

Street activist Wall mulls political run

David Pomerantz

For the last three decades, Rev. Bruce Wall has crusaded to save Boston's youth from violent crime.

He has waged his war from the altar of a Dorchester church, from the streets as a community activist and from the bench as an assistant clerk magistrate in Boston's juvenile court for 24 years.

Now, the 59-year-old pastor of the Global Ministries Christian Church in Codman Square is eyeing a new pulpit from which to preach: Boston's City Council.

Fueled by what he calls "righteous anger" at the political power structure's neglect for the violence plaguing his community, Wall is considering running for the Council's District 5 seat, currently held by Robert Con-salvo.

Wall's aggressiveness stems from a feeling that he has been frozen out by Mayor Thomas M. Menino. The pastor, who says he was a kitchen-cabinet advisor for past police administrations, claims that Menino has prevented Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis from meeting with Wall since Davis's arrival at the end of 2006.

Wall says that he is being shunned because he called for Menino to de-

clare the 10-block radius around his Washington St. church a "state of emergency" in December.

Menino refused, telling the Boston Globe at the time that "it's not a state of emergency. We look at numbers around the area. As dramatic as some people want to make it out to be, the police are doing a good job."

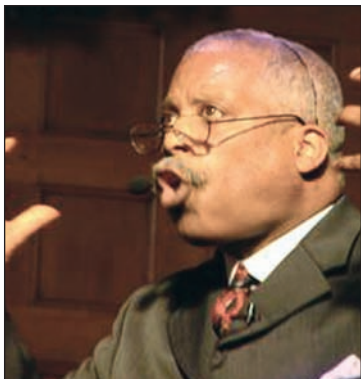
Wall says that his refusal to kowtow has landed him in the mayor's doghouse and abruptly ended his long relationship with the police force.

Both the mayor and the police commissioner denied any deliberate attempt to isolate Wall.

"[Wall's allegation] is absolutely not true," Menino's press secretary Dot Joyce said. "In fact, the police commissioner has met with several people in that community. You'd have to ask the police about that, but I don't believe there was a formal request [from Wall] into the police commissioner other than the day after he took office, while he was obviously very busy."

Davis's office responded in kind. "The police commissioner is a bit perplexed by the suggestion that he won't meet with Rev. Wall," police spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said. She added that the police commis-

Wall, continued to page 23



Rev. Bruce Wall, pastor of the Global Ministries Church in Codman Square, is considering a run for City Council. Wall says that he has been ostracized by the Mayor's Office and the Boston Police Department since his calls for the city to declare a "state of emergency" due to violence in December. (File photo)



Gov. Deval Patrick, right, reacts as Massachusetts Senate President Robert Travaglini, left, jokes about Patrick during the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast at Boston Convention and Exhibition Center last Sunday. (AP photo/Chitose Suzuki)

Patrick served Irish roast at St. Patty's Day breakfast

David Weber

Gov. Deval Patrick provided a huge target for the political jokesters at the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast Sunday, and he took the ribbing gracefully, displaying a tote board to tally the references to his pricey new drapes and Cadillac.

One by one, the pols stepped to the microphone to skewer Patrick after two months of political missteps surrounding his new state car, office decorations and helicopter rides.

When Patrick took his turn at the podium, he reflected on the eventful year that saw him rise from little-

known candidate to landslide winner of the governor's office.

"What a difference a year makes," he said, noting he stood in the wings at last year's St. Patrick's celebration. "Last year, I got to stand and watch elected officials eat breakfast. Today, I get to sit with elected officials and be the breakfast."

Patrick smartly poked fun at himself, saying he was glad this year's event was moved to the spacious Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

"I like this building because there's plenty of parking," he deadpanned. "There's room enough for the Cadillac

and the helicopter."

Senate President Robert Travaglini kept the pressure on, claiming Patrick was so impressed with the East Boston Democrat's sartorial taste that the governor designed his own line of clothing.

"As soon as we put the suit on, it all came apart at the seams," said Travaglini, who remained coy about reports that he may leave office for a more lucrative private sector job.

Master of ceremonies state Sen. Jack Hart, D-Boston, briefly paused the barrage against Patrick to tell him everyone's thoughts and prayers

Breakfast, continued to page 27



With the Lincoln Memorial seen in the background, demonstrators marched over the Arlington Memorial Bridge from the National Mall to the Pentagon in Washington last Saturday

during a protest opposing the war in Iraq. Over the weekend, protests marking the four-year anniversary of the war were held in cities across the country. (AP photo/Gerald Herbert)

Ads aim to diversify Boston Police Dept.

David Pomerantz

Since February, the advertisements have beckoned from billboards, in subway cars and in local newspapers.

"Join the BPD," the ads implore, promising potential police "many jobs, one career," and a hand in shaping "Boston's future."

The ad blitz is part of a recent recruitment drive undertaken by the Boston Police Department that aims to both swell the ranks of the department and increase its diversity.

Since 1997, the BPD has experienced a steep decline in the number of job applicants, from 5,430 in that year to only 1,345 in 2005, according to department data.

Running dangerously low on new recruits, the department is now spending \$100,000 in advertising to

try to reverse the trend.

The campaign is specifically targeting the city's minority populations. The police department currently lists 35 percent of its 2,200-member force as "minority officers," categorizing 25 percent as black, 8 percent as Hispanic, and only as 2 percent Asian.

"We have ads in El Planeta in the Hispanic community and Sampan in the Asian community, which actually translated an ad for us," said BPD spokesperson Elaine Driscoll, who helped organize the ad campaign. "We made sure to put the ad in several bus shelters in Chinatown. The recruiting officers were very specific about the communities they seek to reach."

One specific recruiting target is the Cape Verdean community. Cur-

Police, continued to page 30

What's INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT . . . 19-22

LISTINGS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 28
 CALENDAR 29
 CHURCH GUIDE 27

PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL 4
 OPINION 5
 ROVING CAMERA 5

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED 35-39
 LEGALS 30-33
 REAL ESTATE 33-35