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# Boston Sunday Globe

The weather  
Sunday: Cloudy, 45  
Monday: Cloudy, 30  
Details page 46

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SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1989

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## Therapist accused of sex abuse of clients

By Alton Bass  
Globe Staff

A leading Center Boston practitioner of holistic medicine and psychology has surrendered his medical license to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine following reports that he had sexually abused a number of women he was counseling.

A former medical colleague of Dr. Richard Ingrasci said Friday that he and his partners had asked Ingrasci to stop practicing and turn in his license, pending an investigation by the state into the abuse allegations. Ingrasci, a cofounder of Interface, the Watertown holistic education center, is well known for his work in using alternative forms of healing in treating cancer and other illnesses.

"After we learned of these complaints, we felt we had a legal and moral obligation to report him to the board," said Dr. Edward Chapman, a family physician at Turning Point Family Wellness Center, a Watertown facility where Ingrasci practiced until November.

"Rick has a big problem, and he shouldn't be working in psychotherapy," Chapman said, referring to Ingrasci.

Ingrasci of Newton, recently settled a subscriber suit in which a 37-year-old woman charged him with sexually assaulting her during several counseling sessions over a four-month period in 1986.

The woman, a freelance writer who asked that her name not be published, said she had gone to Ingrasci for treatment after being diagnosed with cancer. She said Ingrasci told her that sexual contact was necessary to cure her cancer.

INGRASCIA, Page 34



DR. RICHARD INGRASCIA  
Surrendered license

## INSIDE

**Personal best**  
Your Home, a special magazine section in today's Globe, highlights homes that reflect the personal styles of their owners. The 12-page section also includes features on home design, architecture, books and gardens.

**College try**  
Whether the dilemma is choosing a school, getting admitted or paying for it, students and parents preparing for college will want to study a special Learning section about the road to college. Page A1.

**Metal mettle**  
Only three years ago, Metallica was a commercially insignificant band. Since then, it has changed the face of heavy metal. Arts Etc., Page B1.



Eastern pilots walk on the machinists' picket line yesterday outside the Eastern Airlines Terminal at Logan Airport.

## Strike nearly paralyzes Eastern as pilots honor picket lines

By Bruce D. Butterfield  
Globe Staff

Striking Eastern Airlines machinists and pilots, honoring the picket lines, usually grounded the airline yesterday, snarling management attempts to maintain some skeletal service and leaving passengers stranded all along the East Coast.

Federal transportation officials are hunting for even more trouble tomorrow, when the Eastern strike threatens to spread as strikers begin picketing other airlines and commuter railroads.

Pickets are expected at commuter rail lines during the week in New York, Chicago and Boston. "We have to expand this strike, and we're going to expand it," said Wally Haber, senior general chairman of Eastern's union of the International Association of Machinists.

"We have to make it big enough to get President Bush's attention," Bush rejected a National Mediation Board request that he step in and order emergency mediation of the labor dispute on Friday, hours before 8,500 Eastern machinists walked out, triggering what is fast becoming the most disruptive airline strike in more than 30 years.

Eastern officials conceded yesterday that their plans to keep flying have been shattered. The airline said it hoped at best to get EASTERN, Page 21

## MBTA to add commuter buses if boycott spreads to Amtrak

By Mary Sitt  
Globe Staff

Commuter rail service into North Station and South Station faces the likelihood of a total shutdown tomorrow morning as Eastern Airlines' striking machinists threaten to picket rail lines served by Amtrak.

State transportation officials said yesterday they have prepared an emergency busing plan for tomorrow morning if a rail commuters into Boston should a spreading labor action paralyze MBTA stations operated by Amtrak.

James F. Daly, interim general manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, said at a news AMTRAK, Page 22

## Foster children caused fire that killed four, officials say

By Jerry Thomas  
Globe Staff

Three foster children preparing to run away from their Danvers home accidentally set a basement fire that swept through the house, killing four occupants and injuring one, fire and police officials said yesterday.

The victims of the fire included two other foster children and a family member, said yesterday the burning building after being held that not all her foster children had managed.

Fire officials said that shortly before midnight Friday the three children slipped to the dark basement, where they began packing their clothes and planning their escape under candlelight.

Within minutes, authorities said, the single-family, two-story house at 65 Mason St. was engulfed in flames and filled with thick black smoke.

"The cause of the fire was apparently three children with lighted candles," said Tom Freppart, a spokesman for the Boston Fire Department, who added that flammable liquids and paint stored in the cellar might have contributed to the rapid spread of the fire.

High fire and police officials FIRE, Page 42

## Cardinal at a turning point

After 5 years, influence in Rome raises hope, concern

First of two articles on Cardinal Bernard F. Law's first five years as Boston's archbishop.

By James L. Franklin  
Globe Staff

Five years after he was appointed archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Bernard F. Law has established a reputation as a defender of Catholic orthodoxy, becoming the nation's best-known advocate for conserving loyalty to the pope.

As a result of media attention, the respect of other bishops and his own enthusiasm for the role, the 57-year-old prelate is regarded by both liberals and conservatives in his church as a symbol of the restoration of traditional Catholic disciplines sought by Pope John Paul II.

Like the pope, he is a frequent traveler. He has visited Poland, Cuba, Mexico and Nicaragua, returned suddenly and secretly to Cuba last week and plans trips to Portugal and Ireland later this month. Official business often takes him to Rome — last month to help prepare a cathedral for proposed in 1985 to standardize church teaching worldwide and again this week to deliver one of the talks at an unusual meeting of the pope and 20 American bishops.

The cardinal is well known among the clergy and religious orders for his unannounced visits to the sick or bereaved, and he has quietly intervened to help defuse tensions at the state prison in Waukegan and to help secure a federal grant for homeless housing at Columbus Point.

## Antiabortion protests held in Brookline; 200 arrested

By Amy Callahan  
Contributing Reporter

BROOKLINE — More than 200 protesters were arrested yesterday morning during antiabortion demonstrations at three clinics on Beacon Street.

Pro-life advocates confronted the antiabortionists and ultimately outnumbered them at each location. One official called it the largest antiabortion demonstration and counterdemonstration here to date.

Singing religious and patriotic songs, the antiabortion demonstrators — most of whom said they are affiliated with the national Operation Rescue — draped the ground when police attempted to remove them from the entrance at the three sites.

Police handcuffed them and dragged or carried them onto police buses. Most of the protesters were charged with disorderly conduct and refused to be released on bail, police said.

At least two pro-life demonstrators were also arrested for disorderly conduct.

Yesterday's demonstrations, which took place within a 10-block stretch, were the third in Brookline in five months.

On Dec. 31, 75 persons were arrested. Page 40



Cardinal Bernard F. Law says Mass Friday in chapel at his residence.

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# Therapist is accused of sex abuse

## Practitioner of holistic medicine surrenders license pending state review

**INTEGRASI**  
Continued from Page 1

In several therapy sessions, she said, Ingraci fondled her sexually and massaged her in a procedure he called "vaginal rolling." Rolling is a deep muscle massage that is said to relieve psychological tensions, but several Greater Boston therapists said Ingraci is not part of any recognized procedure.

Two other former patients of Ingraci's said in interviews that he had sexually abused them after giving them mind-altering drugs, including one popularly known as Ecstasy, a substance now outlawed by the US Food and Drug Administration. One of these women, a 48-year-old psychiatric social worker, said she too had been referred to Ingraci after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

Both women who had been diagnosed with cancer also received conventional medical treatment for their cancer from other physicians.

Estelle Deach, a therapist who specializes in treating victims of sexual abuse, said she knows at least three other women who said they had been abused by Ingraci during therapy.

"In psychology, there is no validity in taking off a patient's clothes and having sexual activity with her," said Deach, an analyst.

Any sexual activity with patients is deemed unethical conduct by the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association and other professional organizations. Some states have made such sexual activity a crime punishable with a jail sentence and hefty fines, but Massachusetts is not one of them.

Only women who charge they have been forcibly raped by their therapists currently have recourse in Massachusetts criminal courts.

Researchers who have studied sexual relationships between therapists and clients there there to report, because patients often transfer longstanding feelings for their parents to their therapists. They say female patients in these situations often end up losing trust in the therapists, psychologists and men in general. One study found that 90 percent of the women who had sexual relationships with therapists suffered effects ranging from depression and difficulty trusting men to conditions requiring psychiatric hospitalization and suicide attempts.

One woman who said she had been sexually abused by Ingraci said she attempted suicide after

terminating therapy with him. Two other women said in interviews that they were emotionally devastated by their experiences with Ingraci and are only now beginning to recover.

"I felt violated, dirty and ugly inside," said a 38-year-old woman who lives in western Massachusetts and asked that her name not be published. "I kept blaming myself for having gotten myself into this situation, and after the experience with Rick, I felt awful about myself."

The woman, who has worked in the health-care field for 16 years, said she went to Ingraci for counseling in May 1981, when he had a private practice in Boston called Whole Health Associates. She sought therapy, she said, because her marriage was on the rocks and she felt miserable.

"I started out very shy, like he would put his hand on my arm when we were talking," the woman said. "At first, I thought he was just a warm person."

On the third visit, she said, Ingraci told her he was going to help her and told her to take all her clothes off. The woman also expressed surprise, only to be told by Ingraci: "Well, how do you think you do body therapy?"

During later Rolling sessions, the woman said, Ingraci put his hand up her vagina. In one session, she said, Ingraci gave her ketamine hydrochloride, an anesthetic that immobilized her physically. As the drug was wearing off, she performed oral sex on Ingraci, she said.

**Felt 'drowsy, spaced'**  
"I felt very drowsy and spaced, and I didn't care what was happening," the woman said she recalled.

Dr. Kathleen Megala, a Newton psychiatrist and member of the American Psychiatric Association's ethics committee, said the drug, known by the brand name Ketalar, is a general anesthetic used for minor surgery. She said she had never heard of it being used in psychotherapy and could not see any reason for it ever to be used in psychotherapy.

While in therapy with Ingraci, the health-care professional said,

she left her husband. She said she quit going to Ingraci in January 1982 after realizing how angry she was at him.

"He is a very charismatic, personable individual," the woman said in the interview. "In this area of study," referring to holistic medicine, "he is like a guru, and I had him on a pedestal. It was very hard for me to stop seeing him."

The woman who accused Ingraci of sexual abuse in a recent malpractice suit said that whenever she questioned the sexual nature of the therapy, he told her to trust him. She said he told her that having sex with him was an integral part of her cancer therapy.

**Said cancer "was about fear"**  
He said cancer was about fear and that if it ran away from him, it was running away from fear," she said. "The implication was that if he left, the cancer might come back."

In February, the woman settled her malpractice suit against Ingraci for \$15,000. She said she was settled for that amount because she was told by her attorneys that Ingraci had no malpractice insurance at the time he was counseling her and that all his assets were in his wife's name.

"I was not as fit for the money," the woman said. "I wanted him to acknowledge that he had done something wrong."

Ingraci, one of Greater Boston's best-known advocates of New Age values and healing methods, co-edited Interface in 1974. He also helped found the New Age Journal and was one of the organizers of Physicians for Social Responsibility. His work has been described favorably over the years in numerous accounts in The Boston Globe and other news media.

In 1983, Ingraci set up the Turning Point, a holistic health practice, with four other practitioners. In 1987, he founded WellSpring, a center in Woburn that offers meditation, visualization and other support services to people with cancer.

Chapman said Ingraci has resigned from Turning Point, WellSpring and Interface.

Chris Ribbo of the Globe staff contributed to this report.

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