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# Southeast Asian <br> * Welcoming Ceremony hosted by the Cambodian and Laotian communities <br> 12:00 Noon Cultural Events <br> * Blessing of Boats <br> * Boat Racing Starts <br> * Health \& Environmental information Booths <br> * Cambodian \& Laotian Music, Dances, Games Stories, Fortune Telling Food and Crafts. 

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For centuries, in Southeast Asia, a Water Festival has been organized annually to celebrate the importance of water in all aspects of life. Water was and is important to agricultural production and the food chain of the Cambodian people. Water also has many spiritual uses in the Cambodian religion, which is Buddhism. November is their time to thank the water spirit and renew their hope and faith in their own economic prosperity. People of all ages from the cities, towns, and villages would gather at the riverbanks to sing, dance, watch boat racing and decorated boats float by. This Southeast Asian Water Festival seeks to build and revitalize, in Lowell, a community tradition with a focus on water that includes the environment. The Mekong River that runs throughout Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam will serve as a cultural backdrop for the Southeast Asian Water Festival in Lowell. Asian and non-Asian youth and elders will gather together along Lowell's Merrimack River to celebrate a vital tradition of one of this city's largest immigrant communities.

Join us August 23, 1997. Admission is free but a donation is always most appreciated!

For more information please call:
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association at (508) 454-4286
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By Car. Take the Lowell Connector from either Route 495 (Exit 35C) or Route 3(Exit 30N) to Thomdike St. (Exit5C). Follow Thomdike St. and takerightturn at second stop lighton Broardway St.. Take Broadway all the way and make rightturn at School St. Goover the bridge and takeleft turn on Pawtucket Blvd. Parking is available in Parking lot along Pawtucket Blvd between Pawtucket Dr. and Bedford St. at $\$ 3$ percar.

Commuter Rail. Service is available from Boston's North Station to Lowell's Gallagher Terminal. Lowell Regional TransitAuthority shuttles run daily (except Sundays) between Gallagher Terminal and downtown Lowell.


The Southeast Asian Water Festival is funded and supported by the: Theodore Edson Parker Foundabion, Lowell Cultural Council (with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, astate), Cambodian Mutual AssistanceAssociation, Centerfor Family, Work, and Community, Lowell Heath Department, New England Folkifife Center-a jointprojectof Middlesex Community College \& Lowel National Historical Park, Lao American Organization, Trairatanaram Buddhist temple, Glory Buddhisttemple, Wat LaoMxayaram, and Laotian temple of Massachusets.

## Testimony

## Linda K. Carlisle, Commissioner Department of Social Services

## (House Ways and Means Committee Hearing)

February 25, 1997

Good afternoon Chairman Haley and members of the committee. I am pleased to be here today as we begin the next budget cycle. This hearing is an opportunity for me to update you on the significant progress we continue to make at the Department of Social Services. I also view this as an important opportunity to ask you to join with the Governor and the Department as Massachusetts continues to chart new territory in child welfare nationally, and help me prepare the agency to meet the demands and challenges confronting the children and families of the Commonwealth into the next century.

Four years ago I spoke before this committee for the first time as the new commissioner at DSS charged with the enormous task of restructuring the agency, restoring credibility and moving the Department forward. At that time I referred to the agency as the Humpty Dumpty of state government; it had fallen off the wall and shattered into a hundred pieces. The agency and its staff were at rock bottom. But I had the best gift a new commissioner could have: the recommendations of the Foster Care Commission ably chaired by Attorney Gael Maghony. That document has guided much of our work for the last four years.

Last year a bi-partisan group of rep resentatives and senators, as well as members of the administration, met for several months to develop a consensus around additional changes and funding for DSS, particularly focused
on foster care and new options for out-of-home placement. We have been diligent in our efforts to achieve those bi-partisan goals, all of which are consistent with the recommendations of the Foster Care Commission.

Iam pleased and proud to say that, unlike poor Humpty who couldn't be put back together, DSS has regained its place as a national leader in child welfare, forging new ground with innovative, effective programs such as our domestic violence programs and Commonworks. We have been able to do so because there is a broad consensus in the state around the direction in which we are moving. We are among a handful of states in the forefront of the use of technology to improve casework with families. Beneath it all, we have built a solid infrastructure. Although it doesn't capture headlines, in solid infrastructure has meant a return to the basics in case practices: doing a solid investigation and assessment of family needs, seeing the children regularly and managing caseloads so that social workers are not overburdened and can truly support the families with whom they work.

The DSS story is not a fairy tale or nursery rhyme, but a real life story, where every chapter details new advances in dealing with troubled children and families, an overburdened staff and some of society's greatest ills. DSS provides services to more than 20,000 families with over 43,000 children on any day. We estimate that about 60 percent of these families have
domestic violence issues, 60 percent have substance abuse problems and more than half of all the mothers we work with had their first child as a teenager. The combination of these three societal problems is a powerful indicator of the families that will one day come into contact with a DSS social worker.

As a society we must take the long view. We must help break these cycles and raise children who do not abuse and neglect their own children when they become parents. Most of the problems we encounter are intergenerational, because most of us raise our children the way we were raised. The programs and initiatives we have undertaken over the past several years must be mindful of our responsibility in shaping many of the adults of tomorrow; we must work to break those debilitating cycles of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse and teen pregnancy. I urge you to help continue our work through passage of the Supplemental Budget request pending in the legislature and by supporting the funding levels contained in the Governor's House One budget.

## STAFF SUPPORT

## Caseload

DSS's work begins with trained, professional staff. My job as Commissioner is to make sure they have manageAble workloads, the tools to do the jobs (like phones and computers), and receive the guidance they need by establishing expectations and then measuring how well we do against those expectations. It is also critical that all state agencies work cooperatively to ensure that services such as mental health services, medical treatment, substance abuse treatment and day care are available to our families.

Chief among my greatest concern four years ago was the staff. By

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# King of the Mountain 

Modern Cambodia has its roots deep in the mists of time. As early as 4200 BC , there were people with the ability to make pots living in a cave in north-western Cambodia. Human bones found at Samrong Sen--settled since 1500BC--indicate that prehistoric Cambodians there resembled the Cambodians of today...

## By Jane Turner

An old Cambodian legend has it that the country's origins may be traced to the marriage of a foreigner and a dragon process-or nagiwhose father was the ruler of a waterlogged land.

One of several version of the tale holds that a brahman called Kaundinya, bearing a magical bow, was sighted one day off the Cambodian shoreline. The dragon-princess rowed out to meet the brahman but he shot an arrow in her direction which struck her boat. The act so frightened the princess that, out of fear, she agreed to marry the foreigner.

Kaundinya made a gift of clothing to her, and the dragon-king, for his part, "enlarged the possessions of his son-in-law by drinking up the water that covered the country. He later built them a capital and changed the name of the country to 'Kambuja'." Their marriage represented, among other things, a union of the sun and moon and the birth of the land of Cambodia.

While magical bows and dragon kings shed little light on actual history, the fable is an analogue for what historians do know about ancient Cam-bodia-and much of the rests on the lives not of dragon kings but of the Khmer people's ancient rulers. Much of what is known about ancient Cambodia related to the Khmer kings because the sources of information are inscriptions related to projects com-
missioned by them or by high placed officials.

Cambodia's is a complex, ancient history-a subject often shrouded in mystery and as misinterpreted and misunderstood as the nation's contemporary politics. While many of the secrets of its ancient past have yet to be reveal3d, legacies such as the magnificent Angkor Wat beg questions and further research for generations to come.

Perhaps the foremost question is, "where the original people of Cambodia come from?" No one knows for
 rslike their descen-dantswho lived in structures above the ground which they accessed using ladders. Early Chinese accounts describe
sure. There is much debate among academics as to whether the earliest arrivals were from India, China or South East Asia. There is even debate that pre-historic peoples migrated to the region.

Research has also failed to uncover which languages the original Cambodians used before the advent of an Indian-style alphabet around AD300. But, as far back as 2000 years ago, the people of Cambodia spoke languages linked to the Cambodian language used today-Khmer. Languages that are part of the MonKhmer family remain across mainland South-East Asia, on some of the islands and in certain parts of India, and
them as being "naked"; apparently fashion and exterior adornment did not figure prominently in those times. Later, around 1000 BC , they lived in fortified villages, laid out in circular fashion, sharing them with domesticated pigs and water buffalo. Rice and root crops were grown.
"Indianisation" is an important feature, lasting more than 1000 years in early Cambodian history, although it is not known how the process was triggered or operated at different times. However, in the first 500 years AD , Cambodia gleaned from India a system of writing, Sanskrit, a pan-

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theon, meters for poetry, a social hierarchy system that differed from caste, and fresh perspectives on everything from politics to architecture and aesthetics. As academic David P. chandler describes it in A History of Cambodia: "Without India, Angkor would never have been built, yet Angkor was never an Indian city, any more than medieval Paris was a Roman one."

The first few centuries AD in Cambodia are known almost entirely from the accounts of Chinese historiansthat is from the first century to the middle of the sixth century. The late eminent historian Geoge Coedes described the Cambodia of this time as the center of a Hinduised kingdom which controlled a large part of the peninsula and which the Chinese called "Funan". This word was a transcription of the Khmer phnom, meaning mountain, according to Coedes. "The title of these kings was significant, 'kings of the mountain', and it was after this title that the Chinese named the country."

More recently, historians such as Chandler and Paul Wheatley have suggested there is stronger evidence that the site of "Funan" was in fact a cult site rather than a major unified kingdom. While it is possible that chiefdoms in Cambodia occasionally banded together and called themselves a kingdom so as to send tributary goods to China, Chandler says: It is possible that Funan was thought to be a major kingdom because the Chinese wanted it to be one and later because French scholars were eager to find a predecessor for the highly centralized kingdom of Angkor, which developed in the ninth century."

One of the real achievements of the so-called Funan era is said to have been systematic irrigation. Buddhism from India also flourished during this time, and many of the Chinese sources describe commodities of trade, local custom and centralization. In the seventh and eight centuries AD , coastal
trading states like Funan dwindled or changed into settlements further inland, which Chandler says were known in the Cambodian case by the collective t e r m "Chenla". The wealth of these kingdoms came from wet-rice agriculture and manpower mobilization, and not subsis tence agriculture or trade.

Cambodia's great Angkorean age is usually dated between AD802 and 1431, although these are not hard and fast "beginning and end" pointers. The word Angkor comes from the Sanskrit word nagara meaning town and the state known today as Angkor, which arose in north-west Cambodia in the ninth century, had been the homes of Khmer speakers for several hundred years.

In the eighth century, Cambodia was divided in two, suggests George Coedes. Java had probably invaded and annexed part of the territory. In the dying years of the century, a prince with distant links to a past Cambodian regime returned from Java and proclaimed the independence of Cambodia from Java. He also forged the cult of the god-king which was to be the hallmark of Khmer civilization. This great king, known as Jayavarman

II (802-850), installed himself over time in four capitals north of the Grand Lake Tonle Sap. After 48 years of a rocky reign, during which time he unified and pacified Cambodia, Jayavarman II died near Rolous in 850 . He had paved the way for a line of kings in the Angkor region for the next 600 years.

His son Jayavarman III (850-877) and his nephew Indravarman (877889) remained at Rolous. Later, Yasovarman, Indravarman's son, moved the capital to the north-west, calling it Yasodharapura and having the vast Baray Oriental basin dug in the vicinity. King Jayavarman IV abandoned this site in 921 and returned to Angkor. He built a new capital at Koh Ker, distinguished by towering, decorative monuments. But in 944, Coedes recounts, his successor

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all accounts, they were the glue holding DSS together, yet caseloads were high, morale was low and professional development was not at the caliber it should have been for an agency like DSS. Thanks to the Governor and the legislature, since FY'93 there has been an increase of nearly 300 social workers and about a dozen lawyers. DSS spending in the social worker account has increased from $\$ 54.2 \mathrm{~m}$ in FY 90 to a projected $\$ 84.4 \mathrm{~m}$ in FY 98. I am pleased to report that for the first time in the history of DSS, the statewide average social caseload has been below $18: 1$ for the past six months. This is a trend we hope to continue. Our next goal is to see that no individual worker has a caseload higher than the standard. We think we can achieve this within the cur-
rent staffing levels. This budget marks the first time that I have not requested additional staff.

## Worker Safety

Hand-in-hand with caseload reduc tion is the need to provide staff with the safest work environment possible. We were all shocked and saddened to learn of the murder of Linda Sylva, an investigator in our Cape office in September. Although her killer has not been apprehended, and the motive cannot be linked to DSS at this time, her death has unleashed pent up anxiety among staff about their safety and prompted a renewed focus on worker safety issues. DSS staff works in the shadow of violence everyday. They go places some police say they will not go without backup. It is crucial we give them the tools to increase their personal safety as they
labor on behalf of the Commonwealth. Governor Weld filed a $\$ 4.8$ supplemental budget request in January for various safety items for DSS. Such items include bullet resistant glass in reception areas, beepers, cellular phones worker safety training, telephones and other items. We hope you will look favorably on this request as soon as possible. Let's not wait until another tragedy occurs. Many of these items are one-time expenditure. However, House One also included the annualization of items that are not onetime expenses.

One item in the supplemental bud get I would like to highlight is the need for a new phone system. This is certainly not an exciting request. But not only is it a safety issue be-

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Rajendravarman consolidated Angkor as the site of the royal court and it remained the home of Khmer kings from then on.

After the reign of Jayavarman V (968-1001), the builder of Banteay Srei and Takeo, the Cambodian kingdom passed to a dynasty that was, almost exclusively, of foreign blood. The work of Coedes reveals these to be Suryavarman I (1002-1050), a "conquering king from the valley of Menam", Udayadityavarman II (10501066), the builder of the Baphuon,; and Harshavarman III. In the year 1080, Jayavarman VI, unrelated to previous kings of the same name, installed himself with the aid of Brahman Divakara as a king of a new dynasty - one which was to survive until the $14^{\text {th }}$ century.

One of the undisputed great kings of Cambodia was Suryavarman II, ruler from 113-1150, who was responsible for the building of Angkor Wat and whose image appears there on the bas-reliefs. "His reign lasted 40 years and was full of daring conquests,
which led for a time to annexation of part of Champa. There followed a period of fresh troubles during which the Chams revenged themselves by invading and destroying Angkor. They were finally driven away by Jayavarman VII, the last great king of Cambodia, who was crowned in 1181, and who not only reconstructed the capital but added an astonishing number of buildings," Coedes writes in his book Angkor.

Crowned in 1181, Jayavarman VII devoted himself to the teaching of Mahayana Buddhism-the form still practiced in a great part of northern

Asia. But after his death, subsequent Cambodian kings were threatened by the Thais, who had established themselves in the Menam valley. This was the beginning of the end of an era for Cambodia. The Khmers' decline was not rapid, however, and it was not until the $15^{\text {th }}$ century that the court left Angkor for Phnom Penh. The present capital is near what some believe to have been the ancient capital of Funan, and of pre-Angkorean Cambodia.

Jane Turner is an Australian journalist working in South-East Asia.



Community Teamwork, Inc., Greater Lowell's community action agency, offers a wide variety of services for incomeeligible residents, including (but not limited to):

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## Khmer Traditional Music Class at CMAA

For the last five months, the Cambodian Mutual Assis tance Association ( CMAA) has had the fortune to begin focus-

their commitment, skills and willingness to volunteer to help their community. Peer Leaders are involved in organizing, planning and educating their younger peers and the community as a whole about health issues, youth issues, and other activities including : Peer Counseling and Environmental Project, Pregnancy Prevention Education and Conferences Workshop Planning. Recently we has just began the Cambodian Traditional Music Class for the 'at risk'
ing intensively once again on our youth issues, problems and successes within our community. We are very greatful for the constant support of the Office of Refugees \& Immigrants (ORI), especially in the youth aspect. With the leadership of Mr. ARN CHORN-POND as a youth partner and coordinator for the CMAA, the Youth Corps / Peer Leadership Program has now began to be very active again, and we are
youths. The Peer Leaders are also helping in organizing events like fundraising parties for youth projects and helping to plan the Summer School for the CMAA in the hope to keep the Cambodian youths busy, having fun and become productive citizens to their community. If you like to be involved, please contact Mr. ARN CHORN-POND at the CMAA. Tel \# is
( 508 ) 454-4286. Thank you ! very thankful !

The Youth Corps/ Peer Leadership Program involves 15 to 20 Cambodian youths who are currently in High school and who would become the 'role models' to the younger Cambodian youths within the community by


## Continue from page 17

cause our phones are so antiquated that we lose a large number of calls each day, but it is also a service issue as teachers, therapists, doctors and foster parents find it nearly impossible to reach their social workers. Often it is thought that DSS staff is unresponsive, when in fact there is no good system for even receiving calls or taking messages. The equipment we have in most DSS offices is not even made anymore. We have been relegated to snapping up phones no longer used by other state agencies that have upgraded their systems in order to augment our supply of phones. We need to invest in something that sounds mundane, but is the lifeblood of our work. Please support a new telephone system for DSS.

## Professionalization of Staff

The work DSS social workers do is one of the most difficult jobs in the Commonwealth. All of the most horrific societal issues from domestic violence and substance abuse to chronic neglect and child abuse converge at DSS. It is essential that staff have the most up-to-date training to deal with these problems. In the past year we have totally revamped the preservice training program for new social workers, implementing a competency based training program. This pre-service program will form the basis for licensing all DSS social workers in the future as required by the Legislature.

We have entered into an agree ment with the Salem State School of Social Work to create the Child Welfare Training Institute beginning in September of 1997. The Institute will oversee all in-service training for staff and foster parents, including credentialing, at sites throughout the state and work in conjunction with other schools of social work-both public and private; a professional edu

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## NEW HOSPITAL PROVIDES FREE CARE IN PHNOM PENH

Sihanouk Hospital Center for HOPE opened on December 10, 1996 in Phnom Penh to provide free medical care for the people regardless of race, class, or financial situation.

The hospital is already seeing 300 outpatients a day and is soon to begin 24 hour emergency services.

We need your support and financial assistance to begin inpatient and surgical care by mid-1997. Those in Cambodian who have suffered so much and still so desperately lack the medical care they need will benefit directly from your donation.

An international staff of doctors, nurses and technicians have been assembled by HOPE worldwide. The plan of hiring and training 25 Cambodian physicians and 200 other hospital staff has begun.

Through a number of corporate and private donors the construction of the hospital has been completed and outpatients are being served. HOPE worldwide will provide the administrative experience to run this landmark training facility and needs $\$ 1.5$ million annually to fund on-going hospital expenses to allow equal access to health care for all Cambodians.

HOPE worldwide is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Tax deductible donations should be made to HOPE worldwide - Cambodia Hospital, at 148 E. Lancaster Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087 USA phone 610/254-8800.

If you can be of any assistance to the Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE or would like further information please complete the form below and sent to the address below.

Name


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## SHANOUKHOSPITAL CENITERFORHOPEOPENEDONDECEMBER10, 1996INPHNOMPENH

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## (Testimony Linda K. ...)

cation program for social workers who wish to obtain their MSW; and the field placement program for all students doing internships at DSS.

This is a very exciting that will en hance the training we will be able to do, increase the number of social workers with advanced degrees and allow us to receive federal reimbursement for the project. Although this program is federally reimbursable, we need the commitment from the Legislature to move forward. In addition to the work we are doing with Salem State, I have convened a task force to work with the schools of social work throughout the state to strengthen the relationship between DSS and the schools, thereby improving the job readiness of our clinical staff. It is expected that this work can also help us undertake additional research to better understand how we can assist families. This task force, chaired by

Loretta Kowal, will provide me with great insight into how we can enhance collaboration with the public and private institutions that prepare staff for this line of work.

## FamilyNet

FamilyNet, our major technology initiative will completely revolutionize the way we do our work and allow workers to spend more time with families as opposed to pads, pencils and desks. DSS has not upgraded from its monster mainframe system that was developed in the early 80 's. Thanks to Rep. Angelo Scaccia and Speaker Finneran, we are well on our way to implementing a new computer system that capitalizes on 75 percent funding from the federal government for a limited period of time.

Part of the federal Statewide Auto mated Child Welfare Information System, FamilyNet will replace case records stored in green three ring binders with an online, interactive system. It will streamline casework, dra-
matically reduce paperwork and speed efficiency of document transmittal between offices. The system will help match waiting children with prospective foster and adoptive parents as well. Part of the design also includes interfaces with other state agencies, which will result in better service to our families. For example, we will be able to link up with Medicaid's computer system to find out if a child is already enrolled in an HMO and who is his primary physician. This project, in development since 1994, is set to become operational in August. It is one of the most exciting technological advances in state government today. This project has been in large part funded through a federal match program. the Governor's House One includes $\$ 3.21$ million to operationalize FamilyNet. This funding is critical to our ability to keep the system going once the federal match expires. The federal dollars support development but not ongoing costs of running the system.
(Continue to next issue)

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273 Summer Street Lowell, MA 01852 (508) $\mathbf{4 5 2}$-3383





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## JOIN US AT THE RIVER:

# Share in the excitement of the First Annual Southeast Asian Water Festival Saturday, August 23 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 

## $\$ 5,000$ Includes:

- Sponsorship of our traditional racing boats.
- Recognition as a primary sponsor in all publicity.
- A full page in the day's Program Guide.
- A full booth at the Festival.
- Sponsorship of a two-person racing team.


## \$2,500 Includes:

- Sponsorship of the Program Guide for the Festival and a full-page ad on the back on the front cover.
- Recognition as a primary sponsor in all publicity.
- A full booth at the Festival.
- Sponsorship of a two-person racing team.


## $\$ 1,000$ Includes:

- Sponsorship of one of the Festival's major performers.
- Recognition as a sponsor in the Program Guide.
- A full page ad in the Program Guide.
- A full booth at the Festival.
- Sponsorship of a two-person racing team.


## $\$ 500$ Includes:

- Recognition as a sponsor in the Program Guide.
- A half page in the day's Program Guide distributed to more than 10,000 visitors.
- A half booth at the Festival.
- Sponsorship of a two-person racing team.


## $\$ 250$ Includes:

- Recognition as a sponsor in the Program Guide.
- A half page ad in the day's Program Guide.
- A half booth at the Festival.
- Sponsorship of a two-person racing team.


## $\$ 100$ Includes:

- Recognition as a sponsor in the Program Guide.
- A quarter page ad in the Program Guide.
- Sponsorship of a two-person racing team.


## The Southeast Asian Water Festival Saturday, August 23, 1997

YES! I would like to be a sponsor of the Southeast Asian Water Festival. Enclosed is my contribution of:
$\$ 2,500$ $\qquad$ \$1,000 $\qquad$ $\$ 500$ $\qquad$ $\$ 250$ $\qquad$ $\$ 100$ $\qquad$ Other $\qquad$
YES! I would like to offer the following goods or services to the Southeast Asian Water Festival:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
How would you like to subscribe to our bi-monthly magazine, "Khmer Lowell"? Would you like to put out an ads to more than 45,000 of our readers.

We offer low subscription and ads rate. Please call now for a quote of your ads. The yearly subscription is only $\$ 25.00$. Your subsription and advertisement money not only helping us to produce this bilingual magazine, but also supporting our work of serving the Southeast Asian community members who may otherwise be left out of the system and have no place to go for help. If you haven't subscribed to "Khmer Lowell", please call and subscribe now! "Khmer Lowell" provides comprehensive information about community issues, progress, economic, education, recreation, and more! It also provides you information about Cambodia as well.
"Khmer Lowell" is a monthly, bilingual magazine published collaboratively by the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc. (CMAA), the Cambodian American Voter League (CAVL), and the Khmer Cultural Institute (KCI). The magazine is widely distributed to Cambodians and non-Cambodians throughout the New England areas and the United States.

We will be delighted to serve your needs! Please call us at (508) 454-4286; fax \# (508) 454-1806, or reach us by -E-mail at CMAA@worldnet.att

Sincerely,

Samkhann Khoeun
Executive Director


INSURANCE AGENCY

Philip Sopheap Muth Representative

Po.Box 1744<br>77 E. Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01853

## 

 ถีเกาก George Tsapatsaaris, Superintendent of Lowell School



George N. Tsapatsaris Superintendent

April 25, 1997

Mr. Samkhann Khoeun
Executive Director
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
125 Perry Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852
Dear Mr. Khoeun:
Your communication of April 11, 1997 regarding the establishment of the Cambodian language as part of the world language program at Lowell High School was presented to the members of the Lowell School Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting of April 23, 1997.

The Committee voted to place your communication on file pending further discussion with the Headmaster.

Sincerely.
(f)

Superintendent of Schools
GNT/jc

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS<br>Henry J. Mroz Administration Office<br>155 Merrimack Street

Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

## Tel: (508) 937-7647 <br> Tel: (508) 937-7614

Fax: (508) 441-3761



Feb. 27, 1997 -Meeting with state Legislators regarding to benefit cut to legal immigrants and its impact on SoutheastAsian communities at the State House, Boston, MA.
From left to right: Representative Kevin Murphy, Samkhann Khoeun, Executive Director of CMAA, Pahim Kay, Caseworker of Family Support Program of CMAA, Dr. Jeff Gerson of Umass Lowell, Thy Chey, Elderly Program Coordinator at CMAA, Judith DickermanNelson, Director/instructor of Young Parent Program at CMAA, and Chuck Sarth, Chairman of Cambodian American Voter League.

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T'he Department of Social Services' provides services to families and children living in Massachusetts. The mission at DSS is to support and strengthen families, an to keep families together whenever possible. The Department offers a full range of services which include counseling, day care, and parent aides. DSS is also the agency mandated to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect. When families can not provide the necessary care and protection for their own children, the Department intervenes to ensure children's safety.
$\mathbf{W}^{\text {hen children need to be placed }}$ outside of their families home, this is when foster care is utilized. DSS first attempts to place children with family members, when none are available or appropriate, we than place children in foster homes. DSS does try to place children in their own ethnic background, but this is not always possible because of the shortage of homes we have available. DSS also tries to keep sibling groups together, and we do try to avoid making children change school districts. All of these factors are considered when trying to find a foster home. None of these factors are possible sometimes because of the shortage of foster homes.

We are appealing to the Greater Lowell community in trying to open new foster homes. The more foster homes we can have available, the better chance we will have as an agency to place children in appropriate foster home setting. If you want more information on how to become a foster parent please contact:

Susan Tucke or Michael Ben Ho @ 452-8970. The Lowell DSS office is located at 33 E . Marrimack St. This office services Lowell and the seven surrounding communities.


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 c/o CMAA - 125 Perry Street Lowell, MA 01852
Tel: (508) 454-4286; Fax (508) 454-1806 E-mail: CMAA@worldnet.att

Khmer Lowell Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc. (CMAA), the Cambodian American Voter League (CAVL), and the Khmer Cultural Institute (KCI). We welcome your contribution. Send us your articles, poems, short story, opinion column, political and social commentary or any kind of art work such as cartoon that you wish to be published. All articles should be limited to $800-1200$ words. Please include your name, address and phone number.

We reserve the right to edit all materials for space and contents suitable to Khmer Lowell's philosophy. For articles that we can not printed for any reasons whatsoever, we bear no responsibilities and/or are responsible to send them back to the writers if writer names and address are not provided.

No part of Khmer Lowell may be reprinted or reproduced without our written permission. Subscription rate for the first year (6-7 issues) is $\$ 25.00$ (USA); $\$ 30.00$ (Canada) and $\$ 45.00$ for all other countries.

All advertising inquiries should be directed to Samkhann Khoeun, Vuthy Vann, or Thirith Hut. Copyright (c) 1997 by KhmerLowell Magazine.

## KhmerLowell Newsletter

c/o CMAA - 125 Perry Street, Lowell, MA 01852
Tel: (508) 454-4286; Fax: (508) 454-1806
E-mail: CMAA@worldnet.att

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Vuthy Vann

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* ธธนโิติกษุธูเา



* ธธกี่แை $\quad \Rightarrow$ BANKRUPTCY
$\Rightarrow$ AUTO ACCIDENT
$\Rightarrow$ WORK INJURY
$\Rightarrow$ CRIMINAL
 P. O. Box 478

Lowell, Massachusetts 01853

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 JAMES C. DRAGON


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[^1]:    Send to:
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