

LOCAL NEWS

# THANKSGIVING IN BOSTON

Beatrice Bell

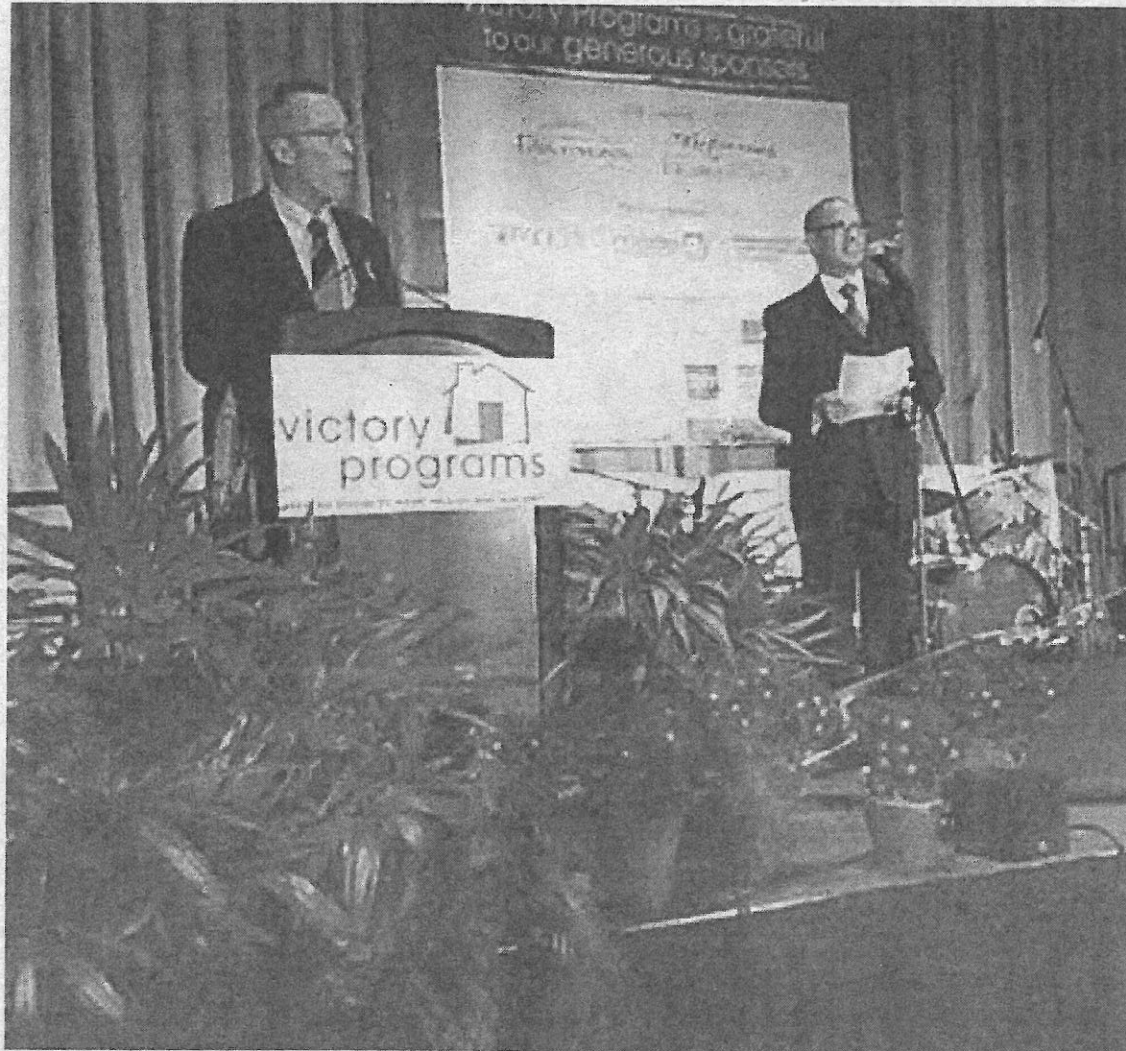
Despite all the pain I've been subjected to for the last few weeks, I've been having so much fun. On November 3, somebody stole all my identification documents while I was selling papers outside Haymarket Station—where FoodBasket and the #111 bus are located.

You'd think this might lessen my thirst to sell papers, but it hasn't. On November 13, I had a mini seizure at Rosie's Place and an even bigger seizure on November 16. These annoyances would stop most people but not me.

On November 4, I paid for my storage space, and in the last couple of weeks, I've been to two parties to celebrate Thanksgiving.

On November 10, I went to the Celebration of Life party at the Hynes Convention Center with Michael, a vendor who sells papers in Harvard Square. Each year, I go to the event, which is put on by the Boston Living Center. The party celebrates the lives of those who have died from HIV/AIDS, those who are living with the disease and those who help people suffering with it.

This year, as in past years, Liz Walker was the MC for the night and a gentleman translated



singing, it was time to eat and dance until 9 p.m. A remix of the "Cha Cha Slide" was played. The "Cupid Dance" was also played,

too. The second Thanksgiving party I went to was on November 19 at the Arthur Murray School of

Sometimes us ladies outnumber the guys in class so we'll dance with each other instead. It gives us an understanding of both

eggplant parmesan and a dessert made with Oreo cookies and covered with chocolate and mini-M&M's. I tried so much food, I got a bellyache.

I also had loads of fun dancing with Scott, Chris and two of the female teachers. I also danced with Simon, Rachel, an older gentleman student and a few other students who, like me, are either newbies or are slightly advanced. You should come join me for some fun at Arthur Murray School of Dance. This is my open invitation to you. Come Join Me Now.

Since my first lesson, I've lost a whole pant size. The exercise I get and the fun I'm having are improving my health immensely. I sleep better, eat less and my blood sugar level is more regular. I have a touch of hypertension, but the dancing is controlling that too. I've been doing what Mary J Blige said years ago: "Leave your situations at the door and get your ass up on the dancefloor!"

This works well for me. I forget about the mean person who stole my identification, my backpack and my bike bag. I forget about the stress I'm going through and the fact that I have to get back my and my six kids' birth certificates and social security cards and everything else that was stolen.

This year, I'm going to thank