

THE ASSASSIN WHO WHISTLER

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FIRE AND POLICE REPRESENTATIVES TALK WITH NEIGHBORHOOD

In response to a request from Community Schools, preceded by letters sent to the Police Chief, Fire Chief, State Fire Marshall and Mayor, expressing concern about suspected arson in our neighborhood, a sergeant from the Cambridge Police Department and a lieutenant from the Cambridge Fire Department came to the March neighborhood council meeting to answer questions.

Lieutenant Harrington from the Fire Department explained the investigation procedures followed when fires are determined to be of suspicious origin (there have been 6 or 7 in our area in recent months). The investigation is handled by the State Fire Marshall working in conjunction with the Cambridge Police Detective Bureau. The Police sergeant, although courteous and responsive, had not been prepared for our meeting and was not from the detective bureau, so he had little information to offer on the investigation. It was emphasized that an arsonist is difficult to apprehend because so much evidence is destroyed by the fire.

Lt. Harrington offered pointers on what to do in case of fire. Although what is listed below may seem elementary, both officers stressed the points they made again and again, indicating that this advice is often not followed:

If you even suspect a fire or think you smell smoke, do the following, in this order:

- 1) call the Fire Department FIRST
- 2) arouse all occupants of the building
- 3) Never try to put out a fire unless these things have been done first and then only if it seems easy to do. Don't think you have put it out yourself, because it may have spread to walls where you can't see it.

Police Department suggestions were to call them immediately if you see someone acting in a suspicious manner. Stay on the phone until the officer has all the necessary information; too many people hang up quickly. You are not required to give your name, but it is helpful to do so, so that the Police can check for further details if necessary. You can call the Police Business Office at any time (868-3400) about parking violations. You should call about any car which may block the passage of fire equipment (parking on corners, etc.). Give exact location of vehicle, make, etc., if you can.

The primary arson prevention suggestion was to LOCK ALL DOORS, ESPECIALLY REAR AND BASEMENT ENTRIES, SECURELY. If there is no lock on basement or back doors, request it of your landlord. A letter from the Mayor's office advised, "Firstly your property should be secured. All entries and windows locked, garage doors locked and all rubbish, papers and trash removed from the area--an arsonist seeks a situation that is favorable to combustion: Loose papers and

trash are excellent for the arsonist's purposes."

The Rescue Service in Cambridge is a part of the Fire Department. Every firefighter has advanced life-saving training. For medical emergencies, call the Fire Dept. and state the problem. If Rescue men are not free, other firefighters will be dispatched. Every box alarm is answered by the Rescue Service.

Regarding the locking of entries, a part of Chapter 802-- Acts of 1972 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is included with this issue of the Whistler. If the laws stated there are not being enforced in your building, write to: The Dept. of Public Safety 1010 Commonwealth Ave. Boston, Mass. 02134 Att: Commissioner Keough *****

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ROOM

The School Department has finished the major structural repairs to the Community Schools Room (windows, pipes, electricity, doors) and we can now move ahead with the painting, building and furnishing. If you can use a paint brush, hit a nail or have furniture you would like to see in the room, call 876-9268, 2:30-5:30, Mon.-Fri.

We would also like ideas about setting up the room: lofts, furniture design, ways of defining space or any other ideas that would make better use of the room we have.

An immediate need is curtains or drapes for the windows. If you are interested in this project, call the school. *****

RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY

This is the second in a series of articles on services and institutions available to the Agassiz community. If you have any suggestions of other services that should be highlighted, please call us.

THE SANCTUARY

The Sanctuary, located at 74 Mt. Auburn St. in Cambridge (across from Elsie's) is another community resource available to all people interested in its services. Although Sanctuary began in the summer of 1970 as a drug-counseling service, its focus has changed in response to the needs of the people using its services.

Sanctuary operates a drop-in center every evening from 7:30-11:00 staffed by paraprofessional volunteer counselors who are there to rap, give information and referrals, and counsel people with personal problems. The atmosphere is warm and caring, informal and basically unimposing.

Sanctuary also offers support groups (for personal and emotional growth) and, from time to time, interest groups (in Yoga, art, etc). Individual counseling, on a short-term basis, is also available. Volunteer counselors attend on-going weekly training sessions and receive supervision by experienced staff personnel when involved in one-to-one counseling.

During the hours that the drop in center is open, people can call the Sanctuary Hot Line (492-2000) for information or help. Many people call during a crisis, such as attempted suicide or drug overdose, and can receive immediate help or appropriate referral.

Community dinners are held every Monday evening at Sanctuary and all are invited to attend.

Phyllis Kornfeld

P.T.A. NEWS

The P.T.A. met at the Agassiz School on March 7th. The main topic was redesigning certain interior spaces of the school to be more interesting and useful. Depending on enrollment next year, it may be possible to use one whole classroom as a quiet area where people could read, work on their own, or have small discussion groups. Another idea is to make cubicles in certain classrooms where children can keep their own things and do individual work. The biggest change, however, is a proposal to build a multi-leveled construction in the auditorium to increase working, playing and climbing space. We were greatly helped in our discussion by Elvin Phillips, an architect who not only gave useful information on the possibilities and limitations of the auditorium, but also promised to design a construction to serve the school's needs using materials as inexpensive as possible. Either he or Annette Spiro will report at the next meeting on the progress of the design. Meanwhile, Diane Malin has undertaken to attend a spring workshop on "Make It Yourself Classroom Equipment" at the Greater Boston Teachers' Center. The P.T.A. will pay for the workshop and Diane will share what she learns with the school. THE BIG QUESTION MARK FOR ALL THESE PROJECTS IS EXPENSE AND MANPOWER TO BUILD THEM. From present funds and future fund-raising the expenses can probably be taken care of. But nothing major can be built unless parents respond to the request to donate some evenings of help in much greater numbers than they have turned out for any other P.T.A. meeting. When the plans are complete, we will schedule some times when parent labor will be needed. PLEASE COME. If you would like

to be in on making the plans, please come to the regular monthly P.T.A. meetings, the first Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be APRIL 4, 8 p.m., at 21 Kirkland St.

Other business included plans for a High School discussion and information night. We are going to check with other schools to see whether we can coordinate such an evening with them, since we have only a few interested people in the 7th and 8th grades. If anyone is interested in contributing to or attending a discussion of high school alternatives, please contact Jancis Long 354-5963.

Betsy Harshbarger, parent-administrator of the Agassiz Playgroup, told the P.T.A. about plans the Playgroup has for providing classroom space between 8:30 and 2:30 for kindergarten children during that part of the school day they are not attending kindergarten. If the Playgroup is to do this it must know approximately how many children are likely to utilize it. Class Representatives will find out for the families they represent. If you will have a kindergartener next year and would like to use the Playgroup for part of the day please contact Betsy at 547-8946.

A Committee for Students Right: is meeting in a few weeks to draw up guidelines on this for the city. Agassiz community adults will be represented by Ken Basler, Gail Slater and Mary Woortman.

If there is enough interest we will hold a BOOKS, PLANTS, FOOD FAIR to raise funds at the end of April. Interested? Call Jancis Long. If there isn't enough interest, we won't have it.

Jancis Long

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR AGASSIZ ZONE CHANGE

On Wednesday, April 11, 1973, at the City Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m., the petition for the changing of Zone 2 to Zone 1, will be heard by the Cambridge City Council.

This is a request by most of the residents in this area, to rezone so that there will be NO building of high-rise apartments with the detrimental increase of heavy traffic, air and noise pollution and the usual raise of rentals for all residents that these buildings bring into the neighborhood. This zone change is from Oxford St. to Mass. Ave., starting approximately at Hammond St. to Roseland Sts.

It is most important that we appear at this meeting in great numbers, to show the Councilors that we are united to keep this Agassiz community as desirable as it is now.

Contact as many of the Councilors as possible, either by phone or letter, stating your support of this petition. Councilor Walter J. Sullivan is the Chairman of the Committee.

Allan Korb

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Agassiz Community School Neighborhood Council meets the second Wednesday of every month in the school library to discuss issues of interest in the neighborhood and to determine policy for the Community School. Everyone is invited to attend and participate. The next meeting will be WED., APRIL 11, at 8 p.m. Please come!

FIRE DAMAGE

If anyone is in need of help because of fire damage, call Community Schools, 876-9268. Maybe we can help.

SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

As some of you may already be aware, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has proposed rule changes that would drastically cut federal money available for existing social service programs such as those for day care, aged poor living alone, mentally retarded emotionally disturbed, unwed mothers, drug addicts, blind and disabled individuals: Titles I, IV (Parts A and B), X, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act, which are Acts of Congress. These Acts provide federal money in the form of matching grants, in varying degrees, for a wide variety of programs. In general these amount to 75% federal funding. If these changes go into effect, programs will be either greatly reduced or may have to close down completely.

The Ad Hoc Organizing Committee for a Local Council for Children in Cambridge (and others) suggests you write in opposition, requesting that the proposed Social Services rule changes be withdrawn. Write to:

Mr. Phillip J. Rutledge
Acting Administrator
Social and Rehabilitation Services
H.E.W.
330 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Retain one copy personally, send c.c. to:

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20201

For further information on this, call 491-5158.

TAX HELP OFFERED

If you are a SENIOR CITIZEN and need assistance on your income tax, please call 876-9268, 2:30-5:30. A community resident took a course offered by the I.R.S. and is willing to help you, free of charge.

BULLETIN BOARD

HUMAN SEXUALITY COURSE

The Cambridge YWCA is offering a series on "Human Sexuality" for girls ages 16-19 (under 18, parents permission necessary). Topics will include: female and male anatomy, contraception, abortion, sexual response, and venereal disease. The course will be taught by a doctor and a nurse, both female. It will run for 8 weeks, beginning March 31. It is free to YW members, \$1.00 to non-members. It will meet Saturdays 9:30-11:00. For further information, call 491-6050.

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MUSIC GROUPS

Does anyone play an instrument and want to play with others? We are interested in getting groups together--classical, folk, jazz, rock, bluegrass, etc. If we get it together now, we could even play outside in the summer. Call 876-9268 2:30-5:30, Mon.-Fri.

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SUMMER PLANS

The Agassiz Community School is starting to plan for summer programs. We need ideas and help from neighborhood people. We would like suggestions from older and younger people for what they want. Bike trips? Cookouts? Concerts? What else? Call 876-9268 with ideas.

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APARTMENT WANTED

Friendly family of five plus assorted pets seek 5 or more room apt. with yard in Agassiz School area. Call 628-5550.

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ARCHITECTURE FOR NON PROFESSIONALS

Architecture courses for non-professionals will be given at the Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury St., 536-3170. Courses are:

- 1) Introduction to architecture
- 2) Landscape architecture
- 3) Urban development--conflict and resolution
- 4) Interior Design
- 5) Boston architecture, past and present

Classes meet once a week for 10 weeks, beginning March 20. Fee is \$35.00 per course.

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM FREE

The Children's Museum is now open Friday evenings, 6-9 p.m., FREE OF CHARGE.

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HOCKEY AND BASKETBALL TICKETS

Free or low-cost tickets for hockey and basketball games will be available periodically from Community Schools. If you are interested, call 876-9268 for more information.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The after-school drop-in program of the Agassiz Community School needs volunteers with skills in gymnastics, swimming, carpentry, and pottery to work with grade school kids. If you can help, or know someone who can, call 876-9268, 2:30-5:30.

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SECTION 21. Said chapter 143 is hereby further amended by striking out section 3R, as most recently amended by chapter 303 of the acts of 1969, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 3R. At least one of the doors of the main common entryway into every apartment house having more than three apartments shall be so designed or equipped as to close and lock automatically with a lock, including a lock with an electrically-operated striker mechanism, a self-closing door and associated equipment, and such lock, door or equipment shall be of a type approved by the state building code commission. Every door of the main common entryway and every exterior door into every such apartment house, other than the door of such main common entry way which is equipped as provided in the preceding sentence, shall be equipped with a lock of a type approved by said state building code commission; provided, however, that the said commission may, in writing, waive any of the requirements of this section in appropriate cases in which, in its opinion, other security measures are in force which adequately protect the residents of such apartment house. Whoever, being in control of such premises, willfully and knowingly violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

This section shall not apply to lodging houses, as defined in section twenty-two of chapter one hundred and forty, dormitories of charitable, educational or philanthropic institutions, or projects of housing authorities, as defined in chapter one hundred and twenty-one.

SECTION 22. Sections four and five of said chapter one hundred and forty-three are hereby repealed.

SECTION 23. Said chapter 143 is hereby further amended by striking out section 6, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 214 of the acts of 1957, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 6. The local inspector, immediately upon being informed by report or otherwise that a building or other structure or anything attached thereto or connected therewith in that city or town is dangerous to life or limb or that any building in that city or town is unused, uninhabited or abandoned, and open to the weather, shall inspect the same; and he shall forthwith in writing notify the owner, lessee or mortgagee in possession to remove it or make it safe if it appears to him to be dangerous, or to make it secure if it is unused, uninhabited or abandoned and open to the weather. If it appears that such structure would be especially unsafe in case of fire, it shall be deemed dangerous within the meaning hereof, and the local inspector may affix in a conspicuous place upon its exterior walls a notice of its dangerous condition, which shall not be removed or defaced without authority from him.