

ADVOCATES

First, we listen ...

"Each of Us Is a Person First"

By Jack Lee, 3rd Prize Winner

The Pioneers of Lexington, Massachusetts

"There was a shot heard 'round the world.."

"It all started here"

Well.....

Unlike the minutemen of days past, the men did not bear arms. Two men were pioneers or minutemen of a different type.

Jack Lee and John Long, who reside at the renovated printing press building close to the inviting downtown Lexington area, set out on a personal journey.

The duo, living at 7 Oakland street, were on a mission.

Together, they set out to help make an environment where all concerned could live side by side harmoniously in a friendlier community in which they now live.

John Long, coming from his hometown of Lowell, MA, and Jack Lee, coming from the neighborhoods' of Medford, MA, had kind of, let's say, a culture shock coming to a town so rich in our heritage; the beginning of the great States that are United.

John and Jack, always with a smile and a coffee near by, sat in the downtown area and still do. In time, they became an icon to the people of the town. The pair can be found doing weird stuff, like enjoying an ice cream at Rancatore's when it's 30 degrees or sitting in the baking sun when it's 100 degrees.

Throngs of people are friendly now, are outgoing, they go out of their way for the two men. On a snowy day in this past January, the two men went to their favorite watering hole, Dunkin Donuts. The staff there are like sisters and brothers. They have taken the men under their wings and are very concerned with them. This town has become a

warm, friendly, community of people that truly care. Whereas before, it seemed as though most of them would turn their heads, literally, and ignore the men.

The staff at Dunkin Donuts came over to the Douglas House when Jack was in the hospital to find out his condition, a point of caring on behalf of the people of D&D. They go so far as to personally open the door when we arrive and depart. They hand us the coffees, secure them in between my fanny pack and my stomach so that they don't spill. They also hand them to John. They have been known to bring the coffees out when we were considerate enough not to want to wet their floors in a snowstorm. The workers at Dunkin Donuts are absolutely always there.

John and Jack shopped like any other person willing to shop. They went into establishments whether they bought or just browsed, they went to the barber shop, to the movies, etc. Just saying "hello" to passers-by was frustrating for the two men because they have "peech simpediments" (joke - get it?) and their appearance looks out of sorts. But both men persevered. One of them, we won't say which of them, even swore a few times.....#@%^&*#!!!!!

People say they're crazy and they probably are, but the fact that they're willing to do something of this nature is, to me, having the utmost intestinal fortitude.