



City of Cambridge

28.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 18, 1995

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Sherri Lewis works with the Improbable Players Theatre for Education and Prevention, a group based in Watertown which travels around the country and performs plays about addiction, alcoholism and AIDS; and

WHEREAS: Sherri helped develop "Passing It On" a play in which she acts with a cast of mostly HIV positive recovering addicts; and

WHEREAS: Sherri works as an AIDS group facilitator at the Granada House in Brighton, a half way house for recovering drug addicts, some infected with HIV; and

WHEREAS: At age thirty-one Sherri has tested positive for HIV and has been living as a survivor, her life's work revolving around helping people; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record applauding Sherri Lewis for the positive manner she takes in the fight against AIDS, and her work with the AIDS Action Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Sherri Lewis as recognition of her outstanding work and extend its best wishes for continued health and happiness in the future.

In City Council December 18, 1995

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine 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

Councillor Triantafyllou

Whereas: Sherri Lewis works with The Improbable Players Theatre For Education And Prevention, A group based in Watertown which Travels Around the country and performs plays about Addiction, Alcoholism and AIDS, and

Whereas: Sherri helped develop "Passing IT ON" ^{A PLAY} in which she acts with A cast of mostly HIV positive Recovering Addicts, and

Whereas: Sherri works AS AN AIDS group Facilitator At the GRANADA House In Brighton, A half way house For recovering drug Addicts, some infected with HIV, and

Whereas: At age thirty-one Sherri WAS tested positive FOR HIV AND has been living AS A SURVIVOR, her life's work revolving AROUND helping people, now therefore be it

Resolved: That the City Council go on record Applauding Sherri Lewis For the positive MANNER she takes in the Fight Against AIDS, And her work with The Aids Action Committee, and be it further

Resolved:

That the City Clerk be and hereby is
Requested to Forward a suitably engrossed
copy of this resolution to Sherri Lewis as
Recognition of her outstanding work and
Extend its best wishes for continued health
and happiness in the future.

Resolved: That the City Council extend its
best wishes to

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Father sentenced to four life terms in rape of daughter

By John Ellement
GLOBE STAFF

A Suffolk Superior Court judge yesterday told a Jamaica Plain man that he had cruelly violated his duty as a father as he sentenced him to serve four life terms in prison for helping one man rape his 9-year-old daughter and for offering to let a second man do the same thing in return for money.

Judge Margaret A. Hinkle told the 41-year-old defendant, whose name is not being used because it would identify his daughter, that he had acted in the "cruellest way possible" toward his child.

"It is a father's fundamental responsibility to care and protect his child," she told the man, who held a Bible in his hands and insisted he was not guilty of the crimes. "You violated that responsibility in the cruelest way possible."

The girl, who is now 11, testified against her father while sitting on telephone books and holding a stuffed animal in her hands. She has been placed in a foster home by the Department of Social Services, which came under fire when it was revealed the agency was planning to send her to live with her biological mother in Antigua.

DSS spokeswoman Lorraine Carl said yesterday the child remains in a Boston-area foster home while possible placement of the girl with her mother is being studied.

The father was convicted of sexually abusing his daughter on three occasions: With co-defendant Dexter Pratt in 1983; later the same year, when he allowed an adult to get into bed with the child, although it is believed that no sexual assault was made; and on March 26, 1994, when he offered to let Emmitt Bridgewater rape her during a party in return for \$300 cash.

Bridgewater reported the offer to Boston police, who launched a joint investigation with the child-abuse unit in Suffolk District Attorney Ralph C. Martin 21's office. Bridgewater, who was hailed by Hinkle as a "hero" yesterday, testified against the father.

Hinkle sentenced the man to four life terms in prison for his convictions on rape of a child under 14 and assault, with intent to rape a child under 14. She ordered that two of those life terms be served consecutively, which means that he will not be eligible for parole until he serves at least 30 years in prison.

Pratt, the co-defendant, was sentenced by Hinkle to serve 15 to 18 years in prison for raping a child. He was given a concurrent sentence of 15 to 18 years for attempting to rape a child. Pratt, who also asserted his innocence yesterday, will have to serve about 10 years before he is eligible for parole.

Martin said last night that the only positive development to arise from the case was the rescue of the child from the abusive home. "The good news is that the child has a good chance of getting on with her life," he said, but added he expected she would have emotional damage.

A former DSS social worker, Luther Fraser, lived in the apartment. Fraser testified that he left work, where he was supervising a visit of DSS children and their parents, to purchase alcohol for the March 1994 party.

When police went to investigate Bridgewater's claims, Fraser's genitals were allegedly exposed with the girl in the same room.

Martin says Fraser hasn't been implicated in the abuse case involving the father and daughter. Fraser was fired by DSS when he skipped a disciplinary hearing.

Teen movie beat
Guest reviewer
Sarah Blum-Smith
takes a look at
Disney's "Toy
Story." Page 77.

Lesser to resign NEC helm

By Richard Dyer
GLOBE STAFF

Laurence Lesser has announced plans to resign as president of the New England Conservatory of Music, a position he has held for 12 years. He has agreed to remain on the job through December 1996 while the search for a successor is undertaken. After that, he will remain on the faculty, which he joined in 1974 as professor of cello. The news came in a letter released to the NEC community yesterday morning.

In the letter Lesser, 57, says, "It is no secret that 1994 was a very difficult year for me personally - in the space of barely eight months I underwent five eye-related surgeries, the successful cumulative results of which have restored me to good health and energy. But no life experience so serious can leave one unchanged and I have, as a result, had to weigh the needs of our school and my personal capacity to do them honor."

Reached in his office yesterday afternoon, Lesser said, "Recently we have reached some major milestones: our \$25 million capital campaign and the renovation of Jordan Hall. We are at a moment of great strength for the institution, and it is time to consider how to start the next chapter. When I was recuperating from all those surgeries last year, I had a lot of time to think about what I wanted to do with my life, and when I was born with a talent for music and a talent for teaching; I was good at it, and I never stopped doing it. It is a good moment for the school to open a new chapter, and I can marry that to my own need to become a full-time musician again. I don't want to teach out of my back pocket, and I don't want to forget about playing."

A letter from David W. Sculley, chairman of the NEC board, outlines some of the major accomplishments of Lesser's era - the hiring of LESSER, Page 78

Living Arts

THE BOSTON GLOBE • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1995



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO: MICHAEL ROBINSON (CHAVEZ)
Sherri Lewis performs with Improbable Players, a Watertown group that stages plays about addiction, alcoholism and AIDS. Tomorrow, World AIDS Day, she leads a vigil at the State House.

Stage fight

HIV survivor Sherri Lewis is a trouper in the battle against the epidemic

By Michele R. McPhee
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Sherri Lewis bounces onto the stage, acting out a role about a drunken teenager trying to cajole her boyfriend into having unprotected sex. He tells her there are two things he does not want to get in college: a girl pregnant or AIDS.

"AIDS," she screams back. "I don't have AIDS!"

"How do you know?" he retorts. "Have you been tested?"

"Yeah," she says sarcastically. "I get tested every Thursday."

In the audience at a community college in New Jersey, Lewis' mother and stepfather quietly wipe away tears. Her fellow actors wince every time she says the line.

Because Sherri Lewis is, in fact, infected with HIV and has been for 10 years.

...
Fifteen years ago, Sherri Lewis was flirting with fame. Her Manhattan-based band - Sherri Beachfront and Get Wet - was a pop sensation, and with major music-industry backing it almost made the big time.

But with the rock 'n' roll came sex and drugs. At age 25, Lewis had a hit record, a fan club - and an unhealthy supply of illegal substances. She says she was sexually assaulted

LEWIS, Page 79



In the '80s, Lewis was on verge of pop stardom.

N.H. police honor trooper slain during '94 standoff

CONCORD, N.H. - New Hampshire State Police have presented their highest award to the trooper shot to death in a standoff last year and another who tried to save him.

The Medal of Valor was awarded posthumously to Sgt. James Noyes, who was shot last October trying to get a distraught man to surrender in Gilford. His widow, Debra, accepted his medal.

Trooper James White, a SWAT team member, was cited for dragging Noyes out of the line of fire.

Several other troopers and Gilford police dispatcher Karen Craver also were commended. (AP)

N.H. man with 1,200 pot plants gets 5 years

CONCORD, N.H. - A New Hampton man convicted of being the largest indoor marijuana grower in the state was sentenced in US District Court yesterday to five years in prison.

Harold Schaefer, 37, told the court that federal laws governing marijuana and officials that enforce them are hypocrites.

Schaefer was arrested in the summer of 1994 after police raided his home and confiscated 1,200 marijuana plants.

"What I did, I didn't do out of greed. I did what I did because I had to feed my family," Schaefer said. "The government representatives should hang their heads in shame for all the families they have destroyed in their senseless war on drugs." (AP)

Beatles anthology takes off

By Michael Saunders
GLOBE STAFF

Think of it as a well-padded middle-aged person keeping up with the kids: The Beatles' heavily hyped double CD set a torrid sales pace in its first week on the market, placing third on the all-time list for sales in the first week of release, behind two Pearl Jam discs.

Industry figures released yesterday indicate that about 555,000 copies of "The Beatles Anthology, Vol. 1" were sold from Nov. 21 to Nov. 28, shy of industry sales expectations of 1 million, but in the running with Pearl Jam's 1993 album "Vs" (950,000 copies its first week) and the 1994 disc "Vitalogy" (877,000 copies).

Earlier this week, EMI Records executives predicted that the anthology would top the sales list, compiled by SoundScan from retail outlets across the country. But the Beatles set is a double CD box priced at about \$23, while both Pearl Jam discs were single CDs selling at \$16 or less. Still, Pearl Jam fans can rightfully say that neither "Vs" nor "Vitalogy" had the publicity avalanche of this Beatles release.

Last week, fans were lured to an ABC television documentary by the premiere of a "new" single: John Lennon's voice and guitar culled from an old tape fattened up with the voices and instruments of the three surviving Beatles. Many critics were disappointed.

But in stores the Beatles' cachet survives. "It's been a combination of people buying the set," said Nancy Cahn, a buyer at Tower Records. "Before this you saw a really wide range of people buying the Beatles, and I think this release has just increased that. Plus, this time of year people are buying it as gifts, so in many cases the people buying it are not the BEATLES, Page 78

TUNING UP 'BLACK NATIVITY'

By Elijah Wald
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

It is Monday night, and this year's production of "Black Nativity" is coming down to the deadline. An hour and a half into rehearsal, the stage at Tremont Temple has gradually filled with white-robed figures. In their midst stands Elma Lewis, in a neat gray skirt and big "Black Nativity" T-shirt. Her high voice rings through a hand-held microphone as she directs the proceedings.

Lewis places the men, the women and finally the masses of children in their appointed spots. It is not an easy task, and those performers playing shepherds would do well to study her technique. More than a hundred people jostle on the crowded stage, but Lewis handles them with aplomb.

She accompanies her efforts with annoyed admonishments, but, though she would undoubtedly deny it, Lewis seems to enjoy the irritation. "If you keep talking, I'll come over and hit you on the head with this microphone," she threatens one group of young chatterboxes. "I do understand how these acts of violence are committed," she adds, in theatrical tones. "Because people drive you to it."

When everyone has learned their places, Lewis sits in the sixth row and has them practice their entrance, first in the light, NATIVITY, Page 80



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO: PAT GREENHOUSE
Rehearsing "Black Nativity" at Tremont Temple in Boston.

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NAMES & FACES

BY SUSAN BICKELHAUPT AND MAUREEN DEZELL

Napoleon on leave

The Napoleon Club, the Bay Village gentlemen's nightclub where legends such as **Judy Garland** and **Liberace** once crooned to crowds, has shut down — temporarily, according to owner **Dick Amaro**. The club "let our workers' comp insurance lapse, and we had to close while we reapply for it," Amaro says. He expects to reopen Dec. 7.

Paris loves our Ozawa

Boston Symphony Orchestra music director **Seiji Ozawa** got back Tuesday from Paris, where he apparently took the city by storm. Ozawa conducted four performances of "Tosca," starring **Plácido Domingo**, at the Paris Opera at the Bastille. Tickets to the performances had been sold out since last January. Ozawa returned for ovation after ovation each night. On one occasion, he was summoned back after the orchestra had left. No more than one, he took bows after the house lights had been switched on.

And the winners are . . .

Teresa Heinz today will award \$250,000 cash prizes to **C. Everett Koop**, **Marian Wright Ede- man**, **Beverly Sills**, biotech pioneer **William J. Rutter** and Pittsburgh pediatrician **Herbert L. Needleman**. The Heinz awards, which recognize excellence in a variety of fields, were established in memory of **John Heinz III**, the Pennsylvania senator who died in a 1991 plane crash.

Patience is a virtue, guv

Gov. **Weld** will have to learn to be a little more patient while he's with the people — at least as long as he's running for Senate. The guv and his wife, **Susan**, were spotted one recent Friday night at Gregs, a cozy red-sauce Italian restaurant on the Cambridge-Watertown line, where the food is good, generous and inexpensive. There's often a line waiting for tables at Gregs, especially on Friday nights. The night the Welds were in, managers wondered whether to move them right to a table and upset the regular customers or to let them wait with the hoi polloi. They went with the regulars. After waiting 20 minutes or so, the Welds left.

It won't help your ratings, Dave

We hear that even the stagehands cringed when **David Letterman** climbed on top of his desk and started to drop his pants Tuesday night after a joke didn't go over. Well, Dave will probably be back in his seat and on the

funny track soon. CBS is expected to announce today that **Joseph Toplyn**, who recently left his job as head writer on "The Tonight Show" with **Jay Leno**, is joining the Letterman show as top writer next month, replacing **Rob Burnett**, who's now a producer on the "Late Show."

Newbury Street's Dee-lightful

The Celtics' **Dee Brown** will be at the Newbury Street Holiday Stroll this Sunday, and will sign autographs at the Reebok Store. The signing is free, but Brown is asking that fans bring along a can of food (The Stroll is sponsored by the American Express Charge Against Hunger.) If Dee doesn't draw your interest, you may want to stroll down Newbury Street when it's all decked out, go for a free horse-and-carriage ride or get your picture taken with Santa on a Harley-Davidson. It all takes place Sunday from noon to 4.

Pick this up

There's bound to be some fun on and off the court today, when Boston Chamber of Commerce president **Flash Wiley**, Boston Celtics' head coach **M.L. Carr** and Suffolk County DA/ballet dancer **Ralph Martin** play three-on-three basketball with well-trained athlete/members of Fitcorp at Brandeis' Gosman Sports and Convocation Center. The game, which starts at noon, is the result of an auction prize Fitcorp's **Gary Klecheski** won at the 1995 ROSE Awards Celebration, a benefit dinner for the ROSE Fund, a Boston-based non-profit organization that works to end violence against women.

MFA in need of good PR staff

The MFA is in the midst of a major capital and "outreach" campaign. But the staff in charge of promoting the museum and expanding its audience just keeps getting smaller. Public relations coordinator **Judy Negip** announced yesterday that she's quitting to take a job as senior director of public relations at United Way. That leaves the MFA sans marketing director, public relations director (former PR guy **Bob Mitchell** left last summer) and PR staff. Marketing consultant **Alison Godburn** has been filling in during the protracted search for a new head of huckstering.

Discounting Newt

HarperCollins, publisher of **Newt Gingrich's** "To Renew America," is slashing the price of the book to \$19, from \$24 — and offering bookstores a \$5 credit for each copy they sell. The

publisher's party line on the deep discount is that it's "just a special holiday price."

But American Booksellers Association president **Avin Domnitz** told the Atlanta Constitution that price cuts like the one the Gingrich book is getting "only happen with bombs. What it means is the book is not selling." There are now about 660,000 copies of Gingrich's "Renew" book in distribution. Meanwhile, Colin Powell's "My American Journey" marches along. As of this coming Sunday, "Journey" will have spent 10 weeks on The New York Times best-seller list, with more than 1.5 million copies in distribution.

Next: Running Dreams?

The team of **Steve James** and **Peter Gilbert** are back on the sports-film scene. Hollywood Pictures has signed up the "Hoop Dreams" producers to make a movie about long-distance runner **Steve Prefontaine**. The biopic is due out next spring.

Ivana says 'I do'

Ivana Trump, former wife of real estate developer **Donald Trump**, married Italian businessman **Ricardo Mazzucchelli** Wednesday night in a private ceremony in Manhattan. The 46-year-old bride and 51-year-old groom, who have lived together for five years, will honeymoon in Aspen, Colorado. The couple will live in their homes in New York, London, Greenwich, Connecticut, and on board their yacht *My Ivana*.

► Names & Faces can be reached at names@globe.com. Material from wire services and other sources was used in this column.



ATTA BOY! — At the FleetCenter last night for the Celtics-Pistons game, actor **Richard Gere** declined to give out autographs but couldn't let one of his biggest fans leave empty handed. So 11-year-old **Chris Strong** of Peabody got to take home a hug instead.

THE FIRST 15 SECONDS OF FAME

— A rare, 15-second sound recording of **John Lennon** playing with his first band, the *Quarrymen*, will be played tonight at *Borders Books and Music in Chestnut Hill*, where *Jim O'Donnell*, author of "The Day John Met Paul — An Hour by Hour Account of How the Beatles Began," will be promoting his book, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

A country that can't even find itself

Dear Ann Landers:

United States residents should hardly be embarrassed that they cannot identify Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien. After all, fewer than 1 percent of US citizens can take a map of the United States and write in the name of each state.

Less than 1 percent can name their senator or representative in Congress or the vice president of our country. Only one person in 100 can name the four presidents whose faces are carved into Mount Rushmore. An equal number does not know where Mount Rushmore is.

At least 75 percent of Canadians are aware that there are 50 states in the USA, and most of them can name at least 30 of them. Hardly any US citizens know how many provinces there are in Canada, let alone can name them.

What are they teaching in our schools these days?

GENE, AUSTIN, TEXAS
They are teaching drivers ed., computer science, personal hygiene and Japanese wood-block carving. Not as much readin', writin', and 'rithmetic as when I was in school.

Dear Ann Landers:

I am hoping you will give a voice to those of us who have had it with insensitive and rude people.

I work for a large corporate owned gas station and convenience store chain that also offers a car wash service.

Like many people in this job, I work for minimum wage at a field that is quite dangerous. We never know if the next customer is going to pull a gun or knife and rob, stab or shoot us. If this sounds dramatic, believe me it is very much a reality.

We are well aware that we are dealing with an increasingly hostile public. Often, we are insulted for things that are beyond our control, such as the price of gas (we don't set the price, we only sell it). Also, the price of merchandise. We don't determine that, either. If the car wash is broken on that particular day, we are sorry, but we didn't break it.

In an average eight-hour shift, I give directions to people who are

Fewer than 1% of US citizens can take a map of the United States and write in the name of each state.

I help people who don't know how to pump their own gas and I keep an eye on the little ones who rifle through the candy shelves while Mom fills the tank. I apologize to Mr. Smith, whose car broke down and who is mad because we don't have a towing service.

I rarely hear a "thank you" or even "have a nice day," although I say it to each and every customer. All this in "Friendly Minnesota." I could go on and on, but my letter is already too long. I hope you will print it for the thousands who are in my shoes.

P.F., SAVAGE, MINN.
When John F. Kennedy delivered his inaugural address, he referred to our "dangerous and untidy world." That was almost 35 years ago. The world is infinitely more dangerous and untidy today, and a lot more rude, as your letter indicated.

But don't give up, and don't give in. Keep doing those small acts of kindness, and keep saying "Have a nice day" even if nobody responds. Your cheerfulness and civility are appreciated, despite the fact that nobody acknowledges them. Trust me.

My Laugh for the Day: A woman was doing her housework in the nude when the doorbell rang. "Who's there?" she asked. "Blind man," was the reply. As the woman opened the door, the man said, "Where do you want me to hang these blinds, lady?"

Write for Ann Landers' new booklet, "How to Make Friends and Stop Being Lonely." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$2.95 (this includes postage and handling) to: Friends, c/o Ann Landers, Box 11562, Chicago, IL 60611-0562.

Sense About Sex

ASK BETH

Expressing sexuality has him worried

Dear Beth:

I have some personal feelings about one girl and I'd like to become good friends. It becomes much stronger than that it may involve sexual activity with her. So far I have only expressed sex by masturbation. Does my feeling for this girl mean I should stop doing that?

UNSURE

Virtually all males and many females express their sexual feelings by masturbation when other ways are not available. It has been a taboo subject in polite society for a long time, but it's a natural and harmless activity. Except for being absolutely private, there is no "should" or "should not" about it.

Do not forget that you can become very close to a girl you love in many ways that are not sexual. For too many kids at far too young an age, sexual intercourse seems to be a "rite of passage" or way of proving that you are an adult. Therefore, many of the nonsexual pleasures such as intimacy and closeness are overlooked.

I strenuously advise you to work on becoming good friends and not get involved sexually too soon and too intensely. Many good relationships between boys and girls founder on the rocks of hasty and nonloving sexual activity.

Dear Beth:

This letter is for "Flat," the girl embarrassed by her chest size. She is lucky! I am 14 and have a 38D chest size. All guys ever look at when they meet me is my chest, never my personality. I wear too-small bras trying to look smaller. It's hard for me to play some sports because running causes me discomfort.

I've noticed that boys who look at a girl's personality, not her chest size, are the ones to keep.

THE OTHER HALF IN PA
Thank you for presenting the

Aaron Fink's monumental way with the ordinary

■ GALLERIES

Continued from Page 75
current show at the Alpha Gallery, Fink adds — literally — a new dimension: sculpture. His images have leapt off the canvas, with giant cheeseburgers, paintbrushes, bunches of grapes and the like materializing in brightly painted plaster.

As in the paintings, it's the ordinary stuff of life made strange. What could be more familiar than a cup of java? But here it's a huge, daffy-yellow, nonfunctional thing shooting off pearly white rays of "steam" glazed with pink, yellow and blue washes.

Despite its immobility, the sculpture has an irrepressible energy. A giant chili pepper curls skyward, a colossal cherry tomato's leaves radiate toward the heavens. Although Claes Oldenburg's sculpture (giant clothespins, melting ice cream cones) comes to mind, Fink has a closer affinity to sculptors like John Chamberlain, who transformed car parts into dynamic objects in space.

In both paintings and sculpture Fink is placing greater emphasis on movement and time. The objects in the paintings are now glimpsed in process, like the cheese sandwich pictured in that moment before it melts to oblivion. The works are more ephemeral, and more tangible. Although their subject is transformation, they are intensely physical. Reducing the realism heightens the paint's materiality; as the image grows more abstract, the process of painting moves to the forefront.

So much so that the paintings now read as intricate collages of painterly prowess. Each painting yields a cornucopia of succulent passages — paint applied with a wide brush and energetic Abstract Expressionist touch, paint squeezed across the canvas in soft, blurry rainbows, paint blotted into dry, mottled textures, paint raked through in vertical or horizontal rows. Knitting it all together is the drawn object, which acts as a kind of map, plus a clearly demarcated grid that asserts the painting's rectangular shape and flat surface.

There are several paintings of a struck "Match," caught as it bursts into flame. Without the title one could read the image as a giant fried egg, the match head and flaming aura its yolkly center. This misperception makes sense, because these are, in the end, paintings about birth and becoming, in which the everyday is transformed via the alchemy of art.

The Barbara Krakow Gallery is

showing the young artist Jeffrey Perrott in his first solo show. The result of three years' labor, Perrott's installation is a sophisticated conceptual work that is obsessive, esoteric and visually appealing.

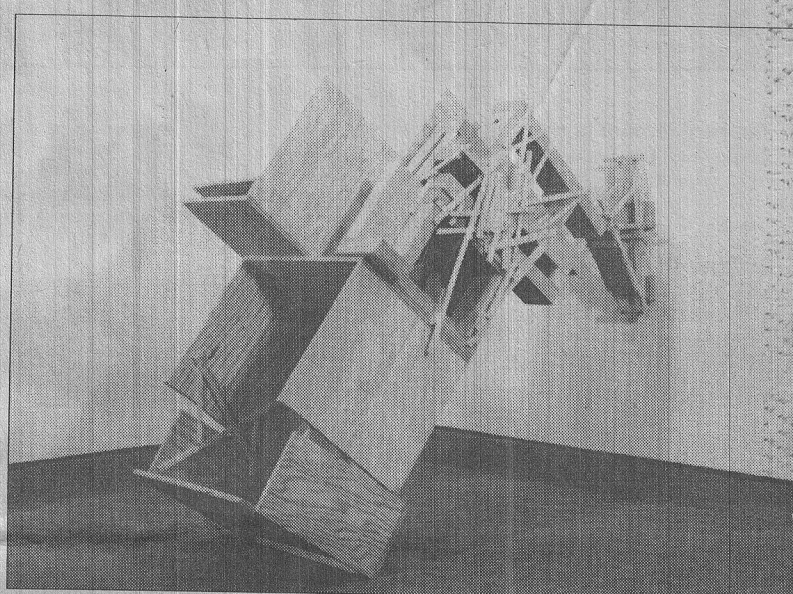
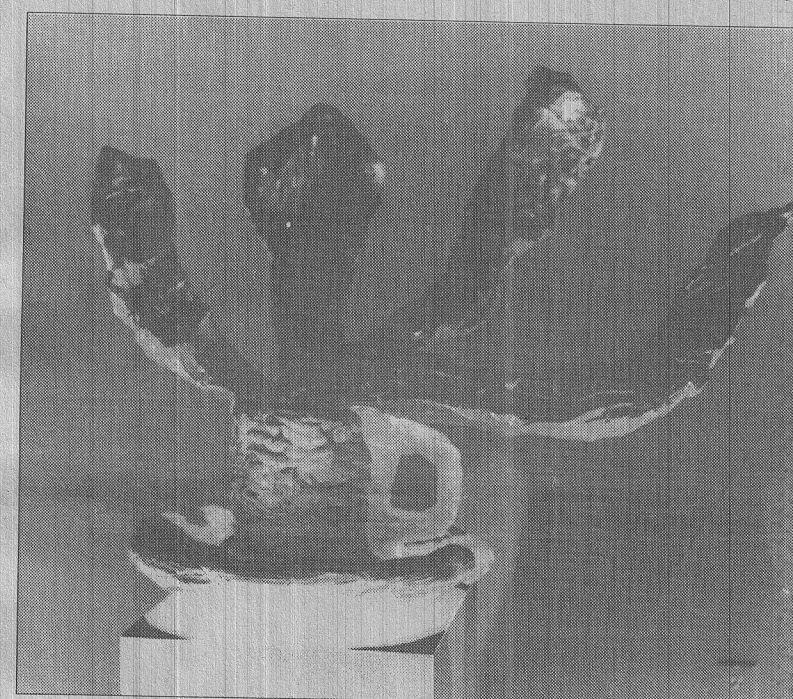
The project's title, "I," — like the work — seems simple but is not. We might read it as signifying the number 1, which suggests something solitary, as well as something universal. Or we might read the title as the word "I," which implies the self, in all its solitary and infinite meanings. The infinite/finite paradox is lodged in a mathematical equation, on which the piece is based, that is capable of both expanding outward and circling in on itself.

Perrott interprets the equation as 55 identically scaled wood panels, installed in a circle on the gallery's walls. Initially, these read as decorative objects covered with colorful squiggles. A closer look reveals that the squiggles are numbers, and more study shows that despite their seemingly distinctive patterns each panel is numerically congruent; that is, each is covered with the exact same pattern of numbers. The first panel is layered with numbers painted in white, the second in black, then one of gold and silver, one of the primary colors, and so on with combinations of saturated colors in ever-increasing complexity.

The work is loaded with art-historical references. Minimalism is the strongest, evident in both the serial geometric format and the references to such painters as Sol Le Witt and Robert Ryman. Although Modernism is repeatedly quoted — Jasper Johns' use of numbers as motifs, Pollock's overallness — the allusions range broadly through time and culture. The shimmering gold and silver panel recalls Chinese silks; the many curvilinear patterns and brilliant colors evoke Islamic designs.

"I." is also rich in philosophical notions — the chaos embedded in order, the obsessive impulse behind the desire for complete knowledge, individuality within sameness. As a debut, it is an impressive work. But "I." is curiously lacking in emotional expression; it is beautiful, but devoid of affect. In short, "I." works more as thought than as art.

In sharp contrast, Chuck Holtzman's newest sculptures and works on paper, also on view here, are all about the messy business of making. Working with self-imposed time constraints, Holtzman constructed the three floor works here from unfinished wood and plywood. They have



Above, top: "Steaming Cup," a mixed-media sculpture by Aaron Fink, at the Alpha Gallery; above: Chuck Holtzman's plywood and fir "Untitled Leaning," at the Barbara Krakow Gallery.

an unusually spontaneous feel, more like drawings in space than finished sculpture. Rods connecting forms are exposed, nails are left partially hammered. Like working drawings, these pieces reveal the process of conscious and unconscious decision-making that is intrinsic to art. The works on paper, which combine and recombine abstract forms, are similarly process-oriented.

Holtzman's production has been uneven; nevertheless, he is unquestionably gifted. His sensibility is that of an untempered-generation Constructivist, precise and vital. So, despite the raw feel of the sculptures, they're faultlessly calibrated, with

AARON FINK
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Alpha Gallery
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Through Dec. 6

JEFFREY PERROTT
CHUCK HOLTZMAN
Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St.
Through Dec. 6

rectangular forms held askew in pure equilibrium. At the heart of the work is the idea of balance, of finding the exact place where a structure gains assurance and vigor.

"NAIL-BITINGLY TENSE, TAUTLY DIRECTED."
— Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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MOVIE TIMES

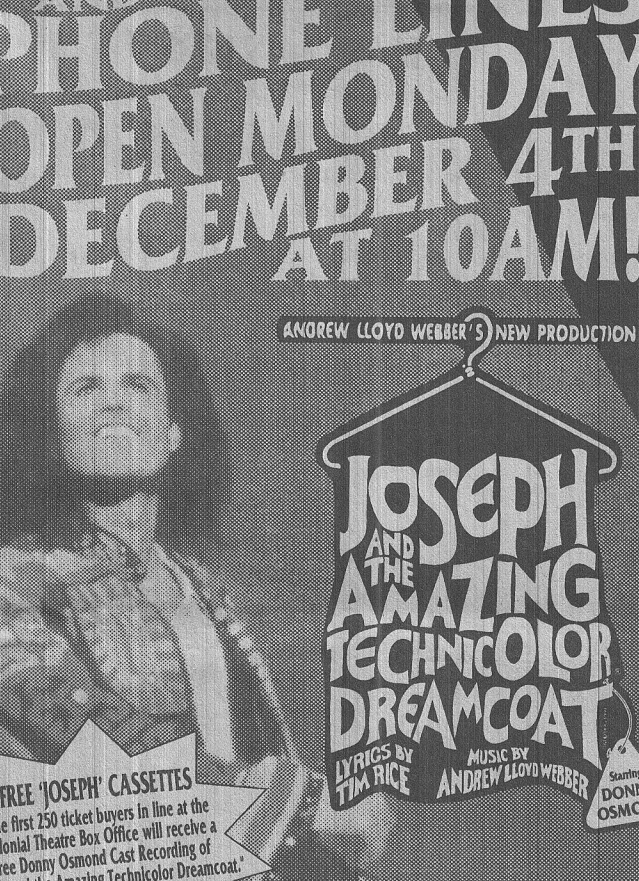
Alfonso: "Powder," at 12:15 p.m.; "Seven," at 7:15, 9:55; "Home for the Holidays," at 7:30, 9:45

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Joanna Trollope's not-so-harmonious 'Choir'

By Alison Arnett
GLOBE STAFF

I'm an Anthony Trollope addict. Others read mysteries or beach thrillers to relax; I beach it with the intricacies of 19th-century British politics and social mores. That makes reading "The Choir," a novel by his descendant Joanna Trollope an intriguing idea. Maybe after I've finished the copious output of a Trollope of one generation, Trollope the younger can carry me into the next century.

"It might be unfair to dwell too much on the Trollope connection," the kindhearted book editor said when discussing a review. Well, actually, the book jacket and the press release immediately point to Joanna Trollope's link to her famous relative. So it would be difficult not to compare the two.

Joanna Trollope, who first became known for her historical fiction, has written seven contemporary novels published in Britain. "The Choir" is the third to be reissued in the United States, after an earlier one, "The Rector's Wife," was dramatized on "Masterpiece Theatre." This novel, too, has made its way to TV, with an adaptation recently aired on Channel 2. Trollope seems on her way to the same popular success her ancestor enjoyed.

"The Choir" is perfect for TV, at least for the high-minded public television sector. The plot and the characters are very British, but appealingly quirky. There's discreet adult sex; internecine academic politics; nasty local politics; and a range of families splitting up, reuniting and re-forming. The ending is neat, but bittersweet.

There, I've told you almost all. And that's the rub. If Anthony Trollope had written this novel, there would have been several more subplots, a villain or villainess one could truly dislike and commentary more cutting than merely wry-toned.

But perhaps I am being unfair. The plot of "The Choir" revolves almost literally around a cathedral, pitting Dean Hugh Cavendish's single-minded purpose of preserving and glorifying his edifice against the intentions of all the other characters. At issue is the future of a boys' choir and whether it should be sacrificed to repair the cathedral's water-damaged nave and finance expensive theatrical lighting. Arrayed against the dean, whose deviousness is softened by the burden of an overbearing wife, is Headmaster Alexander Troy, sensitive and yearning for the love of his wife; brilliant organist Leo Beckford, probing and yearning for the mother of a chorister; and the dean's

daughter, Ianthe, devoted and yearning for the organist.

Trollope wrote her novel in the late '70s, and her characterizations of the dean's children - wayward and indulged - are cleverly drawn. But another child - the chorister - and his grandfather are the characters one remembers. Henry Ashworth seems a modern-day Christopher Robin, possessed of an angelic voice and unaffected manner (he's awfully polite for 12 years old, but I may be extrapolating from current kids). His grandfather, Frank, an old-style left-wing city politician, is faced with contentious colleagues who've decided his brand of broad-based civic responsibility is passe.

The relationship between these two is the most touching in the novel. True, the action is in the romantic entanglement of Beckford and Hen-

ry's mother, Sally, who must choose to leave her absentee husband at the risk of turning her son's life upside down. The headmaster's wistful love for his wandering artist-wife is a minor melody, along with realization by the dean's wife that she's lost her husband's love.

Henry's singing saves the choir with a hit record and there's another subplot involving an aimless youth who discovers self-confidence. But in a Trollope-like way, all the swirling plots are background music, heightened by the rather slapdash ending in which everyone's life is settled in a chapter.

In the end, Frank Ashworth's growth from cocky politician to nurturing grandfather at peace with his changed world ends up the most compelling reason to read "The Choir."

Laurence Lesser to resign as NEC president

LESSER
Continued from Page 75

prestigious new faculty, some of them distinguished NEC alumni; the internationalization of the institution (more than one-third of its students come from other countries); the acquisition of a major building on St.

Botolph Street; the residency of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz; the strengthening, organization and expansion of public concert series, including the acclaimed First Monday chamber-music programs; the addition of new degree programs and expansion of the Extension Division through community outreach;

the successful completion of the capital campaign; and the renovation of Jordan Hall.

Lesser said yesterday, "My teacher, Gregor Piatigorsky, used to say there's nothing as bad as 'not so bad.' He didn't like the ordinary, and I don't either. There's no excuse for activity in the arts unless it aspires to the highest quality; it is too easy to settle for the ordinary, and very difficult to fight for the extraordi-

nary, but that's the only fight worth fighting."

"We've had our growing pains, but this is a wonderful place, a strong institution of enormous range which is full of extraordinary people. The school has empowered itself to move forward, and a new president will have an enormous depth of talent to draw upon and lean on. Boston is lucky to have it."

Beatles anthology takes off

BEATLES
Continued from Page 75

people actually getting it for themselves."

Debbie Grover, at the Strawberies Superstore in West Roxbury, said that there are many people her age - 23 - buying the set, but also a lot of people she described as middle-aged. "And everyone is buying the other Beatles discs, too."

It seems that many buyers decided to buy old Beatles albums in addition to - or instead of - the new set. "We blew through a lot of the back catalog last week," Natalie Walek, purchasing director at Newbury Comics, said. "In most cases, sales more than quadrupled. 'Abbey Road' sales more than quadrupled. Of 'Please Please Me,' we usually sell about 15 in a month. We've sold more than 50 so far."

Walek said the Beatles set might cause a few surprises down the road. "We don't usually expect the second week to be as strong as the first, but it looks like it's keeping up. It's hard to project how it will be, but if it keeps up the weekend might be really huge, especially because of all the Christmas shopping."

"When your mind is in conflict, your health is in conflict," she says. "I try to keep a channel open for God's energy so that anything is possible. I work out every day, eat a macrobiotic diet and go to any lengths to stay healthy."

Lewis is not taking any medication to forestall the development of AIDS symptoms, opting instead for a holistic approach. She does go to her doctor for regular checkups, but

her condition has not slowed her down - she is constantly on the go, acting, speaking or talking on the phone, soothing one of the women she sponsors in her recovery program or scheduling volunteer speaking engagements for the AIDS Action Committee.

"Sure, I can do Berklee College. A hip crowd," Lewis says to a co-worker at the AIDS Action Committee from her car phone recently. Turning to a passenger, she adds: "This is how it always is. Crazy. This week I'm speaking at the Brighton Library and at a longtime survivors' conference. In my spare time, I travel around to do the play."

Wherever Lewis goes - exemplifying rocker chic in fashion-of-the-minute ensembles, usually black and leather with high-heeled patent-leather boots, and vamp-colored nails - she inspires people. Teenagers in the audiences of "Passing It On" ask questions about how she contracted the virus. People who have tested positive themselves ask how she coped with her diagnosis. People ask her, "How can you look so good?"

Testing positive

It was in 1985, when Lewis went to have her blood tested for her marriage certificate, that she decided to have an HIV test. She felt healthy but, as an intravenous drug user, decided she had better be tested because she wanted to have children

with him with the virus. "There wasn't a lot of information about the virus back then," says Lewis, who adds that she now has safe sex with her current live-in boyfriend.

Lewis and her husband moved to Cambridge, sharing an apartment with his teen-age son. For the next seven years, their marriage was stormy and without intimacy. They ended it in 1992 - the same year her father died.

"I lost both my men at the same time," she says, gazing at the framed pictures of her ex-husband and her father in her living room.

The hardest pain to bear for Lewis is her unfulfilled motherhood. But she also knows that women with HIV have a 1-in-4 risk of passing the virus to their babies, according to the AIDS Action Committee.

"Every time I see a baby carriage, I get angry and jealous, then I feel guilty for feeling that way," she says. "I'd like to adopt an HIV baby

and at least we'll be in the race against time together - but at the same time I think, what would happen if I got sick in five years?"

Statistics about women and AIDS are relatively scarce (in part because many women do not consider themselves at risk and thus forgo testing), but most people with HIV die within 10 years of infection. Individuals like Lewis, with no AIDS symptoms and with relatively normal levels of T-cells after 10 or more years, are considered long-term survivors. Once HIV infection develops into full-blown AIDS, life expectancy varies, but in most cases is only a couple of years.

Headly times

Lewis had always wanted to be a performer. She moved out of her family's suburban New Jersey home when she was 18 to hunt for acting work in Greenwich Village. After countless auditions, she landed a job as a "girl Friday" for a jungle producer and had her first experience in a recording studio singing a commercial for Handi-Wipes.

"It takes a whole roll of paper towels to do the work of one Handi-Wipe!" she still sings with a punch.

Later, with her father acting as her manager, Lewis auditioned for a punk-rock band called Thaux and got the gig. She also performed with an all-female punk band called Mandy Doll, playing the Rat in Kenmore Square in 1977.

Then, Lewis and her partner, Zecca Esquibel, a musician and songwriter, formed Get Wet, a pop-rock band. Lewis sang, and Esquibel wrote the music. The two became partners and lovers, even though Esquibel was bisexual. "To be bisexual was very chic in those Bowie-esque days," Lewis says.

Eventually the band was renamed Sherri Beachfront and Get Wet. The early buzz about Get Wet led to a full-page photograph and story in Andy Warhol's interview magazine.

Lewis and Esquibel broke up, romantically and professionally, and she became consumed by drugs and booze. Lewis remembers the day the electricity got shut off in her apartment: April 12, 1983 - her 29th birthday - exactly two years after her hit record.

"I weighed 92 pounds," she recalls. "And I thought there was no turning back."

Finally, with her friends gone and her family disgusted, Lewis went into a detoxification center, then to an 18-month program in a therapeutic community. She says she went into recovery partly because she had nowhere else to go and was determined "to go to any lengths to stay clean."

She has been clean ever since, and vows to live long enough to become "an old woman" who has beaten AIDS.

"When I first started living with HIV, life was about surviving for one day," she says. "But now I realize that survival is really the process of coping, living life on life's terms. I don't live thinking about dying anymore."

Crash landing

"I had hit the big time," recalls Lewis. "I was spending my time

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Finally, with her friends gone and her family disgusted, Lewis went into a detoxification center, then to an 18-month program in a therapeutic community. She says she went into recovery partly because she had nowhere else to go and was determined "to go to any lengths to stay clean."

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"When I first started living with HIV, life was about surviving for one day," she says. "But now I realize that survival is really the process of coping, living life on life's terms. I don't live thinking about dying anymore."

Crash landing

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at least we'll be in the race against time together - but at the same time I think, what would happen if I got sick in five years?"

Statistics about women and AIDS are relatively scarce (in part because many women do not consider themselves at risk and thus forgo testing), but most people with HIV die within 10 years of infection. Individuals like Lewis, with no AIDS symptoms and with relatively normal levels of T-cells after 10 or more years, are considered long-term survivors. Once HIV infection develops into full-blown AIDS, life expectancy varies, but in most cases is only a couple of years.

Headly times

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City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 18, 1995

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: Sherri Lewis works with the Improbable Players Theatre for Education and Prevention, a group based in Watertown which travels around the country and performs plays about addiction, alcoholism and AIDS; and
- WHEREAS: Sherri helped develop "Passing It On" a play in which she acts with a cast of mostly HIV positive recovering addicts; and
- WHEREAS: Sherri works as an AIDS group facilitator at the Granada House in Brighton, a half way house for recovering drug addicts, some infected with HIV; and
- WHEREAS: At age thirty-one Sherri has tested positive for HIV and has been living as a survivor, her life's work revolving around helping people; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record applauding Sherri Lewis for the positive manner she takes in the fight against AIDS, and her work with the AIDS Action Committee; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Sherri Lewis as recognition of her outstanding work and extend its best wishes for continued health and happiness in the future.

W/a



City of Cambridge

28.

IN CITY COUNCIL

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Consent Order #28

R-1023

Councillor Triantafillou re: Commendation to Sherri Lewis for the positive work she has done in the fight against AIDS, and her work with the AIDS Action Committee.

In City Council December 18, 1995

Order Adopted