

YOUR WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SOURCE

Get your
last-minute
gifts

SEE
GIFT GUIDE
SPECIAL
SECTION

THE ALLSTON-TAB BRIGHTON TAB



Community Newspaper Company ■ www.townonline.com/allstonbrighton

DECEMBER 15 - 21, 1998

Vol. 3, No. 35 ■ 80 Pages ■ Two Sections 50¢

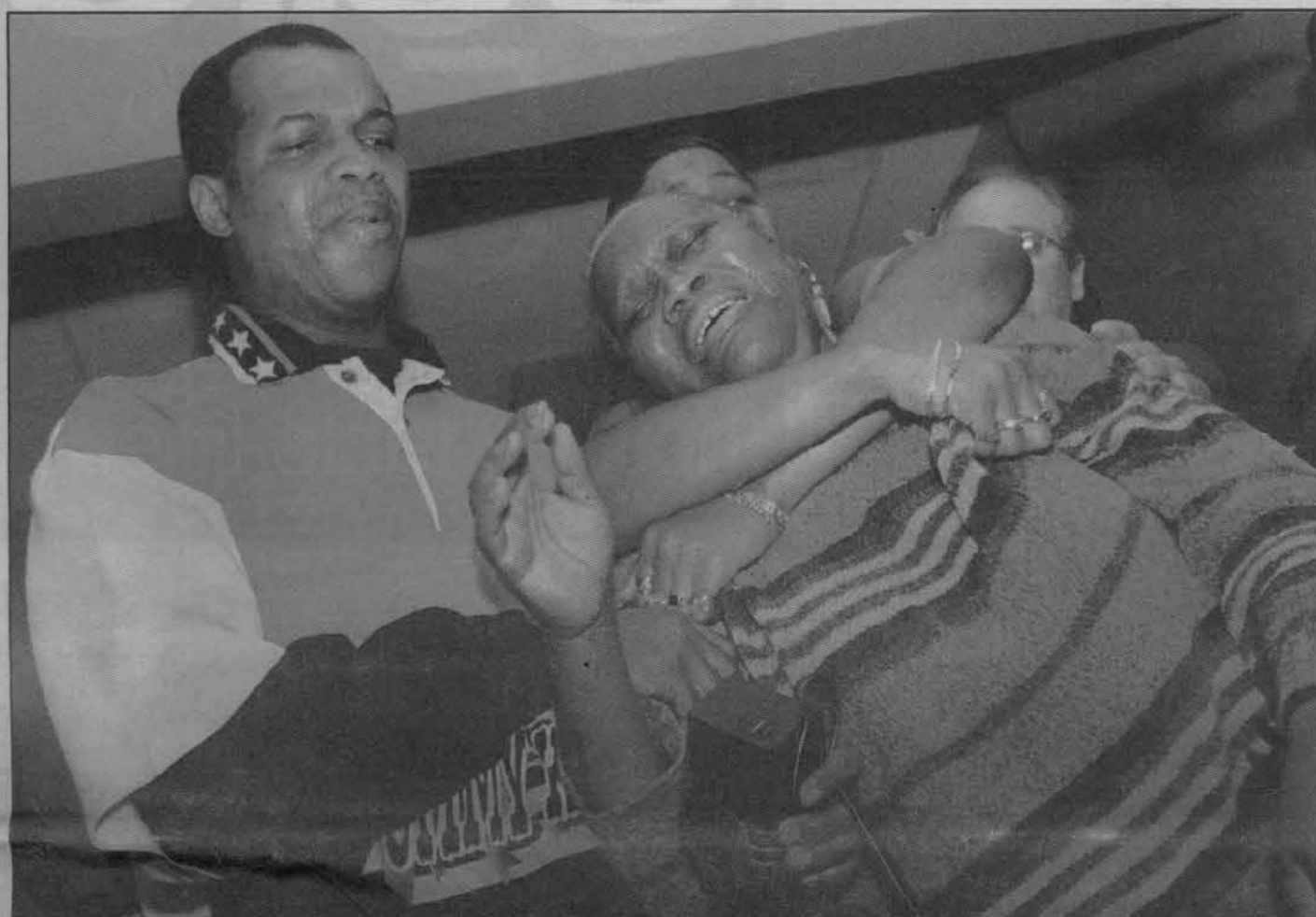


PHOTO BY JUREN SPARACIO

Kathleen Hester, mother of Allston murder victim Rita Hester, is comforted by her son, Darrell, left, and daughter, Eartha, after speaking to the crowd that assembled at Allston's Model Cafe for a candlelight vigil in Rita's memory. Rita Hester was murdered on Nov. 28.

'Rita' murder mystery still unsolved

Friends and family lament
death of Allston resident

By Debra Goldstein
TAB Staff Writer

The murder of Allston resident Rita Hester is still unsolved.

Rita, a transsexual whose birth name was William Hester, was stabbed to

death in her [redacted] apartment on Saturday, Nov. 28. Police have not yet named any suspects in the case, which is still under investigation.

Members of Boston's transgender community last week reacted with anger and sadness to the murder, and the media coverage that has accompanied it.

Friends and family mourned Rita last Tuesday at a funeral held near her childhood

home in Connecticut. A handful of vigils, benefits and rallies have been held in her memory over the last two weeks.

Most recently, a benefit concert with local bands and female impersonators was held in her honor last Sunday night at Jacques, a transgender club in Boston. Last Friday, Dec. 11, the murder was at the top of the agenda of activists who gathered outside the

MURDER, page 30

FROM PAGE ONE

'Rita' murder mystery still unsolved

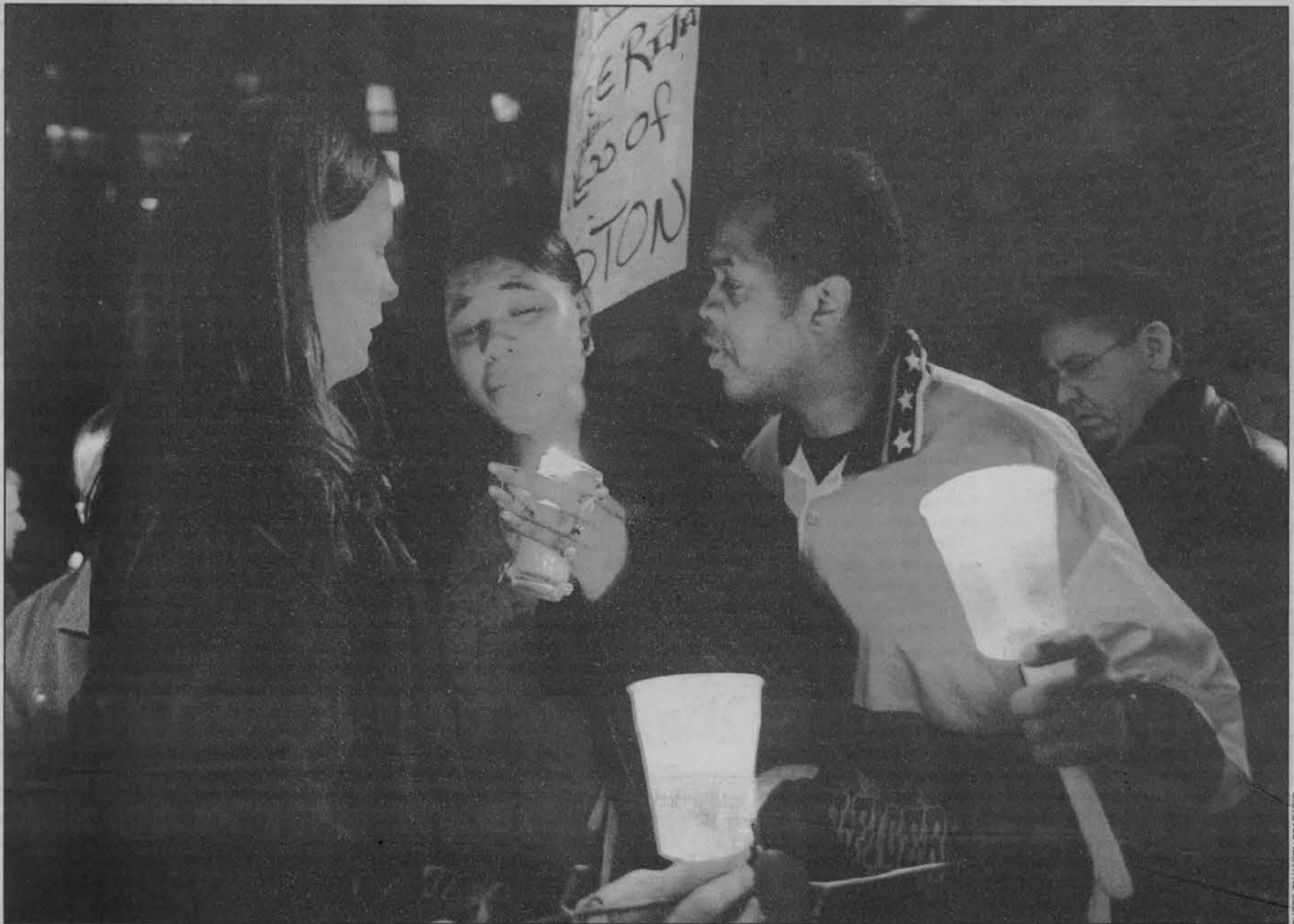


PHOTO BY KAREN SPARACIO

Eartha Hester, sister of Allston murder victim Rita Hester, is comforted by her brother, Darrell, and Nancy Nangeroni at a candlelight vigil in Rita's memory.

MURDER, from page 1

Boston Herald to protest the media's coverage of transgender issues.

During the week immediately following Rita's death, both the transgender and straight communities in Boston and Allston hosted vigils.

Page Masse, a friend of Rita's, expressed her frustration with not hearing anything about the ongoing police investigation.

"No one's heard anything, and it

still feels like nothing's going on," said Masse. "As of the other day there was still nothing new."

Police say the murder investigation is proceeding, but investigators are not ready to release any new information. The Boston Police Homicide Department is heading the investigation.

"Anything they are withholding is probably critical to the investigation," said Boston Police spokesperson Peter Norton. "They're not

going to give out pertinent information that might arouse the killer."

"It's very tough to reconstruct the crime scene," he added. "There's no moss growing under their feet. Homicide, they keep things close to the vest."

Rita's body was found in her first-floor apartment shortly after 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 28. According to police reports, there were no signs of forced entry into her apartment. She was stabbed several times.

Rita's friends both in and out of the transgender community complain that her murder has not received the same amount of media and police attention as other recent murders in Greater Boston. They point to the much-publicized manhunt that followed the murder of a 75-year-old woman in a Walpole park on Dec. 1.

"I see two brutal murders and I don't see equal coverage," said Brenda Wynne, a friend of Rita. □

"I see two brutal murders and I don't see equal coverage."

Brenda Wynne