

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

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POWER LIES

It turns out state was wrong — A'Yards will tax electric service, raising rates

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

When your electric bill goes up, put some of the blame on Atlantic Yards. Con Edison officials said last week.

The utility's assessment, given at an Assembly hearing in Albany on May 23, apparently contradicts assurances by Atlantic Yards supporters in the state government who last year insisted that Bruce Ratner's mega-development would have only an "insignificant" impact on the energy grid.

Con Ed officials testified that they needed a 17-percent rate hike to boost an energy infrastructure that will be strained by developments like those planned at Atlantic Yards and the West Side rail yards.

Company spokesman Chris Olert later sought to soften his boss's statements, asserting that the Atlantic Yards and West Side rail yards are "just one megaproject in the giant diorama of city projects."

"Look at the projects in Brooklyn alone, like the new passenger ship terminal, the expansion of Steiner Studios in the Navy Yard," said Olert. "The city's in the midst of a boom."

That did little to mollify Atlantic Yards opponents, who saw the company's very public admission as yet one more strike against the Empire State Development Corporation, the state agency that concluded in November that Atlantic Yards' "increases in [energy] demand would be insignificant."

Opponents have long argued that the ESDC's "environmental impact statement" looked at the eight-million-square-foot Atlantic Yards project in a vacuum without fully considering the impact of the tens of millions of additional square feet of residential, commercial, retail and office space being built or slated to be built in the immediate area.

See LIES on page 16



On your guard

Members of the 84th New York Infantry (aka 14th Brooklyn, wearing red) and the 67th New York Infantry (wearing blue) line up in formation as they prepare to fire their weapons at Green-Wood Cemetery on Monday. For story and photos, see page 5.



THE FULL MARTY

- FREE CRUISE UPDATE
- CB6 PURGE UPDATE
- NEW GOV. ISLAND FERRY
- HONORS 'MAD' MAG FOUNDER

SEE PAGE 16



Three parking agents patrol Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights — the city's most-ticketed neighborhood.

SHOW OF FORCE

B'Heights a cash cow for traffic agents, city

By Melissa Saks
The Brooklyn Paper

Illegal parkers in Brooklyn Heights mean big money for city coffers.

Through May 27, the 84th Precinct was credited with a whopping 20,210 summonses — a 6.2-percent increase from the same time last year.

Parking ticket fines range from \$35 to \$180 each.

"That's life in the city," Doug Biviano, a neighborhood resident for seven years, said

as traffic enforcement officers fanned out across Montague Street the other day. "My car has been towed three times!"

There are many theories as to why 84th Precinct cops and traffic agents — who cover Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, DUMBO and Downtown — write so many parking tickets.

Some believe it's all about the Benjamins.

"They know the people in this neighborhood will pay the tickets!" said one Brooklyn Heights man who requested anonymity

for fear of getting a parking ticket. "No one in Brooklyn Heights says anything."

Others blame the NYPD's supposed "quota system," which requires officers to write a certain number of tickets or be reprimanded.

"It runs in spurts because of the quota system," said Fort Greene resident Neville Pinnock, who has worked in Brooklyn Heights for more than 40 years. "They become more diligent when they are trying to meet their quota."

The NYPD denied that there is any pressure on officers to write tickets — except when they see a parking violation, of course. "The NYPD has no quotas," said Detective Brian Sessa, a police spokesman.

And there certainly are plenty of violations.

A 2006 study found that there are almost twice as many cars circling around Brooklyn Heights as there are spaces at any given time.

One reason for all the circling is the supposed abuse of government-issued parking permits, which allow the possessor to take

See TICKETS on page 16

How many tickets is 20,210?

The Brooklyn Paper

The 84th Precinct has handed out more than 20,000 parking tickets so far this year. Here's a few ways of putting that into perspective:

- It's more than all of the tickets given out in Staten Island this year.
- If lined up end to end, they would stretch to almost two miles (1.9 miles)
- It's 5,010 more tickets than were handed out in Lower Manhattan during the same period.

— Melissa Saks

Williamsburg man's strand nips the competition

By Harry Cheadle
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's official! No one in the world has a longer nipple hair than Doug Williams.

Last Saturday, Williams had his celebrated chest hair measured at a barbeque in his Williamsburg backyard, complete with a grill, a keg, and even a DJ. A group of photographers and a videographer were also on hand, clustered around Williams to get the best shot of the astonishing strand.

The barbeque was the culmination of Williams's quest to get the hair into the Guinness Book of World Records. He says he didn't set out to break the coveted record, it just happened.

One morning, Williams was "taking stock" of his nipple hair and noticed one was "really

long." Curious to see what the record was, he looked it up and found out it was only four and a half inches, considerably shorter than the hair sprouting from his own vestigial mammary gland.

Those close to Williams thought it was, well, a little odd. "Initially, I was a little bit surprised," said girlfriend Malika Crutchfield. "But after checking out the hair, I realized he had a shot at the record. I'm thrilled."

The record-breaker himself remained low-key. "It's a genetic thing," he said with a shrug, as reporters hounded him with more questions than the beat writers who follow around Barry Bonds.

Measuring duties fell to Dr. Sagat Verma, who bent over Williams and carefully extended the strand, holding it against a tape measure. Appraising nipple growths isn't Verma's specialty;

by day, he's an internal medicine specialist at Wyckoff Medical Center in Bushwick.

It might seem excessive to bring in a medical doctor for a single hair, but the Guinness Book requires that the measurer is a licensed doctor with "standing in the community." And that's just one of many complex regulations imposed on the record-breaking event. Williams filled out pages of paperwork, the hair had to be measured three times and photographed, and it had to be wet during the process.

To meet this last requirement, Crutchfield squirted bottled water on Williams's bare chest from a couple feet away.

"That's good," he said, but she gave it a couple extra squirts, just to be sure.

Then Dr. Verma measured the hair while the DJ stopped



Hair apparent: A doctor measures Doug Williams's nipple hair while a film crew documents the historic event. The hair measured 5.078 inches, breaking the Guinness Book record.

the music for dramatic effect, announcing "the world's largest nipple hair!"

"How many inches?" somebody asked before a hush came over the crowd.

The official length came out to 129 millimeters — the Guinness Book uses the Euro-centric metric system — or a little longer than five inches, demolishing the previous record of 115 millimeters.

That once-illustrious mark was held by Simon Mould, the pride of the United Kingdom.

Trouncing Mould at his own game was fun, but Williams told The Brooklyn Paper last week that jealousy was not why he got into the nipple-hair game.

"I am not attempting this record for the money," he said before his quest. "It is enough for me to know that I can inspire

an entire generation of young people, mostly boys, to grow long body hairs and achieve their own dreams."

Afterwards, Williams posed proudly.

"This is more or less the most attention my nipple has ever received," he noted.

Once the paperwork goes through, Williams will be immortalized. But he hasn't lost his sense of self, advising would-be nipple-hair champions to "just follow your dreams, whether it's to grow long nipple hair or something equally as important."

Williams is not one to rest on his laurels. He's got bigger follicles to fry.

"Hopefully I'll discover a very long hair somewhere else on my body," he said. A true champion, it seems, is never satisfied.

Circus is coming to Coney Isl.

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Coney Island is not dead yet, apparently.

The carnival community will come alive for at least a few more days this summer, thanks to 13 performances by the Cole Bros. Circus, starting on July 30.

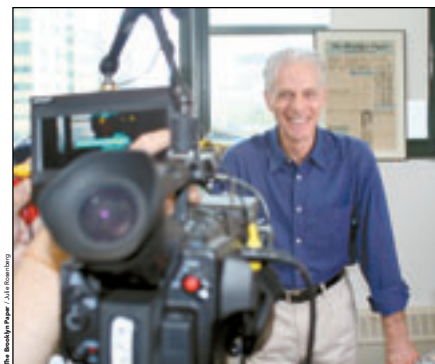
Thor Equities, Coney Island's biggest landlord, announced the news this week, sparking unusual enthusiasm among the sidewalk set, many of whom oppose Thor's \$2-billion plan to transform the seedy neighborhood into a Vegas-style playground.

"Hey, it is a step in the right direction," said a man calling himself New York Dave on the Coney Island.com message board. "Better than vacant lots, anyway. I just hope they budget for prompt elephant s—removal."

It's an unusually popular move for Thor, which owns most of the entertainment district and which has created enemies with its planned closure of Astroland, its auctioning off of the Astroworld, and its ousting of carnies from the old Henderson's Dance Hall.

In addition, the area where Thor hopes to build its amusement and condo Xanadu has been largely

See CIRCUS on page 6



Paper goes Hollywood

Robert O'Gorman plays the editor of the fictional version of The Brooklyn Paper in the hit film, "The Unidentified," which filmed key scenes last weekend in the DUMBO offices of the real Brooklyn Paper. The actual editor of The Brooklyn Paper, hardly a matinee idol, said he was pleased by the casting.

Boo-liani in Ridge

Protestors rally against Rudy

By Matthew Lysiak
The Brooklyn Paper

Republican frontrunner Rudy Giuliani got a hero's welcome inside a Bay Ridge catering hall this week — but outside, the man running for president as "America's Mayor" got Swift-boated.

About four dozen protesters, mostly relatives of World Trade Center victims and firefighters who typically form Giuliani's amen corner, showed up outside the Bay Ridge Manor on 76th Street near Fifth Avenue to pick apart the central piece of the former mayor's legacy: his handling of the 9-11 terror attack.

"The mayor has blood on his hands," said Rosaline Tallon, whose brother, Matthew Tallon, died at Ground Zero. "He wants to walk into that reception as the hero of 9-11, but we want to remind the public of who this man really is."

Tallon and others said the mayor was responsible for the faulty radios used by firefighters that day. And they also said his leadership was anything but inspiring in the aftermath.

"My brother died because of the antiquated equipment this man bought — and people need to know the truth," Tallon said.

The Giuliani campaign expected to take heat from the right on social issues, but now finds itself in the un-

See GIULIANI on page 16



Protesters — including civil liberties lawyer Norman Siegel (right) — gathered in front of the Bay Ridge Manor to protest a Rudy Giuliani fundraiser.

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100 Wine Tips

Which Wine is "The Best"?

By Darrin Siegfried

I can't tell you how often I'm asked, "Which wine is the best?" Usually I reply, "Best for what?" What may be the best wine for drinking at the store you're shucking a pile of fresh oysters won't be the same wine that I'd consider the best for sharing with friends when we're grilling steaks on the barbecue... or the best for sharing in a great restaurant while having a remarkable meal. But there's even more to it than that.

Why, in America, are we so fixated on the idea of "the best"? In the nations where wine is drunk much more regularly than in the U.S. people understand that there are wines for everyday drinking, wines for drinking with family and friends for Sunday dinner or a night out, and wines for celebrating great meals or special occasions. The words "the best" are rarely taken into consideration. Wines are often based on which region you're in, what your favorites are, what you like to drink with the meal you're eating, etc. Much less discomfort here, and much less worrying about choosing the "right" wine.

Perhaps because we are, as a country, so insecure about our knowledge of and so uncomfortable buying something that we don't understand, we have come to rely heavily for advice on the writing and reviews of a small handful of people. The bad thing about this is that you are going by someone else's taste, which may not be like your own. If a critic says it's great, but you think it tastes harsh and bitter, there's nothing wrong with you or with your palate; you just don't like the way it tastes... and there's nothing wrong with that. What I do think is wrong, though, is seeing people taste a wine, say that they don't like it, yet buy it when someone tells that so-and-so gave it a 95. Don't laugh, I've seen it, more than once.

Most of the wines that get the highest scores, rated "the best," take years to mature and develop. When they are young and available for sale they are simply too harsh and tannic to enjoy. How long depends on the wine, and on the vintage. Château Mouton Rothschild 1990 is a bit past its prime, while the 1999 is now, I feel, at its peak. Sometimes the wines from a year that did not score so high are better for drinking in their youth. I've seen people drink a two-year wine that puckered their mouths and made them squint, all the while talking about it being "one of the best." Perhaps in a few more years it would taste like it.

The idea of "the best" can lead to misconceptions: Vintage Porto makes up only 3% of all the Porto produced, yet the common thinking is that "Vintage is best." I had a

discussion with a successful bar owner a few years ago about this: he only sold Vintage Porto, because it was "the best." I told him that, using that logic, he should dump his Dewar's, Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal, since "everyone knows that single malt Scotch is the best." He took in some 10 and 20 year old tawny Portos, and they sold like crazy. He did ask me for recommendations about them, wanting to know which ones I felt were, yes, "the best."

There's a restaurant in downtown Manhattan that decided to add to the wines of their wine list the scores that a certain wine critic had given them. Within days, one of the big wine magazines demanded that their scores be listed, also. One of my students in the Sommelier Society of America's Wine Captain's class asked me about this, and I asked him to imagine this: an average customer, not particularly knowledgeable about wine, comes in for dinner. There are two wines on the list that he considers. One is from a very well known winery that spends millions of dollars on advertising. The wine is overpriced, is way too young to drink, has massive flavors that would make a terrible match with the meat our guest has ordered, but has a 95 point rating. The second wine is from a small producer, is made from a less well-known grape variety, comes from a small appellation that our guest has never heard of. The wine, however, is a bargain, and would be a perfect match with the dinner. The score on the wine list says 87. Now, which is the better wine? Most people would assume that a 95 must be better than an 87, but I think that you'll agree that, in this case, they'd be wrong. (In all fairness, the publicity that listing the numbers got them was worth millions, but I believe that they did a disservice to their customers.)

So, which is the best wine? There is no correct answer, and anyone who tells you otherwise is playing "The Emperor's new clothes" on you. There are wines that can seem, while you are tasting them, perfect, and I have been fortunate to have experienced this greatness several times. There have been times when I've had a wine with a dish, and the pairing of flavors was perfect. But none of these I would ever call "the best." They were the best at that time, for me. You have to decide for yourself: it's really that simple. No one can tell you what will be the best for you. They can only give you advice based on their own experiences, and encourage you to try for yourself.

These are all reasons why, at Red White & Bubbly, my staff and I take the time to describe the tastes of the wines we offer, and have weekly wine tastings to help you to judge for yourself. There's nothing wrong with wanting the best: just make sure that it's the best for you!



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HERE TO STAY

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY

June 2

Yuck it up

Someone sure knows how to multi-task. At Inkwell, the jazz and comedy club opening today in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, there's a lot going on. Karaoke nights, spoken word performances and gospel brunches are just a few of the other crowd-pleasers currently in the works. Drop in today for the opening celebration.

3 pm at Inkwell Jazz and Comedy Cafe (408 Rogers Ave., at Lefferts Street in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens). Free. For information, call (718) 675-6145.

SUNDAY

June 3

Brunch out

Kids songsmith Mr. Richard is bringing his tunes about animals and adventures to Williamsburg's new hotspot for the juice box set, Willy Bee's Music and Brunch series. Mom and dad can grab an espresso and a plate of tofu scramble while the little ones make pals and enjoy the show. It is Williamsburg, folks, gotta start 'em early.

11 am at Willy Bee's Family Lounge (302 Metropolitan Ave., at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg). Free. For information, call (718) 599-3499.



Available now, \$12.99 per week at www.breakbestscience.com.

MONDAY

June 4

Bingo-o

Park Slope's Offshore Recordings is releasing its first album today, a drum and bass collection titled "Buried Treasure." Featuring 10 new tracks from local and international acts, the CD also comes with a comic strip that follows the adventures of the label's mascot, owner Brett Cleaver's dog Bing-o.

Available now, \$12.99 per week at www.breakbestscience.com.

THURSDAY

June 7

Modern art

Cobble Hill resident Jeff Prybylski's art, informed by the excess of electronic communication in our lives, is hanging at the new Brooklyn Industries Contemporary Art space in Williamsburg. Formerly a store, the spot now serves as a gallery and party space for the borough-conscious brand to promote local tastemakers. Grab a burger across the street at Dressler and make a night of it.

From noon-7 pm at Brooklyn Industries Contemporary Art (184 Broadway at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg). Free. For information, call (718) 218-7166.



See the Sign

FRIDAY

June 8

See the Sign

Tonight at the BAM Cafe, the artists currently known as Rhythm Republic — with a promised slew of special guests — will be covering Prince's 1986 "Sign 'O' the Times" double album all the way through. Chances are slim that the Purple One will return to Prospect Park this summer, so this looks like the next best thing.

9 pm at the BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Free. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JUNE 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GARDEN DISTRICT WALK: Civic Council's 48th annual event. 10 am to 5 pm. Pick up tickets at Congregation Beth Elohim, Eighth Avenue and Grand Street. \$10. \$5 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

LULLAWAY EXPLORATION: Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. Brochures provided. \$10. \$6 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

PEDAL BOATING: Brooklyn's freshwater lake is a great place to enjoy the view. \$10 refundable deposit. Noon to 5 pm. Enter Park near the Parade and Ocean Avenue entrance. www.prospectpark.org

WEEKLY WALKABOUT: Westville Heritage Center offers a tour of this historic neighborhood. Learn about the area's 19th century landmarks. \$15. 1 pm. Meet in front of Boys and Girls High School, 1700 Fulton Ave. (718) 754-5265.

BIRD WATCHING CRUISE: Learn about the history of Prospect Park, from prehistoric times to present day, while touring one of Prospect Park's habitats for turtles and water birds. \$10. \$6 kids. 11:30 am to 2 pm. Enter at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. www.brooklynbirding.org

PERFORMANCE

WATERFRONT ARTS FEST: TruSD hosts a variety program during the Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival. Noon to 5 pm. 290 Conover St. For details, visit www.waterfrontartsfest.org. Free.

DANCE: Donata Dance Projects presents "Emergence of a Person" a story in which seven women in six dresses compete for the crown of a person. 7 pm to 9 pm. \$15. 130 pm. Bro. Studio, 57 Rockwell Pl. (718) 955-8333.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: Mozart and DaPonte's comedy "Cost Fan Tutte: A School for Lovers." \$20. 310 students and seniors. 2 pm. 224th Avenue. (718) 398-7301.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: 10th Anniversary. Men Festival of New Puppet Theater from The Lab. Program features award-garde puppetry. \$20. 3 pm and 8 pm. 215 1st Avenue Warehouse, 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

OPERA: Regina Opera Company presents "Lucia." By Fucini. \$20. 315 4th Street and college students, \$5 teens, free for children. 8 pm. Regina Hall, corner 4th and 5th Streets, 24th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

LOCAL PRODUCE: Local produce and theater performing artists including Digby Dancy, Charles Moore, Michael and Susan Bennett. 5:30 pm. 748 Union St. (718) 408-0234. Free.

COMMUNITY CHORUS: The Brooklyn Community Chorus, a 60-member group, presents "Prayer, Light, Love and Joy." \$10. \$8 seniors and students, 7 pm. Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street. (718) 855-4814.

JAZZ AT THE CONSERVATORY: Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents trombonist Steve Ture. \$25. \$15 students and seniors. 8 pm. 58 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

BAM CAFE: presents PT. Walkley and the Adventures of Toshi Rabbit with Bradford Reed. 8 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 636-4100.

COMEDY: Live stand-up comedy at Ink Well Cafe. 10 pm. 408 Rogers Ave. Call for info. (718) 675-6145.

SUN, JUNE 3

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GARDEN DISTRICT WALK: Brownstone Brooklyn Garden District hosts a self-guided walk through private and community gardens. 11 am to 2 pm. Douglass Street between Third and Fourth avenues. Contact BrooklynGardenDistrict.org for more info.

PIER ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition hosts its 11th annual art exhibit. 11 am to 5 pm. 596-2506. Free.

ART SHOW: Reception for show by Ellen Hoyt. 3 pm to 5 pm. Shakespeare's Sister Gallery, 270 Court St. (718) 694-0084. Free.

RECEPTION: Groundswell teens display their art at a family event hosted by Debbie's Books and Garden. 11 am to 2 pm. Douglass Street between Third and Fourth avenues. Contact BrooklynGardenDistrict.org for more info.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Reading by authors of Jordan and Justin's Weekend Adventures. 3 pm. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-7064. Free.

DINNER DANCE: Lutheran Health Care hosts its 12th annual event. Guest emcee is WINE&A Reporter Adam Shapiro. 6:30 pm. Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers Sports Complex, 23rd Street, Manhattan. Call for ticket info. (718) 630-6245.

SPRING FLING: 10 PM to 10 PM hosts an outdoor Craft and Flea Market. 10 pm to 4 pm. 511 Seventh Ave. corner of Seventh and Prospect avenues. (718) 955-1100. Free.

CAR WASH: Fifth graders at PS 295 hold a car wash and bake sale to raise funds for the school. 11 am to 2 pm. Douglass Street between 30th and 40th avenues. (718) 965-0370 ext. 4105.

CASTING CALL: Brooklyn Industries is holding auditions for Brooklyn's coolest actors. Top. Dog will receive a prize package that includes a photo shoot, a stage and \$250 in gift certificates. 11 am to 2 pm. 206 Fifth Ave. (718) 599-7757.

INDE MARKET: Collective of Brooklyn

855-8175. Free.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: Brooklyn Museum hosts its monthly event of First Saturdays. Tonight's program features a mix of music and culture. Highlights include reading by author Edward Hirsch at 5 pm. Jim Keyes plays folk music on period instruments from 6 pm to 8 pm. 8 pm. "Little Women" (1994) from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Also, Bluesgrass dance party from 9 pm to 11 pm. Event runs from 5 pm to 11 pm. 200 Park Ave. (718) 636-5000. Free.

ARTISANS MARKET: Featuring functional and collectible art. 9 am to 6 pm. DeKalb Avenue sidewalk, Fort Greene Park. (718) 655-1100.

DELTA's annual: 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410.

76th Precinct Community Council: Regular meeting. 76th Precinct stationers, 60 Avenue C, between Hays and Hicks streets, 7:30 pm. Call (718) 834-3211.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Community Board 2, Health, environment and social services committee: Brooklyn Hospital, North Pavilion conference rooms 3A and 3B (121 Delancey Ave.) at St. Felix Street, 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410.

Starbucks feed Coffee Deck: Get a free 10-ounce feed coffee at all participating locations. 10 am-noon.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail newsroom@brooklynpaper.com or fax (718) 834-9378.

CIVIC CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

DUMBO block party: Main Street bet. Plymouth and Water streets, all day.

For information, visit: www.dumboblockparty.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Fifth Avenue BID Steering Committee and Park Slope Fifth Avenue Merchants Association weekly meeting: Call (718) 671-6340 for meeting time and location.

Community Board 2, Economic development and job creation committee: University Plaza, Jones Board Room (718) 636-4100.

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THE STOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL RED HOOK

Tourists need our Markowitz

It's too bad Borough President Markowitz can't be on every voyage of the Queen Mary 2. That's what cruise ship passengers — who had just disembarked at the city's ship terminal in Red Hook — were saying the other day.

Despite the fact that the city spent \$56-million on the terminal, passengers arrive there with virtually no information about where they are.

Instead, the tourists mill around as they wait for rides to the airport, their Manhattan hotels or their homes upstate or on the (far from Virgin) Island.

"Too bad Marty wasn't on my cruise," said Ira Peskoff of Westchester. "I didn't learn about Brooklyn at all. They told us about St. Thomas — they have duty-free shopping there."

Peskoff's wife, Joan, added that she would have been eager to hear about Brooklyn's charms, if "there was something to learn."

A few feet away from the enthused couple, standing on a green median on terminal's expansive tarmac, another would-be tourist said that the lecture would be useful.

"I see Brooklyn in movies," said Sal Mastrobetti. "There is always more to learn."

But Mastrobetti, a retiree, had one word of advice for the Boro: don't come between cruisers and the heaping smorgasboards of chocolate-dipped fruit, sea-food and delicacies that cruisers are known for.

"We go for the food," Mastrobetti was not bothered by the fact that the city official got to cruise on the QM2 for free even though he had just paid for the same trip.

"He was doing a job I couldn't do," he said, adjusting his black undershirt.

Surely, the Borough President would be heartened to learn that so many people could still benefit from his exuberant Brooklyn pitch. After all, there is clearly a need for his mastery.

"They had questions about transportation — about how to get around Brooklyn, and they wanted to know about our hotels," he told The Brooklyn Paper upon his return from the trip.

"They also wanted to know what I would recommend they do if they only had a few hours to spend in Brooklyn. It made me think we really need to have a tourism brochure especially for that kind of traveler, a list of different itineraries if you only have a half a day to spend here."

As such, approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission was required before DUMBO-based Two Trees Management could move forward with a tower that would rise above the historic district's 50-foot height limit.

The landmarks commission approval last year provoked the ire of local preservationists who slammed the agency for failing to recognize its own rule.

Those same opponents are again crying foul now that Two Trees is seeking additional exemptions so that the building can be bulkier than typically permitted.

"If we want to preserve our neighborhood, we must uphold [preservation] law," said Jeff Strabone, a resident of Cobble Hill.

But not all landmark codes have been ignored. Indeed, the Two Trees plan was dead in the water last year, until the company redrew the plan to preserve a historic bank annex on the site. That move paved the way

BROOKLYN SOUTH



Ariella Cohen



A developer is proposing a 70-foot condo building at the corner of Smith Street and Second Place in Carroll Gardens, now a parking lot and a subway entrance. Architect Robert Scarano has backed away from his initial metal clad design (inset).

Scarano caves to Gardeners

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Controversial DUMBO-based designer Robert Scarano has scrapped a plan to erect a flashy, steel-skinned building on Smith Street and Second Place in favor of a brick edifice with a green roof and "gigantic" apartments perfect for families, he told The Stoop this week.

The change of heart came after some brownstone-loving Carroll Gardeners — and the blogs and pots that cater to them — started a campaign against the metal-clad condo, which was to replace a parking lot and a popular, open-air newsstand above the F-train entrance at Second Place.

"I know what they're saying out there," Scarano said. "But now I've studied the area, and the building is going to be less modern."

The sports-car-driving architect made his aesthetic kowtow public after the residents of the neighborhood approached local Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Carroll Gardens) to stop the Letsons-esque building.

DeBlasio said he still planned to petition the developer to shrink the 70-foot, eight-story building.

"We will try every legal and political strategy possible to stop this project from happening (the way Scarano originally planned)," DeBlasio said.

But no matter what is built on the site, it will be sure to garner attention because of its prominent location above the south entrance to the Carroll Street station.

During construction, the entrance will be closed. But when the building is done, the entry will be incorporated into it, according to the MTA.

The newsstand that is now on the site may not reopen after construction, according to its owner Bibi Senguta.

"Everyone I see now will see the building instead," said Senguta.

Scarano has designed hundreds of residential buildings in the city, many in a signature style that involves large glass windows, geometric lines and a healthy appreciation for metallic shine. He gained a reputation as a rule-breaker last year when the city investigated him for building condos that were larger than zoning code allowed. As a result, he was stripped of his right to certify his own designs.

The architect told The Stoop that the new design for 360 Smith St. would "mimic the [area's] brownstone vernacular, instead of its industrial vernacular." Translating from the architecture, that means Scarano will use more plain old red brick and less metal on the exterior of the building.

So far, neighbors aren't convinced. They say the building will still loom over two- and three-story buildings on the block, creating shadows and taking up the open space that gives the area its small town feel.

"That building is still too tall for this street and that's it," said Alberta McCourt, who lives on Second Street near Smith Street in a three-story home she once shared with Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Frank McCourt.

McCourt wasn't afraid to invoke her 76-year-old celebrity ex-husband in her fight against the proposed building.

"He is a country boy," she said. "And he liked it over here because it felt a little like the country."

CB6's 'bank' shot

Board rejects Walentas's condo tower next to landmark branch on Atlantic

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

The development project that Cobble Hill residents love to hate will likely move forward, despite a unanimous rejection from Community Board 6 at a public hearing last week.

The building in question is a 60-foot condo tower slated to rise next to the landmark Independence Savings Bank building on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street.

The six-story condo will replace a parking lot and is within the boundaries of the Cobble Hill Historic District.

As such, approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission was required before DUMBO-based Two Trees Management could move forward with a tower that would rise above the historic district's 50-foot height limit.

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THE KITCHEN SINK

PS 32, at Hoyt and Union streets, just got a make-over of its playground. Word on the swings is that the kids helped design it through a partnership with the non-profit Trust for Public Land. The groundbreaking will be Tuesday at 5 p.m. Expect cookies and apple juice. ... An anti-development spook has posted signs warning "TOLL AHEAD" near the Bond Street lot where McMansion developer Toll Brothers plans to build Gowanus's first subdivision. A Stoop spy said someone is painting over the illegal signs as soon as they are going up.

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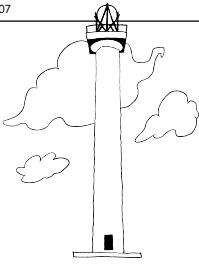
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THE STOOP

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Tripping the park — unfantastic

There's something trippy going on south of Fort Greene Park — especially to those of us with less-than-stellar eye-foot coordination.

The sidewalk along the park's Dekalb Avenue edge is sinking. Literally. It's going down like the Titanic, albeit more slowly. It's been doing that for at least eight years, according to local leaders.

I've been tripping on the uneven hexagon pavers between Washington Park and Fort Greene Place for nearly as long. Granted, I have the coordination of a toddler. But other, more graceful types, second my opinion.

"It's a trip hazard," said Ruth Goldstein, the founding chair of the Fort Greene Park Conservancy. "I don't walk on that side usually, because it is uneven and there are puddles."

Goldstein told Greene Acres that the problem dates back nearly 10 years — a decade! And still, nothing has been done.

Why has it taken so long for a city agency — any city agency — to address the problem?

Maybe it has something to do with this: "Parks keeps saying this is a problem below the surface [and, therefore, the purview of the Department of Environmental Protection], and DEP keeps saying, 'No, it's not,'" said Rob Perris, the district manager of Community Board 2.

The agencies demonstrated better coordination when responding to this reporter: they unanimously agreed that it's the Parks Department's responsibility.

Our favorite Parks fink, Phil Abramson, said that the 10-year hold-up was due to one thing only: money.

"The sidewalk is made of historic hex-block pavements, so to repair the sidewalk and have it be consistent with the surrounding pavements, we need capital funds to restore it," said Abramson. "Indeed, the Parks Department is making every effort to obtain these funds."

Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) confirmed that she was seeking funding, but added that before Parks could begin work, DEP would have to repair the pipes underneath the sidewalk.

That the two agencies are cooperating at all — or merely claiming to cooperate — was news to Perris, who took the opportunity to encourage the un-dynamic duo to "address this situation. It's long overdue. And while they're at it, they can put the benches back too."

Seriously. For the sake of the city's liability-prone coffers, if nothing else. Though bucolically lined with horse chestnut trees, this sidewalk is a menace. It ripples, as though the hexagon pavers are breaking into tides, humps in the middle, and sinks into depressions along either side. It may be the loveliest hazard-strewn sidewalk in the borough.

Oh, and there are gaping holes. At the intersection of South Oxford Street, a deep rutted depression lies in wait for the next weak ankle, like a Venus flytrap waiting for its prey to land. And then snap! It's broken.

But that hole can't hold a candle to the foot-deep chasm between South Elliott and Fort Greene places. That one, with its discarded Slim Jim wrapper, is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Then again, which agency would the litigant sue?

THE KITCHEN SINK

Brooklyn Tech HS students aren't all computer geeks. In fact, a senior design class is taking on something decidedly hands-on: the restoration of a forgotten art gallery on the high school's third floor. Of course, they mapped out their designs on computers first. ... We hear that **B&H Video**, everyone's favorite Hasidic-run camera shop, is doubling its warehouse space in the **Brooklyn Navy Yard** and hiring an additional 300 workers. The whopping \$50-million project will create an additional 400,000 square feet for the store's mail-order operation. ... Curious what the **Paris Hiltons** of tomorrow will be wearing? Check out the clothes designed by 14 "exceptionally talented" Pratt Institute seniors. Unfortunately, you'll have to cross the East River first: the garments are on display at the Chelsea Barnes & Noble at Sixth Avenue and 22nd Street, through June 15.

Email us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

GREENE ACRES



Dana Rubinstein



Rev. David Dyson of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church is behind an effort to replace regular lightbulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescents.

Church shines greener light

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

A Fort Greene religious leader wants to put the green back in "God's green earth," beginning with his own house of worship.

David Dyson, pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, wants to transform his 147-year-old building into a fluorescent-lit environmental beacon for the community.

The reason, said Dyson, is an intrinsically moral one. "We are now completely convinced that human beings have made a mess of the earth, that when the seas rise and the crops fail, the first people who will get hurt are the poor," said Dyson.

"We see this as a moral issue. This is not a two-hunger issue. This is not a hippie, Earth Day issue. This is an issue of human stewardship and global survival, and that goes to the core of our faith."

Dyson's ends are certainly high-minded, but his means are entirely mundane. The church will start engaging in so-called "extreme recycling," which, it should be noted, is not a new adventure sport.

Rather, it's Dyson's term for the fastidious business of making sure that every shred of cardboard makes it into the recycling container.

The good reverend is also conducting an "energy audit," meaning that workers are canvassing the Romanesque church — which he said "leaks like a sieve" — looking for holes that might be exhaling heat during the winter.

And he's partnering with the community, sending representatives to seminars, and planning a showing this fall of the omnipresent Al Gore film, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Dyson is hardly the borough's only God-fearing environmentalist.

Evangelical Christians have lately been finding common ground with their more mainstream Christian brethren, according to Dyson. And both the Presbyterian and Reform Jewish movements have been encouraging their local leaders to make their houses of worship more environmentally sound.

Park Slope's Union Temple joined the campaign last year by not only replacing their 100-watt incandescent bulbs with 25-watt compact fluorescents, but also selling the energy-saving bulbs to congregants at a dramatically reduced price.

In that case, Rabbi Linda Goodman said she was also answering to a higher authority. God? No, Gore.

Dyson preaches every Sunday at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (Lafayette Avenue at South Oxford and Fulton streets) at 11 a.m. For information, call (718) 625-7515.

known to the governor."

The Assemblyman and state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-Prospect Heights) plan to meet with the governor or his staff in early June. General Services Commissioner John Egan plans to do a walk-through of the building later that month. It is only after all of those steps are complete that a final decision will be made.

"We're going to conduct a financial analysis of continued ownership of building," said Paula Monaco, a spokeswoman for the state agency that oversees the building. "Over the summer we'll do some community outreach. After those items are complete, we will then come up with a recommendation for what should be done."

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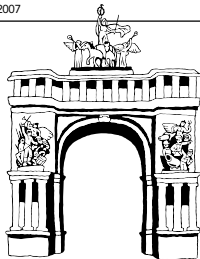
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THE STOOP

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK
WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

Wet, hot Park Slope summer

With the passing of Memorial Day, one thing is for sure: even though the calendar still says spring, it is officially sizzlin' summer in the city.

Summer is my favorite time of year. I like the hot days, the late nights and the lazy feel. Even though I am long out of school, I still feel that summer thrill of the last day of classes (and having a birthday in August doesn't hurt, either).

I love the summer — and with Prospect Park, a neighborhood that empties out a bit, and the constant block parties and stoop sales, I feel that we have an edge on summer fun. But I have recently discovered that there are mixed feelings about my favorite time of year. Some people told me that they don't like the extra crowds in the park. And dog owners don't like the extra garbage.

Most people admitted that they like the warm mornings, when the whole day stretches out before you and the sun has not gotten unbearable yet. And plenty of people love the free concerts at the bandshell ("Celebrate Brooklyn" kicks off on June 14, by the way).

An added benefit of the summer is that people take their cars out of the city. That means we get more parking spaces (the ground may be hot enough to melt your tires, but at least those tires are parked, and legally at that). The exception to this rule, of course, is the parking hell created by the concerts in the park. Check the schedule now, and plan accordingly — especially on the Philharmonic night!

With all those folks leaving town for the beach or the house in the country, those of us who stay behind get to dine out without reservations. Tables are often available, even on weekends, so those of us (myself included) who can never remember to think ahead finally have a chance at trying the new hot spot.

Two other great summer places are not exactly in Park Slope proper but are nearby and populated by Slopers. The Red Hook pool, Brooklyn's country club, is only a short (bike) ride away. I am counting the days until I can frolic with the masses and cool off in the vast blue pond, thanks to Robert Moses.

And no summer would be complete without the Cyclones and a few trips to KeySpan Park. I go to a few games a year, and I see more of my Park Slope neighbors there than I do at the Key Food.

So the summer gets mixed reviews from some, but for me, it is the time of year to kick back (and when my kids are away at camp, it is like taking a vacation without leaving town).

I intend to grab an iced coffee, sit in the new back garden of Cafe Eleven, stroll the hot avenues and enjoy the park and the free music all I can. But first, I have to get my air conditioning fixed. I may like the heat, but I hate being hot!

PS... I LOVE YOU

Nico Lolli



After some last-minute negotiations, and minor alterations, the City Planning Commission approved this proposed supportive housing facility on Fifth Avenue last week. It now goes to the City Council for an expected nod.

5th Ave facility moves forward

By Michael McLaughlin

for The Brooklyn Paper

A controversial supportive housing facility proposed for Fifth Avenue moved forward last week when the City Planning Commission gave its approval for the five-story, 49-unit building at what is currently a municipal parking lot on 16th Street.

"It's very reassuring they saw the merits of the project," Fifth Avenue Committee Executive Director Michelle de la Uz said after the May 23 vote.

Twenty-four studio units would provide supportive housing for mentally ill and formerly homeless people. Five others will house individuals with

HIV/AIDS. The remaining apartments would be rented to community residents with incomes below \$29,775. Senior citizens and youths becoming too old for foster care will be targeted for these units.

Some neighbors have objected to the project on the grounds that it presents a safety risk for the larger community.

And Borough President Markowitz had objected to the facility because it did not include any affordable housing units for families. As a result, he had asked the Planning Commission to vote it down.

But subsequent negotiations between some opponents and the Fifth Avenue Committee led

to modifications that include putting the entrance on Fifth Avenue and selecting some local residents for the panel that will screen the tenants.

There will also be round-the-clock security at the front desk.

"There were some really intense conversations with elected officials. All of their concerns are addressed in the project," de la Uz said. Markowitz, however, did not get his family-sized units.

Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) said through a spokeswoman that "the modifications responded to the concerns of some of the neighbors of the project."

DeBlasio said he will en-

courage his fellow Councilmembers to support the project when it comes to a full Council vote in the coming months.

It will first be discussed within 30 days by the Council's land-use committee.

P'Heights rocks for a cause

By Harry Cheadle

for The Brooklyn Paper

Hurricane Katrina hit almost two years ago, but the Big Easy is still hard up.

To raise money and remind Brooklyn of New Orleans's continued need for help, community members Alice McFarland and Kate Suisman are putting on a charity event, "Remembering New Orleans," on June 6. It will feature soul food, live brass band music, and the films of Helen Hill, a New Orleans resident who was killed last year.

There will also be a slide-show about New Orleans that examines how much work still needs to be done.

"They're still experiencing grief," said Suisman, an aide to Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) who volunteered in New Orleans last winter. "It looks like the storm just happened a few weeks ago."

"Remembering New Orleans," 50th Bar (609 Vanderbilt Ave., at St Marks Avenue in Prospect Heights), June 6. Doors open at 6 p.m., program begins at 7:30. Suggested donation is \$20.

High-pitched coolant tank whine removed — again!

By Beethoven Bong

for The Brooklyn Paper

The mysterious high-pitched whine that irked residents near New York Methodist Hospital earlier this month reemerged last week — but only for some people, apparently.

As The Brooklyn Paper reported two weeks ago, many residents of Fifth and Sixth streets near the hospital were being driven mad by a tea-kettle-like squeal that was caused by dried-out fan belts inside a cooling tank on the Seventh Avenue side of the hospital.

The belts were replaced — and everyone seemed happy. Until this week.

"I can assure you ... that the noise from the hospital has not been repaired," a neighbor told The Brooklyn Paper. "The

noise after the 'repair' has been louder but is now intermittent, making it even more noticeable and unbearable."

The problem is that not everyone — or every dog, even — can hear it.

"I haven't heard anything [since the repair]," said Robert Schmalenberg, resident of Sixth Street. "Neither has my dog."

Hospital spokeswoman Lyn Hill conceded that the institution did get a call of complaint this week — and it turned out that, indeed, another set of squeaky fan belts had dried out and needed to be replaced.

Again, the hospital did the work. And that should end the squealing — of the neighbors, as well as the hospital's fan belts — for now.



Coolant tanks in front of New York Methodist Hospital on Seventh Avenue.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Start planning now! June 23 is the day set for "Stoopendous," an all-day, Slope-wide stoop sit-in (or sit-out, perhaps). As part of the "Seven for 07" initiatives sponsored by the Park Slope Civic Council, Stoopendous aims to have everyone come together to celebrate the Summer Solstice (no matter that the solstice is actually June 21, you get the idea). For information go to www.stoopendous.org. The menu has been posted in the window at *Scalino*, the soon-to-open Italian joint that replaced a grubby Chinese restaurant at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 10th Street. And the menu makes it clear that the rumors of upscale Italian were true: We can't wait to tuck into that braised lamb shank with lentils (\$15.50) or the papardelle with smoked bacon (\$10.50). ... Uptown Fashion meets Brooklyn Art! Local sculptor *Martha Walker* is moving on up, at least temporarily. Her work will be exhibited in the windows of Saks Fifth Avenue in Manhattan now through June 10. ... Police Officer *Louis G. Bilotti* from the 76th Precinct received one of this year's awards from *District Attorney Charles Hynes* at a ceremony last month at the Brooklyn Market. *Gabriel* was honored for saving a woman's life on Smith Street last year when she was assaulted and held at knifepoint. The officer shot the man after he refused to let the woman go. E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

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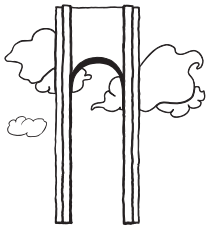
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THE stoop

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS
BATH BEACH

Goldwater's out of Long's Party

THE marriage was doomed from the start. But file the divorce papers, anyway: the Conservative Party has disavowed one of its founding fathers.

Last Tuesday, the party of limited government argued that marriage should consist only of the union of one man and one woman (little surprise there). What few realize is that this idea is a thumb in the eye of the man responsible for the existence of the New York State Conservative Party — Barry Goldwater. The issue is over the limits of government.

On one side we have Brooklyn Conservative Party Vice-Chairman Fran Vella-Marrone, who was quick to oppose Gov. Spitzer's effort to permit gay marriage.

"The Conservative Party has been the loudest voice in this state defending traditional family values," said Vella-Marrone.

On the other side is a ghost from the past. The founding father of the movement — Goldwater — was not only pro-Choice, but didn't think the government should have anything to do with marriage. Goldwater may be dead — but his memory is alive and well in Bay Ridge. To this day,

state Conservative Party Chairman Michael Long recalls how, as a young man, Goldwater put a spell on him at the 1964 Republican National Convention at Madison Square Garden.

"Barry Goldwater was the reason I got into politics," said Long, who still has a Goldwater poster hanging at his liquor shop, Long's Discount Wines, at 7917 Fifth Ave.

"You wouldn't believe the feeling of hope in the air that night, that we could get this country on track and Goldwater would be the one to lead us," Long said.

The philosophy? "Government ought to be kept off our backs, out of our pocketbooks, and out of our bedrooms," Goldwater said.

That didn't sit well with the religious right, which wanted the Republican Party to embrace restrictions on gay rights and abortion. Yet Goldwater insisted that conservatism meant limited government — whether on fiscal or social issues.

But that ideal is nowhere to be found on today's political landscape.

Long may still have that campaign poster, but he has cut ties with his Goldwater past. "Some conservatives are for abortion," he said, "but we are a pro-life party."

Yellow Hooker has a pretty good idea of what Long's mentor might say if he were alive to witness the changing times: "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice and moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

THE KITCHEN SINK

State Sen. Marry Golden (R-Bay Ridge) may be angling for an unlikely voter in his possible run for mayor — the underappreciated skateboarder. Golden recently announced funds to put Parks employees at the **Owls Head Skate Park** at 68th Street and Colonial Road. ... **Councilman Vince Gentile** (D-Bay Ridge) is encouraging public participation in a "tree walking program," every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. Call (718) 965-6977. ... **Moms are lighting up the Bay Ridge Parent message boards about playground bullies** who have been kicking kids off the swings at the playground at 83rd Street and Colonial Road. See, kids! That's one more reason to eat your leafy green vegetables.

E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

YELLOW HOOKER



Matthew Lysiak

Matthew Lysiak

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Preacher brings hands to Ridge to perform 'miracles'



Pastor Michael Casale (right) of the new Cavalry Praise and Worship Center on 94th Street says he can perform miracles.

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

Hallelujah and praise the Lord! A new preacher is coming to town — and he is making some big promises.

Pastor Michael Casale says he'll start doing out "miracles and prophecies" when his new church opens this week in Bay Ridge.

"Bring the sick and receive your miracle," said Casale, who will oversee the Cavalry Praise and Worship Center, a new non-denominational church at 367 94th St. "Come and receive your touch from the Lord."

Casale certainly talks the talk. "We do miracles, prophecies — more than your average church," he told *The Stoop*. "We have performed many miracles in the name of Jesus Christ, and we don't plan on stopping anytime soon."

Casale claims to also perform a "laying of the hands," an act where parishioners are touched in the forehead and often collapse to ground or faint from the power of God.

"I know it is real because it happened to me when I was 13 years old," said Casale, who claimed to be licensed by the "Summary of God," an independent ordination group. "It is a great feeling, but hard to describe. Kind of like electricity all through your body."

Still, some local residents are skeptical of the self-professed supernatural powers of the new preacher man of Bay Ridge.

Is this a joke? "Are we in the Bible Belt? I am not buying any of this crap."

Why Bay Ridge? True, the pastor's day job is as a court liaison for the 68th Precinct in the neighborhood — but he says he didn't choose Bay Ridge, but that Bay Ridge chose him.

"I felt called to Bay Ridge," he said. "But there were never any openings until now."

One woman said she might attend the first service on June 3. She also said that even though her mind was open, her wallet was closed.

"It couldn't hurt to go and check it out," said the woman, who declined to give her name. "But you can be certain that I am not going to let my wallet out of sight for even one moment."

Cash infusion won't rebuild subway stops

By Michael Giardina

for The Brooklyn Paper

More than a dozen subway stations in Bensonhurst, Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights are in line for a sprucing up, but residents had a clear reaction to the news: It's about freakin' time.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority last week allocated more than \$18 million to begin designing rehabs for nine N-train and four D-train stations.

It is unclear when — or even whether — any actual construction work would be done, but residents and their elected officials were pleased that something was moving forward.

"I'm happy they're starting something," said Assemblyman William Colton. "But I hope it isn't just a press release and nothing happens."

The Assemblyman has been writing to the MTA for five years on behalf of his commuting constituents.

"They [the MTA] would promise me, [but] then basically just do patch up jobs," Colton said.

This time will be different, the MTA said —

though the tri-state transportation agency couldn't say how.

"Since it is in the design phase, further details are not available at this time," said MTA spokeswoman Denise Parker.

The N stations being studied are Eighth Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway, New Utrecht Avenue, 18th Avenue, 20th Avenue, Bay Parkway, Kings Highway Avenue U and 86th Street. The D stations are Ninth Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway, 62nd Street, and Bay Parkway.

Riders throughout all three neighborhoods looked forward to a cleaner, if not smoother, ride.

"It's horrible. You can see mold under the chipped paint," said Louis Deleus, who has been riding the N train to work for 14 years.

A fellow commuter agreed. "There is always construction going on, but nothing changes," said Meloyetta Zharitova.

"The train comes on time, but the stations still look the same."

Colton said the need for repairs were more than just skin deep. "The stations have been a disaster for many years," he said. "They all have structural damage."

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heights bark robber busted

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Paper

84th Precinct

Just a few months after a bomb-box robber was plugging financial institutions Downtown, another bank robber has been busted.

The alleged robber was colored hours after he hit the J.P. Morgan Chase Bank Court Street near Schermerhorn Street on May 26, though he left that attempted robbery empty-handed, police said.

The drama began when the 28-year-old would-be thief wandered into the branch just before 10:30 a.m., approached a teller and passed a note that read, "All the \$100s, \$50s, \$20s and no one professional." The bank was crawling with witnesses who were rushing to finish their business before the holiday weekend.

So when something went wrong before the teller handed over any cash — it's unclear what, cops said — the suspect bolted from the bank, leaving behind the note and the pen he had used.

Shortly afterwards, the would-be thief himself ended up in the handcuffs of Police Officer Francisco Tejeda.

No one was hurt, according to Chase spokesman Michael Fusco.

The suspect faces charges that include attempted robbery, menacing and attempted larceny. He was arraigned on May 27 and released without bail.

Heights heist
Someone swiped nearly \$20,000 in designer jewelry from a Remsen Street apartment while the owner was on vacation, police said.

One suspect seems to be the suspect, a woman who had been given a key to the unit, in a building at Hicks Street. Apparently, the resident had asked her to have another gold bracelet fixed during the owner's absence, a task she completed as instructed.

But sometime during the 61-year-old victim's absence, from May 7-26, a trio of Van Cleef & Arpel necklaces, along with matching earrings, disappeared. Also stolen was an antique gold bracelet, valued at \$5,000.

Hallway attack
The Police Department's Law Enforcement Explorer Program combines community service with police education, plus a dose of fun, cops said.

Participants help their communities by painting over graffiti, visiting senior centers and staffing city-wide events, like bike races and parades.

Along the way, they learn about the NYPD and visit special departments, including the K-9 unit, aviation — where officers learn to pilot police helicopters — and the harbor patrol. Explorers also take several field trips, including an outing to Coney Island and the movies.

Information on the Explorers Program will be available at an open house on June 8 at the 88th Precinct stationhouse (at 29th Avenue, between 4th and 5th Aves.) from 4 to 7 p.m. Call Police Officer Nicholas Santos for information (718) 636-6260.

Bike burg
Someone stole a high-end Italian bicycle from a storage space on Washington Street on May 24, police said.

The owner, a 36-year-old

POLICE BLOTTER

Crazy crimes

Thieves snatched a 1996 Nissan Maxima from Pierrepont Street, near Hicks Street, between 5 p.m. on May 19 and 9:30 p.m. on May 21. The owner, a 25-year-old Queens woman, found her sedan, which also had a \$500 Alpine stereo system, gone without a trace.

Purse swiped

Montague Street isn't safe — for purses left all alone, that is. That was the sad lesson offered to a 23-year-old woman on May 21, when her pocketbook disappeared from a clothing boutique on Montague Street, near Henry Street, police said. The victim stashed the bag under a table, but not far from the door, around 12:30 p.m. When she checked again, an hour later, the purse was gone.

She asked her colleagues and even enlisted city workers to help her search treasuries on the street, but no one had any luck. The bag had disappeared, along with her driver's license, several bank cards, her keys, \$20 and a lipstick.

School struck
A laptop computer disappeared from a Navy Street elementary school on May 22, police said.

The owner, a 39-year-old teacher, left the Gateway machine on a desk inside the cafeteria at the school, near Flushing Avenue, from noon until 1:30 p.m. When he discovered the year-old laptop missing, he reported the theft to police within 10 minutes, but the suspect seemed to be long gone.

Home invasion
A burglary of a home involved minor setbacks. But this one was more major.

The 62-year-old victim was staying on Hall Street while the work is being done in his home, between Park and Myrtle avenues, just before midnight. When he returned at 10 a.m. the following day, the glass front door had been shattered. Shards littered the entryway and it was clear someone had been inside.

All together, the items were worth about \$200.

Mystery shoot
Armed thugs seem to be trying to return Myrtle Avenue to its onetime moniker, "Murder Avenue."

Gunfire rang out for at least a second time this month near Myrtle Avenue, when police said a Navy Street resident was shot at least four times — and survived — near a Hudson Walk housing project on May 23. Bullets struck the victim in the chin, the chest, the left arm and the left leg when they erupted from a building just off Myrtle Avenue, shortly before 10:30 p.m.

On May 14, a 36-year-old man was shot several times as he walked into a deli on the corner of Myrtle and Carlton avenues, just two blocks from Fort Greene Park, around 3 a.m. That same corner was the also site of a May 5 shooting, when a 28-year-old was wounded by gunfire from a passing car around 4 a.m., police said.

Car swiped
A Brooklyn man's car was stolen from Grand Avenue while he toiled at a construction site nearby, police said.

The victim parked the Toyota Camry near Gates Avenue at 6:30 a.m. on May 21. When he returned at 3 p.m., the 1997 sedan had disappeared without a trace.

76th Precinct

Father-son

A teenager and his dad helped cops capture the leader of a band of thugs that allegedly tried to rob the boy on May 14.

The episode began at 3:40 p.m., when the 15-year-old victim was walking home from school on Hicks Street, near the corner of Baltic Street. Suddenly a pack of four teens rushed him and the leader insisted, "Give them everything in your pockets."

The terrified boy turned over his cellphone and a few other personal items, and, as soon as the brutes turned away, he rushed home. The victim summoned his father, and the pair raced back out to the street, where the young thugs still lingered. Emboldened by their familial bond, the pair chased the leader down Baltic Street — where he was captured by Detective Edward Cesario.

The 14-year-old now faces attempted robbery charges.

Two arrested

Police nabbed two of three thieves who allegedly attacked a woman on the corner of President and Smith streets, on May 9.

The feisty 42-year-old was cornered by three strangers shortly after 9 a.m. and backed into a fence, police said. One robber snatched her cellphone while the other two held her arms. But when they let go, the woman grabbed the mobile back and ran off to dial 911.

Police arrived and searched the area, finding two suspects. Officer Kenny Cunningham arrested the boys, ages 15 and 16, on robbery charges.

Quick clean-out

It was like a home remodeling show gone wrong when burglars took nearly everything but the kitchen sink from a Mill Street home on May 16.

Criminals' entry is thought to be less than half an hour.

The 62-year-old victim left her home, near Hicks Street, at 11 a.m., police said. When she returned 25 minutes later, her windows were shattered and thieves had removed more than \$500 in electronics and furniture.

Yards renters to appeal ruling

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

A group of renters living in the footprint of Atlantic Yards vowed to take their case to another court after a State Supreme Court judge dismissed their case last month.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of 11 rent-stabilized tenants who charge that the Empire State Development Corporation, which is overseeing Atlantic Yards, failed to adequately compensate protected tenants whose leases were canceled when ESDC condemned their buildings to pave the way for Bruce Ratner's mega-development.

The ESDC has said that Ratner must shoulder the burden of the relocating tenants. But the lawsuit argues that the relocation assistance offered by the developer is riddled with loopholes and conditions that reduce it to a "sham."

Justice Walter B. Toltz ruled that the suit should be taken to state's Appellate Division, a court with a reputation for favoring the state in eminent-domain-related cases.

Attorney George Locker, who is representing the renters at 473 Dean St. and 634 Pacific St., said he'll appeal.

The state has taken a rent-stabilized lease and a home for many years without providing appropriate compensation," he said. "This case must be heard on its merits."

A.J. Carter, a spokesman for the ESDC, said the agency was pleased with the procedural victory. But he declined to comment further.

The decision filed by Toltz said that the tenants are "condemnees" who could challenge the state on eminent domain procedure, but not, as Locker attempted, using rent-stabilization laws as their sword.

One eminent domain lawyer said that the decision put Locker between a rock of an unfriendly Appellate court and a hard place of eminent domain law, which is geared towards compensating owners, not tenants.

"The decision created a real Catch-22," said Michael Rikon, an eminent domain lawyer who represented tenants who lost their homes to Ratner's Metrotech project in the late 1980s.

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Rikon said Locker had tried to avoid this scenario by challenging the ESDC using housing laws that protect tenants.

"Now that intervention may be impossible," Rikon said.

Civics target newsboxes



The Park Slope Civic Council wants to replace private newsboxes (left) with a modern, all-in-one version (right).

By Michael McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The Park Slope Civic Council wants to reduce by half the number of free publications available on some busy street corners, claiming that their boxes are unattractive and a nuisance.

"The sprawl of unfettered newspaper boxes presents an eyesore, and to some degree, a public nuisance," said Civic Council Second Vice President Ken Freeman.

The epicenter of the controversy is the northeastern corner of Seventh Avenue and Ninth Street, where there are 16 kiosks holding periodicals such as the Village Voice, Hoy, and the Onion, plus advertising circulars, Learning Areas catalogues and other publications.

In July, the Civic Council plans to install a modern module that holds eight titles. About five containers would be removed and the remaining three would be relocated to less-crowded corners.

Talk of consolidating newspaper boxes began at a Civic Council brunch at the Prospect Park YMCA about three months ago, but complaints date further back.

Bruce Pienkny, a Civic Council member who was at that brunch, was commissioned to create the new bin. It didn't hurt that he works for the street furniture company, City Solve.

"We do a lot of overall quality-of-life work," Pienkny said. The Brooklyn Paper withdrew all of its street boxes last year and before that did not have boxes at the corner of Seventh and Ninth because of the unusual clutter there, Publisher Ed Weinreb said.

The Paper nonetheless believes that "excessive restrictions on box placement, including allowing government or even a well-intentioned civic group to determine where newspapers may circulate would be a threat to freedom of speech," Weinreb said.

Freeman denied that the Council had censorship in mind. "This is not a campaign against free newspapers," he said. "We're looking for those publishers to be our partners."



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By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

78th Precinct

At least three cars were broken into, three motorcycles and two bicycles swiped, and one cabbie ripped off in unrelated vehicular incidents in Park Slope over the last two weeks.

The wheely bad fortnight began at 5:30 p.m. on May 17, when a man parked his Yamaha motorcycle on Polhemus Place, that quirky one-block street between Garfield and Carroll streets.

The 25-year-old man told cops that his silver chopper — valued at \$8,200 — had been secured with a wheel lock that obviously did not deter the crooks.

Two days later, a woman told cops that her fancy European bicycle had been taken from the parking meter to which she had chained it at around 3 p.m.

One hour later, when she returned to the spot, which was on Seventh Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, the 5600 Bianchi bike was gone.

Then, on May 21, a woman's 1991 Chrysler Suburban was broken into and \$50 in "miscellaneous items" taken. The car had been parked on Pacific Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues at around 7:30 p.m. When she returned to it less than an hour later, she found the tillable broken glass on the street.

On the same day, a 32-year-old man told cops that his \$750

Trek bike — which had been chained to a fence on 12th Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West at around 7:30 p.m. — was gone when he returned to it 90 minutes later.

The next morning, a man's Suzuki cycle was stolen from in front of a home on Eighth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues. He told cops he had parked the \$7,500 chopper there at 1 a.m. and it was gone eight hours later.

A few hours later, a woman's Ford Focus was broken into and robbed of its PVC stereo system, valued at \$150. The woman told cops that she had parked the 2000 car at around 2:45 near the Brooklyn Public Library central branch

on Grand Army Plaza, and when she returned to it about three hours later, the stereo was gone.

Another car was broken into on May 24, cops said. In this case, a 42-year-old woman had parked the 2003 Toyota on Fourth Avenue between Baltic and Warren streets at around 8:15 a.m. When she returned to it at 5:30, she saw that the back right window had been smashed and her Nextel phone had been taken.

And on May 26, a delivery car driver said one of his passengers ran out of the cab with the driver's handgun, which contained \$432, credit cards and vitamins.

The cabbie, a 45-year-old Staten Island woman, told cops that she had picked up the passenger at around 1 p.m. outside 300 Fifth Ave. But at some point during the ride, the perp — whose description consists solely of his "dark" skin tone and his "Caesar" style haircut — jumped out with the driver's bag, dress, but also a picture of his face, which comes in handy for

the cops.

The woman immediately told the driver to stop the bus after she felt someone bump into her at around 2:10 p.m. When she searched her left pocket, the "limited edition" \$500 Diane von Furstenberg Sakick was gone.

The bus driver had pulled over at the corner of Union Street and Seventh Avenue, but the pick-pocket could not be found.

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Wheely bad Slope crime

on Grand Army Plaza, and when she returned to it about three hours later, the stereo was gone.

The next night, a man's 2000 Augusta chopper was taken from its parking spot on Berkeley Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues. The \$10,000 two-wheeler had been parked at around 9 p.m. on May 23, but was missing when the 24-year-old owner tried to go for a ride the next day at noon.

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Hygienic thief loots candy shop

By Matthew Lysiak
and Michael Giardina
for The Brooklyn Paper

68th Precinct

Crime never pays — but it can work up a sweat.

This was the lesson at a Third Avenue candy store, which was looted out of almost \$6,000 worth of cash and merchandise on May 23.

The 46-year-old owner closed the store, which is near 74th Street, at 7 p.m., only to return the next morning to find the locks to his gate clipped, the front door lock broken, and his store ransacked.

Cops say the perp made off with an ATM, two boxes containing \$2,000, phone cards valued at \$800, \$2,400 worth of assorted cigarettes, and \$200 worth of deodorant.

The police are on the scent. The assault happened at 3:50 a.m., after the victim hopped the Manhattan-bound train at the 62nd Street station. That is when four young men grabbed him from behind, punched him in the face and stomach, then used a knife to cut his pocket and steal his cellphone and wallet.

The victim quickly alerted authorities, who later nabbed the four men — ages 16, 19, 21, and 25 — and recovered the stolen property.

Cops say all four men are all being charged with gang assault causing physical injury.

Van stolen
A 35-year-old man parked his 1996 Dodge Caravan on 79th Street near Fifth Avenue at 5:30 p.m. on May 24, and returned at 7 a.m. the next morning to discover it missing.

Cops say there was no broken glass at the scene. They remain on the lookout for the van, valued at \$4,500.

Hulking crook
A 27-year-old man locked up his 13th Avenue cigar store at around 4 p.m. on May 24, and returned the next morning to discover that someone had

POLICE BLOTTER

62nd Precinct

pushed through his wall and made off with some cash.

Cops say the perp punched through the south wall of the store, which is attached to an apartment building near 73rd Street, and made off with \$3,160 and two cartons of cigarettes before fleeing through the hole.

Gang assault

Four men were arrested after they attacked a 35-year-old man early one morning on the N train on May 24.

The assault happened at 3:50 a.m., after the victim hopped the Manhattan-bound train at the 62nd Street station. That is when four young men grabbed him from behind, punched him in the face and stomach, then used a knife to cut his pocket and steal his cellphone and wallet.

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Thief caught

A man helped catch a burglar who broke into his 81st Street apartment building on May 28.

The victim returned to his building, which is near Bay Parkway, at around 10:20 a.m., and saw the thug breaking into a basement door. That's when the victim nabbed the thug, who was caught with \$250 in one hand, and his burglary tools in the other, police said.

The victim waited for police to arrive, holding the 18-year-old thief. No word yet if the 62nd Precinct hired the 38-year-old hero.

Lake St. swipe

A woman returned to her Lake Street apartment to find a side door open and her cash, jewelry and medication missing on May 25.

The 37-year-old victim came back to her apartment, which is near Kings Highway, at around 11 a.m. She discovered that the thieves had broken in and took \$600, including jewelry and medication, police said.

No neighbors saw the day-time swipe.

Store swipe
A woman shopping in an 86th Street department store had her wallet swiped on May 25.

The 62-year-old victim was waiting on the line to pay for her items at the store, which is near 18th Avenue. At around 7:30 p.m., she reached into her purse for her wallet, but came up empty.

Meanwhile, the thief got away with \$500, including credit and debit cards, police said.

N train troubles

A teenage girl who was robbed at the N train's New Utrecht stop later helped catch the thug who took her \$400 cellphone and threatened her with a box cutter on May 25, police said.

She was exiting the station, which is near 62nd Street, at around 2 p.m., when the 15-year-old punk stopped her and swiped the cellphone from her front pocket. He fled down 16th Avenue, but was later caught thanks to a positive ID from the victim.

The cellphone was returned to the 17-year-old Sheepshead Bay HS student.

Mischief

Two workers at a Bay Parkway department store had their lockers broken and their property stolen on May 24.

The employees returned to their lockers at around 6 p.m. to find their purses on the floor, and their cellphones, credit and debit cards missing, police said.

The lockers are within the department store, which is near Crosey Avenue.

Get lost
An Avenue P resident had his car stolen on May 22.

The 1996 Civic was stolen from the street near 18th Avenue and 18th Street, police said.

Both were taken into custody on burglary charges.

The victim had parked the car on Avenue P, near West First Street, and discovered the break-in at around 11 p.m. The thieves broke the rear passenger window to take the system, which is worth \$1,200, police said.

Scam granny
An elderly woman was conned into giving money and jewelry to a stranger who drove her home on May 22.

The 84-year-old woman first met the stranger on 23rd Avenue, near 86th Street, at around 10:30 a.m. They began talking when the criminal offered to take her home.

Then, things got fishy. The thief told the victim that she was very sick and that the only way to get better was for the victim to give her all of her money. She ran into the house and gave the thug \$1,500 in cash, and a necklace worth \$2,000, police said.

The thief fled the scene in a silver four-door sedan.

Duo caught

A dastardly duo was caught in the act of breaking into a Benson Ave home on May 22.

Neighbors alerted police that they saw a woman climbing through a window of the apartment at around 3 p.m. Police rushed to the building, which is near Bay 19th Street, to find a woman outside holding a baby as the lookout, and the climber inside the apartment with property in hand, police said.

Both were taken into custody on burglary charges.

Civics target newsboxes



The Park Slope Civic Council wants to replace private newsboxes (left) with a modern, all-in-one version (right).

By Michael McLaughlin
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Park Slope Civic Council wants to reduce by half the number of free publications available on some busy street corners, claiming that their boxes are attractive and a nuisance.

"The sprawl of unfettered newspaper boxes presents an eyesore and, to some degree, a public nuisance," said Civic Council Second Vice President Ken Freeman.

The epicenter of the controversy is the northeastern corner of Seventh Avenue and Ninth Street, where there are 16 kiosks holding periodicals such as the Village Voice, Hoy, and the Onion, plus advertising circulars, Learning Annex catalogues and other publications.

In July, the Civic Council plans to install a modern module that holds eight titles. About five containers would be removed and the remaining three would be relocated to less-crowded corners.

Talk of consolidating newspaper boxes began at a Civic Council brunch at the Prospect Park YMCA about three months ago, but complaints date further back.

Bruce Prienky, a Civic Council member who was at that brunch, was commissioned to create the new bin. It didn't hurt that he works for the street furniture company, City Solve.

"We do a lot of overall quality-of-life work in the building, all of its street boxes last year and before that did not have boxes at the corner of Seventh and Ninth because of the unusual clutter there, Publisher Ed Weinroth said.

The Paper nonetheless believes that "excessive restrictions on box placement, including allowing government or even a well-intentioned civic group to determine where newspapers may circulate would be a threat to freedom of speech," Weinroth said.

Freeman denied that the Council had censorship in mind. "This is not a campaign against free newspapers," he said. "We're looking for those publishers to be our partners."

By Ariella Cohen
for The Brooklyn Paper

A group of renters living in the footprint of Atlantic Yards vowed to take their case to another court after a State Supreme Court judge dismissed their case last month.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of 11 rent-stabilized tenants who charge that the Empire State Development Corporation, which is overseeing Atlantic Yards, failed to adequately compensate protected tenants whose leases were canceled when ESDC condemned their buildings to pave the way for Bruce Ratner's mega-development.

The ESDC has said that Ratner must shoulder the burden of the relocating tenants. But the lawsuit argues that the relocation assistance offered by the developer is riddled with loopholes and conditions that reduce it to a "sham."

But Justice Walter B. Tolub ruled that the suit had been filed in the "wrong church and the wrong pew" and should be taken to state's Appellate Division, a court with a reputation for favoring the state in eminent-domain-related cases.

Attorney George Locker, who is representing the renters at 473 Dean St. and 634 Pacific St., said he'll appeal.

"The state has taken a rent-stabilized lease and a home for many years without providing appropriate compensation," he said. "This case must be heard on its merits."

A.J. Carter, a spokesman for the ESDC, said the agency was pleased with the procedural victory. But he declined to comment further.

The decision filed by Tolub said that the tenants' "condemnees" who could challenge the state on eminent domain procedure, but not, as Locker attempted, using rent-stabilization laws as their sword.

One eminent domain lawyer said that the decision by Locker between a rock of an unfriendly Appellate court and a hard place of eminent domain law, which is geared towards compensating owners, not tenants.

"[The decision created] a real Catch-22," said Michael Rikon, an eminent domain lawyer who represented tenants who lost their homes to Ratner's Metrotech project in the late 1980s.

"Tolub is defining the [tenants] as 'condemnees,' but they have not been given the right to compensation that the condemnation is allowed. And this decision will make getting that compensation tougher."

Rikon said Locker had tried to avoid this scenario by challenging the ESDC using housing laws that protect tenants.

"He was trying to use agencies that protect tenants to intervene," he said. "Now that intervention may be impossible."

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Hitless wonder learns a hard lesson at the plate

THIS WEEK, I DID SOMETHING that no grown man should do: I paid a man \$45 to teach me how to hit a baseball.

In theory, the batting lesson had a legitimate purpose: On Saturday night, I will join several Paper colleagues, plus a handful of other local scribes, in a bitter, nasty game of hardball (for charity!) against the front office staff of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

My goal, you see, is to help my team win.

But arriving at Brooklyn Indoor Sports Center in Sunset Park the other day, I realized that my quest for a sweet stroke was merely the athletic equivalent of cosmetic surgery — a vanity-driven move designed solely to stave off the inevitable humiliation that comes from spending your entire adult life hitting nothing but weak groundballs back to the pitcher.

But so what if vanity was behind my batting lesson? Thirteen-year-old girls are getting breast implants as bat-mitzvah gifts, so can't a middle-aged guy get a chance at glory (which, in my case, would be a 10-bounce dribbler that finds a hole between the shortstop and the third baseman)?

Apparently, no.

"The lesson is for you?!" my batting guru, John Torres, said as I entered the cage, helmet in hand. "I thought it was a lesson for, you know, a kid."

I explained about the charity game. I told



him that I just wanted to do a good job, you know, "for the kids" (the charity game is for the kids, right?).

"OK," said Torres, who's also the head baseball coach at St. Joseph's College in Clinton Hill. "Let's see what you got."

I took a few swings and my personal batting coach noticed one problem right away.

"Do you always swing with your arms so far out?" he asked.

No, I thought. Sometimes I don't swing at all. But I told him that men of my generation — the Dave Kingman generation — were taught to extend their arms as far as they'd go.

Tip number one: Don't extend the arms as far as they'd go.

Torres gave me a simple drill, telling me to place one end of the bat against my bellybutton and the other against a wall.

Then he told me to take a few swings. When I hit the wall, it meant I was extending my arms too far.

After taking a few of my newly short-

ened swings, I actually did feel like I'd learned something.

Then he started throwing hardballs at me. Other obvious problems with my swing presented themselves like a corpse on a medical examiner's gurney.

"You're all off-balance," said the baseball whisperer. "When the pitch is inside, you get jammed up. When it's outside, you're trying so hard to pull it, that you can't get any power."

Tip number two: Open up your swing by when the pitch is inside and close your swing when the pitch is away.

I started getting the hang of it, so Torres started throwing me curve balls.

Perhaps you're familiar with old Looney Tunes films of Elmer Fudd trying so hard to hit a curveball that he ends up swinging, missing and screwing himself into the soil. I'm starring in the live-action remake of those cartoons (and, like Ringo said, all I gotta do is act naturally).

Tip number three: Keep your hands back. If the pitch is a curveball, you'll have time to adjust to the slower speed.

Sure enough, I started hitting a few. But I still wasn't driving the ball sharply. The reason? My bat moves through the strike zone like a plastic knife through caramel.

"We need to work on your bat speed," Torres said. "I have a drill for bat speed. Close your eyes."

Close my eyes? What, am I supposed to feel the force, Master Yoda?

"I'll yell 'Open' just as the ball is getting to you. That way, you won't have time to think. You'll just swing."

Sure enough, this worked, too. I'd open my eyes just in time to start a shorter, quicker swing — and I even made contact.

A few more practice swings and my confidence was soaring. Then time was up, so Torres wished me luck and went to the other cage to teach a 6-year-old.

With a little time to kill, I decided to put my freshly honed skills to work, and bought a few tokens for the batting cage. I figured I'd warm up with a round of 60-mile-per-hour meatballs before trying to hit the 70-mph fastballs. I put my token in and got my 10 pitches:

Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.

Foul tip.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
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Foul tip.
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Foul tip.
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Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
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Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
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Swing and a miss.

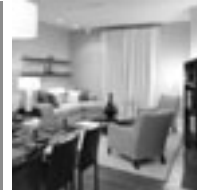
Foul tip.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.
Swing and a miss.

The Brooklyn Cyclones' front office will play 12 charity games in 24 hours, starting at 4:30 pm on Saturday, June 2 at Keyspan Park (1904 Surf Ave., at West 17th Street in Coney Island). The game against the journalists will be at midnight.



Brooklyn Paper editor Gersh Kuntzman shows off that ground-ball form while being taunted by his hitting guru, J.T. Torres, the head baseball coach at St. Joseph's College.

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The Hellenic Classical Charter School

Wishes To Thank

Joseph Martucci
for his service as founding principal.

In the two years that Joe served as principal, he did an outstanding job recruiting teachers, students and staff to the Hellenic Classical Charter School. He helped build a learning environment committed to educational excellence, and we will be forever grateful for his contributions. Under his guidance, student outcomes have risen to among the highest in the city: On the 2006 New York State English Language Arts Examination and 2006 New York State Mathematics Examination, the Third and Fourth Grade Students of the Hellenic Classical Charter School EXCEEDED the averages at both grades and ranked 6th amongst all New York City Charter Schools and 87.5% of last year's 4th graders scored at or above grade level on the New York State Science Examination.

Now, after guiding our school through the start-up process, Mr. Martucci has decided to take a new position at the end of the school year. He will be leaving us on July 1, 2007.

The Hellenic Classical Charter School

Welcomes

Christina Tettonis
as our new school principal.

Ms. Tettonis, who is currently principal of PS 170, The Lexington School, will be joining the Hellenic Classical Charter School this summer.

Ms. Tettonis is an accomplished school leader who helps accelerate student learning through innovative curriculum and instructional models. Under her leadership, PS 170 received recognition from the New York State Education Department as a "High Performing/Gap Closing School" (2006) and "NYSESLAT- Closing the Achievement Gap School" (2005). It was named a New York City Exemplary School for the Arts after Christina established partnerships with over twenty-five different art organizations throughout the city to ensure that all four disciplines of the arts could be offered at the school. In addition, PS 170's Young Ambassador Program has been featured on Channel 13, and the school has won the City-Wide Ezra Jack Keats Book Making Contest and the Carnegie Hall Kids Notes Contest. Ms. Tettonis is also a Cahn Fellow at Columbia University.

We welcome Ms. Tettonis as the new principal of Hellenic Classical Charter School and look forward to the energy and drive she will bring to her position.



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Tween bandits terrorize shoppers in P'Heights

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

A band of little girls is making a mockery of the gender's reputation as "sugar, spice and everything nice" by terrorizing full-grown adults in Prospect Heights, sparking a police investigation into the attacks and raising concern among residents that the crimes might comprise a new and unnerving trend.

In at least three instances over the past two months, a group of adolescents headed by one or two young girls has approached pedestrians and either hit them over the head with a blunt object or pointed what looked to be a toy gun in their direction.

The perpetrators demanded nothing. Indeed, they appeared to have no motive beyond the sheer fun of harassing pedestrians, according to victims and the police.

"It seems odd," said Deputy Inspector John Cosgrove, commanding officer of the 77th Precinct, where all three incidents occurred. "Generally, there's a demand for money, or some other accompanying demand, that's the stimulant for an assault ... Or there's generally some [backstory] that makes the attack seem plausible. Absent that, it seems odd."

Cosgrove added that the prominent role of young girls is "uncommon." Victims seemed just as bewildered.

"They literally came out of nowhere," said Jess Eddy, a 29-year-old graphic designer who was only two blocks from home when she was assaulted on May 15 at about 10 p.m.

"I was on Prospect Place, near Vanderbilt Avenue, when I got struck on the head from behind," she said. "I turned around, and there were six to eight kids, with two little girls in front, who were between 12 and 13 years old."

"They were waiting for

me to do something. I was taken aback. I mean, the normal reaction is to attack, but they were so young, and girls."

After hesitating, Eddy rushed at the girls, prompting a counter-attack by two slightly older boys who had been lurking in the background.

When they tried to hit Eddy on the head, she yelled "like a crazy woman," and one of the boys pulled out a small silver gun that Eddy presumed was a toy because of its size and the boy's age. Eddy fled across the street. The kids ran in the opposite direction.

Eddy has since heard of similar attacks and told The Brooklyn Paper, "I fear it's the start of a trend."

Indeed, her story is eerily similar to that of a woman who calls herself "Flo" and posted her account on a neighborhood message board, www.dailyheights.com.

Four days following Eddy's attack, Flo was walking along St. Johns Place, be-

tween Washington and Classon avenues, at around 4 p.m., when she was "struck in the head" with an unidentified object.

"I was stunned. Literally," she wrote. When Flo turned around, she saw three or four young girls between 15 and 20 years old fleeing across the street. Flo followed, but to no avail.

The third assault occurred about two months ago to a man named Raymond Alberts and his wife as they were walking along St. Marks Place between Classon and Grand avenues.

"As we were walking, we saw a kid hiding behind a Dumpster," Alberts told The Paper. "My wife says, 'He's got a gun.'"

Alberts, 56, estimated the kid was between 13 and 17 years old. He was accompanied by an "overweight boy" of about the same age.

"I turn around, and he points the silver gun at me ... We kept on walking ... He was just smiling."

Alberts promptly reported the incident to the cops, who sent out an officer to investigate.

"He comes back and says it was a toy gun, and he said it wasn't a boy, it was an ugly girl," said Alberts.

In retrospect, Alberts believes that "If they had arrested the kid, these other attacks wouldn't have happened."

Cosgrove said the precinct is investigating the assaults. And Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) reminded residents to "alert elected officials and come to precinct council meetings."

But one neighbor had more homespun advice.

"I guess, kids do bad things at times," said Bob Biegen of the Prospect Heights Association.

"It would be great if they could be caught and someone could just sit down and talk to them about life and how it should be lived."



The Brooklyn Paper / Courtesy of A. M. ...



Brett Cohen (left) and his father, Robert, with the new gravestone for Brett's great, great grandfather, Beekman Moore Grannat, who served as a Corporal in Company K of the 47th NY Infantry during the Civil War.

Civil War action at Green-Wood

By Harry Cheadle
The Brooklyn Paper

Green-Wood Cemetery did more than pay lip service to fallen veterans this Memorial Day, as its grounds were filled with the sights, sounds, and memories of the Civil War.

Hundreds of historians, descendants of Civil War veterans, and colorfully dressed re-enactors marched into the beloved boneyard behind a drum-and-fife corps and read the names of nearly 3,000 Civil War vets whose bodies were recently found to be buried on the Green-Wood grounds.

The cemetery initially thought that only a few hundred soldiers from the War Between the States were resting within its Sunset Park boundaries.

But further research uncovered 2,998 graves — almost all of them

unmarked. And over the past few weeks, cemetery volunteers replaced 1,200 gravestones that had vanished in the 150 years since the war.

One of the new gravestones honored Beekman Moore Grannat, a Greenpoint native who was a corporal in the Union army.

He was also the great, great grandfather of Robert Cohen, who attended Monday's event.

"It's good to see the record of people who came before us," he said. "The people who worked [organizing the event] did a fantastic job. It was something great."

In addition to its Civil War vets, Green-Wood Cemetery is the final resting place of nearly 10 generations of New York legends, from Laura Keane, an actress who was on stage when Lincoln was shot, to Charles Ebbets, the former owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers.



Members of the 67th New York Infantry fire off one of the cannons during the ceremony.

Finally! O'Hara's back on the rolls (no, really)

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Political gadfly John Kennedy O'Hara registered to vote last Wednesday — the first step on a path that the disgraced lawyer hopes will lead to the resurrection of a career destroyed after District Attorney Charles Hynes prosecuted him for listing the wrong address on his voter registration form.

"The last time I voted was for Ross Perot," said O'Hara, 46, after emerging from the Brooklyn Board of Elections on Adams Street.

"It feels good to be back," he said.

What a long, strange trip it was.

In 1997, a few years after he

ran against Assemblyman Jim Brennan, a Hynes pal, O'Hara was convicted of registering to vote at his girlfriend's Sunset Park address, rather than at his permanent address 14 blocks away in the same neighborhood.

O'Hara has long contended that his prosecution was merely political payback for the years he spent battling the Kings County Democratic Party. Not only did O'Hara run against Brennan (D-Park Slope) in 1990, but he also helped another candidate oppose Brennan in 1992.

O'Hara, who ran for office five times in Brooklyn, likes to say he is the first person since Susan B. Anthony to be successfully prosecuted in New

York State for voting outside of his district.

When not appealing his felony conviction, O'Hara spent 214 days sweeping trash in 16 Brooklyn parks. In New York State, a convicted felon can regain the right to vote once his sentence is complete.

O'Hara finished his 1,500 hours of community service by sweeping up in a Bay Ridge park on May 18.

It wasn't always easy. "It was a little tough sometimes when you would see someone you know," said O'Hara. "I got that once or twice, but you gotta take it."

Now that O'Hara is a full-fledged citizen once again, he has big plans. First, he wants to be re-instated to the New York bar. Af-



Ex-con John O'Hara and his new voter registration form.

ter that, anything's possible. "The race for District Attorney begins in two years, one week, five days and six hours from now," said O'Hara. Now that he's registered in the right place, that is.

Hynes's office had no comment.

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Toxic avengers target Target

The Brooklyn Paper

Environmentalists — some in hazmat suits, some in tank tops — protested outside of Target at the Atlantic Terminal Mall on May 24, decrying the discount chain's refusal to phase out the sale of some vinyl products, which are believed to release dangerous toxins into the environment.

The protesters, from Wetlands Activism Collection, a New York-based organization, pointed out that plenty of Target's competitors, like Wal-Mart, Nike, Microsoft, Ikea, and H&M, have already begun phasing out the destructive products. Simultaneous protests were held in 200 locations throughout the country.



Dem Bums' last season

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brooklyn Dodgers' final, dismal campaign, The Brooklyn Paper will provide a weekly reminder of the fabled Boys of Summer. Here's this week's highlight:

June 8, 1957 Dodgers 9-Reds 2

Johnny Podres wins his second game of the week, extending the Brooks' win streak to five. Rube Walker's three-run homer was all Podres needed to gain his sixth win.



CIRCUS...

Continued from page 1
built in anticipation of getting a city greenlight to build.

The announcement comes five months after rumors swirled around the possibility that a different show the Big Apple Circus — was coming to town. And chief Sideshow freak Dick Zigum takes credit for transforming the idle gossip into an actual circus.

"Many ideas get tossed around at Coney Island Development Corporation meetings in private and only 10 percent see the light of day," said Zigum, a member of the CIDC.

"There was once general, non-specific talk of Thor having a circus for interim use of the property, and I provided a specific name and phone number."

Cole Bros. Circus's 2,000-seat big top will sit just off the Boardwalk on the now-vacant lot between Stillwell Avenue and West 12th Street.

The twice-daily Cole Bros. Circus performances (three on Saturday) will run from July 30-Aug. 4. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children. Visit www.colebroscircus.com to buy tickets. Also in store is a "Monday Movie Madness" festival, starting July 9, and the Hippo Slide, supposedly the world's largest inflatable water slide.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 2, 2007

Rap session

Third annual Brooklyn Hip-Hop fest brings it all back home

By Darius Vanslytman
for The Brooklyn Paper

It wasn't so long ago that Brooklyn was synonymous with hip-hop. From anthems like "Cut Master D.C.'s 'Brooklyn Rocks the Best'" to the Beastie Boys' "No Sleep 'til Brooklyn," the borough was the undisputed home of the musical movement.

But as Jay-Z moved, in his own words, "from Marcy to Madison Square," and hip-hop supergroups were made by record company focus groups rather than fans, Brooklyn somehow lost its cache.

But beginning on June 7, the Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival again proves that Brooklyn can still deliver the goods.

"We want to give back to real hip-hop fans," said Ryan Hobbs, one of the organizers of the three-year-old festival in DUMBO. "There is so much watered-down music, and fans don't get to decide what they want to hear. They're like robots to Clear Channel, BET, and MTV." The festival, according to Hobbs, is hoping to add a little more substance to the borough's current rap diet.

The festival kicks off with a tribute to Stax Records, the legendary soul label whose records have been endlessly referenced and sampled by hip-hop acts. Ralph McDaniels, host of the long-running "Video Music Box" television show, a precursor of "Yo! MTV Raps," will emcee the event.

The festival will continue through June with photo exhibits, performances and workshops — on June 22, the 1983 hip-hop movie "Wild Style" will be screened — and will culminate



Fish 'Face': Ghostface Killah headlines the Brooklyn Hip-Hop festival on June 23.

MUSIC

"The Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival" begins on June 7 and runs until June 23. Tickets to most events are free, but must be reserved ahead of time. For information, visit www.brooklynhiphop.org.

on Saturday, June 23 with a concert in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park headlined by Ghostface Killah.

The concert, certainly the festival's most-anticipated event, begins at noon and goes all day. And the artist list reads like a rap-geek guidebook: Fans will be able to catch Dres (of Black Sheep); Large Professor; and underdog heroes like Skiziz and Consequence, the former A Tribe Called Quest collaborator who is currently linked to Kanye West's record label.

Of course, everyone is talking about Mr. Killah.

"Getting Ghost meant a lot," beamed Hobbs.

"He's the epitome of New York City."

For many of the artists associated with this year's festival, there is a feeling that the stakes are a little bit higher. Many of rap's elite have recently been reading hip-hop's epitaph, most notably Nas, whose 2006 album was titled "Hip-Hop Is Dead." The record sent goose bumps up the spines of fans and artists alike. "I think Nas' comment was more of a challenge," rapper Consequence told GO Brooklyn. "If you want to change things, you've got to start doing it. I don't get mad at the game. I change the game."

And he isn't the only one. With an eye on the ever-changing scene, festival organizers have booked a number of emerging artists like the curiously named trio, Tanya Morgan. When asked why they believed hip-hop purists were flocking to their sound, Tanya Morgan member Darwill responded, "I think we're bringing some personality into the game. Beats and rhymes will get you only so far."

The festival is proof positive that hip-hop is not only alive and kicking (sorry, Nas), but that Brooklyn remains at its cutting edge. Last year's festival found 3,000 fans standing in the pouring rain just to be part of the event, and this year promises to be even bigger.

"We want thousands of satisfied fans walking out of the park saying they can't wait for next year," Hobbs said.

So even if it never really left, hip-hop in Brooklyn looks to be well taken care of. "Hip-hop is hip-hop," performer Poison Pen remarked, "but it feels good to be able to represent it for the hometown."

MUSIC

Child's play

We're not sure if child labor laws apply to punk rockers, but the parents of the bands performing at Southpaw's "Tiny Smooshy Sunday on Fire" had better watch out — these kids are doing plenty of work.

The three bands playing — Smooshy, Tiny Masters of Today and Care Bears on Fire (pictured) — are all pretenses and are, in this case, rocking out to help other youngsters.

The concert benefits 826Brooklyn, a non-profit founded by former literary heartthrob Dave Eggers to help local kids improve their reading and writing skills.

"Every project we have, whether it's tutoring or workshops, gets kids to see the physical manifestation of their writing," said Jen Snow, 826Brooklyn's director of development. "And because we're dedicated to the skills of kids ages 6 to 18, we realized [this concert] just made sense."

And, unlike taking out the trash or washing dishes, the kids don't seem to mind helping with the chore.

"I thought it'd be cool to be able to help other kids," said Isadora "Lizzy" Schappell-Spittman, vocalist and drummer of Care Bears on Fire. "It's a really cool thing for kids to have the opportunity to do, so we wanted to help keep that going."

"Tiny Smooshy Sunday on Fire" will take place at 2 p.m. on June 3 at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., between Sterling and St. Johns places in Park Slope). Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids 16 and younger. For information, visit www.826nyc.org.

— Sarah McCormick

ARTS

So long, Billy

Galapagos plans move to new home in DUMBO

Galapagos Art Space, the pioneering bar and performing arts collective that helped put Williamsburg on the cultural map when it opened in 1995, is moving to DUMBO.

"We turned down offers of more space in Washington, DC and Berlin," Director Robert Elmes (pictured) told GO Brooklyn. "We were determined to stay in Brooklyn."

Hoping to ditch his \$10,000 monthly rent, Elmes looked in newly hot Bushwick, but couldn't find the right space.

The choice ended up being made for him when Two Trees Management, DUMBO's resident real-estate behemoth, offered 10,000 square feet at about half the rent that Elmes was paying in Williamsburg.

The move to the newly-green 16 Main St. puts Galapagos on the same block as powerHouse Arena and St. Ann's Warehouse — whose artistic director, Susan Feldman, in a neighborly gesture, has been given a spot on Galapagos's advisory board as has Brooklyn Academy of Music President Karen Brooks Hopkins.

The new threesome will make DUMBO "the cultural creative capital of New York," according to Tucker Reed of the DUMBO Improvement District.

Elmes wants Galapagos to become more than just a nighttime destination by offering daytime programs for children. "It's all about leading a community towards strengthening it, and making it an environment of safety and knowledge," Elmes said. "We're doing our best to be inclusive and really weave ourselves into the fabric of the city."

— Chris Varmus

HIP SHEET

Love hip-hop but feeling woefully out of date? GO Brooklyn understands. With the Third Annual Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival in mind, we've compiled the need-to-know stats of some of the festival's most exciting performers so that nobody will be the wiser.

— Chris O'Connell

ALIAS	REAL NAME	ALBUM TO KNOW	CHOICE LYRIC
Ghostface Killah	Dennis Coles	Supreme Clientele	"Under my wing like Sanford and Son, I'm a big gun like Big Pun, Big L and Jason"
Large Professor	William Paul Mitchell	The LP	"You see it's all in my blood so I could never be a dud / The street mentality, I'll have you like 'What?'"
Dres	Andres Titus	A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing	"I got brothers in the Jungle, cousins on the Quest / Deaf retarded uncles, in parties where they rest"
Consequence	Dexter Raymond Mills, Jr.	Don't Quit Your Day Job	"While you playin' 'hokey pokey, there's no time to be dokey / 'Cuz I come out to play every night like Charles Oakley"
Skiziz	Donnie Shaqun Lewis	From Where???	"Your favorite rapper, I got his ass not breathin' / You seen me with Missy so it's VA season"

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* This portion of the concert will be recorded live and broadcast on Wednesday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m. on WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM.

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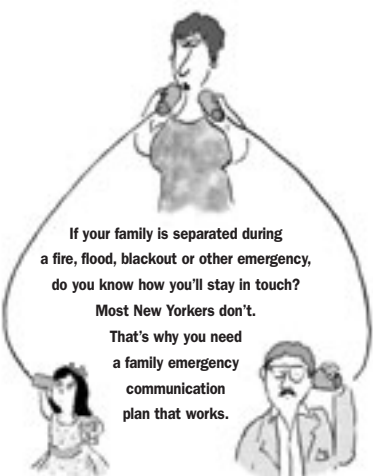
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Good all over

Cheryl's Global Soul definitely has plenty of it

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Paper

Just around the corner from Richard Meier's 15-story "On Prospect Park," the stunning glass condo tower with the multi-million-dollar units, is Cheryl's Global Soul — an eatery that reflects the ever-changing Prospect Heights neighborhood.

In October, owner and chef Cheryl Smith opened her "cozy cafe around the way," with 40 seats and a menu offering house-baked breakfast items and a lunch menu of soups, salads and gently priced sandwiches with names like "Latoya," "Hesdi" and "Linus."

The dining room sports a long brick wall painted soft white, while the other side of the space has raw wood paneling. "It's a gallery and lobster shack in one," said my husband Bob. With one space giving a nod to the Brooklyn Museum (a bread from the building) and the future tenants of Meier's eating, and the other reflecting a humbler crowd, Bob was right.

The small room fits Smith's "global fusion" cooking. The former Food Network star of "Melting Pot" who has cooked in the kitchens of Match, Tocqueville and Lola, offers a diner menu with just four starters and seven entrees.

The limited selection is offset by a global reach that encompasses Thailand, the West Indies, Japan, Morocco and Korea, with good old American burgers, magnificent fries and down-home favorites like barbecued ribs appearing as specials.

Menus like Smith's usually make me nervous, when I see "Thai Coconut Curry Mussels" next to "Grilled Jerked



DINING

Cheryl's Global Soul (236 Underhill Ave., between Eastern Parkway and Lincoln Place in Prospect Heights) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$13-\$22. Breakfast items, lunch and dinner are available from Tuesday through Sunday. Brunch is served on weekends from 11 am-4 pm. Closed Monday, Subway: 2-3 to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum. For information, call (547) 529-2855 or visit www.cherylsglobalsoul.com.

All's fare: The food at Cheryl's Global Soul in Prospect Heights, like the Cuban black bean soup, top, keeps travelers from near and far coming to the cozy dining room, above.

that Smith understands the essence of a cuisine. Those coconut mussels, for instance, were all layers of flavor, not just a single shot of heat and curry. And she's aware that diners look for comforting food with bold flavors that unfold slowly (that's where the "soul" comes in), and modest items such as potatoes and greens cooked with care.

The wine list is small, with one choice of Pinot Grigio, one choice of

Chicken Wings. "I assume I'll be served so-so versions of both. After all, how many cuisines can one chef pull off? But from the first taste of silky soup to the last bite of dessert, I can tell you

chardonnay and so on. Smith serves a few cocktails, fresh squeezed juices and homemade ginger beer, any of which would have been an improvement on the glass of nothing-special sauvignon blanc I ordered.

Bob ordered carrot soup, a starter I wrote off as banal. I was wrong. This herbaceous, silky puree was the essence of the vegetable's clean, sweet taste. A swirl of rich olive oil added to the creaminess.

Just as luxurious was a hefty portion of sake-glazed salmon that oozed its juices onto a pile of lightly sautéed spinach and nutty jasmine rice. The liquor added just a touch of sweetness to the fish and complemented the earthy taste of its partners.

Bulgogi, a Korean dish of grilled, marinated steak (the word means "fire meat" in Korean) subdued a lush rib eye steak for the usual slices of sirloin, making a decadently fatty, mineral-rich dish. Served whole, the meat wore a criss-cross of smoky char marks. It was great, especially partnered with crisp, slender fries that absorbed the beef's pungent juices. A bundle of fresh watercress in light sesame dressing freshened the plate.

A pile of Greek barbecued shrimp arrived in a light, garlicky sauce with the tang of lemon and accompanied by a pile of mashed potatoes and sautéed spinach.

Wildly innovative? No. Just a joy to eat.

Desserts also make an impact. The bread pudding is like slices of not-too-sweet, dense and creamy custard. It's served warm with a scoop of good vanilla ice cream and a few wild blueberries.

There's no novelty about the finale, but having tasted so many dry or cloying sweet versions, I'm happy to try one that works. The "Kiss" is an adult version of lemon meringue pie. Too-sweet and overly fluffy meringue, though, is traded for barely sweetened whipped cream, leaving an intensely tart layer of citrus custard. (The acidity makes you pucker, hence the name.) With a cup of the strong coffee brewed here, the desserts make for a happy ending.

After an evening following the globe-trotting Smith to Thailand, Korea and back home, I am happy to report that she never lost her way.

DUMBO dish

They say that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and the American Cancer Society in DUMBO is banking on it.

On June 5, the institution is hosting a foodie blowout fundraiser hosted by cookbook titan Rozanne Gold and radio go-to guy Arthur Schwartz (pictured). Manning the stoves will be top-drawer local kitchen talent like Jacques Gautier of Palo Santo, Michael Ayoub of Fornino, Robert Weiner of Le Petit Marche, and Daniel Eardley, the chef at Chestnut in Carroll Gardens.

"I lost an aunt to cancer," Gautier told GO Brooklyn, "so the event is very important to me."

The menu promises to include Ay-

oub's artisanal pizza. Gautier's empanadas and plenty of donated wine. Tickets start at \$75, but tax-deductible snacking? That's priceless.

And if eating for a good cause isn't enough for you, attendees do have a chance to win prizes like a day of beauty at Pilo Arts salon in Bay Ridge, a print from artist Barbara Datin or furniture from DUMBO loft-furnisher extraordinaire BoConcepts in a raffle run by Gold and Schwartz.

"Eat, Drink & Be Hopeful" will take place from 7-10 pm on June 5 at the powerHouse Arena (37 Main St., at Water Street in DUMBO). Tickets are \$75 and up. For information, call (718) 237-7851 x9114.

— Tina Barry



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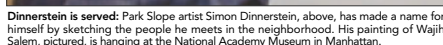
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Park Slope painter heads uptown

Born in 1943 and raised in Brownsville, Dinnerstein studied at the Brooklyn Museum Art School after graduating from City College. When he first moved to Park Slope, there were more working artists liv-

"It was a first-class rescue operation and it set everything in motion after that," said

“He has a mystical and in-



tense bearing," Dinnerstein said. Salem has attended numer- Dinnerstein has also sketched

tense bearing," Dinnerstein said. Working with Salem, he saw "great mystery and drama in his visual presence." A reproduction of the painting is taped to the window at D'Vine. When shopping there, Dinnerstein is often surprised to realize that "beside this tremendous sense of gravitas that [Salem] exudes, he's also very funny."

Salem has attended numerous art shows where the painting has been exhibited. "People look at the painting they look at me. One person touched my beard and said, 'Is that real?'" he said.

He told GO Brooklyn that he looks forward to seeing his likeness on the wall of such a prestigious museum.

Dinnerstein has also sketched Thomas Parker, a barista at Connecticut Muffin on Seventh Avenue. Dinnerstein said that Parker caught his eye with a "regal and dignified" aura. He is a man who doesn't ask too much and seems to have a real acceptance of people, of life. The lines on his face reveal his journey."

Hooked on art

The event is geared towards encouraging youngsters to develop their creative sides. "We are planting seeds in young people while they are young enough to change," said Martha Bowers, executive director of Dance Theater Etcetera, which organizes the fes-

The 14th Annual Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival will take place from 10 am–7 pm at Louis J. Valentino Jr. Park and Pier (at Coffey and Ferris streets in Red Hook). Free. For information, visit www.dancetheatrecetera.org.

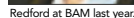
—John N. Barclay

Bob at BAM

Lord of the 'Dance' Redford gives Brooklyn cold shoulder

Florence Almozin, curator at BAMCineMuseum, gladly chatted with *GO Brooklyn* about how she picked films that would resonate in Brooklyn. "I want to go after interesting directors and small films."

If that's the case, we pestered, why not move the entire festival from Park



Sundance Institute at BAM runs through June 10 at the BAM Rose Cinemas (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$11 per film. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.

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'Gang' signs

Borough's noisemakers go ape on new DVD release

By Maggie Serota
for The Brooklyn Paper

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Teen Spirit gets kitty-cornered

IN THE SMARTMOM Book of Records, that accounting of everything she's done wrong and right in her life as a parent, Memorial Day weekend 2007 will be hereby remembered as a breakthrough. She said "no" to Teen Spirit.

Yeah, yeah, she says "no" to Teen Spirit many times a day — No, you can't skip school today. No, you can't go to the Knitting Factory tonight because you have Earth Science homework. No, you can't play your guitar at 2 am — but there are times when Smartmom has

trouble saying it. And that's not good for Teen Spirit or Smartmom.

Smartmom fondly remembered the time that TS fell in love with a white rabbit at a pet shop where they were going only to look — to look, I tell you! — at guinea pigs. Teen Spirit got this soulful and sensitive look in his eyes. And that rabbit looked so cute. So next thing she knew, Smartmom was popping out the credit card and nervously paying for the dwarf rabbit that TS had already named Opal.

Smartmom is well aware that the ability to say "no" is a major tenet of good parenting. She knows that it is key to the sanity of the child — and the parent. It's not like she wants to spoil her children or anything. It's just that, well, Teen Spirit is so darn cute when he gets that hang-dog look on his face.

She spent close to \$100 once they were done selecting a cage, rabbit bedding, food, toys and vitamins. But there was no going back. Almost immediately, everyone fell in love with Opal. When she died a year ago, the family felt like it had lost a beloved member.

The one-year "anniversary" didn't pass unnoticed. "Mom, come meet me in front of John Jay. There's an adorable kitten I want," he told her by phone last Saturday while Smartmom was napping.

AS IF UNDER A SPELL, she floated out of the apartment to meet Teen Spirit to talk him out of the kitty. Smartmom lambasted herself all the way up Third Street. She knew she should have just said "no" and hung up the phone. She swore to herself that she would not succumb to the site of Teen Spirit with the kitty.

The Oh So Feisty One, a confirmed dig lover, came along for support. Under the scaffolding at John Jay High School, Teen Spirit was staring lovingly into the eyes of the 5-week-old kitten. The woman from the Brooklyn Animal Foster Network handed Smartmom a contract.

"Mom, do you need a pen?" Teen Spirit asked helpfully. Before she could say, "This is terrible idea," OSFO wanted the kitten, too — and Smartmom was signing on the dotted line.

Teen Spirit walked home with the kitty attached to his shirt. Smartmom went to Met Food. She found cat food in an area of the store she'd never noticed before.

That's because Smartmom doesn't know from pets. Growing up, she wasn't allowed to have a pet larger than a turtle. Oh, how she longed for a big, hairy sheep dog or even a tiny shih tzu like neighbors had upstairs.

BACK HOME, TEEN SPIRIT and OSFO were taking turns cuddling the kitten, while they tried to come up with a suitable name.

"I've always liked the name 'Supermercado,'" which means "supermarket" in Spanish," Teen Spirit told Smartmom.

OSFO was thinking more along the lines of Lula or Lulee. Smartmom had to admit that the kitty really was quite fetching with his fluffy black fur and white paws that make her look like she's wearing socks.

Parenting is sometimes an attempt to correct the wrongs of one's childhood. But it's easy to go overboard. When she went into the kitchen to open a can of cat food — some kind of chow soufflé, which smelled disgusting, Supermercado-Lulee lapped it up quickly, like she was starving or something. Maybe she was. Someone had found her, poor thing, in a pile of garbage on Fourth Avenue.

When it came time to go to a friend's BBQ, Teen Spirit decided to stay behind with Supermercado-Lulee. Good Smartmom thought, he's showing some responsibility.

A boy needs to bond with his kitten. And Supermercado-Lulee clearly needs a tremendous amount of TLC. During dinner on a friend's deck, Hepcat got a call from Teen Spirit asking to go out to see a movie with friends. Grrr. Smartmom thought, that's so irresponsible. "I'm leaving food and water in the box. I think she's going to sleep," he told Hepcat.

Smartmom and Hepcat were miffed. Teen Spirit's bonding with Supermercado-Lulee had lasted until the first social phone call. Then he was off. Was he really mature enough to care for a kitty?

When they got home, Supermercado-Lulee was in her box

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

crying. She'd tipped over her water bowl, and her food (mackerel and something gross) was all over the bottom of the box. OSFO found a large plastic box and covered the bottom with soft towels, and Supermercado-Lulee finally looked cozy.

Later, Teen Spirit called to say that he was sleeping over at a friend's house. That trick OSFO. "He gets a kitten and the first night he doesn't even want to stay home with her," OSFO screamed. "I think we should get rid of her," she cried.

Smartmom was furious. Who raised that kid? Who taught him right from wrong? She knew she had only herself to blame. Smartmom slept fitfully that night. She kept waking up to check on the kitten and worry that they'd made a big mistake.

The next morning, she woke up early and called Teen Spirit. He sounded groggy.

"I've decided to take the kitty back," she said.

"You can't," he said.

"Why?" she asked.

"Because I love the kitten," he said.

"But you're not here," she said, telling him to come home for a family meeting. There would be a vote, and the family would decide what to do.

When Teen Spirit came home, the family sat around the dining room table and discussed Supermercado-Lulee in a very democratic way. They even voted. It was 3-1: get rid of the kitty.

Remember "Twelve Angry Men?" Hepcat said, "We can't decide until everyone agrees."

FINALLY, TEEN SPIRIT came around. Disgruntled. Sad. It seemed that he understood that he wasn't ready to take on a kitty.

With relief and a feeling of victory, Smartmom and the family returned the kitten to the people from Brooklyn Animal Foster Network who were again sitting underneath the scaffolding at John Jay. Within an hour, someone else adopted Supermercado-Lulee.

And Smartmom was proud. She'd said "no" to Teen Spirit. What a victory. Even with those adorable, "I love this kitty" eyes, she'd turned him down.

It was a small step for Smartmom. And one giant leap for Teen Spirit.

Now that's one for the record books.

Louise Crawford also produces the Web site Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn.

FAMILY CALENDAR

Billy Bones lets the secret out about CIRCUSundays aboard the Waterfront Museum & Showboat Barge.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2
10 am-4 pm Spring carnival with rides, games, entertainment and an activity table. PS 154 (1425 11th Ave., between Windsor Place and Sherman Street in Windsor Terrace), free.

10:45 am-4 pm Zoo-themed puppet show. Prospect Park's Zoo (430 Flatbush Ave., upper level, Empire Boulevard), free. Call (718) 399-7339.

11 am-noon Petting zoo. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Broadway Ave., at St Marks Avenue in Crown Heights), free. Kids can also make frog puppets. Call (718) 735-4400.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm Puppet show, "The Jungle Book," at Puppetworks (538 Sixth Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope), \$5 children, \$8 adults. Call (718) 985-3391 for reservations.

1-4 pm History on display. Leftists Historic Homestead (enter at Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard), free. Make ice cream in the 19th-century style. For information, go to www.prospectpark.org.

6:30 pm Learn to draw. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights), free. Pick up tickets at the visitor's center. 5:30 pm. For information, go to www.brooklynmuseum.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3
10:45 am-4 pm Zoo puppet show. See Saturday, June 2.

11 am Musical brunch with Mr. Richard. Willy Bank Family Lounge (302 Metropolitan Ave., between Rivington Street and Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg), \$12 per family or \$5 per person. Call (718) 599-3499.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm Puppet show, "The Jungle Book," — See Saturday, June 2.

1 pm and 4 pm Circus show. Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge (foot of Conover Street, below Reed Street, in Red Hook), adults, \$5; kids, \$3. Call (877) 238-

5596 or visit www.waterfrontmuseum.org for info.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7
1-4 pm Family film festival. Rotunda Gallery (33 Clinton St., at Cadman Plaza West in Brooklyn Heights), free. Call (718) 875-4047 for info.

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OUR OPINION

Yards mess continues

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY WEEK there's a new example of how we're all paying the price for Atlantic Yards while developer Bruce Ratner laughs his way to the bank.

State officials in Albany — Ratner's partners in this taxpayer-underwritten boondoggle — have consistently told residents that the \$4-billion mega-project won't have much of a negative impact on Brooklyn.

Easy for them to say: they're not the ones who have to live with Atlantic Yards. And they're certainly not in charge of fixing all the problems that the 16-tower arena and residential project will cause.

That job is increasingly being parceled out to any number of city agencies or outside companies that already had enough on their plate before the state greenlighted this ill-conceived monstrosity.

Weeks after Atlantic Yards was approved, for example, the city Department of Transportation, realizing that the state's rosy traffic scenarios were a mirage, proposed a bold plan to convert two avenues

in Park Slope into one-way thoroughfares. We can still hear the screaming.

Now Con Edison, the energy giant, comes forward to say it needs a 17-percent rate hike — in part because of the massive energy demands of Atlantic Yards.

Massive demands? But state officials said only last year that "increases in demand [due to Atlantic Yards] would be insignificant," according to the project's final environmental impact statement.

Obviously, Atlantic Yards will require improvements to the energy infrastructure — just as it will require new schools, police and fire coverage, and many other public services. But during the project's review process, state officials attempted to camouflage the real costs by hiding them in parenthetical clauses or glancing asides.

Take the current controversy over energy costs. Not only does the impact statement outlandishly claim that the eight-million-square-foot Atlantic Yards project would cause an "insignificant" impact, but it tries to shift the burden onto someone else.

"[Infrastructure] improvements are also proposed by Consolidated Edison and KeySpan with respect to the local electric and gas distribution grids that would improve service to the project site," the impact statement said.

Proposed by Consolidated Edison? Talk about burying the lead! Who do you think will pay for those needed "improvements"?

You will — as Con Ed told state regulators last week, when the company asked for that 17-percent rate hike.

The same thing will happen when the city realizes it needs a new school, sewage treatment plant, police precinct and traffic enforcement officers because of the supposedly "insignificant" Atlantic Yards.

It's always refreshing to hear the costly truth about Atlantic Yards, but it would have been nice to hear it from our supposed protectors in state government before they approved the project.

Indeed, if more people in power had told the truth about the development from the start, perhaps we wouldn't be in this mess.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Hey Marty Markowitz! Our readers say 'Yer Out'!

To the editor,

Aren't we lucky that we have term limits for elected officials? That way, their overstuffed egos have only eight years to bully their constituents and screw them royally ("Yer Out," May 26).

The only exception is Councilwoman Letitia James. Term limits should not apply to her.

Bob Olsberg, Park Slope

To the editor,

New blood is indeed needed to keep our democracy fresh and responsive to new ideas. Unfortunately, the fresh blood we really need is on the City Council and in the Borough President's office.

Currently these positions are held by the same old political hacks that desperately hang onto perks and power without representing the will of the majority of their constituents.

It is truly time for a change!

Natalie Burrows, Cobble Hill

From underground

To the editor,

Real managers lead by example: Mayor Bloomberg supports a cleaner environment and, lo and behold, often joins millions of his fellow New Yorkers on the subway. Why can't City Comptroller Bill Thompson, Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum and Council Speaker Chris Quinn do the same?

Too many public officials enjoy having staff members drive them around town at

taxpayers' expense. All have the perks of free City Hall parking.

The Brooklyn Paper should conduct of survey of all Councilmembers and their staffs. See how many contribute to gridlock by driving to work versus those who use public transportation.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, New York

Gersh's bagel hole

To the editor,

Gersh Kuntzman's opinion piece ("Battle over arena...bagels!" The Brooklyn Angle, May 19) casts the opposition to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project as bullies intimidating small-business owners.

Yes, people are frustrated about Atlantic Yards' lack of openness, \$2 billion in public subsidies, racial divisions encouraged by Ratner, and the dozens of other reasons the project is a looming disaster. And, yes,

some opponents spoke with Arena Bagel's Ravi Aggarwal. But there was never talk of an organized boycott by any of the groups fighting Bruce Ratner.

Equally strange, Kuntzman condemns Aggarwal's decision to rename his shop as "caving in."

We see it the way Aggarwal does — "I can't do anything that goes against the neighborhood because I'm a neighborhood guy. These are my customers and I can't go against them."

We applaud Ravi Aggarwal for taking the time to listen to his customers and neighbors. It's more than Bruce Ratner has ever done.

Kuntzman also drew an unfortunately connection between residents' discussions with Aggarwal and our ongoing "Think Before You Drink" campaign against Steve Hindy's Brooklyn Brewery. Our intent is to inform beer drinkers that buying Brooklyn Lager aids and abets Ratner's skyscrapers and the de-

struction of Freddy's Bar — a neighborhood institution whose early support of Brooklyn Lager has been repaid with Brooklyn Brewery's support for a project that will lead to the bar's destruction.

The boycott didn't "fizzle like week-old beer," as Kuntzman said. Ask Hindy — he's still being asked about it by the media. Countless beer drinkers have switched brands.

It's all a fair response to Hindy's support of the Atlantic Yards and the Greenpoint/Williamsburg rezoning — both harming their respective neighborhoods, sending rents and living costs through the roof.

Why is it unjust to target Hindy, who uses his business to promote ruinous public policy, but OK for Hindy to target Brooklyn with these policies?

The Brooklyn Paper has taken many principled stands over the last three years regarding the Atlantic Yards, from insistently challenging the fiscal gaps to reporting on Barclays' slavery/apartheid/Nazi connections. But Kuntzman's regrettable attack on Yards opponents leaves us stunned.

Scott Turner, Prospect Heights
The writer is the producer of the *Fans For Fair Play* Web site.

Overrated Arabs

To the editor,

I feel compelled to write after reading Josh Cohen's letter about Arab contributions to civilization in last week's issue

("Without Arab contributions, we'd be in the Dark Ages," May 26).

Arabic Islamic contributions are far less than our politically correct information and educational outlets preach.

Most technological and cultural contributions that are attributed to the rise of Islam were lifted from the declining Byzantine Empire that they conquered. Additionally, Islamic law gives "non-believers" three choices: convert, pay high "infidel" taxes or die.

The "infidel" tax transferred huge amounts of wealth from non-Muslim to Muslim communities annually. Funding for their development was extorted from Christians, Jews and a host of subsequently defunct, but highly tolerant, polytheist faiths.

For almost 800 years, the Muslim world has contributed virtually little but pogroms, bigotry and violence. Go to Alexandria, Egypt, and visit the minority (and heavily persecuted) Coptic Christian section, which is a bastion of culture and gentility.

And Mr. Cohen was also wrong in his aside about the navigators of Christopher Columbus's ships; historians say that they were most probably of Jewish background (who most likely converted to Christianity), not Arab Muslims.

I might also add that the allegedly civilized "Moors," who invaded Spain were predominantly Berbers, not Arabs.

Michael G. Leventhal, Park Slope

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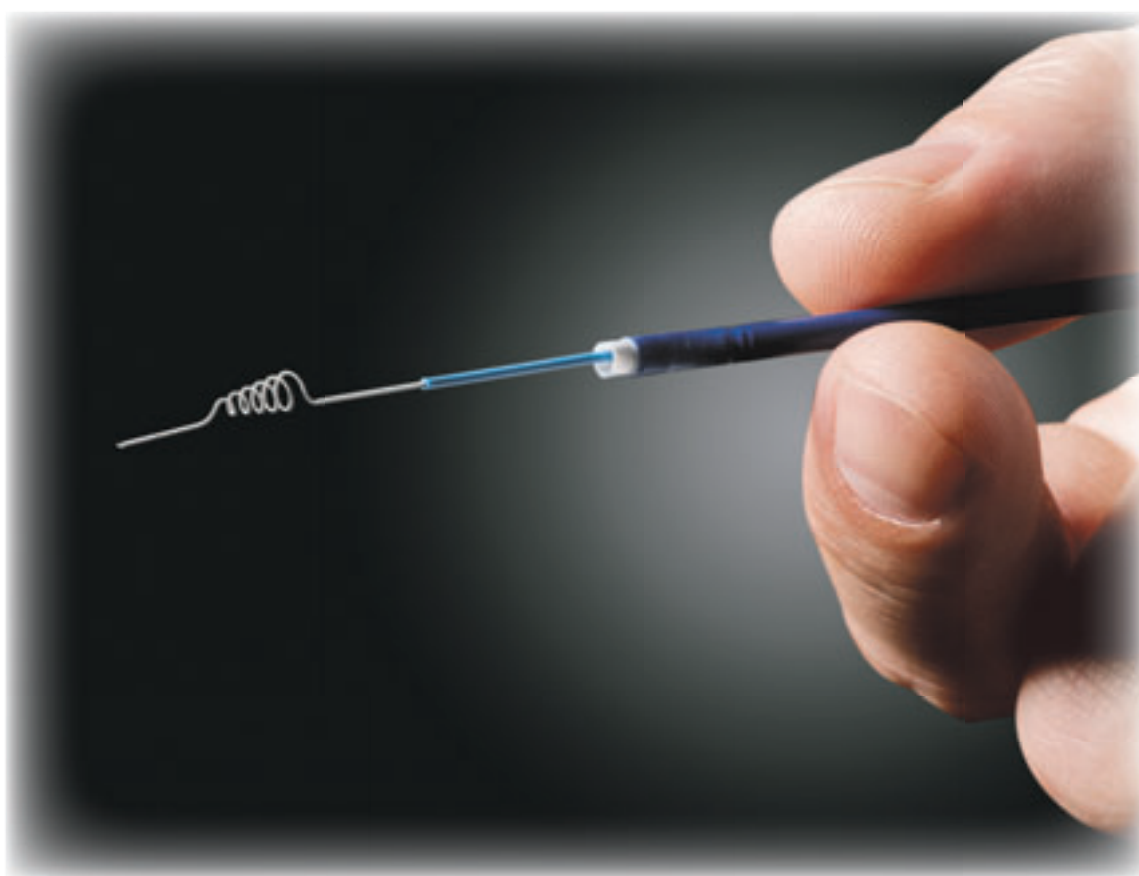
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