

## METRO/REGION



JEREMIAH MURPHY

## Very special and inspiring

GLOUCESTER — The next time things are going badly — and I am convinced that too many of our young people are headed straight to hell — then I am going to recall Joe Favazza.

Then I will relive that scene on Portage Hill (that's what it's called) the other morning when the brown van pulled up at the GFC building. Lawrence (not his real name) was sitting in the van, and Favazza was standing there waiting in the early morning summer sunshine, and then I will get the feeling again that everything is going to turn out all right after all.

The GFC was sponsoring a party for 20 handicapped children, including Lawrence. Favazza is an aide at the not so great salary of \$85 a week in the summer recreation and educational program.

This program is very important to these children. But first let me tell you about Lawrence. He is 17 and was born normal, but was terribly abused by his father while still a young child. You can still see the ugly red scars on his legs and arms. Some of the scars were caused by a red hot poker.

Lawrence was taken out of his family in a Greater Boston town and placed in Hogan Regional Center in Danvers for several years. He was often isolated there because now he was severely emotionally disturbed and protectively flailed his arms and screamed when anyone approached him. The awful memory of the hot poker is still in his frightened mind.

Then Lawrence got a much needed break. He was placed in a group home on Prospect street here. It was all part of mainstreaming, the practice that gets the retarded and handicapped out of the institutions and into the day-to-day world. It works.

So there was Lawrence the other morning on Portage Hill, a handsome young fellow with dark curly hair, who walks without real coordination and still is dreadfully apprehensive and distrustful.

Lawrence and Joe work one-on-one. It is absolutely necessary if Lawrence is ever to lose those nightmarish memories. He will not ever achieve a normal life. That hope is gone forever, but the Joe Favazzas of this world are working desperately to bring him out of the darkness. Progress is slow and sometimes painful, but there is progress.

Now let me tell you about Joe Favazza. He is 28, and 6 feet 2, wears shorts and tee shirt and a baseball hat. He is low-key and gentle. He served in the Army, works as a part-time Gloucester Times sportswriter and next month will be a Boston State junior and hopes to teach special-needs children.

He comes from a large Italian family, and that means closeness and the traditional Sunday noon dinners at his parents' home on Middle street. His father is a Fuller School janitor, who always was particularly helpful and gentle with the special-needs children there. Perhaps that virtue runs in the family.

Lawrence sat in the GFC hall by himself that morning and watched clown Tommy Corcoran perform. Lawrence doesn't like to have others near him, but Favazza was always close by. Somehow that was right with Lawrence.

Favazza would sit there and talk quietly. They look like brothers. You can't get upset or angry with Lawrence or he will also follow that pattern. Later there was a big luncheon for the kids and then they went to the adjacent Mattos playground. Lawrence ran and he was terribly awkward. But he still ran.

Sometime he would sit on the ground and Joe would sit directly in front of him. Lawrence can only say a few words, but Favazza said, "Once in a while I can get him to smile. It is a wonderful moment."

Joanne Kelly directs the summer program, which is so important because if the special-needs kids have the summer off from some type of training they regress. "They need it," Kelly said. But when Proposition 2½ came along the program was scratched. The end.

But Kelly led a group of parents and teachers to the School Committee and outlined the case. It is also critically important to the parents because it gives them a much needed daily break. You desperately need that.

The School Committee responded and Gloucester, rowdy and unfashionable and wonderful old Gloucester, became the only North Shore city with a summer program for special kids.

Now the party was over and the brown van had returned. Joe walked with Lawrence to the van, speaking sternly now, watching out for his sudden hands. Then Joe gently said, "See you tomorrow."

The van pulled away as he looked out the window, and for one half moment, Lawrence, battered and frightened and beaten Lawrence, smiled. It was a wonderful moment.



Rachel helps Donna Parker pick up newly cut grass in their Sherborn yard. Matthew sits at left. GLOBE PHOTOS BY DAVID RYAN

## Suburban living for poor

### Subsidized family housing increasing in outlying towns

By Irene Sege  
Special to The Globe

Poverty is a fact of life for Maria James. She and her three children are on welfare. And for eight months they crammed into her parents' home — James and her daughter sleeping on a foldout couch, her sons on the floor — because she couldn't find a place to live.

But now James (not her real name) has a piece of country-style suburbia at housing-project prices. For the past year she has been renting a new three-bedroom home from the Lexington Housing Authority, one of 17 scattered around town. The wooded setting is so bucolic that pheasants saunter through the yard and raccoons prowl in the garden.

"When I moved in I had tears in my eyes ... tears of joy," says James, 36. "I have never lived in a project, and I've hoped and prayed that I never do. I don't care if they had a project standing on the grounds of the White House, I would never move into a project."

The Jameses are one of a small, but growing, number of families who are finding subsidized housing in bedroom communities that traditionally offered none. In what housing advocates call a major shift in posture, federal and state agencies have adopted new policies designed to reverse the HOUSING, Page 17



Donna Parker sits outside her rented Sherborn apartment with her 14-month-old son, Matthew, and 3-year-old daughter, Rachel. NURSES, Page 14

## Woods Hole ferries collide

WOODS HOLE — Fourteen persons were injured, none seriously, in the collision yesterday of two ferries about 1½ miles southeast of Woods Hole in Vineyard Sound. Dense fog was listed as one cause.

Ray Martin, spokesman for the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority, owner of the vessels, quoted two passengers aboard the Naushon as saying visibility was about 100 feet at 8:50 a.m., the time the Naushon and the freight ferry Auriga collided.

The 250-foot Naushon was returning to Woods Hole from Martha's Vineyard, carrying 350 passengers. The 150-foot Auriga was transporting trucks, cars and 16 persons. Three crew members were the only ones treated from the Auriga.

Falmouth Hospital said the Naushon passengers were treated for bruises received while being jounced around. All were discharged.

Heavy fog was also called a factor in the grounding Sunday morning of the cruise ship Provincetown II on Nixes Mate, a rocky shoal 1500 feet north of Gallops Island at the outer limits of Boston Harbor. About 600 passengers were aboard.

Richard Nakashian, spokesman for the Bay State-Spray and Provincetown Steamship Co., owners of the ferry, said yesterday the Coast Guard had cleared the vessel inside and out and that it had resumed its regular run from Boston to Provincetown. He said no reason had been found to reprimand the ship's captain.

"The grounding was a combination of low tide, fog, an extreme amount of traffic and a critical buoy that was found to be inoperable," Nakashian said.

The area where the Naushon and Auriga collided was also heavily traveled, Martin said. "The whole New Bedford fishing fleet goes through that area as do many pleasure vessels," he said.

He said the Coast Guard had cleared the Naushon to return to service but that the much smaller Auriga, heavily damaged, would be out of service about 10 days while undergoing repairs at the Bethlehem shipyard in East Boston. The Coast Guard was investigating, he said.

## Some GOP leaders balk at O'Neil as US marshal

By Benjamin Taylor  
Globe Staff

WASHINGTON — When Boston City Councilman Albert L. O'Neil's name first surfaced earlier this year as a possible candidate for the \$37,000-a-year US marshal's job in Massachusetts, most Republicans in the state never took it very seriously.

Even though O'Neil had been an early supporter of Ronald Reagan's presidential candidacy, he was still a Democrat, and federal marshal jobs are normally preserved as political plums for whatever party is occupying the White House.

But to hear state Republican leaders tell it, the rumors that Dapper O'Neil may be headed for the US marshal's job grew increasingly stronger in the last few days, and several GOP officials in Massachusetts were openly opposed to the idea.

"I certainly haven't given my approval," said state GOP chairman Andrew Natsios, a state representative from Holliston. "But I've been told that he is moving up in the stakes."

Polly Logan, Republican National Committeewoman from Massachusetts, said: "I can't imagine them picking Dapper. They have made some unusual appointments, but this would be above and beyond. Even [former Boston Mayor James Michael] Curley in his wildest days of bipartisan politics never would have done anything like this."

"Everyone agrees that Dapper should get something," Logan added, "because he came out so early for Reagan. But it shouldn't be the US marshal."

The 61-year-old O'Neil gained favor with the President when, early in 1979, he agreed to back Reagan's campaign. When Reagan officially announced his campaign for the presidency in the fall of 1979, his first campaign swing included a stop at Freeport Hall, a union hall in Dorchester. And on the platform that

## Let's talk, say nurses striking in Cape Cod

By Diane Lewis  
and Maggie Rivas  
Globe Staff

HYANNIS — The chairman of the 300-member Massachusetts Nurses Association on Cape Cod yesterday said that her union is willing to return to the bargaining table to hammer out a new contract with Cape Cod Hospital's negotiator. The nurses have been on strike since Sunday.

And in Pittsfield, where 423 of 440 nurses have maintained a 17-day-old strike at the Berkshire Medical Center, officials said yesterday they have not scheduled talks. Some nurses at the largest hospital facility in the Berkshires have taken temporary nursing assignments in at least two Boston hospitals.

The statement here by union chairman Barbara Low came minutes after Cape Cod Hospital board chairman Daniel Fern urged the nurses to return to work. Fern met with about 100 picketing nurses and members of the Service Employees International Union, who have been honoring the nurses picket.

To Fern's statement, Low responded: "We are willing to go back to negotiations and the bargaining table and we have our negotiator right here."

"Ours, unfortunately, is not," Fern responded, prompting a chorus of boos from the disgruntled workers.

Fern told the nurses that he would contact negotiators for both sides and try to set up a meeting for today.

The Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) bargaining unit is seeking a 15 percent pay increase and 5.85 percent hike in benefits annually over the life of a two-year contract. The nurses' contract expired Friday.

Cape Cod Hospital, a 278-bed facility, is offering a 9 percent pay increase including fringe benefits over the next two years.

According to Low, the hospital's offer of \$311.56 to \$363.80 a week would put the nurses at the top of the current pay scale of other comparable facilities. But, she said, many of those facilities are involved in negotiations and would probably earn more once they reach a settlement with their employers.

Fern countered in a separate interview that meeting the nurses' demands would entail laying off some workers.

At least one picketing nurse indicated she was looking elsewhere to supplement her income during the strike.

"I have made some calls to nursing homes in the area," said Pat Ward, of Brewster. "But Cape Cod Hospital is the place I would prefer working."

Ward said she had not yet found a job but that she had called several facilities in Boston and in the Cape Cod area. "We'd rather be in there taking care of their patients," she said. "Hopefully, something will be worked out tomorrow [Tuesday]."

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'I certainly haven't given my approval. But I've been told that he is moving up in the stakes.'

— Andrew Natsios,  
state GOP chairman

day was none other than Albert O'Neil.

During the campaign O'Neil headed up a Democrats-for-Reagan organization in Massachusetts, and in that capacity he campaigned in Boston, Fall River, New Bedford and elsewhere on Reagan's behalf. "I was concerned about a country and not a party," O'Neil said yesterday in a telephone interview of his decision to back a Republican presidential candidate.

As for whether he might get the US marshal's job as a reward, O'Neil would only say: "They're talking about it; that's all I can say right now."

During his 10 years on the City Council, O'Neil has been one of that body's most colorful, if controversial, characters. He was one of the most visible opponents to busing as a means of achieving racial balance in the Boston public schools. He has always been interested in law enforcement and police officers, and he became known for late-night visits to the District 4 (now Area D) police station on Warren avenue in the South End.

For years he has had a permit to carry a .38 caliber handgun. In 1974, his automobile, while parked on Beacon street, was involved in a traffic accident. The driver of the other automobile accused O'Neil of brandishing his pistol, which O'Neil said was not a pistol at all, but a pen. The charges that resulted from the incident were dropped in Roxbury District Court.

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