprits were severely reprimanded for their actions.'