

JUDO CLASS FOR ADULTS

The Agassiz Community School will be offering a Judo class for adults starting Jan. 9 in the Agassiz School Gym. The class will meet weekly for ten sessions from 7:30 - 9:00. John Wooten, our pre-teen instructor, will teach the class. This will be a great opportunity to exercise while learning some valuable self-defense skills. The cost will be \$20 for the ten week program. For more information or to register call the Agassiz Community School 498-9056 M-F 2:00-5:30.

JUDO CLUB RAFFLE

Our pre-teen Judo Club will be holding a raffle to raise the necessary money for uniforms. The pre-teens taking the Judo class have put much time and energy into this very demanding sport. We will be raffling off three prizes:

- 1) Dinner for two at the Ground Round
- 2) Two tickets to a Boston Celtic's Game.
- 3) An autographed baseball from the Boston Red Sox

Please support the Judo Club and purchase a raffle ticket.

THANKSGIVING FEAST

Once again a thank you to those people who cooked the turkeys and brought the great variety of food. We had over 300 people attend and it was a great success.

SACRAMENTO FIELD UPDATE

In August a group of neighborhood residents met with various representatives of Harvard University to discuss a proposal by Harvard for the creation of a playfield behind the Agassiz School as an alternative to the use of Sacramento Field (See Oct. Whistler). The specific proposal was to demolish 5 houses behind the school to create

SACRAMENTO FIELD UPDATE CONT'D

open space, while at the same time moving a comparable number of houses from other locations in the city to Sacramento Field for use by the Harvard community as housing. At the Aug. meeting several questions were raised and it was agreed that Harvard would get back to us in September.

Subsequent to the Aug. meeting, a letter was sent to Harvard in September with additional questions relating to the proposal. The letter also specified what the neighborhood felt was a reasonable schedule - meetings in Oct. and Nov. to discuss the plan, with a final decision reached by Harvard, the city and the neighborhood by the end of this year.

To date, the neighborhood has received no communication from Harvard regarding any of the issues raised.

At this point in time we feel we must move ahead on the original plan to develop Sacramento Field as a city playfield in accordance with the schedule described above. A letter will be drafted for approval at the Dec. Council meeting, instructing the City Planning Department to seek a third appraisal on the field and move ahead with the necessary legal work to take it by eminent domain proceedings.

MELLEN STREET DOWNZONING

The City Council will soon have to choose between two alternative downzoning petitions directed at the Wendell/Mellen/ Everett blocks in the Agassiz Neighborhood. These petitions, dubbed the "Vickery petition" and the "Vellucci petition" are

MELLEN STREET DOWNZONING (Cont'd)

The Agassiz Neighborhood needs the support of all residents of Cambridge who are concerned about the stability of our neighborhood. In the face of continuing institutional pressure on our housing stock and the divisive tactics employed by the institutions to pit neighborhood against neighborhood, united action is essential.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

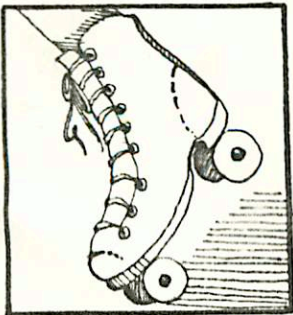
LESLEY STUDENT looking for baby-sitting. Will work weekday and weekend eves. \$2.00 an hour. Call Lynn Jacobs 876-8674.

## **CHRISTMAS VACATION PROGRAM**

"THE WIZ"

Tuesday, December 26, 1978

At the Sack 57. Cost is \$1.25 for 12 and under, \$1.50 for over 12. Transportation is by MBTA. Deadline for money and registration is December 11.

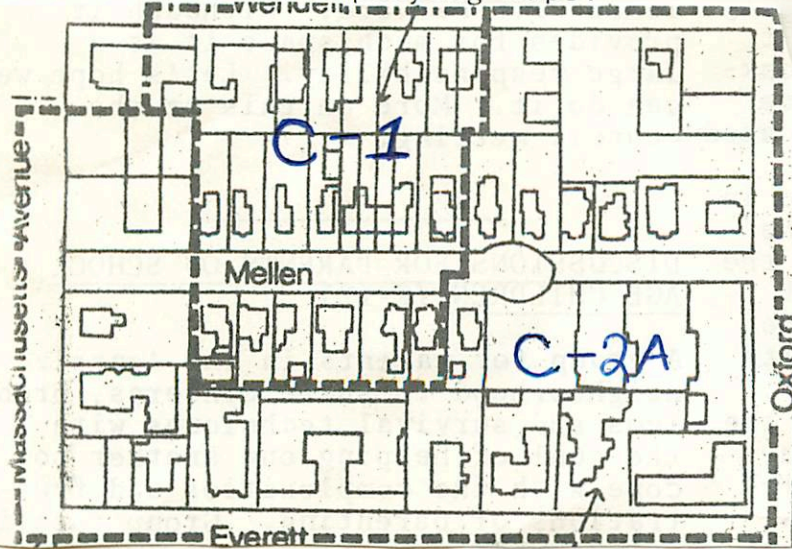
WAL-LEX ROLLERSKATING

Cost is \$1.25 per person. Deadline for money and registration is December 11. Ages on Thurs. are 5-10 yrs. Friday, the age group is 6th grade and up.

- Meet at Agassiz at 9:00am
- Return approx. 12:30pm

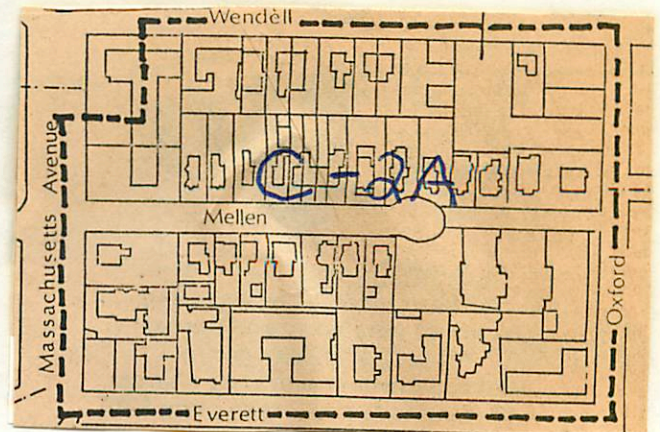
MELLEN STREET DOWNZONING (Cont'd)

shown in the accompanying maps.



The Vickery petition creates a mixed C-1 and C-2A zone under the concept that Lesley College and Harvard University can create institutional uses within the C-2A zone, while the C-1 zone will be intended for residential use similar to that of the remainder of the adjoining neighborhood. The C-2A zone is a new zone for the City and would incorporate a 60 foot height limit, subject to design review. The C-2A zone will create a transition zone between institutional uses and residential uses, and is expected to set a pattern for the whole City.

The Neighborhood supports the Vickery petition as a reasonable compromise between the growth needs of Harvard and Lesley and the Neighborhood's need for stability and housing. The C-1 zone encompasses the majority of the frame houses now used as open market housing and will preserve much of Mellen and Wendell Streets as part of our neighborhood.

VELLUCCI PETITION

The petition of Councillor Vellucci makes the entire two block area into an institutional district. This petition is opposed by the Agassiz Neighborhood for several reasons. First and most obvious, eighteen frame houses and two apartment buildings, representing over one hundred dwellings, would be unnecessarily lost to the Neighborhood and the City. In its own plans, Lesley College shows no need for these properties before the year 2000, if ever. Second, the Vellucci proposal will encourage Lesley College to expand buying houses in its enlarged domain rather than expanding by construction of new facilities in its present "core campus," which is what Lesley promised to do when Mellen Street was closed by the City in 1967. The Neighborhood encourages this construction and opposes further acquisitions.

Third, the Vellucci petition, unlike the Vickery petition, did not emerge from a process of open discussions between Lesley College, residents of Agassiz, and City planning staff. It was developed through direct discussions between a City Councillor and the two institutions, with no input from residents. It therefore establishes a dangerous precedent for all Neighborhoods.