

# The Boston Globe

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## A decades-old secret, with few solid clues

Mystery shrouds mother of babies found in freezer at South Boston condo

By Laura Crimaldi  
GLOBE STAFF

Alexis Aldamir cut a striking figure in South Boston in the early 1980s. Then in her late 20s, she circled her eyes with dark eyeliner that matched her long black hair, and wrapped herself in a wool cape for warmth in winter.

And yet even as Aldamir stood out to her neighbors for those 40 years she lived in a nine-unit brick condo building on East Broadway, they said they viewed her as an enigma who largely kept to herself.

To some, she seemed to be inseparable from her mother, who lived on the floor above her. One former resident recalled a story from their then-landlord, who claimed Aldamir said a ghost roamed the basement. The resident described her as strange. But

people who knew her at different times from the 1980s through 2015 said she was a capable adult, who held a job and took care of herself.

On Tuesday, prosecutors revealed a secret Aldamir had managed to keep for decades: five pregnancies that ended with the deaths of all but one baby, the remains of the four discovered in her kitchen freezer in 2022. She gave the

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## For protesters, networks of support

Across area colleges, encampments aid each other — and attract outside groups

By Sean Cotter  
GLOBE STAFF  
and Lila Hempel-Edgers  
and Alexa Coultoff  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

The pro-Palestinian encampment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was calm early on the morning of April 25, but word was spreading the one outside Emerson College was about to run into trouble.

Isa Liggans, a junior at MIT, said he and other protesters headed to Boston to show support for students there. They joined the growing crowd in an alley off Boylston Street, where Emerson students protesting

Israel's retaliatory war in Gaza were bracing for a faceoff with police.

This is but one example of the informal way students at different encampments have helped each other, said Liggans, who was arrested at Emerson that morning and charged with disturbing the peace.

"It's not like there's some organization controlling everything," he said, "but maybe we send them some food or some water or go give some support."

In addition to forming a larger community of protesters who help each other, students in the encamp-

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ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Two protesters joined a pro-Palestinian encampment on Kresge Lawn at MIT on Friday. Students there have visited other campuses to help.



1973 YEARBOOK PHOTO

Alexis Aldamir was an enigma to neighbors.

## State won't keep benefits from foster children

Mass. ends practice that critics called exploitative

By Jason Laughlin  
GLOBE STAFF

The Department of Children and Families is ending a controversial practice that diverted to the state millions in federal Social Security benefits meant for foster children.

In recent years, DCF withheld about \$5.5 million annually, or roughly 90 percent of the survivor and disability benefits intended for foster children who lost a parent or have a disability, and instead redirected the money to the state's general treasury.

The practice, which affected about 600 youth annually, was legal but controversial, with child advocates calling it exploitative; it amounted to making children pay for their own care, advocates said.

"It wasn't really adding anything significant to our state budget," said Rachel Gwaltney, executive director of Children's League of Massachusetts, "and it was taking away money that really rightfully belonged to these young people."

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DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

## IN A SEA OF MORTARBOARDS

Students lined up before walking onto the field at Fenway Park Sunday for the Northeastern University Class of 2024 commencement. The ceremony followed weeks of contentious protests at the university over the war in Gaza, as well as at campuses across the nation. One person was arrested after disrupting the proceedings. **B1.**

## Talks for temporary cease-fire in Gaza Strip fizzle

By Adam Rasgon  
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — The latest round of negotiations between Israel and Hamas hit an impasse Sunday as mediators struggled to bridge remaining gaps and a Hamas delegation departed the talks in Cairo, according to two senior Hamas officials and two other officials familiar with the talks. An Israeli official also confirmed the negotiations had stalled and described them as being

in "crisis."

For months, negotiations aimed at achieving a cease-fire and a release of hostages have made little progress, but signs the two sides were coming closer to an agreement appeared over the past week. Israel backed off some of its long-held demands, and a top Hamas official said the group was studying the latest Israeli offer with a "positive spirit."

But the setback over the weekend

meant Palestinians living in miserable conditions in the Gaza Strip would not experience an imminent reprieve, and the families of hostages held by militants would have to wait longer for the freedom of their loved ones.

The main obstacle in the talks was the duration of a cease-fire, with Hamas demanding it be permanent and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel expressing openness to only a temporary halt in the

fighting.

Hamas blamed the lack of progress on Netanyahu, who vowed again in recent days that the Israeli army will invade Rafah, the southernmost town in the Gaza Strip, with or without an agreement.

"We were very close, but Netanyahu's narrow-mindedness aborted an agreement," Mousa Abu Marzouk, a senior Hamas official, said in a phone interview.

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### Stinko de Mayo

**Monday:** Clouds, patchy rain.  
High 68-73, low 53-58.

**Tuesday:** Clearing, some sun.  
High 67-72, low 51-56.

Sunrise: 5:32. Sunset: 7:50.

Weather and comics, **D4-5.**  
Obituaries, **C10.**

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**As grocery bills rise, so, too, the demand for local nonprofit agencies** that help provide food assistance. **D1.**

**Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in France for the start of a European tour** that appears to be his bid to loosen the continent's bonds with the United States. **A4.**

**Paramount agreed to open negotiations for a possible sale to Sony Pictures** and a private group. **D3.**

**The American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts elected Jessica Tang** as president, making the Boston labor leader the first person of color to lead the union. **B1.**

**Next up for the Boston Bruins after their exhilarating overtime Game 7 win** over Toronto is a date with a well-rested Florida team. **C1.**

FRANK STELLA 1936-2024

## In his hands, borders of modern art tumbled

By Murray Whyte  
GLOBE STAFF

Frank Stella, one of America's great artists, whose career intersected — and helped catalyze — some of the most significant upheavals in 20th century art, died Saturday at his home in Manhattan. He was 87.

His wife, Dr. Harriet E. McGurk, said the cause was lymphoma, according to The New York Times. Mr. Stella, who was born in Malden on May 12, 1936, was ever restless, dynamically shifting his work in both style and scale while defying categorical boundaries between painting and sculpture. He was equally unbound from the many movements in American art competing for dominance in the latter half of the 20th century.

Beginning with a rigid, minimal take on abstraction while still a student at Princeton University in the 1950s, Mr. Stella had an unquenchable curiosity that would take him from the canvas to broader, more extravagant hybrid works, and eventually monumental public sculptures that occupy prominent places in cities all over the world.

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NEW YORK TIMES FILE/2015

Mr. Stella, a Malden native, was a towering figure in the art world, incessantly exploring color and form as he reimagined genres.



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