

# Boston violence fades, but hate remains

By PETER ARNETT  
AP Special Correspondent

BOSTON — They expected trouble. Last year just past of the city was affected. This year kids from all over Boston would be on those buses. They expected trouble all right. But the blowup never came. Sure, there was some violence, but it was scattered, isolated vandalism during the night and limited to certain neighborhoods. On the whole, the city was quiet. How did Boston avoid violence after last year's flareups over a less extensive busing plan? The answer seems to lie mainly in the massive marshalling of city, state and federal power which preceded the rolling of the buses. Now there are indications in this still-tense city that what was billed as the most critical school desegregation showdown in years may be resolved with a minimum of violence and disruption.

## But tension remains

Boston city officials and police are still nervously watching the new school year unfold because they vividly remember last year's violent opening that saw angry neighborhoods stone the first children ever to be bused for integration here, injuring some of them. And the potential for serious incidents remains as mobs roam some areas at night, tangling with police. But that such incidents would seriously interfere with the smooth running of school busing in Boston is seen as unlikely for these reasons:   
✓ Contrary to last fall's indecision, Bostonians were warned sternly in advance by their mayor, the governor and the federal government that lawbreakers would be arrested and quickly punished.   
To put teeth into the official stand, police guards were quadrupled to a total of 2,100 around critical schools and bus routes. In addition, federal marshals and National Guardsmen were brought to Boston. A U.S. army paratroop division was made available.   
✓ The steam seems to have gone out of key areas and organizations that opposed busing on the streets last year, leaving only one neighborhood, Charlestown, to vocally and violently resist, with no backup from anywhere else in the city.   
✓ Some white parents who held their children out of school last year because they feared for their lives, are sending them back this year. Parent participation during the summer in biracial councils and a citywide coordinating



Boston police mass for trouble.

—AP Wirephoto

council has smoothed school integration in several new areas.   
The relatively quiet first week of school does not mean Boston has accepted school busing.   
‘Resistance stronger’

“Resistance is stronger than ever,” said Mrs. Rita Graul, an anti-busing militant from the Irish-American community of South Boston that made headlines with its dogged resistance last year.   
“All this talk about things being rosy is ridiculous,” Mrs. Graul said. Her view is echoed in every white working class district in Boston. Many observers agree that if the police presence were less overwhelming in the Irish-American areas, there would be a repeat of stone throwings and demonstrations around schools and along bus routes that led to turmoil and injuries last year.   
Another indication of parents’ attitudes was that attendance figures were at a low 69 percent at week’s end, and for the first time in Boston’s history whites were a minority in the public school system.   
What is significant, and a great relief to city authorities, is that no one is on the streets anywhere in South Boston protesting busing. This is partly due to a mood of resignation in the neighborhood — a mood typified in a comment from William Brissenden, a power company worker and Southie resident:

“If they aim to integrate the public schools, let them. But I’ll never let my kids go.”   
Another reason is that South Boston’s militants have decided on a different tack.

## Constitutional amendment

“Today, we are more educated, more sophisticated than we were a year ago,” said Mrs. Braul. “We were focusing more on private education for our children . . . We are pressing for a constitutional amendment to reverse the courts and give us our schools back.”   
What about South Boston’s cousins in Charlestown who have taken to the streets to protest? Replies Mrs. Nancy Yotts, director of the South Boston information center and a veteran of the streets: “Well, it’s their first year, you know.”   
Newsmen who have covered the civil strife in Northern Ireland see similarities in embattled Charlestown, a historic Irish-American community virtually cut off from the city and neighboring areas by the Mystic River and Boston Harbor.   
The hallways of the two-and three-story wooden tenements and once elegant brick townhouses sometimes are filled with rubble and garbage like in some Belfast homes.   
The battered Bunker Hill housing project, a center of agitation and unrest, looks like the Craigie estates in

Londonderry that fulfills a similar purpose.   
The “crunch, tinkle and pop” each morning as vehicles drive over the glass and rubble-strewn streets left that way the night before by rioting youths, is heard in many Northern Ireland cities.   
Hate in the air

And the hate that fills the air of Charlestown “is a hate that only the Irish can muster,” said one newsmen.   
There are 15,000 people in Charlestown, and this school year 850 children were ordered bused out, with 1,200 coming in. The people of Charlestown wanted none of it.   
Boston authorities feared the worst at Charlestown, because the community had many unemployed and a high crime rate.   
“Fifteen students at Charlestown High have been arrested for bank robbery; we called them the gang that couldn’t shoot straight because they kept trapping themselves in revolving doors and having explosives go off too early,” said a police intelligence operative.   
And the mothers of Charlestown sounded as militant as those that endangered the streets of South Boston last year. They formed an anti-busing organization called Powderkeg “because we have a short fuse” and each day several score of women march up Bunker Hill chanting “Hail Marys” and reciting the “Lord’s Prayer” to show their defiance.   
They would like to do more.   
“Pull the police away and we will attack the buses,” said Mrs. Mary Richards, who is holding three of her children out of school. “We are not looking for violence, we are just protecting our school system.”

Police block way   
Police cordons keep residents at least 100 feet away from the Charlestown High School, and there have been few incidents in daylight hours. At night, gangs of youths from the housing project roam the streets, sometimes getting into pitched battles with the police.   
In addition to city authorities and the police, the people of Charlestown also are angry with the news media.   
“The press lies all the time, like the other night when they reported we stoned firemen trying to put out a blaze here,” said an official of the Powderkeg organization who didn’t wish to have her name used. “Well, I can tell you we didn’t throw stones at the firemen. We like them. We threw stones at the police who were protecting them.”   
The police are not happy about being

stoned, but their worst fears so far have not been realized. “Busing fell right into place this year, the opposition caved right in,” said one police official with evident glee. “Last year the police were green. The opposition pushed us around. We are not green anymore.”   
The tough stance of the police is evident all over the city, and reaction has been swift against the roving bands of youths who put up street barricades at night and break windows.   
“Those kids have nothing to do with the busing issue, they are just trying to grab the chance to cause trouble,” said a police officer, echoing a view in both Charlestown and South Boston where such incidents have occurred.

## Lots of lawmen

The Boston police are backed up by FBI agents, Justice Dept. lawyers, 100 federal marshals and 600 National Guardsmen waiting on alert in the city’s armories.   
While white school attendance is still low, some young people now in high school said they stayed out last year.   
“I hung around the house all school year and realized I needed an education, so that is why I’m going back,” said Roxane Knights, 14, South Boston.   
Her mother, Dora, said: “Last year both sides wanted violence. I held out my daughter because I feared for her life. This year I know it will be better, it will be different.”   
One reason for smooth integration in much of Boston is the work of biracial parents’ councils and a citywide coordinating council that worked all year to avoid violence.   
“There are a lot of people who are moderates, and they don’t want busing,” said Mrs. Jane Margolis, a worker for the citywide Education Coalition. “But these parents . . . want their kids to go to school, and they don’t want them killed.”   
Authorities remember that last year many serious incidents inside the schools occurred in October and November. But optimists would rather believe that the worst is past this year.   
Two words were painted in large letters on the street near South Boston High School. “Never!” was one; “Resist!” the other. By week’s end, the wheels of the school buses and their

police escorts had smeared the slogans into meaningless squiggles.

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# Computer speeds claim process

By ROBERT F. GURSKE  
Social Security Administrator

About 50 percent of all new Social Security claims now can be processed within 30 days.   
This includes the time from the date the application is filed to the date the first check is received. It previously took about 50 days before the first check was received.   
The reason many claims can be processed faster is because of the new computer facilities between each Social Security office and the headquarters

office in Baltimore, Md. All district offices now can send a signal to a computer in Baltimore advising it to issue a check if all the right information is present in a claims file.   
This new process applies to all types of claims including retirement, survivor and disability claims. This claims process cannot be used for claims where information was added or changed after the claim was signed. It is expected that in the future about 80 or 90 percent of the claims should be processed within 30 days from the date the application is filed.

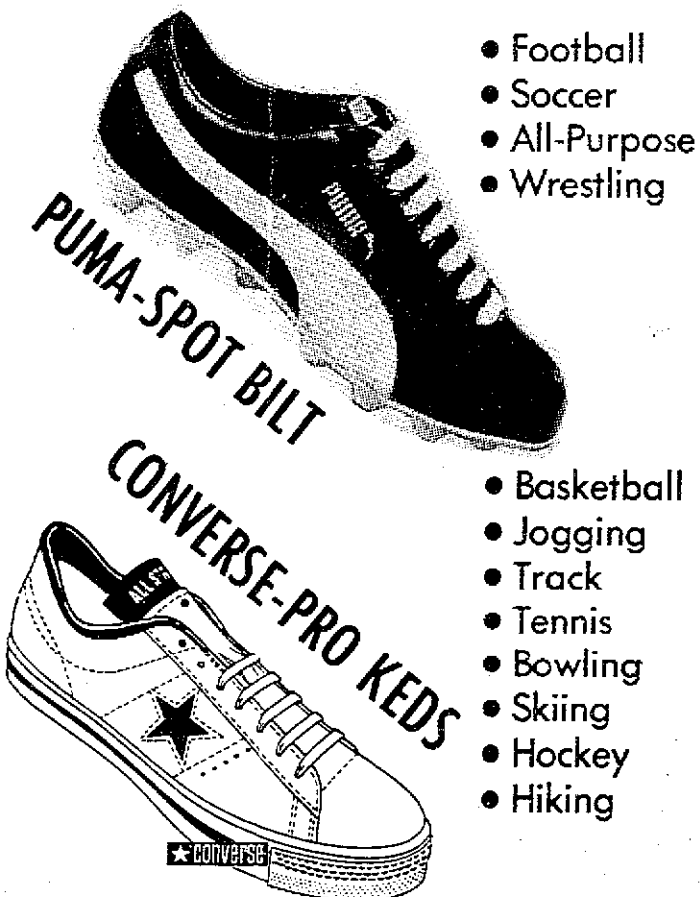
If you are going to apply for benefits in the near future, give your local Social Security office a call, and they will be glad to advise you what records you will need when you file a claim.   
If you come prepared, chances are your first check will be delivered on the day it is first payable. Ordinarily proof of age and marriage are necessary as well as W-2 form or tax returns if self-employed.

If applying for disability benefits, a listing of medical sources, dates of treatment and work history are necessary.

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