

Community News

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FREE



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photo by Peter Cirincione

Explosion Rocks Brighton



photo by Peter Cirincione

45 people were left homeless -- but safe -- after the December 2nd fire at 1706 Commonwealth Ave.

Local Projects Vie For Funding

by Pat McGuigan

The first steps in the annual process of spending Boston's federal community development funds have been taken in the last month. Public hearings were held in Allston-Brighton and other neighborhoods during November to obtain citizen input on how Boston should spend its 1978 total of \$25.2 million.

IN ALLSTON BRIGHTON

The second and last public hearing was held in Allston Brighton on Monday night, Nov. 21 at the Jackson Mann school. About 50 residents attended the meeting chaired by Little City Hall manager Ann Muenster. People suggested projects and programs in the neighborhood which they thought should be funded with the block grant money. (All local suggestions will be considered at Little City Hall; favorable projects will be recommended to a special committee of the Mayor and his top advisors. The Mayor will make his plans public to the City Council in February, 1978 and the city's final proposals must be submitted to Washington by April 15, 1978.)

Representatives from the Jackson Mann school said they needed

money to offer more programs after school and on Saturdays. There were proposals to fund more services for senior citizens including an expanded lunch program at St. John of God's Hospital. Bart McDonough, representing the tenants from Fidelis Way, wanted money for roof repairs and a wide variety of social services for the development's residents.

These proposals for Fidelis Way were strongly supported by many people attending the hearing. Joe Smith, of the Allston Civic Association, recommended that more money go into the Housing Improvement Program and also that block grant funds be used to relocate the Allston Branch Library in the now vacant Allston Fire Station on Harvard Ave. Other suggestions focused on the need for street and sidewalk repairs, landscaping, parks maintenance and renovations at the West End House to provide shower facilities for girls.

No decisions have yet been made on local projects. Muenster stressed that ideas will be accepted until Dec. 15 at 5p.m. and she encouraged anyone who wanted more information or needed assistance in their proposal to contact her at Little City Hall.

ISSUES RAISED

A number of important issues were raised during the hearings and afterwards. Several people complained that Allston Brighton has not been receiving its fair share of block grant money. Mike Parsons, an APAC worker, pointed out that Allston Brighton received about 3% of Boston's community development funds over the last 3 years although it contains more than 10% of the city's population. And with the new regulations on low and moderate income (which would mean a 1970 family income of less than \$9150), it is possible that this community might do even worse. Parsons' arguments brings up important questions about how the money is spent -- in theory and in practice.

In theory the program is supposed to help those people and those neighborhoods in the most trouble. And Allston-Brighton, despite all its problems, is still better off than many parts of the city. It does not make much sense to give out the money just based on population, because you would then be ignoring the places where the money is most needed and could do the most good. We can all agree that the Newtons and Wellesleys do not need the money as much as the Bostons and

Somervilles and the same is true for neighborhoods inside the city. So perhaps, in theory at least, Allston Brighton did get its fair share.

In practice, however, things do not always work as they are supposed to. Block grant funding is a very political process in Boston. All final decisions are made by the Mayor and his top advisors. It seems unlikely that they would fund projects supported by political enemies of the Mayor. Also, those community [continued on page 10]

INSIDE:

- P. 2 Inquiring Photographer Letters
- P. 3 Jackson-Mann Rent Control
- P. 5 Noah Worcester
- P. 6-7 Arson Report
- P. 8 Chelsea Book Dispute
- P. 9 Theatre Reviews
- P. 11 Tax Evasion
- P. 12 Community Services

ABCNews

BOX 436,
ALLSTON, MASS.
02134

254-6798

Staff:

Tom Cohan, Lou Cooney, Elaine Fersh, Jerry Feuer, Tom Gallagher, Ann Getman, Tom Huth, Tom Kieffer, Gloria Liepzig, Pat McGuigan.

Contributors:

Peter Cirincione, Diane Englander, Sharon Hamer, Madeline Parker, Philip Warburg.

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Inquiring Photographer



Carl Olson -- Brighton:

I like my neighborhood -- yes. I'm from Pennsylvania. I've lived in Brighton for 17 years. I like it because it is convenient to everything without being right downtown.



Catherine Buckley -- Brighton:

I like it because Brighton has access to town, and all my friends live here. I went to grammar school and high school here, and I've lived here all my life.

by Sharon Hamer



Mrs. Fred Maloney -- Brighton:

I like it. It's a good neighborhood; it's residential. We have yards and it's quiet. It's also convenient to transportation, and it's a place where you can walk.

Letters

To the Staff:

As President of the Brighton Historical Society, I am naturally interested in the fate of the Oak Square School in Brighton. It is Boston's oldest standing wooden schoolhouse, an architectural treasure constructed in 1890. I am opposed to its closing both on preservationist and educational grounds.

First to the preservationist arguments. Those who share my conviction that architecturally distinguished buildings should be preserved, will recognize the danger inherent in this situation. Once the school is closed, it will become a target for the vandal and the developer. The city, which is anxious to expand its tax base, would no doubt welcome the construction of an apartment complex or commercial building on the site. I am fully aware that Boston is in serious financial trouble, but an old building that gives a community a sense of its heritage is priceless. Our congested neighborhoods have greater need of such buildings than they have of added apartment houses or fast-food outlets.

I likewise oppose the closing on educational grounds. The Boston Municipal Research Bureau's contention that the school's physical plant is deficient is unfounded. Having recently toured the Oak Square School, I can attest that its facilities are adequate. The fact that it is small should be accounted an advan-

tage, for young children thrive in such an atmosphere. The school's relatively high reading scores support that contention. But most importantly, the parents support the school. It has their confidence. This cannot be said of every school in the city.

Finally, the report itself. The Boston Municipal Research Bureau has no official status. It relies on business community contributions for its funding. Its staff is tiny. It has, moreover, no particular educational expertise. Yet the Bureau claims to have completed a comprehensive study of the condition of all the school buildings in the city.

The Oak Square teachers claim never to have seen or heard from a Boston Municipal Research Bureau staff person. They contend that the report's description is fallacious. I am inclined to believe them. My own reading of the report uncovered several er-

rors, and not just with respect to the Oak Square School. Is a report that contains erroneous information to be taken seriously?

The Oak Square School deserves the support of every Bos-

tonian who cares about the people of this city, their historical heritage, and their right to a voice in the education of their children.

William P. Marchione, Jr.
Brighton

School Bus Drivers Push for Union

Boston's school bus drivers, 80% of whom have already signed union cards, will be voting this month on whether to unionize.

The election comes less than two months after a one-day walkout by the drivers resulted in a temporary settlement of their grievances.

Drivers have been angry since September of this year when an agreement between the Boston School Committee and the companies (Brush Hill and Hudson Bus Companies) reduced the wages of the drivers by \$.88 an hour. Additionally, many drivers had their hours reduced, dropping their weekly salary as much \$50.

That agreement also contained other provisions which hurt the drivers and children who ride the buses. A new flat rate pay system was based on a time schedule that did not allow adequate time to deliver the children safely to their destinations. Drivers were also being forced to drive buses that failed to meet Registry and Dept. of Public Utilities standards. The last straw came when a driver with four years experience was fired for union organizing.

On October 14, after the companies refused to meet with drivers about their grievances, the drivers showed their strength by walking off the job. The Brush Hill Company conceded to their demands at noon, but all the drivers stayed together and refused to return to work until Hudson also agreed. The next day, with the help of Federal mediators, an agreement was reached. The drivers have since charged that the company is already going back on the agreement.

Last year, drivers at Carroll Bus Company voted in a union, but the Boston School Committee cut Carroll out of the new three-year contract. The companies are now under investigation for defrauding the City of millions of dollars by billing for buses that were not in use.

Faced with continued harassment and poor working conditions, Brush Hill and Hudson drivers, having learned from the Carroll experience, seem to be sticking together. Few drivers crossed the picket lines in the October 14 walkout, and there is a sense of unity among black, white and Latin drivers. If this spirit of unity continues, the drivers will probably win the union election and begin contract negotiations.

The Millennial

by Isidore Levitt

*People needing people
More than happens at a glance,
Let us -- Children of New Days --
Weave a vastness of romance.*

*Let us welcome one and all --
Be they alien or kin;
Love's wide canopy receives
Rich and poor, in still or din.*

*People needing people
More than ever it is told
We give handshake and embrace
And uncommonly unfold.*

*Like the open sea of tides
Which contains unfathomed wealth
Is the quenchless human soul
When millennially welled...*

Isidore Levitt is a Brighton resident, and is Poet Laureate of The Gray Panthers.

Magnarelli Named Again Local Firms Dodge Taxes

by Tom Gallagher

Allston Tower of Pizza and the Huffarelli General Contracting Company, both of Allston-Brighton, have been cited for failure to pay Massachusetts Employment Security taxes.

The two companies were among a list of 83 cited by Attorney General Francis Belotti on November 2. The taxes in question are placed in a general fund which provides unemployment benefits to workers who are laid off from their jobs.

Tower of Pizza is located at 178 Harvard Avenue. Its owner is Charles Reeves III of 253 Weston Road, Wellesley. According to Assistant Attorney General Joe Ayoub, Tower owes the state a total of \$3,633 dating from the second half of 1974 to the present.

Huffarelli General Contracting is located at 353 Washington St. in Brighton Center. Huffarelli's president and treasurer is Daniel Magnarelli of 141 Brayton Road, Oak Square. The Attorney General's office reports that Huffarelli owes \$45,700 covering all of 1975 and the first half of 1976.

The two firms are being arraigned on December 6 and 7.

THE FROG POND

Although Huffarelli General Contracting is probably not a household word throughout Allston-Brighton, its president, Daniel Magnarelli has been in the news before. Magnarelli is also president of Monument Contracting Company which also lists its

address as 353 Washington St.

Monument Contracting was the recipient of a \$228,816 "no-bid" contract for the construction of the Frog Pond skating rink on Boston Common. Controversy has surrounded this contract since it was granted three years ago.

On December 2, 1974 the Boston Parks Department began drawing plans for the skating rink. On the same day, Magnarelli and others associated with him donated \$2,500 to Mayor White's re-election campaign. By December 11, Monument had begun work on the project which had an estimated final cost of \$170,000. On December 12, Magnarelli and associates contributed another \$3,500 to the mayor's campaign.

FORGIONE

Under state law, public bidding is required on any construction contract worth more than \$2,000. Yet Parks Commissioner Anthony Forgione gave Monument the \$170,000 contract without any public notice or bidding. The City's Finance Commission at first okayed the project. And when they finally realized that the Frog Pond contract exceeded the legal limit for "no-bid" contracts by \$168,000, it was too late — work had long since begun.

Forgione has denied any connection between Magnarelli's campaign contributions and the awarding of the contract. But the Frog Pond incident is widely re-

garded as the reason for "Tough Tony"'s losing his job at the Parks Commission.

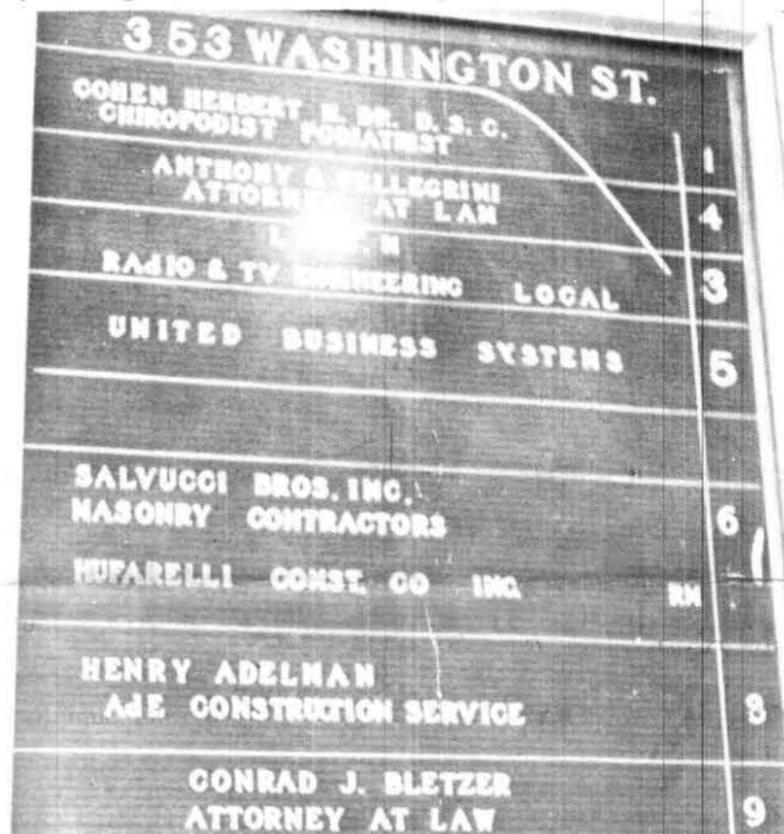
Even after having left the Parks Commission, Forgione has been mired in controversy. A *Boston Globe* Spotlight article depicted his current position as head of the Boston Arena as a "no-show" job. Some time before that, Forgione was observed supervising renovation work on a building which a friend of his had purchased from the city. After purchasing it, the friend had sold the property to a real estate trust controlled by Forgione. As a City employee, Forgione is himself in-

eligible to purchase property from the City.

COST OVERRUN

After starting construction on the Frog Pond, Monument Contracting found that the job would cost the city over \$58,000 more than initially estimated. It was not until March 1, 1976 that the City Council authorized payment of the money, by a 6-3 margin.

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office has conducted an investigation of the contract. But thus far no indictments have been handed down.



Pocket Mime

[continued from page 9]

The parallel action form is like the split screen effect of films, but more dimensional and imaginative as mime. Two complimentary actions take place on the stage at once, in different places, with two actors creating different impressions of one event. The actions are timed or choreographed as images of the same event, but with no direct or indirect contact between the actors. *Tree* uses parallel action & lighting techniques to define space and time sequences. It is the story of a Tree and a boy, with Michael Atwell maturing from small boy to old man and J. Tormey from seed to mature Tree. Throughout the piece the

Tree is illuminated, and a series of blackouts on the boy's life show the passage of time, the Tree maturing as the man reaches the end of his life.

But the most fluid piece, which closed the performance was *Waves*. As the lights come up we see Bentley, Girard and Tormey crouching, backs to the audience, with their arms creating the continuous motion of the surf rising, cresting and falling against the shore. Atwell enters the water as a swimmer, suspended across Girard's back, diving, swimming, struggling against the waves and finally submerged and overwhelmed. In one long, graceful, continuous motion the swimmer becomes part of the sea, adding his body to the motion of the waves as they continue, uninterrupted to rise and fall.

Because the actors are so skilled at their craft, Pocket Mime makes what they do look easy and natural. But their performance is the result of years of working together to build and perfect their repertoire, currently consisting of 40 active pieces.

Begun in 1970 as the Merriam Webster Pocket Mime Circus, the company has undergone many changes. Originally playing for free (or pass the hat) in any public place that lent itself to the medium (hospitals, museums, schools) they gradually built up their repertoire and a loyal following, and so established a resident theater in Kenmore Square. At present they are a touring company of five members (four performers and a stage manager-lighting technician), performing at high schools, colleges and community theaters around the country.

Theatre is both a very personal and a social experience: mime integrates the two completely, and Pocket Mime does it superbly. Their performance was entertaining, instructive, funny, sensual and thought-provoking. It was everything theatre should be in teaching us new ways to look at familiar objects, situations and events. If the Jackson-Mann community program continues to make theatre of this quality accessible to the community, theatre can become for all of us what it has been for all too few: a dimensional, creative medium of expanding and expressing ourselves through common experience.

Pocket Mime will perform on New Year's Eve at First Night, and is available for performances, lectures and workshops. 266-1770



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<p>Brighton Branch 40 Academy Hill Rd. 782-6032</p> <p>Children's Films every Thursday at 3:30pm. 12/1 The Savage Gang; Brown Wolf. 12/8 The Frog Prince; Jackie Visits the Zoo; Ballet Girl. 12/15 Rusty and the Falcon; Surfing. 12/22 The Emperor's Nightingale; The Little Sunshade. 12/29 The Little Drummer Boy; Castle of Caros. Special on 12/6 Pippi Longstocking at 3:30pm, and again on 12/9 at 3:00pm.</p> <p>Feature films for everyone on Wednesdays at 2:00pm. 12/7 Gilbert and Sullivan 12/14 The Magnificent Ambersons 12/21 The Great Dictator, Chaplin 12/28 Tale of Two Cities</p> <p>Story hour for pre-schoolers on Fridays at 10am.</p> <p>Allston Branch 161 Harvard Ave. 787-3332</p>	<p>Faneuil Branch 219 Faneuil St. Oak Square 782-6705</p> <p>Mother Group on Tuesdays at 10. 12/6 Joanne Shepherd will lead discussion group, "Exercise and the local Y" 12/13 Topic - Books for reading and giving at Christmas 12/20 Christmas Party for Pre-schoolers. Christmas Crafts Program for kids on Monday 12/5 at 3:00pm. Story Hour for schoolage children on Fridays at 3:30pm.</p> <p>12/2 Story Hour 12/9 Film at 3, Hard Days Night 12/16 Story Hour -- Nutcracker 12/23 Christmas Stories 12/30 Film at 3, Yellow Submarine</p> <p>Women's Community Health Center 137 Hampshire Street Cambridge 02139</p> <p>Well-woman health care: yearly check-ups, Pap smears, or birth control, can be a supportive, learning experience. We are now offering participatory gynecological care in a self-help setting designed to increase women's participation and control over the health care experience. For further information, or to make an appt., please call Women's Community Health at 547-2802.</p>	<p>Allston-Brighton Neighborhood Health Center 141 North Harvard St., Allston 783-0500</p> <p>Comprehensive family medical care. Services include OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Dental Clinic, Nutritional Counseling and Exercise classes. No emergency facilities available. Hours: M. W. F. 8:30 - 5:00, TH. 8:30 - 8:30, Tu. 1:00-9:30 p.m.</p> <p>High blood pressure screening clinic to be held on Oct. 4 from 1-4:30pm at the Referral Center, 34 Fidelis Way.</p> <p>Birth Day P.O.Box 388 Cambridge, Ma. 02138 288-7404</p> <p>Homebirth information and referral Women controlled, family controlled childbirth. Open monthly meetings with an introduction to birth at home and other alternatives. Birth Day offers an 8-week series of meetings in preparation for birth at home. Next series begins Nov. 8, 1977. Speakers available, call for more information.</p> <p>Community Day Care for the Elderly 50 Sutherland Road 734-0800</p> <p>Recreation and social programs with transportation, nursing monitoring, and meals for the elderly who require day time supervision or who are on the verge of requiring a nursing home. Hours: 9:00-5:00, Mon-Fri.</p>	<p>Youth Activities Commission Allston-Brighton Youth Resource Center 311 Washington St., Brighton 254-4021</p> <p>Delinquency counseling, crisis intervention, community outreach, tutoring, educational counseling, court/police liaison.</p> <p>YMCA 470 Washington St., Brighton 782-3535</p> <p>Ongoing Courses- Slimnastics, Tues. and Thurs. nights. Diet Workshops, Wed. nights.</p> <p>Exercise for men: Monday and Wednesday 12-1 p.m. and 5:30-6, \$3.50 per session, free for members.</p> <p>Youth Program- arts and crafts, floor hockey, basketball, every day, Mon.-Fri.</p> <p>Most other programs have started, but for information on late registration, call 782-3535</p>
		CRISIS	
		<p>Poison Information Center, 232-2120</p> <p>Rape, 492-RAPE 7273]</p> <p>Project Place, 267-9150</p>	

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