

Bye Bye Boston?

Is the South End built for the future?

BY SUE O'CONNELL

The journal Nature published a new study showing that by 2116 sea levels could rise six feet or more. That's the worst case scenario, if nothing is done to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gases trap radiation from the sun and warm the planet's surface, including oceans. The major greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Almost all CO₂ comes from fossil fuels and land-use change.

The best case scenario? Every country abides by the The Paris Agreement (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which deals with greenhouse gases emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance, starting in the year 2020), no further damage is done, and we'll have a sea level rise

of about a foot—along with more frequent, huge hurricanes (worse than 2012's Hurricane Sandy).

Either way, most of Boston will be underwater.

Why? First, the entire Back Bay, the South End, half of South Boston, North Station, and Faneuil Hall are man-made with landfill.

Second, this new study has Antarctic ice loss projections. Sea levels do not rise uniformly. The Northeast and low-lying Boston have more to fear from a loss of ice in Antarctica than the same amount of loss in Greenland.

"It matters where the source of the water comes from. The big ice sheets affect the earth's gravity. Gravity means they affect sea level," Dr. Robert DeConto, a geoscientist at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and one of the authors of the study, told me in an interview last week on "The Take with Sue O'Connell" on necn.

Basically, Boston is built on sink-

ing landfill and the sea level is rising.

The new study, by DeConto and David Pollard, a geoscientist at Pennsylvania State University, adds data to older studies. It also adds new information about the loss of ice in Antarctica, which has direct impact on Boston.

DeConto told me that the findings are based on models they developed from studying ancient sea level and temperature changes. Their new research shows that sea level rise could double the old prediction.

"The threat is greater and more immediate" DeConto said. "Bigger and badder and faster than a year ago,"

"Depending on which path we choose, we are going to see rates ten times faster than they are today. We now measure about an inch per decade. It's possible we could see sea level rise in feet per decade. When you think geo-engineering to hardening coastlines and protect cities, particularly for a city like



Photo credit PROJECTED FLOOD AREAS FROM Drs. Paul Kirshen and Ellen Douglas and Mr. Chris Watson and presented at the November 2010 Boston Harbor Sea Level Rise Forum.

Boston with so many low-lying areas <saving the city> would be a grand challenge," he said.

DeConto added, "The horse isn't out of the barn. The Paris Agreement is a good step in the right direction."

According to DeConto, discussion of how rising sea level will impact cities should be a top priority for cities like Boston

Lauren Zingarelli, spokesperson

Continued on page 4

Editorial

We can be heroes

Or not

BY SUE O'CONNELL

I feel guilty everytime I look at a baby. I feel downright criminal if the infant makes eye contact with me and smiles.

American adults alive in 2016

enjoy a view that is a first in human history. We understand more of the past than our ancestors—and we have the science to see into the future.

I'm sorry, babies. We should have done something sooner.

Here's the real deal. This is our "Adam and Eve" moment. We know we are naked, and nobody is taking

care of us but ourselves. We've taken that bite of the knowledge apple. Now it's up to us.

Think about it.

My grandparents, born in the late 1800s, entered a world with no proof that the earth was indeed

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What you can do to reduce the impact of climate change.

Contact your law-makers. et public officials know how important reducing the impact of climate change is.

Talk to your children. Get advice on how to talk to your kids about climate change. They're the ones that will have to deal with it, so prepare them.

Reduce. The mantra is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" but the emphasis is really on REDUCE. Using less means using less energy

in every stage of a products life.

Change light fixtures and bulbs to products that have the EPA's Energy Star label;

Heat and cool more efficiently.

Reduce water use. Reuse cooking water.

Learn about alternative forms of energy- solar, wind, nuclear.

Set computers and other office

Continued on page 4

GREENOVATE BOSTON: AT HOME

By taking climate action at home, at work, and in your community, you will help Boston achieve its sustainability goals set forth in Boston's Climate Action Plan. You will also be helping to strengthen our neighborhoods, fuel our economy, and drive innovation. Visit www.GreenovateBoston.org to learn more and show your commitment by pledging to take climate action.

Quick & Easy:

- Sign up for a no cost energy assessment at RenewBoston.org.
- Set your thermostat to 68 or cooler in the winter, and 78 or warmer in the summer

- Replace light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs
- Unplug electronics and turn off lights when not in use
- Use cold water for washing clothes and dishes
- Over half of your household waste can be recycled.
- Use your garbage disposal for food scraps. Fats, oils or grease should never go down the drain
- Insulate your windows with storm windows or window film to reduce heat loss
- Seal leaks around doors and windows with caulk and weather stripping
- Insulate your hot water heater and pipes

Community music center raises \$75,000 for in-school music programs

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Ink Block's industrial-chic lobby at 300 Harrison Avenue was filled with food and drinks, music, and generosity as over 100 people gathered on Saturday, April 9 to celebrate the Community Music Center of Boston's (CMCB) program of supplementary music education in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and to help sustain the effort in the future. CMCB netted over \$75,000 at the festive evening that featured music by student and alumni ensembles, a cocktail hour and seated dinner, and words of inspiration from some of the program's chief sustainers. The event was titled "The Lapin Legacy: Arts on the Rise", honoring David Lapin, CMCB's executive director of 33 years.

During the cocktail hour, guests nibbled hors d'oeuvres and sipped cocktails including the Lapin Legato, created by Mad River Distillers in Warren, Vermont and named for the man of the hour while listening to a jazz trio of CMCB faculty members including trumpeter Matt Hull, a former recipient of the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighbor-



(Left) Laura Perille (Right) Myran Parker-Brass. Photos courtesy of Michele Maniscalco

hood Association's annual scholarship while he studied at the Berklee College of Music. Guests heard remarks from CMCB board president Mary Camey, Myran Parker-Brass, executive director for the arts for BPS and a CMCB parent, and keynote speaker Laura Perille, president and CEO of EdVestors, which provides funds to Boston-area school to

supplement and expand arts and educational offerings for grades K through 12. After dinner, CMCB's Senior String Quartet played selections from Shostakovich, and a video showcasing CMCB's in-house instruction and outreach at the Harvard-Kent School in Charlestown followed.

Lapin was pleased with the outcome of

the successful fundraiser, commenting, "I was deeply thrilled and honored to be feted, both for the event itself of course, but also for the cocktail. After all, how many people get drinks named after them! Mad River Distillers did an outstanding job, and my hat is off to them."

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Tickets are on sale at www.vpi.org

victory programs
OPENING DOORS TO HOPE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

South Ender Selected for Alpha Omega Alpha Induction

Robert M. Beazley, MD, FACS, is one of two Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) faculty members selected for induction in the 2016 Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) national medical honor society. A formal ceremony will take place later this spring.

As the only national honor medical society in the world, ΑΩΑ is organized exclusively for educational purposes. Its aims are the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of high standards of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment in medical sciences, practice, and related fields. Its motto is: "Be worthy to serve the suffering." Faculty are inducted with overwhelming support from ΑΩΑ students.

Beazley serves as assistant dean for student affairs and professor emeritus of surgery and endocrinology. His academic interests include mentoring and advising, anatomy and the history of medicine. In 1998, he was awarded the prestigious Stanley L. Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A graduate of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, he did an internship at the Baltimore City Hospitals followed by two years of active medical duty in the US Navy attached to the Antarctic Support Activities as the Officer in Charge of the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. In 1966, Beazley returned to Baltimore and the University of Maryland to do his general surgery residency which

included a year in the department of clinical surgery, University of Edinburgh.

He was then recruited to the department of surgery at Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Medicine in New Orleans as associate professor and the head of the section of surgical oncology. Beazley did a sabbatical year as an Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow in liver surgery at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and Hammersmith Hospital, London England. While at LSU he was the American Cancer Society Professor of Clinical Oncology.

Originally established in 1848 as the New England Female Medical College, and incorporated into Boston University in 1873, Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) today is a leading

academic medical center with an enrollment of more than 700 medical students and 950 students pursuing degrees in graduate medical sciences. BUSM faculty contribute to more than 668 active grants and contracts, with total anticipated awards valued at more than \$693 million in amyloidosis, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, cancer, infectious diseases, pulmonary disease and dermatology, among other areas. The School's teaching affiliates include Boston Medical Center, its primary teaching hospital, the Boston VA Healthcare System, Kaiser Permanente in northern California, as well as Boston HealthNet, a network of 15 community health centers. For more information, please visit <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/>

News from...

Friends of South End Library

The first South End Library's Tremont Street Window Take-over by local wire sculptor Will Corcoran is complete. We are already planning the next one. If you have an idea for taking over the windows based on a library theme, please contact Anne Smart, the branch's head librarian.

Next Friday, April 15 at 11:00 AM, the BPL offers a free guided tour of the Copley Library's McKim building and the gorgeous new Teen and Children's departments of the adjacent Johnson Building. FOSEL organized it to benefit South End library patrons and those in the South End who work with teenagers and children and want to know more

about the great resources available for free, so close by. Meet us at the reception desk of the McKim building a little before 11:00 AM and you'll have an amazing hour or two learning about the best institution in town.

Finally, FOSEL board members are in the process of convincing our partners at the Parks Department and the Boston Public Library, as well as our elected representatives, to support a redesign and renovation of both the South End library and Library Park. We will fill you in on the details as they become available.

685 Tremont Street, 617-536-8241, www.southend.org/

Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation's "Amoris Laetitia, On Love in the Family"

CARDINAL SEÁN P. O'MALLEY

We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis for the gift of his Apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia, On Love in the Family." He has given us a lengthy and significant teaching on the Joy of Love. This is a document that demands a careful reading and reflection from Catholics everywhere, and it is sure to bear great fruit. Pope Francis shows himself to be the gentle, merciful pastor who urges us all to take the time to meditate on the importance of families, for as he says, "The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church." (AL 31)

Amoris Laetitia brings together the deliberations of the two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015, and draws on a long history of Church teaching. This Apostolic Exhortation numbers over three hundred twenty five paragraphs, and it is not intended to be read and implemented too hastily. In the introduction to the document, Pope Francis notes that no one should

rush through reading the text, but that the greatest benefit will come if each part is read "patiently and carefully", paying particular attention to those parts dealing with the specific needs of the reader. (AL 7) Rather than try to draw immediate conclusions from the text, we are urged to reflect upon it and to ponder, patiently and carefully, what the teachings will mean for the Church and for her ministry to families.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, in which the Church celebrates the love and unending mercy of God, Amoris Laetitia is a joyful invitation for families to live the works of mercy and to receive the gift of God's healing where there is sin and brokenness. As he has done time and again, Pope Francis challenges us to approach the weak with compassion, to "enter into the reality of other people's lives and to know the power of tenderness." (AL 308) It is my fervent desire that we will read Amoris Laetitia patiently and carefully, so as to benefit from the richness of its teaching.

Feastworthy Improves Food Access for Local Families

Coalition of Greater Boston Agencies Provides Meals to Homeless Living in Motels

On Tuesday, a coalition of local social service agencies announced the launch of Feastworthy, a three-month pilot program to provide weekday meals to homeless families living in motels in the Boston neighborhood of Brighton. The Allston Brighton Health Collaborative (ABHC), Action for Boston

Community Development (ABCD), Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Charlesview, Inc., and Food For Free created the meal delivery program to ensure consistent food access for homeless families living in the state's motel shelter system.

Massachusetts is the only state that guarantees shelter to qualifying families. With demand exceeding the limited number of beds in traditional shelters, the state turns to motels to house families. Motel shelter rooms present greater challenges and barriers to healthy eating than traditional shelters.

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National Emerging
Infectious Diseases
Laboratories

We're Seeking Input from Our Community.

The National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) is seeking applications for new members for its Community Liaison Committee (CLC). The CLC was formed to facilitate communication between the NEIDL and the community and to ensure transparency in the activities of the NEIDL.

The mission of the CLC is to promote a continuing conversation between the community and the NEIDL about the NEIDL's activities and research. This dialogue must be an honest and respectful exchange of information, questions, and concerns intended to build trust and understanding.

The NEIDL, owned and operated by Boston University, is dedicated to the development of diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments for newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The NEIDL contains state-of-the-art BSL-2, BSL-3, and BSL-4 laboratories to conduct this important research in a safe and secure environment.

Individuals interested in becoming members of the committee may apply online at www.bu.edu/NEIDL or by contacting Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/Boston University Medical Campus; email: neidl@bu.edu; phone: 617-638-1911.

All applications must be received by April 22, 2016.



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5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

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Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building,
2nd Floor, School Committee Room
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

At the PLAN: Dudley Square Visioning Workshop on March 21st we heard from many of you about your priorities for an updated vision of Dudley Square. We will gather on April 19th for our Transportation and Public Realm Workshop to discuss getting around Dudley Square and making connections to and from the study area.

PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. The goals of this study are to provide an inclusive community engagement process, create an updated vision with the community, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of Requests for Proposals ("RFPs") for publicly-owned and vacant privately-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

MAIL TO: HUGUES MONESTIME
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
PHONE: 617.918.4320
EMAIL: Hugues.Monestime@Boston.gov

BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org

[@BostonRedevelop](https://twitter.com/BostonRedevelop)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Shut it down!

At USES

Over the last few years the Black Lives Matter activist movement has attained an enormous impact across the nation. Following the murders of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice as well as the acquittal of the perpetrators, cities across the United States experienced a resurgence of protests and calls to demolish institutionalized racism. Embedded in this context, Boston experienced a distinct heightening of actions between the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015 with thousands participating in rallies, marches and die-ins. The chants 'I can't breathe!', 'Hands up don't shoot!' and 'Shut it down!' were heard across various neighborhoods almost on a daily basis during December 2014. It was a time where new leaders and organizations emerged and the city experienced new energy in activism.

Heroes

Continued from page 1

round.

My parents, born in 1920, entered a world with no understanding of atmosphere or where pollution went.

For all of my ancestors, electricity, cars, phones didn't exist and were unimaginable by most.

Babies born in Boston today live in a world with scientific proof that is available to many simply by looking at their cell phone. What do we know? Greenhouse gases trap radiation from the sun and warm the planet's surface, including oceans. That warmth is melting Antarctica. The runoff from Antarctica will directly impact Boston. Boston is built on landfill.

So what do we do?

We build luxury housing in the areas that will be the first to be underwater.

But what about the great minds of industry and innovation? General Electric, the jewel in the New International Boston, will be built on Fort Point Channel. The location's name alone should give away it's future as a leader in the New Underwater Boston.

If this were a movie, world and city leaders would dedicate every

moment to alerting the public of the impending change; work toward relocation plans; direct our public education to focus on science and survival. It's a crisis. It's urgent. Call Zoe Saldana, Will Smith or Ben Affleck.

Exhibition:

Opening: Friday April 22nd 6pm-9pm
The Harriet Tubman House Gallery
566 Columbus Ave, South End
(the corner of Columbus Ave and Massachusetts Ave)

Gallery Hours:

8am-8pm M-F / S-S 10am-6pm

moment to alerting the public of the impending change; work toward relocation plans; direct our public education to focus on science and survival. It's a crisis. It's urgent. Call Zoe Saldana, Will Smith or Ben Affleck.

But it's not a movie. It's real life. We argue about the Red Sox, Deflate Gate, American Idol. We argue about who will fold the laundry; chase the latest sale; watch porn on the internet. Donald Trump and Tom Brady take up much more media time than those boring climate reports.

And it's not easy having empathy for people who do not exist yet. It's not easy to deal with a problem that hasn't happened yet when we are each knee-deep in very real problems of today.

Maybe if we focus on Boston Strong, Boston Pride. That we could be heroes. We could save the best of our city.

Or next time you see a baby you could say, "I've got your back, baby." And if I haven't sold you yet on how we need to act strongly and swiftly, how about your legacy? Ever wondered what you would have done if you had been alive during major historic events—American slavery, the Holocaust? What role would you have played?

Guess what? You are dead-center in the 2116 history book. Chapter title: Olde Boston, The City Underwater.

What role will you play?

Bye Bye Boston?

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for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said in an email that "the city has already been using guidelines that use scenarios of 4.2 to 6.8 feet of sea level rise, so the new data only reaffirms and reinforces our need to prepare for the impacts of climate change."

Zingarelli explained that Boston has Climate Ready Boston, an initiative to develop resilient solutions to prepare Boston for the impacts of climate change. The new data from the report has already been folded into the Climate Ready plan.

She added, "The City of Boston is concerned about and planning for the impacts of climate change across all neighborhoods. The Environment Department works closely with the BRA on this issue, and Climate Ready Boston will help inform the work of Imagine Boston 2030, <http://imagine.boston.gov>."

To learn more about Climate Ready Boston, visit www.climate-ready.boston.gov

Climate Change

Continued from page 1

equipment to power down during periods when you're not using them; Travel smart. Pack less if you fly. Drive less. Walk, bike more. Use public transportation. Buy cars that make the least impact on the environment.

Waste less food. Use a home composter.

37/14

Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps
danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

C.D. Hermelin
Michele D. Maniscalco
Jack Maypole, MD
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

sencalendar@southendnews.com

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PO BOX E14,
Boston, MA 02127
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

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ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I have a pedigreed long haired dachshund named Spring. I intend to breed her when my male dachshund, Jazz, is of suitable age. The problem is that my fiancé, who lives with us, has Mike, an intact 45-pound male dog of unknown breed.

Every time Spring is in season, we must confine her to a bedroom to keep Mike from getting to her. She is miserable because she is confined. Mike is miserable for the obvious reasons. I have begged my fiancé to get Mike altered for everyone's sanity,

especially Mike's, but he always comes up with an excuse. He says that he wants to have "Mike puppies" someday, or he comments on "doing that" to him. There are so many wonderful mixed breed dogs in shelters. I have tried to explain this to my fiancé to discourage him from wanting "Mike puppies."

I have also explained that it is kind to alter Mike rather than allowing him to be miserable every time Spring is in season. The cost is not an argument because I have made it clear that I would happily pay for it myself. Is there any advice that you can give? Am I being unreasonable to ask him to have Mike altered?

—Goldie

Dear Goldie,

Not wanting to be rude but it sounds as if everyone in your household needs fixing. Your fiancé believes what's good for Spring is good for Mike. And he would not be wrong. Your constant prodding to neuter Mike while your two dogs keep their privates must rankle your guy and entrench him to seek "Mike puppies." The projected progeny of Spring and Jazz might be purebred but they will not be any more valuable than Mike mutts.

Ask Dog Lady adamantly believes in neutering pet dogs of all ages, all stages, all breeds and all crossbreeds. It's the only conscientious course, considering the horrors of pet overpopulation. Men can be a little weird about the "big snip-snip" but, in this environment, your fiancé has every right to stick up for Mike's manhood. When you live by example, you will have the moral authority to demand he

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Food

Continued from page 3

The motel shelter rooms have a microwave and small refrigerator but no kitchen, and families describe having difficulty preparing healthy meals. With limited transportation to supermarkets, these families often lack access to healthy food. Consequently, they gravitate towards inexpensive foods that are high in calories and low in nutritional value.

Feastworthy utilizes meals provided by Cambridge-based nonprofit Food For Free's Family Meals Program, which takes donated prepared food from local universities and packages the rescued food into nutritious ready-to-eat frozen meals that residents can easily heat in their microwave. Each meal consists of a serving of protein, starch and vegetable. The goal is to provide one meal a day, Monday through Friday, to participating residents.

This is the first hunger relief collaboration of its kind between the partnering agencies. The Feastworthy collaboration is coordinated by ABHC, which is devoted to working together to promote and improve the health and wellbeing of the Allston-Brighton neighborhood. ABHC is funding the operations of the three-month pilot. ABCD's Neighborhood Opportunity Center provides logistical

and distribution support while their Motel Support Services provides on-site program support. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program is overseeing a study to track the health outcomes associated with program participation. Charlesview Inc. is an ABHC Steering Committee member and provides storage space.

Food For Free is responsible for coordinating the production and delivery of the meals. Generous support for the Feastworthy Program is also provided by Sanofi Genzyme of Cambridge and Walmart of Quincy.

"This pilot is a prime example of what can be achieved when organizations collaborate effectively and creatively," said ABHC Coordinator Anna Leslie. "We are so proud to work with this exceptional group of organizations and to commit significant program funds to address the needs of our neighbors."

"The fact that homeless children, families and elders living in motels have to go without healthy meals on a regular basis is unacceptable. Poor nutrition puts their health at risk. It affects children's performance at school and adults' performance at work," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. "We're excited to be part of this innovative collaboration, one with the shared purpose of improving these families' lives today and, we hope, in the long-term."

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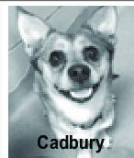
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For more information on **Cadbury**, or any of the other animals currently residing at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, please contact us at 617.226.5602. The shelter is open Tues through Thurs 1-7pm & Fri through Sun 1-4pm, excluding some holidays.

Also, be sure to check out our:
WEBSITE: www.arlboston.org
BLOG: arlbostonblog.wordpress.com
TWITTER: @ARLBostonRescue
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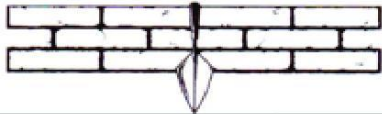
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Dramatic hit and run on Harrison Avenue

Speeding car crashes into parked car and flees

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Shortly after 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 12, a black Nissan Rogue parked on the westbound side of Harrison Avenue was allegedly struck by a white Mitsubishi traveling eastbound on Harrison that crossed the center lines, pushed the Nissan onto the sidewalk and dislodged a traffic sign by the parked car and continued down Harrison Avenue toward downtown. There were no pedestrians on the sidewalk at the time of the crash according to witnesses and no one was hurt. A witness said the hit and run car was a white Mitsubishi Galant and reported the license number to police, who arrived around 7:45 PM. Kevin Leahy, manager of Caffè Quattro at 817 Harrison Avenue, saw the accident through the restaurant's front window. Leahy said, "The [suspect] car was moving very quickly from Mass. Ave. down Harrison Avenue and the parked car was on our side of the street [westbound side]. [The hit and run vehicle] had to be traveling 30 to 35 miles per hour and it pushed the parked

car onto the sidewalk. No one was in the car and no one was on the sidewalk, luckily. It was moving very quickly and it was a hit and run. As soon as they made contact they took off as fast as they could." He continued, "A few guys chased the car down and I think they got the license plate number. A lot of people heard it and came out of the restaurants and the hospital."

According to the police report taken by District 4 officers, the driver of the black Nissan parked his car at approximately 6:00 PM to visit someone at Boston Medical Center and returned at approximately 7:15 PM to find that his car had been damaged severely and pushed onto the sidewalk. Two witnesses described the suspect vehicle as a white Mitsubishi Galant with Massachusetts plates driven by a black male and a white female, and reported seeing the Mitsubishi back up and proceed down Harrison Avenue, turning onto East Concord Street toward Albany Street. Upon checking the suspect vehicle's plates in the motor vehicle database, BPD officers found that the owner's photo did not match the description of either the driver or passenger.

Residents who have additional information on this incident may call 1(800) CRIMESTOPPERS.

Dog Lady

Continued from page 5

get his dog neutered.

Dear Dog Lady,

One morning, after my West Highland terrier completed his usual bathroom duties, I rewarded him with a dog treat and praised him. I sat down to my breakfast and proceeded to eat my usual toast and coffee. My Westie appeared and begged for some toast with butter. I told him "no" because he had already gotten a dog treat. He then left, came back, and tossed the dog treat at my feet, letting me know he did not eat it and preferred toast instead. These little guys learn our human ways so quickly. I was most amused and rewarded him with a couple of pieces of toast.

—Gizella

Dear Gizella,

This darling tale reminds Ask Dog Lady of a scamp Westie named Cooper who lives in South Boston. He too is wicked smart and would probably pull a similar stunt. Westies are like that. Your sweet Westie earned every morsel of toast by showing off his breathtaking terrier cuteness and cunning. Dog Lady will not rebuke you for indulging him. When our dogs perform brilliant stunts like this, they earn our laughter—and eternal respect. In the future, simply cut back on the jam and butter.

Dear Dog Lady,

I adopted a high-strung two-year-old rescue dog, Molly, from a shelter. I wanted

some training and took her to a dog behaviorist I found through the Internet. After one session, I was aghast when the trainer pronounced her "unredeemable" and told me to return the dog to the shelter. This seems beyond lazy. I cannot imagine any responsible trainer writing off a dog so callously or quickly. It is unconscionable. Molly is, at worst, a bit nervous and jittery. She is still acclimating to being re-homed. I grabbed her leash and got away quickly. I want to encourage your readers to avoid pathetically lazy dog trainers who may give them bad advice.

—Frank

Dear Frank,

You were right to flee this flake. An irresponsible teacher gives up the ghost quickly. This charlatan took the easiest path.

Dog Lady hopes you learned another lesson: There is no substitute for you when training your dog. Oh sure, you can hire staff to do the dirty work, but, in the end, no one will care for your dog the way you do. The best dog trainers teach the people. Dogs in classes only get high marks when their bipped handlers make all the right moves.

A dog learns through constant interaction with its human keeper. Your calm demeanor will cause Molly to chill out. Your daily walks will assure her you're in charge. The daily training you provide her—to sit and stay, to lie down—will pay off more than money thrown at canine coaches.

Go to www.askdoglady.com to read chapters from "Book of Shorty: A Little White Dog Leads Me Home" on the new blog



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