

Allston-Brighton Citizen Journal

INSIDE

Bill Meehan
looks back at
his first year on
the job

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Serving Allston/Brighton Since 1874 Vol. 120 No. 43 Thursday, October 26, 1995 Price 50¢

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By Chris Price

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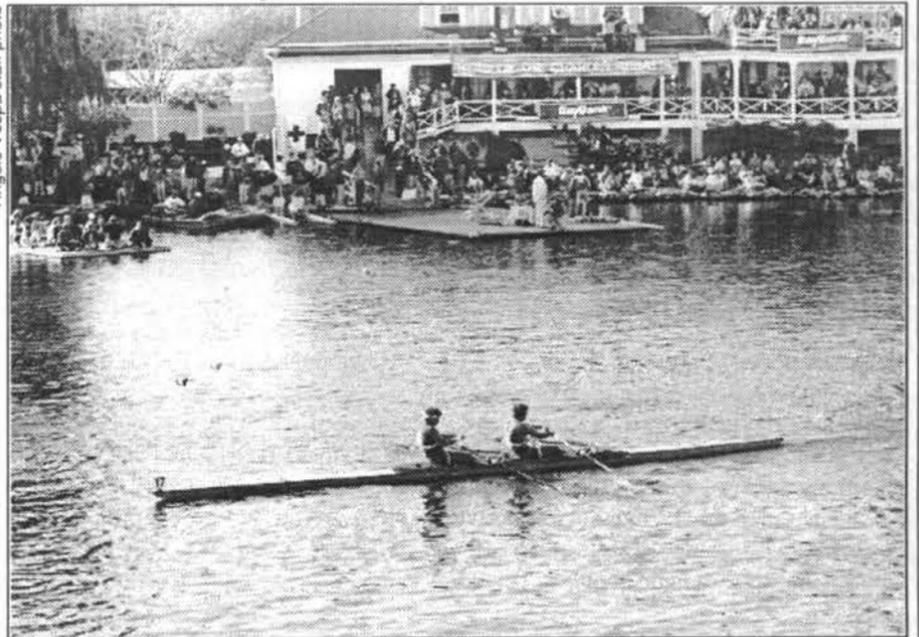
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• ROSARIO

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The race for Boston City Council

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By Jennifer Calonita

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• McDERMOTT

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Newsreel

Beware of local Cablevision charlatans

If someone arrives in your home saying they are picking up your cable television converter box and replacing it with a new one, don't believe them. An impostor recently stole a converter from a West Roxbury resident last week by showing the resident falsified identification, and asking for the converter.

"We do not send technicians knocking on people's doors unless the resident has requested a service call," said Boston Cablevision General Manager Henry J. Ferris. "No one from Cablevision will arrive at your home unannounced and ask for your equipment unless your service has been disconnected."

Cablevision of Boston is asking you to be on the lookout for a white man with blonde hair and blue eyes, who is approximately 5'6" tall and weighs 150-160 pounds. He may be driving a maroon Buick Grand Prix. If you see this man, please call the Boston Police Department at 911 or Cablevision Security at 787-6703.

St. Anthony's Centennial set for next week

St. Anthony's presents the opening of its Centennial Year with a concert on Friday, November 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the St. Anthony's Centennial Committee, it will feature the Harvard University Wind Ensemble, St. Anthony's schoolchildren and St. Anthony's Adult Choir.

It takes place at St. Anthony's School Hall on 57 Holton Street in Allston. RSVP by October 29th at 782-0775 or 782-7170. Refreshments will be available.

St. E's offers...

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center is offering a Natural Family Planning course beginning Wednesday, November 15th from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The class consists of four meetings held over a five-month period. Fee for the course is \$60 and pre-registration is required.

The natural method of family planning provides infor-

mation about planning, postponing or avoiding a pregnancy. For more information or to register, call 789-2430.

Brighton's Roache named to Regis soccer team

Brighton's Melissa Roache was recently named to the varsity soccer team at Regis College.

A freshman, Roache plays striker for the Beacons. While at Matignon High, she played both halfback and fullback. In addition, while at Matignon she was the captain and winner of the Coaches Award and Sportsmanship Award in her senior year.

Regis College is located in Weston, MA.

Brighton's Walsh receives Harvard Book Prize

Brighton's Caroline Walsh, a senior at Trinity Catholic High in Newton, recently received the Harvard Book Prize Award. Caroline was recognized on October 11th at the Harvard Club of Boston with the award that is given to students who have "demonstrated academic excellence and made a contribution to the school."

Caroline is a member of the Student Council, the Falcon's Nest, the Trinity Catholic student newspaper and the girl's varsity volleyball team.

She is the daughter of Edward and Ethna Walsh of Brighton, and the sister of Priscilla, a freshman at Trinity Catholic.

Open House at MSJ

On October 28th from 10-12 p.m. at the Children's Grove Cooperative School an Open House will be held on the grounds of Mount St. Joseph Academy. The Children's Grove Cooperative School, a non-profit, non-sectarian nursery school, has been providing nurturing, stimulating preschool and toddler experiences for 25 years to Boston, Brookline and Newton families. They welcome any interested families to come to the school, see the classrooms and meet the teachers. For directions or other information, call the school at 254-0170.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Choharis of Brighton recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were honored by their family and friends at a surprise party, hosted by their daughter, Elayne Mantas, and son, Ted Choharis.

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Allston/Brighton Political Notebook

McDermott picks up union endorsements from many corners

• MCDERMOTT

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"Jerry's pledge to submit legislation at the city level to ensure the rights of working men and women is evidence of his instinctive support of issues and concerns shared by our members," said Robert D. Spinne and Joseph Negro, the Treasurer and Chairman of Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 17 about endorsing Jerry McDermott.

The Teamsters Union Joint Council No. 10 commented that both candidates were good, but that McDermott had a longer track record with them.

"We've known him for a long time and whenever there

have been issues involving union people, Jerry has been very supportive," said Mark Erlich, Business Agent for the United Brothers and Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 40.

AFSCME sent both candidates a questionnaire regarding issues that pertained to the affiliates, and then a committee made the decision on who the organization would endorse.

"We needed to decide who we would have a friend with at the city council after elections, and while we feel both of them would be friends, only one person could prevail, and the person that prevailed was Jerry McDermott," said David Williams of AFSCME.

Concerning the endorsements, McDermott commented,

"The support of organizations in Allston/Brighton is a definite plus."

McDermott also noted that the United Brothers and Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 40 have lent a great deal of help to his campaign. Through use of their phone bank and participation of members as signholders, McDermott felt their support was a "good boost."

Still, McDermott recognized that his greatest endorsements comes from the voters.

"They are the biggest supporters, and I am looking forward to their sign of support at the November 7 elections," McDermott said.

Honan clarifies position, captures Montgomery endorsement

• HONAN

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understood the federal laws that busing enforces.

"Kids should be able to go to school in their own neighborhood," Honan said. "But we also have to be realistic in understanding that there are federal mandates that have to be followed. I'm not going to expend all of my resources as a City Councilor trying to overturn federal laws."

Honan felt that the especially sensitive topic of busing was simply a divisive issue picked up on by some of the candidates as a way of separating people in the community.

"There are so many other important issues in the neighborhood," Honan said. "Busing is an issue that one or two candidates picked up and ran with it."

Honan would rather focus on issues that bring the community together, rather than separating the area. He mentioned topics like community policing, community development and experience as things that people should be talking about when it comes to the council race.

"This (busing) is an issue that divides us," Honan added. "I want to look at issues that unite us."

Honan receives Montgomery's support

In other campaign news, Honan received endorsements from two major parties. Former District 9 (Allston/Brighton) City Council candidate Stephen Montgomery pledged his support to Brian Honan this week, along with the Ward 21 Democratic Committee.

"In (Honan's) case, we were moved not only by a long string of progressive endorsements, from NOW to tenant groups, but also by the increasingly ideological nature of the issues dividing the two District 9 candidates," said committee spokesman Donald Sullivan.

"Brian has the experience necessary to make a positive impact on the council," Montgomery said last Saturday. "Brian knows the school system from the point of view as a student and as a teacher. As an assistant district attorney, and with myself and other residents as members of a community-police partnership, Brian has waged a constant battle against crime."

"I ask my supporters to vote for Brian Honan on November 7th," Montgomery concluded.

Debate features sparks between Honan and McDermott

• DEBATE

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Honan fielded questions concerning Allston/Brighton's development needs, zoning laws, the viability of voucher programs in the city of Boston and the Menino administration.

The relatively low voter turnout for the primary was a significant issue in the last election, with a mere 4,758 people casting their ballots. When asked what reasons they believed accounted for the relatively low turnout in Allston/Brighton, Honan cited voter apathy as the main problem.

"Politically speaking, its a non-mayoral election where there's no major candidate [on the ballot]," he said. He then made an impassioned appeal to the audience to help increase voter turnout by "coming out to the polls and bringing their friends" to ensure the community will get its fair share of services in the future.

McDermott attributed low turnout to Allston/Brighton's "highly transient population," consisting mainly of students who reside in the area for the duration of their studies and then move on. Concerning a solution, he stated that "the hard core voters always turn out. We have to do more to replace those people who move out to the suburbs or after college."

The mood of the evening turned scrappy when, following the panel questions, the candidates were given the opportunity to direct questions to one another. Rent control, busing and McDermott's charge that Honan abandoned Allston/Brighton allowed the two candidates to spar vigorously.

Audience members were then allowed to voice their concerns in the next segment of the debate. The candidates were asked by several attending members of the community how they, as city councilor, would deal with situations involving the public schools, the removal of old train tracks, the presence of Vinfen in Brighton center, and acquiring a much needed ATM machine for Oak Square.

The candidates then summarized their individual experiences which qualify them for the position, and how they viewed their role as city councilor.

Afterwards, both candidates were optimistic.

"I felt I was strong and brought out the points that are

important to me," Honan said of the debate itself. Honan also feels positive about the upcoming election. "I feel good," he said. "There's a lot of work that needs to be done. Its been a tight race and the campaign has to dig in and work harder than its has for the past months."

While his schedule has been "completely hectic," McDermott credits the work of his volunteers and the support of his constituents with being able to pull him through. "I feel very good going into the final," he said. "My base generally votes better in a final than a primary. I'm prepared to have a good election day effort."

The Future of Child Care in Allston & Brighton

The Allston/Brighton APAC Child and Family Service Center, shall host a Child Care Symposium for the discussion of the growing need for pre-school and school age care for Allston and Brighton families.

In addition to the general need for more services examples of topics of discussion shall include;

- * History of child care in Allston/Brighton
- * Present status of availability of child care
- * What the future holds for families with young children in Allston/Brighton

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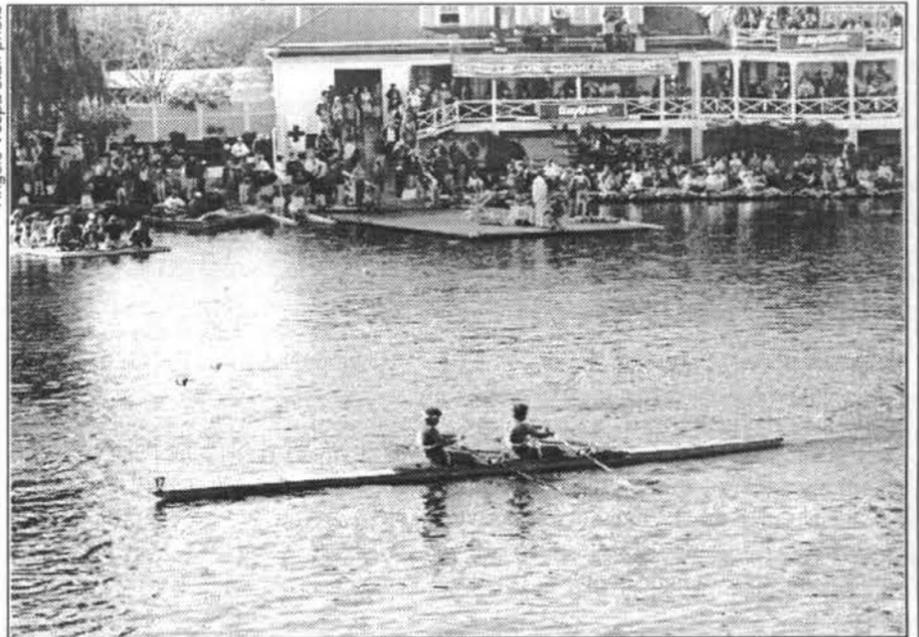
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News

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• ROSARIO

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piled up an lengthy rap sheet. In 1989, he received a one-year suspended sentence on a charge of assault and battery with a deadly weapon. In March of 1991, Rosario was sentenced to spend three years in MCI-Cedar Junction after

pleading guilty to rape and kidnapping charges. And earlier in 1994, Boston police charged him with allegedly raping and assaulting a woman in Jamaica Plain.

In April, he was arrested for armed robbery, and was due to appear in court on October 12th — the same day he was in Brighton District Court, at which he pleaded not

guilty to two charges of rape and one charge of indecent assault and battery on a person over 14.

Rosario is currently in jail after failing to post the \$250,000 bail after pleading not guilty to the rape of a 16-year old girl this summer while working as a supervisor with the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps (BYCC).

Obituaries

BARBARO - Of Brighton, October 9th, Joseph. Husband of the late Ida (DeGiorgio). Father of the late Annette Inghierca. Also survived by two grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Funeral from the Higgins Funeral Home in Roslindale last Friday. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Barbaro-Inghierca Memorial Fund, Bank of Boston, 677 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130.

GALMAN - In Brighton, October 17th, Barbara F. (Field). Devoted mother of David P. of Quincy and Mrs. Linda A. Ryan of Natick. Sister of Mrs. Marguerite McCarthy of Brookline and the late John J. Field, Jr. Also survived by four grandchildren. Funeral from the Lehman and Reen Funeral Home and St. Gabriel Church last Thursday. Internment at Newton Cemetery.

Police

Suspect pancaked at IHOP, charged with A+B

At approximately 4 a.m. on October 22nd, police responded to a call at International House of Pancakes of a State Trooper in "trouble." Upon arrival, it was found that the State Police were not in any need of assistance.

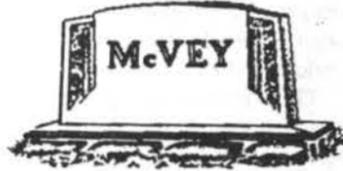
Further investigation determined the suspect allegedly

stated, without provocation, "I think I can take all of you guys on!" The customers stated to police that they thought the man was joking, but then ten minutes later, the suspect allegedly leaped onto the table with the three male customers and began assaulting them.

The restaurant security officer, along with restaurant patrons, restrained the man until police arrived. The suspect was later identified as Patrick Mylod, 28, of Boston. He was charged with assault and battery, and transported to District 14.

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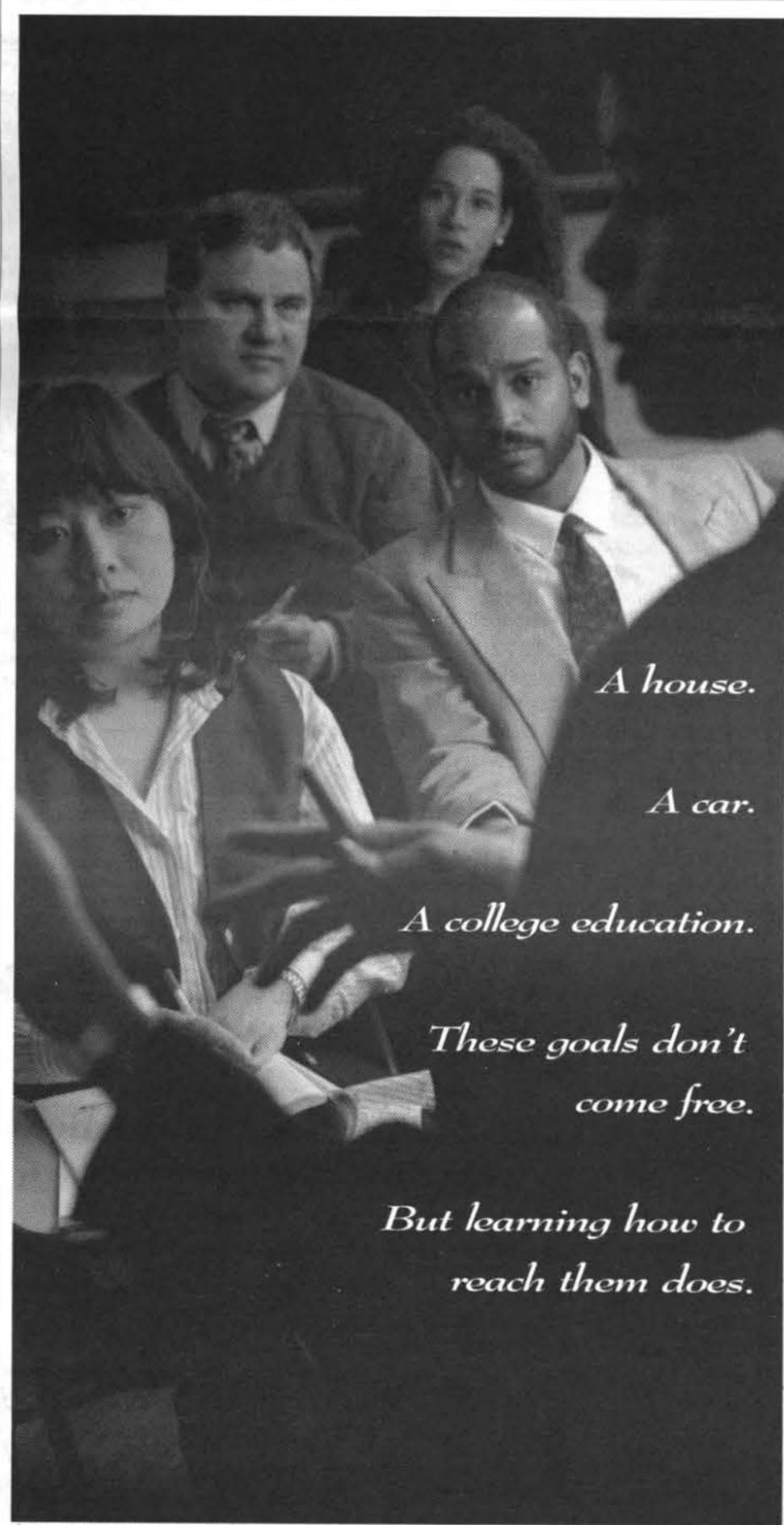
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News

Meehan looks back at year on the job

By Des Martini

Bill Meehan quickly discovered that a life in politics could be a humbling experience.

"I've been here over a year and I still don't have my own office," said Meehan at Boston City Hall last week as Allston/Brighton's representative in the Office of Neighborhood Services revealed that minor inconvenience without a trace of anger and motioned to his desk located just outside of the conference room.

The Boston College graduate had little to complain about during his recent conversation with the *Citizen Journal*. Meehan discussed his freshman year at City Hall and expanded on a number of subjects including his relationship with BC, the pressure of replacing the popular Steve Montgomery and his future political goals.

Citizen Journal: What are your major responsibilities in the Office of Neighborhood Services?

Bill Meehan: My responsibilities involve the effective delivery of basic city services; speaking for the mayor's office in zoning and licensing issues; coordinating city departments to work together on outstanding problems that can't be solved by one department.

An example: there was a problem with a house on Ashford Street where there were kids being extremely loud ... (they were) smashing TV sets, throwing furniture out of the windows, they even beat up a BU student. The police couldn't do anything about it because they didn't have any witnesses to the crimes.

So, we worked together with inspectional services and the police and inspected the house, which was overcrowded and had several trash violations. After the inspection from all of the different agencies, there haven't been any problems there since then.

CJ: Were you met with any public animosity when you succeeded Steve Montgomery?

Meehan: I remember the first public meeting I attended. I walked in and overheard a man saying "Where is this Meehan kid? ... he's not from Allston/Brighton ... he's no Montgomery." But all of the hostility was gone within three weeks.

Montgomery was a hard worker and was well liked. Steve was a great help when I took over. Once I showed that I was willing to work long hours, I was accepted by the public.

CJ: What has surprised you the most since taking the job?

Meehan: When I was interviewing for the job people would warn me that I was going to be so busy and working all of the time. I thought that they were exaggerating. I was so busy in college — I thought it would be a similar situation.

(But) I was in a perpetual state of shock during my first three months on the job. It was unbelievable. At the beginning of each day I would write down people's requests on a pad of paper and cross them out as I completed each task. At the end of the day, I would still have three-fourths of the page unfinished.

I have to set my alarm clock for five a.m. just to do my laundry. I used to jog after work, but now I'm too exhausted

when I get home.

CJ: How is your relationship with Mayor Menino?

Meehan: It's great. I meet with the mayor 4-5 times a week. I also give him a progress report each week in order to communicate the concerns and ideas of the Allston/Brighton residents. I do as much as I can with zoning and licensing ideas.

CJ: How do you deal with conflicts between Boston College and Brighton residents?

Meehan: When there is a complaint or a problem I call BC and say: "Here's a problem, what can we do to solve it?" We work well together. Sure, there are times when we don't agree, but that's part of the business. I don't have a BC bias.

CJ: What can you do for A/B that another person might not be able to accomplish?

Meehan: One advantage that I have over a lot of people is that I'm single. If I was older, married and had other obligations, I wouldn't be allowed to focus 100 percent on the job.

I also think that I have the ability to mediate and negotiate between business groups and the neighborhood. Business interests and neighborhood interests often conflict. I have a sense of how to alleviate concerns rather than picking one side and negatively affecting the other side.

CJ: What goals would you like to accomplish in your second year?

Meehan: First, I picture myself having more time to be more creative and proactive. I've had to spend too much time being reactive in my first year because there are so many unexpected things each day. Small matters always become large. But I'm learning to budget my time better.

I would also like to attend more committee meetings. Some-

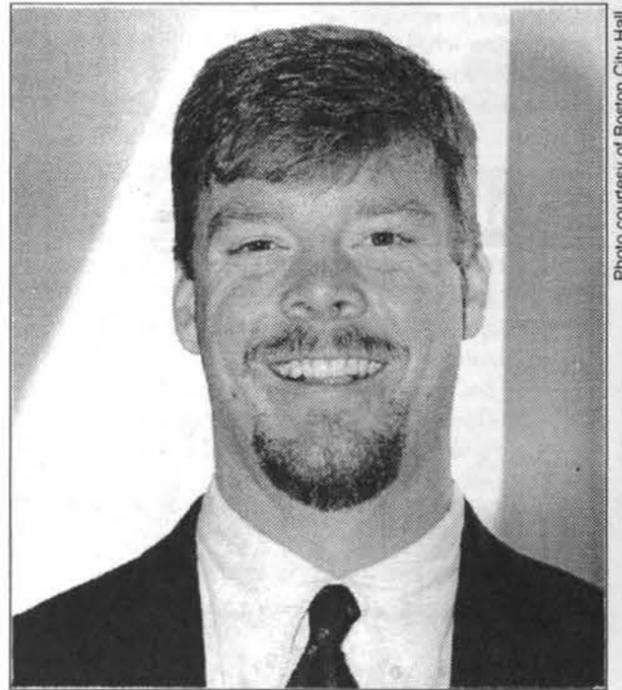


Photo courtesy of Boston City Hall

Bill Meehan has adjusted nicely after a year working for Mayor Menino at Neighborhood Services.

times there are two on the same night and it's hard to decide which one to attend. I'm going to try to choose the meeting where I can play a prominent role.

City Year Serve-a-thon in Boston

By Chris Price

More than 10,000 participants took part this weekend in the City Year Serve-a-thon. Teams of volunteers fanned out across city to help beautify the city, including work in Allston/Brighton in several areas.

Locally, helping out at the Crittenton-Hastings House were teams of helpers from the Suffolk County District Attorney office, along with members of Attorney General Scott Harshbarger's office.

In addition to their work at Crittenton-Hastings, groups of volunteers helped plant bulbs and trees around District 14, assisted elderly residents with chores and cleanup at Fidelis Way, cleaning and painting at the Allston/Brighton Meal Program and helping run a "Kids Carnival" at the West End House.



Sara F. Giffuni staff photo

Suffolk County DA Ralph Martin (center, middle) helps out crews from his office at Crittenton-Hastings House in last weekend's City Year Serve-a-thon.

The project took place nationwide in five other cities (Providence, Columbia, Columbus, Chicago and San Jose), and helped raise an estimated \$750,000 for City Year programs across America.

LOTTERY

Daily Numbers:

- Friday, October 20: 3156
- Thursday, October 19: 7779
- Wednesday, October 18: 0823
- Tuesday, October 17: 0223
- Monday, October 16: 7409
- Sunday, October 15: 7096

Megabucks:

- Wed., October 18: 16, 19, 26, 28, 40, 42
- Sat., October 21: 6, 16, 18, 34, 36, 39

Mass Cash:

- Mon., October 16: 7, 11, 13, 16, 27
- Thur., October 19: 2, 7, 16, 17, 23

Mass Millions:

- Tues., October 17: 23, 27, 39, 43, 45, 49
(Bonus ball: 13)
- Fri., October 20: 6, 7, 26, 27, 42, 45
(Bonus ball: 36)

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Curbside Yardwaste Collection on Saturdays
October 28, November 4, 11 & 18

Put leaves, weeds, hedge trimmings, and grass clippings in composting bags or open containers. Tie brush and small branches with twine. Bring to the curb by 7 a.m. on pick-up days. And please remember... Plastic bags will NOT be accepted.

You can buy home composting bins at half-price from The Boston Building Materials Co-op or the Franklin Park Zoo Gift Shop. To learn more about home composting, come to the Home Composting Workshop at the Zoo, November 4th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. For more information, or to register for the Workshop, call the Recycling Hotline at 635-4959.



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BANK OF BOSTON

Editorial

Rosario could bring down BYCC before Gingrich

Boston police may have found the man who may bring down Mayor Menino's Boston Youth Clean-up Corps (BYCC) quicker than Newt Gingrich: Pedro "Tony" Rosario.

After trying to beg, borrow and steal federal cash from the House of Representatives to continue the financially-troubled BYCC (also known as the Red Shirts) program this summer, Menino should have demanded a background check on each and every one of the supervisors involved with the program. Even a simple check of arrest reports with Boston police would have revealed Rosario's sordid life of crime.

Commissioner of Boston's Park and Recreation Department Patrick Harrington says that after hiring 18,000 kids over the last two years for the program, "we don't have the ability to do background checks on that number of people."

Commissioner Harrington, this isn't the kind of statement that will inspire parents across the city to send their children to work for the Red Shirts next summer. And it certainly isn't the kind of statement that would inspire the federal government to continue funding for this program.

If the BYCC does come back next summer to help out the thousands of city kids who need spending money, there should be a thorough overhaul of the system. And background checks should be the first step in a complete makeover of one of the city's most well-intentioned, but fatally flawed summer programs. The city's parents don't need another Pedro Rosario taking care of their children.

Thumbs up to the volunteers

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well not only in Allston/Brighton, but the rest of the country as the City Year Serve-a-thon showed this past weekend. Raising approximately \$750,000, volunteers from six cities across the country showed that the idea of working for the good of the community still exists not only in Boston, but San Jose, Providence, Columbia, Columbus and Chicago as well.

The sight of nearly 10,000 participants at 250 project sites around the city is enough to confirm that people are still interested in lending a hand when it comes to bettering the community. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make a rainy, windy, nasty day a little brighter.

THESE ARE YOUR PAGES

The *Citizen Journal* encourages readers to submit letters to the editor as well as opinion articles for the newspaper's editorial pages. Submission should be no longer than 1,000 words in length and should contain the author's name, address and phone number. Send submissions in care of Letters to the Editor, the *Citizen Journal*, P.O. Box 659, Boston, MA 02258. Facsimile transmissions are also welcomed; the number is 254-5081. While the *Citizen Journal* attempts to print all submissions, space constraints may prevent us from doing so. The *Citizen Journal* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

A Message from the Boston Police

Cops in Shops in Allston/Brighton

Due to a program known as Cops in Shops, minors will find it tougher than ever to buy alcohol in Allston/Brighton. In early September, the Boston Police Department and local retail establishments joined forces to combat the illegal purchase of alcohol by minors. Cops in Shops is a cooperative effort between retailers and District 14.

D-14 Beat

Cops in Shops features law enforcement officers posing as employees or customers of the participating establishments. This places the focus on the perpetrators — those who try to purchase alcohol illegally.

Undercover officers will be working inside and outside establishments to deter or apprehend both minors who attempt to purchase alcohol illegally and adults who try to procure alcohol for minors. Cops in Shops is scheduled to continue indefinitely.

"The beauty of this program is its flexibility. Undercover officers may be in any store, at any time," said Captain Margaret O'Malley, commander of District 14. "This area is home to thousands of underage college students, and this program will help us to be proactive during the school year to discourage attempts to purchase alcohol illegally."

According to Massachusetts law, anyone under the age of 21 who attempts to purchase alcohol is subject to a fine up to \$300 and 90 days loss of driver's license. Adults who purchase, procure, or furnish alcohol to minors are also subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and a jail term of up to six months.

"Minors are often not held accountable for violations of Massachusetts underage drinking laws. This program will begin to hold them accountable and remind them there are serious consequences when they break the law," said Pamela Norse, commissioner of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission.

Bottom Line

Clyde tells students to get out the vote

What does it take to get the city to provide proper services? It takes lots of complaints by registered voters. Who has the greatest numbers of residents in the Allston/Brighton area? Students. Why don't students pay attention to what's happening? Why don't students register to vote and get involved in local activities?

Clyde Whalen

Because many of them are only really here to get an education at the local colleges, and don't want to spend their off hours concerning themselves with problems they'll leave behind when they graduate and return home. As a result of this lack of concern, students, potentially a driving force for urban betterment, are unproductive year after year as the community slides into shabby slumdom.

Some people with roots in Allston/Brighton think that because students are here for only four years they shouldn't be encouraged to participate in politics. I think that, because students are free of local entanglements and petty activist power games, their votes are exactly what

is needed to break away from machine politics and elect people with a new agenda and a new cast of characters behind the scene.

Therefore, I hope that this year the future leaders of our country now attending area schools like Boston University, Boston College, Harvard, Northeastern, M.I.T., Tufts, and Suffolk University will take time out to register and vote for City Council in District 9, Wards 21 and 22.

This unprecedented mass vote from a formerly disinterested citizenship will grab the attention of the people down at City Hall, augment and revitalize area activist organizations and focus attention of elected officials on addressing the needs and wishes of all Allston/Brighton residents.

Student activity in this coming election will result in putting an end to Allston/Brighton's relegation to the political trash heap. Students! Only you can engineer this miracle. Yours is the voice that can save Allston/Brighton. Register and vote. We need you, now!

Catch the Clyde Whalen Experience every Thursday night at 8 on Boston Cablevision Channel 24.

Citizen Journal

Serving The Community Since 1874

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News

Where are Boston's Main Streets headed?

Where does Mayor Menino want to go with one of his favorite social programs?

By Jennifer Calonia

(Third and final installment in a series)

Where does the future lie for Allston Village and the nine other citywide pilot Main Streets' programs? Boston Mayor Thomas Menino sees the project as a long-term investment with more districts coming on board, and further developments in the future.

"Throughout history, vibrant commercial districts with successful small businesses have been the heart of some of the most popular, livable communities," said Mayor Menino. "Using the Main Street model, our Boston neighborhoods can turn self-determination, hard work and common sense into a force for boosting their economic base."

"Our goal is to help improve the small business and not let them continue to be overrun by shopping malls," Menino also said.

Through a partnership between the City of Boston and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Boston Main Streets program will eventually expand to as many as 20 business districts in all neighborhoods of the city.

Ten were chosen for the pilot venture, with five districts starting up last May, and five, including Allston Village, slated to begin in January of 1996. Five more districts will be selected in 1996 as well. Menino sees the pilot districts as models for the others.

"We will be using the first five as pacesetters for the districts that are yet to start," said Menino. "I think they have all been doing a great job, so there is no rea-

son not to model the others after them."

For Allston Village, just beginning their stepping stones to bring Main Streets into the community, the recent assessment that took place with the city and the National Trust for Historic Preservation gave the district a chance to look into the near future and see what lies ahead. It gave everyone involved a chance to hold interviews with businesses, walk the area, see the improvements that need to be done, and hold a public meeting with the community.

"I think overall the assessment went very well," commented Anne Flanagan, who is part of the Allston Village Main Streets program and Senior Project Manager at the Allston/Brighton Community Development Corporation.

Flanagan felt that the public meeting held at the Kells was a chance for the community to learn more about Main Streets and ask questions about the process. The National Historic Trust Preservation held a slide show and fielded questions from the audience. Flanagan said



Sara F. Giffuni staff photo

Since his days on the City Council, Thomas Menino has been an ardent supporter of the Main Streets program. Now working as Mayor, he has implemented the plan citywide for the first time in history.

that over 50 people attended the meeting, including area residents and local business people.

"The turnout was great, and I thought that the thoughtful questions asked showed that people are really interested in the effect Main Streets will have on the community," Flanagan said.

Letters/Opinion

Suffolk County DA Martin reflects on feelings in wake of Simpson verdict

As both an African-American and a prosecutor, I am troubled by the ideological brawl that the Simpson verdict has provoked. The verdict prompted debate about whether a largely African-American jury unjustly acquitted an African-American defendant. Newspaper and broadcast analyses of the verdict's implications have been largely anecdotal, revealing

Ralph Martin

the polar reactions of portions of black and white America.

The post-verdict proclamations of many African-Americans — "the Juice is loose" and "we won one" — are countered by the aghast reactions from many white Americans. The media has reported, in abundance, the belief among many white Americans that the unanimous verdict rendered by nine African-Americans, two white and one Latino, was a racially biased decision. The visceral, but largely misplaced reactions within both communities reflect how racial attitudes still shape our thinking and emotions.

For African-Americans to lionize a wife-beater and a person who never displayed more than a passing concern for the African-American community is to insult

the African-American martyrs who made great sacrifices in the fight for racial equality. And African-Americans who rejoice in the verdict solely because a person of color was acquitted, despite their quiet concessions that Simpson could be guilty, ignore decades of lawsuits, protests and legislative efforts aimed at eliminating racially-biased juries. These heroic efforts anticipated adequate minority representation on juries so that justice would be color blind, not race conscious.

African-Americans celebrating the acquittal of an African-American solely because of his race are no different than southern whites celebrating the acquittal of white defendants in the Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney

The public has a right to expect objective professionalism from its law enforcement officers. Law enforcement should take the Simpson verdict as a warning; never give the defendant an excuse to question the competency, thoroughness and fairness of the investigation and prosecution.

lynching trials. We should applaud verdicts only when they recognize the importance of our humanity as the sovereign denominator.

At the same time, white Americans who denigrate the validity of the verdict due to the jury's racial composition ignore the stern criticism leveled at police and prosecutors by some of the Simpson jurors. Ac-

cording to news reports, the "not guilty" verdict was influenced by sloppy collection of crime scene evidence, casual processing of physical evidence and the bigotry of detective Mark Fuhrman. At least one white juror affirmed that she was troubled by these issues.

White and black Americans have every right to doubt O.J. Simpson's innocence. We can also question whether justice was truly achieved after just three hours of jury deliberation following nine months of evidence. But we should not assume that the jury's decision was based exclusively on race merely because the public reaction has been divided largely along racial lines.

Despite our tendency to "localize" the Simpson case, it's California, it's Los Angeles, it's Hollywood — and I know that in many jurisdictions, including my own (Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop), juries hold law enforcement witnesses to higher standards than civilian witnesses. Juries are less tolerant of inconsistencies and failed memories among law enforcement officers than among civilian witnesses. We need to address this cynicism by providing the best training and equipment to law enforcement personnel in order to prevent investigative flaws in the future.

I also know that many jurisdictions, including mine, successfully rely on juries comprised of blacks and whites to render just verdicts in criminal trials. The Simpson verdict will not change this practice.

The public has a right to expect objective professionalism from its law enforcement officers. Law enforcement should take the Simpson verdict as a warning; never give the defendant an excuse to question the competency, thoroughness and fairness of the investigation and prosecution. The prosecution is held to a much higher standard than the defense. It has always been that way. It is what our constitution demands.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Our sustenance shall not vanish from our Thanksgiving table, and will always remain as we give thanks on this day, and pray for a world of contentment and peace forever in our world.

Saundra Boniovka
Brookline

Giving thanks for Making Strides

On behalf of the American Cancer Society, I want to thank everyone from the Greater Boston Community who participated as a walker or pledger for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on September 24th in Boston. It was wonderful to be one of the more than 15,000 people from across the state that walked at this event,

bringing us within reach of our \$1.5 million goal!

Our work is not yet finished, though. We encourage everyone who walked to collect any outstanding pledges as soon as possible, and send them to the American Cancer Society at P.O. Box 3163, Boston, MA. 02241-3163. Those persons who were unable to join us in Boston should also send along any

pledges collected. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fight against breast cancer may do so by contacting the American Cancer Society's Central Boston office at 437-1900.

Our thanks against for your efforts and determination!
Christine Baril
Making Strides Chair, Central Boston

News

WEH: We were never told of Rosario's record

• ROSARIO

Continued from page 1

piled up an lengthy rap sheet. In 1989, he received a one-year suspended sentence on a charge of assault and battery with a deadly weapon. In March of 1991, Rosario was sentenced to spend three years in MCI-Cedar Junction after

pleading guilty to rape and kidnapping charges. And earlier in 1994, Boston police charged him with allegedly raping and assaulting a woman in Jamaica Plain.

In April, he was arrested for armed robbery, and was due to appear in court on October 12th — the same day he was in Brighton District Court, at which he pleaded not

guilty to two charges of rape and one charge of indecent assault and battery on a person over 14.

Rosario is currently in jail after failing to post the \$250,000 bail after pleading not guilty to the rape of a 16-year old girl this summer while working as a supervisor with the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps (BYCC).

Obituaries

BARBARO - Of Brighton, October 9th, Joseph. Husband of the late Ida (DeGiorgio). Father of the late Annette Inchierca. Also survived by two grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Funeral from the Higgins Funeral Home in Roslindale last Friday. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Barbaro-Inchierca Memorial Fund, Bank of Boston, 677 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130.

GALMAN - In Brighton, October 17th, Barbara F. (Field). Devoted mother of David P. of Quincy and Mrs. Linda A. Ryan of Natick. Sister of Mrs. Marguerite McCarthy of Brookline and the late John J. Field, Jr. Also survived by four grandchildren. Funeral from the Lehman and Reen Funeral Home and St. Gabriel Church last Thursday. Internment at Newton Cemetery.

Police

Suspect pancaked at IHOP, charged with A+B

At approximately 4 a.m. on October 22nd, police responded to a call at International House of Pancakes of a State Trooper in "trouble." Upon arrival, it was found that the State Police were not in any need of assistance.

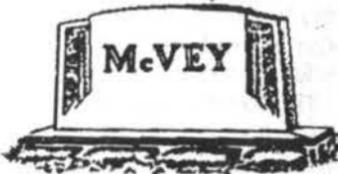
Further investigation determined the suspect allegedly

stated, without provocation, "I think I can take all of you guys on!" The customers stated to police that they thought the man was joking, but then ten minutes later, the suspect allegedly leaped onto the table with the three male customers and began assaulting them.

The restaurant security officer, along with restaurant patrons, restrained the man until police arrived. The suspect was later identified as Patrick Mylod, 28, of Boston. He was charged with assault and battery, and transported to District 14.

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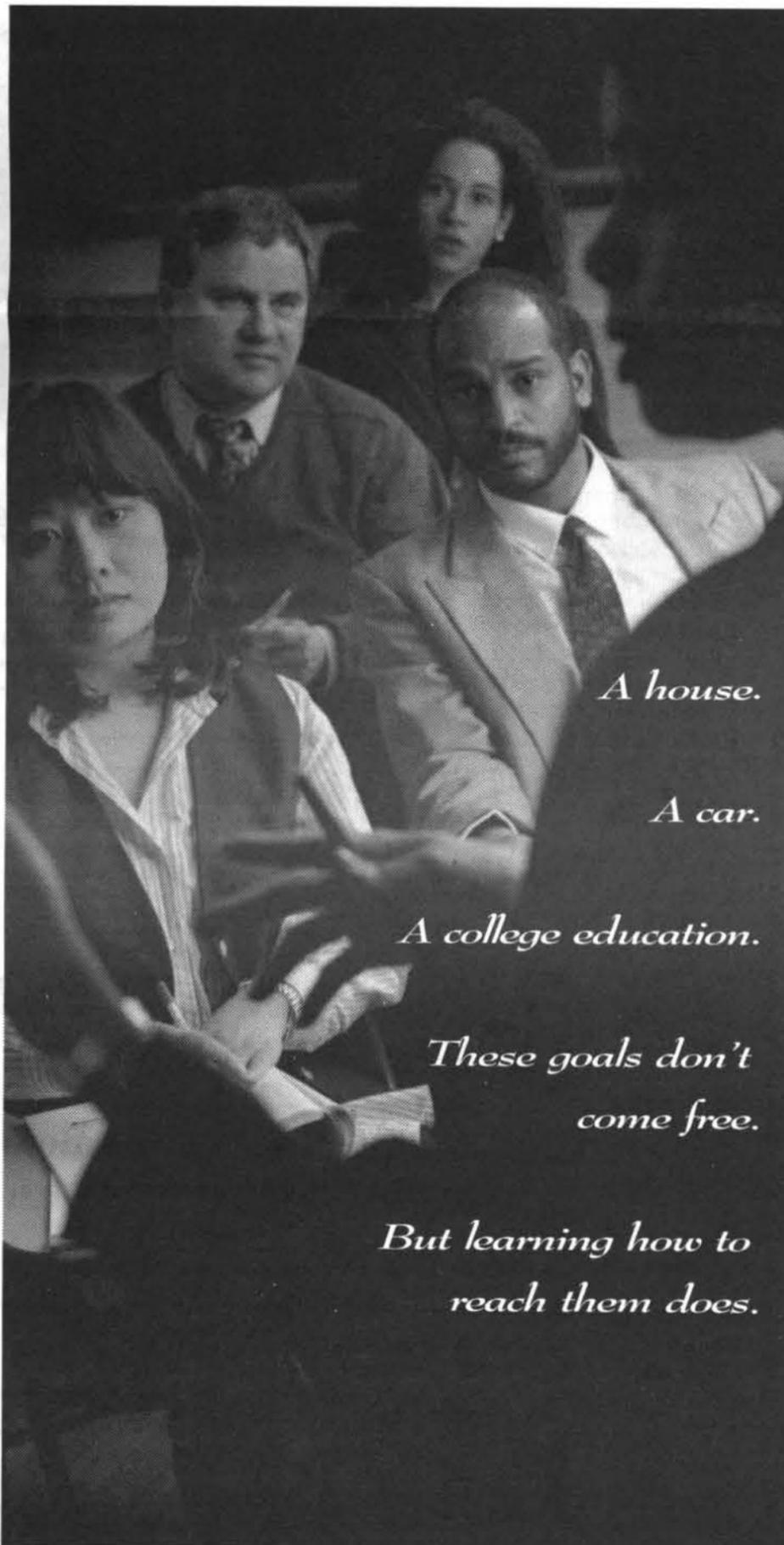
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Please take the time to read this ad because I want you to know the truth about what goes on in the Boston City Council. I know this letter is lengthy but I want the the truth to be told.

1. Affirmative Action — I strongly oppose this action because I feel that it discriminates against qualified people and those individuals who get the highest mark in any exam. I do not care if you are black or white. I feel that whoever scores the highest mark should be the person who gets the job - I do not care what civil service dictates.

2. Privatization — This is nothing but out right union busting. "Case in point." The merge of Boston City Hospital and the University Hospital. 40% of the dedicated employees are going to lose their jobs. 10 and I repeat 10 councillors voted to merge the two hospitals, O'Neil, Iannella and Yancey are the councillors who opposed. Now you can know who the 10 councillors who voted to privatize the merge, yet the 10 who voted begged the unions for an endorsement - hypocritical.

3. I have been a full time councillor and have never had another income.

4. Forced Busing — I have opposed forced busing since 1974, and I have proved to be right.

5. Water & Sewer — In 1986, Councillors O'Neill, Langone and Tierney voted against this rip off for the tax payers money, the rest of the councillors who voted for the creation of this department received a lot of patronage and that is the bottom line patronage.

6. City Budget — The council had 55 hearings \$1,300,000,000 one billion, 300 million dollars and not one cent was cut. They never had a quorum present at any of these hearings and yet, the budget was passed, the whole budget with no cuts. Patronage again.

7. School Budget — Same thing, patronage, in 1974 the budget was \$107,000,000. Now in 1995 with 40,000 less students and 92 schools, the budget is close to one half billion dollars. \$33,000,000 for these useless buses with three and four children on them. Not one cent was cut. I tried to cut it, but was shot down by my dear colleagues. I tell you, it is not easy being an at large councillor when I get out voted on most anything - I will never change.

8. Note; I want reading, writing, arithmetic and history taught in our schools. The students cannot pray in class, they can't pledge allegiance to the flag, but they keep issuing condoms.

I filed an order to stop the distribution of condoms in the school was defeated by a 7 to 6 vote.

The students are crying for books and the school department cannot afford them. Don't you think that out of a half of a billion dollar budget, the student should have books in order to learn?

9. Pay raise — The majority of the councillors were here for approximately a year and raised their salaries \$9,500 dollars. I voted against the raise and I did get the increase, but I give the raise to Dana Farber Cancer Unit for the kids that have cancer - I am in my third year of remission thank God.

10. As a full time councillor, anybody that has ever been to the zoning board of appeals, the licensing board, or committee hearings. You know that I am always here helping everybody black or white.

11. I go to a lot of night hearings all over the city because I am a city wide councillor. That is more than I can say about most of the councillors here at the council. I do my job and I am proud of it. I am tired of hearing, "It's not my district — you go."

12. As long as I am here, there will never be a civilian review board for police or fire departments.

13. The administration and some of my fellow councillors would like me to fade away, but no chance, the people are with me, not the politicians or political hacks.

14. People ask about my education, it is as follows: Hugh O'Brien School in Roxbury, Roxbury Memorial High School, Suffolk Law School (Left to go into the army.) after serving my country for four years. Then I returned to complete my two year course at Staley College.

15. Member of the V.F.W., American Legion, Silver Star D.A.V., Amvets, Irish American Veterans, Boston Lodge of Elks, Sons of Italy, Knights of Columbus, N.R.A. Goal, Emerald Society B.P.D., Ring #4 Boxing Club National Conference of Shomrim Society, Fraternal Order of Police, 101st Infantry Veterans Association, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Orient Heights Yacht Club, Dorchester Yacht Club, International Boxing Association.

16. To my comrades and veterans, Gold Star Mothers and Ladies Auxiliary, my war record is as follows: 8 Battle Stars - Bronze Arrow Head for Beach Head Landings at North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. I received a citation of the Yellow Wreath on my uniform by the late President Harry S. Truman.

17. People came here many years ago of all nationalities. They did not come here with their hands out, they worked and overcame the language barrier. They raised good families and gave up sons and daughters to defend this country. They did not tear it apart like some of these radical activist who have done nothing for this country, the good old United States of America.

A special note to my seniors, I've been your champion for years and will always be there for you.

I am #4 on the ballot and would appreciate one of your four votes for City Councillor at Large.

Thank you,

Albert L. O'Neil
City Councillor at Large

Committee to Re-Elect Albert L. "Dapper" O'Neil

4354 Washington Street, Roslindale, MA 02131

— Paid For by the Committee to Re-Elect Albert L. "Dapper" O'Neil —