



Seven-year-old Kai Leigh Harriott was shot and paralyzed by a stray bullet in 2003. Kai Leigh forgave her shooter, Anthony Warren, an act that inspired Warren and countless others to become advocates against violence. (Mai-Anh Hoang photo)

Peace of mind

As Hub activists preach nonviolence, a 7-year-old girl urges them to forgive, but not forget

Mai-Anh Hoang

Hundreds of buttons, each bearing the image and name of a deceased young person, lay on a banner with a white dove in the center.

Twenty people have been murdered in Boston this year, according to the most recent Boston Police Department statistics.

This Sunday, Mother's Day,

hundreds of walkers are expected to converge at Townfield Park in Dorchester's Fields Corner to participate in the 3.6-mile Mother's Walk for Peace.

Clementina Chéry, director and founder of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, coordinates the annual Walk for Peace, a charity event to help survivors of violence and homicide.

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Gov. Patrick eyes the future, one line item at a time

Howard Manly

History has yet to be written on the gubernatorial skills of Deval Patrick.

But one thing is clear: Patrick is well on his way to changing the climate inside the State House.

Oh, he made some rookie mistakes during his first 100 days, and

environmental bond bill that would protect open space to a \$2.9 billion transportation bill that would provide much needed capital to repair and maintain long-neglected public roads and bridges.

The transportation money is no trivial matter. The federal government ranked Massachusetts as the 35th state in percentage of interstate roads graded as "good" or "excellent."

But those sorts of mundane issues don't really grab headlines. What did catch the media's attention was Patrick's unsuccessful attempt to bring casino gambling to the Commonwealth.

The question was one of leadership. And given recent media accounts of the tension between Patrick and DiMasi, Patrick looked almost better for the fight during a recent interview with the Banner.

"We differ on stuff, sometimes sharply," Patrick said. "But we remain generally philosophically Patrick, continued to page 19

The key to evaluating Patrick is looking at the present and seeing not the past, but the future.

one of his major economic proposals — casino gambling resorts — went down in flames.

But the key to evaluating Patrick is looking at the present and seeing not the past, but the future.

Who knew that Patrick, a civil rights attorney with an Ivy League-and-corporate pedigree, would enjoy the give-and-take of political infighting?

Though there is little sexy about bond issues, Patrick appears to relish in filing them — everything from a \$1.4 billion energy and en-

Fed OKs plan to rein in deceptive credit cards

Jim Abrams

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve and other regulators initiated steps last Friday to end "unfair and deceptive" credit card industry practices assailing consumers already struggling to cope in a bad economy.

The proposed rules would be the biggest clampdown on the industry in decades, aiming at protecting people from credit card companies that arbitrarily raise interest rates or don't give borrowers adequate time to pay their bills.

The proposals would also restrict such lender practices as allocating all payments to balances with lower interest rates when a borrower has balances with different rates.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben

Bernanke said the proposed rules "are intended to establish a new baseline for fairness in how credit card plans operate."

Lawmakers who have demanded tougher controls on the credit card industry were generally positive about the proposed rules, as were consumer groups.

The Fed drew considerable criticism for its slow response to abuses that contributed to the subprime mortgage crisis.

"These steps are a significant improvement," said Sen. Charles Credit cards, continued to page 9

A lifetime champion of educational equity

Margarita Persico

Robert Marshall has taken care of his community for decades, and at the age of 60, he shows no signs of slowing down.

These days, when he's not busy as a substitute teacher at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and at Boston Day and Evening Academy, both in Roxbury, you can usually find him putting up yard signs for the Barack Obama presidential campaign or working the phone banks for the local politicians he supports.

him there, he's probably out fundraising, going door-to-door to talk with folks about their political leanings, or dropping off literature at churches.

Marshall retired in 2007 after spending 35 years with the Boston Public Schools (BPS). But by the looks of things, retirement didn't take.

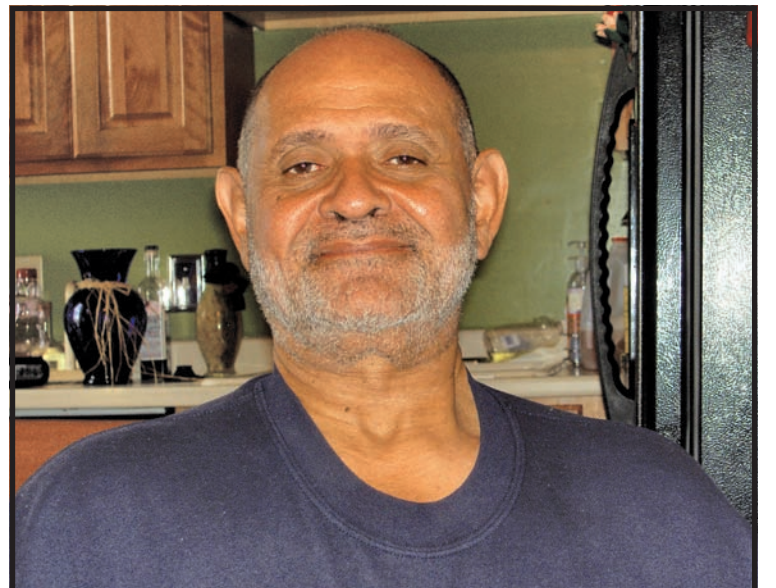
"Bob is a person who has taken the community on his shoulders and in his heart," says Jean McGuire, executive director of the Metropolitan Council For Educational Opportunity Inc., better

known as METCO.

Longtime BPS educator Barbara Fields hailed Marshall's dedication to children — not only within the school environment or in the classroom, where he taught special education, but also in the outside community.

"He also has gone beyond his classroom advocacy and has been extremely active in the Black Educators' Alliance of Massachusetts, where he also continues to promote equity in education and opportunities for children," adds Fields, a 33-year BPS veteran who retired from her position as the system's senior equity officer last June.

Marshall's affinity for educational equity started when he was a boy growing up in Fair Haven, N.J., where he was born. Marshall lived Marshall, continued to page 16



Robert Marshall retired from teaching last year. But after 35 years of working in the Boston Public Schools system, he is still committed to educating young minds as a substitute teacher. Known for his work with community-minded politicians, Marshall is one of the city's unsung heroes. (Margarita Persico photo)

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