

## Pressure of the press

**T**he Indians say you're supposed to spend the first 25 years of your life taking care of yourself, spend the next 25 years taking care of your children and the next 25 years taking care of society and civilization," said Kathryn Brookins, sitting in the kitchen of her Mission Hill home.

She is 55, and for a while now has been taking care of Mission Hill, which she says is wrongly portrayed as a dangerous ghetto.

Brookins, described as a courageous fighter by admirers and as an intimidating presence by detractors, is well known in the community for engaging in battles over anything that affects Mission Hill. Her latest endeavor is the Mission Hill News, a hard-edged newspaper that takes swipes at the nearby medical community, politicians and perceived injustices. It is so politically hot that Boston Against Drugs, which provided funding for the first issue, has pulled out.

(BAD's federal funds are not supposed to be used to support political literature, said the group's chairman Bob Fraser). Subsequent issues will be published as funding allows.



### **KATHRYN BROOKINS**

#### **Mission Hill**

**Vocation:** *Neighborhood gadfly*  
**Latest endeavor:** *Hard-edged newspaper that takes swipes at politicians, developers and medical community.*

**Philosophy:** *"Activism implies some sort of revolutionary fervor. I see myself as a conservative who has tried to maintain the traditions, not change them."*

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Clipped By:



**laura\_brookins**  
Sat, Aug 15, 2020