The weather was cold, blustery and overcast; a typical mid-March day, but as always, it couldn’t diminish the size of the crowd that flooded our streets for the Annual Evacuation Day/St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Though the route of the march was shortened considerably, said to be caused by the mounds of hardened ice on every block, it

CONTINUED ON page 8
EDITORIAL

Welcome Springtime

Spring has finally arrived. With it come longer days and warming temperatures—eventually. Overall, the winter wasn’t so bad. Though it came on strong towards the end, it could have been a lot colder and certainly much snowier.

Now we can look forward to the budding of leaves on our trees, the blooming of the flowers and of course the shedding of cold weather clothing and the lowering of our heating bills. There have been numerous sightings of red breasted robins on our window sills, always a sign that spring has arrived. There is also a noticeable increase in the number of people out mingling with each other and enjoying South Boston’s many parks, playgrounds and our 3 miles of beautiful beaches.

When the upcoming baseball season is factored in, along with all the other numerous outdoor activities and pastimes, it really is a nice time of year—a rebirth and a new beginning. Enjoy.

“Spring is a time when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush” - Doug Larson
We’ve probably all heard the saying “Milk does your body good.”
Well, it does and you’re a racist.
If you’re a regular reader of this column you know that from time to time we like to highlight the absurd. There are people whose ideas are so off the wall that when they espouse them the first reaction is shock and disbelief and then very often followed by rolling on the floor laughter. What comes out of the mouths and from the key boards of some of our ‘progressive’ country men and women is so nutty that it would not surprise many if it was learned that their favorite recreational activity is howling at a full moon. But in recent times at least, it seems that one of their favorite obsessions is to continually search for new things to call racist.

We all remember the school administrator who insisted that peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are racist and American children should stop eating them. And of course so too are Christmas, Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Columbus Day. Out of the several hundred choices for Halloween costumes, I think we are down to 3or 4 that are acceptable at places like UMass Amherst and Brown University. But now, there is a new target, labelled by a millennial columnist for the California State University student newspaper as, wait for it, ‘a symbol of hate’. And this new symbol of hate; according to the writer, Samantha Diaz is Milk. And all this time, we thought milk was a wholesome, healthy and nutritious staple necessary for providing healthy bone growth and a needed ingredient for baby formula. Had Americans known over the last 2 centuries that this chalky white liquid was capable of promoting bigotry and prejudice, well then, moonshine; the lesser of two evils may have been chosen in its place. That this politically correct attack on milk comes from a millennial, on a college campus, especially a college campus located in of all places California probably doesn’t surprise a soul.

Now there is a reason that the student writer and some enabling professors believe that milk is hateful and bigoted. Yes, they always manage to come up with justification for their ‘theories’ and the reasons given for their views are just as wacky as the statements themselves. You may want to sit down for this. You see, according to a survey quoted by that writer, 75% of people in certain racial groups are thought to be lactose intolerant and as we all know, that means that many dairy products, including whole milk have a negative effect for those who have this condition. FYI: There are a percentage of people in every racial group that are also lactose intolerant. Oh, here it comes, according to the views of Ms. Diaz, White Nationalists and Neo Nazis are using milk as a form of White Supremacy and the U.S. Government must be in collusion with these groups and that’s why officials, including those in the medical field, have been pushing and stressing the health benefits of and encouraging the drinking of milk.

Most people that read and hear about the strange views espoused by some of the reality-challenged among the population either just smile and shake their heads or consider them a laugh riot. They are possibly the reason the term ‘moonbat’ became part of the English language. But, the people who keep on putting out these bizarre theories and constantly look for new things to be offended by or afraid of aren’t joking at all. They’re actually serious and believe this stuff, so I guess cutting them a bit of slack would be the compassionate thing to do. But really, they do provide a steady source of comedic entertainment and for that at least, we should be appreciative of all the humor they unintentionally give us. After all, what is life without laughter?
Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

The UMass-Boston mess

There were the dreams for UMass-Boston. Then there were the harsh realities behind the dreams, such as the university’s $30 million budget gap caused by the vast expansion and construction boom at UMass-Boston, reports the Globe’s Laura Krantz. The budget mess explains why chancellor J. Keith Motley recently had his executive-power nate weekend service altogether, ‘Our administration is exploring alternatives to last week’s MBTA budget proposals to make weekend commuter rail more efficient and will not pursue proposals to eliminate weekend service altogether,’ Baker said.”

What else can you say? It’s a full retreat by the Baker administration. It was a lazy, poorly thought out plan at a time when people are demanding improved T services, not reduced T services.

Next challenge for the T: Where to find nearly $1 billion to eventually replace aging Green Line trolley cars, not to be confused with the ongoing $1 billion push to replace the aging Orange and Red line cars, the Herald’s Dan Atkinson reports.

NRC gives Pilgrim green light

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says despite a rash of problems found during an intensive safety review, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station is safe enough to continue operating until its planned shutdown date in 2019, David Abel of the Globe reports. “They are clearly a plant with problems, but they are making strides to improvement and are currently safe to operate,” said Donald E. Jackson, who oversees reactor safety for the NRC and led the investigation. The NRC’s report is to be unveiled Tuesday at a meeting in Plymouth.

Pot tax could raise up to $100 million -- and Goldberg wants a 10 percent commission

The State House battle over regulating and taxing pot officially commenced yesterday, as the Legislature’s new marijuana committee heard a wide range of opinions, complaints, estimates and pleas on how to oversee the nascent weed industry in Massachusetts, according to multiple media reports. The Globe’s Joshua Miller reports that state revenue officials say a tax on pot could raise up to $100 million, but Treasurer Deb Goldberg says she’ll need about $10 million to properly regulate the new industry. But, wait, it’s far from clear whether lawmakers even want Goldberg overseeing marijuana regulations, as a “tug of war” has broken out over future pot oversight, reports the Herald’s Marie Szaniszlo.

The BBJ’s Jessica Bartlett and MassLive’s Gintautas Dumcius have more on projected tax revenues and other issues aired at yesterday’s hearing. In all, the legislative panel is now considering 44 marijuana-related bills, ranging from “minor tweaks to an outright repeal of the voter-approved law,” Steve Brown at WBUR reports.

City and town officials demand the power to outlaw pot shops

Yet another issue raised at yesterday’s Marijuana Committee hearing, via SHNS’s Coling Young at Wicked Local: “Cities and towns are urging lawmakers to let them restrict or prohibit commercial marijuana sales within their borders by a vote of the municipal legislative body, rather than a community-wide referendum as is called for under the law. ‘The new law ... makes it impossible for selectmen, mayors, councils or Town Meetings to make this decision,’ the Massachusetts Municipal Association wrote in a letter to the Legislature’s Committee on Marijuana Policy.”

Republican Baker urges Democrats to fight Republican health care plan

As they say, politics makes strange bedfellows. From the AP’s Steve LeBlanc, whose wire story is going national (this one at the Charlotte Observer): “Gov. Charlie Baker is urging the state’s congressional delegation to fight a Republican-backed health care bill that he said could undermine Massachusetts’ efforts to maintain its highest-in-the-nation rate of insured residents. The Republican governor is including his concerns in a letter he’s planning to send to the all-Democratic delegation Tuesday. Baker also will outline potential federal revenue losses for Massachusetts if the bill becomes law.”

Continued on page 5
Our Transportation Plan: Go Boston 2030

On any given day at any given time, I can look outside my window at City Hall and see our streets alive and bustling. From tourists crossing the street to Faneuil Hall to the cars waiting at the intersection, the Government Center T-stop in City Hall Plaza and the bicyclists taking advantage of nice weather, Boston is filled with residents and visitors traveling from Point A to Point B. We are a growing and thriving city -- and that’s evident by the many that occupy our streets each day. So after months of planning, thousands of residents’ input and ideas, and a long look at Boston’s future, I am proud that this month we released a transportation plan for our City: Go Boston 2030. This plan looks ahead to the Boston we will experience just a few short years from now, and begins to plan for decades in the future.

Go Boston 2030 is a plan made up of 58 different transportation projects and policies that focus on the expansion and connection of transportation options, the improvement of traffic-related safety on our streets, and efforts to increase the reliability of our system as a whole for our residents, commuters and visitors.

This plan will touch the lives of all Bostonians, and I want to thank the many, many residents who attended community meetings, shared their questions and ideas, and guided the future of our City. 5,000 ideas were submitted to the City in just the first round of our public engagement process, and in the next round, we received an additional 3,500 policy and project ideas. All together, nearly 4,000 Boston residents and others helped to prioritize the planning process by voting on their key wishes for transportation in Boston.

Through this engagement process, three priorities rose to the top: access, reliability and safety. For access, that means our goal in 2030 is to have every home in Boston be within a ten-minute walk of a rail station or key bus route, a Hubway station and a car share. For reliability, that means we’re working towards decreasing average work commute times by ten percent. For safety, that means eliminating traffic fatalities in Boston, and ensuring all households are within a five-minute walk from a protected bicycle facility or shared use path.

This is just a small list of our goals. Go Boston 2030 complements transportation initiatives that are already improving the safety and reliability of the streets including Vision Zero, Neighborhood Slow Streets and Park-Boston. Go Boston 2030 also ties into our larger, broader strategy as a City, called Imagine Boston 2030, which is a Citywide plan to knit together diverse planning efforts, public engagement and feedback, and City priorities to guide Boston into 2030 and beyond.

We know transportation doesn’t happen in a bubble. Bringing transportation into the future doesn’t just mean making upgrades -- it means changing how we think about getting around in our City, like connecting residents from Mattapan and Southwest Dorchester to jobs and medical care in Roxbury, Mission Hill and the Longwood Medical and academic area.

Go Boston 2030 also reflects our traditions as a smart, innovative City: we’ve begun installing smart signal corridors and districts that have traffic lights programmed together so you don’t end up hitting every red light on your way to work.

The Go Boston 2030 Vision and Action plan is a blueprint for how the City will direct and coordinate funding between the local, state and federal levels. We’re committing to a five-year investment plan to jumpstart our policies and projects, and plan to leverage City funding to attract state funding through the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.

This plan wouldn’t have been possible without the residents that helped shape it -- and we’re still looking for your input. We want to hear from you. What’s working? What’s not? What do you want to see more of?

The public input process will continue through the implementation of individual projects, and in the development of more projects and policies to be planned at a local level. I invite you to join us in planning for our City’s future, and making it easier, safer and more equitable to travel around our great City.

To find out more about Go Boston 2030, visit: boston.gov/transportation/go-boston-2030.
Evacuation Day Banquet Honors Veterans and Community Leaders

Headlined by Mayor Marty Walsh, Governor Charlie Baker, Congressman Stephen Lynch and an array of city, state and county officials, the banquet commemorating the 137th South Boston Citizens Association Evacuation Day Banquet was by all accounts a resounding success.

Kudos to Executive Director David Gibbons and his team for providing a comfortable venue and to South Boston's own Jim Callanan, of Calpro Productions, who seamlessly manages the logistics of the evening – not to mention the Saint Patrick’s Day breakfast – and the folks at Projection. Curragh’s Fancy once again added the touch of Ireland to the festivities. John Healy regaled the audience with his perennial classic, ‘A Mother’s Love’s A Blessing’.

It was made more memorable because it honored Particia ‘Patty’ Cloherty with the Jim Kelly/Peg Flaherty Shamrock Award, the Honorable Clerk Magistrate Sal Paterna with the John W. McCormack himself and finally Clerk Doyle, who reminded the audience that her ability to deliver a punch line is unmatched by any of her male colleagues.

Highlighting the evening, among a packed Boston Convention Center ballroom, were the many active duty sailors and officers stationed aboard the USS Comfort, our country’s extraordinary floating hospital and the USS San Jacinto, both docked at the Raymond Flynn Cruiseport Terminal. Appreciative in their remarks for the welcoming they received from the South Boston community were the ships’ Captains Lanny Boswell of the USNS Comfort and Dennis Velez of the San Jacinto.

The head table was a who’s who of Boston. Local community leaders included SBCA President Tom McGrath who is retiring from that post, Navy Veteran and General Chairman Ed Flynn, and Chief Marshal Dan Magoon.

They were joined by the dean Continued on page 7
Evacuation Day Banquet
Continued from page 6

of Boston’s elected officials the Honorable Clerk Michael Donovan, Emcee Councilor Mike Flaherty, Rep. Nick Collins, State Auditor Suzanne Bump and the Reverend Father Joe White. Attending at the early reception was also Senator Linda Forry and Registrar Stephen Murphy.

The SBCA will be going through a transition to new leadership in the coming months. The theme that South Boston is still home to pride, tradition, and patriotism was evident. As one attendee remarked South Boston has always been home to an “ethnic mosaic” as many immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Albania, and both eastern and western Europe landed here. It is fair to say that mosaic has been evolving over time.

Reaching back into a rich history, embracing a dynamic present and stitching together the realities of an urban future that will become a new mosaic, are characteristics of a vibrant neighborhood and are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are key elements to a healthy life. Thank you to the South Boston Citizens Association and to those who keep our community relevant.
Congressman Lynch Opens Art Competition

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (D-Boston) announced the opening of “An Artistic Discovery,” the 2017 Congressional Art Competition. This competition is open to all high school students who reside in the 8th Congressional District. The winner will have his or her work displayed in the United States Capitol for a full year. Additionally, there will be a reception in Washington, D.C., for all art competition winners and their families to celebrate the opening of the exhibit.

The annual Congressional Art Competition is now open for submissions and all entries must be received by Friday, April 28, 2017. Entries can be sent to Congressman Lynch’s Boston, Quincy, or Brockton offices and put to the attention of Araba Adjei-Koranteng.

“We have some wonderfully gifted and talented artists among the high school students in our Congressional District. I hope that every high school student with a passion for art takes part in this exciting competition,” said Congressman Lynch. “Last year, we had 14 outstanding entries, and I am so proud to have the artwork of last year’s winner, Jailton Teixeira of Brockton, representing our District in Washington, D.C. The judges praised his piece, ‘Future,’ for its wonderful draftsmanship with great attention to detail and a strong narrative. I look forward to viewing all of this year’s submissions and displaying one of them in the U.S. Capitol this summer.”

The Parade Delivered...
Continued from front page

seemed the same massive numbers of visitors still arrived. They just found themselves jammed into a much smaller area.

The parade itself was impressive as always with more than 140 marching units; said to be the second largest St. Patrick’s Day event in the country and the third largest in the world. Colorful, festive floats from a variety of organizations combined with talented marching bands. Some units travelled from far away states and impressed the throngs lining the route. Of course, there was the usual and very much appreciated heavy military presence mixed in throughout with every branch of the armed services represented. And it wasn’t just current military contingents marching. There were units in memory of historical conflicts from the Revolutionary War, the War Between the States all the way up to modern times – every one of them magnificent.

Among the most popular attractions in the parade were the very impressive Clydesdale horses strutting proudly along bringing cheers along the entire line of march. And certainly, another crowd pleaser was of course the big and very loud fire trucks, a favorite among the kids who are thrilled to see them go by. So once again, South Boston’s big parade was a hit, enjoyed by many and over for yet another year.
## Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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The annual BCYF Condon St. Patrick’s Senior Luncheon went off as planned last weekend and can be summed up in one word – Fun. Nearly a hundred area senior citizens, many sporting festive green wigs, sunglasses and light up earrings were treated to fantastic food from Alfredo’s Restaurant and Catering, some good music and dancing and lots of great company. Gift cards from Target and other valuable prizes were given out to attendees, as well.

This is an event that draws local elected officials and other dignitaries, who want to be part of the celebration and mingle with residents and get in on the party too. Among the officials who showed up were Boston City Councilors Mike Flaherty, Annissa Essaibi George, Council President Michele Wu, State Rep Nick Collins and Boston Police Area C Captain Mylet. Joining them were Community Service Officer Jake Manning, PAL Director Bill Stoddard, Mark McGonagle, Ed Flynn and Father Sousa from St. Vincent Church.

Enjoying themselves just as much as the large crowd of seniors on hand were members of the hard working BCYF Staff. Included

Continued on page 11
Senior Luncheon
Continued from page 10
were Bill Ryan from the Leadership Team, Regional Supervisor Cherie Cope and Condon Supervisor Barbara Kelly. All of them combined to set up and serve food and make sure that everyone was enjoying themselves.

Administrative Coordinator Joe Curran couldn’t have been more pleased with how everything turned out stating “Our Saint Patrick’s Day Luncheon is one of the Condon’s favorite events of the year – a very special time for our seniors. It was a lovely day had by all.” And that it certainly was.
The Traditions Continue

Evacuation Day Historical Exercises and Essay and Poster Competition

Here were 2 solid weeks of events highlighting the St. Patrick’s Day/Evacuation Day and all of them brought pleasure to people of every age. Two of the final events were of course the Essay and Poster Competition and the Historical Exercises held at Thomas Park. The Historical Exercises which is a long standing and cherished tradition and sponsored by the South Boston Citizens Association featured the ‘Laying of the Wreath, which is a ceremony and commemoration to the dedication of the first battle of the Revolution. Civilians and military alike stood at the attention during the wreath laying out of respect for those who helped win our nation’s freedom. As always, the impressive Color Guard was there to add to the solemn but proudly celebrated tradition.

Dignitaries in attendance were Mayor Marty Walsh, State Rep Nick Collins, City Councilors Michael

Continued on page 13
Historical Exercises
Continued from page 12
Flaherty and Ennissa Essaiba George, Ed Flynn (US Navy Retired), Bill Desmond: Commander of the Allied War Veterans Council, South Boston

Citizens’ Association President
Tom McGrath, Bernie O’Donnell – Former SBCA President, SB Historical Society’s Robert Allison and many other distinguished guests including Colonel Knox.

Though it was a very cold day, there were many school children in attendance representing every school in South Boston which is a wonderful way for young students learn about the proud history of our nation.

Winners of Essay and Poster Competition, all of whom showed tremendous talent, youthful enthusiasm and put a lot of time and effort into their work for this event are as follows:

Essay Winners - High School Level
1st Place - Alex Dimanno 10th Grade at Boston Latin School
2nd Place – Joseph Maiullari 10th Grade at Boston Collegiate Charter School
3rd Place – Timothy Smyth 11th Grade Boston College High School Image not present

Essay Winners - Grades 6 thru 8
1st Place – Mary McKay at St. Peter Academy
2nd Place – Laura Donovan at St. Peter Academy
2nd Place – Keara Wilbanks at South Boston Catholic Academy
3rd Place – Eddie Tirabasi at South Boston Catholic Academy
3rd Place – Alex Corsini at South Boston Catholic Academy

Poster Contest Winners
1st Place - Mya Donovan at Boston Collegiate Charter School
2nd Place - Adianna Acosta at JF Condon School

Most Creative
Ava McKunes at JF Condon School
James McFarland at South Boston Catholic Academy

3rd Place Participants
Gregory Matthews at South Boston Catholic Academy
Talia Scott at JF Condon School
Isabel Sheehan at South Boston Catholic Academy
Mario Blasi at Boston Collegiate Charter School
Julia Secher at South Boston Catholic Academy
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU17P0248EA
Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Estate of: Marion E Morani
Date of Death: 11/02/2016
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street,
Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Marian Lowd of Boston MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Marian Lowd of Boston MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve in an unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/30/2017. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Joan P Armstrong First Justice of this Court
February 16, 2017
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
March 2, 2017

Youth/Adult Community Dialogue About Violence Prevention and Medicine Wheel Productions Hand in Hand Exhibit

With an awe inspiring, artistic backdrop of Medicine Wheel Production’s Hand in Hand Exhibit and opening remarks from Boston Police Superintendent Randall J. Halshead – Night Commander, youth and adults will have an opportunity to share their views and have conversations with law enforcement officials about the problem of violence in the community and ways they can work together to prevent it. This event will take place on Tuesday March 28, 2017 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the Boston Center for the Arts – Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116.

The South Boston Community Health Center Youth Ambassadors Program is hosting this event in collaboration with Area C-6 Police officials, Medicine Wheel Productions, the South Boston Boys & Girls Club Keystone teens, the Fourth Presbyterian Church teens, the SB Action Center’s Youth Council and many other youth serving, non-profit agencies. Prior dialogues between youth and caring adults have been successful in offering attendees a forum to talk and learn about resources to deal with issues of concern such as substance abuse and violence.

The Youth Ambassadors program is a youth development program for South Boston youth ages 12-18. They receive leadership trainings and work on projects in the areas of community service, the arts and health- including substance abuse and violence prevention.

The Hand in Hand Project, a new model of inclusion created by Medicine Wheel Productions, uses a cultural action to help people move from resistance to reconciliation by creating public art together. The work explores and challenges the capacity to humanize the “other” in our lives. The result of this model is, hopefully, an understanding of our commonalities. Medicine Wheel Production’s focus has been on bringing police officers and young adults together in three hour workshops, where they meditate, reflect through writing, cast each other’s hands, share a meal, and have professional photographic portraits taken.

In addition to viewing the exhibit during the Youth/Adult Dialogue event on Tuesday March 28, Medicine Wheel Productions is pleased to welcome everyone to the Hand in Hand Exhibit at the Cyclorama @ the Boston Center for the Arts (539 Tremont St.) from March 27 - March 29th. This exhibit is free and open to the public from 10am to 7pm on March 27 - 28th and from 10am to 2 pm on the 29th.

If you would like more information about the Youth/Adult Dialogue event and the Hand in Hand Project please contact Mayra Rodriguez-Howard 617-464-7423 and Michael Dowling 617-268-6700.
DANNY PICARD: So, we all still have our eyes on the Malcolm Butler situation. And some people are just waiting for him to get traded. I actually don’t think he is going to get traded. But how do you think this is all going to play out?

MIKE GIARDI: Yeah, I do think he’s going to get traded. I would put the chances of a return to the Patriots pretty slim. I think the idea that people have thrown out about him taking the risk and playing under the $3.91 million tender and then hitting unrestricted free agency is a massive risk, especially when he and the New Orleans Saints had some good productive conversations and set up some parameters of a deal. So I think he has a pretty good idea of what the guaranteed money is in that deal, should he sign it. I think one of the delays here may be the compensation factor. Obviously, the Saints do not want to part with that 11th overall pick and then turn around and pay Butler $40-$50 million with $20 million-plus guaranteed. To make something like that happen, I think that’s what you’re looking at. And I also think this is a complicated sheet to draw up, and you’re doing it with an agent who’s never had to do anything like this before. So it’s probably a little bit more complicated than I think anybody was led to believe at the beginning.

DP: We’ll get back to the complication of this process, because when people tell me it’s a long process, I counter that by saying, well, it’s more of a difficult process. That’s how I would describe it, based on the things New Orleans would have to do to do to get Malcolm Butler. But before we get back to that, can we rule out this idea that there was some sort of handshake agreement that Butler was going to New Orleans as an eventual part of the Brandin Cooks trade? Can we rule that out?

MG: Yeah, I don’t really buy that. I think his name certainly came up in trade talks initially, but there was too much there. They’re not just going to cough up Brandin Cooks with the hope that it will help land them Malcolm Butler later on. I think that’s kind of nonsensical.

DP: Look, the first-round tender on Butler is not fair to the kid, but rules are rules. If I’m the Patriots, I don’t step back from that No. 11 overall pick. If the Saints and Butler do agree to a deal, if I’m the Patriots I say, “Well, the rules are the rules. You have to give us No. 11 overall.” And I would not step back and make some sort of trade that doesn’t involve that pick.

MG: I do not see them giving up that pick. I think the way the Saints are looking at this offseason, they’re saying to themselves, “With the 11th pick, we have an opportunity to get somebody who can really influence our defense and can be under our control for the next five years, and maybe we can send No. 32 overall back to the Patriots along with something else.” Getting Butler is getting a high-quality player, and all of a sudden, you’re getting two guys to influence a defense that has some pieces, but has not been able to consistently put it together. I know what the rules say, and I think this is part of the process of making this all happen. How do you make this work, and how do you satisfy the Patriots in this draft for this player, without giving up the 11th player?

DP: Is Butler truly unhappy, or is he just out there playing the game?

MG: Yeah, I think he’s unhappy. He goes back to last spring being unhappy with the contract. So I don’t think that’s necessarily any surprise. The point is, the guy played his ass off. He played in 99 percent of the plays. He played at an elite level. I just think he’s a really talented player. I just think that they’ve gone too far down the road with these conversations, and too far down the road of, “You did what? You gave Stephon Gilmore what?” I know I’m restricted and he’s unrestricted, but man, that just doesn’t seem right to me.” I think that those hurt feelings that some people say are patched up, I think they’re still very much real and I think there’s still a lot of emotion on his side about how this all went down.

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