Councillor Sullivan
all

RO

Resolved That the City Council extends its sincerest sympathy to the City of Worcester & the families of the six firefighters who lost their life battling a fire in an abandoned building in Worcester ~~this~~ this weekend; and be it further

Resolved SEC to City of Worcester & the families

Rising Vote of 8

Sports

Everett sparkles
Ferri, Tide roll; Barnstable tops BC High
Pages 96-85



ALSO INSIDE

DAVID CONE is set to sign a one-year deal that will keep him a member of the Yankees. Page 81

Bruins....108
Celtics....106
Colleges....104-98
Lotteries....80
Racing....76, 75

Still in running

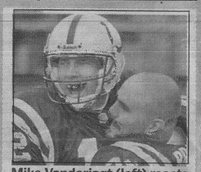
Pats keep pace, stop losing skid with win over Dallas Story, Page 132



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM MAHONEY

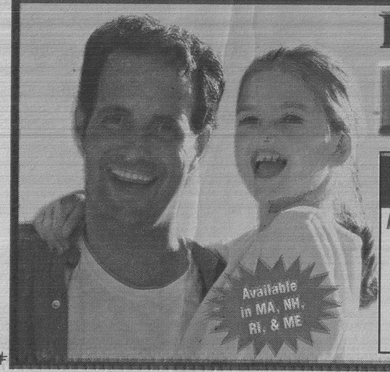
NO LETT-ING UP: Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe struggles free from the grasp of Cowboys lineman Leon Lett on his way to a key first down in last night's 13-6 win over Dallas at Foxboro Stadium. Bledsoe's effort allowed the Pats to run out the clock for the victory.

NFL SCOREBOARD



Mike Vanderjagt (left) reacts after kicking Colts to win.

COLTS	37
DOLPHINS	34
GIANTS	41
JETS	28
PACKERS	35
BEARS	19
FALCONS	35
SAINTS	12
RAMS	34
PANTHERS	21
BENGALS	44
49ERS	30
RAVENS	41
TITANS	14
LIONS	33
REDSKINS	17
CARDINALS	21
EAGLES	17
CHARGERS	23
BROWNS	10
CHIEFS	16
BRONCOS	10
RAIDERS	30
SEAHAWKS	21



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Bay State schools expel Pokemon

By ERIC CONVEY

All the Pokemon are getting caught.

The cartoon, trading-card and video-game craze that has America's youngsters in a frenzy has been banned at schools across Massachusetts.

And more are outlawing the game almost daily.

"If only they could learn their math and their reading and their science as fast as they know all about Pokemon, they would be brilliant," said Sister Dorothy Burns, principal of Cathedral Elementary School in the South End, where Pokemon is not welcome.

The problem, administrators said, is that students are turning classrooms into Wall Streetesque

Turn to Page 22

$15,000 IN CASH PRIZES UP FOR GRABS TODAY!
Herald LUCKY NUMBERS GAME
8156
Details on Page 31

WEATHER

PERIODS OF RAIN and showers, possibly heavy at times. High of 56. Page 22

-★★★-

LOCAL

GOV. CELLUCCI pushes a $20 million plan to fix the embattled Registry of Motor Vehicles. Page 10

BAY STATE businesses are giving MCAS-like tests to young job applicants to weed out the unqualified. Page 20

NATIONAL

MARS LANDER remains mum as frustrated NASA officials listen intently for a signal from the spacecraft. Page 24

INTERNATIONAL

IRA REPORTS its representative met with the Belfast-based disarmament commission negotiating the handover of arms. Page 25

BUSINESS



FOXBORO VOTES tonight at Town Meeting on the New England Patriots' proposal to build a new stadium. Page 29

LIFESTYLE

SOLVING the perfect crime is easier, thanks to the Herald's Rosemary Herbert, who has edited 'The Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing.' Page 41

ARTS & TV

RAVE ON: Rock legend Buddy Holly is the subject of a theatrical musical arriving at Boston's Shubert Theatre tomorrow. Page 35

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL football squads battle for Bay State supremacy in four Super Bowl title games. Pages 85-96

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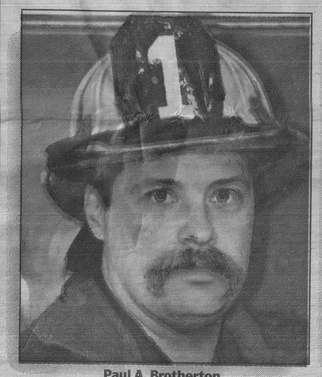
BOSTON Herald
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999 ■ 50 CENTS

Back on track

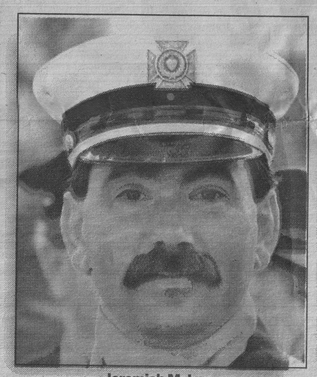


Terry Allen rushes for the game's only touchdown and the Patriots beat Dallas for the first time, 13-6.
Sports, Page 132

'Such a great loss'



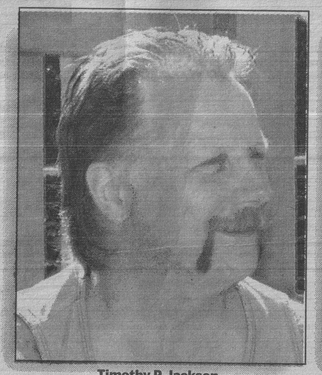
Paul A. Brotherton



Jeremiah M. Lucey



Thomas E. Spencer



Timothy P. Jackson



James F. Lyons



Joseph T. McGuirk

Search for victims of blaze continues as first fallen Worcester firefighter is recovered Complete coverage Pages 2-7

TRAGEDY IN WORCESTER

THE HERALD'S VOICES



JOE FITZGERALD visits with the wife of a Boston firefighter who describes the pain the families of six fallen Worcester firefighters are feeling. Page 7



JOE SCIACCA imagines Orrin Hatch's suggestion of a bus trip across New Hampshire by the Republican presidential candidates as a sort of magical mystery tour. Page 12



DON FEDER gives the bum's rush to Hillary Clinton's proposal to increase federal housing vouchers in the wake of a homeless man's vicious assault on a Manhattan woman. Page 27



TONY MASSAROTTI talks to Barnstable High's Stefan Gomes, who led his team to a Super Bowl victory by putting into action his coach's words: Big guys make big plays in big games. Page 94

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'I think Pokemon is comparable to anthrax; it just consumes their lives.'

SOMERVILLE MOTHER AND HEALY SCHOOL CLASSROOM VOLUNTEER COURTNEY WAYSHAK, DECRYING KIDS' FANATICISM ABOUT THE POKEMON CARD GAME. PAGE 1

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Grim search continues for bodies and answers

By DAN ROSENFELD, STEVE CONROY and LAUREL J. SWEET

WORCESTER — As church bells tolled across the city, the first fallen firefighter was pulled from the brick, timber and ash that still entombs five of his heroic comrades who perished in a suspicious inferno.

The remains of firefighter Timothy P. Jackson of Hopedale, who had braved the blaze in a four-man team to try and find two lost firefighters, were pulled from the northeast corner of the still-smoldering Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. building about 10:30 a.m.

A solemn brigade of exhausted "jakes" formed to honor the 42-year-old father of two. Men, some who had not left the Franklin Street scene since Friday, saluted or covered their hearts with their helmets.

"We brought one of our brothers home and our goal is to bring everybody back together and to our family," said firefighter Frank Raffa, member of the search-and-rescue team and president of the local firefighter's union.

The gruesome and emotionally draining search for the other five firefighters continued into the night as crews with remote cameras and trained dogs delicately searched the building. A crane pulled debris from the crumbled edifice, spreading out refuse on the roadway in a methodical hunt for clues

Still buried in the rubble were: Lt. Thomas E. Spencer, 42, of Worcester; James F. Lyons, 34, of Worcester; Joseph T. McGuirk, 38, of Leicester; Paul A. Brotherton, 41, of Auburn; and Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38, of Leicester.

"Not only did I lose a brother, I lost six brothers," said Spencer's brother, Michael, who is also a Worcester firefighter.

"They were all excellent firefighters, very dedicated individuals," Spencer and survivors of four other victims held a powerful press conference during the afternoon that brought the human tragedy into even more somber focus.

Fifteen children — including six Brotherton sons — will be without fathers this Christmas. Wives will have to raise families without their husbands while parents had to cope with the enormous pain of living beyond their sons.

The Rev. Charles Dumphy, pastor at Blessed Sacrament, said he had counseled the parents of James F. Lyons III, one of the four men who went to the aid of two trapped firefighters — only to also perish.

"They were doing well, but how well can you be doing?" he said.

He said he ran into Lyons at a wedding two weeks ago and the 34-year-old had recalled a sermon Dumphy gave years ago at a firefighter's funeral.

"Now he's in the same situation," said Dumphy, who discussed heroism during his sermon.

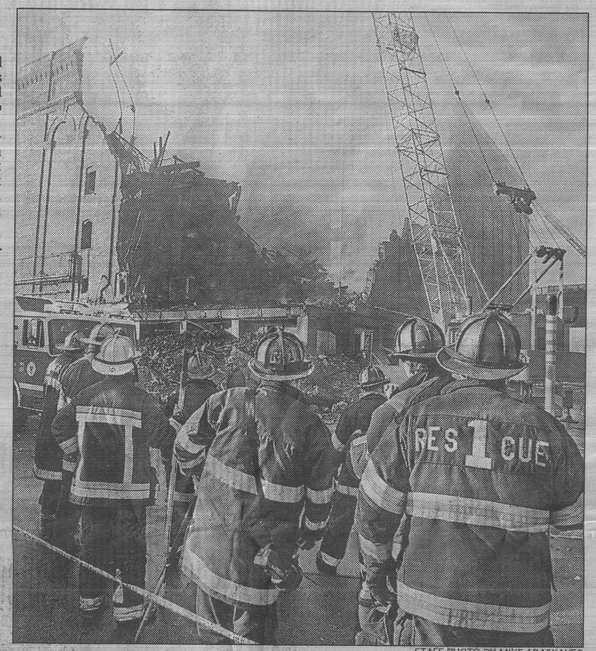
A formal memorial service for the six was scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at the Worcester Centrum, the city's largest arena. Fire officials said they expected throngs of firefighters from around the nation.

Funerals will be held Friday and Saturday at the churches the firefighters attended.

Inspectors from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which investigates all firefighter deaths, were expected to arrive yesterday afternoon from Morgantown, W. Va., to piece together the tragic events.

Last night State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan characterized the fire as "Suspicious, with all possible causes remaining under investigation."

Compounding the pain for family members, officials said it was unlikely there were any squatters in the building as the firefighters believed when they entered it.



STAFF PHOTO BY MIKE ADASKAVEG

TRAGIC SCENE: Firefighters yesterday stand at the still-smoldering scene of the Worcester fire that took the lives of six of their comrades Friday night.

Two firefighters became lost during the initial sweep, spurring a frantic search. From the depths of the smoky fire, a torrent of radio calls foretold tragedy. "Mayday, mayday. We're running out of air," radioed one of the first two trapped firefighters. Brotherton's family believes it was his voice.

According to Coan, Jackson was part of a second group of firefighters who went in after the first two when they were reported missing. Coan said the homeless known to live in that area had all been located.

"The homeless individuals who have been known to frequent this area have all been found and identified," he said.

Worcester District Chief Walter Giard said authorities were in the early stages of their investgation. Worcester and state authorities are being joined by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"We're still fighting the fire and continuing the recovery process," Giard said.

Campfires set by the homeless are among possible causes for the blaze.

Throughout the day, shifts of two teams of six firefighters were being sent into the building. Recovery teams also searched with four body-sniffing dogs and a recovery team stood ready.

"Right now they want to make the recovery, not too many people are dwelling on anything other than their job," said. Capt. Dennis Dolan. "After the fact it may be a different story."

At approximately 5:15 p.m., 10 firefighters from the Boston Fire Department's specialized Rescue 1 Tunnel/Trench Team began boring into the charred rubble. They were looking for victims with a tubular camera designed to snake its way through narrow cracks and tiny holes that would be far too dangerous for a human being to try and penetrate.

The warehouse has been an eyesore in downtown Worcester for years, attracting homeless residents and recently some attention from urban planners. The Worcester Redevelopment Authority awarded the Maquire Group of Foxboro an $89,000 grant to study turning it into a biomedical park.

Tony Kwan, owner of the warehouse, issued a short statement yesterday afternoon.

"This is a terrible tragedy. My heart and my prayers go out to the families, friends and colleagues of the six brave firefighters who lost their lives in this catastrophe," he wrote. "I have and will continue to cooperate fully with all authorities to discover how and why this tragedy occurred."

The tragedy will also snarl today's commute as eastbound Interstate 290 will be shut.

"It will remain closed until fire crews complete their operations and the Fire Department gives the all clear," said MassHighway Commissioner Matthew J. Amorello.

Paul Sullivan and Doug Hanchett contributed to this report.

'We brought one of our brothers home and our goal is to bring everybody back together and to our family.'

FIREFIGHTER FRANK RAFFA, A MEMBER OF THE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

Extra points

Greetings from FOXBORO STADIUM *Foxboro, MA.*



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

CAPED CRUSADERS: Plymouth's Rich Gallerani, left, and Mike Alves, of Revere, show team spirit in the parking lot before last night's game at Foxboro.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	FINAL
Patriots	3	3	0	7	13
COWBOYS	3	0	0	3	6

1st FIRST QUARTER
NE—FG Vinatieri 41, 10:14. Drive: 11 plays, 57 yards, 4:46. Key plays: Bledsoe 21 pass to Jefferson; Allen 13 run. **New England 3, Dallas 0.**
Dal—FG Cunningham 20, 2:49. Drive: 4 plays, 5 yards, 2:06. Key play: Coakley 18 interception return to Patriots 8. **New England 3, Dallas 3.**

2nd SECOND QUARTER
NE—FG Vinatieri 23, 6:49. Drive: 10 plays, 39 yards, 5:15. Key plays: Bledsoe 17 pass to Faulk; Allen 2 run on 3rd-and-1 to Cowboys 16. **New England 6, Dallas 3.**

4th FOURTH QUARTER
NE—Allen 3 run (Vinatieri kick), 6:39. Drive: 10 plays, 65 yards, 5:25. Key plays: Bledsoe 11 pass to Glenn; Bledsoe 19 pass to Faulk on 3rd-and-7 to Cowboys' 32; Bledsoe 11 pass to Brown. **New England 13, Dallas 3.**
Dal—FG Cunningham 34, 2:50. Drive: 11 plays, 49 yards, 3:49. Key plays: Aikman 15 pass to McGarity; Aikman 13 pass to Ogden on 3rd-and-13 to Patriots' 40; Aikman 22 pass to Tucker. **New England 13, Dallas 6.**

Team statistics

	Dal	NE
First downs	12	18
Rushing	5	7
Passing	7	9
Penalty	0	2
Third down eff.	4-13	6-13
Fourth down eff.	0-2	0-0
Total net yards	203	284
Total plays	56	62
Avg. gain	3.6	4.6
Net yards rushing	63	108
Rushes	23	36
Avg. per rush	2.7	3.0
Net yards passing	140	176
Sacked-yds lost	3-20	1-0
Gross-yds passing	160	176
Completed-att.	20-30	14-25
Had intercepted	0	2
Yards-pass play	4.2	6.8
Kickoffs-ez-tb	3-2-1	4-0-0
Punts-avg.	4-44.3	4-40.5
Punts blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs blocked	0-0	0-0
Total ret. yards	118	82
Punt returns	1-15	3-32
Kickoff returns	4-103	2-50
Interceptions	2-18	0-0
Penalties-yds	6-35	2-20
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0

TIME OF POSSESSION

DALLAS	NE
30:31	29:29

Game time — 2:46
Attendance — 58,444
No-shows — 1,748

Key play

The Patriots defense stopped the Cowboys on fourth-and-2 at the Pats' 41 with 12:04 to play. The Pats then drove 59 yards for a touchdown to make it 13-3.

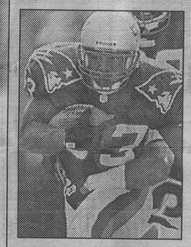
Injuries

Patriots: Ty Law (broken bone, right hand)
Cowboys: Flozell Adams (left knee contusion)

They said it

"It was either win or start playing for pride."
— Larry Whigham.

Studs

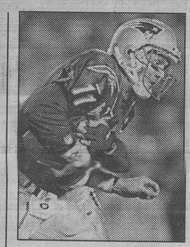


FAULK: Two-way effort gives boost to offense.

1. Kevin Faulk. The rookie tailback gave Drew Bledsoe a much-needed option underneath and he turned two dump passes into gains of 17 and 19 yards. Faulk ran well filling in for Terry Allen.

2. Larry Whigham. In the Patriots nickel defense, Whigham sacked Troy Aikman and forced a fumble on the same play. Whigham also cut down Chris Warren for a 3-yard loss on a swing pass and played well on special teams.

Duds



BLEDSOE: Interceptions keep hurting the team.

1. Drew Bledsoe. He handed Dallas three points when Dexter Coakley intercepted a poorly thrown ball and returned it to the Pats' 8. Bledsoe also killed a potential scoring drive when he was picked off by Darren Woodson in the end zone wit. 25 seconds to play in the half.

2. Heath Irwin. The Patriots left guard nullified a 39-yard gain with a needless tripping call. He also had trouble stopping Dallas tackle Erik Williams from pushing the pile back into Bledsoe.

Dallas in '99

Dallas 41, WASHINGTON 45		
DALLAS 24, Atlanta 73		
Sept. 26 — OFF		
DALLAS 35, Arizona 7		
PHILADELPHIA 13, Dallas 10		
NEW YORK GIANTS 13, Dallas 10		
DALLAS 38, Washington 20		
INDIANAPOLIS 34, Dallas 24		
Dallas 27, MINNESOTA 17		
DALLAS 27, Green Bay 13		
ARIZONA 13, Dallas 9		
DALLAS 20, Miami 0		
PATRIOTS 13, Dallas 6		
Dec. 12	Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 19	New York Jets	4:15
Dec. 24	at New Orleans	3:05
Jan. 2	New York Giants	4:05

Individual statistics

RUSHING
Dallas, Smith 19-75, Aikman 2-(minus 1), C.Warren 1-(minus 3), Ismail 1-(minus 8).
New England, Allen 18-53, Faulk 9-36, Bledsoe 7-10, L.Warren 1-7, Floyd 1-2.

PASSING
Dallas, Aikman 20-30-0-160.
New England, Bledsoe 14-25-2-176.

TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS
Dallas, Godfrey 12-5-0, Teague 6-5-0, Hambrick 5-2-0, Pittman 5-0-0, Hennings 4-2-0, Woodson 3-2-0, Sanders 3-0-0, Coakley 2-5-0, C.Williams 2-1-0, Noble 2-0-0, Ellis 1-1-1, Mobley 1-0-0, Gowin 1-0-0, Hall 1-0-0, Hellestrae 1-0-0, Nguyen 1-0-0, R.Thomas 0-1-0, Spellman 0-1-0, Ekuban 0-1-0.
New England, Collons 5-1-0, Bruschi 4-4-0, Johnson 4-2-0, Law 4-2-0, Slade 4-1-0, C.Carter 3-2-0, Eaton 3-1-0, Israel 3-1-0, McGinest 2-1-1, Mitchell 2-1-0, Milloy 2-0-0, T.Jones 2-0-0, Katzenmoyer 2-0-0, H.Shaw 1-1-0, H.Thomas 1-1-0, Serwanga 1-1-0, Floyd 1-0-0, Moore 1-0-0, Bledsoe 1-0-0.

PUNT RETURNS
Dallas, Sanders 1-15.
New England, Brown 3-32.

KICKOFF RETURNS
Dallas, Mathis 4-103.
New England, Faulk 2-50.

INTERCEPTIONS
Dallas, Coakley 1-18, Woodson 1-0.

MISSED FIELD GOALS
Dallas, Cunningham 43 (WR).

REFEREE
Referee Bob McElwee.

RECEIVING
Dallas, Ismail 8-58, McGarity 3-31, Smith 3-10, LaFleur 2-21, Ogden 2-21, Tucker 1-22, C.Warren 1-(minus 3).
New England, Brown 4-40, Faulk 3-43, Glenn 3-27, Jefferson 2-46, L.Warren 1-13, Brisby 1-7.

Patriots in '99

Patriots 30, NEW YORK JETS 28		
PATRIOTS 31, Indianapolis 28		
PATRIOTS 16, Giants 14		
Patriots 19, CLEVELAND 7		
KANSAS CITY 16, Patriots 14		
Miami 31, PATRIOTS 30		
PATRIOTS 24, Denver 23		
Patriots 27, ARIZONA 3		
Nov. 7 — OFF		
New York Jets 24, PATRIOTS 17		
MIAMI 27, Patriots, 17		
BUFFALO 17, Patriots 7		
PATRIOTS 13, Dallas 6		
Dec. 12	at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec. 19	at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 26	BUFFALO	1:00
Jan. 2	BALTIMORE	1:00



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OVER COME: Linda McGuirk, Joseph McQuirk's widow, surrounded by fellow relatives of victims, breaks into tears while speaking to the press at the fire site in Worcester yesterday.

STAFF PHOTO BY WILLIAM B. PLOWMAN

City copes with painful loss

By DOUG HANCHETT and LAUREL J. SWEET

WORCESTER — As firefighters, rescue dogs and high-tech cameras sifted through the ashen rubble of the Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. building yesterday for six lost heroes, the people of the city undertook another search: a search for answers, for comfort.

"We as a city have to dare to face our sorrow . . . if we can, we will see that only God can fulfill our longing, only God can give us hope," the Rev. William Sanders, pastor of St. Stephen's Church, said at a Sunday morning Mass.

St. Stephen's was among scores of churches in Worcester and across the state to pray for the six firefighters who perished trying to help others and each other in the labyrinthine old factory building Friday night.

On Thursday at 11 a.m., the Worcester Centrum will open its doors to firefighters and mourners from across the nation for a special memorial Mass to honor the dead.

The Rev. Peter Scanlon, Worcester Fire Department chaplain, said funerals will be held Friday and Saturday at the churches the firefighters attended.

Cleaving to the hands of her brother-in-law, Worcester firefighter Michael Spencer, Kathy Spencer, wife of Lt. Thomas E. Spencer, 42, said yesterday her late husband's comrades "eat, sleep, do everything together.

"As wives, we relate the same way. We've lost six members of our family. All our brothers are helping us and they will help us for the rest of our lives."

Also killed in Friday's inferno were firefighters James F. Lyons III, 34, Timothy P. Jackson, 51, of Hopedale, Joseph T. McGuirk, 38, of Leicester, Paul A. Brotherton, 41, of Auburn and Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38, of Leicester.

A public outpouring of grief began yesterday at the scene of the fire beside I-290, where a steady stream of strangers laid flowers on the front bumper of a fire engine.

The search for solace culminated midafternoon, at an interfaith gathering at St. Paul's Cathedral — a service planned months ago to celebrate the millennium.

"It'll be a bridge of prayer across the city," Worcester Bishop Daniel P. Reilly said.

Sanders told his flock at St. Stephen's that the fire could serve as a teacher to its survivors. "The great Worcester fire can leave us better, or it can leave us bitter," said Sanders. "The choice is ours."

The owners of Bill's Place, a normally quiet family-run diner located steps from an abandoned warehouse that burned Friday, have kept their doors open around the clock as a refuge for exhausted firefighters, cold spectators and sympathetic citizens.

"It's impossible to sleep," said owner Bill McNeil, who has not gone home since the fire broke out.

It was McNeil who told Worcester police that homeless lived in the warehouse, and it was during the search for those people that the firefighters were killed.

Since then, the employees of Bill's Place have kept their own vigil, turning one of the diner's two small dining rooms into a refuge for tired firefighters to warm up in, serving them hot chocolate, coffee and food. "Any officer or firefighter, I'm taking care of on the house," McNeil said.

New England's second-largest city has a small-town feel, and the firefighters' deaths have touched many people, said Mayor Raymond Mariano, who knew all the victims.

Mariano has postponed most municipal meetings for the week. "City business can wait a week," he said. "Our hearts and minds should be with the families and friends of our firefighters. We have to grieve, we have to heal and we then have to move on."

Herald wire services contributed to this report.

CCD students' mural salutes fallen heroes

By DAVE WEDGE

Perhaps nowhere in Worcester was community support for six fallen firefighters more evident yesterday than on the courtyard cement outside Our Lady of Mount Carmel-St. Ann church.

Written in colorful chalk on the ground outside the rectory where victims' family members have walked over the past two days were words of encouragement: "Heroes," "Faith," "God," "In Our Prayers." A Worcester Fire Department crest was also drawn, along with crosses, hearts and flowers.

The mural was drawn by eighth-grade CCD students as a show of support, said Our Lady of Mount Carmel religious director Joan D'Argenis.

"We sat and talked with the kids and tried to come up with a way to help," D'Argenis said. "We focused on the fact that there are (so many) kids who won't have their fathers for Christmas."

One class traced handprints, wrote prayers on them and hung them on the rectory walls for the family members to read.

CCD teachers stressed to the students the importance of making each day count.

"We told each child to go home and tell their parents, 'I love you,' " D'Argenis said the tragedy has "hit home hard" for the students, many of whom are friends with the victims' children.

TRAGEDY IN WORCESTER

Grieving families pour

By ROBIN WASHINGTON and DAN ROSENFELD

Time seemed to stop outside the wreckage of Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. yesterday as family members of the six fallen firefighters stepped one by one toward a clump of microphones.

In a display of the power of the human spirit, wives, brothers, nephews, fathers and mothers shared their tempered pain with the world.

The words they spoke were a gift to the six firefighters who died protecting an aging industrial town from the villain of fire. With nerve endings raw, they stood tall and painted a loving portrait of men who shared their lives.

What follows are six glimpses into the firefighters who paid the ultimate price because they thought that other people were in danger.

James Lyons, the father of one of the victims called them martyrs in the true religious sense of the word.

■■■

In a plaque he kept on a wall in his Auburn home, Paul Brotherton asked God to look over his family if flames should ever take his life.

On Friday, that prayer found itself being dispatched as the grim prophesy became reality when the family asked for God's help in caring for Brotherton's wife, Denise, and their six children, ages 6 to 16.

Nephew Keith Higgins recalled the prayer in relating the family's search for consolation.

"At this sad time we take solace in remembering the ... lines which we know were with him in that building," Higgins said.

But for much of his life, it was Brotherton, 41, who had to look out for so many, even before his time.

A Worcester native, Brotherton found himself caring for his three younger siblings when his mother and father died just seven weeks apart in 1983. He was just 24 and his twin brother Peter was away in the service.

Paul Brotherton also joined the service. In an effort to help people distinguish them from one another, they chose different branches, Peter recalled.

"I joined the Army and he joined the Air Force. That was because we were dressed alike too much," said Peter, who later himself switched to the Air Force where he remains today.

"He ended up in Georgia. I was in Colorado Springs. I got the better tour of duty," Peter said.

In 1980, they left the service and both got jobs at Worcester City Hospital as orderlies.

Later, when Paul thought to pursue becoming a firefighter, fellow Burncoat High School class of '76 alum Dave Shea went with him to get the application.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURIE SWOPE

SOLEMN SALUTE: Fellow firefighters cover their hearts in respect while the body of one of their comrades is removed from the burned-out warehouse in Worcester yesterday.

"I used to joke around with him and give him a hard time about being a civil servant," Shea said.

But those jokes were reciprocated, he said.

"Paul was a clown. He had the greatest sense of humor."

As his family grew to six children, Paul became more industrious, Shea said.

"He worked part-time jobs for extra money for his family. He always had another iron in the fire, tried to make life a little better," said Shea, who said Brotherton's responsibilities toward his large family reminded him of the period when Paul cared for his younger siblings.

> **'When I got home my wife just looked at me and I kind of put two and two together and kind of lost it.'**
>
> **PETER BROTHERTON ON HIS BROTHER'S DEATH**

Shea called Paul's wife Denise, a nurse, equally strong.

"I don't know how she does it. I guess with six kids you learn how to deal with adversity. She's as strong as a bull but I think at some point she's going to need some help dealing with this," Shea said, adding, "(The children) aren't going to be able to deal with it until they realize Daddy's not coming home."

It took a while for Peter to realize what had happened to his twin.

Headed out to work at Westover Air Force Base early Saturday, Peter had heard only the initial reports of the fire.

"I said, 'Well, he's probably not on duty,' " Peter said.

"I returned at about 1:30 that afternoon. When I got home my wife just looked at me and I kind of put two-and-two together and kind of lost it," he said.

Higgins also expressed that grief.

"We solemnly feel that the loss of Paul is beyond words. We take comfort from the fact that he gave his life out of a selfless concern for the safety of others. He loved and respected his job very much," he said.

"He enjoyed every day of his 16 plus years as a firefighter. He was a very loving and caring person, brother, father, uncle and friend. We'll remember not only the sense of dedication to his job but also his joy of life and his sense of humor. We will miss him greatly."

Higgins also expressed concern for the other families.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the other firefighters. May God be with them and us as we deal with the loss of these men who have always been heroes to us."

■■■

James F. "Jay" Lyons III, 34, of Worcester, had firefighting in his veins since childhood, his parents and friends recalled.

"He would tug my hand when he heard the fire alarm and he would ask me to take him to the fire," said his father, James Jr., a retired city teacher. "Sometimes I would say, 'Jay, it's cold out there and it's snowing.' But I would take him to the fire."

Jay realized that dream after graduating first in his fire academy class in 1987. He recently had taken the lieutenant's test and also scored well, his father said.

So it was only natural that Lyons, 34, would run to the aid of two fellow firefighters lost in a burning warehouse Friday.

A tall, lanky guy, Lyons needed plenty of padding when he played Santa Claus for children at the local hospital last year.

Single, he was close to his parents and sister. He took a trip to Ireland with his mother, Joan, this summer to visit the family's ancestral home in Louisburg, County Mayo.

"He was here often to bring his laundry and to eat his mother's Sunday dinners," James Lyons Jr. said between sobs. "He was loving and devoted to both of us."

Yet firefighting was Jay Lyons second chance at public service.

In 1996, while stationed on



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURIE SWOPE

TOO MUCH: A firefighter from Worcester's Engine 16 is overcome with grief as he watches the effort to recover the bodies of six fallen comrades at the scene of the fatal Worcester fire yesterday.

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Pats corral Cowboys

Defense fuels 13-6 victory over Cowboys

By MICHAEL FELGER

FOXBORO — The Patriots did not provide much excitement last night. Instead, they provided something far more important:

A reason to keep watching for at least another week.

"That was the No. 1 thing — get the victory, no matter what," said safety Lawyer Milloy after the Pats remained alive in the AFC playoff race with a 13-6 victory over the Dallas Cowboys at Foxboro Stadium. "Get the victory and get back in this thing. We knew we messed up the previous three weeks and the only way to get back into it was to get the win."

The Patriots have their defense to thank for it. While quarterback Drew Bledsoe (two interceptions) remained mired in his slump and the offense once again failed to generate points, the defense came up with big plays time and again. The result was an end to the Pats' three-game losing streak and their first-ever win over the Cowboys (in eight tries).

More importantly, the Patriots were able to keep pace in the AFC. Their 7-5 record (including a 3-0 mark against the NFC East) puts them a game behind Miami and Buffalo for the fifth and sixth seeds in the conference. Next week will bring a much tougher test when the Pats travel to AFC East-leading Indianapolis.

"After the last three weeks it was great to get this win," said coach Pete Carroll. "You've got to win in December. We've got to get right back to business for Indianapolis. We'll turn right to it."

Added nose tackle Chad Eaton: "It's been since Halloween since we won a game. We needed this. We looked like a team not panicking, not stressed out. We looked like a team that had a great week of practice and we played well."

Defensively, that was true. With Ted Johnson back at middle linebacker, the Pats held the Cowboys to only 41 yards of offense in the first half and just 203 yards on the game. They held Emmitt Smith (19 carries, 75 yards) mostly in check while Troy Aikman (20-of-30, 160 yards) never hurt them. The Cowboys managed only four third-down conversions.

"I like the way we did it, because it was close the whole time and any one play could have made a difference," said Carroll. "We have been suffering through one-play situations the last few weeks, and the defense just hung on and hung on and did the job. I can't tell you how much I love to see that with the defense."

The offense was a different story. Bledsoe's two interceptions were killers, with the first setting up a Cowboys field goal in the first quarter and his second preventing the Pats from putting up more points just before halftime. Bledsoe rebounded to have a solid second half, but if the Pats are to have any chance against the Colts, Bledsoe knows he can't make those mistakes.

"Obviously, the two turnovers were ridiculous," said Bledsoe (14-of-25, 176 yards, no touchdowns). "Fortunately, our defense played so well we only had to score a couple of times. This has been a very tough stretch, one of the toughest we've been through."

On the plus side, the Pats ran the ball reasonably well, with Terry Allen rushing for 53 yards, Kevin Faulk going for 36 and the team amassing 108. There was also more of an emphasis on short passes, third downs (6-of-13) and long drives (there were three that consisted of at least 10 plays).

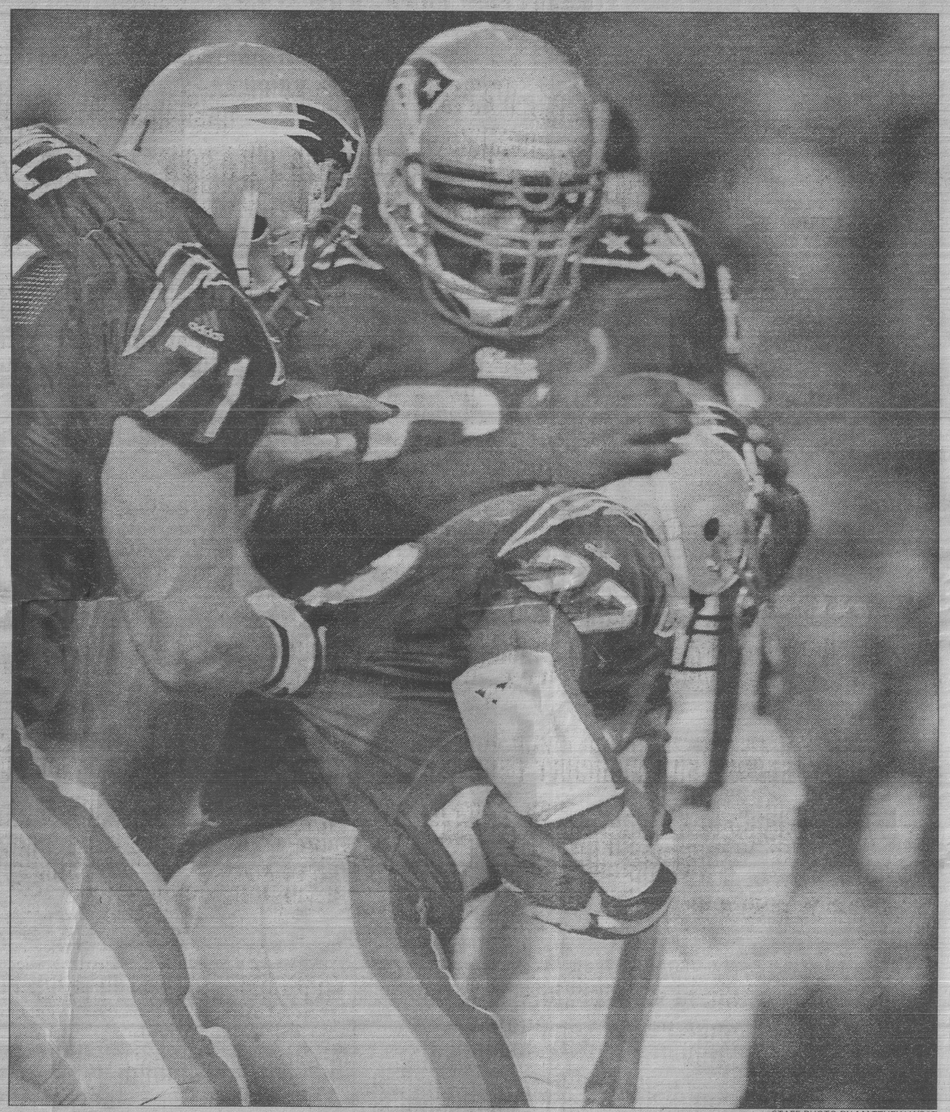
The Pats never trailed. They scored on their opening possession for the first time since opening day when Adam Vinatieri banged home a 41-yard field goal. After Bledsoe's first interception (to Dallas linebacker Dexter Coakley) on the next series allowed Dallas kicker Richie Cunningham to tie it with a 20-yarder, the Pats went up for good in the second quarter on a 23-yard field goal by Vinatieri.

The Patriots iced it in the fourth on Terry Allen's 3-yard run with 6:39 remaining. After Dallas cut into the lead with a late Cunningham field goal, Bledsoe sealed the deal when he scrambled for a first down on third-and-6 with just over two minutes remaining.

"It's been a long time waiting for the fun, I promise you that," said Carroll. "So we had a good time in the locker room, but we've got to get right back to business."

Added safety Larry Whigham: "We needed this game. We knew everything was at stake. That's the way we have to treat the rest of these games."

For now, though, the Pats can say goodbye to their three-game losing streak and their lifetime of futility against the Cowboys.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

WE NEEDED THAT: Patriots running back Terry Allen is congratulated by linemen Damien Woody and Todd Rucci (left) after scoring a touchdown in the fourth quarter of last night's 13-6 win over the Cowboys.

out feelings of love, loss

Martha's Vineyard as a state trooper, his career went sour after he was found to have discharged his gun at a house and into the air after a much-too-celebratory night on the island.

"In everybody's life, there's ups and downs. He just was a really nice young man," said Nellie Ruksnaitis, the next door neighbor who watched him grow up in the house he still shared with his parents.

After his graduation from the fire academy, Lyons expressed both his humility over the incident and thankfulness over being given another opportunity to serve the public.

"Chief (Dennis) Budd made a decision to help save a man's life and give me a second chance to prove myself," he told the Worcester Telegram & Gazette then. "He took a risk, and it's a decision he won't be sorry he made."

On Friday, it was Lyons who took a risk as he followed his duty into the flaming inferno and never returned. No one was second-guessing him.

"He was a hero here in the past few days, but he was a hero the day he was born," his father said. "Now he's a martyr, and martyr is a word I prefer rather than hero because my son was a hero the day he was born and not the day that he entered this fire. He went into this fire to save people, what he wanted to do."

■■■

Timothy P. Jackson, 51, of Hopedale, loved being a firefighter, friends and neighbors recalled.

And he also loved his motorcycle.

"His whole life was his motorcycle and the Fire Department. He couldn't wait for winter to be over. He'd be out there all bundled up waiting to ride his bike," said Carole Moore, who lived next door to Jackson and his wife, Mary.

Jackson had two grown sons from a previous marriage.

Moore also said he was the epitome of a good, courteous neighbor who would make a point to come by and say hello to her mother when she visited from Florida recently.

"This always happens at holiday time. The thing with firefighters and policemen is you never know if they're going to come home," Moore said.

That home was a yellow-sided ranch on Hopedale's main drag accented by a single bouquet of red flowers on a small sapling on the front lawn yesterday.

That was one of his trademarks, said neighbor Brian Dean.

"He planted a lot of trees. He took pride in his house and his yardwork," Dean said. "He was just a good neighbor. He was a big buddy to my 6-year-old daughter. He always had a big wave and hello. I feel bad for Mary."

Jeff Sanderson lived next door for two years, and like Moore and Dean, was impressed with Jackson's love for his Harley-Davidson. Last summer, Jackson attended the Sturgis Rally, an annual gathering of Harley enthusiasts in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

"I'm glad he got to go this year," Sanderson said.

■■■

Joseph T. McGuirk was born to be a firefighter.

It seemed the exception to the rule when a McGuirk male didn't go into that line of work.

"The Fire Department has been a tradition in my family for more than 200 years," said retired Lt. William McGuirk, Joseph's brother.

"My father, my brother Joe's father, also retired after 33 years of service, my uncle had over 30 years service, my cousins have all had several years of service and combined we've had over 200 years to the city of Worcester on

'We don't think of one person losing one person. We've lost. . .six members of our family.'

KATHY SPENCER, ON HER HUSBAND, THOMAS

Turn to Page 6



STAFF PHOTO BY MIKE ADASKAVEG

FOR FALLEN FRIENDS: A Worcester fire lieutenant carries flowers to the scene of Friday's devastating warehouse blaze that killed six members of his department. Firefighters and families of the victims gathered at the scene as the search for bodies went on yesterday.



STAFF PHOTO BY WILLIAM B. PLOWMAN

A LOSS TO ALL: Kathy Spencer talks with the media yesterday about her fallen husband, Thomas, a member of Ladder 2.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURIE SWOPE

STICKING TOGETHER: Firefighters comfort each other yesterday at the scene of Friday's fatal Worcester blaze.

TRAGEDY IN WORCESTER

Families face dark days



STAFF PHOTO BY MIKE ADASKAVEG

A FAMILY'S GRIEF: Peter Brotherton, wearing camouflage, the twin of Firefighter Paul Brotherton, who was killed in the Worcester fire, is embraced by his cousin, Robert King, left, at the scene yesterday.

Words of comfort

The following poem titled "A Fireman's Prayer" is displayed in the Auburn home of Paul A. Brotherton, one of six Worcester firefighters to lose their lives in Friday night's downtown abandoned building inferno. The author is unknown.

A Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God
Wherever Flames may rage
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever Be its age.
Help me embrace a little child
Before it is too late
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor
And protect their property.
And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
Please bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife.

From Page 5

the Fire Department."

He wanted to follow in their footsteps, but almost missed out because he almost waited too long to take the firefighters exam.

He aspired to become a firefighter since he was a young boy, but worked as a carpenter until he was appointed a firefighter three years ago at age 35.

McGuirk, 38, a resident of the Rochdale section of Leicester, left behind a wife and son.

"He was a great dad," said his wife, Linda. "My son thought the world of him."

Linda McGuirk broke down after making that short statement.

■■■

Hailing from a family of Irish immigrants, Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38, of Spencer recently returned from a trip to his ancestral homeland.

Noreen Fabrycki, his sister, recalled him as "a proud man" who was "very proud of his Irish heritage."

But she did not separate the sacrifice made by her brother from that of the rest of his fallen comrades.

"They all died doing what they loved," she said.

And like Timothy Jackson, who also perished Friday night, one of those loves was motorcycles and Harley-Davidsons in particular. Lucey had recently purchased one, Fabrycki said.

More than just a solitary sportsman, Lucey also loved to take his wife, Michelle, and two boys, 11-year-old Jeremiah Jr. and 8-year-old John, on camping trips.

He equally enjoyed taking his boys to soccer practice every weekend, Fabrycki said.

"We've told them that their Daddy is in heaven," she said. "They're proud of their Daddy. We're just devastated by this loss."

'Martyr is a word I prefer rather than hero because my son was a hero the day he was born . . .'

JAMES F. LYONS JR., ON HIS SON, JAMES F. III

With a shaken but deliberate voice, Michelle Lucey offered her appreciation for those who have come to comfort her family.

"I just want to say thank you to all the people who have outpoured for the sons and fathers (for this) unbelievable thing that happened," she said.

"I have to say my husband was a great man and nobody will replace him. He did everything all the way, whatever he chose to do. He did everything to the core. He was a great father, wonderful husband and those six men are such a great loss. I just want to say thank you to everybody."

■■■

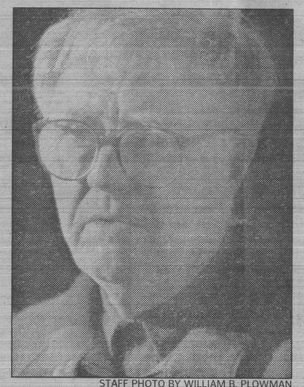
For Michael Spencer, "brother firefighter" was just not a term of camaraderie or reference to an extended family.

"I'm a firefighter for Worcester Engine Company No. 9, and my brother, Lt. Thomas Spencer, was in Ladder Company No. 2," he said of his fallen brother, who lived a couple of doors down on a hilly street in the northwest corner of Worcester.

For the brother left standing, however, the tie of blood made little difference in the wake of the tragedy.

"Not only did I lose a brother, I lost six brothers. They were all excellent firefighters, very dedicated individuals," he said.

Kathy Spencer echoed her brother-in-law's sentiments.



STAFF PHOTO BY WILLIAM B. PLOWMAN

GRIEVING: James Lyons Jr., the father of James Lyons III, talks to the media.

"The camaraderie of the Fire Department is something that probably if you've never been involved, you wouldn't understand it. They eat, sleep and everything together and as wives, we're the same way," she said.

A Worcester native, the 42-year-old Spencer attended Catholic schools for 12 years, graduating from St. Peter's High School. He was married for 20 years and had three teenagers, two boys and a girl. He was active in Boy Scout Troop 36, his sons' troop.

Alex Dowd, 13, was close friends with Thomas Spencer's three children and went on several Boy Scout camping trips with the fallen firefighter.

"He was a hero," Alex Dowd said. "He was a role model for everyone."

Alex's father, David Dowd, also attended some of the overnight camping trips and called Spencer "the best."

"He was always working with the kids and was always the first one to volunteer for anything," the elder Dowd recalled. "Totally self-less. Just a super, super guy."

"It was a shame for it to happen to someone of his caliber," he said. "Our hearts and prayers go out to him and his family."

Kathy Spencer paid homage to that same dedication her husband showed to his family.

"He was a devoted father, a wonderful loving husband, very active in our community but most of all, most of all he was a good person. He would never hesitate to step in and help and that is just what happened," Kathy Spencer said.

"My children are doing as best as I think any children can do. They understand it, they're here today. They're 13, 15 and 16. My 16-year-old has been up on the roof with my brother-in-law all afternoon. I don't think just as with myself that they have absorbed it. Right now there's things to do, so we keep busy."

Yet, she said, her family is drawing strength from the greater family that binds all firefighters. It is also a greater loss.

"We don't think of one person losing one person. We've lost our family, six members of our family," she said. "They'll always be our family. My husband is up there now I'm sure looking down and saying all his brothers are helping us and will help us for the rest of our lives."

Steve Conroy, Tom Farmer, Doug Hanchett, Dave Wedge, Laurel J. Sweet and Herald wire services contributed to this report.

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STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

WHIGGIN' OUT: Patriots safety Larry Whigham receives high-fives from the fans as he makes his way up the ramp to the locker room after last night's win.

Pats cook on all burners

FOXBORO — The complementary ingredients were there last night: the offensive drives of 10, 11 and 11 plays that resulted in two field goals and a touchdown, the big receptions by Troy Brown, the productive running by Kevin Faulk, the touchdown-saving tackle by Drew Bledsoe after

THE NFL
Kevin Mannix

an early interception and Bledsoe's power-of-the-will 6-yard ramble for a first down on third-and-6 at the end of the game.

None of these factors would have mattered if the defense hadn't responded to the pressure of the game and the problems of the Cowboys.

Sparked by the emotional return of linebacker Ted Johnson from a year's absence following a pair of surgeries to repair torn biceps tendons, the Patriots defense kept the team's flagging playoff hopes alive by stoning the Cowboys, 13-6.

Emmitt Smith, who has been one of the NFL's most effective running backs all year, was never a factor. After rushing for more than 100 yards in his last three games and six times in 12 games this season, Smith was held to 75 yards on 19 carries.

Without him controlling the ball, the Cowboys needed Troy Aikman to carry the offense.

Winning recipe does the trick

The Pats secondary and linebackers wouldn't let that happen. Aikman finished with 20 completions in 30 attempts but for a total of only 160 yards. He also was sacked three times.

In the first half, his eight completions (in 12 attempts) picked up 26 yards. Included in there was a 4-yard completion that capped off the Pats' best stand of the year.

Overall, the Pats defense held the Cowboys to 203 total yards and 4-of-13 on third-down plays.

Given the way recent games have gone, everybody realized the winner of this game would have to establish something early. Score one for the Pats defense.

Dexter Coakley had picked off a Bledsoe pass for Rod Rutledge in the flat and returned it to the Pats' 8 yard-line. Given the struggles endured by both teams, everybody knew that what happened after that interception could very well determine the game. Score a big win for the Pats defense on that series.

Smith ran the ball on first down, picking up only 2 yards before Brandon Mitchell and Chad Eaton stuffed him. On second down, Smith got the ball again, this time on a dump pass from Aikman in the right flat. Before he could turn upfield with the ball, Chris Slade and Henry Thomas combined to bring him down for no gain.

A third-down pass over the middle was completed to Rocket Ismail but safety Chris Carter closed quickly to make the tackle at the 3. The Cowboys settled for a 20-yard field goal that tied the game, 3-3.

"That stop was large," said defensive coordinator Steve Sidwell. "We knew they like to get the ball to (David) LaFleur, their big tight end down near the goal line."

Just as impressive to Sidwell as the goal line stand was the way the defense avoided big plays for the rest of the game.

"That's been a problem for us this year," Sidwell admitted. "Look at what happened in the Buffalo game. They had four plays of more than 25 yards. That's the kind of thing we couldn't afford to do in this game."

They didn't. The Cowboys' longest run was for 16 yards. They didn't have a pass completion for more than 23 yards.

"The idea was to keep them running plays and keep them from hitting us with the big gainer as long as we tackled well," Sidwell added. "We felt that if we could keep them snapping the ball, we'd have a chance to get them defended. That's the way it went. We did give up a couple of long drives but neither led to a touchdown."

The first came midway through the second half with the Pats nursing a 6-3 lead. Dallas ran 11 plays, driving from their 9 to the Pats' 25.

But on third-and-8 from the 25, Aikman's pass for Ismail fell incomplete as both Larry Whigham and Tebucky Jones blitzed and forced a quick pass.

Richie Cunningham's 43-yard field goal try to tie the game was short and wide to the right.

Two series later, with the Patriots holding a 13-3 lead and time winding down, the Cowboys went on another long drive, moving 49 yards on 11 plays before having to settle for a 34-yard field goal.

Sidwell hopes the Pats can repeat this the success of this week's performance.

It would be particularly nice next week, when the team travels to Indianapolis to take on the division-leading Colts, a team as explosive on offense as the Cowboys were ineffective.

There were a number of comparisons being drawn between the way this defense played last night and the way the team played during the stretch run in 1997.

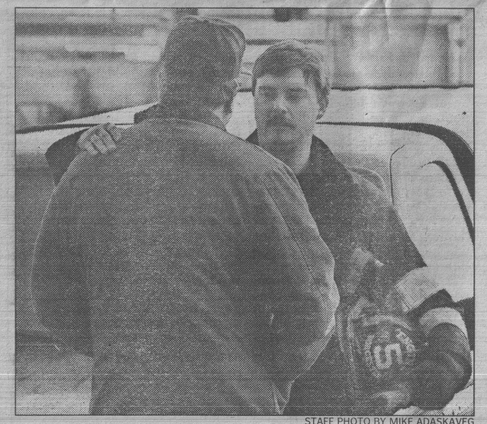
Tune in on Sunday afternoon to find out if those comparisons are valid.



STAFF PHOTO BY MIKE ADASKAVEG

PAINFUL VIGIL: Firefighters stand outside the fire site yesterday. They had stayed at the scene through the night, waiting for word on their fallen comrades.

Firefighting kin share sorrow



STAFF PHOTO BY MIKE ADASKAVEG

SOOTHING: A firefighter comforts a family member of one of the victims at the fire site in Worcester yesterday morning.

Funds set up to help heroes' kin

Funds have been set up to help the grieving families of the six Worcester firefighters killed Friday night in a general-alarm fire. Contributions can be sent to:

Fallen Firefighters Fund of Worcester, Mass., c/o Worcester Fire Department Credit Union, 2 Eastern Ave., Worcester, MA 01605

Salvation Army Worcester Fire Relief, P.O. Box 16924, Worcester, MA 01601

Firefighters Fund, c/o Flagship Bank, 120 Front St., Worcester, MA 01608

Profession's bond crosses time, distance

Dot Cook's reaction upon hearing six Worcester firefighters perished Friday night was captured in a word she barely whispered.

"Devastation," she said, sitting in her Westwood kitchen where she grieved for women and children she did not know as if those families were her own.

In a way, they are.

For 42 years, this mother of four, now a grandmother of six, was the wife of a Boston firefighter, Paul Cook, who retired as a district chief in 1988.

When Dot Nagle of Jamaica Plain married young Paul Cook from Roxbury in 1947, she did so with the knowledge that a firefighter's wife also marries his profession.

"Every night, before going to bed, I made sure I had some clothes in order, including clothes for the children, just in case we got that call no one likes to think about. I never told the kids; I didn't want to burden their minds, though it was always in the back of my mind.

"We always went to firefighters' wakes and each one reminded us that it could be our family standing there. When five men died at Trumbull Street in 1964, two were waked in adjoining rooms at a funeral home in South Boston. I'll never forget that scene.

"Or the nine who died at the Vendome in 1972. We went to all nine of those wakes. One of the men, Tommy Carroll, a handsome fellow, got married later in life; we were still young when Tommy was in his 40s, so his kids were little. I can see them now."

Six of those wakes she and Paul attended during his career were for colleagues killed on one of his shifts.

"When you see a closed casket with a white uniform hat placed on it, it tears your heart out."

And yet, she says, firefighting families share a fellowship that transcends the awfulness of times like these, allowing them to persevere through agony most of us will never experience, certainly not voluntarily.



Joe FITZGERALD

"Most of the wives I've known were awfully proud of the work their husbands did and our kids felt that way, too. Firefighters are very much into helping people, and go out of their way to help each other.

"I can't stop thinking about those Worcester familes. It will take a while for this to fully sink in because firefighters are away a lot. You get used to them being gone all night, not coming home the way guys with 9-to-5 jobs do. But once you realize they're never coming home . . ."

Her voice trailed off and she didn't complete the thought.

"Every year Paul and I go to the Fireman's Memorial Service at Forest Hills Cemetery. I've often seen widows attending with their kids and more than once I've heard them say, 'The children have a whole pile of stepfathers now.' "

Paul Cook, listening to her recollections, said nothing, but reached instead for a copy of remarks he made when he was the orator at a recent memorial service.

As he read, his deep voice quivered with emotion.

"We have come to remember those of our fraternal family who did not choose the date or details of their departure, but went about fulfilling their duties, mindful of the lurking dangers, yet with a determination to leave their destinies in the hands of a higher authority.

"Surely they can all claim those verses from the Gospel of John: *'This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'* Our comrades demonstrated that love and devotion to duty by laying down their lives, not just for friends, but often total strangers.

"Soon we'll stand with bowed heads while Taps are sounded, (then) march out of this cemetery. Our feet have not always been in step . . . but our hearts will always be in step."

From thousands of homes like the Cook home in Westwood, wherever firefighting families reside, hearts are in step with Worcester this morning.

And ours should be, too, because, as firefighters everywhere are prepared to do, they answered that Last Call for us.

Stephen King horrified at thought of long recovery



Inside Track



By GAYLE FEE and LAURA RAPOSA

Stephen King is still hobbling around the Back Bay on his extended vacation in Boston and the best-selling terrormeister says he's getting pretty darned sick of being in recuperation mode.

"I feel great, but I wish I could get rid of these crutches," King told the Track when we ran into him on Newbury Street the other day.

But King said he's unsure how much longer it will be until he's fully mobile.

"They won't tell me," King complained. "My leg still won't hold me up."

The author — who penned a string of blockbusters including "The Green Mile," which is about to hit the theaters as a major flick starring **Tom Hanks** — was seriously injured when he was run down by a van near his Maine vacation home last summer.

A spokeswoman said King and his wife, **Tabitha**, came to Boston for "a little change of scenery" and to visit with their son, **Joe**.

Our Newbury Street spies say they've seen King regularly trekking around the Back Bay, picking up newspapers at the **7-11**, renting videos and stopping into sandwich shops like **Ricotti's** for takeout.

"He's just a really nice guy," said Ricotti's sub king **John Gillis**. "He talks to everyone, signs autographs. He's a regular guy."

King said in an interview that he's been having trouble writing since the accident but he recently announced he will co-author a sequel to the million-selling fantasy novel, "The Talisman," with fellow horror writer **Peter Straub**.

Which, we hope, will make him the King of the best-seller list once again.

Erik Rules

He may be only 8 years old, but former Boston boy **Erik Per Sullivan** has Tinseltown on a string.

Erik is generating a lot of buzz thanks to commercials he is starring in for the new **Fox-TV** comedy, "Malcolm In The Middle." The little cutie also reportedly steals the show in the upcoming made-in-Massachusetts flick, "Cider House Rules."

In the **Lasse Halistrom** film, Erik plays Fuzzy, the cutest and sickest kid in the orphanage run by **Michael Caine**. Reportedly, Erik, whose mom is Swedish, spoke to director Hallstrom almost entirely in her native language during the making of the film.

File under: A Star Is Born?

Duo quits Crowe's nest

Lobbyists **Billy Cunningham** and **Jonathan Orloff**, who were spinning for **Bob Crowe**'s **Commonwealth Group**, have struck out on their own.

The boyos, who both worked for the **Kennedys** in Washington, wanted "to do things differently," Cunningham told the Track.

"I wanted to work with a couple of small, high-tech companies and do more business development here and in Washington," he said. "We're still doing some lobbying, but we're also doing some real estate partnerships and investments. We wanted to diversify."

And Bob didn't, we guess!

The Billy and Jonathan show, aka **Capitol Partners Inc.**, is based in North Andover, but has digs in D. C. on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Nice address!

Pasta kind of People

Anthony Martignetti, the **Prince Spaghetti** commercial kid (Anthony! Anthony!) who is all grown up and suing **Stop & Shop** for anti-Italian discrimination, is profiled in this week's **People** maggie.

Anthony, now 42, who ran through the streets of the North End for more than a decade in the spaghetti commercial, contends his boss at the supermarket warehouse taunted him with ethnic slurs.

Anthony is pictured with his mom, **Carmela**, in People, sitting down to a big plate of — what else? — pasta.

Millennium mirth

Just in case you are still in need of New Year's Eve plans, the **Comedy Connection** at **Faneuil Hall** is taking over the entire second-floor of the middle Marketplace building.

Emerson College alum **Anthony Clark** will strut his *schtick* in the Comedy Connection while a bash takes place in **The Backstage**.

There will be a jazz band in the rotunda and a disco in the old **Waterstone's** space. Yee ha!

The day after, the Connection will begin to get Y2K ready (OK, it's a little late) and will shut down for a major rehab for three months.

The jokes will not stop, however, because owner **Bill Blumenreich** will relocate the laugh palace into the vacant Waterstone's space.

Call it Comedy Construction.

Side Tracks

Heard in **Santa**'s Workshop:

■ Best-selling **Princess Diana** biographer **Sally Bedell Smith** will be at **Emerson College** today at noon as part of the school's "Celebrity Spectacle" series. Smith wrote "Diana: In Search of Herself." We're all ears.

■ **Boston University** is hosting a pre-screening of **Frederick Wiseman**'s flick, "Belfast, Maine," tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the **Tsai Performance Center**. The filmmaker will be on hand to introduce the film and take questions. Ay-uh.

■ **WGBH-TV** and **Tighe & Doyle** will hold auditions for kids ages 8 through 13 for "Zoom" on Jan. 8 at the 'GBH studios. For more info on the kiddie cattle call, ring up the Zoomites at (617) 300-2134. Come on, give it a try. . . .

■ Belmont hair clipper **Leon deMagistris** threw a Cuban-themed bash last night to celebrate 30 years in the hair care business. Salsa sensations **Mango Blue** provided the music and Leon's son, **Dante**, a sous chef at **Pignoli**, whipped up the food. *Aaaaaaaaariba!*

■ Professional Irishman **Shay Duffin**, who is starring in "A Couple of Blaguards" at the **Boston Plaza Hotel**, claims he'll soon appear in **Martin Scorcese**'s new flick, "Gangs of New York" which stars his good buddy, **Leonardo DiCaprio**. Shay and Leo were big pals during the filming of "Titanic," where Shay was cast as — surprise — a bartender.

Listen to the Inside Track on 96.9 FM Talk WTKK from 6 to 7 p.m. weeknights. And drop dimes at trackgals@aol.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURIE SWOPE

Celtics stars home in on the needy

Boston Celtics demolition men **Dana Barros**, right, and **Calbert Cheaney** took their hammers to the walls of an affordable housing unit in East Boston the other day as part of their off-the-court good-doobie work with **Fannie Mae's Home Team**.

Dana, by the way, is not only a whiz on the parquet. The Milton hoop star scores major points in the paint as a classic do-it-yourselfer!

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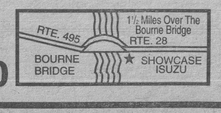
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City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

December 6, 1999

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

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its sincerest sympathy to the City of Worcester and the families of the six firefighters who lost their life battling a fire in an abandoned building in Worcester this weekend; 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 City of Worcester and the firefighters families on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council December 6,1999.
Adopted on an affirmative rising vote of eight members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- D Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

CCM-101

City of Cambridge

R-60.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 6, 1999

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
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Adopted on an affirmative rising vote of eight members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Resolution # 60 1272R

Councillor Sullivan and entire membership
re: extend sympathy to the City of
Worcester and the families of the
six firefighters who lost their lives
in the fire of an abandoned building
on December 3rd.

In City Council December 6, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED