

HG II - Family at end of the road from a quality group 45

Surprise, shrugs over allegations

By Jenifer McKim
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

As news of possible police corruption was passed among merchants and residents along Centre Street in the Hyde Square section of Jamaica Plain yesterday, few people said they were shocked by the allegations.

Many people said they are happy that relations with the Boston Police Department have improved, and that reported crime has decreased. Others, who knew the suspected officers, said they were surprised to hear of the allegations against them.

Some people, however, said they were not surprised that when police officers, drugs and money mix, corruption sometimes results.

"There are a lot of crooked cops," 30-year-old Marie Smith said yesterday while watching her three children play in a Centre Street park. "They use the badge to hide behind."

Yesterday, the Globe reported that Boston police detective Walter F. Robinson Jr. resigned and Kenneth Acerra, his partner, was placed on paid administrative leave following a Globe investigation into allegations that they stole money during a

1992 raid at a West Roxbury apartment.

The probe also focused on questionable search warrant practices used by the partners, as well as by Detective John F. Brazil, who still is at work.

The detectives deny any wrongdoing.

Despite a wide belief that anything can happen in the world of drugs and money, some community activists who are familiar with the detectives said they were hard pressed to believe any wrongdoing in this case. Several merchants said that relations with police have improved over the last several years, along with the reduction of crime in their communities, and others put little stock in the accusations of criminals.

Carlos Diaz, a community advocate for Urban Edge Housing Corp. in nearby Eggleston Square, said he could not believe the allegations

'They can do whatever they want. They confuse the good guys with the bad guys.'

HAROLD COLON
Jamaica Plain resident

against the three detectives who helped to rid Eggleston Square of drug houses and gambling.

"If somebody can crack down on gambling and drug houses, it has been Acerra," Diaz said about the 29-year veteran police officer. "You are always going to have

somebody saying something bad against the police officer."

Tony Barros, who has run Centre Boutique for 14 years, said he also knew Acerra and couldn't believe he would violate the public trust. "Ken wasn't like that," he said.

Barros said that police corruption, which may have been a problem in the past, no longer exists in Hyde Square. He said the police department has been highly involved in helping revitalize the area.

"It's unfortunate," Barros said of the alleged theft. "But it is just one case. We are not facing that situation

at all."

Others, like Juan Reyes, 48, owner of J. R. Market on Centre Street, said he had no sympathy with drug dealers and couldn't care less if their money was stolen. He said he has no fears of the police, but he does fear drug dealers who may stalk his street.

Playing basketball in a nearby park, 20-year-old Harold Colon, however, said that police go beyond the call of duty. Joined by several of his friends, Colon said that often, police will send youths out of the park as if they were all drug dealers or unduly harass them.

"They can do whatever they want," Colon said. "They confuse the good guys with the bad guys."

Eddie Ortega, the 28-year-old director of the Eggleston YMCA, agreed that the relationship between the Boston Police Department and the community has improved in the last several years. But he said he still hears many cases of youths who claim they were harassed.

"These stories are very common in the city," said Ortega, a former gang member. "Nothing surprises me to tell you the truth."

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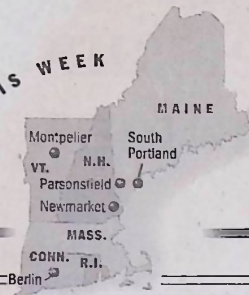
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THIS WEEK



NEW ENGLAND

THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE • FEBRUARY 11, 1996

Author's call to arms gets answer

By Robert George
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

PARSONSFIELD, Maine — Carolyn Chute had hoped that the first meeting of the militia she is forming to overthrow corporate America would muster the working poor she writes about in her best-selling novels.

The 48-year-old Chute had publicized the inception of the Second Maine Militia as a target practice: "All of you who believe deeply that democracy can work, get your gun and your flag ready," she wrote in a

manifesto that appeared last month in the editorial section of the state's largest newspaper.

Her intention was for the recruits to get acquainted, while she launched the first volley against the huge corporations she said have stolen democracy from the masses.

"CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE," wrote the author of "The Beans of Egypt, Maine." "You say the government is evil? Yes, yes, yes, yes. Because the government is not ours anymore."

The cure, Chute said, is to outlaw political contributions from corpora-

tions. The means, she said, is a "wicked good militia;" willing to march on the state capital, picket campaign headquarters, pass out flyers and maybe even go to jail.

Bad weather on Jan. 27 forced Chute to cancel her meeting. About 30 people showed up at her home on a remote western Maine hillside, anyway.

Few of them were poor, most were city dwellers, and none brought guns. All, however, brought their own ideas about what the militia should be, an eventuality that Chute, who repeatedly told the crowd to

stay focused, had feared.

"A lot of the people who have written to me are the most opinionated people on the planet," said Chute, who had waged an editorial page battle with liberal critics objecting to her focus on guns. "They are either far to the left or far to the right, and I'm worried. I don't want them to argue."

Her militia, she said, would differ from some others that drew attention after the Oklahoma City bombing last year. She said she has focused on guns not to advocate an

CHUTE, Page 48



1995 GLOBE FILE PHOTO

Carolyn Chute says she and her husband, Michael, are part of a working class that has been excluded from the political process.

Maine author's call to arms gets short answer — for now

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CHUTE

Continued from Page 46

armed struggle, but to attract members from the countryside.

"To the people of my culture, the rural working-class people, who still have one foot in the old... culture, a gun, like a plow, like a canning jar, is only a tool," she wrote in response to critics. "It has come to represent one of the last instruments of our culture, and, yes, to many the only remaining emblem of their manhood."

The first supporters to arrive at her half-finished home gathered around a kettle of corn chowder. Chute stood to make a speech. Rocking nervously on the bare plywood floor, she decried the corporate "green paper nipple" that suckles the middle class and keeps it passive.

Then she urged unity of purpose and proclaimed the virtues of the working class to a punk rocker, a retired plumber, a student, an artist, a conscientious objector from the Vietnam War and a young Jewish man from Portland.

"All the ideas for fixing the system are little things, like biting the heel of Godzilla," she said. "We're thinking of bigger things, like castrating Godzilla."

People such as Chute, who is the daughter of a Cape Elizabeth electrician, and her husband, Michael, who grew up on a farm down the road, are part of a working class that has been cut out of the political process, she said.

The couple met at a turkey shoot 20 years ago, long before Chute made her name with her first novel. Michael, who keeps a row of muskets in a corner next to a small cannon, now works as caretaker for a local cemetery. She has gone on to write "Merry Men" and "Letourneau's Used Auto Parts."

As she spoke at the meeting, he served coffee to the crowd. Then others joined the conversation.

The conscientious objector worried about the Federal Reserve having too much power and US currency having too little real value. The punk rocker said he was an animal-rights activist. The old plumber spoke of the environment. A woman who drove three hours from Boston said she came because the govern-



1995 GLOBE FILE PHOTO

Carolyn Chute says democracy has been stolen by huge corporations.

ment was too big and someone had to rein it in.

By mid-afternoon, the crowd overflowed into a rough-hewn living room, where pink fiberglass protruded from unfinished walls. They broke into small groups. Many aired earnest, long-winded complaints about the country not working.

"Thinking about the revolution, you can bet this is how it started," said Frank Hayes, a Vietnam veteran who lives in the woods north of Augusta, Maine. "It started with a bunch of people sitting around a hearth like we are."

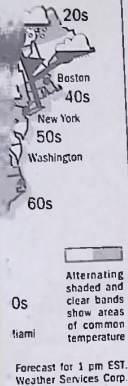
Plans are already under way for a rally in Augusta. Two weeks ago Chute and fellow militia organizer Peter Kellman went to the state capital to scout sites for future protests — although members will pack plac-

ards, not pistols.

"Keep in mind that Europeans were holding meetings in our country for 175 years before we overthrew the king," Kellman said.

At her meeting, Chute circulated a sign-up sheet and membership cards. She asked if anyone would mind getting arrested for distributing fliers at the Maine Mall. She found no takers. But the people promised to come back for her next meeting, which was scheduled to be held yesterday.

Toward the close, Michael Chute dragged the cannon by its chain across the room and onto the porch for a ceremonial firing. He aimed toward the woods. He lit the fuse, there was a quick spout of sparks, and then boom. The windows shook, and the group began dispersing.

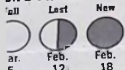


MANAC

uary 11, 1996 (EST)

Moons	10:13 A.M.
Moons	10:24
	.42
A.M.	P.M.
	3:27 3:55
	9.9 9.2
	9.48 10.06
	0.4 0.5

ON'S PHASES



ENING STARS

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ig Star, the brightest star
ell to its upper left is Pro
Dog Star. To Sirius' up-
te constellation Orion.

n MacRobert

MATE DATA

unday, February 10, 1996

H TEMPERATURES

	.43
	.35
	.39
normal	.10
north	.11
day	.42
year	.52 in 1981
today	.4 in 1999

HEATING DEGREE-DAYS

is	.26
orth	.406
n	.3518
ate last year	.2998
comes date	.3454

H PRECIPITATION

ending 1 p.m.	.00
orth	.59
normal	.69
north	.316

TON SHOWFALL

ending 1 p.m.	.00
e month	.50
e season	.730

ETER AT SEA LEVEL

.29.71 in.	1006.0 mbs
.29.68 in.	1005.1 mbs
ave humidity	.35%
ve humidity	.24%

AT'S SUNSHINE INDEX

11/4

HIGH TIDE

*Although Republicans are leading the hemp charge,
support is bipartisan.*

Vermont legislators eye hemp

■ HEMP

Continued from Page 46

cept," Larry Phillips, who founded a lobbying group called the Vermont Hemp Council, testified before the agricultural committee last month. "Between Vermont and hemp, you've got a natural."

Phillips later said that the council hopes to legalize hemp in stages — first for industrial uses, later for medicinal, spiritual and recreational purposes. He said about 70 percent of his members smoke marijuana illegally, and that he smokes it to alleviate the pain of a back injury. Council dues are 10 percent of what members spend on marijuana each week.

Hemp for medicinal use is legal in Vermont under a 1981 law signed by the late Gov. Richard Snelling. But federal laws that prohibit any use of *Cannabis* override the state law.

"By increasing their comfort level slowly, maybe Vermonters will see that you can grow hemp without having society coming to an end," Phillips said.

Still, a breakdown of societal order — reefer madness redux — is what law enforcement seems to fear here.

"It's just a total nightmare for law enforcement and a total nightmare for the kids," said Don Ravenna, commander of special investigations for Vermont State Police. "It's a dumb idea."

But the agricultural committee seems determined to proceed with the hemp bill. Some lawmakers are even talking about overriding a gubernatorial veto.

For her part, Ruth Towne, who said low dairy prices have made life hard on her Berlin farm, said the hemp bill was worth fighting for. She said she would even give growing it a try.



GLOBE

**Reps. Mary Madkour and
are among those toutin**

'At first I was totally dependent .

■ VOICES

Continued from Page 46

there about six months.

I'm an incomplete quadriplegic. I'm paralyzed from the neck down and have limited use of my limbs. From my chest down, I can't move at all. To a limited extent, I can pick up things with my hands. I use my thumbs to hook things, so if I have a cranking device I can do more than I could with my own hands.

At first, I was totally dependent on my girlfriend and my mother. Then I hooked up with a program called Granite State Independent Living Foundation. They were heaven-sent, because they allowed me to have nurses come into my home and to have some flexibility in my life. That was a beautiful thing.

The next thing I did was go to a vocational rehabilitation center in Portsmouth. I did some testing. They informed me that I was most qualified to go to a vocational school.

But I thought: "Well, I'm not going to be a welder, and I'm not going to pump gas. I can't be a carpenter, which is what I was before." There

were a lot of things I thought I wasn't going to be able to do. I thought to myself, "What would I really like to do?" I really enjoy mechanical stuff, and I always enjoyed taking things apart, so I decided to do mechanical engineering. I took an SAT test, and they allowed me to take a course at the University of New Hampshire as a test run.

The first day I was in my old push chair and I had my backpack and I couldn't take it off. I went into my class, and I was scared to death. But I liked it. I was connected to people, and I felt like this was something I could do.

Everybody wants independence and to make their own way.

For example, I have a tube that goes into my bladder, and I use that to drain my urine into. The equipment is designed for nurses to take care of me. What I would like is to be able to take care of myself. I have a vision that I would be able to take care of all of my own care without having to depend on nurses at all. My [nursing] costs are at least \$100 a day right now. I'd rather use that money not only to take care of my-

self, but also to design equipment I could use myself.

I could design a chair I could get in and out of, shoes I could take on and off. I've had the same pair on for two years, and they only come off in the mornings when I take a shower.

I have developed enough equipment so I can get myself in and out of bed at this point. The equipment I have is always breaking down on me and falling apart. It doesn't have to be that way. The cost for the equipment is way overpriced. This chair costs \$12,000.

But I can see solutions. I took my first chair and put a hole in the seat, and I can put a pad over the hole and sit on it, or I can put an inner tube on the seat and make it into a shower chair. Eventually, my push manual chair could be both a shower chair and a backup chair. There's a solution that takes needing two things and making it one that serves two functions.

Also, I have a bag I put on called a Roho bag, and it cost about \$400. I have found I can use an old tire and

patch it with the use that. Ther takes something turns it into some. It seems like a si.

I have realize erment and it's and it's not the eq me survive. It's t. chair breaks down, fix it. I'm the one v fix it, so I can say this way," so that my own.

I took a hydraul the front end of a took a bearing out o to my bed so that I and out of bed. It's equipment. Ther mechanisms on it. I hydraulic lift.

A lift like that m be no nurses hurting ting people out of b nurses come in an hurt backs, and tha of the drive.