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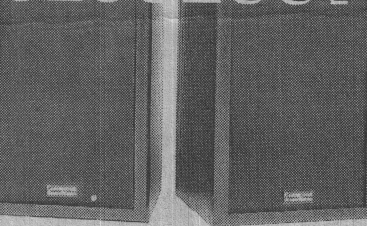


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5/6

Nurses, supporters to rally

Patient, worker protections urged

By Dolores Kong
GLOBE STAFF

In a groundswell of concern over safeguarding patient care and protecting health workers who blow the whistle on unsafe staffing, hundreds of nurses and others are expected to demonstrate from Boston to Pittsfield this week, beginning with a protest in front of Massachusetts General Hospital today.

At the same time, several measures to protect health care whistleblowers from being fired for raising concerns about care are wending through the Legislature, including an amendment to the House budget that is being debated this week and could be approved as soon as tomorrow.

The groundswell taps into growing concerns across the state that competition, managed care, and other financial forces are leading hospitals and other health facilities to downsize and cut costs, to the detriment of patient care.

However, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other licensed providers have no specific protection under state law if they get fired after raising concerns about patient care.

One nurse who has sued Massachusetts General Hospital, claiming she was fired after questioning care and staffing, will be at today's 2-4 p.m. protest.

"There are nurses who are afraid to speak out, and get fired like I was," said Cathleen Kyle, who will be handing out information to document her case, and urging people to support the whistle-blower legislation. "We need to get this bill passed. We need to have patients protected, nurses protected."

Hospital officials, however, deny both that Kyle was fired and that staffing levels have been inadequate. The suit is pending in Norfolk Superior Court.

Ann Eldridge, a nurse with the Boston Visiting Nurses Association who will be among the protesters in front of MGH, said: "I see the breakdown of the health care system and the human suffering it's causing. . . I feel like what happened to Cathleen is so wrong, and it's a symptom of the breakdown in the health care system."

Joining Kyle and Eldridge will be John O'Connor, a Cambridge activist who ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary for the 8th Congressional District. O'Connor will speak at the protest about "how this all fits under the aegis of the larger questions of health care," said Kieran Curran, O'Connor's spokesman.

Next Tuesday in front of Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, more than 300 nurses, community leaders and others are expected to hold an informational picket about staffing concerns, from noon to 2 p.m., and 5 to 7 p.m. The hospital, owned by an out-of-state for-profit firm known as Tenet, was recently in the news when Governor Paul Cellucci had an angioplasty there to clear a blocked

artery.

Next Wednesday, on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who crusaded in the 19th century to reform hospitals and turn nursing into a professional discipline, hundreds of Berkshire Medical Center nurses and community leaders are expected to attend a candlelight vigil on Pittsfield's town green, said David Schildmeier of the Massachusetts Nurses Association, a statewide union and professional organization. "When it gets dark, everyone is to have candles and symbolically light a candle for safe care," he said.

Over the last year, nurses at Saint Vincent Hospital have filed about 420 unsafe-staffing reports, raising concerns about being short-staffed and having to handle too many patients, according to Anne Spellane, a nurse who chairs the bargaining unit at the hospital.

Last month, for instance, one nurse filed a report raising concerns about having to care for seven seriously ill patients at once, including four who needed constant attention for possible reactions to blood products and internal bleeding from an anticoagulant, Spellane said.

Spellane's union — which organized more than a year ago and is in the middle of negotiating its first contract — met with management this week to discuss the unsafe-staffing reports, Spellane said. "Safe care is the issue. It is not economics."

Hospital spokeswoman Paula Green said the administration is "aware that nurses are using unsafe-staffing forms to draw attention to their concerns about staffing issues," as part of bargaining. "We believe that our overall staffing patterns do coincide with what is being done in other similar hospitals around the state. Nevertheless, we will as part of a good faith bargaining effort be reviewing this, given the economic pressures that all hospitals face today."

THE LOTTERY

Wednesday number **1534**

WEDNESDAY PAYOFFS (based on \$1 bet)

EXACT ORDER

All 4 digits **\$4,726**

First or last 3 **\$662**

Any 2 digits **\$57**

Any 1 digit **\$6**

ANY ORDER

All 4 digits **\$197**

First 3 digits **\$110**

Last 3 digits **\$110**

MASS CASH

May 4 **2 16 19 24 35**

Jackpot: \$100,000;

MEGABUCKS

May 5 **8 10 21 23 39 42**

Jackpot: \$;

THE BIG GAME

May 4 **5 20 32 42 46**

(Big Money ball 26)

Jackpot: \$33 million;

PREVIOUS MASS. DRAWINGS

Tuesday **4024**

Monday **4283**

Sunday **5297**

Saturday **1810**

Friday **1082**

WEDNESDAY NUMBERS AROUND NEW ENGLAND

Maine, N.H., Vermont

3-digit **900** 4-digit **3879**

Tri-State

Megabucks **9-14-16-23-24-28 (39)**

Rhode Island **4792**

Powerball **7-9-26-31-40**

Powerball **24**

Funds set for education alternatives

Boston School Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant yesterday outlined a long-awaited plan to deal with an overflow of students who continually cause disruptions in class.

The plan came after an announcement at a school committee meeting that the city plans to set aside \$1.2 million in the next fiscal year's operating budget to implement recommendations of the Alternative Education Task Force.

Under the plan, as many as 250 middle- and high-school students could have seats in programs such as a new late-afternoon adult high school for those over 20, and in a new middle school alternative class.

Other ideas are for "time-out rooms," an alternate teaching site

for 90-120 high school students, extra school help, more slots for GED programs for students to get diplomas, and working with community colleges.

The task force started last November to figure how to duplicate the success of Community Academy in Roxbury, the city's best-known alternative education center.

Elliot Feldman, director of alternative education programs, said many of the seats for disruptive students will come as the result of expanding existing programs to work with community groups.

The site for the program for students over 20 has not been decided, but it will be inside an existing high school and is slated to begin this fall.

MARK BRUNELLI

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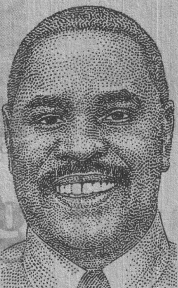
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ADRIAN WALKER

Effort's success
lost on Cellucci



MOST PEOPLE TAKE LIVING in their houses or apartments for granted, so they wouldn't understand what a small apartment on Clark Avenue in Chelsea means to Daryel LeClair.

At 49, LeClair is living on her own for the first time in more than 20 years. She is a refugee from the ranks of the "homeless mentally ill," a woman who has conquered the effects of bipolar disorder and survived years of hospitals and group homes to reclaim control of her own existence.

"Peace and quiet. Serenity," she says, ticking off the things she likes about living alone. "I love my apartment."

LeClair was aided in her transition, about a year ago, by a seven-year-old state program that has enabled more than 2,000 mental patients in homeless shelters to find independent living space. The program also provides other support services.

"It's made a great deal of difference in what shelters look like in the commonwealth, by taking so many of the mentally ill out of the shelters," said Philip Mangano of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance.

But the success of the program would appear to be lost on Governor Paul Cellucci. For the first time since its inception, the governor's proposed budget this year did not increase funding for the program, despite an increase in other programs totaling \$370 million. His appropriation would only maintain the 2,000 mental patients who are living independently; no additional placements could be made.

The state's Department of Mental Health estimates that nearly 400 of its clients are homeless and waiting for subsidies to get housing. About three-quarters of those people are in Greater Boston. The cost of housing people like LeClair is about \$26,600 a person. State budget officials and mental health advocates say that figure is significantly less than the cost of caring for the mentally ill in shelters.

The state appropriations have allowed Massachusetts to qualify for federal funding that has built or subsidized thousands of units of housing for people who do not need hospitalization, but require support to lead normal lives.

The program traces its origins to the early days of the Weld administration, when budget cuts forced closings or reductions of beds in state mental hospitals.

During a meeting with then-Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn and homeless advocates, Charles D. Baker Jr., the secretary of health and human services, pledged to fund the program. It has grown since then by about \$2 million a year, to a current appropriation of about \$18 million. For the most part, the federal money builds or subsidizes housing, while the state money provides support services. But without increased state spending, the federal money is capped as well.

LeClair said her own descent began 28 years ago, when her husband and infant daughter died within two weeks of one another. That trauma sparked a suicide attempt. Evaluations conducted in the aftermath led to the diagnosis of bipolar disorder, and years in and out of hospitals and group homes. After years on lithium, she now takes Xypreka to regulate her mental state, and works part time at a nursing home not far from her apartment.

Cellucci's budget would deprive other patients of the same opportunity for recovery.

Fortunately, some legislators see the value of expanding the program. House Ways and Means chairman Paul R. Haley, Democrat of Weymouth, has taken up the program as a personal cause. As the House hammers out its proposed budget this week, he has added \$1 million to the appropriation, and hopes to add \$1.2 million more. Were those increases to pass, they would enable about 80 people to move out of shelters, said Kim Rezendes, a Ways and Means spokeswoman.

"We feel that those folks deserve special assistance because they are challenged due to no fault of their own," Haley said yesterday. "I think they are a particularly sympathetic population that the government needs to support."

It's nice that Haley gets it, since Cellucci doesn't. For relatively modest money, the administration has a chance to provide a rare commodity in government: hope. It's not too late for Cellucci to make the most of his opportunity.

Adrian Walker can be reached by e-mail at Walker@globe.com.



Ned Strong and his son Peter, 13, in their Lexington home. Peter was 9 when his father first began to talk about finding the source of the Amazon River.

Amazonian task
Mass. team believes it's found where river begins



Don Strong (right) and altitude specialist Dr. Michael Wiedman taking measurements at the Lloqueta river in Peru.

By Yvonne Abraham
GLOBE STAFF

The question does not often occur to your average Lexington dad, but for Ned Strong it became all-consuming.

Where does the Amazon begin?

The mighty 4,000-mile river, which runs from the Peruvian Andes through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean, holds more water than the Nile, the Yangtze and the Mississippi together — a full fifth of all the world's flowing water.

But it starts — somewhere — as a trickle.

Just where has been a matter of some contention for decades. A few weeks ago, Strong, 46, his 13-year-old son Peter, a hiking partner, Lew Scotten, altitude specialist Dr. Michael Wiedman, Strong's brother Don, and National Geographic photographer Zbigniew Bdzak headed for Peru, on their own search for that place.

AMAZON, Page B6

O'Brien aware of gamble in lottery overhaul

By Frank Phillips
and Scot Lehigh
GLOBE STAFF

Shannon P. O'Brien knows she's walking a political high wire.

The new state treasurer wants to build a strong management team at the state lottery agency, and that means ferreting out political holdovers and patronage employees from the regime of her predecessor, Joseph D. Malone.

But as a Democrat, with possible hopes

Treasurer confronts
politics in changes

of higher office someday, she doesn't want to go to war with the Service Employees International Union, which represents lottery employees — and, in most cases, whose protection extends to the employees she hopes to eliminate.

O'Brien wants to hire her own people and create a team she can trust. But she also is acutely aware that the Republicans

are watching closely, ready to portray her as Bob Crane in a skirt, the reincarnation and personification of Democratic patronage politics.

What makes the situation so dicey is that as chairman of the lottery, her performance could make or break her political career. The lottery, with \$3.2 billion in annual revenue, is a cash cow that funnels billions to municipalities, helping them keep property taxes low and services up. If the agency falters, she gets blamed for cuts in local aid.

ON POLITICS, Page B8

The new treasurer
wants to create a
new team. But she
knows the
Republicans are
watching and ready
to pounce.

Teen breaks barriers for college goal
Student, baby bound for MIT

By Yvonne Abraham
GLOBE STAFF

She had seen it a hundred times before. All around Nora Cadena, girls were getting pregnant and leaving high school.

Or they were having their babies and trying to finish anyway, dragging their educations out over extra years, against long odds, and in spite of politicians' caricatures of them as shiftless and irresponsible.

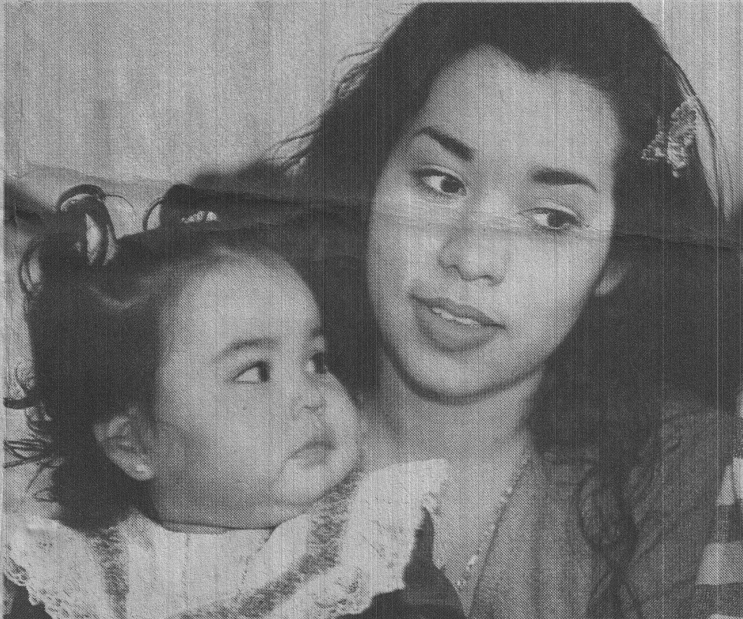
But she was different. She had stayed out of trouble. School had always been easy for her. And she was going to college.

Then, at 16, she got pregnant, too.

"I was really disappointed in myself. I couldn't believe it," Cadena recalled. "I said, God wouldn't do this, this can't happen. I have everything going for myself. I thought it would all be over."

But it wasn't over. Indeed, come September, Cadena will leave her parents in San Fernando, Calif., and travel

CADENA, Page B6



San Fernando High School senior Nora Cadena, 18, and daughter Chassitty will live in family housing at MIT in the fall.

Inside

Murder trial

The trial of Jeffrey L. Bly, accused in the slaying of gang prosecutor Paul R. McLaughlin, is scheduled to begin today with jury selection in Suffolk Superior Court. **B3**

Ruling for victims

The SJC rules that judges cannot require prosecutors to elicit information from rape victims at the request of defense attorneys. **B5**

Setback for elders

The Massachusetts House rejects a proposal to assist low- and moderate-income elders with especially high prescription drug costs. **B7**

Ed group
eyes new
math
exams

Tests would target
eighth-graders

By Beth Daley
GLOBE STAFF

Last week, Boston Latin School eighth-grader David Koepke spent three class periods taking the long composition state MCAS test. This week, it's the Boston Stanford 9 achievement test.

And in three years, there could be yet another test.

A national education reform group announced yesterday that Massachusetts is helping it develop a "rigorous" math exam to make sure the nation's eighth-graders are on par with their peers in top-performing countries.

The exam, which would be put into place in three years and cost \$2 million to develop, would test students in two-dimensional geometry, proportions, and exponents, among other things, according to the non-profit group Achieve Inc., based in Cambridge.

But as educators struggle to teach students new material that will be on the MCAS, they and parents say the state needs to stay focused on that project.

"The reasons behind the tests are good but there are growing pains," said Kate DeWolf, Koepke's mother. "A lot of the trouble is this: The Stanford 9 is from Boston, the MCAS is the state and with this new test, we will have so many government entities mandating tests. I hope in the future they will talk to each other."

State education officials, however, downplayed the prospect of another test, saying their main goal was simply to ensure the MCAS was used as a national model and that they joined the partnership to compare their customized test against

TESTS, Page B6



City of Cambridge

26.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 14, 1999

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Doris E. (Keefe) Souza on May 31, 1999; and

WHEREAS: Doris's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family, her sons Davis Keefe Feeley, Daniel F., Robert P. and John J. Souza; her daughters Pamela A. Tauro and Doris M. Souza; her grandchildren Walter, Brian, Jennifer and Daniel; and

WHEREAS: Doris will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Doris E. Souza at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Souza family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 14, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of six members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



TT
MS
11MG

Donis Sousa

4/2/99 @ 7:55
(Globe) ✓

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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FROM THE DESK OF D. MARGARET DRURY, CITY CLERK

FROM THE OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK

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A 6

dear of

Dr. E. Souza



City of Cambridge

26.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 14, 1999

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
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Consent Order # 26

2696

Councilors Toomey, Sullivan, Vice Mayor
Galluccio and entire membership re:
resolution on the death of Doris E.
Souza.

In City Council June 14, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED