

...ing citywide after representing ...
...y for eight years. "Councilor Bolling re-
...ents a district that is riddled with crime
... violence, and the media is pushing him.
... cause he's black," Grady said.

"I take exception to that," Bolling replied
...edly, and ticked off his accomplishments
... the council.

The debate was barely 10 minutes old,
... emotion was high. It got higher.

Nucci said reading and math scores rose
... and dropout rates declined while he was
... president Davis-Mullen, chairwoman of the
... search committee to find a superintendent to
... succeed Laval Wilson, who was ousted in
... February, responded that Nucci lacked the
... "backbone" to deal with Wilson's perfor-
... mance because he was "afraid of

DEBATE, Page 23

Son says bomb meant for him

Police question Thomas Shay, 19; said to have been suspect in T-bomb threat

By Jack Sullivan
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In a bizarre twist to the explosion
Monday that claimed the life of a
Boston police officer, the son of the
man at whose Roslindale house the
bomb exploded claimed last night
that he was the intended victim be-
cause of a \$50,000 debt.

But as soon as Thomas A. Shay,
19, finished a rambling, one-hour
news conference, held at the South
Station bus terminal and replete
with contradictions about his allega-
tions and revelations about his men-
tal health and criminal past, Boston
homicide detectives whisked him
away for questioning.

A spokesman for the police would
not comment on why Shay was taken
in for questioning, but a police
source confirmed that it was homi-
cide detectives who were at the bus
terminal. The source said Shay was
not arrested.

Also yesterday, a government
source said that Shay was a suspect
earlier this year in a bomb threat di-
rected at a Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority facility.

According to the source, Shay
was arrested earlier this year by
MBTA Police on an outstanding
warrant for destruction of property
in a South Shore community,
thought to be Milton. The specifics
of the warrant's allegations could not
be learned last night.

The source said the bomb threat
was made around the time of Shay's
arrest, but MBTA Police were never
able to develop enough evidence to
charge him in that case.

Nancy Starling, director of com-
munications for the MBTA, said last
night that "this is a Boston police in-
vestigation, which we cannot com-
ment on."

Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay,
47, called Boston police Monday to
the Eastbourne Street home he
shares with his fiancée. He told po-
lice he had spotted a suspicious de-
vice Sunday when it fell or was
knocked off the underside of his car.
omb squad

Bomb suit appraisal challenged

By Toni Locy
GLOBE STAFF

Experts on body armor
yesterday challenged state-
ments made by a high-ranking
Boston police official who sug-
gested that donning a "bomb
suit" would not have helped
Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley
Jr.'s chances of survival when
a device he was examining ex-
ploded in Roslindale on Mon-
day.

Stan Wacławik, chief of the
armor section at the Army's
Research, Development and
Engineering Center in Natick
where the bomb suit used by
Boston police was designed,
said he was disturbed by com-
ments made by Deputy Super-
intendent Edward Eagar after
the explosion that killed Hur-
ley and seriously injured his
partner, Francis X. Foley.

"Something is better than
nothing," Wacławik said. "It's
kind of a reverse attitude.
Even if you have something
on, it will slow down those
fragments. Something is bet-
ter than nothing at all."

Police officials say they do
not know for certain whether
Hurley, 50, and Foley, 49, both
seven-year veterans of the
bomb squad, were wearing the
bulky protective bomb suits at
the time of the explosion. But
officials said the device ex-
ploded before the officers nor-
mally would have put on the
suits under bomb squad proce-
dures.

While the armor experts
interviewed by the Globe
agreed that it is a "judgment
ARMOR, Page 23

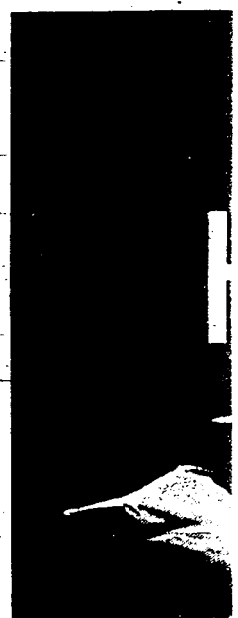
FinCom chairman hits city-car poli

The Boston Finance Commis-
sion chairman, John de Jong, yes-
terday released a letter to Mayor F
criticizing the city's management
of its fleet of approximately 2,000
automobiles and trucks. "Cars have
been too liberally assigned and too
city employees believe they have
the right to use a city-owned car for
their own personal use," de Jong
said in the letter. But several cit-
y officials - including some outside
the Flynn administration - noted th
de Jong is a Republican and charge
that the airing of his letter was
politically motivated. "To take a st
the administration five days bef
the election is a cheap shot," sai
Councilor Thomas Menino (Hyde
Park), chairman of the council's
Committee on Ways and Means.
Richard Dimino, city transport
commissioner, disputed the "ge-
ographic charges" in de Jong's letter. He
said the city is making progress
in marking city-owned vehicles and
hire a "fleet manager" to oversee
and maintenance of the city fleet
within four weeks.

Latin Academy head resigns

Robert Binswanger, headma-
ster of Boston Latin Academy
since 1983, announced his resignation
letter to parents this week. Bin-
swanger did not give a reason for
resigning the post. However,
he has told school officials that he
wanted to resign earlier but decided
to wait until the academy moved
from its site across
Fenway Park to its new locati
on Townsend Street in Roxbury.

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Police take son in for questioning about bomb

■ BOMB

Continued from Page 17
 yard, a bomb exploded, fatally wounding Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. and seriously injuring his partner, Francis X. Foley.

The younger Shay called members of the Boston media last night to announce he would be arriving at the terminal on a bus from New Bedford and would have an important announcement. When he spoke to reporters, he said it had occurred to him that he owed a man \$50,000 from two years ago and said the man had called two weeks ago to demand the money. Shay said the money represented a \$30,000 cash loan and repayment for wrecking a car the man had loaned him.

"There is a guy out there that wants my death," the younger Shay said. "He can have my death, but leave my family alone."

Shay said he thought the man may have confused him and his father because of their similar names, but he contradicted himself when he said the man knows the family.

Shay said Ralph P. Pace, an accountant from Stoughton, was a friend of his for eight months two years ago. Shay said Pace loaned him the car and \$30,000 in cash over a six-month period of time. He said the money, which he claimed he received in increments of several thousand dollars each, was supposed to

help him start a massage business, but he gambled it away.

Pace responded in a telephone interview last night by calling Shay a "troubled young man" and a "chronic liar" who "wouldn't know the truth if he saw it."

Pace said Shay does not owe him cash and said he did not "give" Shay a car, but that Shay stole the vehicle and totaled it in an accident in Manchester, N.H., in 1989. Pace said Shay has been arrested and served time for stealing cars, a fact Shay hesitantly admitted during his news conference.

Pace said he met Shay while Shay was a ward of the Department of Social Services. He said he had considered becoming Shay's foster parent, but abandoned the idea when he saw the havoc he said Shay wreaked in other people's lives. Pace said he told Shay two years ago, after the car incident, never to return to his house.

"He doesn't own me a penny," said Pace. "He's mad at me because I want nothing to do with him. You can't believe a word he says because he's caused more people more misery than you can imagine. He's a chronic liar. This kid is so sweet and innocent looking, but let me tell you, he's not."

The younger Shay admitted to having spent time in the Dedham House of Correction and in

Bridgewater State Hospital for stealing a car. He said he had been transferred from Dedham to Bridgewater after he threatened to commit suicide. He said he had been in at least four psychiatric hospitals since childhood.

Terrence McArdle, special agent in charge of the New England office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said yesterday that agents of the bureau and Boston homicide detectives are following leads developed from an intensive examination of the Eastbourne Street site by a special team of agents and police.

"They have all the necessary leads," McArdle said, and "hopefully, they will put them together, and with a little luck" be able to arrest someone in Hurley's death.

In an interview earlier yesterday, Alan Pransky, a lawyer for the elder Shay, strongly rejected the suggestion that Shay was not cooperating with investigators, which a law enforcement source had told the Globe Wednesday.

"I don't know where you got that, and I don't know who this unnamed police source is, but my client has been fully cooperative with the police," Pransky said.

Pransky said authorities had not needed a search warrant to conduct their painstaking examination of Shay's Eastbourne Street home.

He said police were granted a search warrant to examine Shay's car, which was towed from the scene Monday, but he said that was a routine legal action.

According to a forensic psychiatrist who examined Shay earlier this year as part of a civil lawsuit pending in Suffolk Superior Court, Shay has been prescribed antidepressants in the past.

The report by Dr. Robert M. Weiner also found that Shay had "particular difficulty dealing with his aggression and anger. He would displace it onto others and then feel frightened."

Shay, a former auto body shop owner, has sued the owners of a Dedham garage where he once rented space, claiming that in October 1987 an employee detonated a piece of dynamite in a barrel, deafening Shay and causing him mental anguish as a result.

Yesterday F. Jay Flynn Jr., Shay's lawyer in the civil case, asked a Superior Court judge to impound psychiatric and neurological evaluations of Shay made by experts hired by the defense.

Judge Hiller Zobel denied the motion.

John Ellement and Matthew Breils of the Globe Staff and Contributing Reporter Kimberly B. Baker assisted in this report.

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Police appraisal of bomb suit challenged

ARMOR
Continued from Page 17

call" on exactly when bomb technicians put on protective suits, they said the equipment should not be dismissed out of hand as ineffective.

During a news conference on Tuesday, Eagar raised doubts about whether bomb suits would have protected the officers because the device they were dealing with was a "high explosive."

Eagar said standard procedures followed by the Boston bomb squad usually involve officers first looking at a suspicious device, then deciding whether to put on the bomb suits. "Time is of the essence and once that

determination is made that it is in fact a device, then we seal off the area and they put on the bomb suit," Eagar said.

"But I don't think that is as important as it is made out to be, because that bomb suit is only made to protect against low fragmentation," coming from a device such as a small pipe bomb or hand grenade, Eagar said. "It is the latest equipment and it will not protect against high explosives. All it will do is keep the body together in an outfit."

George Schultheiss, project officer for the Army suit used by Boston police, said only a tank can protect against high explosives such as C-4, a military explosive, or plastique. He

said high explosive bombs are packed with materials that, on detonation, are shot out in all directions at high velocity, and could shred a bomb suit.

A bomb suit absorbs tremendous force from an explosion and numerous fragments, sparing the human body from a full-force assault, Schultheiss, Waclawik and two other specialists on body armor agreed.

Waclawik said the Army's suit, made of Kevlar, a manmade fiber manufactured by DuPont Co. that is used in bullet-proof vests and other protective ballistic gear, is designed to absorb fragments ranging from the size of a pencil tip to booby-trapped mines.

Council candidates go on attack in debate

DEBATE
Continued from Page 17

which way the editorial winds were blowing."

The debate, which was moderated by WRKO radio talk show host Jerry Williams, also revealed gaping ideological fissures and would-be alliances. Grady, who finished sixth in the Sept. 24 preliminary election, sought to enlist the endorsement of O'Neil, who topped the ticket in the preliminary and in the last three

City Council elections.

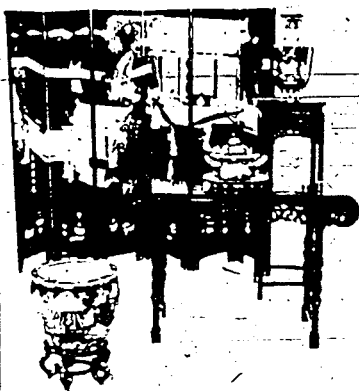
During a segment in which candidates questioned one another — which most used to pose confrontational queries to their rivals — Grady asked O'Neil: "Would you like to see more progressives on the council, or someone like yourself, a law-and-order guy like me?"

O'Neil said he was "impressed" with Grady but declined to extend a public endorsement. But O'Neil seized the opportunity to take a shot

at Councilor Rosaria Salerno, whom he has denounced with increasing frequency since she finished second in the preliminary, slightly ahead of Council President Christopher Iannella.

Remarking the lack of like-minded conservatives on the council, O'Neil jerked a thumb at the liberal Salerno and confided to the audience: "You don't understand what I'm sitting with up here."

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