Two assistant district attorneys attacked in car, near Senior House

By Jay Glass

Two unidentified assailants shot and killed Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Edward T. Bigham III yesterday morning as he sat in his car parked across from the President's House at MIT Memorial Drive.

The shooting occurred at about 1:45am Thursday morning. Bigham and another Assistant DA, Thomas Ryan, were parked on the Charles River side of Memorial Drive when, according to Campus Police at the scene, two black males "about 30 years old" walked up to the blue Volkswagen on the passenger side from behind and asked Ryan the time.

The two men jerked open the passenger door after Ryan and Bigham unsuccessfully tried to lock the car door. One of the assailants then fired a shot with a .38 caliber handgun, striking Bigham in the head and leaving powder burns across Ryan's face.

The suspects then fled, escaping on foot toward Memorial Drive and "carrying a big white car." Bigham stumbled out of the car and fell down outside onto the pavement, said police, while Ryan ran across to fellow Senior House to get help. Residents there called an ambulance and followed Ryan outside. Meanwhile, Campus Police Officer Joseph T. Froste and Leo A. Sacco, Jr., on patrol, noticed powder burns across Ryal Street when the shooting occurred. (Photo by Tim Hilby.)

Two officers administered first aid, including car-

"I was asleep and someone came screaming, 'please help me, my friend's been shot.'"

The two officers administered first aid, including car-

One dead, one hurt in E. campus shooting

Abortion and birth control are still major issues of concern

By Richard Salz

A letter by Humberto Cardinal Medeiros threatens to turn a local Democratic primary race into a prime example of angle- issue politics. Three independent but closely-spaced events may have a similar effect on November's presidential contest. Last week, the respected magazine of the American Jesuit Society, published an editorial, defending the right of the Cardinal to write the letter, but questioned the propriety of doing so. The editorial mentioned that Medeiros has been active in political causes, and that his position was seen as a strong repudiation of his broad-minded concerns for the many other important issues affecting the lower classes.

His letter, sent out to every member of his archdiocese, condemned abortion as a sin and warned that politicians voting in favor of federal aid for abortions would be judged as well. The mission of the Catholic Church to keep this in mind against candidates favoring such aid.

On the other side of what many consider to be the same coin is the question of birth control. In a formal address before Bishops in Rome, Archbishop John R. Quinn, president of the United States conference of Roman Catholic bishops, called for the "indefinite ex-amination" of birth control.

His assertion that "too large a number of men and women do not accept the teaching on intrinsic evil of each and every use of contraception," coupled with other statements, led many to believe that the US conference was calling for a re-examination of the birth control issue. Quinn strongly denied this, and in fact felt obligated to reaffirm his position in favor of birth control later in the week.

Some observers have expressed concern that a "backlash" effect may result, with the result that the Catholic Church may be pushed to a stronger, more conservative stance on the issue of birth control, and possibly abortion, where none at all might have previously been expected.

On Capitol Hill, Congress has once again begun wrestling with the question of federal funding for abortions, as Medicaid funding ran out early this year. As Senator Warren Magnamin (D-Wis.) told this Appropriations Committee at 2am, "this is the 24th time the Senate has voted on abortion."

Few disputes have indeed, generated as much controversy within the two houses. Many factors have been attributed as the cause of the rising forces of such fundamental Christian organizations as Moral Majority, which have already helped defeat some Congressmen for re-election.

With elections coming up, many House and Senate members expressed great trepidation about voting strongly one way or another. The compromise bill, allowing Medicaid abortions only to save the life of the mother, in cases of rape and incest, reported with 72 hours, shows this. The two criteria were added at the last minute, and possibly abortion, where none at all might have previously been expected. On Capitol Hill, Congress has once again begun wrestling with the question of federal funding for abortions, as Medicaid funding ran out early this year. As Senator Warren Magnamin (D-Wis.) told this Appropriations Committee at 2am, "this is the 24th time the Senate has voted on abortion."

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