



The

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, COMMENTARY AND OPINIONS, SERVING THE MERRIMACK VALLEY

Valley Patriot

*Free

"Congress shall make no law..."

Volume 3, Issue 11

November - 2006

32 Pages

Sex Assault Charges for Timony School Student

Paula L. Porten & Tom Duggan

Valley Patriot of the Month:

Heroes In Our Midst



photo: Ted Tripp

Corporal Frank Sanzi, Paratrooper Korean War

Ted Tripp

NORTHANDOVER - On June 25, 1950 the North Korean Army, bolstered by Soviet tanks and aircraft, invaded South Korea.

Immediately, President Harry Truman ordered General Douglas MacArthur to transfer ammunition and supplies from Japan to the ROK (Republic of Korea) Army and provide limited air support. On June 27th, Truman authorized the use of U.S. land, sea and air forces in South Korea. The newly formed United Nations also condemned this "act of aggression" and a week later placed the forces of 15 member nations under U.S. command to oppose the North Korean Army. President Truman appointed MacArthur as the Supreme Commander.

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METHUEN - There is a lot of sexual activity going on in Deborah O'Connell's 8th grade class at Methuen's Timony Grammar School, activity that has led to one student's arrest and questions about the role of two others.

According to eyewitness accounts and a police report filed in Methuen, some students at the Timony School apparently have a problem keeping their hands to themselves, even while the teacher is in the classroom.

A 13-year-old student from the Timony was arrested and charged with two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 years old and one count of assault and battery.

The arrest stems from an incident that occurred on October 17, 2006 in Ms. O'Connell's class involving two female students and one male student.

According to the police report filed by Methuen police officer Thomas Torrisi, Officer Torrisi responded to the Timony Grammar School on a complaint of sexual assault and investigated the allegations.

In his report, Torrisi states that two 13-year-old female students allege that a male student sexually assaulted them. One of the girls says that the boy "tried several times to grab at her breasts" and that even though she kept hitting his hand away, he was able to "grab and squeeze her left breast."

The report then states that "the boy went over to a second girl in his class and started

the same." The report continues that not only was the boy accused of grabbing the other girl's breasts, he then "put his hand down the front of her pants."

One of the girls also alleges that the boy "demanded her to give him (oral sex)" and, when she said no, "he grabbed her by the back of the head and pushed her face into his crotch."

Following the investigation by Officer Torrisi, the boy was arrested and handcuffed at his home on October 20, 2006. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for December 11, 2006 in Lawrence Juvenile Court.

The Valley Patriot spoke with the mother of one of the female students who made the allegation. She said she was "shocked" that such behavior and activities could take place in her daughter's classroom with the teacher present.

"Where was the teacher?" she demanded to know. "How could this happen in a classroom? I send my daughter to school and expect a safe learning environment ... how could the teacher let this happen?"

The mother is contemplating suing the school and has already contacted an attorney.

Another parent, whose daughter is in 6th grade at the Timony, was equally disturbed that the teacher could allow such behavior to occur in her classroom.

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Valley Patriot *Editorial*

Call it what it is: Jew Hatred

The anti-Semitic hate group "Wheels of Justice" was recruited to speak to the children of Andover High School by their equally anti-Semitic physics teacher, Ron Francis. And when the principal canceled the group's visit because no opposing views were being represented, these so-called "peace activists" had to be escorted out of the building by police because they refused to leave "peacefully."

Now, Francis and Andover Teachers' Union President Tom Meyers are threatening a lawsuit, saying they do not want opposing views represented. (So much for freedom of speech!)

But who can oppose peace and love? A quick trip to the Web site www.justicewheels.org reveals that Wheels of Justice is a group which seeks to "educate" people on the evils of the United States and Israel. They seek to educate people about the Jewish conspiracy in this country to support Israel. They portray America and the Jews as the root cause of all the violence and turmoil in the Middle East. In short, they cloak themselves under the cover of being "anti-Israel," but not anti-Semites or anti-Jewish.

Furthermore, Wheels of Justice claims that Israel committed "ethnic cleansing" against Palestinians, that the Jews are "illegally" occupying land and oppressing poor Palestinian terrorists, and that the Jewish conspiracy in America is responsible for all of this. The group's Web site stunningly equates the Jewish "occupation" with Nazi death camps in WW II. (Didn't Hitler use this same type of propaganda?)

Wheels of Justice sought to bring maps of the "occupied" Palestinian land to Andover High to show just how victimized the Palestinians are at the hands of the evil Jews. But nowhere on its website or in its speeches do they condemn suicide bombings, terrorist acts against civilians, Palestinian support for terrorist groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah, or even al Qaeda's 9/11 attack on the U.S.

In fact, Ron Francis himself makes excuses for all of these terrorist acts by saying that, if he lived in "Palestine," he "would probably be a suicide bomber too."

Francis and the Wheels of Hate certainly do not educate people that Israel has offered land for peace year after year, despite being attacked by Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians since the day after gaining statehood in 1948.

We find it unconscionable for the local media to call these hate mongers "peace advocates." But we find it more disturbing that the Anti-Defamation League and Rabbi Goldstein of Temple Emmanuel refuses to call them what they are: anti-Semites. It is this kind of pacifism (and refusal to call evil what it is) that lead to millions of Jews being slaughtered in Nazi Germany.

"But we cannot be anti-Semites because Palestinians are Semites," the Jew haters will say, preferring to debate about word definitions instead of their hatred for America and the Jews.

So, let us agree and go on the record that anti-Semite is not exactly accurate in describing Ron Francis, Tom Meyers and the Wheels of Justice. They are Jew Haters, pure and simple, who blame the "Jews who control Hollywood," the "Jews who control the banks" and the "Jews who control foreign policy" in this country for the victimization of poor Muslim terrorists around the world.

We only wish that the ADL, Rabbi Goldstein, and other Jewish advocacy groups would stop pussyfooting around by calling them "vicious anti-Israel" and call them by what they truly are — modern day, Nazi Jew-Haters!



North Andover Resident Hopes to be On Exercise TV

Amy Constantino Attends Open Casting Call for "America's Next Fitness Star," Sponsored by ExerciseTV and Jake Steinfeld of "Body by Jake"

BOSTON - ExerciseTV founder Jake Steinfeld hosted an open casting call at Boston's CN8 studios on Thursday, October 19th, looking for fitness personalities who believe they have what it takes to be "America's Next Fitness Star." ExerciseTV, the leading ON DEMAND fitness and sports training network, is holding a nationwide search for an energetic and exciting fitness personality who has the star power to inspire millions of viewers to get in shape. The winner will be offered a one-year paid contract with ExerciseTV to star in an original series and a year's worth of New Balance footwear and apparel.



ExerciseTV (www.exercisetv.tv) is a new multi-platform television network dedicated to fitness, motivation and sports training, and is designed exclusively for video-on-demand (VOD) and emerging media platforms. ExerciseTV's core VOD service offers digital cable customers the opportunity to select from a comprehensive lineup of their favorite fitness workouts and offers unprecedented access to the world's leading instructors and trainers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ExerciseTV offers more than 100 programs for all fitness levels, interests and demographics — available at any time. Since its launch in

January 2006, viewers have watched more than 25 million on-demand workouts.

ExerciseTV was founded by Jake of "Body by Jake" and developed by Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA, CMCSK), the nation's leading provider of cable, entertainment and communications products and services. ExerciseTV is managed by Comcast and is part of its portfolio of programming services. New Balance Athletic Shoe and Time Warner Cable are additional equity partners.



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I'm a member of Team Zingales

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Please see our ad on Page 23



The Valley Patriot is published by:

Valley Patriot, Inc.

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P.O. Box 453, North Andover, MA 01845

Phone - (978) 557-5413 Fax (978) 258-1964



The Valley Patriot is printed at the beginning of each month. The Valley Patriot is not liable for errors appearing in advertisements provided to us. All ad copy must be submitted seven days prior to publication. Subscriptions to The Valley Patriot cost \$20 per year and are delivered via U.S. Mail.

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Advertising Director: Paula Porten

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Treasurer: Dr. Charles Ormsby

You can read us on-line at www.valleypatriot.com

The Valley Patriot is printed by GRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT in West Hanover, MA



2006 Valley Patriot Ad Rates

Size	Cost
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Lawrence on the Move

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

Rebuilding the City Park and Recreation System in Lawrence

When I look back over some of the accomplishments of my administration during the past five years, one area that really stands out is the improvements to the city park system. This is also one area that took a lot of cooperation from many different groups and organizations which have chosen to work together for common goals. I think one thing everyone could agree on is that our park system had become run down and insufficient for our recreational needs.

The city of Lawrence has some great natural resources with three rivers running through it, but it was for the very reason of harnessing the rivers for power and waste disposal that we face the challenges of accessibility and pollution. I'm proud to say that during the Sullivan administration we are well on our way to removing or overcoming many of these obstacles. Our problems were not unique and the urban River Visions Program provided many opportunities and potential solutions. Tougher environmental and anti-pollution laws have improved our waterways, and Brownsfields Legislation has helped provide funding for cleanups of previously unusable greenspace.

To date we have expended \$15 million over the last five years for park improvements. We have done that with forging public/private partnerships as well as leveraging state and federal funding to compliment local reinvestment. A twenty-two park improvement program was phased in with all areas of the city getting equal levels of attention. This includes new attractive signage, benches, trash receptacles, and fencing through our whole park system. Other parks were singled out and scheduled for major improvements such as Storrow Park, Pemberton Park, North Common Ballfield, Sullivan Park and the upcoming Mt. Vernon Ballfield complex.

As a built-out city, we have encountered problems when it comes to sighting our new schools. Even though they have come at the expense of some parkland, it has resulted in many park improvements as well. The four ballfields at the South Lawrence East School are perfect examples of that and I would certainly be remiss if I didn't brag a little about our newly renovated and vastly improved Veterans Memorial Stadium. The

crowning jewel of our recreational system will quickly garner state-wide attention as a premier venue for sporting events, concerts, and city celebrations. Beside Sullivan Park, there will also be two beautiful new ballfields behind the new Lawrence High School and visible from the highway. These will be complete with concession stands, press box, lighting, bleachers and irrigation.

The plan to create a greenway along the Spicket and Shawsheen Rivers is well underway with the addition of Brook Street Park, Den Rock Park and the newly designed FEMA Park that will be constructed this year.

The good news is we have plans to continue the effort well into my second term. Just this week, we received great news of a new grant award from the state to create a first-of-its-kind skateboarding park next to the Leonard school. This idea was initiated by students who worked hard to create a safe place for skateboarders to enjoy their sport in the city of Lawrence.

So, whether it's active or passive recreation, we have many more opportunities for our children to enjoy their leisure time in our great city. I truly feel that recreation in a city that is as densely populated and demographically young as Lawrence is key to a good quality of life for all our citizens. Unlike some of our surrounding communities, we have extremely small lot sizes and small yards, so our park system has to be even that much better. I know from talking to our residents, as well as many visitors, that these improvements are being extremely well received. I want to thank groups like Groundwork Lawrence, members of the community who actually do the work, all the neighborhood associations and the many individuals who have worked with the city and my administration in championing these great improvements. These wonderful new green spaces within our borders have enhanced everyone's quality of life. This is a legacy of leisure that I know will continue to be built upon and something we can all be proud of as they are enjoyed by many generations of future Lawrencians.

Michael Sullivan is the mayor of Lawrence and is his second four-year term. you can email him at Sull33@aol.com or call his office at 978-794-5858.



Thinking Outside the Box!

Dr. Charles Ormsby, N.A School Committee

Arguments in Support of NEASC Accreditation Criteria Fall Short

My article, recently published in the Eagle Tribune and North Andover Citizen, criticizing the accreditation criteria used by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has drawn several supportive letters and a storm of protests from North Andover's "we need to spend more money" crowd.

Because the accreditation warning issued by the NEASC has raised community concerns, it is important for everyone to take a deep breath and make a reasoned assessment of NEASC's credibility. Are they unbiased and objective?

Does NEASC's process provide a balanced assessment of spending, expectations, standards and academic outcomes, or does it focus disproportionately on spending and class sizes?

Those offering arguments in support of the NEASC seem to prefer an assessment that focuses primarily, or even exclusively, on spending and directly related metrics such as class sizes.

Could it be that this preference is the result of their single-minded campaign to lobby for increased budgets and their unwillingness to manage cost increases?

The arguments employed by those who oppose a more balanced accreditation

criteria either attacked positions I didn't take, are embarrassingly flawed or, when actually analyzed, support my original position.

Here is just a sampling:

School Committee Chairman Al Perry begins his critique by listing reasons why various standards (MCAS, SAT, AP tests, etc.) are not, taken alone, adequate measures of a school's academics. If these tests are such a poor measure of our academic success, why do we spend millions doing the testing?

Mr. Perry seems to conclude that any test limitations are an excuse for the NEASC to not include outcomes in its assessments. This position is just too outlandish to take seriously.

Later, Mr. Perry compares the investment in our schools - I prefer to think of it as an investment in our children - to investing in retirement funds. What a great analogy!! So I ask you: What do you judge when you review the performance of your investments each year?

Do you assess how much money you dumped into your funds, or do you judge how the funds performed? Of course you judge performance by outcomes - e.g.,

Continued on Page 20



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Remembering Armistice Day in North Andover

Ted Tripp



November 11th is Veterans Day, the day when we honor our country's veterans from all wars. North Andover will celebrate with its usual parade, ceremony and gathering at the VFW hall on Park Street.

Those who are older will remember that Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day before 1954 when President Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name.

Armistice Day was established in 1919 to recognize all those who fought and died in the World War – which World War I was called at the time. The armistice treaty ending the war on the Western Front was signed near Compiègne, France at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. This explains the tradition of a moment of silence at 11 a.m. on November 11th, Veterans Day.

North Andover has a long tradition of recognizing its veterans. The World War was no exception. At the annual town meeting in March 1920, the town appropriated \$7,500 for a monument to be erected in memory of those who served in the war. Two years later town meeting accepted Memorial Park, donated by the Tavern Land Company, and now called Patriots Memorial Park across from the library.

On June 10, 1922, North Andover officially dedicated a beautiful marble Memorial Monument to the World War veterans and the Memorial Park in which it stands.

The ceremony was presided over by Nathaniel Stevens. The High School Chorus sang "America the Beautiful." The monument was unveiled by Mrs. Thomas Thompson and Mrs. Ernest Drouin, respectively representing Albert Thomson and Arthur Drouin, who were the only North Andover residents killed in the war. After presentation and acceptance of the monument, the High School Chorus sang "To Thee Oh Country." The principal address was given by Rev. William Patrick, chaplain of American Legion Post 219.

There was also a parade to celebrate the occasion. It was led by the Platoon Police, the Foss' Military Band, Wagon Company 102, and Battery C. This was followed by the Eighth Regiment Drum Corps and members of American Legion Post 219 North Andover, Post 15 Lawrence and Post 122 Methuen. The third division included the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Fire Department and automobiles with Grand Army of the Republic veterans and invited guests.

North Andover only had about 6100 residents at the time of the World War. Of those, 340 chose to serve their country when it needed them most. This Veterans Day, let's also remember those who served in that long-forgotten war and to whom this appreciative holiday was originally dedicated.

Ted Tripp is an International Consultant in high-tech manufacturing methods. He has BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering from MIT. You can reach him at tripp@gis.net

WORLD WAR I HONOR ROLL OF HEROES



photo: Ted Tripp

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Town Moderator Charlie Salisbury Makes New Board Appointments

North Andover Town Moderator Charlie Salisbury announced last week the appointment of **Ellis Fitzpatrick**, 11 Royal Crest Drive, to the North Andover Finance Committee, for a 3-year term concluding after the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. This appointment fills the position formerly held by Jack Watkins, whose distinguished 6-year service on the committee ended with the close of our recent 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

Salisbury also announced the confirmation of two new members to the North Andover Finance Committee, for 3-year terms concluding after the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. They are: **Benjamin C. Osgood**, 89 Old Village Lane, and **Peter D. Besen**, 81 Candlestick Road.

The New Appointees

Ellis Fitzpatrick has been an active member of the community for the more than 40 years that he and his wife, Michelle, have lived in town – serving multiple community organizations.

He also brings more than 20 years experience with municipal finance as staff of the Division of Local Services within the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. His experience serving the Commonwealth's 351 municipalities (many with financial issues even more complicated than North Andover's) will be valuable to our Finance Committee, and provide insight to state requirements. The town moderator says he is grateful for Ellis' "busman's holiday" and is confident that his service on the Finance Committee will benefit us all.

Ben Osgood has been an active (and lifelong) member of the community. As a real estate developer and construction manager, his professional efforts are well known within town. His experience with North Andover projects, knowledge of evolving North Andover history, and pragmatic approach to issues will help committee deliberations.

Peter Besen, Vice President of Broadcom Corp., brings technical talents that have already established him as founder of two successful companies producing components for digital video electronics. Peter and his wife, Lisa, have raised their family in North Andover, and he has been a regular participant in Town Meeting and other community activities – most recently as a member of the Capital Planning Committee.

N. Andover Tests New Voting Machines

Tom Duggan

The town of North Andover made the new Diebold voting machines available to the public on November 7th, as voters were able to test the machines for the first time during the mid-term elections.

Town Clerk Joyce Bradshaw said the experiment seemed to be a complete success. "About a hundred people volunteered to use the Diebold machines in this election and we didn't have any complaints at all," she said.

"We were chosen by the Secretary of State's office to be a test site for the electronic Diebold machines as part of the Help America Vote Act," she continued.

"There were 8-10 communities in the area that were also chosen to use this type of machine. The machines are very easy to use and we expect that they will be standard by the presidential primaries in two years."

Bradshaw said the machines were supposed to be implemented statewide this past September, but Secretary of State William Galvin had problems with using the original Diebolds because there were no paper print outs to check the accuracy of the electronic voting.

"The Secretary of State refused to certify the other machines and he was very good about getting a machine that would print out a paper ballot for testing."

Bradshaw said the cost of purchasing Diebolds for every precinct would be very expensive, adding, "It is a huge purchase to get machines for every precinct in the commonwealth, and I think the secretary of state wanted to make sure the machines were dependable and easy for voters to use before we embarked on such a huge purchase." Bradshaw also tested the machines after voting

had closed. "We did test the machines after everyone voted and they agreed with the vote totals we had, so there were no problems in North Andover ... though I don't know how testing went in any of the other sites. In North Andover we had no complaints; most people said they were very easy to use. What was great about these machines was that they made it very easy for people with a vision problem to vote by using larger text on the screen and headphones to verbally explain to the voter who they were



casting their ballot for."

Bradshaw said she prefers the Accuvote machines currently being used in N. Andover because they are easier to process, harder to tamper with and there is a comfort level she and her staff have with them. "But," she added, "these new machines are a lot easier for independent-minded voters - people who need lots of assistance now will be able to use these new machines with almost no help at all."



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Admit It... You Really Don't Care

I approached several of the Merrimack Valley's state representatives, state senators, local mayors and other elected officials recently to find out why, in light of the fact that Deval Patrick fought to free a cop killer, they would publicly support him for a job that entails appointing judges to our criminal justice system.

"Well ... my understanding of that whole thing is that Deval was *really* defending the process, not necessarily the killer," one Lawrence representative said, informing me that the *real* issue was about the way this was being "exploited."

REALLY? I am sure the wife of Officer Ronald Smith would be comforted to hear that.

"Come on, he was just doing his job," a state senator told me in a dismissive tone as he eyed the buffet line and scanned the room for someone more "comfortable" to talk to.

One valley mayor responded with, "That whole thing is being blown way out of proportion. Deval's my guy! Besides, it was a long time ago."

When I reminded another official that Patrick's efforts have now resulted in the family of a slain cop testifying before a parole board every three years to ensure that the man who killed their loved one remains in jail, he responded with, "Abe Lincoln was a defense lawyer," and that he had defended many unpleasant characters.

It was an answer you would expect from a former defense lawyer (which he was), yet I doubt Abe Lincoln ever fought for the release of an admitted and convicted cop killer who committed his crime the very last time he was free (he escaped).

I was puzzled. How could these people stand by Deval Patrick? How could they publicly tell the voters that this guy would be a great pick to appoint judges for our criminal court system? These were the

Background: Deval Patrick Fought to Free Cop Killer

Upon learning that Deval Patrick had fought to free admitted cop killer Carl Roy Songer, I, like many of you, was outraged that this man was a finalist for the top seat at the State House in Massachusetts.

Songer pumped five bullets into Florida State Trooper Ronald Smith after escaping from prison. Two hunters witnessed the shooting, shot, captured and held Songer until police arrived. There was never any doubt about Songer's guilt from the moment of the shooting.

After being convicted and admitting to his crime, Songer was sentenced to die. Only after all this did Deval Patrick as an ACLU lawyer step in to have the sentence of Carl Roy Songer reduced to include parole. Because of Deval Patrick, every three years family members of Trooper Smith must now relive the nightmare (in public) of how Carl Roy Songer gunned down the man they loved, the man who

movers and shakers in the Merrimack Valley. They were the people in charge of police departments (mayors), people who are in charge of passing our criminal laws and the sentencing guidelines criminals will face. These are the very people who campaign year after year, talking tough on crime, and appearing with police officers in campaign ads and press conferences.

Yet, every single one of them had an excuse for Deval Patrick's long record of empathizing with vicious criminals instead of defending victims of crime and standing with police. Each of them found a way to dismiss Patrick's ACLU efforts to raise false accusations of racism in an effort to free a hardened, violent criminal onto our streets to jeopardize the safety of you, me, and everyone we love.

Not even one could bring himself (even privately) to acknowledge that Patrick's behavior and philosophy on coddling

stopped on the side of the road to HELP him.

And there is no guarantee in any given year that the trooper's family will succeed in denying Songer parole status. There is a real possibility that some day in the near future, the man who shot a police officer five times the LAST time he was free, may be out there lurking in their neighborhoods once again.

If Patrick had been retained to defend the cop killer *before* Songer's guilt was established, before he admitted to his crime, before eyewitness accounts were made in court against him, you might be able to brush it off and say, "Hey, Patrick was doing his job and everyone is innocent until proven guilty." But that's not what happened. Patrick willingly took on a case to free a convicted and admitted cop killer, Carl Ray Songer it is an "issue" that some of us cannot, and will not overlook.

vicious criminals was something they disagreed with.

The more excuses I heard, the more I began to realize that their excuses were really lies, and that their defense of Patrick was really a defense of themselves and their own values - or lack thereof. Each of them was saying in his own way of political double-speak: "Look, I just don't care! Deval is my guy and nothing (not even freeing a cop killer) is going to change that."

To these confused elites in the Merrimack Valley, cop killing, rape, parole, and early release of prisoners are just political "issues" to explain away at election time as they climb the ladder of political opportunity. What they *really* care about most is advancing in party politics and being on the "winning team," because that's far more important than keeping *real* cop killers in *real* jails, more important than a *real* rape victim who was *really* beaten over a period

of hours by a man whom Patrick himself has described as "thoughtful and humane."

As for the horror these victims and their families continue to go through every day as the result of people like Deval Patrick, they simply do not care. And they are not *going* to care. I only wish they would be honest about it, spare us the excuses, put away the talking points and just say the words, "I *really* don't care!"

But, they won't, because they don't want the public to see how detached they are from the *real* world of *real* criminals and *real* victims. They don't want us to see that part of their humanity has died, along with their ability to empathize with the people who *really* have to bury a loved one and then sit before a *real* parole board to keep a dangerous killer from *really* roaming free.

Here's the kicker. Each of the politicians I spoke with knew that my father had been a police officer killed in the line of duty. They each knew that my father's killers (Willie Rodriguez and Doris Ortiz) got off on a technicality after admitting to (and bragging about) their crimes. Yet each of them found a way to dismiss and dehumanize the family of Trooper Smith while defending their political bread-and-butter candidate, Deval Patrick.

Saddest of all, these valley "politicians" will continue to be in charge of police departments and passing laws which determine when criminals get released to victimize your family and mine yet again. All the while keeping up the public pretense that they "really care!" about victims of crime.

The sad and lonely truth for *real* victims of *real* crimes is ... they *really* don't ...and neither do the voters!

Tom Duggan is the president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Saturday afternoon from noon-2pm. His father was a Lawrence police officer killed in the line of duty in 1990. You can email your comments to Tdugjr@aol.com.

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Volunteers for the Lonnie Brennan campaign for state representative distributed more than 3,000 copies of the Valley Patriot last month.

Pictured are: Kinsey Brennan, Lauren Soucy, Elyse Brennan.



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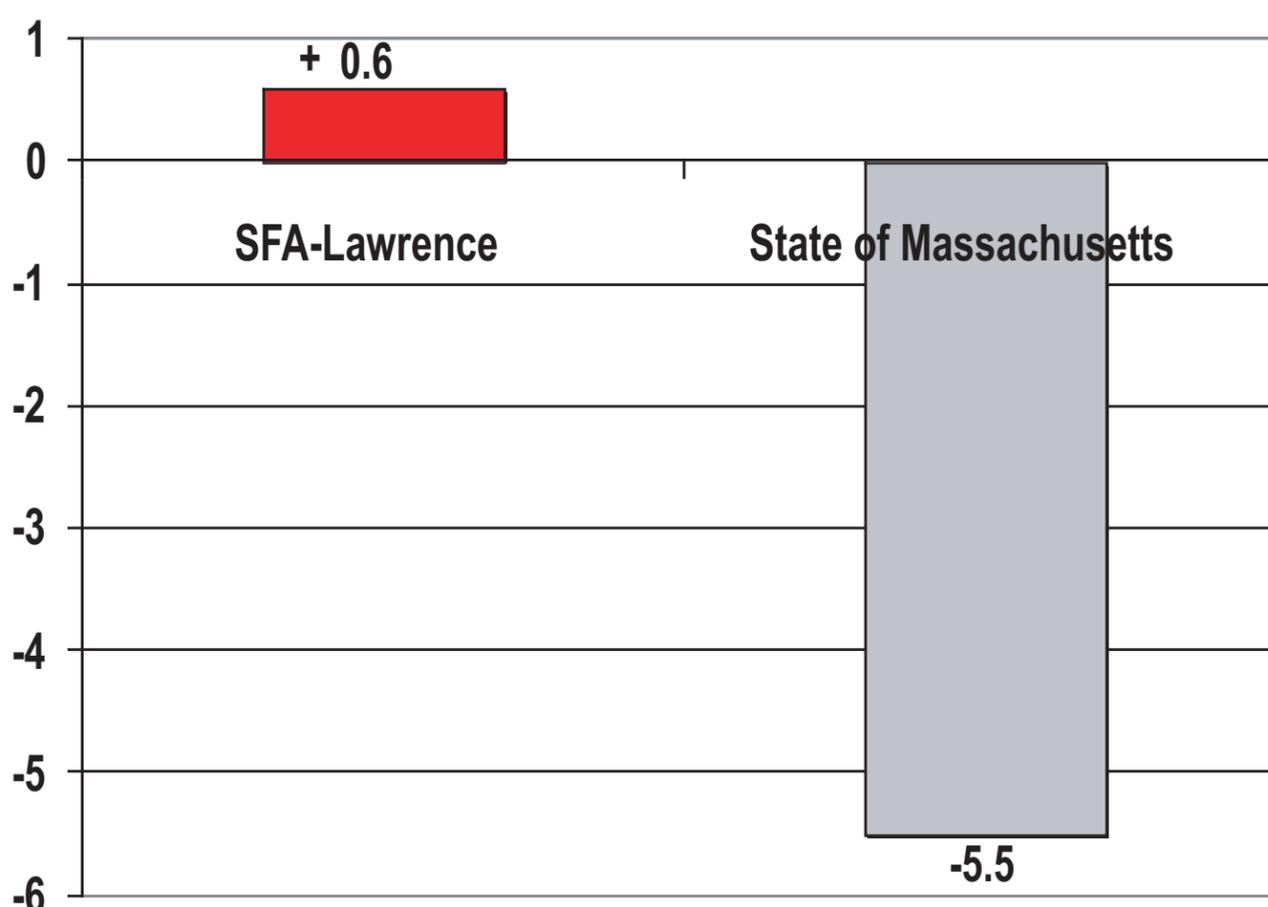
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