

THE

# TENANTS' VIEW

An independent newsletter for the tenants of the So. Francis-Fenwood  
Kempton-St. Alban's area -- to further the fight to save the neighborhood

## ABRAMS AND LIEDERMAN HERE TO PACIFY TENANTS

Two "relocation experts" hired by Harvard have been "surveying all the tenants recently.

They say their purpose is to find out what kind of homes people would like. They also claim Harvard will finance homes if tenants decided to buy.

But their real purpose seems to be to pacify people and get them not to fight back.

For example, they told Mr. Rennie Miller of 52 Fenwood Rd. that they were "neutral" and would get paid no matter what stand they took.

But then they argued that tenants shouldn't "tell their landlords what to do."

They admit they have no power or money and can only make suggestions to Harvard at the end of a three-month survey.

But in the meantime, they argue against tenants who want to fight for their homes. They also try to get

## TENANTS UNITING TO FIGHT HARVARD

Some of the tenants Harvard plans to evict already are fighting back. The group, which has met four times, hopes to enlarge into a neighborhood tenants' union. Their purpose is to unite the tenants to fight to stay in and improve the neighborhood -- and not to be "relocated."

Three of the meetings were held at the Music Room of the Mission Church, and one at 31 Fenwood Rd. Attendance has increased each time. (Continued on page 2.)

tenants to join the Fein Committee at Harvard -- another group with no power which tries to keep tenants from questioning the destruction of the neighborhood.

The experts admitted to Mrs. Theresa Parks of 52 Francis St. that they were in charge of the relocation apartments built by the ERA in Castle Square. Mrs. Parks said, "One of my girlfriends couldn't fit her furniture in those matchboxes!"

In any event, Abrams and Liederman seem to be here to make it easier for Harvard to destroy our neighborhood.

COME TO A PARTY!

-MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

UNITE TO STAY--

# PARTY!

SUNDAY, JULY 20

5:30-9:00 p.m.

On the lot on the corner of Vining and Fenwood, toward Brookline Ave. REFRESHMENT BOARD AND ALCOHOL

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# TENANTS PETITION HARVARD

TENANTS' GROUP --  
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The last two meetings were chaired by Mrs. Theresa Parks of 52 Francis St.

At the third meeting a petition against Harvard was adopted. Twenty-three signed at that meeting. Since then, canvassers have obtained well over one hundred more signatures, and are still working hard.

At the fourth meeting, it was agreed that a group try to see Dean Ebert of Harvard Medical School. However, the Dean went on vacation three days later.

Father Kelley of Mission Church strongly backed the group at the fourth meeting.

Father Kelley expressed gratitude that so many people were still concerned about the neighborhood. He voiced concern that the parish and school would suffer if more homes were torn down.

The group also agreed to:

- work toward forming a tenants' union.
- organize a party so people can meet each other.
- have public demonstrations for publicity.
- build a sign against Harvard in the neighborhood.
- work on playgrounds for the area.

All meetings are open to tenants and will be reported in advance.

Over one-hundred-thirty tenants have already signed the following petition:

"We are residents of Harvard-owned buildings in Roxbury which Harvard intends to tear down for the 'affiliated Hospitals Center.' We like our neighborhood and intend to stay in our homes. We make the following demands:

"1. Harvard should repair the damage it has done to our neighborhood. There should be no further destruction of homes. Harvard should make all necessary repairs on buildings and land it has allowed to deteriorate.

"2. The 'Affiliated Hospitals Center' should be built only on land where no homes must be destroyed and only if low-cost comprehensive medical care is provided for surrounding communities.

"3. Harvard must reveal immediately all plans currently being considered for the reareas around Harvard Medical School."

If you have not signed and would like to, see Rennie Miller, 52 Fenwood Rd. (232-5672), or Bob Setlik, 31 St. Alban's (731-3691).  
The more signatures the better!



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER STARTED: TO TELL TRUTH

The Tenants' View  
has been started to give the tenants the facts they need to know and to further the fight to save the neighborhood.

The Tenants' View  
will work hard to get the facts straight. It will editorialize, too, and strongly, in clearly marked editorials.

To report news of local interest, or to offer your help, please call us! It's your paper.

The co-editors for the first edition are:  
Bob Setlik -- 31 St. Alban's (731-369)  
Rennie Miller -- 52 Fenwood (232-5672)  
Many others helped!  
People are needed

(of all ages). You can  
--Report and write.  
--Deliver papers.  
--Draw cartoons.  
--Or anything else!

# EDITORIAL: HOW CAN YOU BEAT HARVARD?

A group of tenants has decided to fight Harvard -- we don't want this neighborhood torn down! Why do we think we can fight Harvard?

Think back. Remember how hard Harvard has tried to keep its "good name" in Boston.

For example: five months ago everyone got eviction letters. Relocation "assistance" was promised, but we know now that Harvard had no detailed plans, no new homes.

Two months ago the papers were full of stories about Harvard's "expansion" when students protested. Suddenly we

JOIN TOGETHER!

get a huge promise of new housing on Mission Hill. The papers praised Harvard's goodness.

Then tenants started to organize. Even medical students started a petition saying the hospital site should be reconsidered.

Again, Harvard moves to cool down the tenants: they freeze rents in the two-year zone, they promise to build a playground, they hire Abrams and Liederman to talk people into moving.

Harvard doesn't want people to know their real attitude toward the people of Boston. Organized tenants can publicize what Harvard is doing. Organized tenants can stick together. They can push Harvard's public-minded big shots the next step of the way: saving the neighborhood!

## CANVASSERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to go around the neighborhood and talk with the tenants about the petition and about uniting to fight to stay.

So far, Mary Thomas, Theresa Parks, Anne Adams, Eileen Power, Kerry and Mike O'Sullivan, Esmeralda McPherson, Frank Lynch, Jeane Neville, Doug Levinson, and others have helped, and have found it a good way to get to know their neighbors.

Anyone interested in canvassing should call Frank Lynch (277-8612) or one of the other Volunteers.

# ESPAÑOL:

Los inquilinos de este lugar nos estamos uniendo para salvar nuestras casas.

Nosotros queremos que Harvard construya su hospital en un lugar donde no tengan que destruir hogares.

Vamos a tener una fiesta el Julio 20 de las 5:30 a las 9:00 en la esquina de Vining y Fenwood y esperamos formar una union de inquilinos.

Si usted esta interesado en firmar nuestra peticion, o tiene alguna pregunta llame el numero 232-9643.

## AFFILIATED COULD BE BUILT ELSEWHERE

Harvard insists on tearing down our neighborhood. But there are two other sites available for their hospital.

The best site is the Convent of the Good Shepherd. Objections include that building there would "eliminate green space from campus" (according to Dean Ebert) and would make the hospital too far from Children's for coordination with the Lying-In (according to Affiliated President, Deland).

Another site is the present Brigham site. Harvard is considering building there and using the old buildings, too. But current proposals still call for taking the large block bounded by Francis, Fenwood, Vining, and St. Alban's.

COME TO THE PARTY!

COME TO THE PARTY -  
UNITE - CANVASS

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## AFFILIATED HAVING OWN PROBLEMS

All is not well with-  
in the Affiliated Hos-  
pital, it seems. The  
three members --  
Peter B. Brigham,  
Robert B. Brigham,  
and the Lying-In --  
have been fighting for  
eight years over  
plans. Children's  
originally was to be  
a member, but quit  
because of the in-  
fighting. Affiliated  
President Deland  
frankly admits how  
hard it has been for  
the members to stay  
together.

Nor are the final  
plans set. The model  
in the papers was  
for publicity -- the  
final version may be  
very different.

### MONEY PROBLEMS

But (according to  
Deland) Affiliated  
cannot raise the  
money to build it  
as planned -- even  
though everyone thinks  
Harvard has "all the  
money in the world."

They are thinking of  
moving the site so  
that the old P.B.  
Brigham buildings can  
be used, with some  
new buildings. But  
no plan has been  
adopted yet.

The hospital is  
also worried about  
possible delays because  
of rising costs.

Worries that student  
protests or tenants'  
protests would delay  
building have moved  
Harvard to sell "re-  
location harder than  
ever before.

### FEIN COMMITTEE TURNS OUT POWERLESS

This Spring, Har-  
vard created a  
Committee on Commu-  
nity Relations, headed  
by Dr. Fein, to  
handle Harvard's re-  
lations with this  
area.

Apparently the  
Committee is to have  
no real power in futur  
decisions.

Dean Ebert has said  
repeatedly that the  
Committee cannot  
decide to move the  
site of the Affiliated  
(one hundred medical  
students asked that  
the Committee be  
allowed to look into  
the site).

Two decisions have  
been made since the  
committee was set up.  
Both were made out-  
side the committee,  
with "approval" of  
the chairmen of  
several subcommittees:  
Rose Associates of  
New York were chosen  
to develop housing on  
the Mission Hill  
Ledge (Quarry); and  
Abrams and Liederman  
("Urban Consultants")  
were hired to survey  
the neighborhood.

### DIVERTS ATTENTION...

The committee can  
deal only with main-  
tenance and re-  
location. It has tried  
to divert tenants  
from fighting the  
destruction, by hiring  
"experts" to talk to  
tenants and by asking  
members of the tenants  
group to join the  
committee.

But the power clear-  
ly remains with Dean  
Ebert, the Harvard  
Corporation, and  
Affiliated.

## SPECIAL FEATURE:

# "RELOCATION?"

### 1. THE PROMISE.

Harvard has promised us "relocation housing" when we get evicted. Let's look into that promise more carefully.

Last February, in the eviction letters, Harvard (through Hunneman) said that "relocation assistance" would be available. But, "there were no specific plans worked out," according to Dean Ebert himself.

In April there was a sudden interest in having definite plans-- because students were protesting Harvard's destruction of the neighborhood. Dean Ebert hastily drafted the "Fein Committee" to handle problems of "relocation and maintenance."

Meanwhile, the Dean and the Harvard Corporation kept making the decisions. They announced they would build "1100 units" of housing on Mission Hill (on the Ledge or Quarry, and the Good Shepherd). Thirty percent, they said, would be "low and moderate income, with rents comparable to public housing" -- if Federal rent subsidies were available, and if Harvard could find the money or a private developer to build.

### 2. WHAT KIND OF HOUSING?

Modern housing is usually too small with too thin walls and too few windows -- or else very expensive. Harvard built several row houses on St. Alphonsus St. several years ago. Families from this area would not move in -- they did not compare to what people were used to.

Edward Gruson helped direct that project. He is now helping direct the new project, as Assistant to Harvard's President.

And Harvard's consultant experts directed the Castle Square relocation for the BRA. Again, apartments were small and flimsy, compared to present buildings.

### 4. BIG LANDLORDS AND RENT SUBSIDIES.

The new housing would only be for us if the government subsidized our rents.

Some people don't want subsidized rents. It's red tape and dependence on the government.

Other people have too high incomes for subsidies -- but too low incomes to afford high Boston rents (outside of this area).

And what if the government does not give the money -- or pulls it back because of the war?

Harvard also hopes to have a private developer

"standing in line at the county hall, listening to them promise to build apartments for y'all -- you wonder why I got the blues?" Singer B.E. King

## "RELOCATION" ? - CONTINUED

actually own the new housing. So if there were subsidies, we'd all be in a mass development, owned by one big landlord, who would be most interested in his high-paying tenants.

### 5. WHEN?

No matter what Harvard builds, how long can people wait?

By the time Harvard gets its plans drawn, many people will have already been forced to move by the pressures of time.

Harvard has counted on this mounting pressure for many years. How can anyone have faith in them now?

### 6. THE HILL

Elderly people are already realizing they won't want to -- or be able to -- walk up the Hill to the Ledge every day. So what's in the promise for them?

### 7. THE COMMUNITY

All of these plans are a far cry from the small, stable community there used to be -- and still can be -- here. This, unfortunately, is Harvard's idea of "progress."

FOR US -- OR HARVARD?

In the long run, who is this new housing for?

Harvard wants housing for its own people. Harvard people talk about hopes for a "total medical community" in this area -- which means a threat to all of Mission Hill if they are not stopped now.

If they want a medical community, why should they want housing for us?

Only because of the publicity about expansion.

Notice that originally they had plans for 400 units, as part of the plan. Now they plan 1100, with only 360 low or moderate income units.

The number of units for Harvard people goes up over 300 units!

This development is basically for the medical community. No one is planning to rebuild the kind of neighborhood we used to have -- and still could have here.

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### EDITORIAL

Harvard is trying to sell relocation.

There are vague plans and no written agreement.

The only possible result (if any) is a large, mostly medical, big-landlord development, in which we are the rent-subsidized minority. If we qualify. Is this what we're after?

The destruction of a good neighborhood -- even by the landlord -- is unacceptable.

We should unite and fight to stay.