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Monday, August 1, 2011
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Police: Too few cops for truck ban

► Mayor Menino floats plan to ban hazmat trucks from traveling through the Hub
► Proposal would send tankers on 31-mile journey to busy interstate ► State police already lack manpower in commercial vehicle enforcement section {page 02}

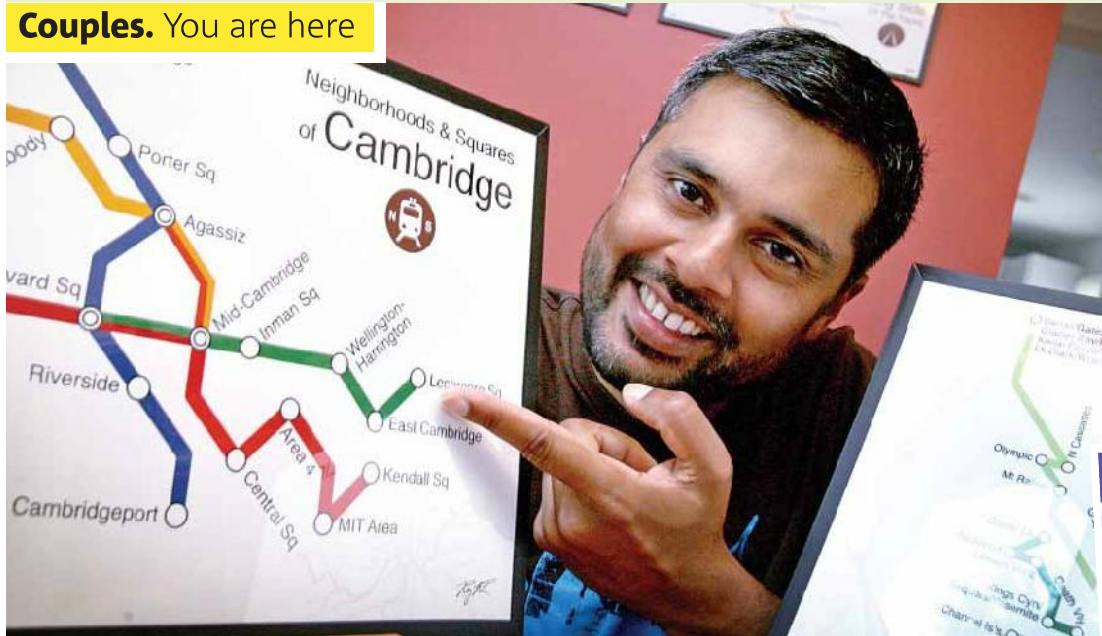
Sports

Welcome to the new NFL, rook!

- Patriots' draft class at huge disadvantage due to lockout
- No rush for rookie Cannon
- Ochocinco reports {page 14}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Couples. You are here



Interested in plotting the course of your relationship, MBTA style? Artist Rajiv Ramaiah of Somerville might be the man to see. Ramaiah takes the typical MBTA system map, complete with each stop, and reworks it using the personal information given to him. At first glance, the piece looks like a subway map, but the details tell a story specific to the couples' lives. {page 03}



Death flirts with disaster

Gibbard chats about his band getting its own near-'Death Cab' experience {page 07}

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NICOLAUS CZARNECI

Mapping out your love life, MBTA style

Line art

There are more than 90 pieces of art on the six transit lines of the T.

- ▶ **Blue Line:** "Currents," black and white ceramic tile, spans the walls at the Aquarium station
- ▶ **Red Line:** "Alewife Wayside," tile murals located on the wall alongside the pedestrian ramp at Alewife Station
- ▶ **Green Line:** "Celebration of the Underground," a mosaic mural installed along track of Park Street
- ▶ **Orange Line:** "Transcendental Greens," nine polychrome aluminum sculptures attached to columns in the lobby

- ▶ Somerville artist makes personalized MBTA maps
- ▶ Intimate topics are becoming creative expressions

Artist Rajiv Ramaiah likes to think of his artistic interpretations of MBTA subway maps as personalized, intimate inside jokes for couples to have.

Ramaiah, a woodworking sculptor and graphic designer, takes the T layout, complete with each stop, and reworks it using information provided to him by his clients.

"They give me about 15 to 25 points that are important in their lives — places they have worked, trips they have taken, moments they have celebrated on their own," he said.

Ramaiah then maps out

"I map out the important moments in peoples' lives and I redefine a style that [commuters] are familiar with seeing."

RAMAIAH

each moment to create an "interesting composition" that at first glance looks like a subway map, but details tell a story specific to the couples' lives.

"It's an ordinary everyday object mixed in with some intimacy," he said. Dubbed "Mapuccinnos,"

the idea first started when Ramaiah constructed a map covering different abstract topics from national parks to politics and crime in America, which he thought translated well into the stops on the MBTA.

A Somerville resident, Ramaiah is a Web developer and tech consultant during the day, but his passion for the arts — and maps — keeps him driven.

"It defines a style that people are familiar with seeing but in a different context," he said.

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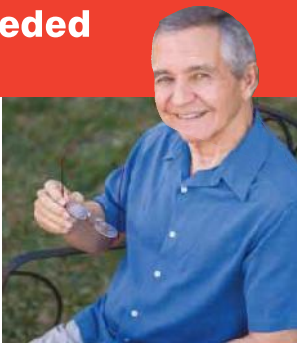


▶ Rajiv Ramaiah shows off one of his "Mapuccinnos."

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