

LETTERS

Send your opinion to Letters, Boston Herald, P.O. Box 2096, Boston, MA 02106-2096 or via e-mail to letterstoeditor@bostonherald.com. All must be typewritten; some may be edited.

Paperwork problems

I am sympathetic to Richard Farnese's family's frustration at their lack of information ("Victim's kin irked at DA over parole info failure," Jan. 29). It is the Parole Board's responsibility to notify families of the time of scheduled parole hearings so that they may appear or submit testimony. However, unless the family of a victim fills out appropriate forms to be CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) cleared, they will not necessarily be notified by the Parole Board of hearings or of a defendant's parole. Although this office makes every effort to ensure that victims and their relatives are aware of their rights to become CORI cleared, we cannot guarantee in every instance that such forms are obtained or properly submitted to the Parole Board.

In fact, it is not possible at this time to determine whether the surviving relatives of Richard Farnese ever obtained CORI clearance forms. They do not appear to be CORI cleared and, therefore, were not in the Parole Board's file for notification. Moreover, although family members seem to have a specific memory of meeting with me, that is not correct. I had only just joined the District Attorney's office in 1986 when Martin Bowler was convicted, and had no affiliation with this particular case.

We urge any family with an interest in a case before the Parole Board to make sure that the appropriate paperwork is correctly filed and up to date to ensure that they are made aware of any developments in their case.

— **Martha Coakley,**
Middlesex District Attorney

Church missing benefit

Many of us in Brighton continue to be outraged at the archdiocese's unwillingness to work with us toward a future that benefits us all ("Church must practice as it preaches," Feb. 7). Church administrative functions are no substitute



Stop violence

In light of the violence ravishing our communities and the so-called "no snitching" campaign, I want to send a message to those who commit themselves to gangs, drugs and senseless killing. Why don't you have a little respect for life? A real man will use his mind, not guns, to fight battles ("Gangs' snitch threat chills Hub," Feb. 5).

Why not create laws that put these people in jail or in the military where their skills can be useful? Most of these criminals don't pay taxes. They don't have, or value, education. They only destroy our communities. We need to campaign for education and traditional family values. The terrorists in our streets are communicating more effectively than the programs our government claims to provide.

I am writing for an old friend and victim, Terrance Young. He can't express his feelings. I will express them for him.

— **Mantre Mongo, Boston**

for services that can help address pressing problems for all members of a community. This is espe-

cially true given the location of the Our Lady of Presentation school building in Oak Square, the heart of a busy community center.

As columnist Charlie Chieppo wrote, our community is lucky to have dedicated individuals who, when faced with a closing school, were willing to provide a constructive, inclusive proposal. The Oak Square Partnership for Youth and Families deserves our thanks for speaking up. They also deserve to be treated with respect by the archdiocese and should be involved in the planning for future uses of the Oak Square School building.

— **Jeff Kosokoff, Brighton**

Kennedy still relevant

I write just hours after President Bush zeroed the entire Community Development Block Grant Program in his budget. For more than 30 years it has provided services for the elderly, veterans and disadvantaged children.

Sen. Edward Kennedy has been a tireless advocate for these American values that appear no longer in vogue ("It may be time for Ted to just bow out gracefully," Feb. 7). His true legacy is embodied in the countless lives who may never meet him but whose quality of life he has enhanced. He has never been more relevant or needed than today.

— **Frederick M. Kalisz Jr.,**
Mayor, New Bedford

Mitt may be savior

We are glad Gov. Mitt Romney is looking to fund permanent housing for the chronically homeless ("Sidewalk saviors," Feb. 1). Housing for the homeless mentally ill has long been in shortage with more than 3,000 at the Department of Mental Health awaiting housing. Housing is essential for treatment and recovery, as it allows those with mental illness to live hopeful, productive and independent lives.

— **Toby Fisher, Executive Director**
National Alliance for the Mentally
Ill of Mass.