



Welcome to The Boston Globe's Sesquicentennial Celebration: Portrait of The Boston Globe as Atlas

A visual journey imagined through poetry and photography

The Boston Globe has helped to strengthen our democracy and our community through over a century and a half of dramatic change.

As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, we have tremendous gratitude for our history and excitement for the future. To capture this, we turned to Boston's Poet Laureate, Porsha Olayiwola, to help reflect on our past, convey our mission, and rededicate ourselves to our long future of service. Her original, commissioned poem, Portrait of The Boston Globe As Atlas, explores a range of emotions and issues connected to some of the major stories covered by the Globe over the last 15 decades.

As you explore each panel, you will see images from some of our most impactful reporting through the years. Each one captures a moment in time that resonated for our city, for our region, for our people. Alongside the poem, these images spark an important conversation. They demonstrate why local, independent journalism is necessary and vital to our community. We capture the stories of every day. We investigate. We question. We bear witness. We provide context and perspective.

Our community is at the heart of our mission. We are so grateful to you for visiting our installation and for continuing to trust the Globe to capture your stories and serve our region.



Serving our community for 150 years

The first edition of The Boston Globe was published on March 4, 1872. Now, 150 years later, our newsroom has marked the occasion with a look back through 15 decades of coverage. Visit our official 150th site to find stories on topics both serious and light, staff remembrances, and historical moments from a vast trove of archival material.



Read our Globe 150th coverage



#Globe150

“Portrait of The Boston Globe as Atlas”

By Porsha Olayiwola,
Poet Laureate of Boston

some men like to keep the world in the pit
of their palm, a boy beside the psalms
of the pulpit, alms within the reach of the tips

of their fingers, some like to think a body exists
as a check mark, the people as a checkmate,
the city as a check, the politics of living endows

an illness some cannot afford to survive, plasters
a hissing eye and a woman's fist to the window
of a school bus, means a family can reside

in a home owned by a lord, like land and money,
truth, is also a god, the world is celestial depending
on whose shoulders we sit, truth: the circulation of

newspapers increase during times of war, periled
people need knowing to unfold like a map, need
clarity clear as a marked path toward, truth:

plato's allegory urges light to be cast onto
our shadows, the truth, then, is a catalyst,
cartography for morphing movement forward.

truth: a writer can rewrite a blushing wound
into a blooming bouquet, convert a disaster
into a display of generosity, truth: a photographer

can humble hunger, capture humility in
homelessness, a child's dinged birthday banner
can become decorum designed for the opening page.



some experience the world through a filter
of compassion, a lens of latitude, between us is only
the long length of wind, distance can be closed

with an unexpected laugh, a funny review, a new
understanding, the world, like us, is a heavenly body
depending on who shoulders our weight, some

like to keep the cosmos in the pit of their palms, while
others like to keep the earth held in light, beacon
bound to carry, celtic city, cradle of liberty, globe

of giving, this sphere of life, this beautiful resistance,
this service onto community, this evolution of
revolution, duty to excavate, to reshape, to hold,

like Atlas, to say, like a compass: onward.

Portrait of The Boston Globe as Atlas

The Globe Magazine explored this question: “In a world like this one — where crisis is constant — and power seems increasingly concentrated in a few injudicious hands — can words and art really matter?”

We think they do. We asked Boston Poet Laureate Porsha Olayiwola to write a poem to commemorate 150 years of the Globe. Olayiwola is a writer, performer, educator, and curator who uses afro-futurism and surrealism to examine historical and cultural issues in the Black, woman, and queer diasporas.

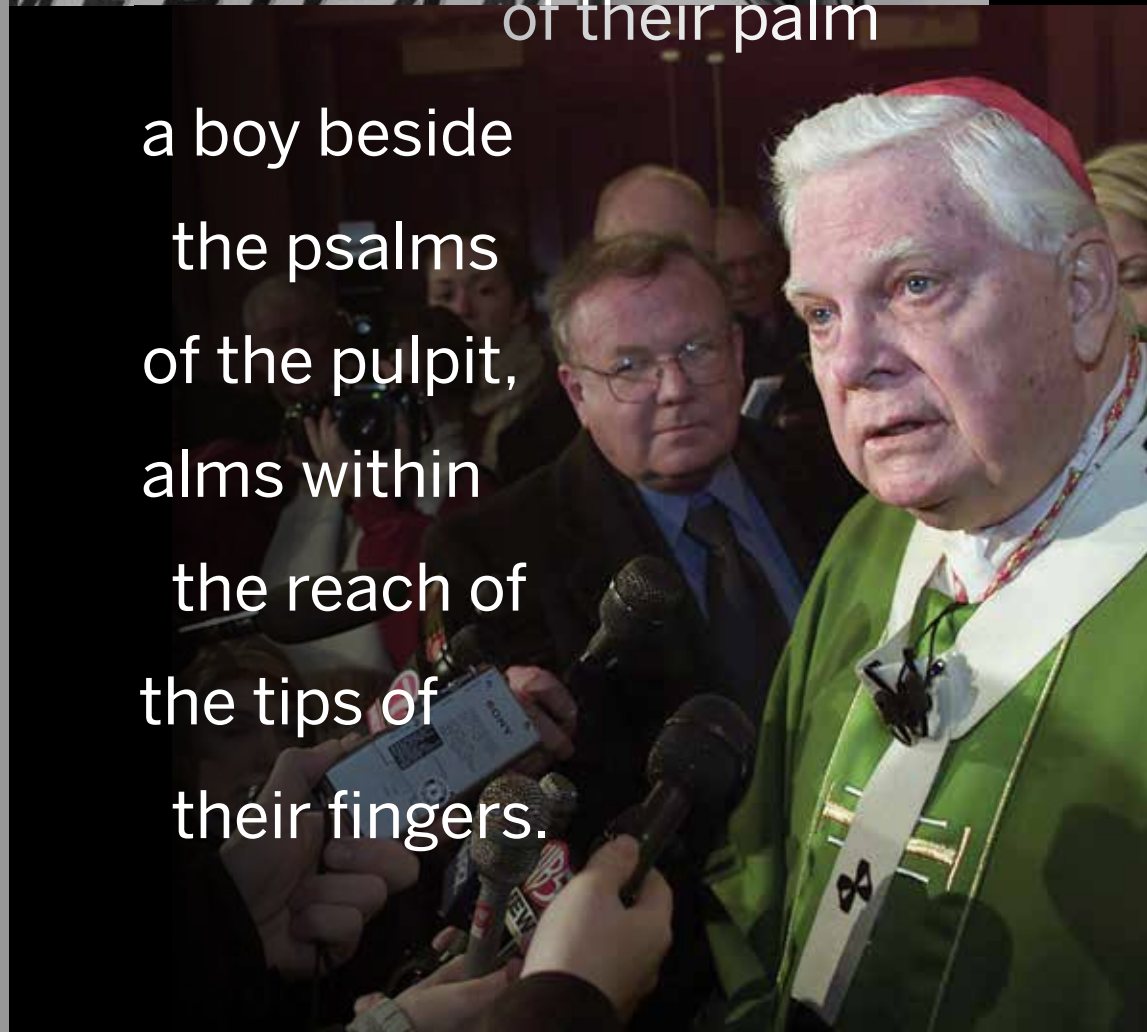
To see how the stories unfold, and to view the poem in the order it was written, go from here to panel #1 (numbers found at the base of each panel).



Scan the code to hear Boston's poet laureate recite
“Portrait of The Boston Globe as Atlas”



some men like
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in the pit
of their palm



a boy beside
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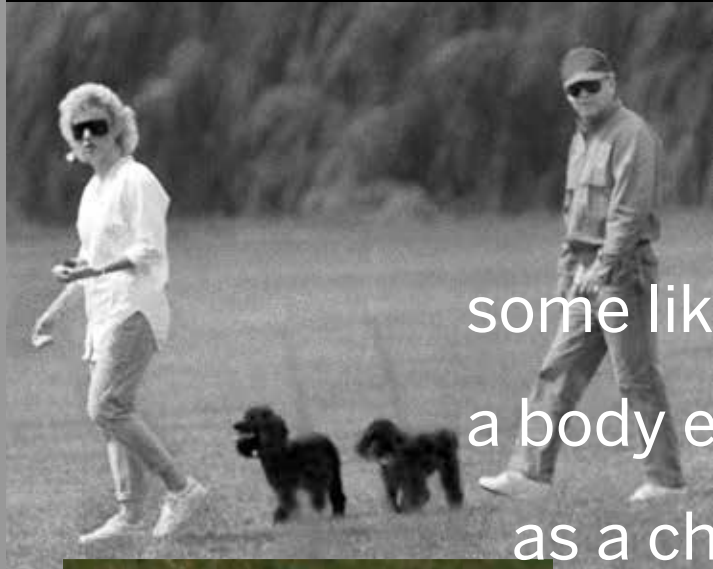
**An American dynasty.
And a Spotlight investigation that shook our faith.**

Top: Senator John F. Kennedy gets off a plane at Logan Airport in Boston on July 17, 1960, after being named the Democratic Candidate for President. Perhaps no American family has experienced such adulation, success, and tragedy as the Kennedys of Massachusetts. President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. With him in this photo is his brother Robert Kennedy who was gunned down on June 6, 1968, in Los Angeles.

Bottom: Cardinal Bernard Law speaks with the media as he addresses questions about sexual abuse by priests in the Catholic Church on February 10, 2002. Law resigned following the Globe’s Spotlight investigative series that discovered the church’s secret protection of pedophile priests, a report that opened the floodgates on revealing clergy sexual abuse locally, nationally, and internationally. The Globe’s coverage won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service. In 2016, the feature film “Spotlight”—based on the Globe’s investigative team—won Oscars for Best Picture and Best Writing, Original Screenplay.



Learn more about the Globe’s Spotlight investigation



some like to think
a body exists
as a check mark,



the people
as a checkmate,



the city
as a check.

**Ex-Convict Builder Awarded
\$777,756 in No-Bid Contracts**

The Bulger Mystique. And a half century of Spotlight Team investigations.

Top and middle: The notorious mobster from South Boston, Whitey Bulger, was captured June 22, 2011, in California. He had eluded authorities for 16 years. Here, in Dorchester, Bulger and girlfriend, Catherine Grieg, are seen walking together in 1988. In 1994, Bulger is seen on Castle Island.

Bottom: 50 years of Spotlight: groundbreaking investigative journalism, with the goal of making our region a better, safer, and fairer place to live. In its first investigative report, from 1971, the Globe Spotlight team uncovered the mess of no-bid construction contracts and cronyism that was Somerville politics.



Learn more about 50 years of Spotlight

the politics of living
endows an illness

some cannot afford

to survive,



The climate crisis and the fight of our lives.

The warnings of impending climate crisis have been ample and clear for decades. This year's forest fires, fatal heat waves, and catastrophic storms are testament to what we have failed to do within that time. At the Globe, we view this moment as historic and one that demands intensive journalistic scrutiny. In response, we have created a climate team and have launched a mandate to incorporate the implications of a changing climate and the urgency of addressing it across our newsroom with intensely local coverage. We believe the only path forward is one with our hardest problems brought into the open for public debate. That is journalism's highest calling, and on this critical subject, one with the highest possible stakes.

Top: Waves crash against homes on Turner Road during blizzard conditions in Scituate on January 4, 2018.

Bottom: On June 2, 2020, the last patients leave Boston Hope, a field hospital set up at the Boston Convention Center for several months to treat COVID-19 patients at the height of the virus.



Read more from the Globe's "Into the Red: Climate and the Fight of our Lives"



The busing crisis leaves a lasting mark on the city.

In 1974, Boston put a new busing system in place to desegregate its public schools. The new system was met with strong resistance from many residents. Decades later, Boston Globe columnist and editorial writer Farah Stockman was awarded the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for her columns probing the legacy of busing in Boston and its effect on education in the city with a clear eye on ongoing racial contradictions.

Top: Students David Patterson, 8, and Chris Russell, 7, reflect on the first day of school as they ride from McKay School in East Boston on Sept. 5, 1979.

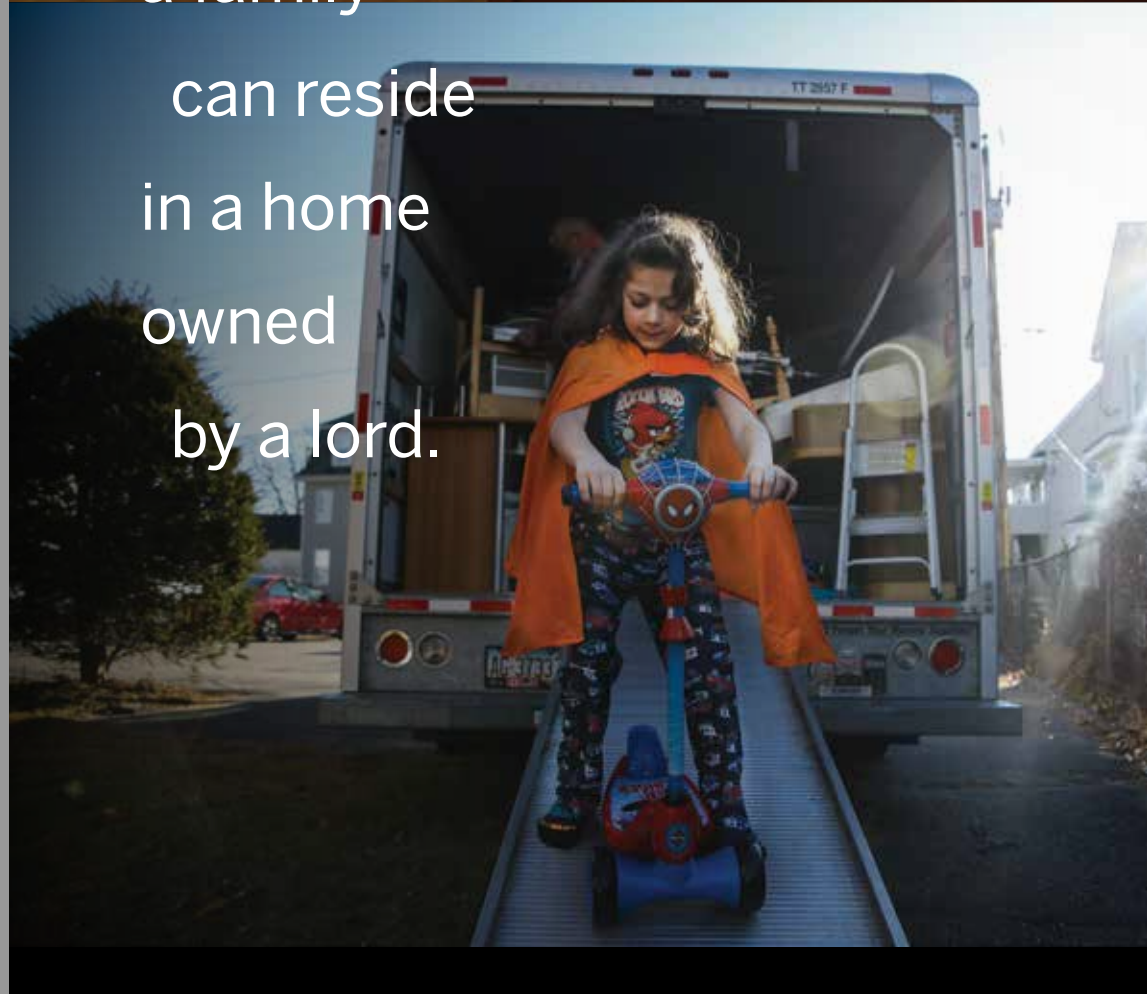
Bottom: A woman gestures for students being bused home to Roxbury to “go home and stay home,” as a school bus leaves Patrick F. Gavin Middle School in South Boston on Sept. 17, 1974, under the new busing system to desegregate the city’s schools.



Read 1974 Globe editorial on busing



means
a family



can reside
in a home
owned
by a lord.

“Shadow Campus”: how landlords reap millions with perilous, illegal student housing.

In the early hours of April 28, 2013, Binland Lee headed up to her attic bedroom in the off-campus house she shared with 13 others. She never made it out again. The Boston University senior was trapped when a fire broke out, and she died there. Binland was living in an illegal boarding house, rife with safety violations. “Shadow Campus,” an explosive, three-part investigation of illegal student housing, found that the city and universities looked the other way while scofflaw landlords made millions and put thousands of students at risk.

Top: This unit in a building managed by Alpha Management Corp. at 109 St. Stephen Street was condemned in 2013.

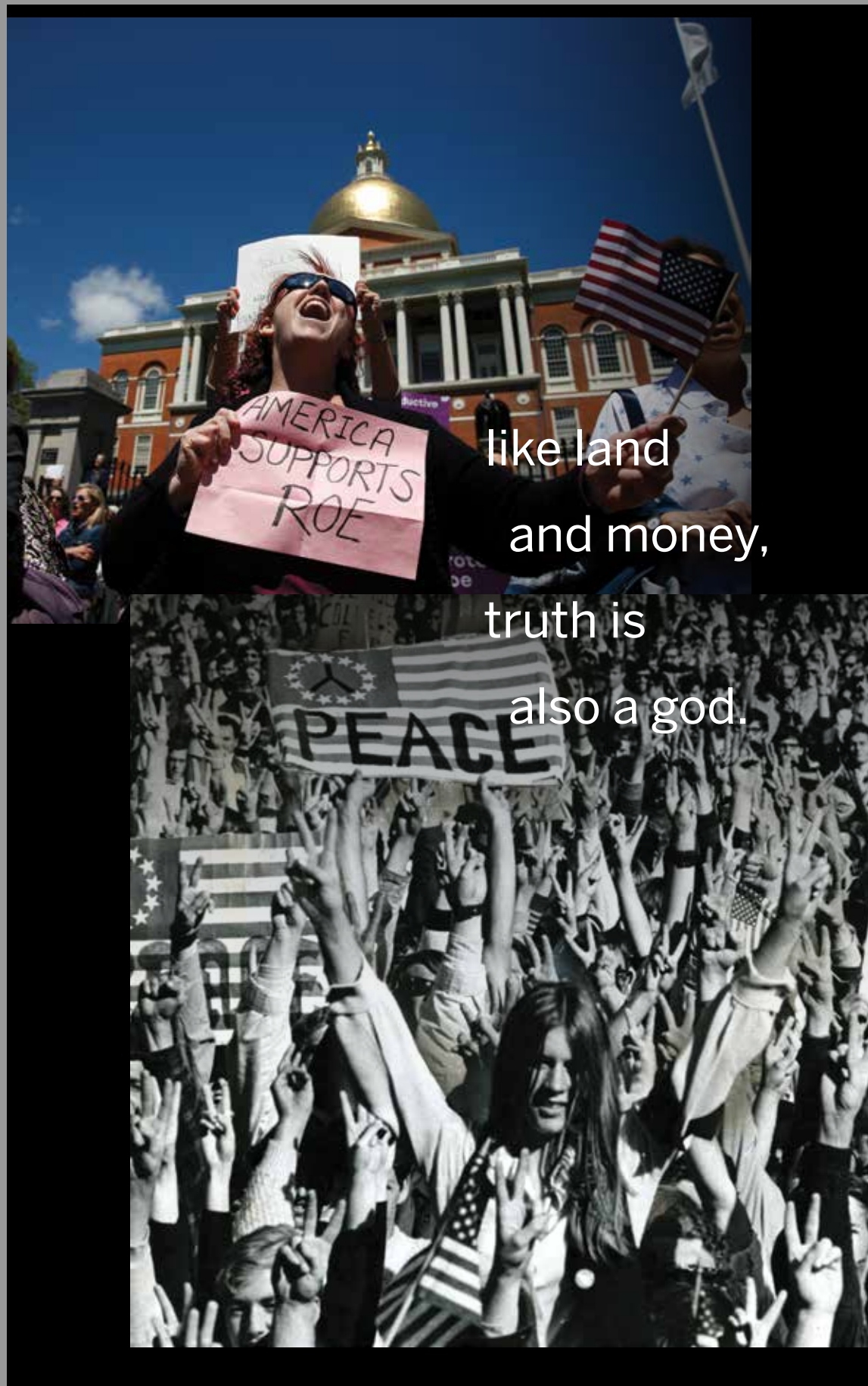
Bottom: Evan Lupien plays on the ramp of a moving truck while the Lupiens move into their new apartment on December 21, 2019. After being homeless since that July, and with most of the family’s belongings in storage, he was excited to be reunited with his scooter. Globe photographer Erin Clark was a Pulitzer Prize Featured Photo Finalist for this story.



Read more about the “Shadow Campus” investigation by Jenn Abelson and Jonathan Saltzman



Read “For one Maine family, the long, hard road from ‘nowhere’ to home” by Zoe Greenburg



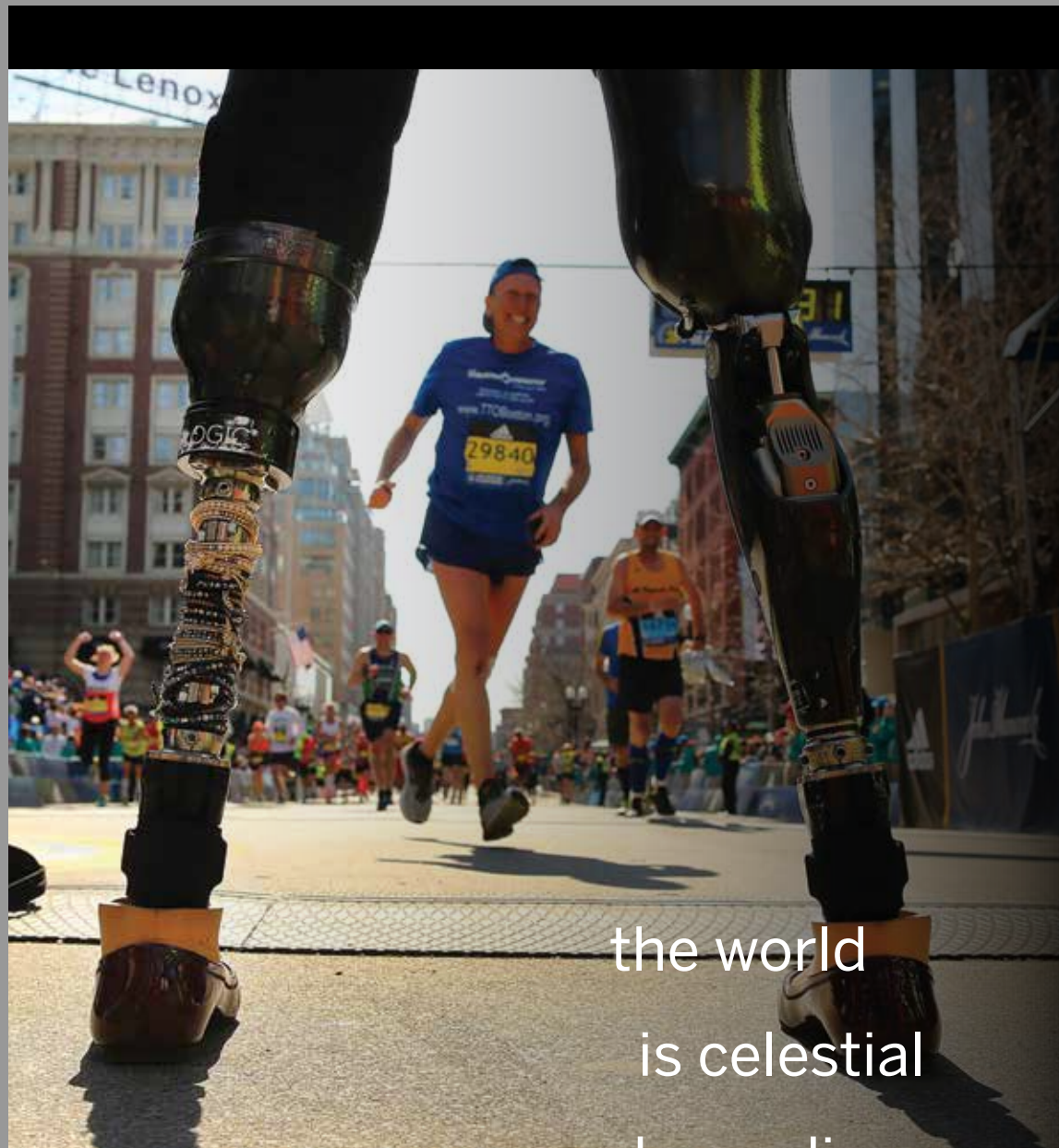
Peace, love, and understanding.

Top: Boston was born as a city of protest and demonstration, with people who have passionately fought for their rights. It's a part of who we are. Here, protesters gather in Boston in support of women's reproductive rights.

Bottom: With its "Out Now" editorial of October 15, 1969, the Globe became the second mainstream newspaper to call for the US to withdraw from Vietnam. Here, in 1969, the biggest demonstration in Boston's history brought the Vietnam Moratorium Day activities to the Common as an estimated 100,000 people shouted in cadence that they wanted the Vietnam war ended "Now!"



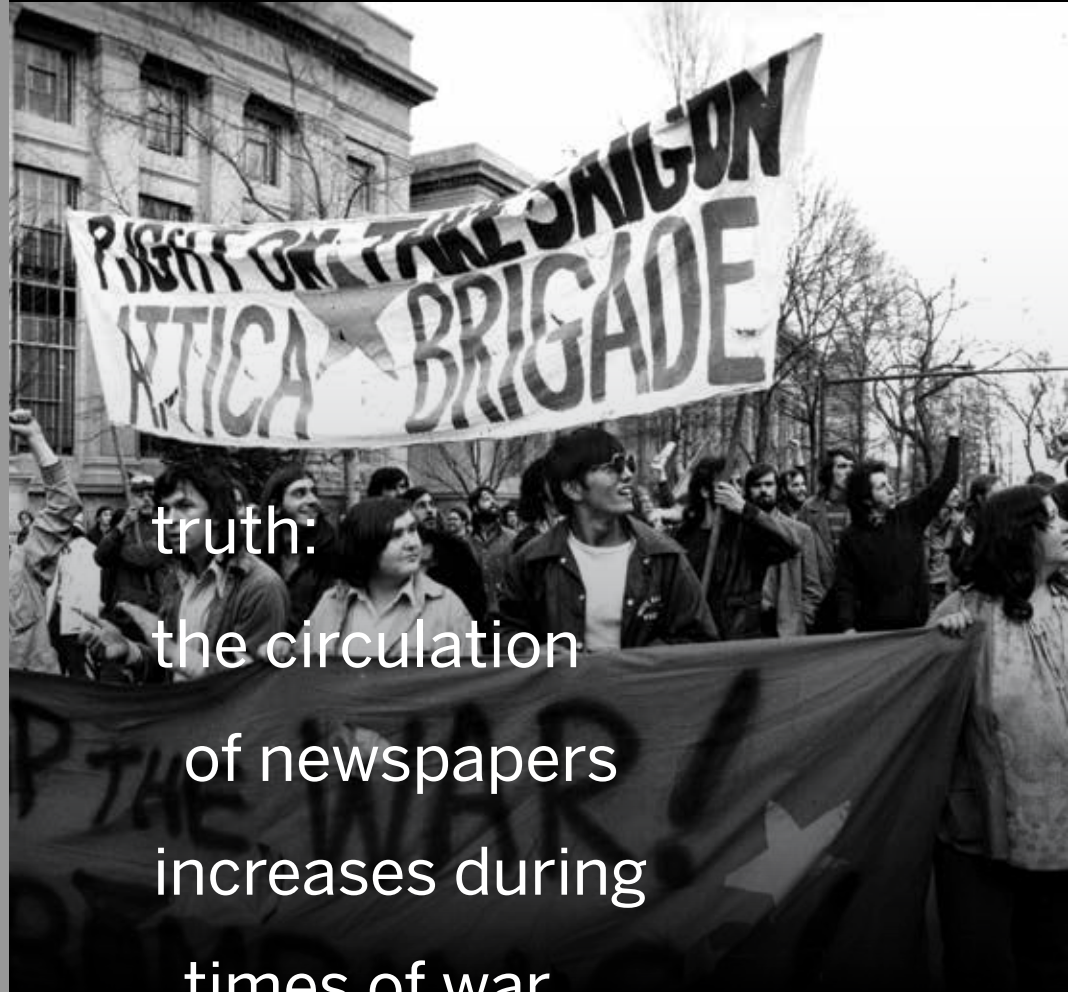
Read "Five times the Globe's editorial board was out in front on social issues"



the world
is celestial
depending
on whose
shoulders
we sit.

An emotional return.

At the 120th running of the iconic race, Boston Marathon bombing survivor Celeste Corcoran stands on the finish line as she waits for runners in her running group, 50 Legs, to cross the finish line on April 18, 2016. Celeste lost both legs in the 2013 marathon bombing. Officials let her stand there to watch the runners.



truth:
the circulation
of newspapers
increases during
times of war



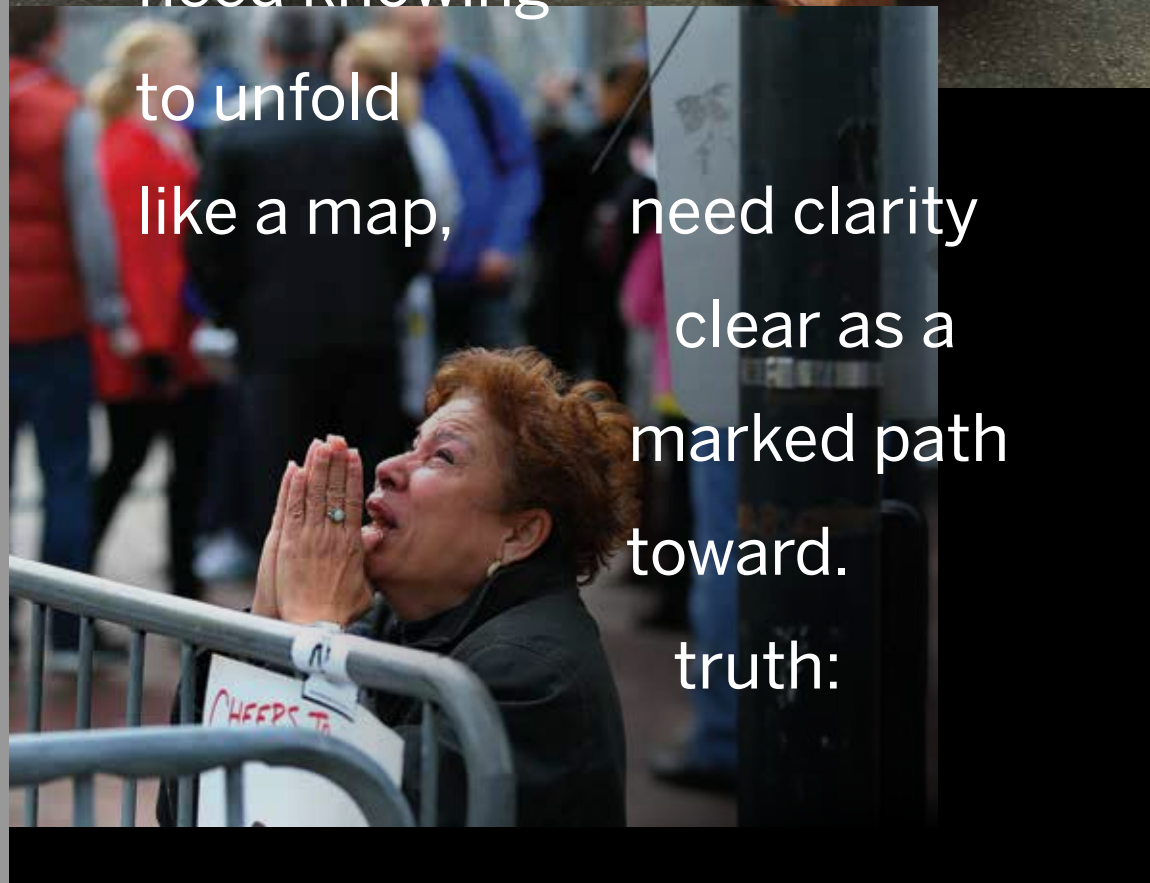
Rallying against war.

Top: Anti-Vietnam War demonstrators march past the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge on April 18, 1972.

Bottom: A protester holds a sign with Vladimir Putin's face on it during a Peace March for Ukraine from Copley Square to Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common, March 6, 2022.



periled people
need knowing



to unfold
like a map, need clarity
clear as a
marked path
toward.
truth:

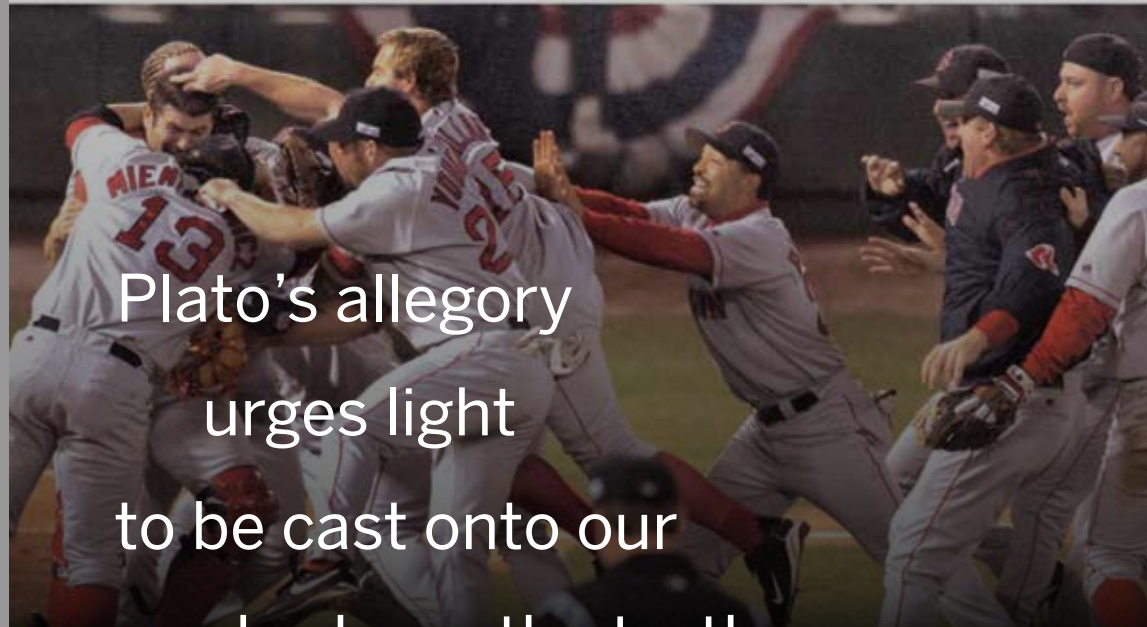
18 minutes of horror.

Top: Globe photographer John Tlumacki's photo of runner Bill Iffrig on the ground was taken within five seconds of the first bomb at the 2013 Boston Marathon. The photo was republished around the world, and he was part of the staff awarded a Pulitzer in 2014. "I didn't know how bad this was until I got to the railing and saw what I saw. That's when I began to realize that this might be terrorism," Tlumacki recalled.

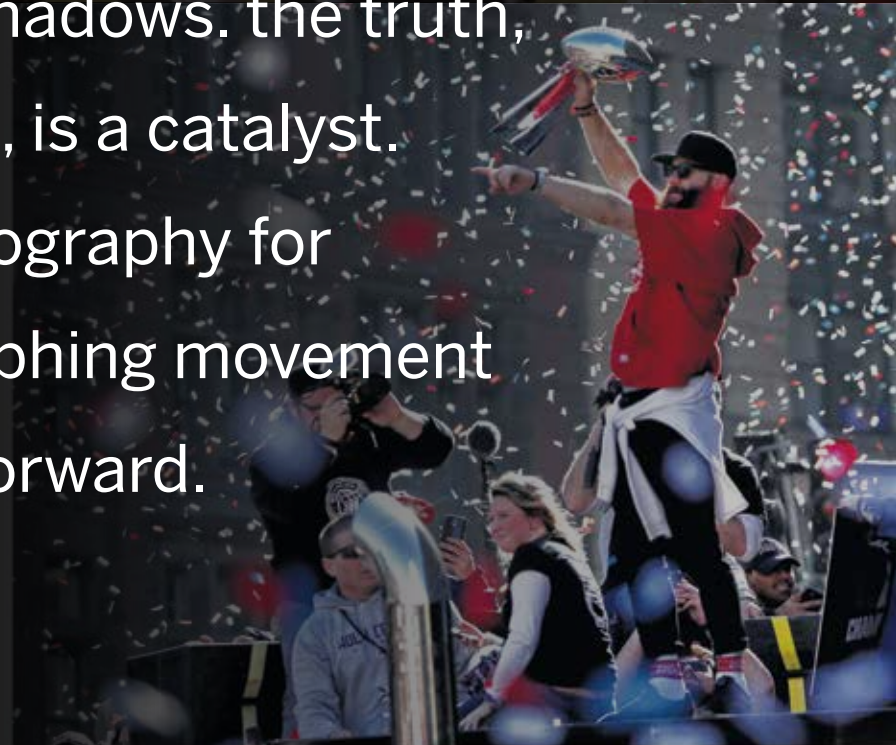
Bottom: A woman kneels and prays at the scene of the first explosion on Boylston Street at the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013.



Read the Globe's coverage of the Marathon Bombing



Plato's allegory
urges light
to be cast onto our
shadows. the truth,
then, is a catalyst.
cartography for
morphing movement
forward.



Amid a shower of confetti, New England Patriots wide receiver and Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman hoisted the Lombardi Trophy during the Super Bowl LIII victory parade.

Victory. How sweet it is.

Here in Boston, we love our sports. All of them. Baseball, basketball, football, and hockey, to name a few. And we have the championships to prove it.

Top: The Red Sox storm the Busch Stadium field to celebrate their commanding march to the world championship in 2004 to sweep the St. Louis Cardinals in their first Series win since 1918.

Bottom: New England Patriots wide receiver and Super Bowl LIII MVP Julian Edelman taps his heart and points to the fans to show his love during the 2019 Patriots Super Bowl victory parade.

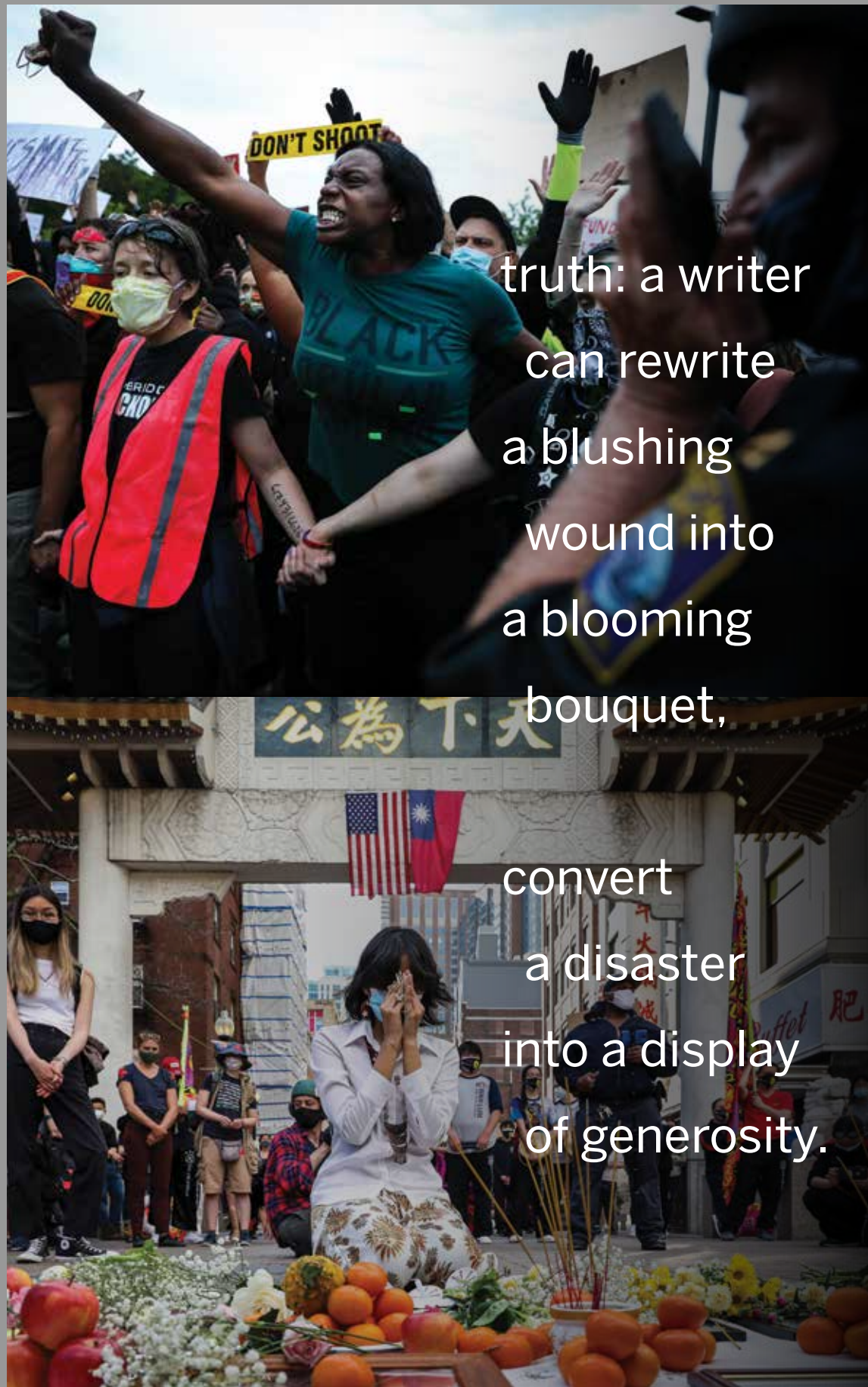


Read Eight Globe sports writers recall moments they'll never forget



Red Sox photo by Sam Grossfeld/Globe Staff
Patriots parade photo by Barry Chin/Globe Staff

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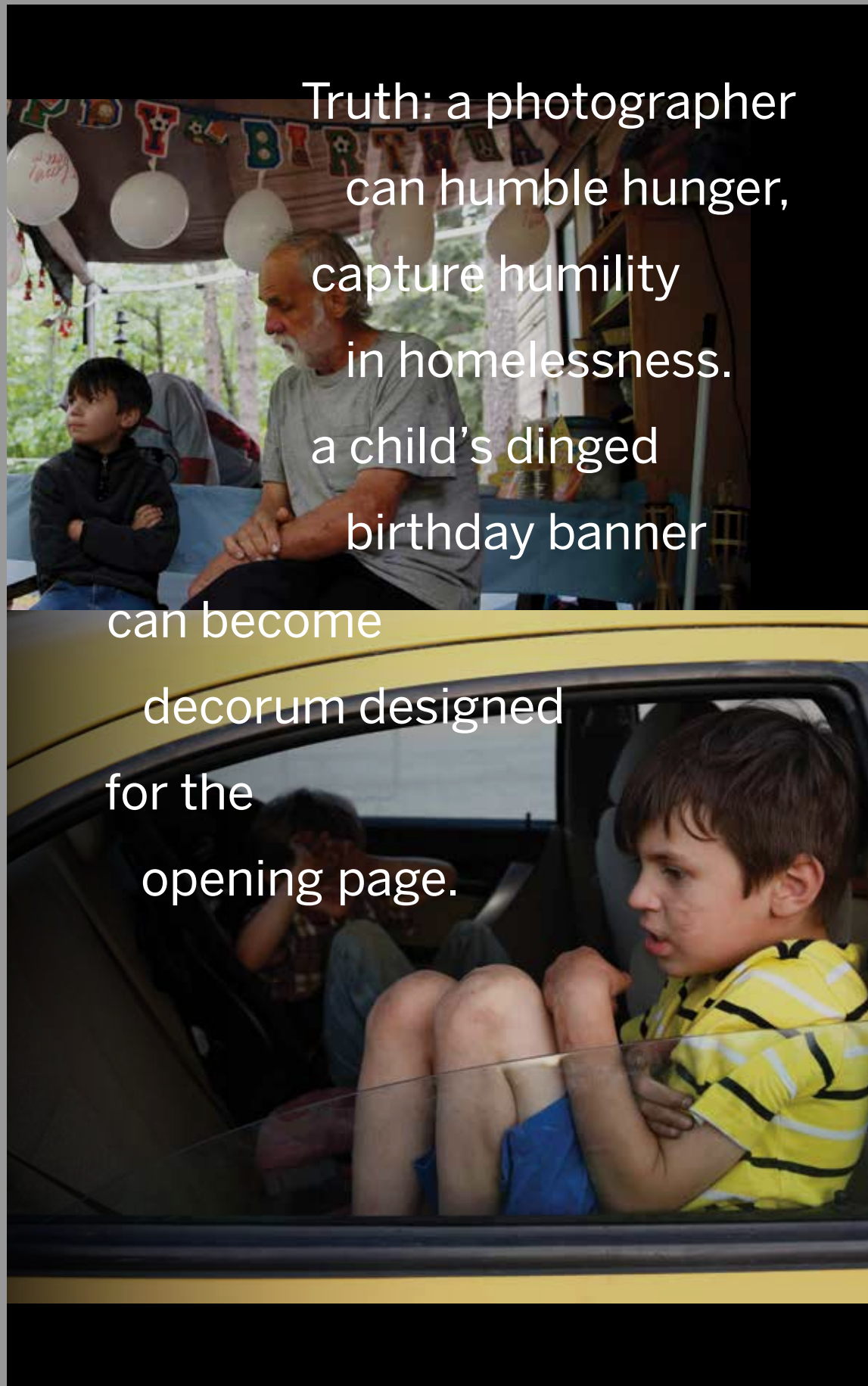
truth: a writer
can rewrite
a blushing
wound into
a blooming
bouquet,

convert
a disaster
into a display
of generosity.

Standing up against hate.

Top: Activists plead with the Boston Police to “take a knee” as they participate in a demonstration outside of the Forest Hills T Station on June 2, 2020. The rally and vigil was to honor George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and local fallen people.

Bottom: Asian Coalition Mass. organizer Fiona Phie takes a moment of silence after placing an offering among flowers, candles, and incense while honoring those who have experienced violent hate crimes against the Asian American community on April 10, 2021.



Truth: a photographer
can humble hunger,
capture humility
in homelessness.
a child's dinged
birthday banner

can become
decorum designed
for the
opening page.

Portrait of a child in poverty.

In its 2015 Pulitzer Prize winning story for photo journalism, “The life and times of Strider Wolf,” the Globe followed one family’s plight of homelessness and poverty in Oxford, Maine. Pictured here is Strider. After two years of not paying the rent, Strider’s family was given notice that they had 30 days to pack their things and leave. On the night of the eviction, as the family worked to move their possessions, Strider and his brother Gallagher were left in the back of the car. Tired and acting out, Gallagher bit Strider, who recoiled, pressing himself against the car window.



Read “The life and times of Strider Wolf,” written by Sarah Schweitzer, photos by Jessica Rinaldi



some experience
the world through
a filter of

compassion,
a lens of latitude.
between us is only
the long length
of wind.

Jim Rice saves a child's life at Fenway.

Top: The year was 1982. It was the fourth inning, with the White Sox ahead, 3-0, when Dave Stapleton, the Red Sox second baseman, rocketed a foul ball over the first base dugout.

With no time to react, sitting two rows above the dugout next to his father, 4-year-old Jonathan Keane was struck in the face by the ball. Jonathan's dad looked over and saw his son covered in blood, screaming. People frantically called for help. Taking charge, Boston outfielder Jim Rice jumped into the stands, held the boy in his arms and ran to the dugout. Team physician Arthur Pappas called Boston Children's Hospital while the medical team worked on Jonathan. After emergency surgery, Jonathan made a complete recovery. Doctors credited Rice's quick actions as instrumental in the boy's survival.

"I think he saved my life," Jonathan said in 2009. He'd become CEO of Customer HD in North Carolina. "His reaction, and ability to stay cool in that situation, when really nobody else did anything, was remarkable."

Bottom: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told a joint session of the Massachusetts Legislature, April 22, 1965, that segregation must die if America and democracy were to live. Spectators stood in the packed gallery and some legislators used camp stools on the crowded House floor.

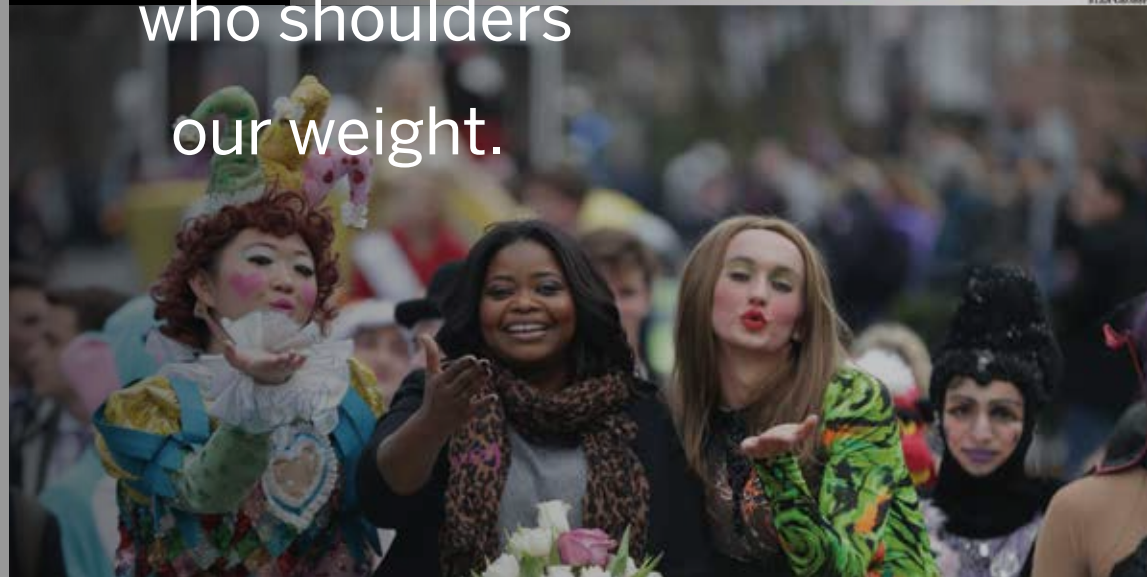
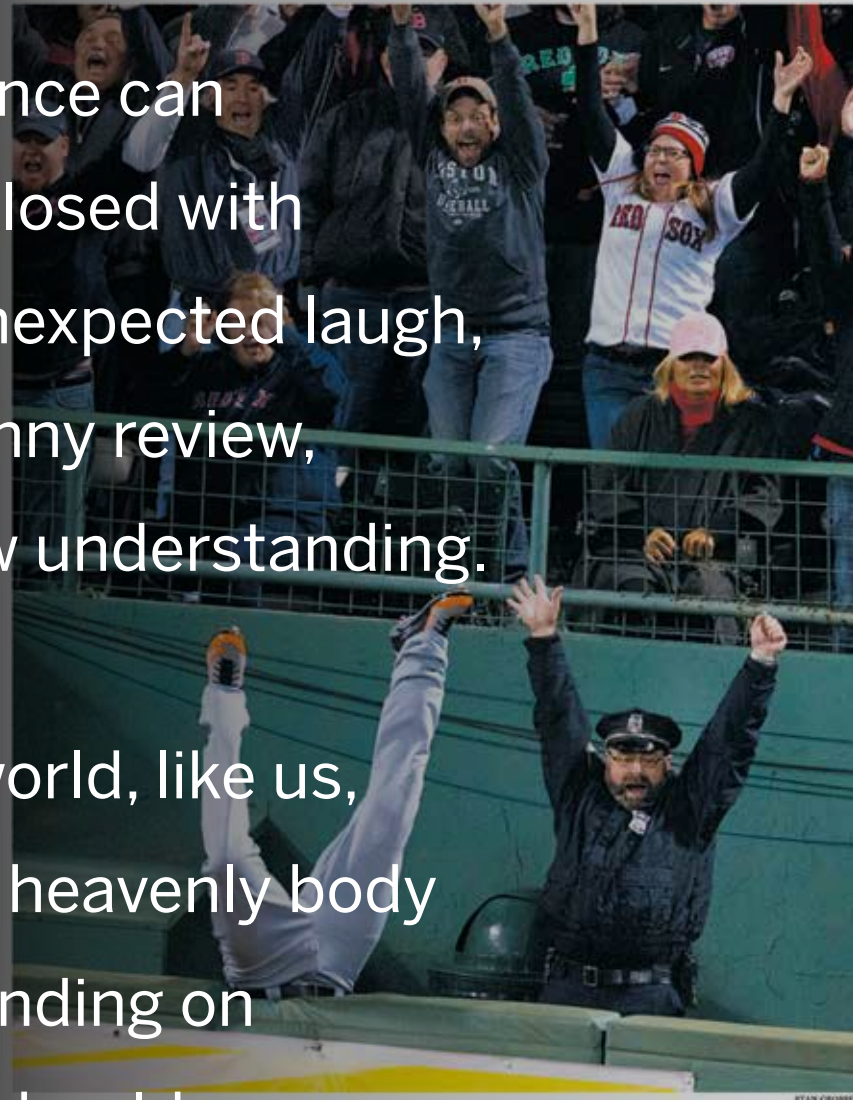


Read Boston.com's "40 years later, a look back at the day Jim Rice saved a boy's life at Fenway Park." By Trevor Hass

Boston's fine

distance can
be closed with
an unexpected laugh,
a funny review,
a new understanding.

the world, like us,
is a heavenly body
depending on
who shoulders
our weight.



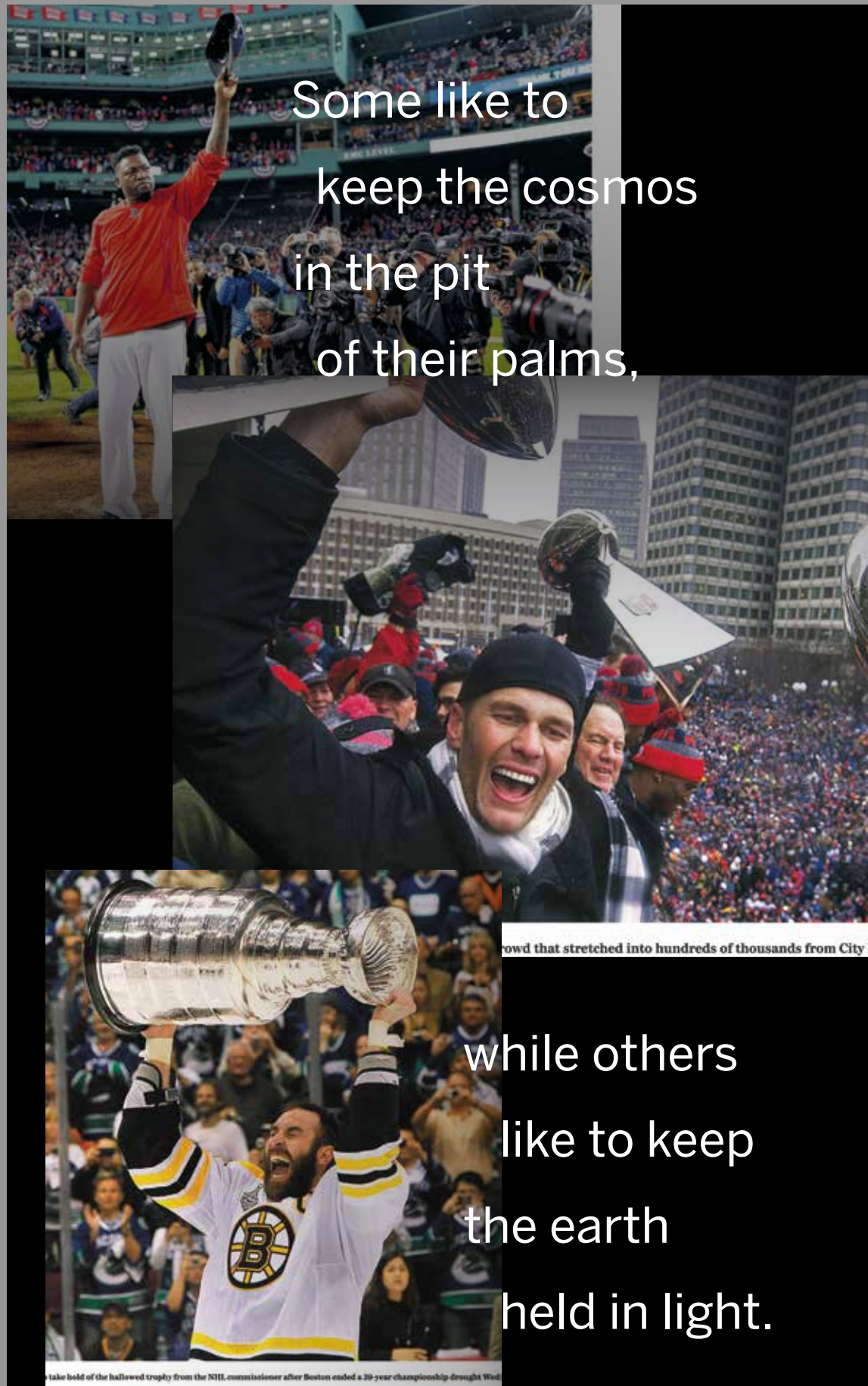
The Boys of October and a woman for all seasons.

Top: Detroit Tigers right fielder Torii Hunter flips over the wall trying to catch David Ortiz's grand slam as bullpen policeman Steve Horgan celebrates. The Red Sox won Game 2 of the ALCS, 6–5, on Oct. 13, 2013, and would go on to win the World Series.

Bottom: Guan-Yue Chen, left, with 2017 Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year Octavia Spencer, middle, and Dan Milashewski, right, delights the crowd during the parade along Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, on January 26, 2017.



Read "These are the last days on the beat for Fenway's famous bullpen cop."
By Stan Grossfeld



Some like to
keep the cosmos
in the pit
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while others
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held in light.

Great moments in sports that we'll never forget.

Top: Retiring Red Sox slugger David Ortiz gives a final salute to the home crowd on Oct. 10, 2016, his final game at Fenway Park. Ortiz departed with three world championships — and one curse shattered.

Middle: Tom Brady and Bill Belichick hoist the Vince Lombardi Trophy in front of the thousands of fans at Boston City Hall on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, in a joyous celebration after the team executed what is considered to be the best Super Bowl comeback in NFL history. The Patriots overcame a 28–3 deficit, miraculously beating the Atlanta Falcons in overtime.

Bottom: Captain Zdeno Chara is the first to take hold of the hallowed Stanley Cup after the Bruins ended a 39-year championship drought by defeating the Vancouver Canucks on June 15, 2011.



Read the Globe's coverage of the David Ortiz Hall of Fame Induction

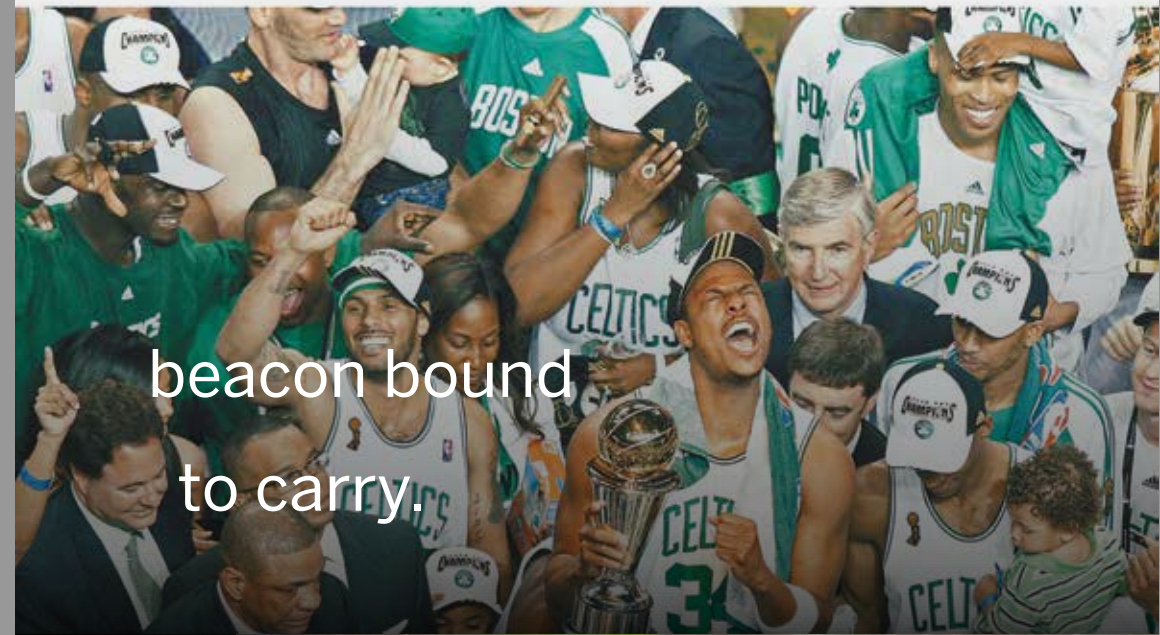


Ortiz photo by John Tlumacki/Globe Staff
Patriots photo by Stan Grossfeld/Globe Staff
Stanley Cup photo by Barry Chin/Globe Staff

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BACK ON TO

Celtics crush Lakers, 131-92 17th team title, first

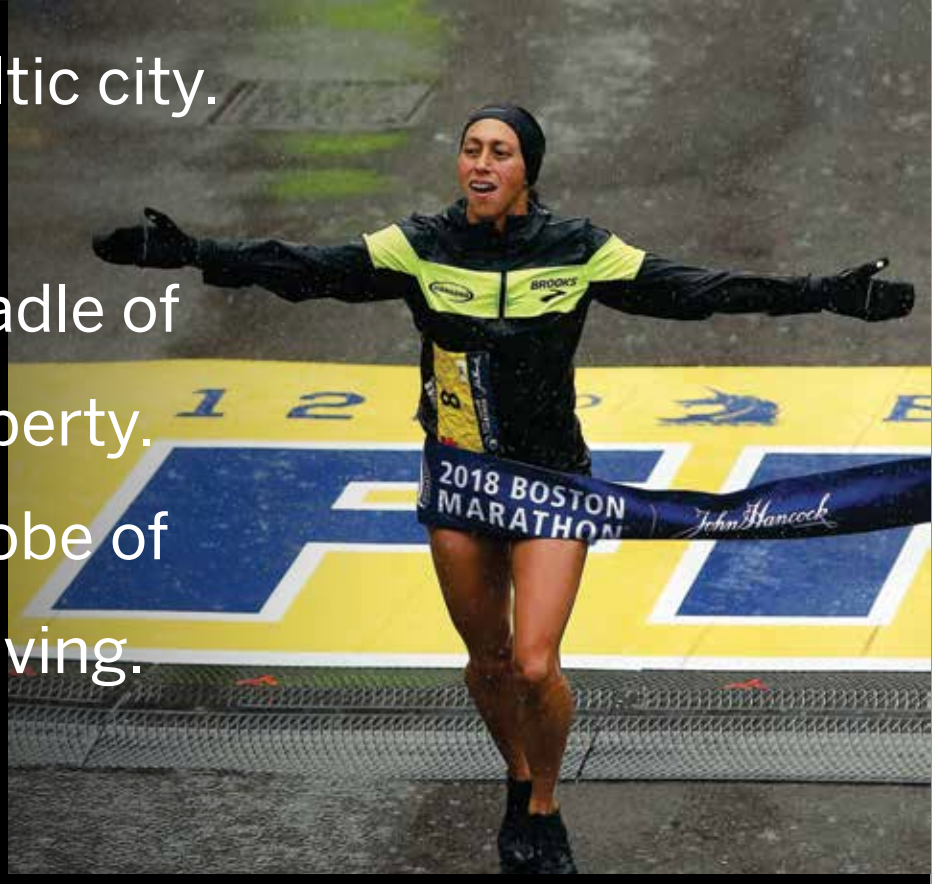


beacon bound
to carry.

celtic city.

cradle of
liberty.

Globe of
giving.



The sweet taste of victory.

Top: Paul Pierce exults on the podium after the Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers to win the NBA Finals on June 17, 2008. Pierce & Co. wrapped up the franchise's 17th championship, and first since 1986.

Bottom: After beginning her push at Heartbreak Hill, Desiree Linden surged to the finish line to become the first American woman to take the title in 33 years, topping the women's field at the Boston Marathon by more than four minutes on Monday, April 16, 2018.



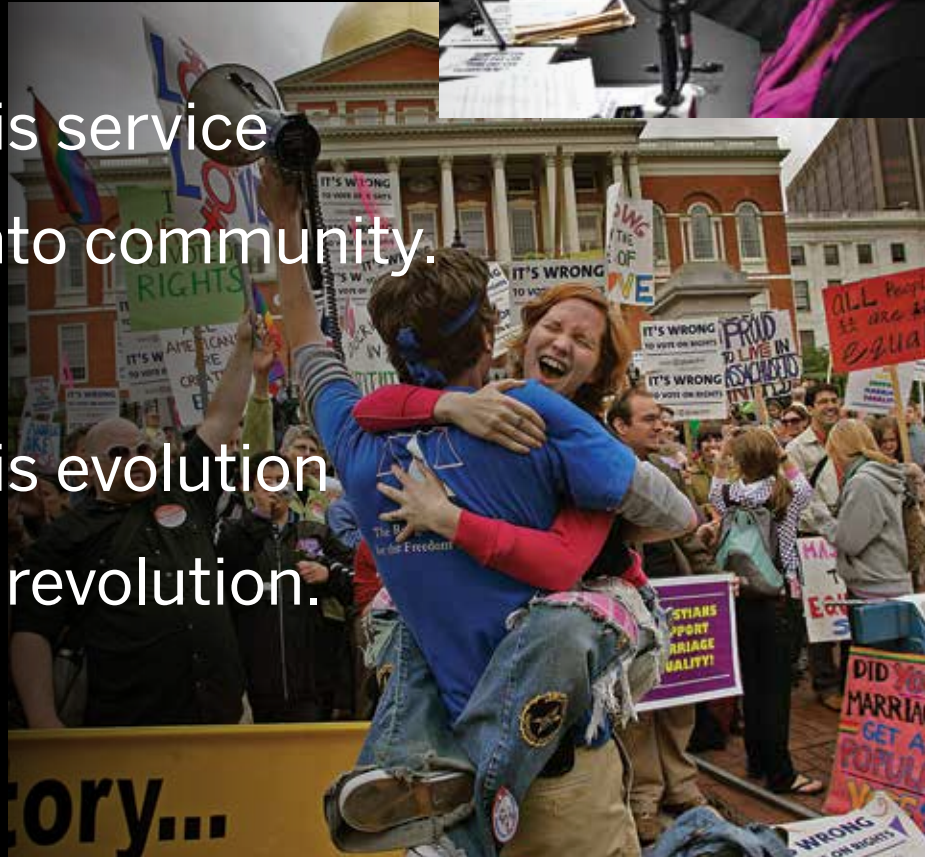
Read "Remembering a true Hall of Fame era with Celtics, and other thoughts." By Dan Shaughnessy

this sphere
of life.

this beautiful
resistance,

this service
onto community.

this evolution
of revolution.



Exercising our rights.

Here in New England, we have a long heritage of peaceful, and sometimes not so peaceful, protest in exercising our human rights and protecting our personal beliefs.

On July 8, 2003, The Boston Globe was the first major newspaper to make the case in an editorial to guarantee same-sex families the recognition and protections that a legal marriage affords. Four months later, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court made the decision to uphold the recognition of same-sex marriage.

Top: Che Anderson of Worcester. From the Globe series “A Beautiful Resistance,” by culture columnist Jeneé Osterheldt.

Middle: October 22, 2021. Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins speaks on Black News Hour with the Globe’s Meghan Irons.

Bottom: Erin Dunn is ecstatic after hearing that the state Legislature had voted against a proposed 2008 ballot question to ban gay marriage.



Read A Beautiful Resistance: Black joy, Black lives, as celebrated by culture columnist Jeneé Osterheldt



Watch Black News Hour



Top photo by Erin Clark/Globe Staff
Middle photo by David L Ryan/Globe Staff
Bottom photo by David L. Ryan/Globe Staff

#Globe150

duty to
excavate,
to reshape,
to hold,

like Atlas,
to say,
like a compass:
onward.



Reframing the conversation on racial justice and equity.

Just as 19th-century antislavery publications reframed and amplified the quest for abolition, *The Emancipator* centers critical voices, debates, and evidence-based opinion to reframe the national conversation on racial equity and hasten a more racially just society. We put journalists, scholars, and community members into conversation, showcasing missing and under amplified voices — past and present — and demonstrating how they reveal the way forward. A collaboration between *The Boston Globe* and the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, *The Emancipator* goes beyond so-called “conversations about race” to interrogate how we got here and how we can dismantle racist policies, institutions, and norms.

Top: July 4, 2020. Danielle Ruffen embraces her friend as they hold sacred space for the Black women slain by law enforcement.

Bottom: Isla Powers, 6, prepares to march in the parade on Veterans Day in South Boston on November 11, 2021



Visit *The Emancipator*