

Revere

JOURNAL

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Schools Paul Dal
on the complex
process of
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LEAD COLUMN



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

What the budget crisis means to mutual aid, one of the key components of fire safety in Revere and surrounding communities. **PAGES 12 AND 13.**



ONE TO BEAT

Devon McKinnis (above) and the St. Mary's of Lynn hockey team earns the No. 1 seed in the Div. 2 North Sectional. **PAGE 17.**



CLUBBING

A night of dancing and entertainment at Lido the Nightclub (above) at the Woodland Entertainment Complex. **SOCIAL, PAGE 9**

DEATHS

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THE POLITICAL SCENE

Ambrosino: 'I'm not interested in bringing back an old Revere'

By JOSHUA RESNER
The Journal

Last week, Council President John Jordan announced he is running for mayor. In doing so, he cringed up images of old Revere, that place where so many still living in this city came of age — when the world was a far different place than it is today.

In answering the Jordan challenge, Mayor Thomas Ambrosino said he has no intention of going back to yesterday when he launches his campaign for re-election, which begins March 15 with a meeting of his campaign workers at the Revere Senior headquarters.

"I'm not interested in bringing

back an old Revere. This city has to move forward into the future. We have to put policies in place now to make sure the future is bright. I think I've laid the groundwork to do that," the mayor said earlier this week.

Mayor Ambrosino was not sympathetic of the Jordan challenge.

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Mayor Thomas Ambrosino



City Councilor John Jordan

Man accuses councillor of assault

Vesce vehemently denies charge

By SETH DANIEL
The Journal

A car wreck on Jan. 30 that ended with an alleged assault has a Revere city councillor and an 18-year-old Wilton Road resident before a criminal clerk March 4 in Chelsea District Court.

The alleged victim, John D'Olimpio Jr., and two unrelated witnesses who wished to remain anonymous, told the Journal that Ward 3 City Councilor Brian Vesce ran a stop sign at Marshall and Pemberton streets. While merging onto Square Road, he hit D'Olimpio as he took a right turn exiting Square Road.

Vesce categorically denies the accusations.

"Claims that I assaulted this young man are absolutely untrue," he told the Journal. "I look forward to meeting with the magistrate to set the record straight," he added.

He acknowledged that an accident had occurred, claiming he had stopped at the stop sign, but that nothing more happened.

Revere police investigating the accident supported Vesce's claim, stating he stopped at the stop sign.

The police report provides no record at all of an altercation of any kind between Vesce and D'Olimpio.

However, two witnesses and D'Olimpio all claim that Vesce assaulted D'Olimpio following the car accident.

They claim Vesce became violent, striking D'Olimpio and threatening his life several times after the accident.

"The older guy ran the stop sign and he jumped the yellow light,"

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A BRUSH WITH GREATNESS



Tucked away in a basement on Romney Road, Italian artist Luigi Centa is working so passionately he is down to his studio outside home. "Anybody can do nice pictures," the artist says, "but true artwork goes further." **FEATURE STORY, PAGE 10.**

Authorities break up drug ring

By JONATHAN BENDER
The Journal

An alleged North Street ring operating out of Revere, Mattapan for the past two years in a crumbing hall last Tuesday the arrest of three Revere men and three Mattapan residents were charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

The arrests of Anthony J. ... Sullivan R. ... Castillo, Edward V. ... for Zagan, and Bill E. ... the result of a joint investigation conducted by the U.S. Enforcement Agency (DEA), Revere Police Department, the U.S. Secret Service, and Mattapan Police Department. James Picardi is the Revere Department representative on the DEA Task Force.

"Obviously, an advantage is we get the cooperation of local government to help us in drug situations in our city. Doing these kinds of cases beyond our capabilities. The do surveillance, we're the things we can't, they're part of government," Revere Chief Justice ... the multi-agency effort.

Anthony and Salvatore ... allegedly sold cocaine on ... relations to a DEA ... witness to several locations Revere and Mattapan between ... 2001 and February ... These locations included the ... near ... 100 Eastern Ave., Mattapan ... pool hall they identify ... Miss Q-2 at 25 ... Mattapan.

The Castillo had also ... arrested by the FBI in the ... "They were a known ... around him. The DEA ... avoid because the Castillo ... things ... and here ... now, there and all over," ... Revere.

Edward ... of ... allegedly supplied the ...

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Jewelry Jewelers

NORTHEAST

See Citiwide's

Century

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Race

Rather, he was circumspect. He said he was going to work hard, to campaign citywide, and to reiterate his promises to the people.

He said he was not sure what more could be done than he has done in the last three or four years. He pledged to put his accomplishments to the people and hope that he was re-elected on the basis of his record.

"If I am not re-elected, then I'll do something else," he said.

The mayor tends to speak with characteristic aplomb - that is to say - he remains largely unfazed by the swirl of events changing city government taking place all around him.

With the state's financial problems home to roost locally, Ambrosino has been forced to take radical measures to maintain Revere's fragile fiscal position. He's laid off

dozens of city employees. He has cut positions among his inner circle. He has closed a fire station that he was responsible for reopening. He has tried to transfer money from all the city's accounts to mitigate the \$750,000 cash shortfall he's facing, and now he's meeting with a city council that is feeling empowered, now that Jordan is running for mayor.

"I'm going to campaign on my record," the mayor repeated.

Jordan's announcement last week sent out an opposite message before a small crowd of his closest supporters at DeMaino's. "What record is he talking about?" Jordan asked. "The Surf site is his failure. There are no new schools. Infrastructure is virtually non-existent and his policy and mine on economic development are

at opposite ends of the spectrum."

Jordan said he has a different philosophy than Ambrosino when it comes to development. Jordan speaks of the need for the public-private partnership that must exist between government and developers for successful projects to take place here. Ambrosino relies on his own judgment, and more recently, upon his own ability to write up a request for proposal. The mayor is adamant in his belief that the city must be protected in its dealings with developers - that the city not give the house away to get development going.

Jordan says he will be protective of the city's interests. However, he differs from Ambrosino in that he'd like to get something in the ground, and get it going fast to produce a new stream of revenue for the city - as he

would like to do with the long vacant Surf site.

With the city's recent victory in being given development rights to the so-called North Lot on Ocean Boulevard, Ambrosino has a chunk of valuable land ready for developers. The mayor will likely toil over what kind of development he wants to see there.

Jordan would likely be somewhat more laissez-faire but would want the same end result. Jordan says Revere was better 30 years ago. He has pledged to get development moving with a public-private partnership.

Ambrosino is going to campaign on his record looking toward the future.

The campaign for mayor is underway.

Italian artist sets up a temporary studio in Revere

By SETH DANIEL
The Journal

Italian artist Luigi Centra is a man whose art reflects the moment.

And for the moment, he is in Revere.

Working out of the basement of his longtime friend, Antonio Mastroianni of Rumney Road, Centra, who is 57 years old, has been mixing colors and creating a prolific and dazzling display of paintings for his show at the Dante Alighieri Center in Cambridge that ends March 2.

Already well-known and respected in Italy, the self-taught painter's works have been exhibited from China to Spain. He also has published 61 books and had three documentaries made about his life.

All that exists in Europe, where he is famous, Centra is now on a global tour that he hopes will make his name a common word internationally.

"A lot of painters in Italy don't go anywhere, they just stay in their town," he said in Italian through interpreter Carlo Mastroianni. "As a painter, your mind expands. You see new forms and see things differently. The more you know, the better it is. If you don't travel, you don't see anything."

Centra's technique is baffling, and what he calls "the moment."

"It's the way I feel at the moment, that's how I do a painting," he said. "It's the spur of the moment. If you plan it ahead, it doesn't come out right; it's not a realistic picture."



SETH DANIEL PHOTO

Italian artist Luigi Centra gets close to his work.

Oftentimes, he finishes his paintings in less than one hour and his works contain a depth that most of us couldn't accomplish in a lifetime.

Sometimes, Centra will even wake up in the middle of the night to capture an image on canvas.

Walking through his temporary, basement studio last week, nearly 30 paintings (all completed this year) each drew the viewer's attention into Centra's moment.

One particular painting, called "Cavalier of the Desert" displayed the silhouette of a horse and rider and a background of beautiful oranges. Over the picture, he had slung thin lines of white paint to represent sands shifting during a windstorm.

The scene was one he absorbed while traveling in Libya.

Centra often adds texture to his paintings, such as the lines of paint

representing sand in the desert piece. It's part of his trademark and what he believes makes him an artist.

"A nice picture is too plain," Centra said. "The texture gives it vibration. That's the artwork in it. Anybody can do nice pictures, but true artwork goes further. You don't make progress with a nice picture. The moment made me put on the texture. That's what makes the painting valuable."

After being in Revere for a few weeks, he said the beach and the snow have inspired him.

"I loved coming to Revere and seeing the snow on Revere Beach, because we don't have that in Italy," he said. "I can only imagine how beautiful it is in the summer. Now, when I go back to Italy, I'll make a painting of Revere Beach with American writing."

He explained that in each locale, he displays paintings of things people may not have seen or that are different. For example, he would never display a painting of Revere Beach in Revere. His paintings for the Cambridge exhibit picture abstract scenes of Italy and some have Italian writing on them. In Italy, he would display pictures with English writing.

"People always want to see what is foreign and diverse," he said.

For him, an American city like Revere is quite foreign, and he said he was struck by the layout of Revere, especially in Ward 6.

"The houses here are all lined perfectly, and the streets are straight," he said. "In Italy, the streets are tighter and the houses are scattered more."

Centra will observe the streets and scenes around Revere until March 4, when he returns to his home in Frosinone, Italy, near Rome.

After that, he is off to Libya. Last week, at the dining table of the Mastroianni family here in Revere, Centra pondered his travel schedule, philosophically as a European artist on the move.

"A true artist is poetic," he exclaimed, and maybe Revere will be the subject of his next "visual poetry."

His art show ends Saturday, March 2, at the Dante Alighieri Society, 21 Hampshire St., Cambridge. Patrons interested in purchasing a painting may contact Centra at 147 Rumney Road, Revere, until March 4.

After that, he can be reached on his Web site: <http://luigicentra.inter-free.it>.

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