

# brian's ramblings /1/ venice hawaii ireland

My parents **actually** won the trip to Ireland. My father said **he'd rather go** to Italy **instead of** Ireland. My mother said she'd rather go to Hawaii **herself so that** she could see a volcano. Aunt Speed **pointed out** that they **hadn't** won a **free** trip to Italy, and they hadn't won a free trip to Hawaii, **either**. They had won a free trip to Ireland. My father said he had always **wanted** to see **Venice**. My mother could live **without seeing** Venice but she said she **would love to** climb up a **volcano**.

**It** was spring. I remember that maple seeds **were falling** on the **sidewalk**. I like **the way** they fall down. A chipmunk **was sitting** in the middle of the sidewalk **near** our house. It **got so involved in eating** a maple seed that **you** could **walk right up to it** before it ran away. I never saw a chipmunk **that close** before. Maybe **there was something wrong with it**.

When Callie called me **to say** that her computer **had broken down** again, my parents **were still fretting about** the problems **of going** to Ireland in June. They talked **for hours at a time**. They started to **think of it as** a second honeymoon. Where **would** the kids **stay**? Maybe Grandma **would take care of** Kate.

It **gave me the creeps to think of my parents having** a second honeymoon. **I guess** I never thought **before then** that my parents really **knew** anything about sex. I thought that they **might have had an interest in** it when they were younger. But when they won the trip they **were already in their thirties**. **It's weird to think** of people **that old having** any interest in **such** things.