Slam, ban, thank you, mayor

Menino, task force discuss BC stadium expansion, parking ban

By Ben Phillips

Acting Mayor Thomas Menino and other city officials met Sunday with members of the Allston-Brighton/Boston College Community Relations Committee to discuss BC's proposed expansion of Alumni Stadium— as well as a game-day-only parking ban proposed for Brighton.

"It was a very positive meeting with a lot of common ground," said Menino spokesman Howard Leibowitz, adding that the acting mayor spoke with committee members for about an hour.

Leibowitz said committee members asked Menino to establish a stadium expansion task force containing representatives from various city agencies. He added that the acting mayor hoped to construct such a board within the week.

"They also asked the mayor to reiterate the city's recognition of the task force as a legitimate representative of the community," Leibowitz said, adding that Menino planned to issue such a statement sometime this week.

Taking out the A-Line tracks

Removal of old trolley line rails slated for next June

By Sean Donovan

Gov. Weld's recent signing of the Fiscal Year 1994 budget included a provision to remove the long unused A-line MBTA tracks by next June 30. The tracks, which run from Packard's Square in Allston to Watertown, haven't seen public use since 1969.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority spokesman James Ball estimated the cost of removal at $2.5 million. "The language was included that we remove them, but there's no money for it," he said. "No appropriation was made for this project."

But state Rep. Susan Tracy (D-Allston-Brighton) said there were a number of existing possibilities to finance the project, including transportation bond accounts or the regular operating budget.

Tracy—who is also managing Suffolk County Sheriff Robert Kufu's campaign for mayor—said this project was one of the first items she began working on when she took office in 1991.

"The anger level and the frustration level is so high, we had to act on this to make it happen," she said.

Calling the tracks "an eyesore to the community and a hazard," Rep. Kevin Honan said he, Tracy, Rep. Warren Tolman, Sen. Mike Barrett, and Sen. Lois Pines have called for a July 27 meeting with MBTA general manager John J. Haley Jr. to ensure the removal plan is quickly and positively put into action.

Continued on page 2

Luzier wants to be winner in November

Former assistant AG looking for District 9 seat

By Harrison Sheppard

Don't call him Mr. Lucky.

Although he has apparently had a string of extraordinary odds-busting successes that would bewilder the craftiest of Las Vegas bookmakers, Will Luzier prefers to emphasize his experience and his stance on the issues in his bid for the District 9 City Council seat, currently held by 10-year incumbent Councilor Brian McLaughlin.

First Luzier won a $866,000 Megabucks jackpot in December 1989— netting him, after taxes, about $30,000 a year for the next two decades. Next: "I won—you know the story on my luck's been done, OK?— but I won a year's worth of free movie passes too," he said.

"I'm not hesitant to talk about [luck] but I don't want it to overshadow my experience and the issues," said Luzier, a former state assistant attorney general. "I have a background in law enforcement, I have management experience, and as a lawyer I have been a negotiator. It seems to me from my perspective that I'm the best person for the job in the race right now. Luck is
Menino orders MDC to finish pool

After receiving a letter from Acting Mayor Thomas Menino, MDC officials said Tuesday the pool would be painted this week, repairs would be completed and the pool should be reopened by Saturday.

In a letter issued Thursday to MDC commissioner Ilyan Bhatti, Menino and District 9 City Councilor Brian McLaughlin asked Bhatti to “fast-track” pool repairs. “These families and young people deserve more than promises. They deserve action,” they said. “If we believe in young people, we need facilities like this pool to show the children that we want them to have fun this summer, and to be safe.”

VFW to ask for liquor license

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2022 plans to ask the city’s Licensing Board and Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for a full liquor license at its Faneuil Street building, according to press reports.

VFW members apparently want to expand their current license to serve liquor, which now restricts service to members and guests of the VFW.

The hearing will be held Aug. 11 at 10:30 a.m. in City Hall.

A-Line

Continued from page 1 efficiently implemented.

“They’re a real hazard,” Honan said of the tracks. “They haven’t been used for over 20 years and they have an adverse impact on the business community. I think that Allston-Brighton, from a beautification perspective, will benefit greatly from the removal.”

The bill mandates that the track removal be “conducted concurrently with the resurfacing or other major improvements” on area roadways in order to lessen the adverse impact on surrounding communities.

Ball said that community discontent and the fact that the tracks are no longer needed prompted the decision to remove them. “We no longer need them,” he said. “The communities have asked us to remove them. There’s a general consensus among the neighborhoods that they should be removed.”

Tracy said that the changing nature of the traffic adjacent to the tracks was causing too many problems to allow the tracks to stay. She added that the cost of reopening the tracks to commuter use was prohibitive.

“The reality is that people know it’s not going to come back,” the said. “And you will hear countless stories of how many times cars skid on those tracks and how many injuries people suffer from them.”

Ball said before removal can begin, the MBTA must first file an environmental impact report with the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Beware of bikejackings

District 14 police have warned residents that there have been several recent bicycle thefts, some of which involved assailants holding bikes at gunpoint and taking away their vehicles.

Police recommend that bicyclists register their bikes with District 14 and purchase a lock for them. If you see any suspicious activity involving bicycles, call District 14 police at 343-4260.

BAIA sponsors mayoral candidate session

Four mayoral candidates are scheduled to appear at a Brighton-Allston Improvement Association Forum Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m. at the District 14 police station in Brighton Center.

City Councilor-at-large Bruce Bolling, former WBGH- TV Channel 2 anchorman Christopher Lydon, Acting Mayor Thomas Menino, and former Police Commissioner Francis Roache are scheduled to be on hand to meet area residents and discuss their campaigns.

The BAIA has invited the public. Open discussion will be encouraged.
**John Robert Tapley**

On right — Hi! My name is John Robert Tapley. I turned one year old on June 23, and Barney and Baby Bop celebrated my birthday with me. I live with my mommy Delia, Nana and Papa — Joanne and Bob Burrill, and my Great-Nana Helen Pollard too. I also have Great-Nonna Phyllis Burrill. I always visit my Nana and Grumpy, Barbara and Bill Tapley, especially because I love being with my daddy, John Tapley. I love my mommy and daddy very much.

**Edward and Pierre Nassif**

On right — Hi! My name is Edward Nassif. I'm the guy sitting in the high-chair, and I turned one year old on June 23. With me is my brother, Pierre, who turned four on Jan. 12. Our mom — Susan Bums — and dad — Amine Nassif — are proud of us, and we love them!

**Mikaelah Nicole Kelly**

On left — Hi! I'm Mikaelah Nicole Kelly, and I was born on April 23 at 2:12 p.m. at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge to Michael Peter Kelly and Silvia Margarita Garcia of Brighton. I was 19 inches at birth, and I weighed five pounds, 14 ounces. I have one sister, two-year-old Kassie. My godparents are Miguel Pollan and Colleen Salmon. My grandparents are Armando and Silvia Garcia, along with the late Williams Kelly and his widow, Norma. My great-grandparents are Josephine and Alfredo Pollan. I have blue eyes and brown hair.

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No real point to Coneheads

**1/2

By Chris O'Leary

Movies have fought a grueling battle against television for the last 40 years. Seeing audiences lured away from theaters hit by hit by the TV set, film producers were forced to make movies bigger, less subtle, more expensive. The promotions and

special effects were in vain, however. Watching Coneheads is proof that television has won the war—it is nothing more and nothing less than a two-hour TV skit on a movie screen.

That aside, Coneheads is actually fairly funny. Many of the jokes are recycled from the old Conehead skits on "Saturday Night Live," while the majority of actors in the film are "SNL" regulars or veterans who simply rehash characters they have done on the show (Adam Sandler as a shady criminal, Chris Farley as a sheepish klutz). The result is a few laughs, much like watching a "Saturday Night" rerun and chuckling over half-remembered jokes. Coneheads, like Wayne's World, the film that helped spawn it, adds detail and history to the characters. The movie shows how Beldar Conehead (Dan Aykroyd) and his genetomate Prymaat (Jane Curtin) intra and are forced to assimilate themselves into the New Jersey suburbs. Trying to track them down is crazed INS commissioner Michael McKean, from "Laverne and Shirley" fame, who is determined to have the illegal aliens thrown out of the country. Beldar is forced to take a variety of jobs as, among others, an auto repairman, taxi driver, and driving instructor, while befriending his neighbor Larry Farber (Jason Alexander, from "Seinfeld"). Prymaat gives birth to a daughter, Connie, in a horribly disgusting but funny scene, and the Coneheads devote the next decade or so to raising their daughter.

Things come to a head when Seedling is up for a promotion and is asked by government officials why he has spent millions of dollars trying to find the Coneheads. In order to save his job, Seedling comes up with an idea, not because he has any feelings for the Coneheads but because it is the ticket to his own promotion.

Things come to a head when Seedling is up for a promotion and is asked by government officials why he has spent millions of dollars trying to find the Coneheads. In order to save his job, Seedling comes up with an idea, not because he has any feelings for the Coneheads but because it is the ticket to his own promotion.

When Michael Richards (Kramer on "Seinfeld") shows up as a hotel clerk, the audience laughs—not because he has done anything funny, but because it is "Kramer" working at the hotel. Such second-hand humor is found throughout the movie. Though some of the laughs are fresh, many have a stale, reheated flavor to them.

Perhaps the best advice for seeing this film is to wait until it comes out on video (around Christmas, probably). There, cooly tucked into the television set among other sitcoms and comedy sketches, Coneheads will finally be home. Rated PG at the Copley Place and in the "burbs.

Get the point?: Dan Aykroyd, as Beldar Conehead, reads the morning newspaper just like any other normal, average, red-blooded (?) envoy from the planet Remulak stranded on Earth. Aykroyd stars with Jane Curtin and Dave Thomas in Coneheads, spawned from an old series of sketches on "Saturday Night Live."

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Screen Peeks

Dave **... A presidential stand-in (Kevin Kline in the title role) is enlisted when the real president is felled by a stroke in Dave. Everything's okay until Dave begins to believe he actually can accomplish something positive for the country while occupying the White House. That's when all hell breaks loose and operatives in Washington start playing footloose and fancy free with Dave's rep. If the plot sounds familiar, it's because it's the same one, basically, that reared its cinematic head in Moon Over Parador, a 1988 flick, and not because in real life Washington, today, some might see similarities.

The Firm **... Tom Cruise is Mitch McDeere, Harvard law grad on the rise, who accepts an offer to work for a law firm in Memphis, which he later discovers is backed by the mob. From there on, it's good vs. evil, as Cruise struggles with conscience against the trappings of the good life — mob financed. Will Cruise sell out for the flashy Mercedes, the stylish new home and all the other baubles his association can generate? Or will he stand tall in the face of mob corruption? C'mon — whadda ya think? This is Tom Cruise, after all — not Rob Lowe. Rated R at the Cheers, the Circle and in...
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A Matter of HEALTH
The Risk of Rabies is on the Rise
By: Mark Pearmuter, MD

Since last September, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health received 312 reports of rabies throughout the state including a rabid raccoon just over the Brighton border in Newton. Because of this outbreak and the recent influx of raccoons to the area, it is especially important for people to vaccinate their pets and to educate their family about racias.

What to do if you or your pet has been bitten
Because of the recent outbreak of rabies cases, you should treat every bite by a wild or domestic animal as if it were caused by a rabid animal. The following steps should be taken.

• Attempt to identify the animal involved. Go directly to the nearest emergency treatment center or bring your pet to the veterinarian for an evaluation.

If you know the animal that bit your pet could carry rabies, then further treatment will depend upon your pet's rabies vaccination status. If your pet was never vaccinated, it may have to be kept up to sleep or quarantined for several months.

• Wash the wound with soap and water for at least 10 minutes.
• Seek immediate medical attention.

Remember: The best way to prevent rabies is vaccinating your pets against the disease.
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Banning together

The idea of setting up a parking ban for Brighton during home football games at Boston College is a weapon which the city of Boston must consider deploying in some form. Failing to do so admits defeat to BC and leaves the neighborhoods open to spillover traffic from other surrounding communities.

Newton has already banned parking near BC on game days, and Brookline appears poised to do the same. If Brighton fails to have similar protection, it will become the only community in which spectators can park their cars—thus inflaming already sore relations between the college and the community.

But the parking ban would have offensive implications as well. Enacting such a ban would show solidarity with neighbors and prove to BC that the opposition is united against the proposed expansion of Alumni Stadium. It would also place an unexpected kick in the college's traffic mitigation plan. If the ban passed, BC would have to deal with all spectators in lots or on campus. Forcing BC back to the drawing board would buy time to convince the college and the city that the stadium cannot become bigger.

City Councillor John Nucci has recommended a ban, but Transportation Commissioner Rita Cutler says she'll probably not enact Nucci's suggestion, rightfully arguing that banning on-street parking in Brighton would inconvenience residents because of the lack of driveways in the neighborhood. But hopefully Cutler can devise some sort of system that would selectively ban game spectators from Brighton streets. Talking with BC officials appears to have failed. But instead of putting the ball, residents should hold the line, enforce a ban and force BC to recognize the power of community activism.

Matt about Beacon Hill

For Brett-er or worse?

By Matt Barron

As the Boston mayoral race begins in earnest with departure of Ray Flynn from the city, it behooves us to examine the record of one of the leading candidates. Dorchester Rep. Jim Brett. Brett has been a key player in the House of Representatives for most of his tenure, which began in 1981. After he won a crowded primary to take the seat which had been held by John Finnegem who resigned to become the State Auditor.

In Jim We Trust

When Speaker Charles Flaherty replaced Rep. David Cohen of Newton with Brett as the chairman of the committee on Banks & Banking, few were surprised. Cohen was well known as an articulate advocate for consumer and environmental issues and as a leader of the pro-choice forces in the House. As a patron saint of MassPIRG, Cohen sponsored much of their annual legislative agenda. The banking lobby was heartened by Brett's arrival because he was someone "they could work with."

Brett's voting record on some key banking issues of the 1980s was reassuring to the pinstripe crowd. In 1984, Brett voted for a bill that granted tax loopholes to certain mutual banks. Two years later Brett opposed a bill that would have prohibited the investment of state funds in banks that were found guilty of a felony. In 1987, Brett voted against legislation that would have prohibited banks from passing on to consumers the charges for attorneys who work on behalf of the bank in housing mortgage transactions. So when Jim Brett says he is as comfortable in the boardrooms as he is in the living rooms, you know why.

Leadership loyalist

You don't get named to four chairmanships under two speakers without paying to Sam Rayburn's dictum of "go along to get along."

Brett has been adept at gaining his gavels but at what price? On a number of legislative reform issues, Brett has cast his votes against the interests of open and accountable government. A year before the George Keverian coup against then Speaker Tom McGee, as the rules reform forces began to gather steam, Brett voted against a budget amendment to provide funding for the televising of all House budget hearings. Also in 1984, Brett voted against an amendment requiring the State Auditor to conduct a biannual audit of all the budget accounts of the Legislature, including personnel and other internal expenditures.

Brett opposed an amendment to limit leadership salary bonuses that would have held the Senate President and House Speaker to a maximum of $1,000, down from 110 percent; party floor leaders to no more than 25 percent bonus and committee chairs to no more than $1,000 bonus pay. If you get incensed at politicians who raise their own pay, you will not like knowing that in 1987, Brett voted to keep salaries.

Butt out, Brett, says BC task force

Editor's note: This was originally an open letter to Acting Mayor Thomas Menino.

To the editor:

The Allston-Brighton/Boston College Community Relations Task Force is respectfully requesting that Boston Redevelopment Authority director Paul L. Barrett withdraw immediately from further involvement with the Boston College master plan. Mr. Barrett's conflict of interest, behavior, unscrupulous actions and blatant bias is highly indicative of a "done deal."

Mr. Barrett's ignorance of the democratic process is highly disturbing. The task force, made up of duly elected officers of neighborhood organizations, is suddenly not recognized by Mr. Barrett, because of its opposition to the Boston College stadium expansion. Why didn't Mr. Barrett feel the same way when we were reviewing and approving all other projects relating to BC expansion? The task force is following the guidelines set forth by the BRA while Barrett is doing his "sideshow."

There are none so blind as those who do not wish to see—

In the July 22 Allston-Brighton Journal, Barrett said "although he has received hundreds of letters critical of in support of the proposed stadium expansion, he had not received one letter critical of the project."

Where was Paul L. Barrett?

On Jan. 19, there was a highly successful meeting at the Veronica B. Smith center at which several hundred people came to voice their opposition.

Marlon Alford

John Carmilla

Co-chairs, Allston-Brighton/BC Community Task Force

Luzier rebuts McDermott

says don't give up to BC

To the editor:

I offer this letter in response to a letter from one of my opponents [Jerry McDermott, last week] in which he set out a laundry list of concessions which he says the community should request from Boston College in exchange for allowing the proposed stadium expansion to go forward.

As an attorney who has participated in countless negotiation sessions, I know that one never offers a settlement proposal unless the prospect of defeat looms. I don't think that the citizens of Allston-Brighton are willing to concede their defeat. I know that as someone who hopes to represent this district and as someone who has always tried to exert strong advocacy for those he has represented, I'm not willing to concede defeat on the stadium expansion issue. To talk of settlement when, as BC claims, they have a strong case, is in my opinion the death knell for our negotiating position. I know it is a sacrifice to take the attitude that if we can't get everything we want, we don't want anything.

I'm still encouraged by the possibility of a compromise. I believe that the following proposals will yield results.

The most important thing is that we all be reasonable. The biggest problem is trying to make the BC stadium expansion take place while trying to protect the Veronica Smith Center, Allston-Brighton, and the South End. These are all important communities that I represent.

I hope that I can work with BC to resolve these differences. I believe that we will be able to work it out.

Will Luzier

Candidate for District 9 City Council

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events

F ore thought

"It's the golf event of the year—that's right, all you nubbik and mashee owners, it's the Allston Board of Trade (ABOT) Annual Golf Tournament. And it's slated to be held, Monday, Aug. 30, at 12 noon—a shotgun start, as it were— at the Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont St., Watertown.

The entry fee is $110 per golfer and it includes gifts, green fees, carts, door prizes, locker room use, refreshments, and a juicy car raffle and a full course dinner in a clubhouse, Everything, it would seem, except a guarantee that you'll reach each green in regulation. As the event is limited to 144 golfers, interested parties should reserve early. Proceeds will benefit the ABOT Scholarship fund.

ELECTION '93

Luzier

Continued from page 1

just an interesting sideline.

He says hitting the jackpot did not influence his life on a grand scale, but added that it did allow him to leave his job and campaign full-time: "That's really the only way that it has affected my life. I'm still driving the same car I drove when I won Megabucks. I still have rent to pay and car payments and all of those things. I'm the sole breadwinner in my family."

As an afterwards, he also adds, laughing, "That's just an interesting sideline."

Luzier, a 17-year resident of Brighton, has worked on numerous political campaigns at federal, state and local levels under his mentor, Rep. Monty Bradin, he helped to elect co-chairman for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. He served as state assistant attorney general for 12 years. During the last four years of his tenure, he was the supervisor of a small division within the department, which mainly prosecuted white-collar crimes.

After leaving the attorney general's office, Luzier served as counsel to the Boston Rent Equity Board for 14 months. In May he decided to make a bid for the District 9 seat.

"I think I can do a better job than is being done right now by the incumbent," Luzier said. "I believe 10 years is a long time in City Council. A person's effectiveness wanes after they've been in a position for a certain number of years. Therefore, at the risk of becoming a lame duck before I start, I would assure the voters that I will be in the City Council for no more than two years and I would call upon all my opponents to make that same assurance."

Two issues that Luzier said are important to him are public safety and education. "My feeling about the school system in general is that I think it needs to be decentralized with the institution of system-wide school-based management and budgeting with participation by both teachers and administrators in that process," he said. He said he would like to see local school administrators have more power to discipline and "expel troublemakers or perhaps send them to some rehabilitative environment."

As a former public prosecutor, Luzier said public safety issues are critical to his campaign. Besides increasing the number of on-duty police officers, Luzier said he would like to see more efficient use of the current officers.

"I have sat in the Boston municipal court and seen police officers sit there for the better part of a full day and get paid for sitting on a bench waiting for a case to come to be called," Luzier said. "If you were able to cut down on court time, you can increase the street time." He also would like to see officers switch to a five-day-in-a-row schedule, as opposed to the current three-on, off-two schedule.

"I think community policing is important and I also believe that staffing levels are dangerously low," Luzier said. "Because I've been a prosecutor, and worked with police, public safety issues are very important to me."

BETTER or worse?

Continued from page 8

voted against an amendment that provided that the $1,500 pay increase for legislators go into effect after the next election (January 1989) instead of retroactively. In January of 1989, Brett voted against an amendment to postpone the salary increase until the next session (1991-92).

The candidate of diversity?

On the stump, Brett has trumpeted the claim that his campaign is best able to celebrate and acknowledge the diversity of changing Boston. Brett points to his Dorchester neighborhood where he has stood up for Vietnamese merchants and worked to represent all people of color. On the constituent service front, Brett has indeed stood forward to assist many new residents who are changing the political and economic face of Dorchester, making it the most diverse community in the city. But up at the State House, Brett has quietly undermined his outreach efforts was a series of votes that have had devastating conse-quences on Boston's growing ethnic and minority popula-tions.

Back in 1984, Brett voted against an amendment by Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston) to require that at least one member of the Metropolitan District Commission be a minority. In 1985 and again in 1986, Brett voted against measures to allow voter registration by mail, which would have greatly empowered minority voters. In 1987, Brett voted against legislation that would have expanded voter registration by allowing local registrars of voters to conduct voter registration sessions in recreation areas such as parks, gyms or ball fields. In 1989, Brett helped defeat an amend-ment to the state budget by his Dorchester colleague, then-Rep. Nelson Mereau, that would have increased from $2 million to $3 million the funds for the Gateway Cities program to aid new refugees. It would seem that there is more to fulfilling a pledge to be a mayor who unites people across racial and ethnic lines than just opening a campaign field office in Roxbury.

Children's champion?

Jim Brett has pledged to create a children's cabinet and jobs give a hiring preference to economically disadvan-taged youth. During the fat budget years of the 1980s, many Beacon Hill pols delighted in giving out plum summer jobs to well connected contributors and other supporters, not inner city kids.

Brett told Boston Globe editors and reporters that "If we don't focus on the children's issues, then the children's issues are going to become things that are tangential (to other programs, such as Elderly Services) issues, and they are going to become dropout issues, and Daycare issues, and Daycare issues are not issues." You might wonder when Brett has come to embrace the view that investing funds in children's ser­vices up front will pay dividends down the road by reduc­ing more costly expenditures for treatment, rehabilitation and incarcer­ation.

During the budget debates of 1986, Brett voted to kill an amendment that would have added $2.6 million for com­munity-based residential and day services, including pre-screening and crisis services for children and adolescents.

Women voters will be interested to learn that in the 1987 budget deliberations, Brett voted to kill an amend­ment that would have added $451,000 for a day care demonstration project based on units serving 7 to 13 children, including funds for day care referral centers.

Two years later during the debate on the FY 1990 budget, Brett voted to deep-six an amendment that sought to increase $3.5 million the funding for day care services through the Department of Social Services. The funds were earmarked for state supported day care services, including day care subsidies for low-income working parents and teen parents and early intervention day care slots for children at risk of abuse or neglect.

While we growups can decide for ourselves if we want to wear seat belts, it is only common sense that kids be required to use seat belts for health and safety reasons. In 1987, after voters repealed the mandatory seat belt law that was on the ballot, Brett voted against a constitutional amendment that required use of seat belts or restraint systems on children under 12.

Like most committee chairmen, Brett gets his fair share of campaign contributions from special interest lobbyists. In 1990, Brett accepted $753 from three prominent lobby­ists for the tobacco industry. Fast forward to the spring of 1991 and the FY 1992 budget debate. Rep. John McDonough, the Jamaica Plain Democrat and the General Court's resident expert on health care issues, proposed a series of amendments raising the cigarette tax to fund the restoration and some modest expansion of preventative health care services. The amendments would have raised mil­lions to AIDS, substance abuse, family health, community health centers, WIC programs and other line items which had been gutted in previous years. Brett took a principled stand and no the McDonough package was rejected. It is this kind of voting behavior that has earned Jim Brett consistently low ratings on anti-poverty issues, child care, and human services organizations.

Running and gunning

In 1989, during Brett's tenure as the chairman of the Committee on Criminal Justice, he took on the gun lobby over the issue of Heller vs. Doe, which would have allowed mass shootings in California and Texas, Brett was able to push through a bill to ban the sale and use of certain types of assault weapons in Boston. It was a stunning victory for Brett, because he was able to defeat the gun nuts and rednecks of GOAL, the Gun Owner's Action League, (the state affiliate of the National Rifle Association).

Michael Yacino, GOAL's lobbyist, is a short, mustached man who wears cowboy boots on his frequent trips to the State House. Affectionately known by Beacon Hill insiders as "Yosemite Sam," he turned loose his well­trained cadre of hunters, sportsmen and other firearms buffs in a well orchestrated attack on the Brett bill. When the dust had settled however, Brett had handed Yacino a rare and humiliating loss.

With the issues of urban violence as near to many voters as the crinkle of gunshots on a hot summer night in Dorchester or Roxbury, you might think that Jim Brett's credentials on crime and guns would stack up well against such rivals as former Police Commissioner Francis "Mickey" Rouche and Sheriff Bobby "Blue Lights" Rufe and his Deputy Dawgs. For all the hoopla on the assault weapon issue one has to wonder if it is that Brett has had in which are responsible for the streams of blood that flow through some of Beantown's mean streets.

Voters who are aiming for a strong law and order candidate might be surprised at what they find when they look through the cross hairs at Brett's gun control record. Back in May, 1984, Brett voted against a bill that would have allowed localities to enact their own handgun

Continued from page 13

Daly graduates from Curry

Lisa Daly, daughter of Maureen and John Daly of Allston, recently graduated from Curry College in Milton with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Lisa attended St. Anthony's School in Allston and Boston Latin Academy.
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been doing, it leaks out eventually and usually not in constructive ways. Better instead to be direct when problems arise, letting your roommate know your needs and what is important to you. If you don’t communicate your concerns, he’ll never know. Pick your battles, because there are bound to be differences in living styles just that have to be accepted. Assertiveness is requesting, not demanding. For example, it’s aggressive to say, “You have a lot of nerve, picking out my ice cream!” This is assertive: “I was disappointed yesterday when I went to eat my ice cream and found that you had already taken some of it. I’d appreciate it if, in the future, you’d check with me before eating any food that I have bought for myself. I’ll do the same for you.”

Susan Oland, MA, LMHC, is a licensed psychosomatist and counselor in private practice in Belmont. Address questions of a personal or psychological nature to: Susan Oland, c/o Journal Newsweekly, 220 Main St., Belmont, MA 02478. Her columns appear every other week in the Journal.

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control laws. The very same day, Brett opposed a motion to bring to the floor for debate, a bill to prohibit the sale of snub nosed handguns with barrels of 3 inches or less. Again in 1985, Brett voted against banning snub nosed handguns frequently used in violent crimes. In 1986, Jim Brett voted against another motion to debate legislation which would have restricted the sale, rental and record keeping of firearms. The bill also included a provision for a mandatory safety exam as a requirement for obtaining a Firearm Identification Card or license to carry. In 1987, Brett again voted against a bill that sought to require applicants for firearms licenses to pass a hand gun training school program. In 1988, the House debated a bill mandating less strict implementation of firearms licensing laws, effectively allowing people to use guns. The bill in question, which was passed, barred prosecution based on limited purpose of a gun permit (such as sporting use only). Brett voted for it. So the next time Jim Brett fires off a bunch of pointed rhetoric about controlling violent crime and guns, you'll be armed with some piercing questions.

Failing grades on education
The issue of public education has a prominent place in the 1993 campaign. Much has been said about the sorry condition of the city's schools and plenty of blame has been placed by the candidates themselves on everyone from teachers to administrators to the former mayor for this state of affairs. Jim Brett's career and he hung his urban constituents, Brett opposed an amendment to fully fund the program of Equal Educational Opportunity Grants.

Women beware
Marjorie Clapprood was fuming because the roll call on the Brett assault on choice is not the only cause for concern among many women voters. In 1986, Brett voted against a motion to debate a bill prohibiting discrimination by sex or gender in insurance, the so-called "insurance act" long championed by former Rep. Mary Jane Gibson of Belmont. In 1987, Brett lined up with the insurance industry on another issue when he voted against legislation requiring coverage for medical treatment of infertility to the same extent an insurance policy would cover pregnancy-related benefits. For someone so concerned about protecting human life, it seemed an odd position to take.

Jim Brett is a kind, caring and compassionate man. But he also carries a legislative record that warrants scrutiny by the voters and by his votes you shall know him.

Matt Barron is a lawyer. He's not doing his political consulting thing on Beacon Hill.
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Mercury’s rising with Villager

By Bob Sikorsky

The Lincoln-Mercury Division of Ford Motor Company is flying high with the introduction of two all-new vehicles to the lineup for the 1993 model year: The Mercury Villager minivan and the Lincoln Mark VIII personal luxury car.

In fact, these two 1993 vehicles are the sixth and seventh all-new offerings from Lincoln-Mercury in the past three years. The 1993 Mercury Villager is the first-ever minivan for Lincoln-Mercury. An exercise in aerodynamic styling (0.36 Cd), the front-wheel drive sticker is, along with the Mazda MPV, one of the smoothest, easiest and most carlike-riding minivans on today’s market. Indeed, the Villager’s taut handling and ride, somewhat on the soft side, approximate those of a fine, heavy sedan.

The front-wheel drive Villager is offered in two trim packages, the entry-level GS and the top-of-the-line LS. Both are powered by a 3.0-liter V-6 engine with an overhead camshaft, and are fed by sequential electronic fuel injection. Standard transmission for both models is a 4-speed, electronically controlled automatic.

The V-6 is rated at 151 horsepower at 4,800 rpm and has maximum torque of 174 foot pounds at 4,400 rpm. The engine rates an EPA estimate of 17 miles per gallon/city and 23 mpg/highway. We averaged 20.1 mpg for two weeks of mostly city driving.

A smooth and relatively quiet engine, the workhorse 3.0-liter V-6 endows the Villager with enough power to allow it to tow (with an optional towing package consisting of a heavy-duty battery, heavy-duty radiator and additional electrical wiring package) a gross trailer weight of 3,500 pounds with a maximum tongue load of 350 pounds. Standard towing capacity is 2,000 pounds with a 200-pound maximum tongue load.

We drove the loaded version LS model with its all-digital dash, trip computer, tilt and slide sunroof with shade, power seats with lumbar, power mirrors and locks and a host of other amenities.

The interior is handsome, comfortable and roomy. The four optional captain’s chairs, along with the rear bench seat can accommodate seven passengers and the seats can be moved about in a variety of ways, or removed, depending on people/cargo requirements. It’s a neat arrangement.

The back seat bench, for instance, can be folded and tucked against the back of the two mid-cabin captain’s chairs or, with the two center captain seats removed, can be folded and tucked against the front seats to give a magnesium of cargo space. With just the rear seats removed there are 126.4 cubic feet of available cargo space.

Besides the standard features on the lower-priced GS model, the LS gets standard power windows, locks and mirrors, front A/C, tilt, cruise, rear defroster and more.

Options include the four captain’s chairs seating arrangement, leather, rear AC and radio controls, electronic instruments, compact disc player and electric tilt/slide sunroof. A handling package with rear stabilizer bar and larger tires is also an LS option. The exterior, with its teatle lite farg across the front—a carryover from the Mercury body style—is slick, aerodynamic and handsome. All glass is Bush-mounted and the single sliding door works with the flick of the wrist. The large back gate opens up, but not high enough for my 6 feet 2 inches to clear comfortably. I have to stoop over a bit when loading/unloading the back area.

DINING OUT

Mind your BBQs at Barbeques International

By Wendy Wyeth

It’s barbecue with a twist. For a unique approach to the all-American summer tradition, try Barbeques International, located at 129 Brighton Ave. in Allston.

This small family owned restaurant offers international cuisine from India, Japan, Mexico, Lebanon among others. For the more squishy eater, there is a wide selection of American standards such as barbecue chicken, sirloin tips and ribs. But don’t get too comfortable with the menu because it changes every six months with new dishes being added and specials rotated daily.

“My wife experiments in the house first. Then the dish goes on the special board and we see how people like it,” said restaurant owner Nisar “Nick” Ahmed. Ahmed’s wife, Diana Ahmed, does almost all of the cooking and food preparation for the restaurant. One current special is beef curry and Lebanon beef kabob.

The kitchen offers three styles of barbecuing techniques: clay oven, open grill, and open flame using skewers. Each item is prepped to order and a large selection of naan, clay oven baked breads, are available baked fresh to order.

Some of the most popular items on the menu, according to Ahmed, are the Mexican shrimp kebobs and the barbecue baby back ribs. All menu items are priced less than $10 and there is a brand new all-you-can-eat lunch buffet for $4.25. The restaurant is listed in Dine In’s “CheapEats Delivery” guide for those who don’t want to leave the house for an open grill taste.

“The restaurant was bought by the Ahmeds two years ago and was newly renovated. The beer and wine list was also recently expanded to include 23 different styles of beer and an assortment of international wines.”

“We are a casual place,” said Ahmed. “I would really like to see that people get to know us. We are just a small place with good food.”
Mugging on Gardner Street

A woman was struck in the head and robbed at knifepoint by three males July 18 while walking on Gardner Street near Melvin Avenue, District 14 police said. The victim told police she had just stepped off a trolley and was walking home at about 10:30 p.m. when she was grabbed from behind and dragged into a parking lot at Gardner and Melvin, where she was allegedly assaulted and robbed. The suspect then fled in a blue, four-door car believed to be a Honda, police said.

Police described the first suspect as a Hispanic male in his early 20s, 5 feet 9 inches tall and about 130 pounds. The second suspect was described as a white male, also in his early 20s, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with blond hair and blue eyes. Police described the third suspect, believed to have driven the getaway car, as a dark-skinned male.

The victim said the robbers threatened to cut off her fingers if she did not give them all her money, according to police reports.

election '93

No doubt in Thomas

Continued from page 1

While critics have questioned his legal right to take such steps— and some have openly worried about fiscal repercussions from his decisions— Menino said he will continue flexing his full authority, down to replacing the artwork in neighborhood associations.

“You can’t sit still. You’ve got to move the city forward and make things happen,” he said. “The neighborhoods demand it.”

Small businesses key to city’s survival, he says.

One thing the neighborhoods demanding increased support for small businesses, Menino said.

“The small businesses of the city are so vital... They are the backbone of the economy of Boston,” Menino said, adding that small businesses generate most of the city’s jobs. “If they decay, it will have a cancerous effect.”

Menino said he plans to establish a business retention office to provide support services for entrepreneurs. “We’ll be dealing with the small businesses, talking with them each and every day,” he said, adding that he hoped to help revitalize small business districts like Allston Village.

The acting mayor said businesses must also pitch in to save themselves. “Government can be helpful. We can give them the tools. But small businesses must be the driving force,” he said.

Closed stores devalue a community’s property, Menino explained. “If they become vacant for a while, they’ll become properties no one will want to rent,” he said. “We can’t allow that.”

Menino said he will encourage businesses to invest not only in Boston but in all of New England. “The mayor of Boston should become the economic leader of the region,” he said. “Boston cannot survive anymore alone.”

Menino believes the city’s School Committee must address a more important issue: how to provide Boston’s children with a better education.

“I’m tired of us in the political scheme making an issue of appointed versus elected [School Committee],” he said. “For a guy who’s been in 43 schools during the past two years, it’s been that much—” he held his thumb and forefinger a quarter-inch apart—”of a problem.”

“I think neighborhood schools are a good idea,” Menino said, adding that he wanted to see schools set up extracurricular programs to help establish community and keep Boston youth off the street.

Menino pointed out that one of his first acts as acting mayor was to appoint a mediator for a long-standing dispute between the schools and the Boston Teachers Union. “Could I sit here and let the schools go on strike in September?” he said. “We’ll make sure that the schools open on time.”

“The most unlikely person to be in politics”

“I’ll show you by the actions I take in the next several weeks that I care about all parts of the city,” Menino said. “People don’t want pronouncements. They want to know what we’re done.”

Menino added that he felt no neighborhood concern was too small for him to address. “It’s not big things. It’s little things. That’s how you gain people’s support,” he said. “How do we help the little person on Corey Street or Market Street? That’s the accomplishment we’re looking for.”

Explaining that he became involved in politics at the neighborhood level, Menino said he would rather attend community meetings than fund-raising banquets. “I love community meetings. I’d rather be out in the communities dealing with people,” he said. “That’s where the oxygen is.”

“I’m the most unlikely person to be in politics,” the 50-year-old Hyde Park native admitted, adding that he finally decided to stop managing other campaigns and try running for office himself when his love for public service outweighed his dislike for public speaking and headlines.

Elected to the City Council in 1983, Menino spent 10 years representing District 5, narrowly winning the Council presidency in January. Still serving as president, Menino said he is attempting to use his unusual dual role to improve relations between the mayor’s office and the councilors.

“I bring the councilors into the process now,” he said, “I call them up and bring them into the office.”

But Menino’s relationship with his fellow councilors was scheduled to undergo a baptism of fire this week: although his 12 colleagues— two of whom are also running for mayor— have co-sponsored a bill establishing pay raises for Boston police officers with college degrees, Menino has threatened to veto the pay plan, warning that it would keep the city from adding officers to the force.

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