

WCRB

WCRB – 99.5 Lowell, MA

WJMF – 88.7 Smithfield, RI

WGBH – 89.7 HD-2 Boston, MA

WCAI – 90.1 HD-2 Woods Hole / Martha's Vineyard, MA

Quarterly Issues and Programs Report

July 1 – September 30, 2022

Public Safety

WCRB provides comprehensive weather forecasts along with information about all special weather-related watches, warnings, and advisories that affect listeners in the region. Delayed school openings, school closures, and notices about weather-related event cancellations and venue changes are also included in this information. (In drive time, forecasts are given approximately four times per hour, with each report being about 30 seconds in length.) The station also provides serious traffic and transit alerts when the situation is of great significance to the listening audience.

News

Each Monday morning, airing at 2:00am and running for one hour, WCRB airs a program produced by WGBH News titled *Under the Radar*, an in-depth look at some of the week's stories that may have gone unnoticed in the news cycle. Local experts join as panelists with host Callie Crossley of GBH News. The topics covered and the guests interviewed for the shows are included in the following partial list of issues.

News Stories of Community Interest

Education/Youth/Schools

July 4: Ruth Simmons, President of Prairie View A&M University in Texas; Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of Harvard Radcliffe Institute, professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School, and professor of history at Harvard University; Sven Beckert, Laird Bell Professor of History at Harvard University and a Harvard presidential committee member. Harvard published its *Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery* report back in April, which detailed the institution's clear, historical ties to slavery. That included enslaved individuals on campus, funding from enslavers, and dozens of faculty — including past Harvard presidents — who were enslavers themselves. This was back in the 18th century, but the commercial aspects of slavery are linked in multiple ways today. To begin redressing the university's past involvement with slavery, Harvard has pledged \$100 million to create a "Legacy of Slavery Fund." Other universities, notably Brown, have also been engaged in the work of identifying ties to slavery and how the university benefited. How will higher education continue to investigate its slavery linked past? And will Harvard's admission move the conversation about higher education and systemic racism? (31 minutes)

Public Safety/Crime

This topic was not covered in this quarter of *Under the Radar*.

Government

July 4: State Senator Cindy Friedman, who filed the Quock Walker Day bill, which passed the state senate in February; Sean Osborne, founder of the Association of Black Citizens of Lexington. You might know that Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to abolish slavery, but you probably haven't heard how a Black man named Quock Walker was instrumental in making that happen. In 1754, the state census counted 4,500 enslaved people in Massachusetts – Walker, born to enslaved Black people,

was one of them. He self-emancipated at 28 years old, and his punishment for leaving was a brutal beating by his former enslaver. Walker took his case to court, where he won his freedom. The Walker legal victory became precedent leading to slavery's abolishment in the state. Now in 2022, Massachusetts is on track to make Quock Walker Day a state holiday, also known as Massachusetts Emancipation Day. Why has it taken so long to learn the story of emancipation in Massachusetts? And will Quock Walker become a household name? (26 minutes)

August 29: Erin O'Brien, associate professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, Boston; Jerold Duquette, associate professor of political science at Central Connecticut State University; Shannon Jenkins, Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and professor of political science. President Joe Biden announced on August 24th that he was enacting a student loan forgiveness plan, erasing \$10,000 for borrowers who make under \$125,000 a year and an extra \$10,000 for Pell Grant recipients. How will this impact the midterms? And will the GOP take control of Congress? And for local news, the Mass. Politics Profs. discuss MBTA woes, local elections, and the passing of the immigrant driver's license bill. (58 minutes)

Medical/Health

August 22: Dr. Mark Vonnegut, longtime pediatrician and author. Vonnegut's latest book, *The Heart of Caring: A Life in Pediatrics*, is both a love letter to the profession and a critical look at the problems plaguing the healthcare industry. What's the state of healthcare today, and how can it improve? (25 minutes)

Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

August 1: Darlene Lacey, author and curator of The Candy Wrapper Museum. New England Confectionery Company, or Necco, was the oldest continuously running candy company in the country until its closure in 2018. The company, which was based in Revere, Massachusetts, produced Clark Bars, Mary Janes, Candy Buttons, Sky Bars, Squirrel Nut Zippers, Sweethearts, and — most notably — Necco Wafers. The New England Confectionery Company shaped the economy and candy industry in our region and beyond. We're talking all things candy, confections, and the future of our region's sweets industry. (25 minutes)

Environment/Ecology

July 11: Bren Smith, Executive Director and co-founder of GreenWave, a nonprofit that supports ocean farmers; Jon Friedman, Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of Freight Farms, a Boston-based AgTech company that has spearheaded "container farming." Digging in the dirt and pulling up weeds is so last century. Whatever you thought about farming is being reimagined, with a new generation plowing the industry into the future. The tools and rural open spaces — which have so long defined traditional farming — are being left behind. Increasingly now, farms are in urban areas — with vertical farming taking agriculture to new heights, while ocean farming expands the industry's depths — and all in a sustainable manner. We listen back to our talk with two pioneers who are redefining the farm and expanding on the evolution of agriculture. (32 minutes)

July 25: Beth Daley, editor and General Manager of *The Conversation*, U.S.; Sam Payne, Strategic Communications Manager for 350 Mass and Better Future Project, a Massachusetts-based grassroots climate-action organization; Dr. Aaron Bernstein, Interim Director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital, and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. An unprecedented heatwave has swept Europe into a sweltering, deadly public health crisis. Here in the United States, President Joe Biden is soon expected to declare a climate emergency after he's spent

months trying — and failing — to push his climate agenda through Capitol Hill. Those stories and more on our Environmental News Roundtable. (32 minutes)

August 22: Maria Vasco, founder and CEO of Uvida, Boston's first zero-waste store; Simon Metcalf, a member of the Sunrise Boston hub and a high school teacher; Hayley Gambone, account manager at Divert, a Concord-based company working to eliminate waste from the retail industry. "Code Red" is the assessment of the alarming state of our planet's health, according to a United Nations climate change report, published this month. The catchy slogan "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" doesn't hold up to such dire news. And it's recently become clear that recycling is a glaringly broken system in our country. Only eight percent of plastic waste gets recycled in the United States, according to 2017 EPA report. So, what are we to do? Maybe it's time to start practicing "reducing" and "reusing" instead of "recycling?" If anyone is going to, it will be members of Generation Z, whose generation could someday become known as Gen-ZeroWaste, since so many are adopting zero waste practices. From viral zero-waste themed TikToks to internet-famous zero-waste bloggers, millennials and Generation Z members are popularizing the waste-free lifestyle movement — and local efforts here in Massachusetts are leading the way. (32 minutes)

Economy/Business

September 19: David Craft, assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital and in his free time leads foraging expeditions into the Boston wilderness; Maria Pinto, a Boston area writer for *Grub Street*, educator, and mushroom enthusiast; Tyler Akabane, known as "Mushrooms for my friends" on Instagram, owner of The Mushroom Shop in Somerville. The days of hunting and gathering may not be far behind us anymore. Foraging, modern-day gathering, has exploded in popularity as of late thanks to people like TikToker Alexis Nikole. It's a way to get in touch with the environment through species native to your area. We explore why this plant-based industry has taken off. (32 minutes)

Family/Morality/Religion

July 18: Grace Sterling Stowell, Executive Director of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth, or BAGLY; Janson Wu, Executive Director of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, or GLAD; Sue O'Connell, commentator and host at New England Cable News, NBC 10 Boston, and NBC LX, and co-publisher of *Bay Windows* and *The South End News*. Immediately after the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, LGBTQ rights advocates sounded the alarm, saying the conservative court "won't stop at *Roe*." At least one justice — Clarence Thomas — has confirmed their fears, with his statement that the high court "should reconsider" its decision on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Meanwhile, vandals smeared homophobic graffiti on the exterior of The Pryde, a LGBTQ senior housing complex under construction in Boston. And Hollywood's latest rom-com is set among a group of vacationing gay men. *Fire Island* offers a fresh take on a summer romance which celebrates queerness. Those stories and more on our LGBTQ News Roundtable. (31 minutes)

July 25: Marilyn Rivera, Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts' board Vice President and Pageant Director; Nimzay Vazquez, Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts's 2022 Pageant Queen; Lorna Rivera, Director of UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development & Public Policy. There will be plenty of traditional music, food, dance troupes, and parade floats at this weekend's Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts, back for its 55th annual celebration. The three-day event kicks off on Friday, July 29th at Franklin Park. The fourth-largest Puerto Rican festival in the nation honors the history of the largest Latino group in the state. (25 minutes)

August 1: Julio Ricardo Varela, President of Futuro Media Group, co-host of the *In the Thick* podcast, founder of *Latino Rebels*, and MSNBC opinion columnist; Tisay Zea, public radio reporter at GBH and PRX's *The World*. Boston Red Sox legend David Ortiz is now a Hall of Famer, cementing the legacy of

Latinos in major league baseball. Plus, a new Latino media start-up plans to buy eighteen right-leaning Spanish speaking radio stations — a potential media transformation that's riled up conservative lawmakers. And Black and Latino teachers will collect \$835 million through a New York discrimination lawsuit. Those stories and more on our Latinx Roundtable. (32 minutes)

September 12: Garrett Graff, journalist and historian, whose book *The Only Plane in the Sky* is the first comprehensive oral history of 9/11, and Director of the Aspen Institute's cybersecurity and technology program; Sam Sommers, experimental social psychologist, author, and professor at Tufts University; Dana Rose Garfin, trauma scholar and assistant professor at the University of California, Irvine. The events of September 11th, 2001, still ring clear in many of our minds — even 21 years after the attacks. But newer generations have little to no memory of that tragic day. Some were too young to remember, others not yet born. *Under the Radar* marked the anniversary of 9/11 by reflecting on how Generation Z members recognize an event that they learn about in history books. How does generational trauma affect those who didn't live through the event? (30 minutes)

September 12: Amaney Jamal, the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics at Princeton University, dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, former Director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, and author of *Race and Arab Americans After 9/11*; Malika Bilal, host of *The Take* podcast by Al Jazeera and former co-host of *The Stream*, a social-media led talk show on Al Jazeera English; Fatema Ahmad, Executive Director at Muslim Justice League in Boston. Once it was clear that the 9/11 hijackers were Muslim, American Muslims became targets 21 years ago. The pain and anger of the tragedy drove anti-American sentiment as well as ongoing suspicion and misconception of Islam. Has public perception towards Muslims shifted, as the 21-year marker of 9/11 approaches? In an edition for the 20th anniversary last year, *Under the Radar* examined the systemic and structural racism against Muslims that has long been embedded in the United States. (27 minutes)

This listing is illustrative of programs aired on WCRB and is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of programs responsive to issues of relevance to the community.