

Fields of fire drive refs from school games

'Crisis' in youth sports as officials quit, citing harassment, hostile parents

By Bob Hohler
GLOBE STAFF

Mary Fitzgerald's distinguished career as a Massachusetts high school soccer official abruptly ended after a night game last year when a player's enraged father pursued her to her car. She vividly recalls the parent spewing expletives and gesturing so menacingly that she feared for her safety.

In "a fight or flight" moment, Fitzgerald said, she cursed back and looked around for support. All she remembers seeing were adults watching silently.

Fitzgerald said she was so distressed by the experience that she quit officiating high school soccer, a job she loved.

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48%
OF MALE
OFFICIALS AND
45%
OF FEMALE
OFFICIALS
feared for their
safety because of
the behavior of a
spectator, coach,
player, or school
official.

SOURCE: National
Association of Sports
Officials



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

High school referees face many challenges — including abusive fans.

In ascent, Warren sticks to the plan

After slow start, early strategies are paying off

By Liz Goodwin
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Senator Elizabeth Warren was just days away from officially announcing her presidential bid last winter, and a pack of reporters was doggedly chasing her around the bustling US Capitol.

They didn't want to ask about her campaign, which had struggled to build momentum in the early going. Instead, impatient reporters peppered her about an issue that had long cast a shadow over her political career — her past claim to Native American heritage and a DNA test of her genetic lineage she had just apologized for releasing.

"I am not a tribal citizen," she told them solemnly, with none of the upbeat energy she displays on the campaign trail. "I have apologized for not being more sensitive to that distinction."

To Warren's allies and fans, the moment felt like a nightmare.

To some political analysts and critics, it felt like something more — the beginning of the end.

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PUTTING ON THE ~~Ritz, Taj~~, Newbury



The storied hotel at Newbury and Arlington, which opened as the Ritz-Carlton (left) in 1927 and became the Taj (center) in 2007, has long hosted celebrations and celebrities. After a top-to-bottom renovation, it will reopen as the Newbury (right).

Can a major makeover give a grande dame of Boston a new identity?

By Christopher Muther
GLOBE STAFF

In its current state, you'd hardly guess that this building was once the most glamorous edifice in Boston.

When Winston Churchill came to town, he stayed here. So did Shirley Temple, Amelia Earhart, and the duke and duchess of Windsor. At present, this impor-

tant piece of Boston history is primarily hosting layers of plaster dust, exposed dry-wall, bare floors, and many, many power tools.

But when the newly christened Newbury hotel opens this spring, the nearly 100-year-old gem at the corner of Newbury and Arlington streets will emerge with a thorough polishing, looking to attract a fresh genera-

tion of guests.

The Newbury is the new name of the former Taj Boston hotel. It opened in 1927 as the Ritz-Carlton and stayed the Ritz until 2007, when it was sold to the Mumbai-based Taj. Despite the changeover, many continued to refer to the hotel as "the old Ritz." Call it Brahmin stubbornness, but it

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Suggested retail price
\$6.00



Chill seekers

Sunday: Sunny, chilly.
High: 54-59. Low: 35-40.
Monday: A bit chillier.
High: 51-56. Low: 44-49.
Complete report, **A26**.

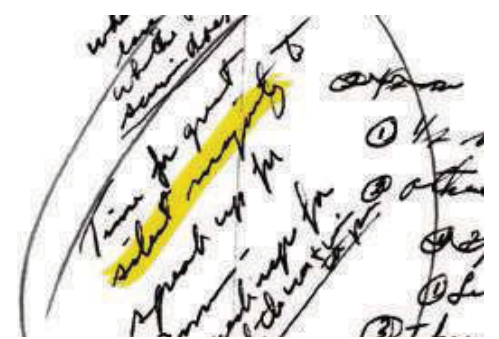
The emoji committee is a mysterious group that controls which icons make it to our phones. **Ideas, K1.**

Travel writer Christopher Muther takes a flavorful tour of Japanese Kit Kat bars, from sweet peach to burning wasabi. **Travel, M1.**



Turn clocks back

Daylight saving time started at 2 a.m. today. Clocks should be turned back one hour.



The words "silent majority" in President Richard Nixon's handwriting highlighted in his speech notes.

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'Old Ritz' gets new life as Newbury

►HOTEL
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seemed that after eight decades, Bostonians had a hard time letting go of their beloved memories, and their beloved blue Ritz Fizz cocktail.

The iconic property has spent the past decade or so languishing on one of the most prominent corners in Boston. "Languishing" may sound a bit strong, but the hotel, which was sold in 2016 to an investment group with local ties for \$125 million, was last updated 18 years ago — an eternity in hospitality years.

According to TripAdvisor reviews, the staff maintained a level of service befitting a historic property that once counted Lucille Ball among its guests, but the rooms were left behind. The scuffed, dark mahogany furniture and increasingly tattered margarine-yellow upholstered pieces were calling out for help.

When the hotel, which had its final day as the Taj on Thursday, reopens after a top-to-bottom renovation (developers declined to disclose the cost), those rooms will look firmly rooted in the style of 2020 hotels, where "residential" is the buzzword of the moment.

Designer Alexandra Champalimaud (the creative force behind redesigns of the Hotel Bel-Air, the Beverly Hills Hotel, and the Carlyle) reimagined the rooms as if they were part of a tastefully appointed Beacon Hill pied-à-terre, with muted wall colors, blue-velvet window seats, and curvaceous furniture.

The most noticeable exterior difference for Bostonians will be the main entrance. Guests will arrive on Newbury Street (the hotel's street address is changing from 15 Arlington to One Newbury). The sidewalk outside the new entrance will feature a landscaped terrace plaza with tables and chairs.

Also new: a 4,000-square-foot, glass-roofed restaurant with sweeping views of the city and multiple glass doors that will slide open on balmy days. There will be six retractable panels on the roof for clear nights. Celebrity designer Ken Fulk, known for creating spaces with pizzazz and pop, is steering the look of the space.

The glass restaurant harks back to the property's early days, when the Ritz-Carlton opened an elaborate rooftop garden in 1931 and Boston's glitterati came for dinner and dancing under the stars. The restaurant will be run by Major Food Group, which operates 20 restaurants in New York, Las Vegas, and Tel Aviv. This will be its first Boston outpost. Major Food Group will also curate the food and drink for the Newbury's bar, called the Street Bar. Celebrated architect and designer Jeffrey Beers will fill the refreshed bar with rich, classic jewel tones. The first-floor cafe will be no more. The rooftop restaurant will serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Although the Newbury will be managed by the hospitality investment company Highgate, the Newbury hotel brand will stand alone. Highgate has a

varied portfolio, including the James, the Knickerbocker, and the Row in New York.

All of these changes may be difficult to grasp. Again, this is a hotel that people are still calling "the old Ritz," and Boston stalwarts break out their finest frowns when such words and phrases as "celebrity designer," "pizzazz and pop," "New York," or simply "new" are used to describe any entity within city limits.

But the people who work at the hotel are optimistic this change will be embraced.

Maureen Albright, who started working at the hotel nearly two decades ago, when it was still the Ritz-Carlton, stayed through the Taj years and is now eager to see the Newbury take shape. Recently, she spent more than three hours with a reporter, recounting tales of hotel glories past. Thanks to her knowledge and loquacious love of the property, she was recently appointed the official historian of the Newbury.

"If you told me 18 years ago that a building could mean so much to people, I never would have believed it," she said. "But I have met hundreds of people who have told me how important this building has been in their lives, going back generations and generations."

Albright, who has been the hotel's director of engineering since her first day on the job, choked up talking about the renovation. "The old girl is finally getting the attention she deserves."

Swirling the glass of merlot in her hand, Albright added: "I just think of her as this lovely grand dame who's been counting on us to help her for years. This is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

She's not exaggerating. It is a rarity to have a building of this pedigree on Newbury Street that hasn't been turned into, say, a Restoration Hardware. To see just how important the grand dame of Newbury Street has been to Boston, scan old issues of The Boston Globe and read each breathless account of the hotel's opening and the stories of the celebrities who stayed.

In a 1926 front-page story, the Globe first reported that Boston was getting a Ritz-Carlton:

"We are convinced that there is no city in the country where the sort of service the Ritz hotels offers would be better received or better appreciated," said George McAneny, president of the Ritz hotels in the United States.

The excitement surrounding the lavish opening night in May 1927 was reported in detail — lots and lots of detail — in another front-page Globe story. Noting that the Ritz opened in an atmosphere of "elegance rather than splendor," the paper wrote that French chefs "put all of their art into the preparation of this meal, which was a revelation both in quality and variety of dishes." For \$10 a plate (that's \$144 in 2019 dollars), the French opulence was something entirely new to Boston.

Along with opulence came

can claim Champagne with a capital C. They say they are the only source of guaranteed authentic manuka honey, from a single species of bush; their Australian counterparts have marshaled a point-by-point rebuttal that stretches all the way back to the Cretaceous Period.

That has left these two neighbors, so closely bound that Australia's constitution still welcomes New Zealand to become one of its states, locked in a bitter dispute encompassing science, culture, history and, yes, cold, hard commerce.

"For us, it's a kick in the guts," said Bert Seagrave, an Australian farmer with 4,200 beehives in the state of New



BOSTON GLOBE FILE PHOTO/1927

BOSTON'S RITZ-CARLTON OPENS NEXT WEDNESDAY

New Hotel in Arlington St., Overlooking Beautiful Public Garden, Modeled After Famous Continental Hostelties—To Have Roof Garden And Luxurious Appointments



GUSTAVUS TOTT
Resident Manager



GEORGE MCANENY
President

Boston's newest exclusive hotel, the Ritz-Carlton, at the corner of Arlington and Newbury sts., will be formally opened May 12. The hotel will have 330 rooms corresponding in capacity and general proportion to the hotel in New York and the hotel will be conducted along lines which have made the Ritz famous across the world.

Adjacent to the lobby are the main office, waiting room, telephone booth, vesting room, postal telegraph and messenger service offices. On the first floor, also, is a lounge of Georgian design with rich paneling and a piano. In one of the walls is a picture of George McAneny, president of the Ritz hotels in the United States. The main dining room on the second floor is similar to those of the Ritz hotels abroad. It is entered from the vestibule side and from the large parlors on the first floor. The main dining room is a masterpiece of modern design, and the furniture is of the latest styles. The main dining room is a masterpiece of modern design, and the furniture is of the latest styles. The main dining room is a masterpiece of modern design, and the furniture is of the latest styles.

Being away with corners and angles, the ceiling of the room is curved and the silver and which covers it gives one the impression of being out of doors, with a star shining through the openings of the huge spruce trees. The lighting fixtures of the room are modern in design, and the furniture is of the latest styles. The main dining room is a masterpiece of modern design, and the furniture is of the latest styles. The main dining room is a masterpiece of modern design, and the furniture is of the latest styles.

"The Ritz made headlines for its opulence when it opened and drew celebrities such as Shirley Temple. It will reopen, revamped, as the Newbury this spring."



RENDERING/THE NEWBURY



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, LESLIE JONES COLLECTION

celebrities. When the first regular Boston-to-New York passenger plane made its inaugural flight, carrying six passengers, Charles Lindbergh stayed at the Ritz to celebrate. More than 5,000 fans mobbed Shirley Temple when the child star stayed at the Ritz-Carlton in 1938, and when Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, the third child of Jackie and President John F. Kennedy, was rushed to Children's Medical Center in 1963 (and died two days later), President Kennedy stayed at the Ritz-Carlton.

Throughout its storied history, tales of importance emerged from the hotel. Rodgers and Hart wrote "Ten Cents a Dance" in their suite. In 1947, Tennessee Williams wrote part of "A Streetcar Named Desire" in his. Two years later, when

Winston Churchill arrived, an entire suite was redecorated in Chinese red, black, and gold, his favorite colors.

For Bostonians, the Ritz-Carlton ballroom was where teenage girls glowed in their chiffon finery at coming-out parties. The cafe was where the ladies who lunched could be found gossiping over gimlets. The signature bar was where deals were made with firm handshakes. Anniversaries were acknowledged and weddings opulently celebrated.

The Ritz-Carlton could also be seen as a barometer of the changing times as it slowly loosened its strict dress code. Until 1971, a sign informed dining room and bar patrons that turtlenecks were not an acceptable substitute for a tie, and pantsuits and culottes

were no-nos. Miniskirts were acceptable — but only on teenagers. Lifting the ban meant that Boston's fashionable women could finally wear 1971's fashion craze: hot pants. The Globe reported at the time that the male employees were happy to see the change.

For men, the rule on blazers and ties was slower to evolve. When Mayor Raymond Flynn arrived to dine in a golf shirt in 1993, he was asked to leave.

Thankfully, those dress codes are not returning. But Carlos Bueno, general manager of the hotel, said the Newbury is fully embracing the heritage of the building and hoping that guests will appreciate its return to splendor.

"Everything about the hotel is changing," Bueno said. "We're adding suites, we're re-

envisioning the ballroom and the lobby. The outside will look different. The restaurant concepts are exciting. But the one thing we don't want to change is how important this hotel is to the city. We're very aware of how precious this property is to so many people."

On the surface, the success of the Newbury will be measured by the occupancy rate, the customer reviews, and the crowds at the rooftop restaurant. But let's face it: The only way we'll know for certain that it has staying power is if Bostonians finally stop calling the hotel at the corner of Newbury and Arlington "the old Ritz."

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Sticky situation for Australia and New Zealand: Honey comes between allies

By Jamie Tarabay
NEW YORK TIMES

PAENGAROA, New Zealand — Australia and New Zealand are at war.

Over honey.

Not just any honey, mind you — this stuff isn't sold in plastic bear-shaped bottles. It's manuka honey, a high-priced nectar ballyhooed by celebrities as a health and beauty elixir. (Scarlett Johansson smears it on her face; Laura Dern treats her children with it.)

Manuka-branded honey is so valuable that New Zealand producers have gone to court to argue that they alone should have the right to sell it, in much the same way that only France

South Wales. Losing the ability to brand his honey as manuka would cost him half a million dollars a year, he said.

Manuka honey sells for roughly \$100 for 500 grams, or about 18 ounces, although higher grades can cost more. It has a nuttier taste than regular table honey, although at that price not many people are likely to be spreading it on their morning toast. Its promoters say it can soothe gastric inflammation and even help treat cuts and burns.

New Zealand makers of the honey have applied for trademarks in their own country as well as in Britain, the European Union, the United States, and

China — an especially lucrative market — among other places. Australian producers have filed papers in New Zealand and Britain opposing the applications.

The New Zealanders say they have been compelled to take legal action in part because Australian producers are trying to get away with selling an inferior product.

The dispute revolves around the precise type of bush the honey is derived from. In New Zealand, manuka honey comes solely from the nectar of a plant known as *Leptospermum scoparium*, commonly called a manuka bush. The Australian honey, the New Zealanders ar-

gue, comes not only from that bush but also from dozens of other species in the same genus.

The Australians are "literally selling 80 different species as the same," said Tony Wright, the general manager for market access at Comvita, one of New Zealand's largest producers of manuka honey.

That, he added, was a bit like "generalizing all the almonds and apricots and calling them plums."

Producers in Australia, Wright said, are "glossing over the details, and the consumer is getting ripped off, because you can measure all those honeys and measure the antibacterial

effect." The elements of manuka honey are said to be so special that New Zealand makers have even created grading systems to rate their potency — one is called the Unique Manuka Factor.

But the Australians say their New Zealand counterparts are making a distinction without a difference. They say the Australian bushes in the genus *Leptospermum* are so closely related to the New Zealand bush as to be nearly indistinguishable, noting that until about 65 million years ago, Australia and New Zealand were part of the same landmass and shared the same species.