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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

The Onion pokes fun at Mass. loss of House seat

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 23, 2010 12:04 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

An Allston library has single-handedly saved the rest of the state from being embarrassed on the nation's political stage, according to the satirical news outlet the Onion.

In an [intended-to-be-humorous](#) brief posted Wednesday on the weekly's website, the Onion declares that [instead of losing a US House seat](#) as a result of below-average population growth in the latest Census figures, Massachusetts will gain an 11th seat. It turns out that the [Honan-Allston branch](#) of the city's public library system has a large enough homeless population to justify becoming its own congressional district, pending state certification, says "America's Finest News Source," citing an announcement Tuesday from federal Census bureau officials.

The Onion quotes an invented Census bureau spokesman Mark Higgs: "In addition to the destitute citizens who have long sought shelter here, the ongoing recession has forced hundreds of newly homeless Americans to seek refuge among the library's shelves."

"The nonfiction section alone is in desperate need of a representative voice in the U.S. Congress," adds the made-up press person.

The publication reported Wednesday that leading candidates for a "more-toilet-paper-in-the-ladies'-room platform" have emerged.

The Allston branch opened its N. Harvard Street location in 2001 and was renamed two years later after the neighborhood's [late City Councilor Brian Honan](#).

Employees there referred press inquiries about the Onion story to the Boston Public Library's communications office, which was not immediately available to weigh in Thursday morning.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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Cauliflower	1 head	1.99	10
Cheese	1 lb	1.99	10
Chicken	1 lb	1.99	10
Eggs	1 dozen	1.99	10
Flour	5 lb	1.99	10
Ground Beef	1 lb	1.99	10
Ham	1 lb	1.99	10
Ice Cream	1 lb	1.99	10
Macaroni	1 lb	1.99	10
Milk	1 gallon	1.99	10
Pasta	1 lb	1.99	10
Peanut Butter	1 lb	1.99	10
Salmon	1 lb	1.99	10
Shrimp	1 lb	1.99	10
Steak	1 lb	1.99	10
Sweet Potatoes	1 lb	1.99	10
Turkey	1 lb	1.99	10
Yogurt	1 lb	1.99	10

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