

Commentary...

# A weather forecast from a legend

By Macgregor Hay  
Correspondent

“...And so your 10 days here in Edinburgh should give you decent weather.”

This weather forecast was delivered to me at the Oxford Bar in New Town, Edinburgh, Scotland by none other than legendary Scottish novelist Ian Rankin.

That’s how things are going at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

The day began by a warm welcome to *The Nugget’s* correspondent by Frances Sutton, press manager for the Festival — the largest book event in the world — put on every August. It attracts 800 authors/speakers and 250,000 attendees.

It is a well-organized and user-friendly operation; the audience, which is usually 200-500 people, and the speakers bond almost magically. Each speaker is interviewed, generally gives a short summary of their work, and then the session is open to questions from the audience. In attending three events yesterday, the questions are well-thought-out and the speakers very candid with their response.

In the first event was Alistair McIntosh, a Glasgow, Scotland-based writer and activist on land reform and ecology and a pacifist and Quaker. I was very skeptical of his topic but went, as the setting of his book is the Outer Hebrides, a set of islands off the west coast of Scotland — one of my favorite destinations.

His approach to controversial issues was so compelling I asked his interviewer, Jane Fowler from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and festival press manager if I could interview him after his talk.

His approach is not to corner people and argue about who is right but more to find common ground and ways to reach some sort of compromise rather than polarize each other. He has been invited annually to the British War College annual meeting to talk about his approach to war and violence and has been well received. He’d like to do the same in America but hasn’t been invited ... yet.

The last function of the night was an interview of Tim Burgess, a musician, DJ and vinyl record collector by Ian Rankin, Scottish crime

writer and vinyl record fan and collector.

I admit I struggled a bit with their Scottish accents but managed to follow most of the interchange between them. These two guys really got into the British and other world-famous — and infamous — musicians and bands. The audience loved it and seemed to follow every mention of groups and musicians I had never heard of. Burgess was a very shy, quiet person and Rankin was working hard, and successfully, to bring him out in the interview.

After the event I retired to the Oxford Bar, a pub Ian Rankin’s main character, John Rebus, frequents in all his crime novels. As I was quietly thinking about my day, who should walk in and



PHOTO BY MACGREGOR HAY

Hangin’ out in the pub... with Ian Rankin.

start chatting with me but Ian Rankin! What a thrill; he’s one of my favorite authors and a great guy. We had a very normal conversation: his books, the weather and Oregon, Portland specifically. He somehow missed Sisters so I invited him to come next time he’s in the U.S.

## EATON: Athlete looking for new worlds to conquer

Continued from page 8

him, and he is just as eager to meet with those who have supported him the past eight years.

“It’s kind of like networking,” he says, “for when I start thinking about what is next.”

In truth, Eaton is already thinking about what’s next. He’s been on top of the decathlon world for the better part of a decade, and in a one-on-one interview with *The Associated Press* on Saturday night, he acknowledged that retirement is coming soon.

He may compete next year. He may not.

But there is no chance you’ll see him at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

It’s not because time is catching him, like so many rivals have failed to do. The 28-year-old Eaton would probably medal in Tokyo, if not win a third straight gold. It’s more that Eaton and his wife, Canadian heptathlon bronze-medalist Brianne Theisen-Eaton, have other things they want to pursue, their lives in no way measured solely on the field of play.

See EATON on page 28

**NEW SALES 382.4521**  
**PRE-OWNED: 312.3986**

**ROBBERSON**  
LINCOLN

**robberson.com**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**

FREEDOM

SALES EVENT

0% APR FOR 72<sup>MOS.</sup>

+ \$1,000 BONUS CASH

Ford Credit APR Financing

ACROSS 2016 FORD LINEUP

On approved credit

2016 Ford F-150

0% APR FOR 72<sup>MOS.</sup> on 2016 ESCAPE, FUSION, FOCUS

PLUS \$1,000 BONUS CASH

PLUS \$1,000 Ford Smart Bonus Cash

On Specially Tagged Vehicles

2016 Ford Super Duty

robberson.com

ROBBERSON

LINCOLN

2100 NE 3rd. St. Bend Oregon

541.382.4521

\$1,000 Ford Smart Bonus Cash (PGM #35634). Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. 0% APR financing for 72 months at \$13.89 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment (PGM #20740). Ford Smart Bonus Cash vehicle supply is limited. See dealer for availability. For all offers, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/6/16. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. \$1,000 Ford Smart Bonus Cash (PGM #35634) + \$1,000 Bonus Cash (PGM #12944). Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. 0% APR financing for 72 months at \$13.89 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment (PGM #20742). Ford Smart Bonus Cash vehicle supply is limited. See dealer for availability. For all offers, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/6/16. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.