



THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

NEW ENGLAND IN BRIEF

The Boston Globe

Trial program to offer free SAT help

May 3, 2007

The Boston public schools will begin offering free online SAT preparation classes to sophomores and juniors in three high schools starting this month in a pilot program to gauge the effectiveness of the classes in boosting SAT scores. Councilor at Large Michael F. Flaherty spearheaded the effort to bring affordable SAT preparation to the city three years ago in an effort to get more students into college. The classes will be offered for eight months by PrepMe.com to about 380 students at Community Academy of Science and Health in Hyde Park, Excel Academy in South Boston, and Academy of Public Service in Dorchester. If research shows the classes are effective, the city will consider expanding the tutorials to more students, said school and City Council officials.

Longfellow Bridge inspected after fire

The MBTA's Red Line returned to full service yesterday, and the Longfellow Bridge received a clean bill of health, after a fire Tuesday night closed both the bridge and subway line. Spokeswoman Wendy Fox of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which maintains the bridge, said the fire damaged some fiber optic cables underneath the span but did no structural damage. Investigators determined the cause was a tossed cigarette. Damage was estimated at \$100,000, mostly because of the damaged cables, said Scott Salman, a Fire Department spokesman.

Retrial begins in 1997 murder case

Testimony began yesterday in a retrial of a man whose second-degree murder conviction was overturned because his lawyer wore a microphone without the man's consent during his first trial. Joseph Downey, 42, and his brother, Daniel, 38, were convicted in the 1997 stabbing death of James Murphy inside a South Boston bar. But a Superior Court judge tossed out the convictions after it was revealed that their attorneys agreed to wear microphones for a documentary without their clients' consent during their first trial in 1999. That ruling was later upheld by the state Appeals Court, which found that the lawyers' decision to wear microphones violated their clients' right to a fair trial. (AP)

CAMBRIDGE

Harvard asks protest charges be dropped

Harvard University is calling for the dropping of criminal charges against four undergraduate students arrested last week after protesting a speech by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III. Michael Gould-Wartofsky, Kelly Lee, and Maura Roosevelt, all 22, and Jennifer Provost, 21, allegedly shouted criticism from the audience. They were arrested and charged with disturbing a public assembly, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a month in prison and a \$50 fine. More could have been done to warn the students that they were in jeopardy of arrest, according to a statement released by Harvard yesterday.

LAWRENCE

Cabbie accused of plotting to kill wife

A Lawrence cab driver was arraigned yesterday after he tried to hire a passenger to kill his wife, police said. The Lawrence Eagle-Tribune reported yesterday that police said Ercilio Polanco, 47, told a passenger last week he was angry with his wife and wanted her dead. An officer posed as an interested hit-man and talked

the price up to \$1,000, police said. Polanco was arrested and charged with solicitation of murder. He pleaded not guilty in Lawrence District Court and was ordered held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing scheduled for May 9.

PITTSBURGH

Brookline man gets Carnegie hero award

A Brookline man is among 19 people being honored today with Carnegie Medals for heroism. Johnathan P. Burbea, 33, pulled Lawrence Spiegel, 62, from the path of a trolley after he had fallen while waiting on the D line trolley in Brookline on June 15, 2006. Three of the honorees drowned in their rescue attempts: Obed M. Petties Jr., 18, of Detroit, Michael Sanchez, 33, of Homestead, Fla., and Christopher Alan Duggan, 31, of Prospect, Nova Scotia. Recipients, or their survivors, get a bronze medal and \$5,000. (AP)

BROCKTON

Weymouth man charged in fatal shooting

A 20-year-old man was charged yesterday with fatally shooting a man in the chest in Brockton Monday. Kenneth Faulk of Weymouth is charged with first-degree murder and unlawfully carrying a firearm in connection with the death of Derrick A. Wilson, 26, on Dover Street, according to the Plymouth district attorney's office. ■

© [Copyright](#) 2009 The New York Times Company