

## "Things That Go Bump In the Night"

October 6, 2002

In the old Anglican prayer book, there was an evening prayer for protection against "things that go bump in the night". Well, we had a recent occurrence here in Wellesley of something ... or should I say someone who went bump in the day. Here's the story fresh off of the "Police Log"

"On Sept. 9 at 7:30 a.m., a man walking along the Brook Path reported being intentionally bumped by another man. The walker and the suspect were reportedly walking toward each other when the suspect allegedly threw a shoulder into the other man's chest saying, "You never move out of my way." The identity of the suspect is unknown, but police have said they will step up surveillance of the Brook Path."

Now, unless there is more to this story than meets the eye, what we seem to have here is an immature reaction to a lack of basic courtesy. Unfortunately, good manners and basic courtesies are going the way of the proverbial dinosaur and that makes for a sorry state of affairs. The lack of basic manners is appalling in our society and the logical consequence of this is what happened on the Brook Path.

I love the Apostle Paul's words ... "Honor one another above yourselves ... in humility consider others better than yourselves ... each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." And of course Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Can you imagine what would have happened if these two men had practiced those words ... they would have been trying to get out of each other's ways rather than resorting to "I'm not going to move for you!" Sigh ... things that go bump in the day.