

#18

December 12, 1988

Councillor Denehy

Whereas : Often Times Firefighters are placed in situations of great personal danger in the performance of their duty to their community ; and

Whereas : On Monday December 5, 1988 while responding to a three-alarm fire at a building located at the corner of Putnam Avenue and Sidney Street Cambridge Firefighter William Wood was trapped under a collapsed ceiling ; and

Whereas : Fire Fighter Wood was rescued after his seven minute ordeal by his fellow fighters demonstrating their professional skills and commitment to the preservation of life ; now therefore be it

Resolved : That this City Council go on record extending its best wishes

For a speedy recovery to Firefighter Wood and to commend the Members of the Department who participated in the rescue of their "Brother" in need; and be it further

Resolved: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Firefighter Wood and to those Members of the Department who extended themselves in this rescue for inclusion in their personnel folder.

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# Tests may 'divide the sexes'

By PAUL SULLIVAN

SOME high school students at Milton Academy contend that males have an advantage in the SAT tests because "boys do better than girls in math" and "men have always dominated the world."

A few other students at the

private high school in Milton said they did not think the SATs favored either boys or girls.

Rolph Bead, 16, a junior from Arkansas, said: "It could be very possible the test is slanted in favor of the boys because males have always dominated in the world and wom-

en are still fighting for their rights. They should do something about it (the test)."

Mark Paretzky, 18, a senior from Weston, said: "It's possible the SATs are biased, but I didn't see any advantage for boys. Everybody dreads the test but no one said, 'This is unfair for me' because it favored either males or females."

Marta Hummell, 16, a junior from New Canaan, Conn., said: "After the test, more girls were upset about the math. The guys thought the math was easy. If they did away with the math, then my score would be much better."

Julie Bracken, 17, of Cambridge, a senior, added: "Usually women do worse on the math than on the verbal. And if there was more math than verbal, then the test is unfair."

Kuhay Yip, 18, a senior from Hong Kong, said, "I see no reason why" boys had an advantage. But he added boys did have an advantage because they do better in math than the girls.

Jenny Ford, 17, a senior from New Haven, Conn., said: "I don't think the SATs favor boys. But I didn't do well on it at all, either. I did well in the English section but not in the math."

Geeganajali Chander, 17, a senior from Lakewood, N.Y., said, "I noticed the guys did better than the girls. It did seem like that."

Paretzky added, "I certainly think it's possible the tests are designed more to help males." But he added he didn't see anything on the test that would help boys more than girls.

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## TRAGEDY IN EASTIE

# Hero Hub cop cheats death again

From Page 1

to rescue Delprete's parents and niece from their burning third-floor apartment but were driven back by the intense heat and smoke.

"We did all we could," said the 22-year-old police officer. "Unfortunately, it wasn't enough. It would have been much better if everyone could have been saved."

Torres said he had gone to bed shortly before 1 a.m. when he was awak-

ened by the frantic cries of his 21-year-old brother, Nelson.

"He started calling, 'Fire, fire,'" recalled Torres. "I saw the flames coming out of the first floor in the house where my sister lives so I ran in. She was in the hallway in a nightgown and bathrobe. She was panicked."

As his brother, Nelson, and another sister, Maria, battled in vain to save 78-year-old Maria Giacobelli from her burn-

ing first-floor apartment, Torres pulled Mirta down two flights to the open street.

"I found the door, threw her out and went back upstairs for Michael," he recalled.

While their brother returned to the flaming building, Maria and Nelson Torres tried desperately to rescue Giacobelli.

"I tried to break into the first-floor apartment but the smoke and the heat were tremendous," said Maria. "It just drove us back."

When they couldn't get into the elderly woman's apartment, Maria began screaming, desperately trying to wake the sleeping woman, who usually slept in a rear bedroom, Maria said.

"She was like (a) grandmother," said a shaken Maria. "It's just a nightmare."

With his sisters and brother safely outside trying desperately to save their neighbors, Jorge Torres rushed back into the burning building in a bid to save the Delpretes.

Inside amid the smoke, Torres saw the younger Delprete standing on the steps between the second and third floors.

"I called for him," said Torres. "I said 'Michael, Michael.' He said 'My parents are still in there.'"

"I said 'Tell them to get to the back porch.' Michael tried to grab his father but he weighed too much. He didn't want to leave his parents there. He wanted to stay but I wrestled with him. I dragged Michael downstairs and went to the back porch to try to get to his parents but the flames were shooting out the windows. We just couldn't get to them in



COMFORT AND SORROW: A neighbor comforts a victim during yesterday's early morning fire in East Boston.

Herald photo by Scott Harney



SURVIVING TRAGEDY: Mirta Torres, who was pulled from a fatal East Boston blaze by her brother, Boston Police Officer Jorge Torres, surveys the wreckage of her apartment at 74 Everett St.

Staff photo by Jim Mahoney

time."

As the two men wrestled to leave the smoke-filled hallway, the younger Delprete tried to grab his 11-year-old niece, Iris Allouise, but the youngster pulled away.

"Michael tried to save her but she said 'No, I'm staying with Nanny and Papa.' She stayed with them," said Torres.

Neighbors said Allouise was devoted to her grandmother and often stayed at her grandparents' house, even though her parents, Annemarie and Pasquale Allouise, moved to Revere from East Boston last year.

The two elderly Del-

pretes were killed in the blaze. Allouise was burned over 90 percent of her body, according to fire officials, and is listed in critical condition in the burn unit at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The Torres were briefly driven from their home by the fire, which badly scorched a side wall. But the family was able to return to the building yesterday, and made minor repairs.

Torres said he recalls little else of the fire.

"It all happened so fast," he said. "People were running around yelling to get out — just screaming. It was chaos. Everyone was hysterical.

It was tragic."

Torres said he doesn't know why his family has been hit with such awful tragedy in the past two years — including a motorcycle accident during his first weeks on the police force — but he's hoping it's all part of God's plan.

"I still don't know what that plan is," he said philosophically, "but I know this must all be part of a test."

Still on disability from last year's shooting, Torres is optimistic that some day he'll return to the police work he loves so much.

"Everything will work out," he said confidently.

## Firefighter rescued in 3-alarm fire in Cambridge

By DAVID WEBER

A FIREFIGHTER trapped under a collapsed ceiling was rescued by his buddies during a blaze that ripped through a three-decker house in Cambridge last night.

The three-alarm fire drove at least six people from their homes, as it quickly spread through the top two floors of the building at the corner of Putnam Avenue and Sidney Street shortly after 6 p.m. last night.

Sub-freezing temperatures made for icy conditions on the streets around the apartment building, and firefighters were further hindered by the fact that a gun and about 18 rounds of ammunition were on the third floor.

Firefighter William Wood was listed in stable condition last night in Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge after he was trapped under a collapsed third-floor ceiling for about seven minutes, al-

though "it seemed like seven hours," said Fire Capt. Gerald Reardon.

Wood and firefighters Edward Morrissey and John Rose were at the rear of the third floor when the roof, weakened by fire and soaked with water, collapsed on top of them. Rose and Morrissey were able to escape down a stairway, but Reardon said Wood's exit was cut off by flames.

Fellow firefighters scrambled to set up ladders on the side of the

house and brought Wood out through a window.

Charles Stead Jr., 27, an MBTA Police officer, said he was in his third-floor apartment having dinner when his downstairs neighbor rang his doorbell and told him the building was on fire.

"My apartment was fine," Stead said. "I didn't believe it until I opened the back door on the second floor and saw the flames on the porch."

Stead and the five people who lived on the second

floor were able to get out of the building before firefighters arrived. The first-floor apartment was vacant.

Stead was concerned for the safety of the firefighters because his police service revolver and about 18 bullets were in his apartment.

Reardon said once firefighters were sure everyone was out of the building, they stood back so they would not be hit by the bullets, which could be heard popping like fire-

crackers.

Stead said all his possessions were inside the building, owned by his mother, including his fiancée's engagement ring.

"I gave it to her a year-and-half ago," he said. "I just got it back and was going to throw another rock on it."

The cause of the blaze was still undetermined last night, but Reardon said investigators are pretty sure it started at the rear of the second-floor apartment.



# City of Cambridge

18.

## IN CITY COUNCIL

December 12, 1988

COUNCILLOR DANEHY

- WHEREAS: Oftentimes firefighters are placed in situations of great personal danger in the performance of their duty to their community; and
- WHEREAS: On Monday, December 5, 1988, while responding to a three-alarm fire at a building located at the corner of Putnam Avenue and Sidney Street, Cambridge Firefighter William Wood was trapped under a collapsed ceiling; and
- WHEREAS: Firefighter Wood was rescued after his seven minute ordeal by his fellow fighters, demonstrating their professional skills and commitment to the preservation of life; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its best wishes for a speedy recovery to Firefighter Wood and to commend the members of the Department who participated in the rescue of their "Brother" in need; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Firefighter Wood and to those members of the Department who extended themselves in this rescue for inclusion in their personnel folder.

In City Council December 12, 1988.  
 Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.  
 Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

*Joseph E. Connarton*  
 Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

Order #18 S-1743

C. Danehy re: resolutions wishing a speedy recovery to Firefighter William Wood, who was injured while responding to a 3-alarm fire on December 5th at the corner of Putnam Ave. & Sidney St. & also, commending the members of the Dept. who participated in his rescue.

In City Council,

December 12, 1988

12-12-88

C. Danehy

order Adopted

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